

HUMANE ACTIVIST

MAY / JUNE 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Monumental News

SeaWorld ends orca breeding

"Right to Farm"

Measure would shield
industrial agriculture

SHARE SHENANIGANS

ANTI-WILDLIFE POLITICIANS
PANDER TO SPECIAL
INTEREST GROUPS



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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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Humane Activist (ISSN 1524-5233) is published five times a year by the Humane Society Legislative Fund. To subscribe to Humane Activist and to receive our annual Humane Scorecard, send a donation of \$10 or more to the Humane Society Legislative Fund at 2100 L St., NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20037, or contact us at 202-676-2314 or humaneactivist@hslf.org.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

While HSLF has not made any recommendations in the presidential race, most of the current presidential hopefuls have records on animal protection issues that we can and should examine. Here's a summary of what we know about the contenders still in the race as we go to press.

HILLARY CLINTON: In the U.S. Senate, Clinton was a strong and consistent supporter of animal protection policies, earning a score of 100 on the *Humane Scorecard* in the 108th Congress, a

perfect 100+ score in the 109th and an 83 in the 110th. Clinton co-sponsored legislation on horse slaughter and animal fighting, as well as bills to stop the processing of "downer" livestock and to crack down on abusive puppy mills. She also offered an amendment to curb overuse of antibiotics on factory farms. As Secretary of State, Clinton led international efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

BERNIE SANDERS: Like Clinton, Sanders has been a consistent supporter of animal protection. As a House member, he earned a 58 on the *Humane Scorecard* for the 103rd Congress, 75 in the 104th, 60 in the 108th and 100 in both the 106th and 109th Congresses. As a senator, he scored 100 in the 110th, 112th and 113th Congresses, 89 in the 111th and 86 in the most recent session. He co-led a bill to phase out invasive research on chimpanzees and retire them to sanctuary. Sanders is currently co-sponsoring legislation to protect pets from domestic violence, ban horse slaughter for human consumption, create a felony penalty for malicious animal cruelty and crack down on horse soring abuses.

DONALD TRUMP: Since Trump hasn't held public office, there isn't much to point to in terms of his philosophies or policy actions on animal issues. When Trump owned the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, he reportedly was involved in canceling an inhumane horse-diving act. On the downside, he has defended his sons' trophy hunting of African wildlife, including giraffes, buffaloes and even lions, and it's remarkable, especially after the killing of Cecil the lion by an American dentist, that the press hasn't pushed harder on Trump about his sons' globe-trotting wildlife-killing sprees. Trump has also lamented the decision by Ringling Bros. to phase out its performing elephants.

TED CRUZ: This sitting U.S. senator's record has been consistently at odds with animal protection sensibilities. Cruz received a score of 12 in the 113th Congress and a zero in the first session of the 114th Congress and is not co-sponsoring any current animal protection legislation.

JOHN KASICH: As governor of Ohio, Kasich acted swiftly in response to the tragic release and deaths of dozens of bears, lions, tigers, wolves and other exotic animals in Zanesville, setting a moratorium on the sale of exotic animals and advocating for the state's first restrictions on the private ownership of dangerous wildlife as pets. Kasich has signed bills upgrading the state laws on animal cruelty and puppy mills and legislation allowing pets to be included in domestic violence protective orders.

You can help put humane issues in front of the presidential candidates and make animal protection part of the political discourse. Please join us at ChangePolitics.org, a new nonpartisan elections platform that allows you to ask questions about issues that are important to you and "upvote" other users' questions to give them a higher ranking.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



SHARE SHAME

AN ATTEMPT TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK ON ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTIONS

REP. PETER DEFAZIO, D-ORE., stood on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives lamenting that he felt like he was in the movie *Groundhog Day*. DeFazio was responding to news that an amendment had once again been added to the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act that would strip wolves in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Wyoming of their federal Endangered Species Act protections.

"We are not only having *Groundhog Day* here—because this bill has passed three times before and failed to receive any consideration in the Senate," DeFazio stated. "... Now, we are wandering into *Alice in Wonderland*."

The amendment, introduced by Rep. Reid Ribble, R-Wis., includes a particularly galling clause mandating that the delisting of wolves "shall not be subject to judicial review."

Anti-wolf politicians included that language, says Jill Fritz, Michigan senior state director for The HSUS, because they know federal judges would likely order that the gray wolf be placed back on the endangered species list.

"It's basically removing one of the branches of our government from exercising the checks and balances that we value so much as Americans," she says. "They know that citizens and many legislators do not support wolf delisting so they're trying to sneak it in."

The amendment was added to the SHARE Act after a faction of anti-wildlife legislators in the House and Senate failed to attach wolf delisting policy riders to end-of-year spending bills.

"They would hand over wolf management to hostile states in which more than 1,700 wolves have been killed in the last few years with the aid of leghold traps, snares, packs

of hounds, baiting, clubs and firearms," says Michael Markarian, HSLF president.

"These politicians talk a good game about scientific wildlife management, except when they don't like a certain species and want politics to trump science," adds Markarian. "State management hasn't worked and has been disastrous for wolves. That's why federal oversight is needed."

Late last year, HSLF fought off the wolf delisting provision in the omnibus spending bill, potentially forestalling the slaughter of up to 1,000 wolves in 2016.

Congressional leaders also played a key role in the fight. Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., penned a letter with 23 other senators stating their opposition to any anti-ESA riders in the final spending package, including one delisting wolves. Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., led a letter with 91 other House members expressing the same sentiment.

Now HSLF is working to ensure that neither the SHARE Act nor its companion Senate bill, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, gets enacted.

In addition to the attack on wolves, the SHARE Act contains a number of harmful provisions, including blocking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from finalizing and implementing its proposed rule to curb the ivory trade in the United States.

"It's shocking that a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives sides with elephant poachers and wildlife traffickers by passing the so-called SHARE Act," says Markarian. "It's the most extreme package of anti-wildlife measures to come up in Congress ... and we need your help to stop it."



COVER: McDONALD WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY/ANIMALS. OPPOSITE PAGE: MEREDITH LEFFRE/HISUS. THIS PAGE: BLACKWINK/JALAMY; IAN NICALISTE/GALAMY

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. 2858

To phase out animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients as well as the sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics. Sponsors: Reps. McSally, R-Ariz.; Beyer, D-Va.; Heck, R-Nev.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.

Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act
S. 697

To improve the science behind chemical testing, encourage better safety decisions to protect the environment and human health and reduce the use of live animals. Sponsors: Sens. Udall, D-N.M.; Vitter, R-La.

Farm Animals



Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act
H.R. 746/S. 388

To remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act and ensure that farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities receive the basic care required under the AWA. Sponsors: Reps. Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA)
H.R. 1552/S. 621

To phase out routine nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals—a common practice to promote growth and compensate for overcrowded, stressful, unsanitary conditions on factory farms—in order to maintain the effectiveness of these medicines for treating sick people and animals. Sponsors: Rep. Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Collins, R-Maine

Pets and Cruelty



Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act
H.R. 2293/S. 1831

To strengthen the animal crush video law and prohibit those same extreme acts of animal cruelty when they occur in interstate or foreign commerce, regardless of whether or not a video was produced. Sponsors: Reps. Smith, R-Texas; Deutch, D-Fla.; Marino, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act
H.R. 1258/S. 1559

To expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards for the pets of abuse victims on a national level and to provide grant money for domestic violence shelters to better accommodate families with pets. Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass.; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Peters, D-Mich.

Wildlife



Captive Primate Safety Act
H.R. 2920

To amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals who cannot be traded or transported across state lines as pets. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore.

CECIL Animal Trophies Bills
H.R. 3526/H.R. 3448/S. 1918

To prevent imports and exports of trophies from species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Sponsors: Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz. / Rep. Jackson Lee, D-Texas / Sen. Menendez, D-N.J.

Big Cat Public Safety Act
H.R. 3546/S. 2541

To prevent the breeding and possession of lions, tigers and other big cats except by accredited zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, universities and other restricted cases. Sponsors: Reps. Jones, R-N.C.; Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.



Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act
H.R. 2016/S. 1081

To end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sponsors: Rep. Lowey, D-N.Y. / Sen. Booker, D-N.J.

Global Anti-Poaching Act/Wildlife Trafficking Enforcement Act/Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act/TUSKER (Targeted Use of Sanctions for Killing Elephants and Rhinoceros) Act
H.R. 2494/S. 27/S. 2385/
H.R. 1945

To support and strengthen domestic and international efforts to combat the global epidemic of wildlife trafficking. Sponsors: Reps. Royce, R-Calif.; Engel, D-N.Y. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Graham, R-S.C. / Sens. Coons, D-Del.; Flake, R-Ariz. / Rep. DeFazio, D-Ore.

Equines



Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act
H.R. 3268/S. 1121

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed system of industry self-policing, ban the use of devices associated with 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.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Jolly, R-Fla.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Aytotte, R-N.H.; Warner, D-Va.

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
H.R. 1942/S. 1214

To ban domestic horse slaughter and stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States. Sponsors: Reps. Guinta, R-N.H.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Lujan Grisham, D-N.M. / Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Mikulski, D-Md.; Collins, R-Maine

Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act
H.R. 3084

To improve the integrity and safety of thoroughbred horseracing by creating a single independent organization, with a majority of board seats held by officials of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, to develop and enforce uniform national anti-doping rules for thoroughbred racing. Sponsors: Reps. Barr, R-Ky.; Tonko, D-N.Y.

Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act
H.R. 152/S. 1204

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge. Sponsors: Rep. Jones, R-N.C.; Sen. Burr, R-N.C.



Sea Change for SeaWorld

MEANWHILE, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED

WHEN THE JAW-DROPPING NEWS broke in March that SeaWorld, working with The HSUS, planned to end all orca breeding and imports, Sharon Young's phone rang off the hook with celebratory calls. "This is something that we and others have fought to achieve for years," enthused Young, field director of marine wildlife protection for The HSUS.

SeaWorld's big announcement also included a commitment to phase out theatrical orca shows in favor of exhibits that highlight the whales' natural behaviors and to invest at least \$50 million over the next five years for the rescue and rehabilitation of marine animals and advocacy campaigns. Additionally, park visitors will now be able to select from more humane food options.

While SeaWorld's dramatic shift to a more humane business model captured headlines all over the world, it was the year's second major development for captive marine mammals. In January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture—after two decades of delay—released a proposed federal rule intended to improve standards for the handling, care and

housing of dolphins, manatees, seals, whales, polar bears and other animals at aquariums and marine parks.

The actions of SeaWorld and the USDA came in the wake of animal advocates, legislators and the general public demanding better conditions for captive cetaceans.

Young credits the documentary *Blackfish* with fueling the public's growing opposition to orca captivity and the use of marine mammals for entertainment. "It made a big difference to SeaWorld's bottom line," she says.

On Capitol Hill, HSLF has a long history of working with allies to improve protections for captive marine mammals. We supported efforts by Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to push the USDA to release the proposed rule. These efforts included a letter to the USDA and an amendment to force the rule. We also supported the Orca Responsibility and Care Advancement (ORCA) Act sponsored by Reps. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Jared Huffman.

"Last year, I introduced the ORCA Act to end the breeding and wild capture of orcas and with these changes ... SeaWorld is

making this change a reality," Schiff said in a recent statement. "Congress should now pass the ORCA Act to make these changes permanent across the country, not just at SeaWorld, but in all parks."

While the USDA's proposed rule was a step forward, its long-overdue plan for improving the regulations that protect captive marine mammals still falls far short of what Young and other advocates feel is needed. Young was particularly disappointed that the proposed rule doesn't create higher standards for housing and care. While she was pleased by news that the USDA proposes to resume its oversight of swim-with-the-dolphins programs, among other things she was dismayed to find the proposed rule would increase the amount of time individual animals are required to interact with people.

Using published scientific literature, Young plans to submit comments during the public comment period arguing for better provisions for our finned friends. "We're doing everything we can to try to convince them that what they proposed is not adequate," she says.



A Right to Harm

BALLOT MEASURES SEEK TO BLOCK REGULATIONS ON FACTORY FARMING

SERVING AS HSLF'S senior political director doesn't mean Joe Maxwell spends all his time on Capitol Hill, engaging policymakers on behalf of animals.

An overcast Friday in March finds Maxwell at the Farmers Public Market in Oklahoma City talking to family farmers about a state constitutional amendment—the deceptively titled “Right to Farm” measure—that will be on the ballot in November as State Question 777.

The proposed amendment would allow industrial factory farms in Oklahoma to continue operating with little concern for the environment, consumer safety, animal welfare or neighbors downstream or down wind. At the same time, State Question 777 would prevent family farmers and other concerned residents from proposing future ballot measures to enact even the most basic protections regarding animal welfare and food safety, like prohibiting factory farms from dumping massive amounts of animal waste into streams or on neighboring lands.

“It's pushed by multinational corporations,” Maxwell says of the measure. “Their objective is to do away with state sovereignty and local control of issues of agricultural production. They can then just have one business model and footprint. They can pollute one

area and then just pick up and move to the next and not have to worry about the differences in rules and regulations.”

In effect, the Right to Farm measure shields industrial agriculture from the democratic process. No other industry is given—or deserves—blanket protection from common-sense oversight.

For Maxwell—who is also a fourth-generation farmer in Missouri—getting the chance to talk with family farmers is the best part of his job. Most, he says, are already opposed to industrialized factory farming. “They're very independent thinkers,” he says. “Once they pause a moment, it's not a challenge to get them to come on board to support the ‘no’ position.”

If State Question 777 passes, the harm to animals would extend beyond factory farms, Maxwell cautions. The amendment could help puppy mill operators to continue their inhumane practices without fear of stronger regulations. In addition, the amendment jeopardizes the state law against cockfighting, he says, since those who raise roosters for that purpose could argue that they have protected constitutional rights to do so. The Oklahoma Cockfighters have endorsed the “yes” position on Right to Farm.

“A win in Oklahoma, will send a strong message to other state legislatures that they need to not pass these abusive measures,” Maxwell stated. “Oklahoma is ground zero for us on this issue.”

HSLF allies in both the Nebraska and West Virginia legislatures recently blocked efforts to add a Right to Farm provision to the states' constitutions. But the proponents have pledged they will be back next legislative year to pass these harmful measures. And as Maxwell points out, these initiatives are popping up in rural areas across the country. “They're hitting us in a lot of different ways in different states. It's a real challenge.”





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THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ **THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY** and Hawaii-based For the Fishes, along with The HSUS and Humane Society International, filed a legal petition to prevent imports of tropical aquarium fish caught overseas using cyanide. Wild reef fish are caught in the Philippines, Indonesia and other countries by squirting cyanide directly onto reefs to stun tropical fish. This practice—banned but not enforced in these countries—not only kills or injures tens of millions of fish, it also destroys some of the world’s most important coral reefs. Each year as much as 90 percent of the 12.5 million tropical fish imported for the U.S. pet trade are caught with cyanide. The petition asks the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to halt these illegal imports.

➡ **THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** announced it will consider increasing Endangered Species Act protections for elephants and pangolins, whose populations have declined drastically in recent decades. The announcement follows petitions submitted by The HSUS, HSI and several other animal protection organizations asking the FWS to upgrade African elephants from “threatened” to “endangered” and to list seven unlisted species of pangolins as endangered. African elephant populations have declined 60 percent since the FWS listed them as threatened in 1978. Poaching is thought to claim the lives of 35,000 of these animals every year to supply the ivory trade. Pangolins are considered to be the most trafficked mammal in the world. It is estimated that over 1 million pangolins were taken illegally from the wild in the past decade to satisfy the demand for their scales and meat in Asia.

➡ **BON APPÉTIT MANAGEMENT COMPANY** announced updates to its animal welfare policy that include increasing the percentage of chicken meat purchased from suppliers that use healthier breeds of chickens known as “slow-growing” rather than birds genetically manipulated to grow unnaturally fast—often causing lameness and even heart attacks in birds just a few weeks of age. Other changes in its welfare policy include eliminating tail docking of dairy cows within its supply chain, requiring more humane treatment of pigs from pork suppliers, shrinking portion sizes of the meat it serves and offering more meat-free meals to its customers.

➡ Luxury goods designer **GIORGIO ARMANI** announced that all of his labels will go 100-percent fur-free. Armani committed to the policy after working with the Fur Free Alliance, a coalition of 40 animal protection organizations in 28 countries. In a press statement, Armani said, “My company is now taking a major step ahead, reflecting our attention to the critical issues of protecting and caring for the environment and animals.” Starting this fall, all garments in the Armani Group’s collections will be fur-free.

