

HUMANE ACTIVIST

MARCH / APRIL 2011

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HSLF-endorsed lawmakers have taken stands on everything from crush videos to radiation testing on squirrel monkeys

The Supreme Court's decision was a setback.

In the matter of the *United States v. Stevens*, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote last April that a 1999 law criminalizing depictions of animal cruelty was "overbroad." The ruling voided a previous ban on horrific crush videos, in which women torture and kill animals for the sexual titillation of viewers.

But the court left open a pathway for Congress to pass a more targeted law, and Rep. Gary Peters, D-Mich., worked with Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif.—who spearheaded the original effort in 1999—and several other lawmakers to introduce bipartisan legislation to correct this problem quickly.

"To have people who are profiting from killing small, defenseless animals, to me, was just completely reprehensible," Peters says. "... We immediately reached out to constitutional scholars and other legal experts, [saying] we've got to rewrite this law, but we've got to make sure that it passes judicial scrutiny."

Less than eight months later, on Dec. 9, the resulting bill was signed into law—one of several victories for animals in the lame-duck session of the 111th Congress.

To defend animals' interests whenever such situations arise, HSLF works proactively to ensure humane-minded legislators are seated throughout the halls of Congress and statehouses. It's a process that kicks into high gear each campaign season, as HSLF officials take several key steps before issuing endorsements or planning support.

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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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Humane Activist (ISSN 1524-5233) is published five times a year by the Humane Society Legislative Fund. To subscribe to *Humane Activist* and to receive our annual Humane Scorecard, send a donation of \$10 or more to the Humane Society Legislative Fund at 519 C St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, or contact us at 202-676-2314 or humaneactivist@hslf.org.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

Here at the Humane Society Legislative Fund, we're celebrating animals and confronting cruelty in the public policy arena, and once a year, we celebrate the federal lawmakers who are using their time and talents to make the world a better place for animals. We are now preparing for our congressional Humane Awards, where we will honor a bipartisan group of legislators who led the way for animals during the last year.

The top awards go to U.S. Reps. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., and Jim Moran, D-Va., who are being honored as the 2010 Humane Legislators of the Year. Gallegly and Moran are co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, and

they are working to organize animal advocates in Congress and get them involved in the cause.

The Humane Legislator of the Year award recognizes federal lawmakers who have initiated path-breaking animal protection legislation and demonstrably advanced reform in the policy-making arena. Both Gallegly and Moran demonstrated effectiveness in 2010 as lead sponsors of key animal protection bills that were enacted into law during the "lame-duck" session.

Rep. Gallegly was the lead author of the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act of 2010, which immediately banned the creation and distribution of obscene animal torture videos that show the intentional crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating, and impaling of puppies, kittens, and other live animals for the titillation of viewers. The U.S. Supreme Court in April struck down a 1999 statute banning video depictions of animal cruelty as being "overbroad" but left the door open for a more narrowly crafted bill targeting crush videos. Rep. Gallegly championed the successful effort, with Rep. Gary Peters, D-Mich., and other lawmakers, to get a new federal law on the books.

Rep. Moran was the lead author of the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2010, which he introduced with Rep. Mary Bono Mack, R-Calif., to bring much-needed disclosure and accuracy to the labeling of fur-trimmed apparel. A loophole in the federal fur labeling law had previously allowed garments with \$150 worth of fur or less to be sold without disclosing the fur content on the label. But thanks to this new act, labels will be required regardless of dollar value, giving shoppers important product information. Rep. Moran also championed efforts in the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee that he chaired to protect wild horses and allow the Environmental Protection Agency to collect greenhouse gas emissions data from the largest factory farms.

In addition to the top awards for Reps. Gallegly and Moran:

- Humane Champion awards will go to 20 legislators who took the lead on animal welfare legislation and also received a perfect score on the 2010 *Humane Scorecard*.
- Legislative Leader awards will go to 99 legislators for their leadership as prime sponsors of pro-animal legislation.
- Humane Advocate awards will go to 25 legislators who received a perfect score on the 2010 *Humane Scorecard*.

In total, 146 legislators—more than one-third of the Senate and one-quarter of the House (representing 38 states and two U. S. territories)—will receive awards for their work in 2010. To see the full list, please go to hslf.org. We're grateful to all of these members of Congress who are helping to forge a path to a more humane future through their demonstrated leadership on animal protection legislation, and we congratulate them as recipients of the 2010 Humane Awards.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund



Another Push for Prop B

Months after election, advocates fight efforts to overturn puppy mill legislation

GLORIA BOYER spent 20 days in a St. Louis hospital between August and October of last year, battling complications from a rare and painful nerve condition.

She had a rib removed on one visit and later suffered a staph infection and kidney problems. And yet, when it came to pushing for stronger legislation against puppy mills in her home state of Missouri, neither ailment nor hospital bed could deter her.

Boyer stayed busy running a Facebook page in support of Proposition B, otherwise known as the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act. She called her state senators. She had her boyfriend bring in her Prop B T-shirt.

"It really gave me a reason to fight," she says. "Because when you're in the hospital and you're broken, there's not a lot of hope. And when I felt like getting better would enable me to keep fighting for Prop B, it made it that much more sweet—like, I wanted it more. . . ."

"And I'm glad that those two things coincided in my life because it definitely enabled me to be stronger. Because I'm not just being stronger for me; I'm being strong for all those dogs out there that are sleeping in wire cages right now."

By Nov. 2, Boyer had indeed recovered enough to celebrate Prop B's passage alongside fellow supporters at the Humane Society of Missouri. Approved by 52 percent of voters, the measure established common-sense standards for large-scale dog breeders in the state.

But less than three months later, the monumental victory stood in serious jeopardy. Pushed by commercial breeders and the agriculture industry, state legislators began introducing a raft of bills to gut or repeal the ballot initiative. In January, the Senate Agriculture, Food Production, and Outdoor Resources Committee approved a combined version of three such bills—a measure that would, among many provisions, remove the limit of 50 breeding dogs per facility and eliminate requirements for exercise, annual veterinary exams, and

continuous access to clean, unfrozen water. Negligent breeders would also be allowed up to six months to correct violations before charges are filed.

"What we're facing is an all-out assault on Proposition B and on the will of the voters," says Barbara Schmitz, campaign director for Missourians for the Protection of Dogs.

"Clearly, my hope is that they would be compassionate people and want to make sure that the dogs at the facilities are being properly cared for. But there also is that larger issue: I don't think that subverting the judgment of the voters is right. I think that what these lawmakers are doing is anti-democratic, and it's simply wrong."

Supporters have resumed the fight for Prop B, flocking to hearings, contacting lawmakers, and writing letters to newspapers. Six billboards greeted legislators returning to Jefferson City in January, reading: "Missouri voters have spoken. Will you listen?" And HSLF executive vice president Wayne Pacelle met with lawmakers to clear up misinformation—

like the myth that Prop B would eventually affect livestock—and point out that it passed in a majority of districts.

Editorials and columns in newspapers across the state echoed the call to preserve democracy, from the *Springfield News-Leader* ("Those who are now trying to repeal Proposition B should back off") to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* ("Election results aren't a smorgasbord to be picked over"). In late November, the latter publication also ran a letter from a concerned reader named Gloria Boyer.

"One moment I will remember for the rest of my life was when it was announced that Prop B had won," Boyer wrote. "We all were jumping up and down and cheering loudly and then I thought, I bet all of the shelter dogs upstairs can hear us; I bet they know it's a better day for dogs in Missouri. And I hope it gave them peace that night when they went to sleep without families or homes."

She closed her letter: "The least we can do is ensure that Mill dogs receive better care, adequate food, water, and shelter. Is that too much to ask?"



Rescued in 2009 from a Missouri puppy mill, Tessa is now doted on by her adopter. Animal advocates in the state are fighting to uphold a citizens initiative passed in November to crack down on these neglectful breeding operations.

Opportunity Knocked

Campaign tips
from HSLF volunteers

In mid-September, HSLF executive director Sara Amundson received a serendipitous e-mail.

The organization was throwing its weight behind the re-election campaign of animal-friendly candidate Gary Peters, but success was far from certain in Michigan's Republican-leaning Ninth District, with an anti-incumbent wave sweeping the nation.

In 2008, HSLF ran an independent expenditure campaign opposing incumbent Rep. Joe Knollenberg, and Michigan residents and HSLF supporters Anne Honhart and Christine White had distributed information door-to-door, drawing on an HSLF-supplied database of independent voters to help elect Peters to office. Now two years later, the pair saw that they would need to tie on their walking shoes once again to make sure that the man Honhart describes as "so worthy" could defend his seat.

The women contacted Amundson to see how HSLF could help this time around. She provided artwork for flyers and door hangers as well as funds for printing. Then they reached out to fellow volunteers from the previous campaign to assemble a group of 27 foot soldiers who hit the pavement every weekend, and many weekdays, during the six weeks preceding the election.

White estimates that the group—buoyed by the HSLF TV ads on the airwaves in the Detroit market—distributed about 6,000 pieces of information. Peters won re-election by fewer than 6,500 votes. "We like to think [we] made a difference," she says.

The pair shared these tips for propelling humane candidates to victory.

► **GET PERSONAL.** Honhart stresses the importance of talking face-to-face with voters. "That means more to them than just getting another piece of paper on their porch," she says. She recommends knocking twice to give people a chance to answer—and approaching dog walkers and people pushing baby strollers. As Election Day nears, however, volunteers may not have time to stop for long at every house.

► **GET THE BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK.** White and Honhart concentrated on the densest



Christine White felt so strongly about Gary Peters' record on animal issues that she stepped outside her own district to help re-elect him.

neighborhoods to reach the most voters. Honhart suggests hitting up farmers markets, groomers, and pet supply stores, and checking local calendars for large gatherings such as parades, runs, dog walks, and craft shows.

► **MAKE IT EASY.** "You can't do it on your own," White says. "You need a good group of people who are willing to give the time and energy." She and Honhart gave volunteers everything they needed: maps, pens, clipboards, flyers, and sample scripts. For safety and support, canvassers walked in pairs. Anyone uncomfortable with knocking on doors was offered the alternative of working community events.

► **BE THOROUGH AND THANKFUL.** Upbeat weekly e-mails informed volunteers of meeting locations, parking availability, and weather reports,

plus polling results to keep them informed and motivated. Thank-you e-mails provided a tally of the houses covered each weekend.

► **MAXIMIZE THE ANIMAL MAGNETISM.** On Halloween, Honhart visited one woman who answered the door ready to hand out candy. Honhart told her about Peters' animal protection record. "She said it touched her heart. The woman appeared to have no interest before I talked to her." Likewise, Amundson notes the humane message appealed to voters even amid talk of the economy, health care, and the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. "In an election year when U.S. citizens had so much to worry about," she says, "this was an issue that clearly resonated with people and would make a difference on Election Day in terms of who they voted for."

In evaluating new candidates, staff members administer a questionnaire and assess voting records from previously held offices. For incumbents, executive director Sara Amundson says HSLF turns to its own charts, such as the annual *Humane Scorecard*, while also exploring their leadership on animal protection issues, committee actions, and other non-scored activity.

In the 2010 elections, HSLF invested heavily to provide support for five federal lawmakers from both political parties who were champions for animal protection issues and were facing tough re-election campaigns, including Peters and California Republican Mary Bono Mack. The organization created supportive television ads, direct mail pieces, and e-mails; worked with volunteers to distribute literature and conduct door-to-door canvassing; and made campaign donations through its political action committee. HSLF also campaigned actively in dozens of other contests around the country.

In California, Bono Mack says constituents “appreciated seeing a positive ad,” a sentiment echoed in Michigan’s Ninth District, where Peters says voters were wearied by the heavy rotation of negative ads this election cycle. HSLF’s message carried nonpartisan appeal, he says, remembering a young woman who approached him outside a school on Election Day. “She said that ... she always votes straight Republican, but because of the work that I’ve done on animal protection issues ... she was going to vote for me and split her ticket for the first time.”

HSLF’s investment helped bring back important leaders for animals in the 112th Congress. Peters is pushing for a renewed focus on stalled bills from the previous session—to ban horse slaughter and end biomedical research on chimpanzees. And Bono Mack has made history as the first Republican woman to chair a powerful Energy and Commerce subcommittee, where a number of animal protection issues could be addressed.

“We’re still really just polling members to see what their priorities are, and ... horse slaughter has come up,” says Bono Mack, who credits Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., as a champion of horse issues. “We’ll work with my staff to see what tweaks a bill might need and what we need to do to make it more successful.”

Both legislators have already established track records of shepherding animal-friendly legislation in the 111th Congress. Bono Mack joined with Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., as lead sponsor of a bipartisan bill to require species labeling on all fur products, regardless of value. “I think the American people always want to be empowered with knowledge,” she says. “... They have the right to know what they’re buying.” Signed by President Obama in December, the law will shed light on which products are made from the fur of animals trapped inhumanely in the wild or raised in small cages and killed in gruesome ways.

And Peters, who was elected in 2008 after an HSLF campaign targeting incumbent Rep. Joe Knollenberg, has been a new leader on animal protection issues. He offered an amendment to the 2010 NASA reauthorization bill, requiring that the space agency submit a report justifying plans for yet another round of radiation testing on squirrel monkeys.

The amendment wasn’t part of the final bill—the House ultimately approved the Senate version instead—but Peters’ leadership on the issue helped to pressure the federal agency. Six months later, he notes: “I’m happy to say that NASA ... has now announced that they’re not going to do those tests.”

When it came to crush videos, Peters says he was sickened by the concept but also was spurred to action by the outrage of animal lovers demanding a new bill. Such passion, he says, is key to advocates’ success. “[They’re] willing to get on the phone; they’re willing to make calls; they’re willing to knock on doors; they’re willing to write letters to the editor—all the things that are necessary to bring the issue to the forefront.” With all the problems competing for lawmakers’ attention, he notes, it’s the level of commitment that’s required to keep them engaged: “Getting a member that’s supportive is only half the battle.”



Rep. Gary Peters, D-Mich.

AGE: 52

BACKGROUND: An investment advisor and former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Peters was a Michigan state senator from 1995 to 2002, where he was a leader for animal protection. He has also served as the state’s lottery commissioner.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Financial Services; Small Business

WHY HIS ELECTION MATTERS:

Peters scored 100+ percent on HSLF’s 2010 *Humane Scorecard*. In addition to cosponsoring or voting for all the bills scored in the publication—addressing everything from wildlife protection to factory farming to puppy mills—he served as a lead sponsor of a bill to ban animal crush videos.



Rep. Mary Bono Mack, R-Calif.

AGE: 49

BACKGROUND: Bono Mack was elected to Congress in 1998 during a special election to fill the seat left vacant by the death of her husband, Sonny Bono. She is the first Republican woman to chair the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Energy and Commerce


WHY HER ELECTION MATTERS: Bono Mack has supported measures to protect wildlife, end horse slaughter and the use of chimps in research, and ban primates as pets, and she served as a lead sponsor of a successful bill to bring fuller disclosure to the labeling of fur products.

On the Campaign Trail

HSLF campaigned hard for animal-friendly candidates in the weeks leading up to the 2010 elections. The organization:

- ▶ Endorsed 298 candidates at the federal level and 63 at the state level
- ▶ Ran TV ads for five successful candidates in tight races: Sen. David Vitter, R-La., and Reps. Mary Bono Mack, R-Calif.; Gary Peters, D-Mich.; Nick Rahall, D-W.Va.; and Betty Sutton, D-Ohio
- ▶ Mailed information about endorsed candidates to 238,521 people
- ▶ Sent election-related e-mails to nearly 200,000 people





Actress Wendie Malick sits with her black lab puppy, Miles. Malick also has a shepherd mix rescue named Zoe and reports the two “get along famously.”

Doing Her Part

Wendie Malick embraces role on HSLF’s National Council

AS ACTRESS WENDIE MALICK prepared to speak on Capitol Hill last year, a graphic video on horse slaughter was shown in the hearing room.

“It almost took my breath away,” remembers Malick, who was advocating for the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act. “I was reeling when I had to ... summon up all of my focus and courage to be able to calmly—as calmly as possible—speak.”

Those images have stayed with Malick, who continues to speak up for animals as a member of HSLF’s national council.

Growing up outside of Buffalo, she notes her “older sister” was the family’s pet collie. Nowadays, she and her husband look after three horses, two dogs, and two miniature donkeys, and she has plans to produce a movie about animal advocate Wild Horse Annie, noting “it will help shine some more light” on horse protection issues.

Malick spoke recently with HSLF for this edited interview.

Q. Do you still start your days working with your horses?

MALICK: Oh yeah, I start every day with my face in fur. And I can’t ever keep a manicure for more than a day or two because I’m always scratching, petting, or grooming somebody. It absolutely grounds me to the earth, and there is that unspoken language that we share with the animals we live with that I just find calms me down and centers me. It’s an extraordinary thing, and when I am away from it for too long, I definitely feel out of balance.

Q. What is it about the wild horse issue that has particularly touched you?

MALICK: Dogs have always been the mainstay of my life, but I came to horses and riding when I was 40, when I moved to the country here in L.A. There’s something about looking into a horse’s eyes. There’s an ancient quality to them, a primal quality, that really moves me deeply. And when I found out that the last remaining herds are being rounded up as we speak, this just seemed untenable. I consider them the living symbols of independence and freedom—you know, sort of what this whole country was built on.

Last year, I joined [The HSUS’s] Nancy Perry and Jennifer Fearing, and we went up to witness one of the roundups in Northern California of wild horses. And they actually had to cancel that one due to high velocity winds that day, but we did go to the holding facility after that and saw what were once these magnificent wild and free animals now in sort of a prison camp for horses that had absolutely no shelter and was out in a dusty plain. And it was pretty heartbreaking.

Q. You did some voiceover work for HSLF-sponsored television ads this past election season, and your *Hot in Cleveland* costar Betty White recorded a phone message in support of Missouri’s Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act. Does talk of animal issues ever come up on the set?

MALICK: Absolutely. I share videos with her of the new donkeys who arrived a couple of months ago, and we’re always telling each other stories about our critters and then talking about other animal issues that we might be able to bring to light. She was so terrific with the puppy mill [call]. I’d asked her if she would do it for us, that it would really make a difference, and she was totally game and I think probably really helped get the word out.

Q. Can humor be an effective tool in advocacy?

MALICK: It sort of lowers the temperature in the room, the heat in the room, and allows us to open a door to each other, even if we’re on opposing sides. One of my huge things is “Don’t make assumptions.” Just because you talk to someone who is possibly a rancher or someone you think might be on the other side of an issue—sometimes you would be surprised that there is something that you two share, in terms of your respect for your fellow creatures on this planet. And I think we all have to learn how to just take a deep breath and give each other a chance.



Cutting Back on Cruelty

HSLF suggests ways to rein in government spending

RACHEL WEISS marveled at the transformation.

The last time she'd seen Arctica, the chimpanzee just had a mean look about her. Her hair was steel gray, her demeanor aggressive. She'd sit on the floor and bang on her cage at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University.

But here she was years later, freed from a world of HIV testing and experimental vaccines, living at Chimp Haven in Keithville, La.

"She recognized me immediately," says Weiss, president of the Laboratory Primate Advocacy Group. "She brought me to tears. She ... put her belly up to the fence, and she screamed and she cried. And she looked so happy. She was a whole different person. She had hair, and she was dark, and she didn't look mean anymore."

The National Institutes of Health spends an estimated \$63 million on chimpanzee research and maintenance each year, even though these animals have proven a poor choice for research into human diseases. The agency has poured another \$6 million into breeding chimps since 2002, despite a ban on the practice.

Now, as lawmakers look for ways to reduce spending, retiring these animals to sanctuaries would not only save tax dollars but produce more happy, humane endings like the one Arctica found in Louisiana.

Here are additional suggestions—proposed recently by HSLF—that would benefit both taxpayers and animals:

► **Limit farm subsidies.** The Obama Administration's bipartisan deficit-reduction commission recommended cutting \$10 billion in farm subsidies from 2012 to 2020—a worthy starting point. Costly handouts to factory-scale producers, including subsidies that keep animal feed artificially cheap, have encouraged massive operations that jeopardize public health, the environment, and animal welfare. In February, President Obama himself proposed cutting \$3.2 billion in USDA funding for fiscal 2012, partly by reducing direct payments to wealthy farmers.

► **Eliminate the USDA's lethal predator control program.** The agency's Wildlife Services program spent \$57 million in fiscal 2009 on wildlife

conflict resolution. While there is a legitimate need to resolve such conflicts, the federal funding spent particularly on inhumane, lethal methods—such as poisons, aerial gunning, and steel-jawed leghold traps—is a wasteful, oftentimes ineffective handout to private ranchers. It's also dangerous: Of the 13,355 animals killed in fiscal 2009 by M-44 sodium cyanide explosive devices, 500 were nontargeted animals including pet dogs and cats.

► **Employ technologically advanced, humane alternatives to roundup and removal of wild horses on federal lands.** The Bureau of Land Management would save more than \$200 million over the next 12 years by using birth control vaccines on wild horses and burros instead of continuously removing them from the range and caring for them in costly holding facilities. The House voted in February to slash \$2 million from the BLM's budget in protest of the roundup system.

► **End the use of animals for military training.** The Department of Defense spent an estimated \$34 million on such programs during fiscal 2008 (the latest year for which data is available). In some cases, the animals are stabbed, shot, burned, or even subjected to chemical agents so military personnel can practice patient-stabilizing procedures. Human-like, high-tech simulators are more realistic and cost-effective, with one program yielding an estimated savings of 74 percent.

► **Refocus government safety-testing efforts on high-tech, animal-free approaches.** Federal agencies spend hundreds of millions annually to assess the safety of chemicals, drugs, and even natural plant extracts. Evaluating the cancer-causing potential of a single chemical in a conventional rodent test takes up to five years, 800 animals, and \$4 million. For the same price, as many as 350 chemicals could be tested in less than one week using ultra-fast robot-automated methods.

► **Cut surplus meat purchases.** Federal government purchases of surplus pork and spent-hen meat do nothing to encourage factory farms to rein in production or clean up their cruel, unhealthy, and environmentally damaging methods.





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AYES & NAYS

✔ Prompted in part by a courageous whistleblower, the **USDA** in December announced a series of measures aimed at improving oversight of the federal humane slaughter law. These included reforms urged by The HSUS and more than 50,000 activists who wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture after undercover footage at a Vermont slaughterhouse revealed employees tormenting infant calves. One key change: the appointment of an ombudsman to enable inspectors to voice concerns without fear of retribution—an idea originally proposed by the late Dr. Dean Wyatt, a USDA veterinarian and inspector for 18 years. Wyatt testified before Congress in March 2010 about the animal abuse he'd witnessed at meatpacking plants and the retaliation he'd experienced from superiors when he sought to report and stop violations. The agency will also tighten rules requiring immediate humane euthanasia of downed cattle and take public comments on an HSUS petition to close the loophole allowing slaughter of downed calves. (Please go to hslf.org to take action.)

✘ A report on feral cat control issued in December by the **University of Nebraska at Lincoln** has rubbed cat lovers and animal welfare organizations the wrong way.



The report, drawn from student papers written for an undergraduate course in wildlife damage management, advocates body-gripping traps and shooting as acceptable methods of catching and killing feral cats. A detailed description of how to shoot a cat to achieve instantaneous death is included in the report, which one author told the Associated Press was written for public consumption, not publication in scientific journals. The American Bird Conservancy applauded the paper,

but groups including The HSUS, ASPCA, the American Animal Hospital Association, and many local humane organizations have condemned it for espousing inhumane treatment.

✔ What do animal shelters have to do with homeland security? Everything, says **John Gibb**, acting commissioner for New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, in a December

letter to the editor of *The Daily Gazette* in Schenectady. Gibb was responding to an editorial that questioned the relevance of a \$35,000 homeland security grant to Schoharie, Greene, and Columbia counties for developing programs to shelter pets during emergencies. Citing lessons learned from national events (Hurricane Katrina comes to mind), Gibb wrote that residents may refuse to leave pets behind in an evacuation, even in the face of a terrorist attack, risking their lives and those of first responders. Federal law requires states that receive FEMA funding to include pets in emergency evacuation and sheltering plans, and Gibb pointed out that \$35,000 is just a drop in the state homeland security budget.

✔ Dogs will no longer hound deer in Louisiana's 600,000-acre Kisatchie National Forest. After reviewing more than 1,200 public comments on the issue, the **U.S. Forest Service** bucked objections from hunters and decided in December to prohibit the use of dog packs to chase down deer in Kisatchie, the only public land in Louisiana where the practice was permitted. Complaints from adjacent landowners about livestock harassment from dogs, confrontations with hunters, and dangerous hunting practices had been on the rise in recent years. Often viewed by their owners as disposable "junk" animals, many deer dogs are underfed and denied medical care, even abandoned if they become lost on a hunt. Deer hounding is waning, becoming increasingly restricted in the approximately 10 states where it is still legal.



THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: TROY SNOW; MEDIA BAKERY