

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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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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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to announce that my colleague Sara Amundson has taken on the role of HSLF president and that you will be hearing from her in this space going forward. Sara has a 30-year career in animal protection lobbying and advocacy, starting with the Doris Day Animal League. She came to HSLF in 2006 as executive director, and she worked to build the legislative and regulatory work of the organization, expand political activity to support humane candidates for state and federal offices, and grow our affiliated political action committee. You'll learn more about Sara's background and accomplishments in our next issue.

Sara and I, along with other HSLF team members, recently expressed our gratitude to all members of Congress who are working toward a more humane future. In our annual Humane Awards reception held in April at the Capitol, HSLF and its affiliate the Humane Society of the United States recognized more than 200 outstanding legislators for their leadership on animal protection issues and their ratings in the 2017 *Humane Scorecard*.

We were pleased to award top honors to Reps. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., and Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., who were named the Humane Legislators of the Year for 2017.

We honored Smith for his remarkable achievements as the lead Republican for 18 years on annual letters to the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee seeking funds and provisions for enforcement of key animal protection laws. His letters helped triple the funding for Animal Welfare Act enforcement over the past two decades and secured many other key provisions. For example, the recently passed omnibus spending package directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restore online access to purged inspection reports under the AWA and the Horse Protection Act. Smith also rallied colleagues to oppose the USDA's plan to outsource AWA oversight to third-party inspectors in the regulated industries, garnered congressional support to end the slaughter of downed calves, and voted against allowing extreme trophy hunting methods on public lands in Alaska.

Roybal-Allard has also been an exceptional champion for animals, particularly those used in research, testing and education. She won prohibitions on USDA licensing of Class B dealers who sell "random source" dogs and cats to research facilities and helped expedite the retirement of chimpanzees owned by the National Institutes of Health to sanctuary. She persuaded the U.S. Coast Guard to suspend its use of live animals and switch to effective human simulators for trauma training, and she successfully pressed NIH to shut down pointless and cruel maternal deprivation studies on infant chimps. Roybal-Allard also led an amendment to stop horse slaughter inspection funding, a provision that was incorporated in the final FY18 omnibus spending bill and effectively blocks horse slaughter plants from operating this year on U.S. soil.

We are grateful to Smith and Roybal-Allard for their extraordinary work and the support of all the award recipients.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
Executive Vice President
Humane Society Legislative Fund



From left: Michael Markarian, Rep. Ken Calvert (holding Cali) and Sara Amundson



Necessary oversight

HSLF FIGHTS EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE USDA INSPECTIONS

IN MAY 2017, Steve Contorno, a reporter at the *Tampa Bay Times*, submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, asking for copies of recent inspections of 15 dog breeders who supply stores in the Tampa area.

It took nine months for Contorno to receive “54 pages of total blackout,” he wrote.

The lack of transparency was particularly startling considering the inspection reports and violation notices used to be available online to the public. That changed a few weeks into the Trump administration when the agency abruptly purged the records.

Some records were later restored, but for most, the agency redacted any identifying information, making them basically useless to journalists, animal welfare advocates, public health officials dealing with potential disease outbreaks and public safety officers concerned about dangers from exotic animal exhibits. They were equally useless to consumers who used the records to avoid purchasing puppies from inhumane commercial breeding mills or to avoid working with trainers with violations of the Horse Protection Act.

Over the past year, HSLF has fought hard to restore the online records. A bipartisan group of 184 representatives and 38 senators called for language in the FY18 budget bill instructing the USDA to resume posting full inspection records to its website. Rep. David Young, R-Iowa, successfully sought committee report language on this in July 2017, and Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., played the lead role in securing a strong directive in the final omnibus government spending package, which President Trump signed into law in March.

The directive states, “USDA is now posting heavily redacted inspection reports that make it difficult in certain cases for the public to understand the subject of the inspection, assess

USDA’s subsequent actions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of its enforcement. USDA’s actions to date do not meet the requirements in [the July House committee report] that the online searchable database should allow analysis and comparison of data and include all inspection reports, annual reports, and other documents related to enforcement of animal welfare laws. USDA is directed to comply with these requirements.”

HSLF will continue to keep a close eye on this and remind agency officials of their obligations. At the same time, we are also fighting another threat to the inspection system: In January, the USDA announced a plan to use inspections and certifications from regulated industries as a guide to determine whether and when to inspect a facility under the Animal Welfare Act. In other words, the agency may give the regulated industries, including puppy mills, zoos, aquariums and research labs, the power to decide which facilities warrant oversight.

“Obviously, we’re really concerned with this proposal and adamantly oppose substituting third-party inspections for any or all inspections by trained federal USDA inspectors,” says Tracie Letterman, vice president of federal affairs at HSLF.

Third-party inspectors would likely come from organizations with close ties to the regulated industries, a system of self-policing that has already proved to be a complete failure in enforcing the Horse Protection Act’s ban against horse soring.

The USDA held public listening sessions on the proposal to use third-party inspectors. HSLF members and other animal advocates attended the meetings, and thousands wrote the agency in protest. A bipartisan group of 77 representatives led by Reps. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., and Brendan Boyle, D-Pa., also sent a letter to the USDA opposing the plan.

“There is strong public opposition to this very misguided and dangerous move,” Letterman says.

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.

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 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. (Passed as amendment to farm bill in House Agriculture Committee.)



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 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.

Dog and cat meat global resolution
H. Res. 401

To urge other nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade. Sponsors: Reps. Hastings, D-Fla.; Buchanan, R-Fla. (Passed House Foreign Affairs Committee in November.)

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.

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

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.

Animal Research



Humane Cosmetics Act
H.R. 2790

To prohibit animal testing for cosmetic products manufactured or sold in the United States. Sponsors: Reps. McCally, 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 part of FY18 omnibus spending package.)

Equines



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.

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. / Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Whitehouse, D-R.I.; Collins, R-Maine

Horseracing Integrity Act
H.R. 2651

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

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.)



Going cruelty-free

LUSH TAKES STRONG STAND AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING WHILE L'ORÉAL DRAGS ITS HEELS

MANY A BEAUTY MAVEN discovered Lush Cosmetics after reading about Bubble Spinners, whimsical bath products that look like the fidget spinners popular with middle schoolers everywhere. Lush is also the creator of moldable soaps—think Play-Doh with a cleansing function—and shampoo bars in a variety of scents and colors.

Executives at Lush are geniuses at injecting ordinary beauty products with a shot of fun, but they're stone-faced serious about their company's ethics. Lush has fought against animal testing of personal care products for decades.

In 2012, the company launched the Lush Prize, which it describes as an “incentive towards finding a ‘eureka moment’—an innovative solution that will end animal testing for good.” Last

year, the company gave away over \$450,000 in prizes to individuals, research teams and institutions that are working to replace animals in cosmetics testing. (HSLF, the Humane Society of the United States and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine won the 2017 Lush Prize for Lobbying, and the HSUS won an additional award for its work on the Human Toxicology Project Consortium.)

Although Lush was founded in England, the company promotes animal protection around the world. Lush is one of 250 companies that have endorsed the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 2790), which would prohibit animal testing for cosmetic products manufactured or sold in the U.S. The federal bill, which was introduced in June 2017 by Reps. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., Don Beyer, D-Va., Ed Royce, R-Calif., Tony Cárdenas, D-Calif., Frank LoBiondo, R-N.J., and Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., has 170 cosponsors.

Support from companies like Lush makes a difference to legislators, says Vicki Katrinak, HSUS program manager for animal research issues. “When you have that many companies that would be affected by the bill saying that they support it, it takes away concern that there might be a negative impact.”

Sadly, L'Oréal, the largest cosmetics company in the world, has failed to publicly support the Humane Cosmetics Act, even after the HSUS, Humane Society International and HSLF launched a public campaign urging the company to support #BeCrueltyFree legislation around the globe. L'Oréal says it no longer tests its products or ingredients on animals, but the company continues to sell its products in China, where animal testing is required for many cosmetic products. So far, Katrinak says, L'Oréal has ignored the campaign's appeal.

HSLF is working to ensure that the bill makes it to the president's desk, says Sara Amundson, HSLF president. “We're committed to passing this legislation to end new animal testing for cosmetics in the U.S.”

Standing up for state laws

FARM BILL LANGUAGE THREATENS PROTECTIONS

CONGRESS IS DUE TO REAUTHORIZE the farm bill this year, and stakes couldn't be higher with this mammoth piece of legislation.

Each of the last three farm bills has contained critical animal protection measures dealing with issues like puppy mill imports, Animal Welfare Act violations and animal fighting. The last farm bill—projected to cost \$489 billion over the course of its 5-year lifespan—expires September 30.

Once again, HSLF is fighting attempts by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, to pre-empt state and local standards regarding agriculture products. In April, the House Agriculture Committee moved a farm bill containing King's controversial amendment out of committee.

As of press time, neither the full House nor Senate had taken up the farm bill, and HSLF is working hard to keep the King language out of the final farm bill. We're reminding legislators about animal-protection priorities, hosting grassroots meetings to organize advocates in key states and leveraging our connections.

For Marty Irby, senior adviser for HSLF, it's times like this that remind him of the importance



of reaching out to people across the political spectrum. At February's Conservative Political Action Conference, HSLF and HSUS representatives spent most of their time talking to conservative leaders about the farm bill. Members of the libertarian advocacy group FreedomWorks were quick to share their disdain for the King amendment, says Irby, adding that the right connections can help move or block legislation. "You never know what might carry a victory over the finish line."

Earlier this year, HSLF hosted a group of more than 80 faith leaders, agriculture industry leaders and farmers from across the country who came to Washington where they met with elected officials and their staffs to discuss the farm bill during the first annual Wendell Berry Faith and Farming Summit.

Attendees included Karen Swallow Prior, a member of the HSUS Faith Council and an English professor at Liberty University. "I'm not a farmer, but [the farm bill] concerns me," she explains. "As much as possible as a consumer, I want to support farming practices that are humane and sustainable."

The King amendment threatens not only farm animal protections but a number of other hard-fought reforms, including bans on the sale of horsemeat and shark fins and protections for animals in puppy mills.

Sara Amundson, HSLF president, is hopeful that efforts to overthrow the King amendment will succeed—as they did in 2014. While the House version of the farm bill debated that year included the controversial language, the Senate version did not. A conference committee hashed out the differences, and the King language ended up on the cutting room floor of bad ideas.

"Our top priority in the farm bill is to prevent the King language from passing," says Amundson. "But we are also promoting inclusion of a number of vital bipartisan measures to address animal fighting in U.S. territories, horse soring, and the dog and cat meat trade. We are pulling out all the stops on the farm bill to elevate animal welfare across party lines."



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THE EYES HAVE IT



→ Thanks to a hard-hitting campaign by **GREY2K USA, THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, HSLF** and other animal organizations, Florida is a step closer to ending an industry that's responsible for the deaths of hundreds of dogs each year. In April, the state's Constitution Revision Commission voted to place on the 2018 ballot a constitutional amendment that would phase out greyhound racing in the state by the end of 2020. Florida is home to 12 of the 18 dog tracks nationwide, says Kate MacFall, Florida state director for the HSUS, and anchors the entire U.S. greyhound racing industry.

→ In February, the **U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** ruled that the National Pork Board must cease further payments to the National Pork Producers Council, the industry's largest lobbying group. The ruling came in response to a Humane Society of the United States lawsuit to stop the illegal transfer of millions of dollars from the pork board, a federal commodity promotion program, to finance lobbying activities by the industry's largest producers. Family farmers joined the HSUS in objecting to their hard-earned money being used to lobby against animal welfare reforms.

→ **CONOR LAMB**, D-Pa., a former Marine and federal prosecutor, narrowly won a special election to the U.S. House of Representatives on March 13. HSLF endorsed and campaigned for Lamb, who has committed to working for pro-animal legislation, including bills that would help victims of domestic violence and their pets, strengthen enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and prohibit the most malicious forms of animal cruelty on federal property or in interstate com-

merce. His opponent, Rick Saccone, on the other hand, voted against stiffer penalties for animal abuse and neglect while serving in the state legislature.

→ American freestyle skier **GUS KENWORTHY** and Canadian figure skater **MEAGAN DUHAMEL** went to South Korea with more than Olympic medals on their minds. During the Pyeongchang games, the athletes shined a spotlight on the country's horrific dog meat farms. In February, Kenworthy traveled to a province near Seoul to visit dogs on a meat farm slated for closure thanks to the work of Humane Society International. When the dogs arrived at an HSI temporary shelter in Montreal, Duhamel, who last year adopted a dog meat farm survivor named Moo-tae, was there to greet them. Soon after, Kenworthy came to Montreal to adopt the puppy who had won his heart during his visit to the dog meat farm. "I'm proud to highlight Humane Society International's amazing dog farm closure campaign because it's a very practical solution to a highly emotive problem," says Kenworthy.



Gus Kenworthy
and his pup Beemo