

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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for the 113th Congress

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Fair Game?

Just two years ago, wolves were protected under the Endangered Species Act. Now, it's open season again.

In a misty rain, Nancy Warren walked down a dirt road, following wolf tracks through the heart of Ottawa National Forest on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Hearing something in the brush, she paused, expecting to see a deer.

Instead, some 15 feet away, out walked a gray wolf. He hadn't seen her. He hadn't heard her. He hadn't smelled her. And so, face to face, here they were. "It looked at me. I looked at him. And then he looked over his shoulder."

A second wolf emerged.

Warren glanced down the quarter mile of road to where she'd parked. "My only regret," she remembers thinking, "is no one's going to believe me because my camera is in the car." So she just stood there, talking to the pair: "You are just so beautiful. Look at you. You're so beautiful."

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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,

Before the massacre in Newtown, Conn., U.S. Senate leaders seemed intent on passing a bill that was a grab bag for the gun lobby and, specifically, its hunting constituency.

Among other provisions, S. 3525, introduced by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., would have allowed the import of 41 polar bear heads and hides from Canada so they could adorn the trophy rooms of wealthy American big-game hunters. It's the kind of special interest legislation that smacks of cronyism, and it's another concrete example of Congress caving in to overreaching and selfish gun-lobby demands.

A recent report issued by The HSUS highlights the threats to conservation of polar bears. There are fewer than 25,000 remaining in five range nations, but one of those, Canada, continues to allow trophy hunting of a species that must already contend with such extraordinary pressures as melting ice and pollution. The International Union for Conservation of Nature listed the bears as vulnerable based on a projected population reduction of more than 30 percent within three generations (45 years). The only subpopulation in Canada that appears to be increasing in number is one that no longer faces pressure from trophy hunting.

Import of polar bear trophies into the U.S. was banned in May 2008, when the Bush Administration listed the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. and Russia, two of the five nations with polar bear populations, are now proposing a ban on the global commercial trade in polar bear parts. The proposal will come up for a vote in March when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convenes in Bangkok.

The drive for polar bear trophies, and for competitive killing awards from organizations like Safari Club International, only intensifies the threats against animals already struggling to survive in a changing climate. In 2007, the last full year before the ban, 112 trophies were imported to the United States—more than double the number from the previous year. In 2011, the Nunavut territory of Canada increased the hunting quota for one of its polar bear populations by more than 250 percent—from eight bears to 21—despite concerns expressed by researchers. Nunavut has plans to increase that quota even further for the 2013 season, to 24 bears.

Then came S. 3525 and the latest in a series of congressional import allowances for polar bear trophies. While some argue that just a small number of trophies are involved and the bears are already dead, a bill like this encourages hunters to continue killing protected species in other countries, store the trophies in warehouses, and simply wait for congressional allies to bail them out with a waiver. Several times, Congress has granted these import allowances—a de facto repeal of the import ban.

Polar bear populations are declining, and we must do everything we can to slow the mortality of these majestic creatures. Congress rightly shelved S. 3525 after the Newtown shooting but must not allow this special-interest sop to the gun lobby to be resurrected in the 113th Congress. It's time to give polar bears more global protections, not put the species in further jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

WORST PRACTICES

New states have not just opened hunting seasons on wolves recently removed from federal protection, but also allowed cruel and unsportsmanlike killing methods. Here's a look at just how prevalent these practices have already become.



KEY

- **TRAPPING:** Wolves can be caught in steel-jawed leghold traps and neck snares, left to suffer for hours or even days.
- ▲ **BAITING:** Hunters can use piles of bait to lure wolves, then shoot the animals while they're eating.
- **HOUNDING:** Hunters can use packs of dogs to chase down and kill or corner wolves.
- ★ **TBD:** Michigan has passed a bill classifying wolves as a game animal. The state's Natural Resources Commission will now determine dates of a hunt and what methods will be allowed.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The two wolves stared back. Curious. Studying. And then, just like that, they walked away into the woods. "I just felt a connection," says Warren, who's been involved with wolf education in Michigan for more than 20 years. "It's still a thrill every single time I see one. Every time I see a wolf, I just stare in awe."

Few animals in the United States evoke such strong emotions—their magic and mystique fueling a wolf-watching industry that annually generates tens of millions of dollars in and around Yellowstone Park. Native American tribes still hold the animal sacred.

But wolves, once again, are under fire.

After Congress stripped gray wolves of Endangered Species Act protections in Montana and Idaho in April 2011, those states immediately established hunts. The decision was slipped into the federal spending package that year, as legislators scrambled to avoid a government shutdown, and it marked the first time Congress has ever legislatively removed an animal from the endangered species list.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service then followed by delisting wolves in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming in 2012. The latter three have established hunts as well.

Hundreds of wolves have since been killed, and in a stunning turnabout for an animal that had been protected since 1974, states like Wisconsin have already moved to allow such cruel practices as hound hunting, night hunting, and even snares and leghold traps (see chart). In Yellowstone, the wolf known as 832F was perhaps the most celebrated in the country, the alpha female of the Lamar Canyon pack. "She's a rock star," David Hornoff, founder of *wolfwatcher.org*, said last year. "She's my favorite wolf of all time." In December, in one of the rare times she ranged outside the park, 832F was shot dead.

"It just makes me sick. I don't know how else to describe it," says Warren, referring to state policies and procedures she believes are based on "so much misinformation and hatred."

Back in her home state, the Michigan legislature in December passed

a law designating the state's 687 wolves as game animals, thus opening the door for the Natural Resources Commission to establish a hunting season there as well. HSLF, however, has mobilized to help lead a coalition of groups working to fight the ruling with a ballot referendum. The coalition needs to gather 225,000 signatures by March 27 to postpone the prospect of a hunt until November 2014, when Michigan voters would decide the matter.

"Michigan represents the first opportunity the citizens have to vote on this issue and to draw the line in the sand," says Dane Waters, HSLF political director. "The citizens can make it very clear, to not only the Michiganders ... but also to legislatures around the country that, hey, this is an issue that people care about; the citizens do not want wolves to be hunted. And hopefully they'll take notice."

Ranching interests—along with hunters who view the wolves as competition for deer—have largely driven the push for a hunt. But in a presentation labeled "Michigan Wolf Update 2012," the Department of Natural Resources reports that in 2010, 2011, and 2012, a single farm accounted for 57, 51, and 38 percent of all livestock depredation events in the state. Advocates note that the DNR has a policy to evaluate such events on a case-by-case basis and that the state should continue addressing specific situations—possibly with nonlethal solutions like guard animals or electronic fencing—before holding a statewide hunt.

John Vucetich, who leads the research of wolves and moose at Michigan's Isle Royale National Park, sees no reason to hunt wolves in the state. He points out that, between 2001 and 2010, wolves killed an average of just 11 head of cattle each year, and that both hunters and malnutrition annually kill more than twice the number of deer that wolves do. If, he notes, it's just a hatred of the animal that's fueling this: "In terms of who we are as human beings, that's a step backwards."

*"IT'S SHOOT FIRST,
ASK QUESTIONS LATER.
AND WE THINK THAT'S THE
WRONG WAY TO GO. WOLVES
BELONG TO ALL OF US."*

— NANCY WARREN

➤ To learn more about the Michigan campaign, visit keepwolvesprotected.com.

A Look Ahead

As HSLF turns its attention to the 113th Congress, four issues stand out among the priorities for a new session and a new year:

- ➡ The Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act, which would make it a crime to knowingly attend or bring a child to an organized animal fight;
- ➡ The Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments, which would phase out barren battery cages for all 280 million laying hens in the United States;
- ➡ The Horse Protection Act Amendments, which would crack down on the illegal practice of soring—inflicting pain on show horses' legs and hooves for the sake of winning prizes—by ending the industry's failed self-policing system, establishing felony penalties, and banning the use of devices associated with soring;
- ➡ The Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act, which would phase out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research and require their retirement to sanctuary.

Already, Reps. Tom Marino, R-Pa., James McGovern, D-Mass., John Campbell, R-Calif., and Jim Moran, D-Va., and Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Mark Kirk, R-Ill., Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and David Vitter, R-La., have reintroduced the Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act. And the other bills are expected to be introduced again soon.

Here's a look at other important issues.

HORSES

Horse Slaughter: With 166 House and 27 Senate cosponsors, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011 aimed to prohibit interstate commerce in horses for slaughter for human consumption. In both 2011 and 2012, Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., won approval in the House

Appropriations Committee to renew language barring USDA from conducting inspections at or approving meat from horse slaughter plants. In 2011, the final House-Senate appropriations conference agreement stripped out this “defund” language. In 2012, Congress pushed the final appropriations process off until this March; the defunding issue awaits resolution until then.

Horse Racing: Committees in both the House and Senate held hearings on the Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act of 2011, which sought to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horse racing. Doping jeopardizes the health and safety of both horses and jockeys, creates an unfair playing field, and corrupts the integrity of the sport.

Wild Horses: HSLF will continue pushing to overhaul the Bureau of Land Management's current population control program of roundups and long-term holding pens, emphasizing instead a more humane, effective program involving immunocontraception, which could save taxpayers \$180 million over 10 years.

PETS

Puppy Mills: The 112th Congress's broad bipartisan support for the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (216 House and 33 Senate cosponsors) helped spur action by the USDA, which proposed extending Animal Welfare Act oversight to large-scale operations selling directly to the public. The USDA rule is still pending and will hopefully be finalized in 2013, precluding the need for congressional action.

Veterans and Dogs: The Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act sought to create a pilot program for combat veterans to train dogs, including shelter dogs, as a form of therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder and other post-deployment mental health conditions. The animals would then become service dogs for veterans with disabilities. The legislation was unanimously approved as part of a package of veterans health care bills, but the package stalled in the Senate and did not receive final action.

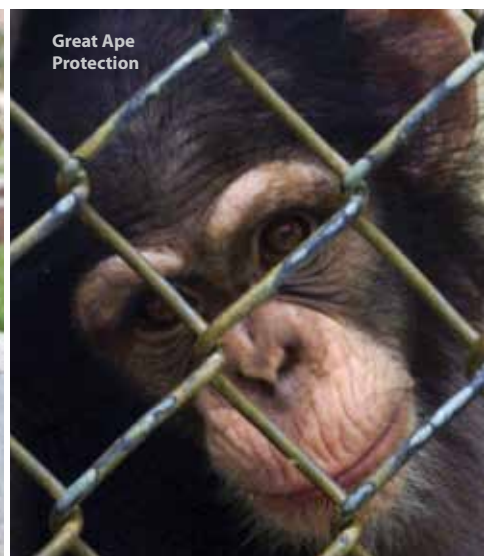
Humane Euthanasia at Animal Shelters: In the 112th Congress, two resolutions were introduced to oppose the use of gas chambers to euthanize shelter animals and encourage more humane euthanasia methods.



Horse Soring



Veterans and Dogs



Great Ape Protection



Big Cats and Public Safety



Animal Fighting

WILDLIFE

Large Constrictor Snakes: In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing nine invasive species of dangerous giant snakes as injurious under the Lacey Act, which would ban their import into the U.S. or transportation between states. The pet trade in these snakes jeopardizes animal welfare, public safety, and—when overwhelmed owners release the animals into the wild—fragile ecosystems. In January 2012, the Obama Administration announced that only four of the identified snake species would be prohibited, leaving unchecked the commercial trade in five other species, including boa constrictor, python, and anaconda species. Seeking to prohibit importation and interstate transport of all nine species, H.R. 511 earned the Judiciary Committee's voice vote approval in February 2012 but did not receive final action in the House.

Captive Primates: The Captive Primate Safety Act, to prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in primates for the pet trade, was approved by voice vote in a Senate committee, but the legislation did not get further consideration. The release of dozens of exotic animals, including primates, from a private menagerie in Ohio highlighted the urgency for this legislation, reminding the nation about the out-of-control exotic pet industry that puts animals and people at risk every day.

Lethal Predator Control: In 2011, the House defeated an amendment to cut \$11 million from the USDA's Wildlife Services account for lethal predator control, a needless subsidy for private livestock ranchers. According to the USDA, less than 1 percent of livestock are killed by predators. Cost-effective humane control methods are available, yet the federal government continues to waste millions of tax dollars on inhumane killing practices. As the 113th Congress focuses on spending cuts, this proposal should be on the table.

Bird-Safe Buildings: An estimated 300 million to 1 billion birds die each year from building collisions—many of them striking windows that reflect images of the sky, others fatally attracted to artificial lights. The Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act of 2011 sought to require, where practicable, that federal agencies incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features into new and existing public buildings

and address the impacts of interior and exterior lighting on native bird species.

Big Cats: The Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act aimed to prohibit private possession of tigers and other big cats except by professionally trained individuals at facilities such as accredited zoos and wildlife sanctuaries; it also required those who currently own big cats to register them with the USDA.

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Alternatives Development: Given the renewed attention to spending cuts, HSLF encourages the 113th Congress to seriously consider curtailing extravagant and unnecessary animal testing at a potential savings of at least \$500 million over 10 years. For one-fifth the cost of a multi-year carcinogenicity study on animals, the NIH Chemical Genomics Center has reported that it can use robot-automated technology to screen up to 1,000 chemicals in as little as two weeks.

FARM ANIMALS

Antibiotic Overuse on Factory Farms: The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2011 sought to phase out the routine nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals, a common practice to promote growth and compensate for overcrowded, stressful, unsanitary conditions on factory farms. A ban would maintain the effectiveness of antibiotics for treating sick people and animals. The expected reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Act this year will also provide an opportunity to strengthen requirements for collecting data on antibiotic use in animal agriculture.

Downed Animals: The Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act aimed to codify the USDA ban on the slaughter of downed cattle (those too sick or injured to stand and walk on their own) and strengthen it to cover downed calves and other species. It would also ensure immediate humane euthanasia and application to livestock auctions and markets.



Nikki Lafferty with Gia Sophia (top) and Dudley Moore

Stand by Me

In Hollywood circles, Lafferty an ally for animals

Riding down a rural stretch of Southern California road one night, Nikki Lafferty and her mother came upon a big black dog lying in the middle of the street.

Suddenly, the dog picked up his head.

They stopped, turned on their hazard lights, and called for help. “He was a nice dog,” remembers Lafferty, who was about 10 years old at the time. “I went over and talked to him, trying to keep him company while we waited for the police.”

The dog would survive surgery, later reuniting with his owner. And the experience would stick with Lafferty, who in the years since has continued to stand by animals in a multitude of ways: volunteering to help sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife; rescuing two pooches of her own; and hosting Hollywood fundraisers to stop abuses such as the Canadian seal slaughter. Last year, she also worked behind the political scenes in support of S.B. 1221, a bill that Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law in September to prohibit the hounding of bears and bobcats in California.

Selling animal welfare to Tinseltown’s powerful personalities doesn’t intimidate Lafferty, who once worked as a junior talent agent and then in entertainment law. An HSLF national council member since 2011, she spoke with *Humane Activist* for this edited interview.

Can you trace your love and concern for animals back to a particular moment? My mother and aunt were vet techs for the ASPCA in New York City in the early ‘70s. My mom could never understand why someone would not adopt a dog with a broken leg or if it had lost an eye. Consequently, we adopted some of these animals. As an only child, these animals were my best friends.

When did you first become aware of the need for animal advocacy? My dad is from Chile and we went to South America to visit his family. I was about 5 years old. There were a lot of dogs running around and my mother explained they were homeless. I got very upset and kept asking my father, “Why doesn’t someone do something? I don’t understand.” And he told me, “Well, maybe one day you can do something about it.” So here I am.

What about pivotal moments as an adult? When Obama was elected in 2008, he talked about volunteering in your own backyard. I had just left entertainment law and found the California Wildlife Center online.

I volunteer in the baby care unit. One instance I remember was a fawn confiscated from a home where he’d been kept as a pet. The fawn was small and malnourished. He had been fed mostly raisins and had no idea how to be a deer because he was in with the family dogs. He eventually ended up at a sanctuary because he was unreleasable.

People think keeping wild animals is so cool. It’s not. It’s selfish and dangerous.

Why did you get involved with HSLF? They are the largest animal protection lobby group that focuses on all aspects of animal welfare. I felt as if they were the movers and shakers. Since my husband [Steve Lafferty, a talent and literary agent and partner at Creative Artists Agency] travels in quite an elite circle of people, I thought I could use that influence and talk to politicians and Hollywood talent about what’s going on with animals.

What’s the best advice you’ve received about animal advocacy? I’d have to say that, “no is the first step in getting a yes.” Steve is the one who gave that to me, for when I get discouraged about something. You are engaged in conversation so just keep talking to them. You will get there. I let people have the floor first and that usually helps, too. I find if you are thoughtful and respectful in regards to the other person’s views, nothing is off limits.



Supported by the industry, HSLF had previously pursued a state-by-state campaign, as an attempt at passing federal legislation had been unsuccessful due to controversy over an “assigned liability” provision that held manufacturers of ethylene glycol and denatonium benzoate responsible for their respective products. Denatonium benzoate has been used as a nail-biting deterrent and a protective additive in household products for decades, and Amundson notes: “I’ve seen no published study to suggest that it is harmful to our environment.”

So she and other national animal protection organizations set to work on bills requiring bittering in one or two states in every region of the country. The strategy was to squeeze distribution, making it inconvenient for manufacturers to produce different formulas for different states. In December, “we hit the tipping point,” Amundson says. “Almost half of the states had passed the legislation, and it was just the incentive for industry to bitter in all 50.”



Niko was killed in 2007, after a tennis ball laced with anti-freeze was tossed into his backyard. Afterward, his owner Lynne Gillis helped advocate and testify for the antifreeze-bittering legislation that Maryland eventually passed in 2011. Reacting to the news of a national agreement, Gillis says: “I do believe with all of my might that this [agreement] will save lives, and that—with Niko’s death and Maryland’s ruling thereafter—gives his life a very compelling meaning and a legacy to keep him alive.”

In New Mexico, it was a golden retriever named Scooby. In Georgia, a German shepherd called Chief. In Massachusetts, a dachshund dubbed Schubert. Beloved pets who suffered and died after ingesting ethylene glycol, a highly toxic ingredient of antifreeze.

For 10 years, HSLF executive director Sara Amundson has been pushing for a solution: the simple addition of denatonium benzoate, a bittering agent that would render the sweet-tasting liquid unpalatable.

In December, that work finally paid off on a national level as the Consumer Specialty Products Association announced that manufacturers would voluntarily add bittering to antifreeze in all 50 states. “I’m thrilled that the industry has chosen to do the right thing by animals and children,” Amundson says.

Landmark “Crush” Case Emerges in Texas



The details were so ghastly, so disturbing, that—as the *Houston Chronicle* reports—a judge ordered the prosecutor to stop reading them during a probable cause hearing.

A Houston couple was arrested last year on state animal cruelty charges, stemming from eight “crush” videos they allegedly made showing the torture and killing of kittens, puppies, and chickens. It was a particularly grotesque case, but it’s also now a historic one, as the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas followed up by initiating the first felony prosecution under the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act of 2010.

The law came about after the Supreme Court



struck down a 1999 animal cruelty depictions law as “overbroad.” HSLF promptly began working with legislators to craft a more narrowly focused law banning the creation, sale, and distribution of crush videos, which show the intentional crushing, burning, drowning, impaling, or suffocating of live animals.

With five counts under the federal animal crush law and two more under the general obscenity statute, the Texas couple could now reportedly face up to 45 years in prison if convicted.

“We are thankful to the U.S. attorney’s office for working to end some of the most gruesome cruelty any of us have ever witnessed,” says HSLF president Michael Markarian, “and we hope other law enforcement actions will follow.”



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{ THE EYES HAVE IT }



The 12-foot-long robotic devices can run underwater for 24 hours and take only months to manufacture as opposed to the seven years of training dolphins require. Animal advocates hope this announcement marks another step toward the Navy ending the use of dolphins and sea lions for additional defense tasks like patrolling for enemy divers and locating objects on the ocean floor.

➡ **ACTOR WOODY HARRELSON** lends his voice to a new online video illustrating the cruelties of the fur industry. “The problem in our society today is that we don’t see the cause and effect of a lot of things that go on,” says the *Cheers* and *No Country for Old Men* star, after narrating the HSUS video, which uses a plush toy fox to depict how animals can be trapped, killed, and skinned for their fur. “... It’s my hope that this video will help at least make people more aware of what goes on in the fur industry. Because I think, generally, at root, people are compassionate. And if they understand some of these things, it might help.”

➡ Faced with intense international criticism, **SOUTH KOREA** has abandoned plans to kill whales for “scientific research” via a loophole in the International Whaling Commission’s ban on commercial hunting. An online protest petition gathered more than 100,000 emails in three weeks, prompting South Korea to announce that it would instead use nonlethal methods to conduct research. Japan exploits the loophole to kill hundreds of whales every year, selling the meat on the open market.

➡ Following the example set by several other companies, **GILEAD SCIENCES** indicated in January that it is ending the use of chimpanzees in invasive research. The biopharmaceutical company had previously used chimps in hepatitis studies. The movement to phase out the primates in research was further bolstered when the **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH’S COUNCIL OF COUNCILS** recommended that, starting immediately, nearly all of the 451 chimps in NIH labs be retired to sanctuary.

➡ **THE U.S. NAVY** announced in November that advances in technology will allow unmanned underwater vehicles to take over the duties of its 24 mine-detecting dolphins beginning in 2017.



THIS PAGE FROM LEFT: BRANDON COLE/MARINE PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY; AP PHOTO/STUART RAMSON.