



LOST DOGS

One dog's heroic act is caught on surveillance camera, drawing worldwide attention to the lost dogs of Chile.

*A documentary by Vanessa Schulz and 21st Paradigm
21st Paradigm Films
www.21paradigm.com*

c. Traer Scott from Street Dogs (Merrell 2007)

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Production Notes:

Lost Dogs is a feature documentary currently in post-production.
Majority of the footage has been shot and 25% of the edit is complete.
Finishing funds are needed for shooting and post-production (editing, writing, final transfer to 35mm for theatrical), distribution and outreach.

Film Credits (to date):

A Production of:	21 st Paradigm
Director / Producer:	Vanessa Schulz
Executive Producer:	TBD
Writer:	TBD
Editor:	Eric Schusterman
Camera:	Vanessa Schulz
Exhibition Format:	35mm or HDCAM,
TRT:	90 mins

Synopsis:

One dog's heroic act is caught on surveillance camera, drawing worldwide attention to the lost dogs of Chile.

A dog captures the world's attention by performing a death-defying and heroic act. The incident, caught on surveillance camera in the capital city of Santiago, uncovers the epidemic problem of Chile's homeless dog population. While exploring the world of Chile's street dogs, "Lost Dogs" uncovers a social movement propelled by extraordinary people who, against enormous odds, consistently endeavor to rescue and protect the dogs. Their struggle demonstrates the power of compassion to transform society, turning betrayal into redemption.

Story Overview:

The Lost Dogs story unfolds in two primary locations in Chile. The first is "Rinconada," a ten-mile stretch of road that serves as Santiago's dumping ground for trash, sewage and unwanted dogs. The number of dogs abandoned here can be anywhere between five and sixty animals that form packs, or if they are too shy or weak, live isolated lives along the

roadside.

It is here that we follow Gabriela Jarpa, who cares for the dogs and enacts the solution to the problem: Adopt, educate, and sterilize. In three years, alongside working a full-time job and raising a family, Gabriela has adopted out nearly one hundred dogs via the Internet, and had over one hundred sterilized. But as fast as she can adopt them out, others will be abandoned until the country's cultural paradigm shifts.

Our second location is the southern town of Chaitén, evacuated of all its 4,500 residents when a nearby volcano erupted on May 2, 2008. Like the events of Hurricane Katrina, people were ordered by government to leave their animals behind. A year later, activists launched a final campaign to rescue 30% of the animals remaining. Documenting the trials of this rescue, *Lost Dogs* examines our reaction to such recurring tragedies in an effort to encourage global protocol for animals in environmental disasters.

Even before the film could have this impact, the earthquake of February 27, 2010 struck, and the ensuing tsunamis that killed as yet an unknown number of people and animals. The current situation cries out for international support in light of disease outbreaks, a shortage of experienced veterinarians and medical supplies, food shortages; hungry dogs turning feral, forming packs that will have the inevitable impact on wildlife and worsen the cycle of uncontrolled breeding.

Amidst this ubiquitous and often daunting crisis of consciousness, there are happy endings...

Vanessa Schulz returned to Chile a second time to deliver eight dogs from Rinconada and Chaitén into loving homes in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Their stories are astounding in complexity and heart, the journey laden with obstacles. Ambassadors for all the street dogs of Chile, their destinies have been greatly impacted by the hero dog, whose message lives on in *Lost Dogs*.

Director's Statement, by Vanessa Schulz

Emotional Rescue: Saving the Lost Dogs on the streets of Santiago

Printed in The Source Newspaper, August 12, 2009

For better or worse, "Leap and the net will appear" is an adage I can live by naturally. Most recently, this took me to Chile with the intention of making a film about homeless dogs. My inspiration for "Lost Dogs" came from a YouTube video that shows a dog on a busy Santiago highway as he risks his life to save another injured canine. The clip prompted my research into the estimated 250,000 dogs that live on the streets of Chile's capital city.

Once I had my concept – to look for the "hero dog" and while I was at it, film his 250,000 friends – it wasn't long before I took the plunge, arriving in Santiago with my Spanish vocabulary of five words, video and stills cameras, tripod, 50 hours of tape and clothes for any eventuality over the next two months. A couple of days behind me was Chris Mortimer, a photographer introduced to me only two weeks prior as someone crazy enough to accompany me.

The street dogs were fascinating – acquiescent, playful, savvy and wise. Their environment is cars, concrete, trash and people. It's a hard life that averages only five years. Handouts supplement the food the dogs find in dumpsters and gutters but for the most part, the conditioned human response is to look right through them, step around them, don't touch them.

For a city of seven million people, Santiago is kept remarkably clean. Occasionally a municipality's methodology for keeping it that way will include destroying street dogs by the cheapest method available: strychnine. Outraged citizens have witnessed poisoned animals writhing in muscular convulsions until the ultimate, gruesome death by asphyxiation. Public protest delays the next slaughter but inevitably and without warning it happens again.

On the city's outskirts, strays negotiated thorns, rubble and barbed wire to greet us. Bringing them food and water were the martyrs who expressed feelings of "impotence" and "powerlessness" at the same time as they were up to their elbows in combating the worst of animal suffering. The grace and selflessness with which these people approached their mission was a profound inspiration.

Six weeks into the trip, Chris went into the wilderness while I headed south to Chaitén, a town transformed on May 2, 2008 when a nearby volcano erupted for the first time since about 7400 BC. As during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, people were evacuated and ordered by the government to abandon their pets. Public protest pressured the Chilean army to free cats and dogs locked in houses until animal welfare groups could coordinate to capture and evacuate the survivors.

My decision to join the last rescue effort in Chaitén was in part to expose a recurring global issue – environmental disasters are on the increase and protocol for animals should be set by more than just pen-pushing bureaucrats. It's easy to play God from the confines of an office, without ever looking into the faces of the victims. "Not one life was lost as a result of Volcán Chaitén," yet thousands of domestic animals were left to fight flooding, contaminated water, toxic ash, freezing temperatures, starvation, cannibalism and epidemics of distemper and parvovirus.

As a result of severe limitations in finances, resources and manpower, we managed to rescue only about thirty percent of the remaining dogs. The day after their evacuation to Puerto Montt by ferry, I had one day to get myself to Santiago for my flight home.

Leaving the dogs behind in an unfinished and at times messy campaign was enormously painful, but my two months were up. My camera had lost every microphone connection, my lenses were scratched, my budget dried up, my clothes were filthy after two weeks in a cabin with 13 sick animals and no running water, and my knees had given way after hundreds of squats to film at dogs' eye level. I was mentally, emotionally and physically raw coming back to Bend.

Suddenly a void surrounded me where loving and affectionate dogs had been. News would come in about more poisonings, cars killing the dogs I knew, and always lingering in my mind was the grim reality of the Chaitén dogs in confinement. The plan was to fly them to Santiago for the possibility of adoption, but adoption where? Welcome to the rest of your life on a chain in sensory deprivation looking at a patch of sky and walls?

It didn't help that one dog in particular had stolen my heart – a four-month old puppy we had to capture twice after I accidentally let her escape. Her mother and all her littermates were dead; she had never had human contact and was terrified of people. I wavered, sometimes convinced I had to do everything possible to save her; other times swayed by those who said the film is more important than individual dogs.

A conversation with the director of the Pixie Project, an adoption facility in Portland, changed everything when they agreed to adopt out three Chilean dogs. I blogged and posted and emailed for a volunteer courier but came up empty. Back on the edge, ready to take another leap, I told myself the money surely would come from somewhere.

I pleaded with LAN airlines to double their maximum number of dogs per passenger from four to eight. Before long I was headed back to South America, back into the maze of Santiago in winter.

Ultimately seven dogs would be brought back to the US, along with their unique tales that make up the finale of "Lost Dogs." Five have already been adopted and there is talk of turning the three-legged survivor of the Chaitén disaster into a therapy dog for disabled children. The intensity of a happy ending correlates directly with the trial of getting there.

About the Filmmaker

Vanessa Schulz *President and founder of 21st Paradigm; Producer, Director, Camera, Assistant-Editor*

A life-long photographer, Vanessa began freelancing in the film industry in 1994 while attending Cape Town Film & Television School. She immigrated to America to gain experience as producer and cameraman for NBC, Fox Television and National Geographic. She was assistant producer on Discovery Channel's *Wolves at our Door*, winner of two Emmy awards.

Vanessa has been pushing for more animal content in films and television for two decades. Ahead of the curve and frustrated with mainstream media's reluctance to air contentious subject matter, she founded 21st Paradigm Films in 1998 and became incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in February 2001.

In addition to receiving 24 official film festival selections, Vanessa is the recipient of twelve awards, including Best of Festival and Best Documentary awards. Her film about wolf reintroduction, *Cost of Freedom*, inspired judges at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to create a special jury award "for a filmmaker with the courage to pursue a difficult and controversial topic." Her films and related campaigns, in particular *Cull of the Wild: The Truth behind Trapping* have made significant contributions in the legal struggle to protect animals. *Lost Dogs* will be Vanessa's fifth independent documentary.

The Crew

Eric Schusterman, *Editor*

Originally from Chicago, Eric graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BA in Theater and went on to receive an MFA in Acting at the University of Southern California. Eric switched from acting to film editing and was fortunate enough to study with some of the best editors in the industry." He worked as an assistant on such features as DANCES WITH WOLVES, THE ROCKETEER, LAST OF THE MOHICANS, THIS BOYS LIFE, NELL, BEDAZZLED, THE JACKAL, 8 MILE, and FRIENDS WITH MONEY. Eric has also worked as editor or additional editor on A SINGLE ROSE, THE FLORIST, SIX AND THE CITY, SOMEBODIES, MAYOR OF THE SUNSET STRIP, FACTORY GIRL, THE INTERVENTION, and most recently on MOTHER AND CHILD.

Having been Sam's guardian for ten years, Eric understands the love and loyalty of a dog, making him the perfect candidate to edit Lost Dogs.

Janet Champ *Writing, Publicity, Assisting*

For 25 years Janet has been a copywriter and creative director, first at Wieden + Kennedy in Portland, Oregon, and for the last ten as a freelance writer on the Oregon coast. She was named Copywriter of the Year by Adweek, received several best of show awards from Cannes and others, and her work is on permanent display at both MOMA and the Smithsonian. Her Nike TV spot 'If You Let Me Play' was named one of the ten best spots of the last twenty-five years. Through her travels she has witnessed much animal suffering and abuse, and has always been an animal advocate. But it took a trip to Argentina and Chile in the fall of 2009 to realize that this isn't simply where her heart lies, but where her work must be.

Carol H. Linacre *Production Assistant, Translator*

Carol is Chilean, and a graduate of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Chile. She is also a passionate dog lover. Currently living in the U.S. (Florida) with her husband and their three dogs, it is in the U.S., where she realized the vast differences in the realities of pet ownership between the two countries, and indeed, throughout South America, and became aware of the magnitude of the problem of stray dogs in Chile.

Compelled to make a difference for change, Carol provides a strong link for Lost Dog production activities, between the U.S. and Chile, which is essential to 21st Paradigm filmmakers in navigating unique cultural, linguistic, governmental and business landscapes.

Hali Griffin *Marketing Assistant, Fundraising*

Hali recently graduated with a Business degree in Marketing and Advertising Management from Portland State University. As an Oregon film enthusiast and marketing professional she has worked and interned in the legal, science, film, and advertising industries. Bringing an enthusiasm for independent film and media, Hali has developed the social media strategy for Lost Dogs, and assisted with fundraising and media relations. As an animal lover, she is excited to be a part of the Lost Dogs team, generating awareness of the global stray dog crisis through the power of film.

David Gómez *Fixer*

David lives in Chile and is an instrumental part of the Lost Dogs project. As a fixer in Santiago, he helped to coordinate local volunteers and logistics during production and rescue of the seven dogs returning to the States – no easy task! His continued volunteer work is now mostly in research, and correspondence between English and Spanish. David translates, interprets and teaches English in Santiago. He has been involved in animal rights campaigns for five years, which include campaigns against animal testing, animal circuses, whaling, education on veganism, and combating the stray animal crisis. Currently he is working in Coalición por los Derechos Animales, in the research and education areas of a campaign against vivisection. He will be an important asset to Lost Dogs during outreach and distribution in Chile.

Tommy O'Connor / Anthony Tanaka *Web Design and Management, Graphic Design*

Tommy and Anthony have worked with 21st Paradigm Films since 2004. Their company and project branding, poster/stationary and web design and have been an integral part of 21st Paradigm's development and success. Their broad range of expertise is in advertising, graphic design, illustration, production management, identity creation, web design and flash. Additionally, Anthony offers his experience in promotion and social networking by constantly redefining 21st Paradigm's online presence and outreach strategy.

About the Issue

The Numbers Speak for Themselves.

Worldwide, an estimated 600 million homeless dogs live and die homeless. They survive on scraps sifted from garbage and trash, often going without sustenance or water for days. Willingly or not, females give birth. They fight for food, territory and a place in the pack. They wait to be noticed, touched, fed. They are slaughtered in traffic and abused by the human beings on whom they depend. They starve to death, and they starve slowly.

Many were someone's pet before character, age or circumstance lead to their abandonment. The rest were born here, and will, by neglect or design, perish here. Those who do survive learn an extraordinary method of survival, making it past starvation, disease, accidental death, deliberate cruelty, the ferocious heat of summer, the frozen pavement of winter. They are their countries' undesirables. And they have become someone else's problem to fix.

Yet the fix is temporary at best: Government-run mass killings of 10,000 – 30,000 dogs implemented through the most inexpensive methods available: Strychnine poisoning, drowning, beating, and electrocution.

For every stray dog that survives, more strays follow. Because sterilization is hardly ever practiced in Chile, birth is as ordinary as death. One unsterilized female can exponentially lead to 3,000 new puppies *in a single year*. Those "lucky" enough to survive do so long enough to reproduce again. The population grows. The government steps in. New, abandoned animals are put out into the streets. Puppies are born. The suffering continues. It is, in every way, a vicious cycle.

Why Support a Documentary?

Immediate, visceral, faithful to the facts, there may be no more powerful medium than film. Visuals speak a language of their own and the reality becomes undeniable. The best documentaries have always had the ability to galvanize forces and open minds, giving every viewer a window to a world they might not yet have noticed. Film moves beyond the written word, so that everything seen on the screen becomes both alive and personal. Each viewer feels somehow intimately involved, invested in the stories being told.

Because compassion resonates.

Compassion resonates through film because it inspires debate, passion, and at it's best, action. We watch and realize that responsibility isn't up to someone else: it's up to every one of us.

Film inspires action for social change.

Great films become a catalyst for change. They inspire not simply words but actions that make a difference in the world. In concert with a robust outreach campaign, our audiences will be inspired to take action as never before. 25% of Lost Dog's funding will go to a comprehensive Outreach strategy, designed to channel attention and funding to our outreach partners, with goals for impact in the following primary areas:

1. To raise awareness of the plight of homeless dogs and to encourage adoptions and humane stray management both nationally and internationally.
2. To educate on appropriate care of companion animals, and the importance of comprehensive sterilization.
3. To improve and increase veterinary care for companion animals in developing countries.
4. To support existing animal welfare groups in their battle to obtain legal protection for animals and criminal prosecution of animal abusers.

Photography

Production stills are available at <http://www.lostdogsfilm.org> – follow the press link.

The images ON THE PRESS LINK are available free of charge and require corresponding copyright notice and credit as shown.

For additional images available ON THE GALLERY LINK, please email requests to Vanessa@21paradigm.com.

21st Paradigm's Manifesto

21st Paradigm has been a registered 501(c)3 organization since February 2001

WE BELIEVE that film in its most powerful incarnation can be a catalyst for social change. That this most immediate art form can turn indifference into awareness, apathy into purpose, and ignorance into compassion.

WE BELIEVE FILM IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE. Worth repeating. Give a cause a dollar and it will eat for a day. Teach the world about the cause by giving that buck to film and it will be resolved for this lifetime and the next.

WE BELIEVE that the films we at 21st Paradigm create galvanize our audience. And that every time a truth is revealed we become a powerful force for debate, involvement, opportunity, possibility, promise, and change.

WE BELIEVE that inhumanity protected by ignorance, fear, custom or law can only be erased by equal compassion, equal knowledge, equal action. And that to do nothing gives indifference its name.

WE BELIEVE that independent media is critical in any democracy and crucial to balancing corporate-controlled propaganda that exploits for profit.

Learn More

For more information about the plight of street dogs around the world, and the NGOs working to address this problem:

American Samoa	Animal Balance	www.animalbalance.net
Beirut, Lebanon	Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (BETA)	www.betalebanon.org
Kathmandu, Nepal	Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre	www.katcentre.org.np/
Phuket, Thailand	Soi Dog Foundation	www.soidog.org/
Puerto Rico	Save a Sato	www.saveasato.org
St. Louis, USA	Stray Rescue	www.strayrescue.org
Turkey	Let's Adopt	www.myletsadopt.com

For more information and to make a contribution, visit:

<http://www.lostdogsfilm.org>



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