

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.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear friends,

For two decades, ranching interests have worked to strip gray wolves of protections under the federal Endangered Species Act.

So much energy has been wasted on a misguided cause. A recent analysis found that in states where wolves live, they account for less than 1% of cattle and sheep losses.

Nevertheless, federal officials—swayed by trophy hunters, trappers, ranchers and the big ag lobby—have decided that our country's gray wolf population has recovered (a claim science doesn't support) and no longer requires protection under the ESA to survive.

In March, then-acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt (who was confirmed to the position in April), a trophy hunting supporter and former agriculture and oil industry lobbyist, announced a proposed rule that would strip existing protections for gray wolves everywhere in the lower 48 states. This proposal would abandon protections for wolves in places where wolf recovery is still in its infancy, such as California, Oregon and Washington, and would prevent wolves from recovering in other places with suitable habitat, including the southern Rocky Mountains and the Northeast.

Hundreds of thousands of wolves once roamed the lower 48 states. By the early 1900s, the animals, castigated as vermin, had been hunted to near extinction. It wasn't until after the passage of the ESA in 1973 that gray wolf populations began to rebound in limited parts of the country. Even so, only about 5,500 wolves live in the continental U.S.—a fraction of the species' historic numbers.

The recent proposal to delist the species and turn wolf management over to state agencies triggered a public outcry, with 1.8 million citizens—including many HSLF members—submitting comments against the administration's plan. This was one of the largest numbers of comments ever submitted on a federal decision involving an endangered species.

Additionally, 86 members of Congress, 100 scientists, 230 businesses and 367 veterinary professionals all sent letters to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in opposition to the delisting plan. In a letter to Bernhardt, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel condemned the proposed rule change as unlawful. "Turning cooperative federalism on its head," she wrote, "the Service seeks to weaponize effective wolf recovery in states like Michigan against wolf populations struggling to recover in other states."

We have the truth (and science) on our side. Nearly 2 million Americans spoke out against this reckless delisting proposal. As the administration weighs its decision, HSLF will be doing everything we can to protect wolves and other animals in danger.

Sincerely,

Sara Amundson
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund



Cecil's legislative legacy

HOUSE BILL PUTS TROPHY HUNTING IN THE CROSSHAIRS

IT'S FITTING THAT MEMBERS of a congressional subcommittee scheduled a hearing on trophy hunting for July, the month Cecil the lion was killed four years ago in Zimbabwe.

"It was a tribute to Cecil," says Iris Ho, a senior specialist for wildlife programs and policy for Humane Society International.

In 2015, a Minnesota dentist paid tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege of shooting the 13-year-old lion with an arrow. The hunter and his guides then allowed Cecil to suffer for hours before finishing him off.

It was a tragic end for a beautiful animal. American trophy hunters import an average of 126,000 wildlife trophies each year, and Cecil's killing awakened Americans to that reality. Social media was filled with furious posts about wealthy trophy hunters who travel the globe to kill what remains of dwindling populations of endangered and threatened animals.

"It was a big deal," Ho says. "It highlighted the prominent role that American hunters play in the global trophy hunting enterprise."

A few months after Cecil's death, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., introduced the Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act to ban imports of trophies and parts from African lions and elephants from Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia into the United States. He reintroduced the bill in April, and members of the House's Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife held a hearing on the bill on July 18.

Ho, representing HSI, HSLF and the Humane Society of the United States, testified at the hearing with five other experts. Wearing a silver elephant charm around her neck, she told members of the subcommittee how, a few years ago, she visited a Chinese official to urge his government to ban the commercial trade in ivory. "He listened to me, smiled and asked

Before his untimely death, Cecil, pictured here, was a major attraction at the national park where he roamed.

me, 'How about you Americans stop hunting elephants first?'" Ho recalled. "I was embarrassed. It really is up to us to stop contributing to the problems that we are demanding others to fix."

During the hearing, Subcommittee Chair Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., pointed out that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently charges \$100 for a permit to import a trophy of a threatened or endangered animal. Those fees cover about 8% of the cost of the permit program. "The rest is subsidized," he explained. "A gift from the U.S. taxpayers to trophy hunters who can afford to pay tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars to hunt an animal in another country."

If passed, the CECIL Act would mandate that hunters pay all administrative costs associated with any trophy import permits that are issued. "Even if you support having a program for millionaires and billionaires to experience the thrill of killing a lion and hanging it on their wall," Huffman told his fellow subcommittee members, "most people would agree that taxpayers should not be subsidizing 92% of the cost."

The bill is commonsense legislation that will "go a long way toward stopping the flow of blood and trophies," says Sara Amundson, HSLF president. "We owe it to Cecil and the thousands of other animals like him who have died at the hands of trophy hunters to do our very best to protect them."

→ **SPEAK OUT:** Urge your U.S. representatives to co-sponsor the CECIL Act (H.R. 2245) to help protect African lions and elephants from American trophy hunters.

126,000
average number of wildlife trophies
imported to the U.S. each year

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

THE FOLLOWING is a sampling 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. 693 / S. 1007

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed system of industry self-policing and use of devices integral to soring, and to establish felony penalties for this cruel practice. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Yoho, R-Fla.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Estes, R-Kan.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Collins, R-N.Y. / Sens. Crapo, R-Idaho; Warner, D-Va. (Passed the House on July 25 by a 333-96 vote.)

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
H.R. 961

To ban domestic horse slaughter, stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and prevent health threats posed by meat from horses raised in the U.S. and given drugs unsafe for humans. Sponsors: Reps. Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Buchanan, R-Fla.



John Stringer Rainey Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
S. 2006

To amend Title 18 of the U.S. Code to make it illegal for anyone to knowingly transport, purchase, sell, possess, ship or receive any horse with the intent of slaughtering the animal for human consumption, and codify penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for individuals who violate the law. Sponsors: Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Whitehouse, D-R.I.; Collins, R-Maine

Horseracing Integrity Act
H.R. 1754 / S. 1820

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. Tonko, D-N.Y.; Barr, R-Ky. / Sens. Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; McCally, R-Ariz.

Disaster Preparedness



Providing Responsible Emergency Plans for Animals at Risk of Emerging Disasters (PREPARED) Act
H.R. 1042

To require facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act to submit annual plans for emergency situations, including plans for evacuations, backup food and water, and veterinary care in response to natural disasters, power outages, animal escapes and other emergencies. Sponsors: Reps. Titus, D-Nev.; King, R-N.Y.

Wildlife



Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act
H.R. 737 / S. 877

To prohibit possession, sale or purchase of shark fins or any product containing shark fins, and to establish penalties for violations. Sponsors: Reps. Sablan, D-N. Marianas; McCaul, R-Texas / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Capito, R-W.Va. (Approved by Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in April.)



Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act
H.R. 2245

To ban imports of trophies and parts from African lions and elephants from major hunting destinations in Africa into the U.S. and abolish the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's International Wildlife Conservation Council, which promotes international trophy hunting. Sponsor: Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz.

Rescuing Animals With Rewards (RAWR) Act
H.R. 97 / S. 1590

To authorize rewards through the Department of State's Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program to persons who disclose original information concerning transnational wildlife crime that results in a successful enforcement action. Sponsors: Reps. Buchanan, R-Fla.; Titus, D-Nev. / Sens. Merkley, D-Ore.; Collins, R-Maine

Big Cat Public Safety Act
H.R. 1380

To prohibit the possession of big cat species such as tigers and lions by individuals as pets or by poorly run animal exhibitors that allow public contact or photographs with these animals. Sponsors: Reps. Quigley, D-Ill.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.

Pets and Cruelty



Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act
H.R. 724 / S. 479

To prohibit extreme acts of animal cruelty when they occur on federal property or in interstate or foreign commerce. Sponsors: Reps. Deutch, D-Fla.; Buchanan, R-Fla. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Welfare of Our Friends (WOOF) Act
H.R. 1002

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.; Thompson, R-Pa.; McGovern, D-Pa.



Puppy Protection Act
H.R. 2442

To improve standards of care required of licensed dog 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.; Reschenthaler, R-Pa.; McGovern, D-Mass.

COMBATING CRUELTY

Rep. Tony Cardenas, D-Calif., and Belle the bunny join HSLF staff to push for a federal animal cruelty law at an event outside the U.S. Capitol.



Leaders of the PACT

LAWMAKERS AND ANIMAL WELFARE LEADERS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL ANTI-CRUELTY LAW

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MIGHT NOT AGREE ON MUCH, but pets have a way of bringing people together.

That was evident on July 15 as a bipartisan group of House lawmakers, accompanied by several rescue dogs, gathered outside the U.S. Capitol to voice support for the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, which would make it a federal crime to commit malicious acts of animal cruelty on federal property or in interstate commerce.

Introduced in the House in January, the PACT Act (H.R. 724) had gathered 283 co-sponsors by mid-August. Similar versions of the bill in years past stalled in the House after passing the Senate, but lawmakers this year, citing broad bipartisan support, are optimistic the bill will become law.

“I am eager to get this done and show our commitment to protecting our pets,” lead sponsor Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Fla., told the crowd at the event, which was organized by HSLF, the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Rescue Alliance.

“It’s crazy to believe that torture of animals is still not a federal crime,” added lead sponsor Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., calling animal welfare “truly a bipartisan issue.”

All 50 states and the District of Columbia treat egregious acts of animal cruelty as felonies, and a 2010 federal law, the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act, banned the trade of “crush videos,” fetish videos that typically show animals being tortured to death by women

in high heels. While people who engage in extreme animal cruelty can be prosecuted in the states where they’re caught, there’s no recourse for federal law enforcement officials unless an obscene video has been created and traded. The PACT Act would close this loophole.

Chris Schindler, vice president of field services for HRA, which operates two shelters and animal control services in Washington, D.C., called the PACT Act a necessary additional tool for law enforcement. “Our animal cruelty investigations often involve multiple jurisdictions and take us onto federal property,” he said. “... We run into a problem when the cruelty takes place across state lines.”

High school student Sydney Helfand of Potomac, Maryland, started a Change.org petition urging Congress to pass the PACT Act. She had hoped to gather 3,000 to 5,000 signatures. “Instead, something unbelievable happened,” she told the crowd, explaining that her petition went viral and amassed more than 650,000 signatures. Her petition notes, “We should not go another day without protecting the animals from cruelty, bestiality and torture.”

HSLF President Sara Amundson couldn’t agree more. “There is no reason for Congress to drag its feet on this issue,” she says. “We need the PACT Act to become law so federal prosecutors and law enforcement officials have the tools they need to bring those responsible for animal cruelty to justice, no matter where they commit their crimes.”

→ **SPEAK OUT:** Urge your federal legislators to co-sponsor the PACT Act (H.R. 724/S. 479).

All 50 states and D.C. have felony animal cruelty laws, but a federal law is also needed.

A major step forward

House victory could herald the end of horse soring



PRISCILLA PRESLEY FELL HEAD OVER HEELS for Bear, a beautiful, black Tennessee walking horse Elvis bought in the late 1960s.

She did not love what she later learned about the Tennessee walking horse show industry and the practice of soring, the intentional infliction of pain on a horse's legs or hooves to force the animals to perform an artificial, exaggerated gait. "The Tennessee walking horse has a natural gait, a beautiful natural gait," she told the hosts of an Australian TV news program in 2014. "For some reason, as a society, we want bigger. We want more."

For years, Presley has pressed lawmakers to crack down on this cruelty. Her dream came a lot closer to fruition on July 25 when the House of Representatives passed H.R. 693, the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, by an overwhelming 333-96 vote.

"Thank you to all of you who contacted your Representatives and urged a 'yes' vote," Presley wrote on Facebook. "This is proof that your voice matters."

Like Presley, HSLF has toiled long and mightily for this day, working to develop the first version of the legislation, introduced in 2012 by former Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., and Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., and lobbying members of Congress to pass the legislation ever since.

"This was a huge milestone," says Mimi Brody, HSLF federal affairs director. "It's long overdue, and we were delighted that it came through with flying colors, with a resounding



A bill to help protect horses from unscrupulous trainers looking to gain an edge in walking horse competitions is gaining momentum in Congress.

bipartisan vote."

The PAST Act would end the failed system of industry self-policing that has been in place since a 1976 amendment to the Horse Protection Act allowed the industry to take on the bulk of enforcement. The bill would substitute a cadre of third-party, independent inspectors trained, licensed and assigned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It would make soring itself a crime, ban devices integral to soring, strengthen penalties and hold abusers accountable.

The bill is endorsed by hundreds of leading groups and individuals in the horse industry and veterinary, law enforcement and animal protection communities. As far back as 2013, enough members of Congress championed the PAST Act that the bill would have easily passed if it made it to the floor for a vote, but Republican leadership beholden to the horse soring crowd kept that from happening.

The Senate companion bill, S. 1007, introduced in April by Sens. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and Mark Warner, D-Va., currently has 43 Senate co-sponsors, and identical legislation passed the Senate Commerce committee in 2014. "We want Senate leadership to recognize this is what the public wants," Brody says. "And it's what the overwhelming majority of the Tennessee walking horse show world wants."

Those with a financial interest in soring have pushed recently for the Senate to wait for a study on methods to detect soring. But the inspection methods the USDA already uses are objective, science-based, peer-reviewed and widely accepted in the veterinary world. Sorers just don't like getting caught. Any improvements that might come out of this study can be applied to horses in competition under the PAST Act, so there is no reason for additional delay.

After the bill passed the House, Presley told the Medill News Service that if Elvis were still alive he'd be lobbying members of Congress to get the bill to the president's desk. "I want to see this breed flourish, and I believe that Elvis would want to see that as well."

THE EYES HAVE IT



HSLF's Sara Amundson and HSI's Alexandra Freidberg (right) present awards to Reps. Vern Buchanan (left) and Alcee Hastings to thank them for helping to end the dog and cat meat trade.

REPS. ALCEE HASTINGS, D-Fla., and **VERN BUCHANAN**, R-Fla., recently received an award from HSLF and Humane Society International for their work to end the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption. In June, the Florida congressmen spearheaded a letter, signed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, asking Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to pressure China's leaders to honor the wishes of millions of Chinese citizens who want to end the notorious annual dog meat festival in Yulin. Last year, Hastings and Buchanan led a measure to prevent the trade from taking hold in the U.S.; the measure was included in the farm bill, which President Trump signed in December. The pair also championed a resolution, passed last September, urging other nations to end the dog and cat meat trade.

When Kylie, a cadaver dog for the D.C. Fire and EMS Department, was seriously injured in July while searching for bones, **U.S. PARK POLICE** sprang into action. According to *The Washington Post*, the German shepherd mix was impaled by hidden fencing that severed a main artery and two large veins in her right front leg. After her handler, **SGT. GENE RYAN**, carried the dog for more than a mile through the woods, a Park Police medevac helicopter transported her to a landing site, where a police cruiser was waiting to whisk her to a veterinary hospital. Department

officials posted on Twitter that Kylie has since returned home and returned to duty.

REP. JOSH HARDER, D-Calif., and **HIS WIFE PAM** posted a video on Twitter in July raving about Stanislaus Animal Services Agency's "foster vacays" program, which pairs pet lovers with a shelter animal to bring to their homes for short periods. "You get them out of the shelter environment and hopefully, in the long term, increase their chances at adoption," Rep. Harder explains in the spot. The couple go on to describe the dogs they have fostered, including Blue, an 8-year-old mixed breed, who came to their home for a vacation from the shelter and never left. "We just kind of fell in love with him," Pam Harder says of Blue, who licks her face about 20 times during the two-minute video.

During a July U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing, **SEN. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO**, D-Nev., stressed the importance of using immunocontraceptives to manage wild horses and burros on Western public lands. "It just doesn't make sense to me," she said, referring to the Bureau of Land Management continuing to remove horses and burros from the range while using less than 1% of its budget on fertility control. "Why wouldn't you change your tactics if you know what you're doing is quite frankly swimming upstream?"

