

[THE **AYES** HAVE IT]



✔ **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks commissioner Ron Moody** spoke out in January against a proposal to extend the wolf hunting season to April 1 in the Bitterroot Valley, expressing concern that stretching the season into the wolves' breeding and denning period violates the ethics of sportsmanship. "Fair chase hunting is not infinitely elastic," Moody said, according to the *Independent Record*. "It has limits and I think ... we have gone past them." Ultimately, the commission voted 5-0 not to extend the season.

✔ Starting in October, **National Institutes of Health** grantees will no longer be able to use agency funds to purchase cats from Class B dealers, notorious for their shady acquisition

methods and substandard treatment of animals. The new policy acts on a 2009 **National Academy of Sciences** report that concluded such suppliers are unnecessary. A similar policy for dogs, announced in March 2011, will be implemented by 2015. Thanks to widespread campaigns against Class B dealers, only seven remain active in the U.S., down from more than 100 in the 1990s.

✔ After two decades of study, the **Environmental Protection Agency** announced approval of the first fertility control vaccine for wild horses in the United States. In trial projects, the immunocontraceptive porcine zona pellucida (PZP) regulated wild horse populations on Maryland's Assateague Island

and mustang herds in Utah and Colorado; its acceptance as a safe and effective product now makes it available for use on a much wider basis. A humane alternative to roundups, PZP should prevent thousands of horses from being removed from their native ranges and warehoused at taxpayers' expense, potentially saving millions of dollars over the next 10 years.

✔ In a move praised by farm animal protection advocates, **McDonald's** and **Wendy's** are requiring their U.S. pork suppliers to provide plans to phase out the use of gestation crates, which confine pregnant sows in cages so small they can't turn around. Pork production is a \$97 billion-a-year industry; as two of the nation's largest purchasers of pork items, the companies' decisions will have a powerful effect on the welfare of breeding sows.



FROM LEFT: TOM & PAT LEESON; USDA

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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New Hope FOR HENS

Bill marks important step for farmers, chickens

The New York Times calls it "a sensible bill." The American Veterinary Medical Association has thrown its support behind it, as have major animal protection groups and egg farmers from Florida to Oregon. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* writes that it "deserves swift enactment." And the *Los Angeles Times* sums it all up with: "As legislation goes, it's a good egg."

Introduced in January, the HSLF-supported Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments seeks to establish commonsense care standards for 280 million commercial hens in the United States and new labeling requirements for the eggs they produce. Born out of an unprecedented agreement between animal advocates and the United Egg Producers trade group, the bill would mark the first federal law addressing the treatment of animals on farms.

As lead sponsor, Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) brings a unique perspective to the landmark piece of legislation: Not only is he the sole veterinarian in Congress, but he also has decades of farming experience. Inside, Schrader discusses the bill, his background, and the key next steps for H.R. 3798.

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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.

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

In early March, HSLF and The HSUS hosted the annual congressional Humane Awards, honoring a bipartisan group of legislators who led the way for animals during the last year. More than 50 members of Congress attended the event in the U.S. Capitol, and we even hosted a few congressional dogs, including Crimefighter (from the office of Rep. Larry Kissell, D-N.C.), Koda (Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass.), Sebastian (Rep. Michael Grimm, R-N.Y.), and Cali (Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Calif.).

The top awards went to Sen. David Vitter, R-La., and Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., who were honored as the 2011

Humane Legislators of the Year. The award recognizes federal lawmakers who have initiated path-breaking animal protection legislation and advanced reform in the policymaking arena.

Sen. Vitter was recognized as 2011 Humane Senator of the Year for his leadership on securing funding for the USDA to better enforce key animal welfare laws, as well as on the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (S. 707), to require licensing and inspections of puppy mills selling directly to the public via the Internet or other means, and the Captive Primate Safety Act (S. 1324), to prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade.

Sen. Vitter has also been a champion over the years on legislation to require accurate fur apparel labeling, crack down on dogfighting and cockfighting, ban the creation and sale of obscene animal torture ("crush") videos, and strengthen the law against shark finning.

Rep. Farr, who earned a perfect score on the 2011 *Humane Scorecard*, was recognized as Humane Representative of the Year for his leadership on the PUPS Act (H.R. 835) and the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments (H.R. 3798; see cover story).

The ranking minority member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Farr also played a pivotal role in approving a USDA request to reprogram \$4 million of fiscal 2011 funding for addressing serious shortfalls in its oversight of puppy mills, as identified by its own inspector general. In addition, he helped obtain a \$5 million increase in USDA's fiscal 2012 funding to enforce the Animal Welfare Act, which covers facilities such as puppy mills, laboratories, and circuses, and a 40 percent increase in funding to enforce the law against the cruel "soring" of show horses.

In addition to the top awards:

- Humane Champion awards went to 28 legislators who took the lead on animal welfare legislation and also received a perfect score on the 2011 *Humane Scorecard*.
- Legislative Leader awards went to 64 legislators for their leadership as prime sponsors of pro-animal legislation.
- Humane Advocate awards went to 33 legislators who received a perfect score on the 2011 *Humane Scorecard*.

In total, 127 legislators—nearly a third of the Senate and a quarter of the House—received awards for their work in 2011. We're grateful to all of these members of Congress who are helping to forge a path to a more humane future, and we congratulate them on their awards.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund

Did Yours Win?

To find out whether your legislators were among the 2011 Humane Award recipients, go to hslf.org/humaneawards.

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Why is H.R. 3798 important?

Hopefully, it is the beginning of an era of cooperation instead of confrontation between animal rights organizations and production agriculture. I appreciate

The HSUS's thoughtful approach to recognizing the economic challenges faced by industry to making the change, and the consequent phase-in and reasonable new standards. The bill also positions American egg-laying operations to develop to meet evolving consumer demand for specific standards for the way their food is produced. It will be increasingly difficult for American production agriculture to undersell raw agriculture livestock products from developing nations, so value-added components like this will position American producers to be able to out-compete their foreign competitors.

As the lead sponsor, what about this issue resonated with you?

As a veterinarian, I was pleased to see industry and The HSUS come together with a solution. Generally, in the legislative world we prefer solutions worked out by the interests concerned, rather than imposing more arbitrary political solutions from politicians that have



Rep. Schrader

little expertise in such arcane areas. ... I was also surprised and impressed that all three large Oregon egg producers, who are constituents of mine, were behind the national standard so they could stay in business and continue to be job creators. And I liked the idea of getting out ahead of the increasingly discriminating American consumer and positioning American agriculture as part of the solution and not the problem.

What are the key next steps?

Right now my focus is to educate members of Congress and their staffs on why this legislation is important, continue building bipartisan support among my colleagues, and generate as many endorsements as possible.

What has been the reaction to the bill?

The feedback I've received from constituents, from egg producers to animal welfare advocates, has been very positive. We have had considerable pushback from other livestock groups, but we continue to try and work through those issues with detractors in a constructive way and [by] sticking to the facts.

What made you decide to go into a career in veterinary medicine?

I have always enjoyed being around

and working with all kinds of animals. I always felt they were much more honest, genuine, and deserving than their human counterparts.

How has that unique career experience affected your perspective and approach on animal welfare policy issues?

As the only veterinarian in Congress, it is my duty to be as thoughtful and objective as I can on animal issues. My job is hopefully to be a rational source of information for reasonable public policy on agricultural and companion animal issues that my colleagues can rely on. I hope I can articulate both sides so that my colleagues and interest groups can feel comfortable as they form their own positions on any animal-related issue.



"SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT"

What newspapers are saying about H.R. 3798

"A federal law is the only way to mandate uniform standards, and this smart and focused measure is supported by the United Egg Producers, which represents 88% of the nation's egg farmers. As legislation goes, it's a good egg."
—Los Angeles Times

"We know that animals feel discomfort and pain. We know that bad conditions can cause them great distress. Because the animals are in our power and helpless, we must avoid cruelty at all costs. Congress should pass the bill."
—Albany (Ore.) Democrat-Herald

"Allowing hens a little room to spread their wings and places to perch, nest, and scratch seems pretty reasonable....The accord between the HSUS and the egg producers is something to crow about."
—The (Fredericksburg, Va.) Free Lance-Star

"This bill, H.R. 3798, deserves swift enactment. And the process by which it even got this far ought to be a model for politically warring factions everywhere."
—The San Diego Union-Tribune

"It's well past time to create a national standard that promotes more humane conditions everywhere. ... Yet the American Farm Bureau Federation, a trade group for farmers, the National Pork Producers Council, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association oppose the bill. They seem to fear that common sense and a humane regard for the well-being of farm animals will spread to their own industries."
—The New York Times

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 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 (if available) 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.

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



BEST Practices Act
H.R. 1417

To prohibit the use of animals such as goats and pigs for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of combat injuries.
Sponsor: Rep. Filner, D-Calif.

Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act
H.R. 1513 / S. 810

To phase out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research, retire the approximately 500 federally owned chimpanzees to sanctuary, and codify the NIH ban on breeding chimpanzees for invasive research.
Sponsors: Reps. Bartlett, R-Md.; Israel, D-N.Y.; Reichert, R-Wash.; Langevin, D-R.I.; Towns, D-N.Y. / Sens. Cantwell, D-Wash.; Collins, R-Maine; Sanders, I-Vt.

Pet Safety and Protection Act
H.R. 2256

To prohibit the use in research of dogs and cats obtained through Class B dealers from random sources such as pet theft and free-to-good-home ads.
Sponsors: Reps. Doyle, D-Pa.; Smith, R-N.J.

EQUINES



American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act
H.R. 2966 / S. 1176

To prohibit the knowing and intentional possession, shipment, transport, purchase, sale, delivery, or receipt of a horse for slaughter for human consumption.
Sponsors: Reps. Burton, R-Ind.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Landrieu, D-La.; Graham, R-S.C.

Horse Transportation Safety Act
S. 1281

To prohibit the interstate transportation of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels, regardless of the destination.
Sponsors: Sens. Kirk, R-Ill.; Lautenberg, D-N.J.

Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act
H.R. 1733 / S. 886

To prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horse racing, which jeopardizes the health and safety of horses and jockeys.
Sponsors: Rep. Whitfield, R-Ky. / Sen. Udall, D-N.M.

FARM ANIMALS



Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act
H.R. 3704

To codify the USDA ban on the slaughter of downed cattle and strengthen it to cover downed calves and other species, and to ensure immediate humane euthanasia and application to livestock auctions and markets.
Sponsors: Reps. Ackerman, D-N.Y.; King, R-N.Y.

Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments
H.R. 3798

To provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, phased in over a period of 15–18 years, that will significantly improve animal welfare and provide a stable future for egg farmers.
Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Gallegly, R-Calif.; Farr, D-Calif.; Denham, R-Calif.

PETS AND CRUELTY



Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act
H.R. 2492 / S. 1947

To establish misdemeanor penalties for knowingly attending an organized animal fight and felony penalties for bringing a minor to such a fight.
Sponsors: Reps. Marino, R-Pa.; Sutton, D-Ohio / Sens. Blumenthal, D-Conn.; Kirk, R-Ill.; Cantwell, D-Wash.; Brown, R-Mass.

Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act
H.R. 835 / S. 707

To establish licensing and inspection requirements for breeders who sell 50 or more puppies per year directly to consumers online or by other means, and to require that breeding dogs at commercial breeding facilities be allowed to exercise daily.
Sponsors: Reps. Gerlach, R-Pa.; Farr, D-Calif.; Young, R-Fla.; Capps, D-Calif. Sens. Durbin, D-Ill.; Vitter, R-La.

Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
H.R. 198 / S. 1838

To create a pilot program for veterans to train dogs (including those from shelters) as a form of therapy for post-deployment mental health conditions. The dogs are then given to veterans with disabilities.
Sponsor: Rep. Grimm, R-N.Y. / Sens. Baucus, D-Mont.; Boozman, R-Ark.

WILDLIFE



Captive Primate Safety Act
H.R. 4306 / S. 1324

To prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade.
Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Boxer, D-Calif.; Vitter, R-La.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Constrictor snakes
H.R. 511

To prohibit importation of certain injurious species of constrictor snakes.
Sponsor: Rep. Rooney, R-Fla.

Momentum Builds for Chimps

In 2008, pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline made the progressive decision to stop using chimpanzees in hepatitis C research, opting instead for alternative testing methods. The company also stated publicly that it would no longer initiate any studies using great apes.

For the next three years, though, those strides, that sentiment, stood out as the exception—until this January, when two more companies followed suit.

Idenix Pharmaceuticals announced it “continues to not initiate or fund studies using great apes and will not do so in the future.” And health care company Abbott said it had “no plans to use chimpanzees in the immediate future,” although it has left the door open. For the movement to spare chimpanzees from harmful animal testing, those pronouncements added to a surge of momentum—stemming largely from December’s landmark report from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

Culminating a seven-month study, the National Academies reported among its findings that the use of chimpanzees for research is “largely unnecessary.” The committee also could not identify any



area of current biomedical research for which chimpanzee use is essential and highlighted the availability of superior alternatives. The National Institutes of Health, which commissioned the report, quickly suspended any new funding for chimp research and formed a working group to help implement the recommendations.

The subsequent ripples have reached not just the corporate sector, but Capitol Hill as well. Since the report, an additional 34 U.S. representatives and three U.S. senators have cosponsored the HSLF-supported Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act, bringing the numbers to 164 and 15 sponsors and cosponsors, respectively. The Senate Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife is also scheduled to hold a hearing on the bill in the near future.

Beyond his passion for microbiology, 12-year-old Chad Campbell also loves to shoot hoops, surf, and raise money for shelter pets.



RISING STAR

Young scientist takes on antibiotics in factory farms

Chad Campbell was determined to save his sick dog, Buddy.

The lovable border collie mix had received round after round of antibiotics, but nothing seemed to help. Buddy's veterinarian began to wonder if they were dealing with an antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"I began researching antibiotic resistance," says Chad, now 12, "and I found all this controversy about antibiotics in the meat industry. ... They are pumping up these animals with antibiotics to [promote growth], which is very unhealthy and very hard on the animals. They also do it to try to prevent disease." The result, the middle-schooler from Hampstead, N.C., learned, is that bacteria may eventually become resistant to the antibiotic being used, destroying the drug's effectiveness when used in sick people and animals.

Fortunately, things turned out well for Buddy. He was finally diagnosed with a rare fungal infection, and though he lost an eye, he otherwise recovered. But as a lifelong vegetarian and animal lover, Chad was concerned about what he'd learned. Already interested in microbiology, he "thought an interesting [science fair] project would be to see if there are antibiotics in meat from grocery stores."

So Chad ordered a certified inspector-grade test kit designed to detect antibiotics in meat, then gathered 22 meat samples from 22

grocery stores in a 60-mile radius. Using meat from an organic farm as his control, he extracted meat juice from the samples and, under sterile conditions in his veterinarian's lab, put them into small vials. He then incubated the samples for three hours at 64 degrees Celsius.

The results: Fifteen percent of the grocery store meat samples tested positive for antibiotics.

Entitled "The Debate on Your Plate!" Chad's project won first place at the Topsail Middle School science fair, then top prize at the North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair. The latter earned him an invitation to the Broadcom MASTERS, a national science, technology, engineering, and math competition for middle-schoolers held in Washington, D.C.

In addition to having his project displayed and judged at the National Geographic Society, the MASTERS carried another thrilling perk: the chance to visit Capitol Hill.

Chad had discovered the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act while researching ways to stop the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms. And though he admits to being a "little nervous," he took advantage of the trip to meet with Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., urging him to support the bill. After listening to his young constituent, McIntyre agreed to do just that, Chad reports.

"My project opened a lot of eyes," says Chad, who was recognized with the "rising star" award at the Broadcom banquet. "I gave people a lot of information to think about. Hopefully, they will take action and make changes in their diet."

Asked what he plans to do when he "grows up," the young animal advocate pauses for a moment. "Whatever I choose to do in the future, [it will involve] helping animals and educating people about animals and the environment."

"I feel that the federal government needs to act on this serious problem, and Congress needs to pass new legislation to curb antibiotic resistance."

—Chad Campbell, 12

WHAT IT IS: Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 965/S. 1211)

WHAT IT DOES: Phases out routine nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals 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., and Collins, R-Maine

HOW TO HELP: Ask your U.S. representative and senators to cosponsor this important legislation. To identify your lawmakers, call **202-676-2314** or visit hsflf.org/leglookup.

BILL BOX



The Art of Gentle Persuasion

Tips for lobbying your legislators



Howard Baskin was mystified. The bill, a measure to protect big cats in the United States, seemed to be a no-brainer. And yet it kept stalling out.

So in 2005, the advisory board chairman for Big Cat Rescue in Tampa traveled to the HSLF-supported Taking Action for Animals conference in Washington, D.C., determined to learn more about the process in which a bill becomes a law—and what, if any, role he could play. After a weekend of workshops and speeches, participants headed to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators.

"I remember walking through the halls of Congress that first time," Baskin says, "being kind of like a first-grader, looking around like, 'Wow, look where we are!' And the idea of going in to actually talk to a legislator or their aides was kind of a scary thing.

"And it turns out that it's not scary at all. Like most things, once you do it once, it's no longer a mystery—and becomes quite comfortable."

Seven years later, Baskin is anything but a wide-eyed rookie when it comes to communicating with his legislators. Having returned each year for TAFE and his annual trip to the Hill, he's established a rapport with the office of Rep. Kathy Castor, speaking with the Florida Democrat and her aides about everything from horse slaughter, to puppy mills, to animal fighting, to constrictor snakes.

When HSLF released its annual *Humane Scorecard* earlier this year, Castor owned a perfect score of 100, thanks in part to Baskin's work. Now, for other advocates looking to speak to their legislators—on a summer trip to Washington or a free afternoon in their hometown—he offers a few hints.

► **VALUE THE AIDES.** If a legislator sends an aide to speak with you, that doesn't mean you're getting blown off, Baskin cautions. "The

aides are critical to the process," he says, "... because the legislators rely on the aides to research a topic, and look at both sides of it, and ... recommend the decisions about what a legislator should do."

► **BUILD CREDIBILITY.**

Try approaching the issue like the aide will have to, Baskin says, and that means providing honest answers to questions like: Who will stand in opposition? What will their arguments be? Will there be a big push-back? This will help build credibility—and down the road, when a slam-dunk issue arises, make a no-brainer that much more obvious.

Bringing a one-page fact sheet will give you not only something to refer

to, but something to leave behind as well. As Baskin says, just ensure that "every sentence [is] defensible."

► **ESTABLISH A RAPPORT.** This comes in part from dressing professionally, avoiding unrealistic demands, and speaking slowly and evenly—even when discussing emotional topics. It also comes from meeting more than once.

Baskin also emphasizes the importance of maintaining contact in between meetings, even if you're not asking for anything. For example, he learned Castor was interested in Florida panthers, so when a local newspaper ran a feature story on the animals, he clipped it out and mailed it to her.

► **DON'T GET FRUSTRATED.** "Particularly if you have a representative who is not inclined your way, it's still useful for him or her to know that there are constituents who feel



Siberian lynxes Willow and Natasha snuggle at Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Fla.

this way," Baskin says. "We've done a number of visits that didn't get results, in terms of action on the part of the legislator. But those visits served to build this rapport that can lead to more success later, particularly as they come to know you and trust you."



TAKE ACTION

The nation's largest animal advocacy conference, Taking Action for Animals, runs **July 27-30** in Washington, D.C. Explore the exhibit hall, meet new friends, and learn how to help animals. For more information, visit takingactionforanimals.org.