

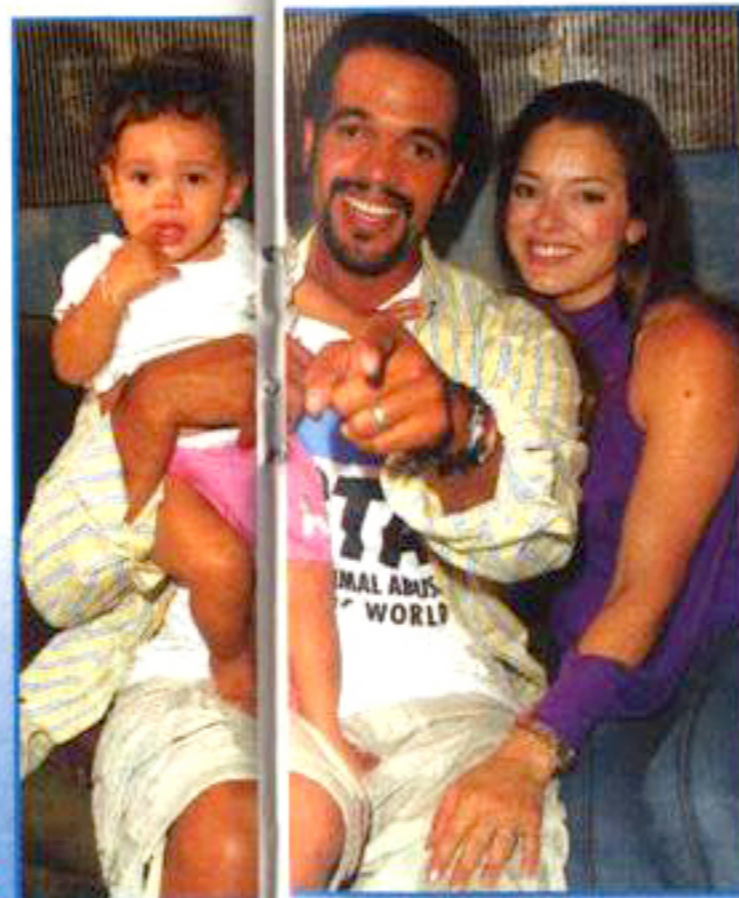
"I am an animal lover," the actor insists. "I have four dogs, and I had a turtle."

# NAKED AMBITION

**I**t was just a year ago that Kristoff St. John (Neil, THE YOUNG & THE RESTLESS), after eschewing red meat and pork for six years, became a full-fledged vegetarian. Now, he is taking his support for the four-legged one step further by baring all for People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals' (PETA) well-known "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" ad campaign.

The actor says that his advocacy began after

St. John (here with his wife, Alana, and their daughter, Lola) will also join PETA's anticircus campaign this spring. "I used to think of circuses as clowns, popcorn, animals and having a good time. But often the animals are held in captivity throughout their lives and prodded with bull hooks for an hour of entertainment." ▶



viewing a DVD that the animal rights group sent him. "It showed very graphic scenes on how our farm animals are slaughtered for consumption," he shares. "After watching that, I decided I would no longer participate or partake from our meat industry. I then contacted PETA and told them I was available for whatever they needed me for. I felt it was my duty to add my name to the mix of other celebrity vegetarians."

Well, not only his name — but his body, too.

Was it difficult for St. John to shed his clothes for his cause? "For those who are really curious, I was not really naked," he confesses with a laugh. "The illusion was that I *was* naked, and it was close, but no cigar. I wasn't doing a *Playgirl* centerfold, that's for sure."

Even so, St. John acknowledges that a few may see the ad, as well as his overall involvement with PETA, as controversial. "I've actually been approached by some people who have said, 'What about *people's* rights? What about your fellow man?'" shares the impassioned Y&R star. "But I care about what happens to my planet, to animals *and* to my fellow man. Animals are helpless; they don't have a voice. If I could provide a voice for the millions that are suffering, that are treated cruelly, that are treated inhumanely, then I feel good at the end of the day, and I feel

proud to stand up strong for an organization like PETA." ■

For more on PETA, visit <http://www.peta.org>



◀ Joining the ranks of Pamela Anderson, Kim Basinger and Christy Turlington, St. John will be giving fans an eyeful this month. "Let's say there was cool air all around," he jokes of shooting the ad campaign.

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