

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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STAFF: President, Michael Markarian; Executive Vice President, Wayne Pacelle; Executive Director, Sara Amundson; Political Director, Dane Waters; Senior Federal Policy Advisor, Connie Harriman-Whitfield; Philanthropy Director, Steve Ann Chambers; Administrative Assistant, Megan Holland. HSUS Publications: Operations Manager, Elizabeth McNulty; Managing Editor, Michael Sharp; Contributing Editor, Heidi Colonna; Art Director: Shaina Lieberman; Design Consultant: Kalico Design.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

As news of NFL players charged with domestic violence has shone a spotlight on a complex social problem in the U.S., we must keep in mind the role that pets play in abusive situations.

Many abusers will harm or threaten the beloved dog or cat of a spouse or partner as a way of exerting control over that person. As many as one-third of domestic violence victims delay their departure from an abusive relationship for up to two years out of fear that their pets will be harmed if they leave. It's a gross contortion of the human-animal bond, with the abuser trading on the victim's emotional connection with a pet, and using that love as a lever to prevent an escape from an abusive and sometimes life-threatening situation.

With the growing body of evidence on the link between animal cruelty and human violence, 28 states have enacted pet protective order legislation, allowing courts to include pets in restraining orders that prevent suspected abusers from having access to their victims. But under these differing state laws, what happens when a domestic violence victim must go live with family in another state where pets are not covered under protective orders?

In Congress, U.S. Reps. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., are tackling this problem head on. In August, Rep. Clark held a news conference in Massachusetts where she announced the introduction of the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act of 2014. The PAWS Act would expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards for the pets of abuse victims on a national level.

In addition to providing greater protections for human and animal victims, the PAWS Act would provide grant money for domestic violence shelters so they can accommodate pets. Right now, only 3 percent of these shelters are believed to allow pets, presenting another barrier for victims who want to get help but don't want to leave their animals behind and in harm's way. But with the proper resources, many more shelters will be able to provide refuge for all members of the family who need protection, whether they walk on two legs or four.

This legislation would show that Congress recognizes the seriousness of domestic violence and providing victims and their families with the help they need. There are countless examples of horrific cruelty used to further torment and intimidate a victim, as in this account from a woman whose cat was killed in front of her, as described in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*:

"The very last thing he did to my cat hurt my heart so bad. He had me stand here and ... she was tied to the tree [with] ... fishing wire or ... thread or something. And he ... turned her around, stuffed [fireworks] in her behind and lit it. And I had to stand there and watch my cat explode in my face. And he was like, "That could happen to you.""

That sickening, revolting and demented scene should never recur, with a different cast of people and animals. And Congress can do something about it. Please contact your U.S. Representative and urge him or her to help the human and animal victims of domestic violence by cosponsoring the PAWS Act.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

Clockwise from left: Diane; Mason and Jimmy; Ashley



GOLDEN DAYS

HISTORIC GROUP OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED CHIMPS BEGINS RETIREMENT

ARDEN NAVIGATED through the forest air with ease.

The 4-year-old chimpanzee swung from one branch to the next, making her way across the trees at Chimp Haven, a national sanctuary in Louisiana. It's a welcome change from the life she left behind 200 miles south at a Louisiana lab.

Along with 109 other chimps from the lab, Arden helped form the largest group of government-owned chimpanzees ever sent to sanctuary. She's now classified as "retired" and was moved to Chimp Haven to live out the remainder of her life. There, she was one of the first youngsters in the group to take to the trees.

The tide started to change for these animals in 2011, when a landmark report by the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council found that most biomedical and behavioral research on chimpanzees is unnecessary and pointed to available alternatives.

In December 2012, the National Institutes of Health—under the leadership of director Francis Collins—declared it would retire the vast majority of the approximately 360 federally owned chimps in laboratories. The agency also joined The HSUS in supporting the removal of a spending barrier imposed by the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act of 2000 to allow its existing funds to continue to be used to care for the animals in retirement.

In an interview this year, Chimp Haven animal care specialist Mark Lewis helped shed light on the lives and personalities of his new

charges—some captured decades ago in the African wild, others born in a laboratory, and many used in HIV and hepatitis studies.

Born at the lab, 5-year-olds Jimmy and Mason are rambunctious juveniles who share a 5-acre enclosure with a large group of chimpanzees including their mothers. Jimmy has started spending more time with the older males in the group, watching them "display"—loud acts that show off their strength and dominance, like punching a door-frame or shaking the mesh. Jimmy's even been attempting it, though as Lewis says: "Nobody takes him seriously yet because he's not old enough for it."

For 4-year-old Diane, the transition from lab to sanctuary took time, and she's relied on her mother, Muffy, to help ease her into an enriched life. "When there's activity going on in the group," explains Lewis, "she'll always kind of have a hand on her mom's back, as reassurance." Initially skittish about exploring a new forest habitat, Diane soon learned to relax and explore the trees.

The older chimps, like 56-year-old Karen and 52-year-old Phyllis, "look out for each other," says Lewis. "If one is not feeling well, they'll stay with them."

Another landmark stride could be on the horizon, as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is poised to increase protections for captive chimpanzees in the country. This decision is expected to further decrease their usage in laboratories, entertainment and the pet trade.

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP //

THE FOLLOWING is a sample of HSLF-supported animal protection bills before the U.S. Congress. It's vital that you call, email or write your federal legislators to let them know your views on these bills. To find out who your legislators are and how to reach them directly, go to hslf.org/leglookup or call 202-676-2314.

When you call a legislator's office, ask to speak with the staff person handling animal protection issues. Give the bill number and the name

of the bill or issue. Be polite, brief and to the point. If you plan to visit Washington, D.C., make an appointment to meet with your legislators or their staff to discuss animal issues. We can help you with background information and may be able to accompany you on your visits.

Please note: Due to security procedures on Capitol Hill, regular mail to members of Congress may be significantly delayed. Telephone calls and emails are the best ways to contact your legislators about pending bills.

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.; Loretta 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.

Humane Care for Primates Act

H.R. 3556

To allow importation of primates for placement in certified sanctuaries, as is now allowed only for purposes of research, exhibition or education. Sponsor: Reps. Ellmers, R-N.C.; DeFazio, D-Ore.

Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act

H.R. 4525

To restrict the use of elephants and other exotic animals in traveling circuses and exhibitions. Sponsor: Rep. Moran, D-Va.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act

H.R. 5267

To protect domestic violence victims and their pets by expanding federal law to include pets and helping victims find safe shelter for their pets.

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

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.



PROGRESS FROM PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

WHEN IT COMES TO ANIMAL WELFARE, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS ROLLED UP ITS SLEEVES ON SEVERAL CONCERNS

WHILE THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD on animal issues is a mixed one—including disappointments like the de-listing of wolves which has led to thousands being hunted and trapped, the mismanagement of wild horses and burros, and massive subsidies to factory farms—there have been more ups than downs. In September, President Barack Obama himself issued a proclamation to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to 490,000 square miles, making it the world's largest marine preserve. Millions of animals there now have safe haven from commercial killing, entanglement in fishing lines, and other human-caused dangers. The following is an issue-by-issue review of six more of the administration's most important advances for animals during the 113th

Congress. In addition, HSLF is hopeful that in the months to come, final rules will be issued to add five species of dangerous large constrictor snakes to the list of those banned from commercial import and interstate transport; remove the split listing between captive and wild chimpanzees, making all chimpanzees endangered; and list the African lion as endangered.



HORSE SLAUGHTER

IN JANUARY, President Obama signed a federal spending bill that includes a provision to prohibit the use of tax dollars to inspect horse slaughter plants, stopping several U.S. plants from opening. The president's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal included a request to maintain this ban on domestic horse slaughter, and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees subsequently voted to extend it in the FY15 agriculture appropriations bill.

“Due to the actions taken by Congress and President Obama, horse slaughter on U.S. soil has been halted for the foreseeable future,” said Holly Gann, HSUS horse slaughter campaign manager. “Now we continue to urge Congress to end the slaughter of American horses completely by passing the Safeguard American Food Exports Act.”

CALVES

IT WAS A PRIME EXAMPLE of how firm enforcement can halt horrific cruelty to animals. After an HSUS undercover investigation exposed blatant violations of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act at the Catelli Bros. veal calf slaughterhouse in New Jersey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture suspended inspections in January, temporarily shuttering the plant.

THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: GALEN CLARKE FOR THE HSUS; VANESSA MIGNON FOR THE HSUS; OPPOSITE PAGE: MICHAEL NICHOLS/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE

Additionally, by early next year, the USDA is expected to issue a proposed rule to close a loophole in federal regulations that allows downer calves—those too sick, injured or weak to stand on their own—to be slaughtered for food. In some cases, workers will aggressively prod them to try and stand up for inspection. “Downed calves are still suffering the sort of appalling abuses that we exposed in 2009 at another calf slaughter plant in Vermont,” said Wayne Pacelle, HSLF executive vice president. “We commend the USDA for taking action to shut down the operation at Catelli Brothers, but it’s long past time to close the loophole in the downed animal rule that perpetuates continuing cruelty to young calves.”

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

IN ADDITION to the National Institutes of Health’s retirement of chimpanzees in 2013, the USDA has cracked down on a number of violators of welfare standards relating to research, including those who sell animals to laboratories.

In January, the department revoked the license of random source Class B dealer Kenneth Schroeder after multiple alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including poor sanitation and obtaining dogs from illegal sources. Class B dealers are notorious for gathering dogs and cats from auctions, “free to good home” ads, online sources, flea markets, some animal control and sheltering facilities, and pet theft. They then resell the animals to research facilities.

An investigation in November 2013 revealed that six dogs sold by Schroeder underwent painful and deadly dental experiments at Georgia Regents University. “The end of business for another unscrupulous random source dog dealer is something we’ve all been waiting for and we extend our thanks to the USDA for pursuing this case,” said Kathleen Conlee, HSUS vice president of animal research issues. “This decision will certainly save dogs from suffering and we will rest a bit easier knowing that.”

In October, NIH finalized a policy prohibiting funding for research that involves dogs acquired from B dealers; such a policy for cats went into place in 2012.

PUPPIES

IN AUGUST, the USDA issued a final rule prohibiting the importation of dogs younger than 6 months old from foreign puppy mills for resale. The rule also requires that dogs who enter the country must be in good health.

The move keeps other nations from flooding the U.S. market with barely weaned puppies raised and transported in poor conditions. Each year, thousands of young puppies are crowded into dirty containers with little access to food or water and subjected to temperature extremes on transcontinental flights. Most become ill, many die and all represent a public health risk because they’re too young for their full set of vaccinations.

“When the puppy import provision was included in the 2008 Farm Bill, we lobbied to ensure the language took effect immediately,” said Sara Amundson, HSLF executive director. “Unfortunately, the USDA insisted on promulgating a rule and that prevented cracking down on

unscrupulous puppy imports for six years. We were pleased, though, when the Obama administration finalized this rule to regulate puppy mills and welcome the positive effect it will have on this industry.”

PETS ON PLANES

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION issued a final rule, to be implemented in January 2015, that expands DOT’s current requirements that air carriers report incidents involving the loss, injury or death of an animal during transport.

The rule broadens the definition of “animal” to include all cats and dogs, regardless of whether they’re transported as pets by their owner or as part of a commercial shipment, such as by a breeder. “With the increasing number of puppy mills selling dogs over the Internet to consumers all over the country,” HSLF president Michael Markarian wrote recently on his blog, “the suffering of these animals in long-distance transport will no longer be shielded from public view.”

ELEPHANTS

IN FEBRUARY, the White House announced its National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking with the goal of stopping the illegal trade in wildlife, including reducing the demand for ivory and other illegal wildlife parts, enhancing enforcement and stopping commercial ivory trade.

In accordance with the strategy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an order to toughen enforcement of existing trade restrictions under the Endangered Species Act’s “antiques exception” rule. “This near-total ban on U.S. commerce in African elephant ivory, with the exception of a narrow class of antiques and certain ivory items that are exempt from regulation under the Endangered Species Act, will build on the efforts of the states to stem the tide of the poaching epidemic,” Markarian wrote on his blog.

FWS also suspended imports of sport-hunted African elephant trophies from Tanzania and Zimbabwe this year, citing questionable management practices and law enforcement and governance inadequacies that led to uncontrolled poaching and devastating population declines.





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2100 L Street, NW
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20037

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THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ The **CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION** voted unanimously to uphold San Diego's seasonal closure of the Children's Pool Beach in La Jolla during the harbor seal pupping season. The ban will take place from Dec. 15 to May 15 over the next five years and will protect the seals from harassment when they are giving birth and weaning their young. Mayor Kevin Faulconer told the *Los Angeles Times* that this is "a fair proposal that specifically protects the seals during their pupping season while still allowing the public to enjoy the area with access to the breakwater that surrounds the beach."

➡ **REP. ED WHITFIELD, R-KY., AND 58 OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS** signed a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging USDA's strict oversight against horse soring at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tenn. *The Tennessean* reported that the representatives asked for a "substantial and active on-the-ground role to ensure strict enforcement of the Horse Protection Act." While soring—intentionally causing pain to horses' feet and legs to force an artificial gait—has been illegal for more than 40 years, enforcement has been sporadic and violations rampant.

➡ The **LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES** seized a 29-year-old pet macaque monkey named Jonas from a private owner, leading the way for his move to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, which is operated by The Fund for Animals in Texas. After many years spent chained and isolated in a backyard, Jonas is easing into life at the sanctuary and enjoying the company of Sunshine, a female rhesus macaque. Black Beauty Ranch director Ben Callison said, "He deserves to spend his last days knowing what it is to be a rhesus macaque, and not a backyard pet."

➡ **NESTLÉ**, the world's largest food company, announced the most comprehensive animal welfare program by a global food retailer to date. Initially the program will focus on eliminating the cruel industry practices of confining pigs in gestation crates, calves in veal crates and egg-laying hens in cages; the forced rapid growth of chickens used for meat products; and cutting the horns, tails and genitals off farm animals without painkillers.

