

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,

With a stroke of his pen, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey exercised his first veto in office, nixing a misguided and dangerous bill that would have bifurcated the state's anti-cruelty statute—creating one set of rules for companion animals and another, weaker, one for farm animals and horses.

This power grab by Big Ag also would have taken away local control from municipalities and badly complicated efforts by whistleblowers to expose abuse on factory farms.

Gov. Ducey's powerful veto message underscores the public concern for animal cruelty and the importance of including all animals in our social values and legal framework.

He wrote:

I know we all agree that animal cruelty is inexcusable, unacceptable and absolutely will not be tolerated in the state of Arizona. No animal should be the victim of abuse. Moreover, perpetrators must be held to account and properly penalized to the fullest extent of the law.

While the sponsors and supporters of this bill are well-intentioned, when changing state laws relating to the safety and well-being of animals, we must ensure that all animals are protected, and mindful that increasing protections for one class of animals does not inadvertently undercut protections for another.

The Humane Society Legislative Fund endorsed Ducey in the Republican primary race, largely because of his positive statements and pledges on animal welfare and enforcement.

He published a policy statement during the campaign noting, "I do not support exemptions in our anti-cruelty codes for any class of domesticated animals. No animal should be the victim of unspeakable cruelty."

Here's a politician who stood by his campaign promises—taking on Big Ag with his action. The Arizona legislature's sop to the factory farming industry, carving out exemptions for some classes of animals, was in direct contradiction to the governor's position statement.

We are extremely grateful to Gov. Ducey for standing firm on this issue and ensuring that all animals, including those raised for food, continue to be afforded legal protections in the Grand Canyon State.

It's also a testament to the importance of citizen action and constituent communications. Arizona Republic political reporter Yvonne Wingett Sanchez tweeted:

@dougducey's office received 19,251 constituent contacts on animal cruelty bill. Of those 19,248 were against it; three were supportive.

That's an incredible outpouring from citizens who care about the humane treatment of animals. Your calls, letters and emails do make a difference.

It's a big public policy win for animals in Arizona, but in the broader sense, it illustrates the importance of animal advocates being involved in the political process, taking action as citizen lobbyists and organizing a grassroots political force at the local, state and federal levels.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



CRUELTY EXPOSÉ

CONGRESS INTRODUCES AWARE ACT FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

IN JANUARY, *The New York Times* ran a compelling front-page article about the abuse endured by sheep, cows and pigs at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska.

Reporter Michael Moss detailed numerous atrocities taking place at the taxpayer-funded MARC facility, including how scientists allowed thousands of animals to starve, forced pigs into steam chambers to study the impact on their appetites and left helpless, newborn lambs abandoned on open fields in a misguided attempt to breed so-called “easy care” sheep, who would require little in the way of human care.

Moss’ article raised ire, including among some members of Congress, resulting in the introduction of the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act. Sponsored by Reps. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., Mike Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., and Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Richard

Blumenthal, D-Conn., the legislation would require much needed protections for farm animals used for agricultural research at federal facilities. Currently, the farm animals used in experiments at these facilities are exempt from protections under the Animal Welfare Act. The AWARE Act would eliminate that loophole.

“Clearly, Congress was outraged, and they continue to not be satisfied with what USDA is doing,” says Kathleen Conlee, vice president for animal research issues for The Humane Society of the United States. “They’re forging ahead. They want to see that bill passed.”

Moss began looking into MARC after receiving a tip in late 2013 from veterinarian and epidemiologist James Keen, who had worked for more than two decades at the center. Over the course of a year, Moss interviewed two dozen former and current MARC employees and examined thousands of pages of records obtained through the

Freedom of Information Act. Not everyone, however, wanted to see him advance in his work.

“The center declined to show me around ... and also declined my request to interview the center director and others who work there,” Moss explains. “I had to find a way to get inside the center, which I did manage to do.”

It was critical to the story, Moss maintains, for him to see the facility, particularly during the spring, when the lambs of the “easy care” sheep experiment were being born. “This was just something I had to see for myself to really understand the anguish that critics of that experiment in particular were feeling,” he says.

After receiving such a giant black eye from Moss’ reporting and the following uproar in Congress, the USDA published its own report on MARC in March, garnered after a three-day visit that MARC administrators knew about in advance. “Obviously, that panel, we feel, failed to do a thorough assessment,” says Conlee.

Despite the carefully guided tour, the report’s authors still found MARC’s procedures for reviewing proposed animal research and for training its employees in animal handling inadequate. The report also states that the center’s relationship with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln needs clearer definition in terms of authority and responsibility for animal care.

Conlee feels that this is a situation that can no longer be handled internally. “We need the legal oversight. It can’t be a policy they can easily set aside and ignore,” she says.

“At a bare minimum, these facilities should be required to abide by the standards in the Animal Welfare Act and be transparent in their activities,” adds Sara Amundson, executive director of HSLF. “That’s why we need to pass the AWARE Act.”



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 Wash-

ington, 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



Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
H.R. 359

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. Stivers, R-Ohio

Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act of 2015
H.R. 1258

To protect the pets of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Expands federal law to include protections for pets of domestic violence victims and establishes a federal grant program to assist in acquiring a safe shelter for pets. Encourages states to expand legal protections for pets of domestic violence victims.

Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.

Pets on Trains Act
H.R. 674

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.

FARM ANIMALS



Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act
H.R. 746 / S. 388

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to cover farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities. Sponsors: Reps. Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

WILDLIFE



Wildlife Trafficking Enforcement Act of 2015
S. 27

To prosecute wildlife trafficking under federal racketeering and money laundering statutes and to use funds from civil penalties, fines, forfeitures and restitution from these crimes for conservation efforts.

Sponsors: Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Graham, R-SC.



Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training Practices (BEST) Act
H.R. 1095/S. 587

To require the Department of Defense to develop, test and validate sophisticated human simulators for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries, with the goal of replacing live animal-based training methods. Sponsors: Rep. Johnson, D-Ga. / Sen. Wyden, D-Ore.

CUBS IN CRISIS

LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR “GENERIC” TIGERS ARE LONG OVERDUE

A TIGER CUB named Sarabi was separated from her mother at birth and, at three weeks of age, endured a 19-hour car ride from South Carolina to her new “home,” a roadside zoo in Oklahoma called Tiger Safari. Billed as “an interactive exotic zoological park,” Tiger Safari invites members of the public—including children—to engage in photo and play sessions with baby tigers—for a fee, of course.

On the very same day of her arrival at Tiger Safari, Sarabi, who had ringworm, was handled by 27 members of the public. In the following days, the cub was mercilessly over-handled and often screamed in distress as she was passed around for entertainment.

We know about the suffering Sarabi faced because The Humane Society of the United States sent undercover investigators to work at Tiger Safari as well as Natural Bridge Zoo in Virginia, where tiger cubs were hit, neglected and kept intentionally hungry to facilitate public handling. Their efforts revealed what goes on behind-the-scenes at these shoddy facilities, but there are many other roadside zoos, fairs and even shopping malls across the country that offer similar photo ops with tiger cubs.

“There is a crisis with captive tigers across the nation, and the Obama administration must do something about it,” says HSLF president Michael Markarian.

The demand for cubs at these facilities encourages reckless overbreeding. In just a few months, the tigers are too dangerous to

be used for photo ops, play and petting sessions and are typically warehoused at poorly run facilities, bred to produce more cubs or passed into the hands of unqualified people with private menageries. Since no federal agency tracks these tigers, no one knows if some fall victim to the illegal wildlife trade.

“Far too many animals are in crisis because our laws still permit the private ownership and overbreeding of dangerous predators by reckless individuals,” Markarian says.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Markarian maintains, should prohibit the public from having direct interaction with big cats, bears and primates.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should also play a role in protecting these animals.

Currently, the FWS exempts mixed lineage or “generic” tigers from registration under its captive-bred wildlife regulations. In 2011, the FWS proposed closing that loophole and regulating generic tigers, but so far that hasn’t happened. By finalizing the proposed rule, all tigers would be subject to the same rules as other endangered species and a person would need to obtain authorization from the FWS to conduct any otherwise prohibited activities. Facilities holding captive tigers would have to annually report their numbers, which would provide information on how many tigers are in captivity.

“It’s time for the administration to act and give these generic tigers the same legal protections as purebred tigers,” Markarian says.





A PROPENSITY TO CARE

A CONTINUATION OF OUR DISCUSSION WITH DR. DAVID WIEBERS, PROMINENT NEUROLOGIST, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HSLF AND FORMER CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE HSUS

Over the course of your career, how did you build bridges between the medical and animal protection communities? When I first became involved with The HSUS 27 years ago, the medical and animal protection communities were at terrible odds with one another, largely over the issue of animal research. The rather strident discord between these communities seemed particularly ironic since the primary goal of the medical profession is to decrease the amount of unnecessary death and suffering in human beings—and the animal protection community simply wishes to extend this same goal to beings other than humans.

Over the years, however, I can tell you that I've spent a lot of time in both fields and that some of the most beautiful, caring and compassionate individuals you'll ever meet come out of both of them. There is a great deal of similarity in the spirit of giving and caring, and the enormous fulfillment from helping others.

For these reasons, I have always viewed my work in animal protection as an extension of the work I do in medicine. The key to bridging the two fields is to focus on the common elements and the uniting force of compassion that runs through both of them. Happily, the discord between these two fields has lessened considerably over the years.

If you went back in time to talk with your medical-student self, would he be pleasantly surprised or dismayed to hear how far attitudes toward the use of animals in research laboratories have evolved? For the most part, I believe that he would be pleasantly surprised. Over the past 30 or so years, the use of animals in research has decreased by around 75 percent in the United States, and the oversight of such research has generally increased considerably. The numbers of medical centers using animals in education has dropped from almost all medical centers 30 years ago to now almost none in the United States. A plethora of alternatives to the use of animals in research, education and testing have been developed and more are on the way. The infamous Class B dealers which were common 30 years ago and used to provide random source animals including some from pet shelters and other controversial sources to research labs are now nearly extinct in the United States. The National Institutes of Health in the United States has finally called for a moratorium on the use of chimpanzees in invasive research, a practice that has already ended in all but one other country in the world. The European Union, India and Brazil have all enacted bans on animal testing for cosmetics and we are getting close to such a scenario in the United States.

Having said all of this, we must realize that there is still a lot of room for improvement. These types of changes often take time but I'm grateful

for the progress that has been made thus far. I am especially happy for the field of medicine and for all of our medical school graduates in the years and decades ahead regarding the cessation of the use of animals in medical education. The capacity to perceive suffering in other beings and to respond with warmth and compassion is intertwined with scientific knowledge and skill in the complex endeavor we call the practice of medicine. For too many years, animals were used in the teaching of medical science without considering its impact on the student's integration of compassion into the mix, and without adequate consideration of the perception and experiences of the animals themselves.

Have you received any push back from your medical peers for your animal activism? At the time that I was first active in animal protection there were many in the medical community who were adamantly opposed to our activities and many in both the medical and animal protection communities who saw each other as bitter enemies. There was push back at times from such individuals in the medical community, but I was also amazed and very grateful that many other medical colleagues including many who had been silent on these issues came out in support of what we were doing and saying on behalf of nonhuman beings, and many were clearly able to see through the conflicts to the more powerful underlying element of compassion for all life which is shared by both fields.

In your lovely introduction to "Souls Like Ourselves" you suggest humans might achieve inner peace by extending more compassion to animals. Can you talk more about that? Extending the circle of one's compassion to beings other than humans is an important step in the evolution of our species. When a human is born, his or her first and foremost concern is with personal comfort and safety. Usually, with appropriate attention and coaching, this concern and priority gradually extends to include one's parents, followed by one's immediate family.

From there, as a child grows and learns to grant others the same feelings and awareness achieved for his or her own self, the circle of compassion widens. The learning process is not automatic, and the extent to which humans are encouraged to see beyond themselves and are taught to recognize the independent value of other beings is a matter of parental and societal influence.

This influence can be directed at breaking down barriers of difference, teaching people that behind the externalities of nationality, race, economic class, religion and ethnicity, there exists in the other a consciousness and a set of yearnings that demand uncompromising respect. The next logical step in this pathway is to extend one's compassion and caring to other species besides humans.

Do you believe animals have souls? Yes I do and I think that there is good evidence to support this, some of which comes from science and some of which comes from common sense and observation.

The wiring and organization of the brains, spinal cords and peripheral nervous systems of nonhuman beings are fundamentally the same as the wiring and organization of these structures in humans down to the cellular level—and in mammals such as gorillas and chimpanzees the wiring and organization are essentially identical to that of humans. These brains and

nervous systems are the structures that allow the expression of human and non-human consciousness to occur on this earth. Without them, we could not meaningfully interact with our environment or with those around us, and without the consciousness and energy that activate the brains and bodies of humans and nonhumans (and instill recognizable "life" into our tissues), our brains and bodies are merely carcasses, devoid of the capability of thinking thoughts, taking actions and feeling pain and pleasure.

I was quite shocked about 25 years ago when I asked a couple of my colleagues at Mayo Clinic (who were world authorities in electroencephalography) about the comparison of the electroencephalogram (or EEG) of a human patient to the EEG of a gorilla and they told me that they could essentially not tell the difference.

The brain waves that are measured by EEGs represent the fundamental, measurable, quantifiable energies that emanate from the brains of human patients or, in this case, from the brain of a gorilla or other nonhuman being.

There is little question that the consciousness that gives rise to these energies and inhabits the brains and bodies of these nonhuman beings must be of the exact same fabric as the consciousness that inhabits and activates all of our human bodies and brains.

Few would deny that the mentally retarded child, or even the child born without cerebral hemispheres (who cannot even meaningfully react to his or her environment) has the same fundamental underlying consciousness or energy (or soul or spirit if you prefer those terms) as other humans, yet there has been a reluctance on the part of many humans to accept that this possibility exists in nonhuman animals. The day will come when our species as a whole will know that it is preposterous not to accept this possibility.

Webster's dictionary defines "soul" as "the immaterial essence of an individual life" and this can most certainly be applied to nonhuman beings.



Dr. David Wiebers is emeritus professor of neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he served as a leading clinician, clinical researcher and teacher for three decades. He has authored 350 scientific publications, five medical textbooks and three books for the general public including *Theory of Reality: Evidence for Existence Beyond the Brain and Tools for Your Journey.*

+ READ the entire interview at hslf.org.





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THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ The **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** announced a ban on the trade of four large constricting snake species, designating the reticulated python, DeSchaunsee's anaconda, green anaconda and Beni anaconda as “injurious” under the Lacey Act. The ban forbids snake traders from importing the animals into the United States and its territories or transporting the large constrictors across state lines. This inhumane pet trade, which has a high death rate for the snakes captured in the wild, also poses serious risks to the ecology of a wide range of states in the southern tier of the nation where warm temperatures allow these non-native animals to not only survive, but also become invasive.

➡ **COMPASS GROUP**, the world's largest food service company, has joined **SODEXO, ARAMARK,** and **TRUSTHOUSE SERVICES GROUP** in announcing a commitment to switch all production of liquid eggs to cage-free for their entire U.S. markets. That equates to a combined total of more than 700 million eggs used each year at the thousands of dining facilities the companies manage at universities, hospitals and corporate facilities. With Sodexo, Aramark, and TrustHouse Services' decisions to switch to cage-free for their shelled eggs as well, the total impact means 3.5 million fewer chickens per year will endure lives locked inside cages.

➡ **RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY**

plans to cease the use of elephants in its circus performances. Citing the number of cities and counties that have recently adopted ordinances to restrict the use of elephants in circuses as contributing to their decision, Feld Entertainment, parent company of the 145-year-old circus, announced that 13 Asian elephants will be retired by 2018. With increased pressure from consumers, businesses that mistreat animals are realizing that they must adapt to public concerns in order to succeed in today's humane economy.

➡ The **PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

voted 195-0 to pass HB 164, which outlaws possession of animal fighting paraphernalia. This includes the razor sharp knives that are attached to the heels of roosters in cockfights, adrenaline-boosting drugs and blood clotting agents, as well as equipment used to condition dogs for fights. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. Cockfighting and dogfighting are felonies in Pennsylvania, and it is illegal to attend an animal fight. Possession of animal fighting paraphernalia is the remaining loophole in Pennsylvania law.

