

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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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.

Contributions or gifts to HSLF are not tax deductible. Your donation may be used for lobbying to pass laws to protect animals, as well as for political purposes, such as supporting or opposing candidates.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear friends,

While it might not please my cats to hear this, 2018 is shaping up to be a big one for dogs here at HSLF. We're particularly excited about two new bills to address the treatment of dogs at puppy mills.

While dogs in most American homes are beloved members of the family, breeding dogs in federally licensed mills are treated like production machines. They can spend their entire lives in small wire cages that are stacked atop each other. The dogs rarely get veterinary care, exercise or meaningful human interaction. Yet many mills that keep dogs in these conditions still meet the minimum requirements outlined under the federal Animal Welfare Act regulations.

In an effort to protect our four-legged friends, U.S. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., and Charlie Crist, D-Fla., recently introduced bills that we hope every HSLF supporter will help us pass into law. Help can't come soon enough for the tens of thousands of breeding dogs whose lives are filled with misery and deprivation.

The Puppy Protection Act, H.R. 4693, would amend the Animal Welfare Act to mandate higher standards of care for licensed breeders. It prohibits cage stacking and wire flooring and requires larger enclosures with outdoor runs that allow dogs to exercise. It also requires regular feeding and access to clean water, veterinary exams, meaningful socialization and protection from extreme heat or cold. (Those standards are similar to ones in a new ballot initiative launched in Ohio, the nation's second largest puppy mill state. If you're a resident of Ohio or have friends or family there, please go to stoppupppymillsohio.com to get involved.)

The second federal bill, the Welfare of Our Friends (WOOF) Act, H.R. 4691, prohibits the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from issuing or renewing a license to a breeder whose previous license has been revoked or suspended. It closes a loophole by also prohibiting the USDA from issuing a license to immediate family members at the same address. This legislation would help stop puppy mill cruelty by ensuring that breeders who have been shut down due to poor animal care remain closed, as the spirit of the Animal Welfare Act intended.

No dog should spend her entire life in a tiny cage, her paws never touching grass and being bred relentlessly until her body gives out. It's time for the federal government to stop ignoring our nation's puppy mill problem.

Please contact your members of Congress today and ask them to support and cosponsor the Puppy Protection Act and the WOOF Act to help crack down on puppy mills.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President, Humane Society Legislative Fund



Although illegal in the U.S., cockfighting is openly practiced at Club Gallístico in Puerto Rico.

Covering new territory

BILL TARGETS ANIMAL FIGHTING LOOPHOLE

DRIVING FROM THE SAN JUAN AIRPORT in Puerto Rico, it's hard to miss the blue neon lights at Club Gallístico. And there's little room for confusion over what goes on there: "Cockfights" is spelled out in English above the club name.

Inside, spectators—who include tourists and locals alike—can gawk at the beautiful birds on display. This is before sharp spikes (or "postizas") are attached to the roosters' legs and they're placed in a fighting pit. The fights typically result in at least one of the animals dying, but even the victors suffer terrible injuries: punctured lungs, broken bones and pierced eyes.

"It's so in your face," John Goodwin, an animal fighting expert with The HSUS, says of Club Gallístico and its prominent location. "It's hard to believe that in this day and age there are still parts of our country where animal fighting is practiced openly."

Assisted by HSLF and The HSUS, Congress has upgraded the federal law against animal fighting four times in the last 15 years. Under current federal law, it is a felony to sponsor or exhibit an animal in a fighting venture; to buy, sell, deliver, possess, train or transport an animal for fighting purposes; to use the Postal Service or other interstate means to promote animal fighting; to buy, sell, deliver or transport cockfighting implements; and to bring a minor to an animal fight. It is a federal misdemeanor to be a spectator at an animal fight. The prohibitions include any animal fighting activity that affects interstate or foreign commerce.

On Nov. 1, Reps. Peter Roskam, R-Ill., Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., Rodney Davis, R-Ill., Rick Nolan, D-Minn., Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., Tony Cárdenas, D-Calif., Steve Knight, R-Calif., Brad Sherman, D-Calif., and Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., introduced legislation to strengthen the law once again. The Parity in Animal Cruelty Enforcement (PACE) Act (H.R. 4202), cosponsored by more than 40 bipartisan members of Congress, clarifies that U.S. territories are not exempt from the federal prohibitions against animal fighting.

"What we have is a situation where animals are manipulated and drugged and put in situations where their aggression is heightened, and it's disgusting," Roskam explained when introducing the PACE Act on the House floor.

A 2017 poll revealed that the vast majority of Puerto Ricans with an opinion on cockfighting favor a ban. Even in a deeply divided Congress, legislators feel compelled to reach across the aisle to stamp out this gruesome and distasteful blood sport.

"There's long been bipartisan support in Congress for cracking down on the cruel, inhumane and illegal practice of animal fighting," Blumenauer said in a statement for *Humane Activist*. "Federal efforts so far have yielded enormous success in shielding countless animals from abuse. We need to make clear that these protections apply to *all* animals on American soil, including those in U.S. territories."

The legislation wouldn't just benefit the animals who currently suffer in staged animal fights in places like Puerto Rico and Guam, Goodwin says. Cockfighting and similar blood sports are often associated with other crimes, such as illegal drug dealing and human violence.

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.

Animal Research



Humane Cosmetics Act
H.R. 2790

To prohibit animal testing for cosmetic products manufactured or sold in the United States. 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. (Passed the House as an amendment to a spending package.)

Equines



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.

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

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.

Horseracing Integrity Act
H.R. 2651

To end doping of all race horses, including same-day drugging, by putting the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (the nonprofit that runs anti-doping programs for the U.S. Olympics and other games) in charge of setting national uniform rules on medication use in horse racing. Sponsors: Reps. Barr, R-Ky.; Tonko, D-N.Y.

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.

Pets and Cruelty



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.; Walters, R-Calif. / Sens. Peters, D-Mich.; Heller, R-Nev.

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.)

Dog and Cat Meat Trade 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.



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 a related loophole. 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, and regular feeding and access to clean water. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Crist, D-Fla.

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

To clarify that 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.

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: Rep. Royce, R-Calif. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Capito, R-W.Va. (Approved by Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.)

Gains and setbacks

UNIFIED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRODUCES MIXED RESULTS

FOR OVER A YEAR, the Republican party has controlled the House, Senate and presidency. It's a somewhat uncommon state of affairs. Since 1945, voters in the United States have elected the same party to control both chambers of Congress and the White House only about 39 percent of the time. Of those unified governments, fewer than 10 percent have been Republican-led, according to the Brookings Institution.

What has this meant for animal protection? "While there were several bright spots, the new administration and Congress produced a particularly dangerous set of challenges for animal welfare in 2017," says

Michael Markarian, HSLF president. "The general governing philosophy of deregulation resulted in the targeting of immensely important animal welfare reforms."

In February of last year, animal advocates were shocked when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) deleted thousands of Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act inspection records from its website. These public records, funded by taxpayers, previously provided essential transparency about the enforcement of federal laws and regulations related to everything from the care of dogs in puppy mills to the treatment of show horses. Other setbacks included Congress

and the Interior Department attacking rules to protect bears and wolves on federally protected lands in Alaska and the USDA freezing or dismantling important rules on horse sorting and farm animal protection.

Despite these and other disappointments of 2017, we still have politicians on both sides of the aisle driven to do right by animals—at least on some issues.

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the approval of the import of lion and elephant hunting trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia last fall, Democratic and Republican legislators protested. President Trump responded with a tweet calling big-game trophy hunting a "horror show" and later announced he was putting that decision on hold.

In December, the Senate unanimously passed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, S. 654, a federal anti-cruelty statute. Action now shifts to the House, where an identical companion bill, H.R. 1494, has more than 270 cosponsors.

As this issue went to press, Congress had yet to vote on final FY18 appropriations legislation that will determine many crucial issues, but there remain hopeful signs. For example, during floor debate on the FY18 bills, the House passed several positive amendments that await final resolution. These include a \$2-million increase for the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program; a \$5-million increase for equine-assisted therapy under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Adaptive Sports Grant Program; and a prohibition on VA expenditures for any experiments that cause significant pain or distress to dogs.

What does this collection of setbacks and gains suggest about what the unified government might mean for animal protection in the months to come? That it's more important than ever for HSLF members to contact their representatives in Congress, Markarian says. "They need to know that you care about their positions on animal protection policy."





A strategic path forward

WORKING TO PUT HUMANE CANDIDATES IN CONGRESS

HANS DUNSHEE wanted to put the brakes on the runaway development overtaking his hometown in Snohomish County in western Washington state.

At the time, the early 1990s, Dunshee was a small business owner and “had no interest in politics,” he admits.

But after Dunshee’s pleas to the county council fell on deaf ears, he promptly began work to replace two of its members. One of the candidates he’d helped to elect appointed Dunshee to the planning commission. Later, Dunshee won a seat in the state House of Representatives, a post he held for more than two decades.

“I realized that was where these important decisions were made,” Dunshee says of government. “So, I ran for office.”



Hans Dunshee

Last fall, Dunshee moved to Washington D.C., where he now serves as HSLF’s political director. Part of his job centers on talking to animal advocates about why it’s important for them to get involved in what’s going on in the nation’s capital.

“We may not like it, but politics is where we make decisions that impact animals’ lives,” says Dunshee, pointing to issues like wolf protection and horse slaughter and soring.

Dunshee’s efforts to organize grassroots support are part of a new HSLF initiative called the Pathfinder Program, which is designed to help humane candidates win seats in Congress. The name stems from the U.S. Army’s legendary Pathfinders, an elite paratrooper unit that jumped behind enemy lines during World War II to help lay the groundwork for later troops.

In the HSLF initiative, staff members first look at members of Congress with the worst records on animal protection and identify who is clearly out of step with his or her constituency on these issues, explains Sara Amundson, HSLF executive director. They then determine which of those representatives won their seat by a slim margin. “We’re looking at what it’s going to take in those vulnerable districts to flip the seats,” Amundson explains.

Once they’ve targeted a congressional district, Dunshee goes to work. “We put some money there, but more importantly we put people there,” he says.

Already, Dunshee has traveled to Arizona, Ohio, Kansas, Illinois, Nevada and his home state of Washington to talk with people who care about animals. “The support is out there,” Dunshee says. “We just need to find people and show them what the truth is.”

He has ample examples to share of how flipping a single district has made a difference. In the 2016 race, for instance, HSLF worked to replace incumbent Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., who had a history of opposing even the most universally supported animal welfare policies. Democrat Josh Gottheimer, who had the support of HSLF, denied Garrett an eighth congressional term and won the election by more than 10,000 votes. Gottheimer quickly established himself as an animal-friendly legislator, cosponsoring bills like the Humane Cosmetics Act and the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act.

“It’s much easier when friendly people are in office to do good things for animals than when bad people are in office,” Dunshee says.



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THE EYES HAVE IT



→ In December, **COMMISSIONERS OF TRAVIS COUNTY** in Texas voted 3 to 2 to tell the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services that its "services" are no longer welcome there. Agents of this controversial federal program kill millions of wild animals a year at taxpayer expense. In Travis County, which includes the state capital of Austin, the agency killed an average of 57 coyotes each year, along with beavers, ducks, foxes and feral pigs, according to *The Austin Chronicle*. County Commissioner Brigid Shea remarked that she had received "increasingly disturbing reports" about the agency's tactics. That's not surprising: Wildlife Services is notorious for using cruel and archaic methods, including steel-jaw leg-hold traps, which capture pets and other nontarget animals. The commissioners elected to instead partner with Austin Animal Services to implement humane and effective solutions to human-wildlife conflicts.

→ Cosmetics retailer Lush recently awarded the **2017 LUSH PRIZE FOR LOBBYING** to HSLF, The HSUS and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine for their joint work on the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The legislation amended the 40-year-old Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and explicitly directs the Environmental Protection Agency to minimize the use of animals in chemical safety testing and to create a clear preference for alternative methods. It was a hard-won victory representing years of grueling work

by advocates. The HSUS also won a Lush award for its work on the Human Toxicology Project Consortium. The Lush Prize is a collaboration between Lush Cosmetics and the Ethical Consumer Research Association.

→ Fulfilling a campaign promise, the administration of new **MONTREAL MAYOR VALÉRIE PLANTE** struck down a ban on pit bull-type dogs. The controversial 2016 legislation, enacted by former Mayor Denis Coderre, prohibited citizens from acquiring pit bull-type dogs and required those who already owned them to purchase an expensive special permit and muzzle their pets in public, among many other discriminatory restrictions. Experts agree that laws banning or restricting dogs based on appearance or purported breed, rather than behavior, don't reduce dog bites or enhance public safety.

→ In late fall, the **NEPALESE SUPREME COURT** banned mass killings of street dogs and directed the country's government to introduce a humane management plan for homeless animals. For decades, authorities have used public culls—involving beating, shooting or poisoning animals—as a way to address the threat of rabies. The court's ruling is a "tremendous first step" toward ending this cruelty, says Rahul Sehgal with Humane Society International, which along with the Jane Goodall Institute operates a humane street dog management program in Nepal. "Now it is even more crucial that we continue to support the government to find humane and effective solutions for managing street dogs in communities."