

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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FOR WILDLIFE*

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HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND™

The Humane Society Legislative Fund is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States. HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal levels, to educate the public about animal protection issues and to support humane candidates for office. On the web at hslf.org.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear friends,

It's a privilege to be writing my first letter as the new president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund. I'm humbled by the responsibility that HSLF's board of directors has placed in me and determined to always meet our challenges head on.

I'm looking forward to sharing more of our good work with you in the months and years ahead. You make it possible for us to improve the lives of animals through the legislative, regulatory and political processes. Each time we engage with a member of Congress, review the record of a candidate for elective office or work with a representative of one of the many agencies whose policies and procedures have a tremendous impact on animals, we know that we are doing so on the animals' behalf and because of your strong belief in our ability to create positive changes.

Since you last heard from us, the U.S. House and Senate passed two vastly different versions of the farm bill. On the plus side, both versions include bans on the trade in dog and cat meat, which would help prevent the practice from gaining hold here and bolster efforts to end it worldwide. The Senate version also contains a provision to strengthen federal protections for the human and animal victims of domestic violence, while the House version includes language that explicitly applies the federal laws on animal fighting to U.S. territories.

But a major threat to animals still looms: The House version of the farm bill, which passed by only two votes, includes a dangerous amendment by Rep. Steve King of Iowa that could block state laws protecting animals. The Senate bill, which passed by a bipartisan vote of 86-11, doesn't include the King amendment. As we go to press, the differences between the House and Senate bills remain unresolved.

With your help, we scored a major victory in May when the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it was abandoning plans to outsource inspections of facilities licensed under the Animal Welfare Act, including puppy mills, research laboratories and circuses. Advocates spoke up in droves, and the USDA bowed to the pressure and reversed course. It was unexpected but very welcome news, as the proposal was just one of a barrage of current efforts to reduce oversight on a variety of animal welfare issues.

Thank you for speaking out on the third-party inspection proposal and on many other issues—your actions truly matter. Change can happen so quickly, and we can only squeeze so much into *Humane Activist*. I hope that you are also reading our blog, following us on social media and getting our email alerts so that we can keep you informed between issues.

Sincerely,

Sara Amundson
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund



Standing up for vulnerable species

RECENTLY INTRODUCED BILLS TARGET WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND TROPHY HUNTING

IN THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL, green sea turtles have a lot to contend with.

Many will die after being accidentally caught by commercial fishing fleets or entangled by plastic waste in the ocean. Human destruction of their habitats is another major threat to these endangered marine reptiles, and scientists recently reported that warmer ocean temperatures caused by climate change may be creating a dangerous gender imbalance in the species.

With threats this formidable, scientists will likely need years or even decades to develop solutions. But members of Congress have the opportunity to tackle one of greatest threats facing green sea turtles right away.

Each year, thousands of green sea turtles are killed for the illegal trade in their eggs and meat. Countless more are killed for their shells, which are used to make trinkets for tourists. In May, Reps. Madeleine Bordallo, D-Guam, and Don Young, R-Alaska, introduced the Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act (H.R. 5697), which would make it easier for federal law enforcement agencies to charge poachers and wildlife traffickers.

The bill would also engage whistleblowers in the fight to bring down global trafficking rings, and it would provide funding for the conservation of turtles, marine mammals, sharks and other wildlife at no expense to taxpayers. H.R. 5697 builds on the success of the Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016, which made wildlife trafficking a predicate

offense (that is, a component of a more serious offense) under the federal money laundering statute and gave U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enforcement officers new tools to crack down on the problem.

Under the Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act, any penalties or restitution for violations against marine and freshwater turtles and tortoises will be donated to the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, which provides funding through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conservation projects around the world.

Jocelyn Ziemian, senior legislative specialist for HSLF, calls the measure “a grab-bag of good policies that will enhance wildlife protection.”

Upon introducing the bill to Congress, Bordallo pointed out that green sea turtles can be found along the coast in Guam. “I am especially pleased that our bill provides for marine wildlife species, which often go overlooked but are increasingly targeted by poachers, traffickers and illegal fishing,” she said.

Also in May, Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, and Ted Lieu, D-Calif., introduced the Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies (ProTECT) Act (H.R. 5690). The bill would prohibit trophy hunting in the U.S. of any species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, as well as the import of any trophy from an ESA-listed species.

Jackson Lee, who was in Africa when Cecil the lion was killed by an American trophy hunter, called out the Trump administration’s earlier decision to lift bans on the import of elephant and lion trophies from certain African countries. “We hope that this legislative effort will be signed into law by the President, rescinding his pro-trophy hunting directive from March,” she said when introducing the bill.

“Fueling the trade of trophies, ivory and horns is selfish as much as it is cruel,” Lieu added before reminding his fellow lawmakers that efforts to “conserve wildlife and combat wildlife trafficking must remain a priority in Congress.”

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

THE FOLLOWING is a sample of HSLF-supported animal protection bills before the U.S. Congress. It's vital that you call, email or write your federal legislators to let them know your views on these bills. To find out who your legislators are and how to reach them directly, go to hslf.org/leglookup or call 202-676-2314.

When you call a legislator's office, ask to speak with the staff person handling animal protection issues. Give the bill number and the name of the bill or issue. Be polite, brief and to the point. If you plan to visit

Washington, D.C., make an appointment to meet with your legislators or their staff to discuss animal issues. We can help you with background information and may be able to accompany you on your visits.

Please note: Due to security procedures on Capitol Hill, regular mail to members of Congress may be significantly delayed. Telephone calls and emails are the best ways to contact your legislators about pending bills.

For the latest information about all animal protection bills, visit legislation.hslf.org.

Equines



Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act
H.R. 1847 / S. 2957

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed system of industry self-policing and use of devices integral to soring, strengthen penalties, and make illegal the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling the animal. Sponsors: Reps. Yoho, R-Fla.; Schrader, D-Ore.; Marino, R-Pa.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Collins, R-N.Y.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Crapo, R-Idaho; Warner, D-Va.

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
H.R. 113 / S. 1706

To ban domestic horse slaughter, stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the U.S. Sponsors: Reps. Buchanan, R-Fla.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Royce, R-Calif.; Lujan Grisham, D-N.M. / Sen. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Whitehouse, D-R.I.; Collins, R-Maine

Horsereading Integrity Act
H.R. 2651

To end doping of all race horses, including same-day drugging, by putting a new nonprofit headed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency in charge of setting national uniform rules, testing standards and enforcement processes for medication use in horse racing. Sponsors: Reps. Barr, R-Ky.; Tonko, D-N.Y.

Animal Research



Humane Cosmetics Act
H.R. 2790

To prohibit animal testing for cosmetic products manufactured or sold in the U.S. Sponsors: Reps. McSally, R-Ariz.; Beyer, D-Va.; Royce, R-Calif.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.; LoBiondo, R-N.J.; Tonko, D-N.Y.

Preventing Unkind and Painful Procedures and Experiments on Respected Species (PUPPERS) Act
H.R. 3197

To prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs from conducting medical research that causes significant pain or distress to dogs. Sponsors: Reps. Brat, R-Va.; Titus, D-Nev. (Modified version enacted as Sec. 254 of FY18 spending package, P.L. 115-141.)

Farm Animals



Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act
H.R. 1753 / S. 741

To reform agriculture checkoff programs funneling tens of millions of dollars to farm commodity groups that use the money to lobby against animal welfare and family farmers, engage in anti-competitive protection for large producers and block other reforms. Sponsors: Reps. Brat, R-Va.; Titus, D-Nev. / Sens. Lee, R-Utah; Booker, D-N.J.

Government Transparency



Animal Welfare Accountability and Transparency Act
H.R. 1368 / S. 503

To require the USDA to restore online searchable access to inspection reports and other vital records relating to enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act, and to establish an additional deterrent against animal abuse. Sponsors: Rep. Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sen. Wyden, D-Ore. (Related directive included in explanatory statement accompanying FY18 omnibus spending package.)

Pets and Cruelty



Parity in Animal Cruelty Enforcement (PACE) Act
H.R. 4202 / S. 2971

To clarify that the federal prohibitions against animal fighting apply everywhere in the U.S., including in U.S. territories. Sponsors: Reps. Roskam, R-Ill.; Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Davis, R-Ill.; Nolan, D-Minn.; Yoder, R-Kan.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.; Knight, R-Calif.; Sherman, D-Calif.; Buchanan, R-Fla. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Blumenthal, D-Conn. (Passed the House as an amendment to the farm bill by 359-51 vote.)



Dog and Cat Meat Prohibition Act
H.R. 1406

To prohibit the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption and provide penalties for individuals involved in the dog or cat meat trade in the U.S. Sponsors: Reps. Hastings, D-Fla.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Trott, R-Mich.; Boyle, D-Pa. (Versions passed the House and Senate as part of the farm bill.)

Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act
H.R. 909 / S. 322

To expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards and help arrange shelter for the pets of abuse victims. Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass.; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.; Nolan, D-Minn.; Denham, R-Calif.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Waters, R-Calif. / Sens. Peters, D-Mich.; Heller, R-Nev. (Passed the Senate as part of the farm bill.)

Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act
H.R. 1494 / S. 654

To prohibit extreme acts of animal cruelty when they occur on federal property or in interstate or foreign commerce. Sponsors: Reps. Smith, R-Texas; Deutch, D-Fla. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa., Blumenthal, D-Conn. (Passed the Senate unanimously.)

Welfare of Our Friends (WOOF!) Act
H.R. 4691

To prohibit commercial dog breeders whose licenses have been revoked from obtaining a new USDA breeding license and to close related loopholes. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Crist, D-Fla.

Puppy Protection Act
H.R. 4693

To improve standards of care required of licensed breeders by prohibiting wire flooring and stacking of cages and by requiring larger enclosures, outdoor exercise runs, annual veterinary exams, regular feeding and access to clean water. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Crist, D-Fla.

Wildlife



Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act
H.R. 1456 / S. 793

To prohibit and establish penalties for possession, sales or purchases of shark fins or any product containing shark fins. (The House version is titled the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act). Sponsors: Reps. Royce, R-Calif.; Sablan, D-N. Marianas / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Capito, R-W.Va. (Approved by Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.)

Big Cat Public Safety Act
H.R. 1818 / S. 2990

To prohibit possession and breeding of lions, tigers, lions, leopards and other big cat species by individuals and unqualified exhibitors. Sponsors: Reps. Denham, R-Calif.; Jones, R-N.C.; Tsongas, D-Mass. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.



A dogged advocate for animals

MEET HSLF'S NEW PRESIDENT

SARA AMUNDSON GREW UP IN GATZKE, MINNESOTA, 30 miles from the Canadian border. “It not only didn’t have a stop light, we didn’t have a stop sign,” she says, laughing.

Some of the last free-roaming gray wolves in the Lower 48 made their home there. Amundson often spotted moose, elk or deer from her school bus window. Wildlife sightings were so common, she didn’t pay them a lot of attention. As a child, Amundson liked cats and dogs, but she was no Snow White, singing to the animals in the forest.

“I envy people who came to animal protection through that seminal moment with a particular animal,” Amundson says. “I came to it in a very different way.”

Amundson applied for a position at the Doris Day Animal League without knowing much about animal protection. To get up to speed, she began reading Tom Regan and other thought leaders in the field and talking with seasoned advocates. As she learned more, Amundson remembers thinking, “This just makes sense. Why would you not support animal protection as a fundamental tenet of social justice?”

Amundson grew up in a pay-it-forward household. Her parents raised three biological children, adopted Amundson and invited six foster children into their home. She views her work to end suffering for animals as a way of following in her parents’ compassionate footsteps.

“At the end of the day, it doesn’t matter if it’s animal protection or fostering teenagers,” she

says. “It’s the same principle in terms of how we view the world.”

At DDAL, Amundson lobbied to end horse slaughter, outlaw sadistic animal “crush” videos and reduce the number of animals used in chemical testing. “When I look back at the body of work of this tiny little organization, it really is extraordinary,” she says.

In 2006, DDAL joined forces with HSLF, and Amundson became the organization’s executive director. In that role, she has maintained a strong presence before Congress and state legislatures, testifying on a variety of critical animal protection issues.

Among her numerous accomplishments, Amundson is known for winning allies for reform among the chemical industry’s top executives. That collaboration led to the passage in 2016 of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, a landmark bill that contains provisions to minimize and ultimately replace the use of animals in chemical safety tests. Amundson also partnered with industry executives on legislation to require a bittering agent be added to anti-freeze to prevent the accidental poisonings of children, pets and wildlife. When the federal bill failed to pass, she worked with industry leaders to pass 16 state laws, which led to a voluntary change that is in effect nationwide.

“That’s been a fundamental approach for me throughout my career in animal protection,” she says. “Don’t be afraid to challenge your opponents or to partner with strange bedfellows. Join forces to find common ground. Show them they have a choice: By working together, they can be on the right side of an issue.”

Over a 30-year career, Amundson has learned to play the long game, and she plans to apply that doggedness in her new role at HSLF. “I don’t get burned out because I see what can be accomplished by sticking with a challenge. Look at the significant changes for chimpanzees who are being permanently retired from invasive research and the beginning recovery of gray wolves. We are driving a sea change that is making animal protection a societal norm.”

May the most humane candidate win

MAKING ANIMAL PROTECTION COUNT AT THE BALLOT BOX

2018 HASN'T BEEN a good year for Rick Saccone.

In the March special election race for Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, Saccone lost to Democrat Conor Lamb by 627 votes. Afterward, Saccone promptly filed to run for a seat in the newly drawn 14th Congressional District. He lost the Republican primary for that seat on May 15 to state Sen. Guy Reschenthaler.

Hans Dunshee, HSLF political director, believes that the candidates' positions on animal welfare issues had an impact on both elections.

As a member of the state legislature in 2017, Saccone was one of only 20 representatives who voted against a bill to strengthen penalties for extreme and malicious acts of animal cruelty. Fortunately, the bill passed, and a year later, HSLF was busy alerting voters about Saccone's dismal record on animal protection. "You vote against an animal-cruelty bill, that's what's going to happen," Dunshee says.

Lamb, on the other hand, is a former federal prosecutor who knows that people who abuse animals are more likely to commit other violent crimes. He supports legislation to improve standards of care for dogs in large-scale commercial breeding operations and strengthen enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. In the state Senate, Reschenthaler recently introduced S.B. 1154, which would prevent pet stores in Pennsylvania from selling animals from puppy mills.

Other HSLF-endorsed candidates performed well during this year's primaries for U.S.

House seats. Incumbent Norma Torres, D, won the primary for California's 35th Congressional District on June 5. With a score of 91 out of 100 in the 2017 *Humane Scorecard*, Torres earned our endorsement for her consistent support of pro-animal legislation in Congress.

In Illinois, Dan Lipinski won the Democratic primary for the 3rd Congressional District on March 20. Lipinski, who has held that seat since 2005, received a perfect score in the 2017 scorecard. HSLF also supported Veronica Escobar in the Democratic primary for Texas' 16th Congressional District, which she won easily on March 6. As a county commissioner, Escobar has a history of securing funding for important animal welfare programs.

In Colorado, HSLF endorsed Joe Neguse, who won the Democratic primary for the 2nd Congressional District. "Joe Neguse has pledged to be a committed supporter of commonsense animal protection measures," says Sara Amundson, HSLF president. HSLF also supported Rep. Jared Polis in his successful run in the Democratic primary race for the governor's seat.

Along with our many endorsements, HSLF sent a clear message to anyone who aspires to elected office that cruelty to animals won't be forgotten. In May, HSLF publicly criticized Shri Thanedar, a top contender in the race for Michigan's next governor, after news sources revealed that about 170 dogs and monkeys had to be rescued in 2010 from an abandoned pharmaceutical testing lab once owned by Thanedar. The Democratic primary for that seat will be held August 7.

In addition to reminding HSLF supporters to register to vote in the fall midterm elections, Dunshee invites anyone with a few free hours a week to sign up to volunteer at act.hslf.org. No matter where you live, you can help elect humane candidates—and defeat those who oppose animal protection measures—by connecting with voters in key districts.

"With the virtual phone bank, you can make a difference from your own home," Dunshee says. "That personal touch is incredibly effective."





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THE EYES HAVE IT



→ Striking a blow against the puppy mill industry, in April **MARYLAND GOV. LARRY HOGAN** signed a bill that prohibits pet stores from selling commercially bred dogs or cats. Maryland joins California and over 250 localities across the nation that have enacted similar laws. **DEL. BEN KRAMER**, D-Montgomery County, sponsored the legislation, which received overwhelming, bipartisan support in the General Assembly. “Maryland has set an important precedent with this rejection of animal abuse that other states will surely follow,” says Emily Hovermale, Maryland state director for the Humane Society of the United States.

→ It’s a fairy-tale ending for **RESCUE BEAGLE GUY**. When his owner Meghan Markle exchanged vows with Prince Harry on May 19, Guy became royalty too. The paparazzi caused a commotion by snapping a picture of a beagle serenely riding next to Queen Elizabeth II on a trip to Windsor a day ahead of the wedding. After considerable discussion, most Anglophiles agreed the regal beagle had to be Guy and that riding next to the queen was extremely fitting for someone of his soon-to-be-elevated station. Markle adopted Guy in 2015 from A Dog’s Dream Rescue in Ontario, Canada, which specializes in finding homes for beagles from overloaded shelters in Kentucky and Ohio.

→ Soon after the tragic death of a French bulldog on a United Airlines flight, **U.S. SENS. JOHN KENNEDY**, R-La., and **CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO**, D-Nev., introduced the Welfare of Our Furry Friends (WOOFF) Act (S. 2556), and **REPS. DAN DONOVAN**, R-N.Y., and **STEVE COHEN**, D-Tenn., introduced the Planes Ensuring Total Safety (PETS) Act (H.R. 5315), bills to prohibit airlines

from putting live animals in overhead compartments and impose fines for violations. The 10-month old puppy, Kokito, died on a March flight from Houston to New York after a flight attendant reportedly instructed the owner to place the dog and her carrier in an overhead bin. New York state **SEN. MARISOL ALCANTARA**, D-Manhattan, also introduced legislation called Kokito’s Law, which would prohibit animals from being placed in overhead bins on airplanes and would mandate that pet passengers be given reasonable access to food, water and necessary medications during long flights or in the case of flight delays.

→ In April, volunteers with **YES ON PROP 12** surpassed a 600,000 signature-gathering goal to place a historic farm animal welfare initiative on California’s November ballot. Proposition 12 requires cage-free housing for breeding pigs, egg-laying hens and veal calves. It would also require that eggs, pork and veal sold in California meet this same standard. If passed, it will be the strongest law against farm animal confinement in the world. “This will be an epic battle against factory farm companies willing to spend millions to keep animals in cages,” says Josh Balk, vice president of farm animal protection for the HSUS, one of more than a dozen organizations in the Yes on Prop 12 coalition.



FROM TOP: CHUCK COOK/FOR THE HSUS; TSEKIMISTEN/ISTOCK.COM