

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

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Spay/neuter tax credit could help  
reduce euthanasia of unwanted pets

Cheryl Woodcock considers the nation's chronic pet overpopulation problem a matter of basic economics: The supply of pets in the U.S. overwhelms the number of responsible owners who are able to take them into their homes.

An animal rescuer in Baldwin, N.D., Woodcock has seen firsthand the endless procession of pets in need. So when HSLF sought citizens' ideas for animal protection legislation as part of its first "There Oughta Be a Law" contest last year, Woodcock drew on her experiences to put together her entry: a federal tax credit for people who spay or neuter their pets.

This simple proposal could go a long way toward making a dent in the number of animals who wind up in U.S. shelters. While 3 to 4 million of them are adopted every year, just as many are left behind—a sad truth that has made euthanasia the leading cause of death for companion animals in the U.S. It also is at the heart of a system that in 2007 cost approximately \$2.4 billion in animal care and control.



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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
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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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Dear Friends,

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law barring the commercial sale of videos that depict acts of extreme animal cruelty. The measure—originally introduced by Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1999—had succeeded in drying up the market for animal crush videos, where women wearing high heels impale and stomp animals to death for the titillation of viewers who are turned on by the killing.

The law had also been used to prosecute a known dogfighter who had trafficked in animal fighting videos. It was his conviction that an appellate court struck down, with the Supreme Court affirming the decision.

Here we had a law that succeeded in doing exactly what it was designed to do: In the late 1990s, there were at least 3,000 separately produced crush videos readily available in the marketplace, selling for up to \$300 apiece; after the new law was enacted, they all but vanished. A decade later, once the law was invalidated by the appellate court ruling, we saw crush videos repopulate the Internet; the makers of these snuff films had been given a free pass to come back out of their dark corners.

While the court's majority was caught up in hypothetical scenarios, Justice Samuel Alito—whose springer spaniel, Zeus, is sometimes seen around the court—focused on the real world impact on animals. In his dissent, Alito noted that the majority had struck down “a valuable statute that was enacted not to suppress speech, but to prevent horrific acts of animal cruelty—in particular, the creation and commercial exploitation of crush videos, a form of depraved entertainment that has no social value.” Justice Alito explained that “the animals used in crush videos are living creatures that experience excruciating pain. Our society has long banned such cruelty, which is illegal throughout the country.”

The court did provide a pathway for a more narrowly drafted law, one that HSLF and our allies in Congress are now pushing hard to pass. Shortly after the ruling, Rep. Gallegly—along with Reps. Jim Moran, D-Va.; Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore.; and more than 50 bipartisan cosponsors—introduced H.R. 5092 to end the intentional crushing, burning, drowning, and impaling of puppies, kittens, and other animals for the depraved purpose of peddling videos. At press time, the bill had more than 250 cosponsors.

To stem the tide of crush videos and save animals from this sickening torment, we will push Congress to move quickly on the legislation. Please take action today and urge your lawmakers to support H.R. 5092. And please consider giving a donation to HSLF in support of our continuing efforts to snuff out crush videos and confront other cruelties.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian  
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



## Get Involved

To urge your legislator to support H.R. 5092, visit [hslf.org](http://hslf.org).

# A Lifesaving Investment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Cheryl Woodcock meets with Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif., to discuss her winning idea for HSLF's "There Oughta Be a Law" contest, which Campbell helped judge. Woodcock's proposal—a tax credit for people who spay or neuter their pets—could help reduce the number of animals euthanized at shelters in the U.S.

Woodcock is often called on to help her local shelter cope with its share of the problem, as happened with four tiny kittens found in a convenience store garbage bin last fall, their eyes yet to open and umbilical cords still attached. Up late one night to bottle-feed her tiny houseguests, Woodcock logged into Facebook, where she saw an HSLF ad inviting her to submit an original idea for federal legislation.

Even in her sleep-deprived state, her fingers danced across the keyboard as she described the need to motivate more people to spay or neuter their pets. "I thought, 'Oh, yeah, there *should* be a law,'" she says. "If you could have a \$100 tax credit to get your pet spayed or neutered, wouldn't you do it?"

Her idea was selected from 3,518 entries by a panel of judges including Reps. John Campbell, R-Calif., and Jim Moran, D-Va. Part of her grand prize was a trip to Washington, D.C., where Woodcock got a guided tour of the Capitol, visited famous landmarks, and met with her delegation to discuss her proposal.

Campbell and Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., have shown interest in pursuing legislation to codify Woodcock's idea. There are plenty of reasons to support the tax credit: For one, it could create an incentive for people previously on the fence about spay/neuter to go ahead and have the procedure done for their pets. It also could lend instant credibility to the issue, notes David Waltman, director of a low-cost spay/neuter clinic at the Humane Society of South Mississippi: "We want to get to the point where,

if you walk your dog down the street intact," he says, "people will look at you funny, instead of the other way around."

The tax measure could also help pet owners such as those served by the HSSM clinic. Ninety percent of the facility's clients make \$35,000 or less in household income, Waltman says; the surgery is an expense that many couldn't normally afford. Indeed, HSUS research has shown that cost is the No. 1 barrier to spay/neuter—a finding that forms the cornerstone of a campaign to expand low-cost spay/neuter services in areas such as the Gulf Coast, thereby reducing shelter populations and euthanasia rates.

In Hattiesburg, Miss., preliminary data show that the campaign may be having an effect. Intake numbers at the Southern Pines Animal Shelter appear to be leveling off, says spay/neuter clinic director Valerie Rachal—a welcome development at a facility where the euthanasia rate tops 75 percent annually, and where employees have come to

work in the mornings to find a line of people waiting to drop off "baskets of kittens, boxes of puppies, [and] dogs on leashes."

Rachal, who previously served on the shelter's board, left a job at a local university to run the clinic because the euthanasia numbers were keeping her awake at night. She says financial assistance is a god-send in the rural area where the shelter is situated: "We get reports from a lot of our clients that they live at the end of the road or live somewhere secluded, and people are always dumping off puppies, dogs, kittens." The kind-hearted residents who take in these abandoned animals, she says, often "cannot afford to spay/neuter six pets or more."

Low-cost surgeries are one type of financial relief that can make a huge difference in regions such as the Gulf Coast, coupled with an advertising campaign that starkly portrays the cost—in terms of euthanasia numbers—of not spaying or neutering pets. But low-cost surgeries aren't available in every community, and not every income group may be eligible. A spay/neuter tax credit could help fill these voids.

In North Dakota, Woodcock has also seen animals dumped on her rural road, pets "that people in town don't want anymore." And she often sees pets listed in free-to-good-home ads in local newspapers and online, while a shelter in nearby Bismarck has even used a storage room at one of the vet clinics where she works to house an overflow of kittens.

The problem may seem overwhelming, but Woodcock believes a tax credit could be the start of a solution. If even just 100,000 people were motivated to do the right thing, she says, "look at how many cats and dogs you have prevented from coming into the world."



## How to Help

Ask your federal legislators to support the efforts of Sen. Conrad and Rep. Campbell to establish a spay/neuter tax credit. To identify your legislators, call 202-676-2314 or visit [hslf.org/leglookup](http://hslf.org/leglookup).



# LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

**THE FOLLOWING** is a sample of HSLF-supported animal protection bills before the U.S. Congress. It's vital that you call, e-mail, or write your legislators to let them know your views on these bills. To find out who your legislators are and how to reach them directly, go to [hslf.org/leglookup](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 (if available) and the name of the bill or issue. Be polite, brief, and to the point. If you plan to visit Washington, D.C., make an appointment to meet with your legislators or their staff to discuss animal issues. We can help you with background information and may be able to accompany you on your visits.

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

Address senators' letters to:  
**The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_**  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Address representatives' letters to:  
**The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

## ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



**Great Ape Protection Act**  
H.R. 1326

To phase out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research, retire all federally owned chimpanzees to sanctuary, and codify the NIH moratorium on breeding of these animals for invasive research.

Sponsors: Reps. Towns, D-N.Y.; Reichert, R-Wash.; Langevin, D-R.I.; Bartlett, R-Md.

**Pet Safety and Protection Act**  
H.R. 3907 / S. 1834

To end the Class B dealer system for dogs and cats used by research facilities, ensuring that the animals are obtained legally.

Sponsors: Rep. Doyle, D-Pa. / Sen. Akaka, D-Hawaii

## FARM ANIMALS



**Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act**  
H.R. 4733

To require federal agencies to purchase pork, veal, and eggs only from sources that raise animals without intensive confinement.

Sponsors: Reps. Watson, D-Calif., and Gallegly, R-Calif.

**Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act**  
H.R. 1549: Committee hearing held  
S. 619

To phase out routine nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals, which supports overcrowded, unsanitary factory farming conditions.

Sponsors: Rep. Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Kennedy, D-Mass.; Feinstein, D-Calif.; Snowe, R-Maine

## WILDLIFE



**Captive Primate Safety Act**  
H.R. 80: Passed 323-95; passed Senate committee / S. 462

To prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade.

Sponsors: Reps. Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Kirk, R-Ill. Sens. Boxer, D-Calif.; Vitter, R-La.

**Crane Conservation Act**  
H.R. 388: Passed 288-116; passed Senate committee / S. 197

To support and fund conservation programs for cranes.

Sponsors: Reps. Baldwin, D-Wis.; Brown-Waite, R-Fla. Sens. Feingold, D-Wis.; Crapo, R-Idaho

**Great Cats and Rare Canids Act**  
H.R. 411: Passed 290-118  
S. 529: Passed committee

To support and fund conservation of rare felids and canids in the animals' natural ranges.

Sponsors: Rep. Inslee, D-Wash. / Sen. Lieberman, I-Conn.



**International Whale Conservation and Protection Act**

H.R. 2455 / S. 3116

To promote whale conservation and ensure that the U.S. refuses to support efforts to undermine the commercial whaling moratorium.  
Sponsors: Rep. Faleomavaega, D-American Samoa / Sen. Kerry, D-Mass.

**Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Amendments**

H.R. 844: Passed by voice vote  
S. 859: Passed committee

To provide grants for marine mammal rescue and disentanglement efforts.  
Sponsors: Rep. Young, R-Alaska / Sen. Cantwell, D-Wash.

**Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act**

H.R. 509: Passed House 354-72;  
passed Senate committee

To authorize an additional five years of grants for marine turtle conservation projects in foreign countries, expand eligibility to include projects in the U.S., and increase authorized funding levels.  
Sponsors: Rep. Brown, R-S.C.; Bordallo, D-Guam



**Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalties**

H.R. 2062: Passed by voice vote;  
passed Senate committee / S. 2811

To strengthen penalties for intentionally taking protected migratory birds.  
Sponsors: Rep. DeFazio, D-Ore. / Sen. Merkley, D-Ore.

**Protect America's Wildlife Act**

H.R. 3381 / S. 1535

To ban the shooting of wolves, bears, and other predators from aircraft except in limited cases involving a designated biological emergency.  
Sponsors: Rep. Miller, D-Calif. / Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif.



**Python Importation**

H.R. 2811: Passed committee  
with amendment  
S. 373: Passed committee

To ban interstate commerce in and importation of pythons.  
Sponsors: Reps. Meeke, D-Fla.; Rooney, R-Fla. / Sen. Nelson, D-Fla.

**Restore Our American Mustangs Act**

H.R. 1018: Passed 239-185  
S. 1579

To restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros and to provide for more humane and effective management on the range.  
Sponsors: Reps. Rahall, D-W.Va.; Grijalva, D-Ariz.; Whitfield, R-Ky. / Sen. Byrd, D-W.Va.



**Shark Conservation Act**

H.R. 81: Passed by voice vote  
S. 850: Passed committee

To end the cruel practice of shark finning (cutting off sharks' fins and throwing the sharks back in the water, often while still alive).  
Sponsors: Rep. Bordallo, D-Guam / Sen. Kerry, D-Mass.

**Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act**

H.R. 556: Passed 316-107 / S. 1748

To establish a recovery program for the Southern sea otter.  
Sponsors: Rep. Farr, D-Calif. / Sen. Boxer, D-Calif.

**Truth in Fur Labeling Act**

H.R. 2480: Committee hearing held  
S. 1076

To require species labeling on any fur product regardless of value.  
Sponsors: Reps. Moran, D-Va.; Bono Mack, R-Calif. / Sen. Menendez, D-N.J.

**COMPANION ANIMALS**



**Crush Act Amendment**

H.R. 5092

To end the intentional crushing, burning, drowning, and impaling of puppies, kittens, and other animals for the purpose of peddling videos of extreme animal cruelty.  
Sponsors: Reps. Gallegly, R-Calif.; Moran, D-Va.; Blumenauer, D-Ore.

**Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act**

H.R. 503 / S. 727

To prohibit knowing possession, shipment, transport, purchase, sale, delivery, or receipt of a horse for slaughter for human consumption.  
Sponsors: Reps. Conyers, D-Mich.; Burton, R-Ind.  
Sens. Landrieu, D-La.; Ensign, R-Nev.

# ACTIVIST TOOLKIT: Marketplace Reform

**I**t hasn't always been easy to find food service facilities and retailers using or offering alternatives to battery cage eggs, produced by hens kept in cages so small they can barely move. But many of these venues have more humane options than they did a few years ago—thanks in part to advocates armed with persuasive arguments that the change is feasible for food operations and desired by consumers.

The arguments are hitting their mark, as evidenced by the growing number of corporations, educational institutions, restaurants, and grocery stores moving away from battery eggs. “We’ve moved the ball forward dramatically in just over five years,” says Josh Balk, outreach director for The HSUS’s Factory Farming Campaign, which helps companies make the switch to cage-free.

Animal advocates looking to make a big impact would do well to focus on reducing the suffering of egg-laying hens; nearly 270 million of them are kept in battery cages nationwide. So how do you convince decision makers—whether they’re chefs, local grocery store managers, or dining hall directors—to make a more compassionate choice? Campaigners who’ve tried their hands at cage-free initiatives offer the following tips.

**Build connections.** Jeanette Renshaw, a junior at DePauw University in Indiana, led a successful effort to persuade campus dining services to switch to cage-free eggs in early 2009. She focused on developing a relationship with the campus representative for Sodexo, the university’s food supplier. Her initial approach was “passionate, concerned—kind of intense.” As she got to know him, she became “much more friendly and coworker-esque” and came to realize she needs to take into account his needs and goals as a businessman.

Advocates at Grand Valley State University in Michigan remained positive throughout their cage-free campaign, even when the pace of the school’s response was slower than they would have liked, says senior Lena Spadacene. The students were sensitive to the university’s challenges, she adds: “There are a lot of politics and logistics involved when converting multiple cafeterias over to a more humane, sustainable product.”

The HSUS can help advocates address these concerns, equipping them with answers to likely questions about the cost and availability of cage-free eggs. Distributors all over the country can help, Balk says, and students should make the case that not supporting battery eggs is worth a few cents more per egg.



Cage-free campaigns such as the one led by Lena Spadacene at Grand Valley State University can serve as models for other advocates.

**Drum up some democracy.** At Grand Valley State, officials had verbally committed to cage-free eggs last September but kept delaying implementation, says Spadacene. To turn up the pressure, she solicited signatures on a “letter of endorsement”—not a petition, she notes, since the school had already agreed to switch—but a show of strong support from students, faculty, and staff for the change to happen promptly.

Advocates gathered more than 400 signatures during Q&A sessions in their classes, as well as during a screening of a documentary about



Most egg-laying hens are confined in battery cages where they have so little room they can't even spread their wings. Advocates are helping turn the tide for these animals by persuading food operations all over the country to start purchasing cage-free eggs instead.

egg factory farms and a three-day event exposing students to the truths about industrial animal agriculture. Within two weeks of Spadacene presenting campus officials with the letter, the school had cracked open its first cage-free eggs—with full implementation to follow this fall.

**Apply competitive pressure.** In addition to the letter of endorsement and a story in the student newspaper, Spadacene attributes the Grand Valley State victory to pressure for the university to be the first in Michigan to go cage-free. She made sure to play up this possibility in her presentation to officials, she says, “knowing that GVSU prides itself on being one of the most sustainable universities in the nation.”

Advocates have plenty of evidence to draw on when demonstrating the growing push for sustainability and more humane treatment of animals. Few schools offered cage-free eggs when The HSUS’s Factory Farming Campaign began about five years ago, whereas today, 64 percent of colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada report purchasing some cage-free eggs, according to the Sustainable Endowments Institute. And many well-known chain restaurants and stores have committed to using or selling more cage-free eggs in recent years, including Denny’s, Wendy’s, Burger King, Wal-Mart, and Costco.

**Overcome your fears.** Don’t be afraid to ask stupid questions, Renshaw says; sometimes, that’s the best way to progress “to questions that aren’t stupid.” Spadacene adds, “Even if you don’t have the confidence that there will be a warm reception ... just go for it.” In addition to running the cage-free campaign, Spadacene helped found the Humane Society of Grand Valley State University—a move she was uneasy about because her school is located in a “very conservative” region in western Michigan. But her worries were unwarranted; more than 250 students expressed interest. “My advice would be just have faith,” she says. “People care about animals; they just don’t always know where to go to help, or know how to help.”



U.S. Rep. Danny Davis

A recent Pit Bull Training Team class hosted a special guest when U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., showed up to witness the program's transformative effect on at-risk youth.

Operating in Chicago since 2006 and in Atlanta since 2008, The HSUS's End Dog-

fighting campaign enlists former dogfighters to walk the streets in search of young people who have pit bulls and are inclined to fight them. The youngsters are recruited to bring their dogs to free agility and obedience classes where they learn to value the animals as companions rather than weapons.

In addition to dropping in on a class, Davis has also discussed with longtime friend Tio Hardiman, The HSUS's director of urban outreach, the possibility of arranging an anti-dog-fighting presentation to the Congressional Black Caucus. In this excerpted interview, Davis shares his observations with *Humane Activist*.

**Q: What did you think of the class?**

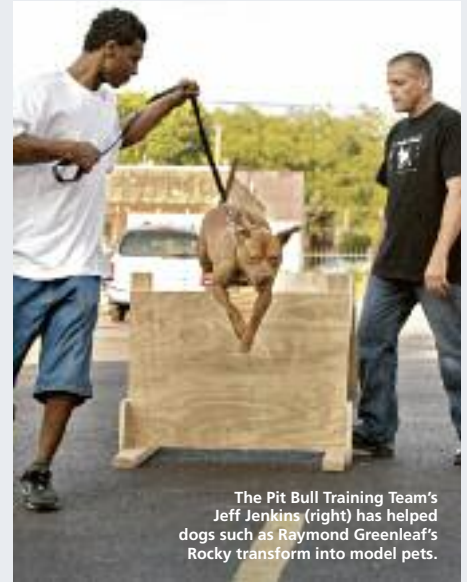
**DAVIS:** I'm a person who believes that people live what they learn. I also believe that an idle

mind is the devil's workshop, and that many young people who don't have lots of hobbies ... often get trapped in lifestyles that become violent. I was impressed with the interaction of these young people learning to understand, train, and care for these pit bulls. I think they were seeing them, or beginning to see them, as friends.

**Q: What were your early experiences with animals?**

**DAVIS:** I grew up during the era when people used animals to work. My parents were sharecroppers, and so our mules and horses—you took care of them because they were part of your economy. You had to keep them well so that they could contribute. And so you learned early on that they were valuable.

Then of course there were other animals that became pets ... and there were those that were used for food. Well, I never did like being around the ones that were being slaughtered. I would try to make myself as scarce as I could. And I do recall as a kid, my 4-H club project one year was to raise 100 chickens, and they used to follow me around everywhere because I'd feed them. And I jumped out of the crib and [accidentally] broke one's neck. That kind of hurt me, but I had heard of a splint. So I got a little piece of wood and tied it to the chicken's neck, and put some cold oil and stuff on there. And



The Pit Bull Training Team's Jeff Jenkins (right) has helped dogs such as Raymond Greenleaf's Rocky transform into model pets.

the chicken lived—but she always walked sideways—and actually grew to be a full-grown chick, and I was very proud of that.

**Q: Why are you interested in presenting to the Congressional Black Caucus?**

**DAVIS:** If you can reduce violence in any way, shape, form, or fashion, then I think that's a good thing. In the process, if you can also help individuals understand that animals should be treated a certain way, then that adds another dimension ... and it's a combined good thing.

## No Standards of Learning



**Permanent confinement** in small concrete tanks is an unsuitable fate for whales and dolphins—and a dangerous situation for people, as demonstrated most recently in February when a male orca at SeaWorld Orlando killed his trainer.

In April, the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife examined another questionable

aspect of captive marine mammal facilities: whether they meet the highest professional standards for meaningful public education.

In the absence of mandatory federal regulations, the facilities have been

self-evaluating their own education programs, Humane Society International marine mammal scientist Naomi Rose noted in testimony to the panel. Citing numerous instances of misleading, incorrect information in SeaWorld's online materials as an example, Rose pointed out that with no oversight, the company has used its educational programs to "further its own commercial agenda: making captivity acceptable to the general public and convincing the public to patronize its business."

Rose added that SeaWorld ignores the latest scientific discoveries about marine mammals when doing so serves its commercial purposes—an action at odds with the intent of the federal law protecting these animals, which permits their public display "only because Congress believes such display serves the greater good of accurately educating the public," she said.

Urge the National Marine Fisheries Service to adopt the strongest possible regulations governing the public display of marine mammals. **Send comments by June 10 to [mmperritregs.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:mmperritregs.comments@noaa.gov).**



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519 C Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**The HSUS's sixth annual Taking Action for Animals conference and trade show**—to be held July 23–26 in Washington, D.C.—offers something for seasoned animal activists and those just beginning to explore animal protection issues. Workshop presenters will share strategies for effective advocacy and explore a range of animal protection issues. HSLF is a TAFE sponsor; please stop by our exhibit hall booth and meet our staff. To sign up for the conference, go to [takingactionforanimals.org](http://takingactionforanimals.org).

## AYES & NAYS

✔ The latest set of social awareness stamps from the **U.S. Postal Service** features adopted cats and dogs along with the words “Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet.” During the campaign, **Ellen DeGeneres** and the pet products company she co-owns, **Halo, Purely for Pets**, are promoting the stamps and pledging to donate a million servings of Halo-brand dog and cat food to U.S. shelters. To order stamps, an adoption certificate, or related merchandise, visit [stampstotherescue.com](http://stampstotherescue.com).



✘ In a move that defied humane, economic, and ecological sense, the **Canadian government** increased the quota for the country's annual spring seal hunt to 388,200 harp, grey, and hooded seals—one of the highest in 50 years. The increase was allowed even though record low sea ice formation threatened the survival of harp seals, who need the ice to give birth and raise their pups. Meanwhile, markets for sealskins continue to shrink.



✔ **Karl Lagerfeld**, head designer and creative director for Chanel, has long used fur in his high-end designs. The clothes unveiled during his March show in Paris seemed to be no exception, prompting a *Los Angeles Times* fashion critic to write that “Lagerfeld’s compassion for the planet apparently does not extend to its four-legged inhabitants.” Afterward, however, Lagerfeld revealed that all of the fur was synthetic, telling a reporter, “It’s the triumph of fake fur ... because fake fur changed so much—and became so great now—that you can hardly see the difference. ... You cannot fake chic, but you can be chic and fake fur.” By lending glamour and credibility to a fur-free collection, Chanel is helping show that faux fur is luxurious—without the cruelty.



✘ **Philippine Airlines** continues to accept roosters as cargo from known American cockfighters, despite a 2007 pledge to stop the practice. The airline’s willful ignorance—through a “no questions asked” policy—is nothing more than an attempt to dodge U.S. law, which bans animal exports for fighting purposes. Cockfighting remains legal in the Southeast Asian nation, where it is such big business that Filipino legislator **Rodolfo Plaza** recently filed a measure to declare the blood sport a part of “intangible Philippine cultural heritage.” Animal advocates in the Philippines are protesting the proposal. In March, Hawaii’s lawmakers nixed similar resolutions introduced by **Rep. Joey Manahan** that sought to affirm cockfighting as a culturally acceptable practice.