

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015

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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](http://hslf.org).

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

Longtime wildlife advocate Congressman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., recently led a congressional briefing to expose the annual killing of millions of wild animals on behalf of a few special interests.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's 120-year-old Wildlife Services program is a little-known, taxpayer-funded effort to deal with wildlife conflicts, principally focusing on the outdated and inefficient model of lethal control.

In fiscal 2014 alone, Wildlife Services spent more than \$127 million—more than half of it from federal, state and local taxes—to kill more than 2.7 million animals using shockingly inhumane and indiscriminate methods.

These animals—including some endangered species and family pets—were poisoned, gassed, shot from the ground and from aircraft, and killed in painful traps and snares to benefit clients like industrial timber operators, commercial fish farmers and private ranchers grazing livestock on public lands.

Rep. DeFazio, The Humane Society of the United States and a coalition of wildlife and conservation groups cohosted the briefing, which included a screening of "Exposed," an award-winning documentary by Predator Defense. Attendees heard from a number of panelists, including Denise Kavanagh, whose dog Maggie was killed by a Wildlife Services trap just steps from her backyard.

The HSUS also released new research that identifies how Wildlife Services is misusing public funds. The HSUS report recommends seven critical reforms to the program that would help foster more humane and effective coexistence between people and wildlife. These include removing the financial incentive to kill, ending the use of inhumane management techniques and ensuring nonlethal control is the preferred practice.

But in order to become more humane and more effective, it's critical that Wildlife Services as an agency also become more transparent. To date, the program has refused to provide significant information about spending even when directly requested by members of Congress.

People are often uninformed about Wildlife Services' activities in their community, even when they and their beloved pets are at risk. Media reports include a series of exposés that uncovered brutal and indiscriminate activities, fiscal irresponsibility and environmental harm by the agency.

It's time to hold Wildlife Services accountable for its actions and use of tax dollars. We are grateful to Rep. DeFazio and other members of Congress who have called for more transparent, humane and balanced management; requested an audit of the culture within Wildlife Services; and protested the use of poisons for lethal control.

There is a legitimate case to be made for a federal agency that helps to solve wildlife conflicts and provides training and research on best practices with an emphasis on innovation and nonlethal solutions. But Wildlife Services in its current form is a relic of the past. It exterminates wildlife as a government subsidy for private ranchers and other special interests, using inhumane and ineffective methods, while U.S. taxpayers foot a large share of the bill. We have a right to expect better from our government, especially when humane alternatives are on the rise.

Now it's your turn to speak up. Please contact Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and ask for meaningful reform. Taxpayers shouldn't be asked to bankroll a wildlife management program that makes reckless killing its default option.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian  
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



# AN END TO COSMETICS CRUELTY

BILL WOULD BAN TESTING COSMETICS ON ANIMALS

**L'OREAL MADE** international headlines this spring when the cosmetics giant announced plans to begin producing substitutes for human skin with 3-D bioprinters.

If that sounds like something out of a sci-fi novel, consider this: Scientists have been able to farm artificial tissue out of human skin cells in laboratories for years. These artificial skin models are used, among other things, to test the safety of products like foundations and eye shadows. And they have proven more accurate at predicting skin reactions in humans than tests performed on animals. With this and other new technologies available, it's time to ban animal use in cosmetics testing. These tests can involve force-feeding animals massive lethal doses of various substances, dripping chemicals into their eyes or smearing toxic substances on their skin, usually without any pain relief.

"There's no reason to continue this cruel practice when we have cost-effective alternatives that can bring about safe products for consumers," says Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., who, along with Rep. Don Beyer,

D-Va.; Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev.; and Rep. Tony Cárdenas, D. Calif., introduced the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 2858).

"This bipartisan quartet of sponsors really is committed to having legislation that moves," says HSLF executive director Sara Amundson. "They made it very clear from the start that their interest was in getting the bill done."

The bill would phase out animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients, as well as the sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics. HSLF staff offered input as legislators were drafting the bill and are rallying support among lawmakers and the public.

"The United States is in no danger of losing its role as a competitive leader in the global cosmetics industry," Rep. Beyer says. "Now we need to ensure our place as a moral leader."

Beyer is optimistic that the bill will make it to the floor, citing the bipartisan support it has already received.

"It may not happen overnight," he says, "but I am confident that this Congress will be remembered for more than gridlock and

polarization. We can start with the Humane Cosmetics Act."

Global cosmetics corporations would benefit financially if governments around the world agreed to end animal testing for cosmetics, says Pascaline Clerc, senior director for animal research issues at The HSUS. "The Humane Cosmetics Act would certainly accelerate the implementation of such bans across the globe, and companies would no longer have to market different versions of the same product to comply with each government's testing mandates."

Rep. McSally points out that corporations have been faster than Congress to react to the overwhelming public agreement on this issue. More than 600 North American companies are already conducting business without performing or commissioning new animal testing on products or ingredients.

"We really should be leading on this issue," McSally says, "and setting the standard for the continued innovation and development of additional alternatives that don't involve torturing animals."

## 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](http://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](http://legislation.hslf.org).

## PETS AND CRUELTY



### Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act

H.R. 2293/S. 1831

To strengthen the animal crush video law and prohibit those same extreme acts of animal cruelty when they occur in interstate or foreign commerce. Sponsors: Reps. Smith, R-Texas; Deutch, D-Fla.; Marino, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

### Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act

H.R. 1258/S. 1559

To expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards for the pets of abuse victims on a national level and to provide grant money for domestic violence shelters to better accommodate families with pets. Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Peters, D-Mich.

### Pets on Trains Act

H.R. 674/S. 1087

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.

## EQUINES



### Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act

S. 1121/H.R. 3268

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

### Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act

H.R. 1942/S. 1214

To ban domestic horse slaughter and stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States. Sponsors: Reps. Guinta, R-N.H.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Lujan-Grisham, D-N.M. / Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Mikulski, D-Md.; Collins, R-Maine

## ANIMAL RESEARCH



### Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices 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.

### Humane Cosmetics Act

H.R. 2858

To phase out animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients as well as the sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics. Sponsors: Reps. McSally, R-Ariz.; Beyer D-Va.; Heck, R-Nev.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.

## WILDLIFE



**Wildlife Trafficking Enforcement Act/Global Anti-Poaching Act**  
S. 27/H.R. 2494

To allow prosecution for wildlife trafficking under federal racketeering and money laundering statutes, allow financial penalties from these crimes to be used for conservation efforts, authorize the Department of Defense to provide training and equipment to fight poaching on the front lines and pressure countries to step up their enforcement efforts. Sponsors: Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Graham, R-S.C. / Reps. Royce, R-Calif.; Engel, D-N.Y.

**Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act**  
H.R. 2280

To help prevent millions of bird collisions and deaths by incorporating bird-safe building materials and design features in federal buildings. Sponsors: Reps. Quigley, D-Ill.; Griffith, R-Va.

**Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act**  
H.R. 2016/S. 1081

To end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sponsors: Rep. Lowey, D-N.Y. / Sen. Booker, D-N.J.

## FARM ANIMALS



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

To remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act that exempts farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities, to ensure that these animals receive the basic care required under the AWA. Sponsors: Reps. Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

**Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/ Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA)**  
H.R. 1552/S.621

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. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Collins, R-Maine

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

COUNCIL PROVIDES LAWMAKERS WITH VENUE TO SHARE IDEAS

**TO OUTSIDERS, SERVING IN CONGRESS** may seem more glamorous than working as a politician at the state level. Otherwise, producers would have set the television series “House of Cards” amidst the Maryland General Assembly.

On the other hand, as State Rep. Diana Urban, D-Conn., points out, states often lead the way with legislation, especially laws that benefit animals. “It’s the states that push the feds,” Urban says.

Case in point: More than 1,200 state animal protection laws have been passed in the last decade, according to Andi Bernat, legislation and public policy director for The Humane Society of the United States.

To help connect and empower state lawmakers who lead on animal issues, The HSUS formed the bipartisan National Humane Legislators Council two years ago. It’s currently comprised of 21 members. Bernat plans to gradually add lawmakers until every state is represented.

At quarterly conference calls, members of the NHLC offer advice to HSUS staff on legislation and brainstorm with one another on how to drive the adoption of more humane policies at the state level.

During a July conference call, one legislator who had co-introduced a bill banning the sale of elephant ivory and rhino horn initiated a conversation with other council members who are working on or have passed similar bills. They shared stories of how they handled opposition to their bills and strategies for sharpening their pitches to constituents.

Urban, who has been on the council since its inception and serves as its chair, says, “You can gain so much by talking to each other about how things went in another state.”

### NATIONAL HUMANE LEGISLATORS COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Arizona** Sen. John Kavanagh; **California** Asm. Brian Maienschein; **Colorado** Sen. David Balmer; **Connecticut** Rep. Diana Urban; **Florida** Sen. Maria Sachs; **Indiana** Rep. Linda Lawson; **Kansas** Rep. Tom Sloan; **Maryland** Dels. Barbara Frush, Eric Luedtke; **Massachusetts** Rep. Lori Ehrlich; **Minnesota** Sen. Scott Dibble; **Nevada** Sen. Mark Manendo; **New Jersey** Sen. Ray Lesniak; **New York** Asm. Linda Rosenthal; **Ohio** House Rep. Sarah LaTourette; **Oregon** Rep. David Gomberg; **Rhode Island** Rep. Pat Serpa; **South Dakota** Sen. Angie Buhl O’Donnell; **Texas** Rep. Eddie Lucio III; **Utah** Sen. Wayne Niederhauser; **Virginia** Del. Tag Greason



## A LONG TIME COMING

### CAPTIVE CHIMPANZEES RECEIVE INCREASED FEDERAL PROTECTION

**THE WORK OF** an animal protection advocate is often less a 100-yard dash than a marathon. It requires endurance, a willingness to commit to the long slog.

That's certainly the case for those who've toiled to lessen the suffering of this country's captive chimpanzees.

In the 1990s, when she was working for the Doris Day Animal League, Sara Amundson helped support primatologist Carole Noon's efforts to free the chimps used for research by the U.S. Air Force. "We were there when the first chimps went to retirement under Carole's direction," Amundson recalls.

The Doris Day Animal League joined forces with HSLF in 2006, and Amundson signed on

as executive director, a post that allowed her to continue advocating for captive chimpanzees by lobbying for legislation to help chimps used in research and the exotic pet trade.

Inch by inch, the work of Amundson and other chimpanzee champions raised awareness in Washington, D.C., and among the public about these sensitive and sagacious animals.

Happily, even distance runners eventually cross the finish line.

In response to a legal petition submitted by The HSUS and a coalition of other organizations in 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in June of this year that captive chimpanzees will be listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, a move that

will increase their federal protection. Amundson calls the news "groundbreaking."

The revised ESA listing means a permit will be required for any activity that involves harming, harassing, killing or interstate commerce in chimpanzees. To get a permit, applicants would have to prove that such use will promote the conservation of the species. The move is expected to curb the use of our closest living relatives in invasive biomedical research, the interstate pet trade and the entertainment industry.

The upgrade in legal status for captive chimpanzees eliminates a nearly 40-year-old loophole that deprived captive chimpanzees of federal protection even though chimpanzees living in the wild are recognized as endangered. This odd split-listing facilitated the exploitation of captive chimpanzees in this country.

In 2011, a report was issued by the Institute of Medicine (now known as the National Academy of Medicine), which concluded the use of chimpanzees for biomedical research was not scientifically necessary. And just two years ago, the National Institutes of Health announced that it intends to retire most of the government-owned chimpanzees to sanctuary.

That decision "helped reinforce the arguments to eliminate the split-listing, which was originally established to facilitate biomedical research", according to Anna Frostic, an HSUS attorney who drafted the 2010 petition for the change in ESA status.

Kathleen Conlee, vice president of animal research issues for The HSUS, says the ESA listing is vital to getting chimps out of research facilities—preventing private labs from holding onto chimps for possible future use.

"And so, we're taking the occasion to now say, 'It's final. Let's move on and get the chimps retired,'" Conlee says.

Sadly, the needed financial investment to get the chimps already retired from research placed in sanctuaries hasn't yet been made. The HSUS is advocating for primate organizations, the NIH and Congress to find a way to collaborate and come up with the funds.

"That's where we're truly at now," says Conlee. "If we had the money, this whole thing could be over."

# ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CRUELTY

## NATIONAL ANTI-CRUELTY LAW PROPOSED

**IT'S DIFFICULT TO** even get through a synopsis of one of the “crush” videos starring Ashley Nicole Richards.

One report tells of how the Houston woman put on a pair of heels before standing on a dog's front paw. This was the tip of the iceberg of a horror show that climaxed when Richards decapitated the terrified animal.

Richards, along with her associate Brent Justice, were the first to face felony prosecution under the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act of 2010. HSLF worked diligently to see the passage of that federal law, which bans the creating and distribution of obscene animal torture videos that show the intentional crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating and impaling of live animals for the titillation of viewers.

But while the trade in crush videos is illegal, the cruelty itself is not illegal under federal law. Wayne Pacelle, executive vice president of HSLF, is determined to change that. “I felt the absence of an underlying federal statute forbidding the most malicious acts of cruelty is a gap in the law that needed to be plugged,” he explains.

Pacelle spoke with lawmakers and encouraged them to lead the charge for a national law that prohibits animal abuse.

Congressman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, Ted Deutch, D-Fla., Tom Marino, R-Pa., and Earl Blumenaur, D-Ore., stepped forward to introduce the Prevent Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, H.R. 2293, followed by a Senate version, S. 1831, introduced by Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. The bill would create a federal anticruelty statute that complements state cruelty laws.

Senator Toomey told the standing-room only crowd at a congressional briefing in July: “There should be no tolerance in our society for this kind of behavior, and it's our job as legislators to ensure that the laws that we pass reflect the values of our society. So I think there's a strong moral obligation to protect innocent animals from such appalling cruelty.”

Pacelle forecasts the bill receiving great public support: “The American public is more

alert to animal cruelty than ever, and the public wants to prevent it and penalize people who violate society's standards of decent treatment of animals.”

“Major law enforcement organizations like the National Sheriffs' Association and the Fraternal Order of Police have endorsed the PACT Act,” says HSLF political director John Goodwin. “We are seeing a broad coalition come together to say that enough is enough. Animal cruelty must end and strong laws must be in place at every level of government, whether that be state or federal.”

A federal law would provide prosecutors with another tool for bringing animal abusers to trial, just as complementary state and federal laws have enabled successful prosecu-

tions of animal fighters. The PACT Act would also allow federal prosecutors to pursue cases of animal cruelty occurring in federal facilities or in interstate commerce. This would come in particularly handy, says Sherry Ramsey, director of animal cruelty prosecutions for The HSUS, when animal abuse is discovered by federal agents investigating crimes such as interstate drug trafficking or other federal crimes.

“Congress was right to ban the distribution of animal torture videos,” says Goodwin. “But why ban the videos and not address the acts of cruelty as well? The PACT Act would fix this inconsistency and show that the United States government will not tolerate animal cruelty.”





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## THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ **SAO PAULO**, Brazil's largest city, banned the production and sale of foie gras in restaurants. Legislators there cited the extreme cruelty of producing the delicacy, which is often produced by shoving pipes down the throat of ducks and geese to force-feed the animals to the point where their livers become diseased and enlarged. In 2014, the city also implemented a ban on testing cosmetics on animals as well as a ban on products from animals farmed solely for their fur.

➡ **KEY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES** in the House and Senate have called for improved animal welfare at federal agricultural research facilities. The House Appropriations Committee passed its Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with provisions to reform the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Under the bill, five percent of appropriations (\$55 million in federal funding) for the ARS will be withheld until it certifies to Congress that updates to its animal care policies have been implemented. The Senate Appropriations Committee included language that directs the ARS to apply the standards of the Animal Welfare Act at all of its research labs.

➡ **THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA** dismissed a pet store's constitutional challenge to an anti-puppy mill ordinance. The Sunrise, Florida, ordinance restricts the sale of puppies produced in inhumane dog breeding facilities known as puppy mills. Federal courts in Illinois and Rhode Island upheld similar ordinances earlier this year.

➡ **HUGO BOSS**, one of the world's leading luxury brands, announced they are adopting a 100 percent fur-free policy. The Germany-based global fashion giant's new policy will come into effect with its 2016 Fall/Winter collection. With this action, Hugo Boss intends to "inspire the present generation and especially the next generation with a new kind of luxury," one that promotes humane alternatives or what Hugo Boss calls "friendly fur," made without animals.

