

HUMANE ACTIVIST

MAY / JUNE 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

In the House

Priscilla Presley visits
Capitol Hill for horses

Signature Move

Maine and Michigan
advocates rally voters

Prime Sponsors

HSLF honors high-
impact lawmakers

KEEPING ↑
UP

THE HUMANE
COSMETICS ACT
WOULD BRING THE U.S.
IN STEP WITH OTHER
NATIONS AND SAVE
COUNTLESS ANIMALS
FROM UNNECESSARY
SUFFERING



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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,

President Obama has released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2015, and the recommendations include several important provisions for animals.

Congress previously prohibited the use of tax dollars to inspect horse slaughter plants, which halted imminent plans to open operations, and the president's new budget proposal would continue that ban for another year.

The proposal also includes good news for wild horses and burros inhabiting the public lands of ten western states. While rounded-up mustangs have been at risk of being sold for slaughter, the president's budget makes it clear that the Bureau of Land Management should not use funds to send these iconic animals for that purpose. It also includes a \$2.8 million increase for the BLM's wild horse and burro program that the agency has specified will go toward research on population-control methods.

The administration also took another step forward to combat the threat of wildlife poaching and trafficking, calling for no less than \$45 million for enforcement, which includes cracking down on poaching of protected species and the illegal trade of their related parts and products.

On the downside, the president's budget proposes to cut the U.S. Department of Agriculture's number of poultry slaughter inspectors, to hand off significant oversight responsibilities to industry, and to implement new methods that will increase slaughter line speeds from 140 to 175 birds a minute. Already, reports show that nearly one million chickens and turkeys are unintentionally drowned in tanks of scalding hot water each year in U.S. slaughterhouses, and workers endure debilitating pain and crippling injuries.

When Congress takes up the FY 2015 spending bill, we hope lawmakers will adopt the spending limitation on horse slaughter, support more humane management of wild horses and burros, and allocate the funding level for wildlife trafficking. We also hope they'll nix the short-sighted and dangerous poultry slaughter rule, which threatens to make a grim situation much, much worse for animals and people.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian

President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

P.S. We are saddened to learn of the passing of Virginia Handley, a pioneering activist who was one of the first to embrace lobbying and political advocacy for animals. She began lobbying the California legislature in the 1970s, when our movement was investing limited resources in public policy work. Handley successfully helped push for state legislation banning the use of decompression chambers to euthanize animals and for restrictions on the private ownership of dangerous wild animals as pets. She organized citizen lobbyists, forming PawPAC in 1980, one of the first political action committees for animal protection. And she set the stage for the present-day practices of publishing scorecards, making voter recommendations, and building a political infrastructure to help elect humane lawmakers. She had a long and storied career in California, and the animal protection movement is better off thanks to her legacy.



Left: A rabbit-costumed flash mob marches toward EU headquarters in Brussels in June 2012. Below: Pain-filled lives and deaths are the fate of rabbits and other animals used for cosmetics testing.

BEHIND THE CURVE

ANIMALS ARE STILL USED TO TEST COSMETICS AND THEIR INGREDIENTS FOR THE U.S. MARKET

CUSTOMERS GRABBING a late-morning cup of coffee in downtown Brussels caught a strange sight two years ago: Suddenly, across the street, on the grounds of the European Commission, there were rabbits everywhere.

Some seemed to emerge from nearby bushes. Others slipped out from behind city walls as pedestrians stopped to watch and curious faces peered down from office windows. And then, right there on an open stretch of sidewalk, on a Tuesday in June, those rabbits began to dance.

As a happy burst of music piped out over a nearby sound system, 27 advocates in white rabbit costumes stepped, hopped, clapped, and spun in unison. Reporters snapped photos. A few onlookers began to move with the song. And atop a stone wall, two women unfurled a large white banner: "350,000 Petition for EU Cosmetics to be Cruelty-Free in 2013."

The flash mob gathered to shine a spotlight on the issue of cosmetics animal testing in the European Union—one white rabbit rep-

resenting each member state. Immediately afterward, members of Humane Society International and LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics delivered stack upon stack of signatures to the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, calling for a ban on all cosmetics that have been tested on animals.

Five months later, the rabbits had another reason to dance: The commissioner fully implemented a ban on the import and sale of any cosmetics tested on animals or containing ingredients tested on animals anywhere in the world. It was a milestone in a global burst of



momentum on the issue, from South Korea, to China, to India, to Israel.

Now, the spotlight is on the United States. The Humane Cosmetics Act, recently introduced by Reps. Jim Moran (D-Va.) and Michael Grimm (R-N.Y.), seeks to outlaw cosmetic animal tests in the U.S. as well as the sale of any products developed or manufactured with such testing. The bill is endorsed by personal care product companies including LUSH, Jack Black, Biao skincare, and Aubrey Organics.

It may come as a surprise, but animals are still used to test cosmetics and their ingredients for the U.S. market. For eye makeup and shampoos, chemicals are still poured into the eyes of restrained rabbits, so that irritation—often in the form of bleeding, blindness, and ulcers—can be evaluated. Rats are still forced to ingest lipstick and lip gloss ingredients by feeding tube to determine the amount that causes half of them to die within 14 days. For hairspray and aerosol deodorants, rats are squeezed into jars barely bigger than their bodies to breathe in the substances for hours at a time, often experiencing convulsions, seizures, and paralysis.

While tradition drives many companies to continue animal tests, the reasons to opt out are growing. Thousands of existing cosmetic ingredients with histories of safe use are available, enabling more than 500 cruelty-free companies to innovate and compete in the marketplace. For new ingredients, more and more proven, non-animal tests based on human biology—and thus, more predictive of human reactions than animal tests—are coming into use. Such advanced technologies are also widely considered cheaper than animal tests. And, according to a 2013 poll, a majority of Americans oppose animal testing of cosmetics and actually feel safer if alternatives are used instead.

As HSLF President Michael Markarian wrote recently in his blog: "With good alternatives and innovation to make tests faster, cheaper, and more reliable, every responsible corporate citizen should want to move in this direction and embrace the humane economy."

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 at 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.

PETS AND CRUELTY



Pets on Trains Act
H.R. 2066 / S. 1710

To require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains.

Sponsors: Reps. Denham, R-Calif.; Cohen, D-Tenn. / Sen. Whitehouse, D-R.I.

Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
H.R. 183

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.

Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act
H.R. 2847

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans. Sponsor:

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

WILDLIFE



Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act
H.R. 1998 / S.1381

To amend the Lacey Act to better address the exotic pet trade by limiting the breeding of lions, tigers, and other big cats to accredited zoos, and by preventing unqualified individuals and facilities from possessing these dangerous predators, who suffer from being kept in abusive and unsafe conditions and threaten public safety. Sponsors: Reps. McKeon, R-Calif.; Sanchez, D-Calif. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Captive Primate Safety Act
H.R. 2856 / S. 1463

To amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals specified in the Captive Wildlife Safety Act who cannot be traded and transported across state lines as pets. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Boxer, D-Calif.; Vitter, R-La.



End All Shark Finning Resolution
H.Res. 285

To raise awareness of the dangers of shark finning and express the view of Congress that, in order to even the playing field for U.S. fishermen and prevent the overfishing of sharks on a global scale, the U.S. should end the importation of shark fins from foreign fisheries that practice shark finning. Sponsors: Reps. Buchanan, R-Fla.; Huffman, D-Calif.; Grimm, R-N.Y.; Farr, D-Calif.

Transparency for Lethal Control Act
H.R. 2074

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to submit to Congress, and make available to the public on the Internet, a report on the animals killed under the Wildlife Services program. Sponsor: Rep. Davis, D-Calif.

FARM ANIMALS



Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments
H.R. 1731 / S. 820

To provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, phased in over a period of 15-16 years, which will significantly improve animal welfare and provide a stable future for egg farmers. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Denham, R-Calif.; Farr, D-Calif; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa. / Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif.

Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act / Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act
H.R. 1150 / S. 1256

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

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



Pet Safety and Protection Act
H.R. 2224

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. Sponsor: Rep. Doyle, D-Pa.

The Humane Cosmetics Act
H.R. 4148

To make it unlawful for anyone to conduct or commission cosmetic animal testing in the U.S., and to prohibit selling, offering for sale, or transporting any cosmetics in interstate commerce if the final product or any component was developed or manufactured using animal testing. Sponsors: Reps. Moran, D-Va.; Grimm, R-N.Y.

EQUINES



Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2013
H.R. 2012 / S. 973

To require an independent anti-doping organization to ensure the integrity and safety of horse races that are the subject of interstate off-track wagers. Sponsors: Reps. Pitts, R-Pa.; Whitfield, R-Ky.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Eshoo, D-Calif. / Sen. Udall, D-N.M.

Prevent All Soring Tactics Act
H.R. 1518 / S. 1406

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed industry self-policing system, strengthen penalties, ban the use of devices associated with soring, and make illegal the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling the animal. Sponsors: Reps. Whitfield, R-Ky.; Cohen, D-Tenn. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Warner, D-Va.

Safeguard American Food Exports Act
H.R. 1094 / S. 541

To protect American horses and the public by prohibiting the transport and export of U.S. horses to slaughter for human consumption. American horses are not raised for food and are routinely given hundreds of drugs over their lifetimes that can be toxic to humans if ingested. Sponsors: Reps. Meehan, R-Pa.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Landrieu, D-La.; Graham, R-S.C.

VETERINARY



Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act
H.R. 1528 / S. 1171

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow veterinarians to transport, administer, and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered locations to help ensure that proper care can be provided to patients in rural or remote areas, including pets in disasters, farm animals, and wildlife. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Yoho, R-Fla. / Sens. Moran, R-Kan.; King, I-Maine.



Presley meets with House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.).

SPREADING THE LOVE

PRISCILLA PRESLEY HELPS BUILD MOMENTUM FOR THE PAST ACT

WHEN IT CAME TO RALLYING for Tennessee walking horses on Capitol Hill, Priscilla Presley's timing was spot on.

In late February, in the wake of an opposing bill that sought to

codify continued self-regulation in an industry rampant with legal violations, Presley took part in numerous meetings with members of Congress, speaking about the joy the horses brought her and former husband, Elvis Presley.

"I know them to be gentle, graceful creatures," she said. "Today ... these horses continue to suffer at the hands of abusive trainers. I'm calling on Congress to pass the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act to finally end this torture."

The PAST Act seeks to require that inspections for signs of soring—intentionally causing pain to a horse's feet and legs to force an exaggerated high-stepping gait for competitions—be performed by USDA-licensed, third-party inspectors. It would also ban the use of chains, stacks, heavy shoes, and other devices associated with soring, as well as strengthen penalties for violations.

"Ms. Presley was an absolute delight and is a strong hand on this issue," says Sara Amundson, HSLF's executive director. "She was knowledgeable and effective." Significantly, she brought the bill to the attention of Sens. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) and Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), the former Secretary of Agriculture, helping to shore up their co-sponsorship.

Despite broad support for the bill, Amundson notes: "It's crucially important for activists to find out if their members are not cosponsors and ask them to sponsor PAST, the only bill to end horse soring."

BALLOT BOUND

LONG HOURS, COLD HANDS PAY OFF

ADVOCATES IN MAINE AND MICHIGAN weathered frigid winters to ensure that voters will have a say about protecting their state's majestic animals in November.

Voters now have the chance to change Maine's distinction as the last state to allow all three of these cruel and unsporting practices for bear hunts: hounding, baiting, and trapping. The Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting coalition secured 78,528 signatures, more than enough to qualify an initiative seeking to ban the three practices onto the November ballot. "The dedication was just incredible," says campaign manager Stephanie Harris, about volunteers who worked through inclement weather and the holiday season. The group now turns its attention to educational forums at libraries and community centers. "They understand the need to keep focus."

This March, the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected coalition submitted 230,000 petitions on Public Act 21, regarding whether a panel of unelected appointees of the Natural Resources Commission should be able to determine game species in the state. The panel opened up a trophy hunting season for wolves this year.

"We're very confident that we will be on the ballot," says campaign manager Ellie Hayes, adding that during signature gathering, "we



were soaked with one of the coldest, snowiest winters Michigan had seen in years. Our volunteers ... researched which pens would work in subfreezing temperatures and engineered signs to wear on their bodies. Wildlife is held in a public trust and all Michiganders deserve the right to have their say."

TOP DOGS

Based on their effective leadership and impact on animal protection policies, HSLF has recognized the following members of Congress with Humane Federal Legislator Awards.



SEN. MARY LANDRIEU D-Louisiana / 2013 Humane Legislator of the Year

Humane Highlights: Landrieu is a prime sponsor of the Safeguard American Food Exports Act, which would ban horse slaughter. She helped stop funding for slaughter plants this year by voting for a key provision in the 2014 spending bill, and she helped secure funds to crack down on the soring of Tennessee walking horses.

Background: After starting out in the Louisiana state legislature, Landrieu was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996. She now chairs the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and the powerful Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Quoted: “Senator Landrieu has a special passion for horses, and she is leading the charge to protect these American icons from cruelty,” says HSLF president Michael Markarian. “Senator Landrieu’s effectiveness has made the nation a better place for horses.”



REP. FRED UPTON R-Michigan / 2013 Humane Legislator of the Year

Humane Highlights: Upton was selected for his leadership in securing enactment of legislation (Title III of P.L. 113-55) to allow federally owned chimpanzees no longer needed in invasive biomedical research to live out their lives in sanctuaries. He also cosponsored legislation to make it a crime to attend an organized animal fight and a felony to bring a child to such a fight—reforms that were passed as part of the Farm Bill.

Background: Prior to his election to Congress in 1987, Upton worked for President Ronald Reagan in the Office of Management and Budget. In 2010, he was selected to serve as chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which oversees matters relating to healthcare and the environment.

Quoted: “Representative Upton, as the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, helped secure a game-changing, life-saving policy for chimpanzees,” Markarian says. “His work will also save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars by caring for chimps in higher welfare, lower cost sanctuaries, rather than warehousing them in expensive, barren laboratories.”



SEN. TOM HARKIN D-Iowa / Lifetime Achievement Award winner

Humane Highlights: Harkin was honored for his work guiding sound animal welfare policies over a span of more than three decades. He led the charge to achieve Senate approval of the legislation to maintain the National Chimpanzee Sanctuary System, encouraged the development of humane alternatives to animal testing, helped achieve a ban on the interstate transport and possession of fighting animals and weapons, and helped establish felony penalties for animal fighting. He was instrumental in adopting the original anti-animal fighting provisions of the Animal Welfare Act in 1976.

Background: Harkin was elected to the House of Representatives in 1974 and to the Senate in 1984. He authored The Americans with Disabilities Act and was its chief Senate sponsor. He’s served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, where he led efforts to enact the 2002 and 2007 farm bills. In 2009, Harkin became chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Quoted: “Senator Harkin has had a role in so many positive outcomes on animal welfare during his career,” Markarian says, “including efforts to upgrade laws against animal cruelty and fighting, to promote humane alternatives to animal testing, and to facilitate the transfer of hundreds of chimpanzees from laboratories to sanctuaries.”





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{ THE EYES HAVE IT }



➡ The **CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL** approved an ordinance that will require city pet stores to sell only dogs, cats, and rabbits from rescues and shelters. The *Chicago Tribune* reported that the measure passed 49-1, thus adding Chicago to the list of more than 40 U.S. and Canadian cities with similar ordinances against the sale of animals from large-scale commercial breeders.

➡ Officials from **VIETNAM, THAILAND, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS** took collaborative steps to shut down the cross-border trade of dogs for human consumption between their countries, which will help end the inhumane transport and slaughter of dogs and stem rabies in the region. The governments planned pilot programs for humane rabies control and population management in key areas. Earlier in February, Vietnam's Department of Animal Health ordered provincial authorities to crack down on the illegal trafficking of dogs for human consumption.

➡ Over the first three months of 2014, **ARIZONA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND INDIANA LAWMAKERS** rejected “ag-gag” legislation that would have criminalized whistleblowers who document abuse at farms and slaughterhouses. In *The Week*, Andrew Cohen decried the passage of such legislation in Idaho, writing, “one could argue that the most serious ‘problem we have here’ in Idaho ... is not so much the scourge of unfair publicity but the fact that too many employees working around animals are abusing or neglecting them, often grotesquely so, in a way that jeopardizes the safety of the food we eat and the milk we drink.”

➡ The **MONTANA SUPREME COURT** denied Park County’s appeal of a 2013 ruling from district judge E. Wayne Phillips that allowed Yellowstone bison to roam outside the park’s northern boundary for important winter and early spring habitat, without being killed or hazed. “This is an important ruling in favor of the majority of Montanans, who value native, wild bison,” said Summer Nelson, an attorney representing Western Watersheds Project and Buffalo Field Campaign in the case.

