

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

JULY / AUGUST 2010

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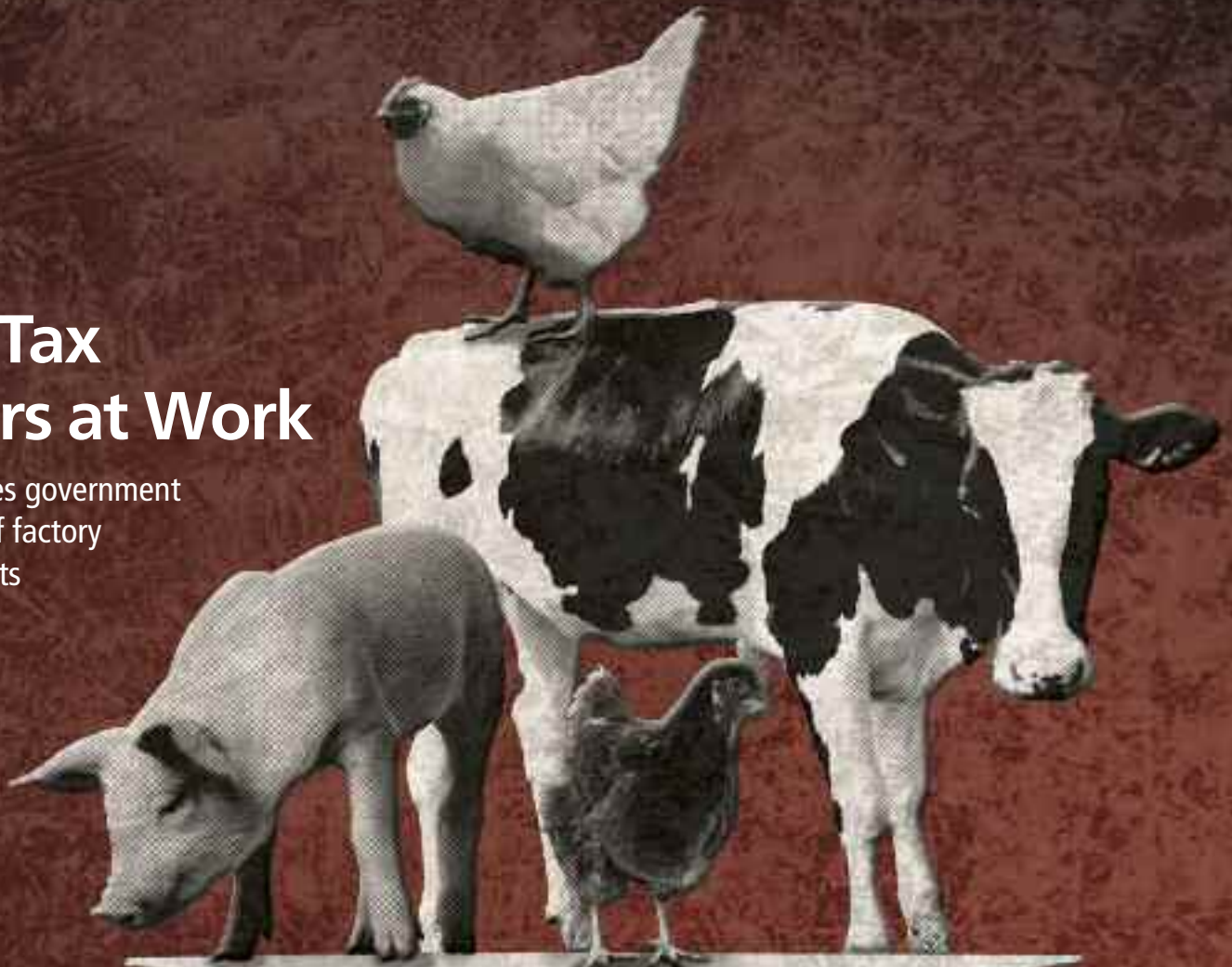
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**Stroll the aisles** of your local grocery store or grab lunch at a fast food restaurant, and you'll see the evidence: A head of cauliflower and a broccoli crown cost about the same as a gallon of conventionally produced milk. Shrink-wrapped pork, turkey, and chicken from industrial farms can make a salad look like a luxury dish. And a takeout burger can leave more money in your pocket than an organic apple.

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Dear Friends,

You're more and more likely to see dogs on Capitol Hill these days, as lawmakers bring their canine companions to work with them. But two stories that recently caught my eye made me think cats are making a comeback in Congress.

Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., posted a video on his YouTube page ([youtube.com/RepCohen](http://youtube.com/RepCohen)) in which he expressed support for federal legislation to ban “crush” videos while his cat Callie perched in his lap. Rep. Cohen is a leading animal advocate in Congress, a member of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, and the sponsor of legislation to crack down on remote Internet hunting and canned

hunting of captive exotic animals. He also has been a key advocate for increased funding to enforce the ban on horse “soring” (mutilation of a show horse’s legs or hoofs to cause pain and force an exaggerated gait). A big and beautiful calico kitty, Callie makes a great ambassador for why animals should be protected from cruelty and abuse.

And over in the office of Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., a rescued kitten has taken up residence, as reported by Jay Fitzgerald of the *Boston Herald*. Here’s an excerpt from Fitzgerald’s story on the fortunate feline:

The office pet was saved by a Brown aide who spotted the weeks-old kitten sticking her adorable head outside a brown bag on the side of the road, as he recently drove along Interstate 195 near Fall River to catch a flight at Logan International Airport.

“We passed her at first and then thought ‘Whoa, did we see what we just thought we saw?’” recalled Nat Hoopes, the legislative aide who was in the car with his father when they spotted the apparently abandoned feline alongside the highway, discarded like a piece of trash on the side of the road.

So Hoopes, who was returning to Washington after visiting his Bay State family over Memorial Day weekend, said he and his father turned the car around, picked up the abandoned kitty, and headed back to Logan. He bought her a traveling cage for \$45 and a one-way ticket for \$75—and it was off to D.C. for the duo.

Thanks to Nat Hoopes, who went the extra mile to save the stray from the streets—and to Sen. Brown, who agreed to make his office feline-friendly—the black-and-white kitten is a welcome addition here in Washington. I’m glad to know I’m not the only person in the nation’s capital with cat hair on my suit.



Sen. Brown with rescued kitten

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian  
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

It doesn't take long to discern that something other than free-market economics is behind U.S. food prices, which often don't reflect the costs of production. Whereas fruits and vegetables can grow fat on sunlight, water, and soil, animals additionally require feed, housing, and waste management.

Also not reflected in the price tags for factory farm products are the costs to address problems created by an inhumane, wasteful, and environmentally destructive way of farming—costs for which the industry is not held responsible but that are nonetheless borne by the public, if not at the grocery store checkout line. These include the air and water pollution resulting from excessive animal waste, the negative economic impacts of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) on rural communities, and the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria when these drugs are routinely fed to animals to promote growth and prevent disease in overcrowded, unsanitary environments.

The lack of accountability for these costs, combined with government policies that pour billions of tax dollars each year into animal agribusiness, creates the illusion of cheap meat, egg, and dairy products—giving factory farms a competitive advantage over more sustainable operations that raise animals under higher welfare standards. To help shift the market toward a more humane and environment-friendly model, animal advocates and sustainable farming proponents support an overhaul of the system through which public funds flow to factory farms. A bill recently introduced in Congress would take the first step, while reformers are also calling for a change in the way farm subsidies are distributed.

"If we have policies in place that encourage CAFOs," says Doug Gurian-Sherman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, "that tells us policies can be changed in ways that can discourage them and make openings for more sustainable and productive alternatives."

In addition to billions allocated annually for subsidies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture spends hundreds of millions each year on meat, egg, and dairy purchases for schools, prisons, military bases, and nutritional assistance programs for the needy. But when the industry overproduces, exceeding consumer demand, it's not shy to press the agency to buy even more, regardless of need. And as HSLF executive vice president Wayne Pacelle noted in an October 2009 blog, "Congress and USDA accommodate these unreasonable demands without hesitation, and what's more, they expect nothing of the industry in return, except perhaps political support."



A recently introduced bill would require the U.S. government to purchase veal, egg, and pork products only from sources that don't keep animals in extreme confinement, such as these veal crates where male calves spend their days tethered in place. The current lack of animal care standards in the government's food purchasing policy is one of several factors that give factory farm products a competitive edge in the marketplace.

A federal bill introduced in March could at least improve the lives of animals when our federal tax dollars are used for pork, veal, and egg purchases. The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act, H.R. 4733 (introduced by Reps. Diane Watson, D-Calif., and Elton Gallegly, R-Calif.), would require federal agencies to purchase such products only from sources that meet basic humane standards: allowing animals enough room to stand up, lie down, turn around, and extend their limbs. Many companies and several states have already adopted these modest reforms.

By encouraging more humane, sustainable animal housing methods, the act could improve conditions for millions of farm animals who would otherwise spend their entire lives in small cages and crates. It could also alleviate some of the hidden costs that the industry foists onto taxpayers.

A change in government commodity purchases isn't the only reform needed. Historically, agricultural subsidies have been used to stabilize food prices and provide farmers with a living wage. But with increasing deregulation of agribusiness and the industry's dominance by multinationals, these goals have given way to a system that disproportionately benefits a handful of wealthy corporations—at the expense of taxpayers, family farmers, the environment, and the billions of farm animals who are slaughtered for food each year.

To help level the playing field, subsidies should be better directed, notes Susan Prolman, executive director of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. "If the USDA is going to provide these subsidies, they should be targeted carefully to the producers who are actually addressing animal welfare issues, environmental issues, public health issues, sustainable agriculture, and rural communities," she says. "It shouldn't be a race to the bottom."

But separating animal agribusiness from the government trough won't be easy, says Gurian-Sherman: "The farm states will go to the mat protecting" the status quo. While more consumers see the link between their food choices and the impacts of factory farming, "there needs to be growing awareness by consumers on the policy side as well," he says. "As long as the public is not aware that there are important policy levers that need to be changed ... the pressure on politicians to do the right thing won't be there."

## BILL BOX

**WHAT IT IS:** Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act (H.R. 4733)

**WHAT IT DOES:** Require federal agencies to purchase pork, veal, and egg products only from sources that raised the animals without extreme confinement in crates and cages.

**SPONSORS:** Reps. Diane Watson, D-Calif., and Elton Gallegly, R-Calif.

**HOW TO HELP:** Contact your legislators and ask them to cosponsor the act. To identify your lawmakers, 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.

## ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

KEY: ◆ We expect this bill to be introduced    ◇ We expect these legislators to introduce this bill



### 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

### Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act H.R. 5434 / S. 3424

To establish licensing and inspection requirements for breeders who sell 50 or more puppies a year directly to consumers via the Internet or other means, and to require that breeding dogs at commercial breeding facilities be allowed to exercise daily.

Sponsors: Sens. Durbin, D-Ill.; Vitter, R-La. / Reps. Farr, D-Calif.; Gerlach, R-Pa.; Capps, D-Calif.; Young, R-Fla.

## FARM ANIMALS



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

To require federal agencies to buy pork, veal, and egg products only from those who raise animals without intensive confinement.

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

### Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act H.R. 1549: Committee hearings 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.



**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: Reps. 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. Meek, 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: Passed committee

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: Passed committee / 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**



**Prevention of Interstate Commerce in Crush Videos Act**

H.R. 5566: Passed committee / ♦

To end the intentional crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating, and impaling of puppies, kittens, and other animals for the purpose of peddling obscene videos of extreme animal cruelty.  
Sponsors: Reps. Gallegly, R-Calif.; Peters, D-Mich. / Sens. Kyl, R-Ariz. ♦; Merkley, D-Ore. ♦; Burr, R-N.C. ♦

**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.

OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP: JENS KLINGBELD/REAMSTIME; ELINE SPEK/FOOTIA; WILLIS/ISTOCK. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: RMASHUTTERSTOCK; PHOTO/ELLOW/FOOTIA; PINNEY/ISTOCK; IRIS ABBOTT/ISTOCK PHOTO; SARA ROBINSON/ISTOCK PHOTO



Rep. Jim Moran

# Assembling the Flock

## Virginia congressman leads powerful coalition for animals

**A prime mover** for animal protection bills in Congress, Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., has fought to ban horse slaughter and protect wild horses, worked to close a loophole in fur labeling, and pushed to improve the treatment of farm animals.

With Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., he cochairs the bipartisan Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, which formed at the start of the 111th Congress and has already proven its mettle in drumming up support for animal-friendly legislation. More than 170 members of the House have cosponsored a measure to close the fur labeling loophole, for example, while more than 340 legislators have signed onto legislation to outlaw obscene animal “crush” videos. Moran recently spoke to *Humane Activist* about the caucus’ role in Congress.

**: The group tracks animal protection issues for its members. Why is this so important?**

**MORAN:** Throughout history, animals have been exploited, abused, and used inappropriately. We try to track what is going on in the commercial industry, in farming, in the pet industry, because there’s a lot of money involved. People are always trying to find ways to avoid regulation, to maximize profit at the expense of animals, and even with animal testing there are better ways oftentimes to test the efficacy of a drug without requiring an animal to suffer, even though it might be a trifle more expensive to use modern technology. We just want to weigh in on the side of the animals who can’t speak for themselves, to see to it that they do have a voice in the legislative process.

**: You recently helped organize a briefing on farm animal welfare. What topics were discussed?**

**MORAN:** We brought out the treatment of sick cows that are nevertheless dragged to slaughter; the way that mother pig sows are treated where they can never move but spend their whole life suckling piglets; the conditions in which chickens never see the light of day, are crammed in their own feces. These are things that people don’t know about and as a result they don’t care about, but when you bring it to their attention—[that] this is the source of the food that is put on the table for us to eat—then they wake up and say, ‘Wait a minute; that can’t be healthy for us, let alone for the animals.’ That’s what we’re trying to bring to people’s attention, that they’re putting too many hormones in livestock for the specific purpose of slaughtering them to

put meat on the table. I don’t think that’s the way nature intended. That stuff is getting into our human systems, and it’s not healthy, and it’s beginning to have, we think, an impact on the health of the human species.

**: What do you think was the outcome of the briefing?**

**MORAN:** The cattle breeders, the pork producers, the chicken producers, these folks who traditionally have, shall we say, very conservative philosophies—they don’t want government to interfere. I think they know that what they’re doing would not withstand the light of scrutiny. If the people who buy the food knew how it was being produced, they’d shy away from buying it, so they’re very averse to scrutiny and they’re very well organized in terms of lobbying. So it’s an ongoing effort. We really have to educate the American public first; that’s our ultimate weapon.

**: Have you found that animal issues overarch any differences the legislators might have?**

**MORAN:** Yes. Elton Gallegly, for example, is very sensitive to animal protection issues, and he’s done a great job on the effort to ban crush videos. There are a number of other Republican members: Ed Whitfield [of Kentucky] cares a great deal about horses, particularly; Mary Bono [of California] cares about the Truth in Fur Labeling Act. So we have the prospect of bipartisanship to a greater degree than we have on other issues. Elton and I are the chairs and we don’t bring things up that are highly controversial. We try to get bipartisan consensus so we can get it through the committees of jurisdiction.



## The Animals’ Orator

*“It is one thing to determine as a culture that it is acceptable to raise and rear and then eat animals. It is another thing to cause them to lead a miserable life of torment, and then to slaughter them in a crude and callous manner. As a civilized society, we owe it to animals to treat them with compassion and humaneness.”*

— SEN. ROBERT BYRD, JULY 2001

**The late Sen. Robert Byrd** butchered hogs while growing up in West Virginia, but later in life came to speak out against the inhumane conditions on factory farms. In this impassioned Senate speech, Byrd lamented the rise of large corporate farms that treat animals as “unfeeling commodities.” He also compared those engaged in animal fighting to the Roman gladiators of yore.

It was one of many anti-cruelty speeches Byrd gave during the last decade of his 58-year congressional career. Inspired by his relationship with his dogs, particularly his beloved Maltese Billy Byrd, he also fought to end the slaughter of American horses and of cows too sick or injured to walk; increase funding to enforce animal protection laws; and challenge the military’s exposure of primates to chemical and biological agents.

Byrd once noted that “animals have nobody but us to speak up for them”—a charge he more than lived up to, leaving a legacy of eloquence on their behalf when he died June 28 at the age of 92. We will greatly miss him.

Susan Mazey (second from right) coordinates weekly protests outside a Phoenix-area shopping mall housing a pet store that sells puppies.



## Power of the Protest

**Susan Mazey** lives in the suburban sprawl of Phoenix, Ariz. Ena Fisher resides in a small town just north of Sacramento, Calif. Though separated by nearly 800 miles, every Saturday the two women leave home with the same purpose—to combat the cruelty of puppy mills.

Their tools of choice are polite education and persistence to persuade pet store owners to stop providing a market for the products of factory-style breeders.

Both Mazey and Fisher do their homework before undertaking a pet store protest. They find out what breeders and brokers the store in question purchases dogs from and check for any vio-

lations issued to those entities by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which enforces compliance with the minimal standards of the Animal Welfare Act. Then, hard facts in hand, they take it to the streets.

Mazey coordinates Peaceful Pet Store Protests, which has camped out every weekend since 2008 in front of pet stores in Scottsdale, a tony suburb dotted with upscale shopping malls. Volunteers display signs and hand out fliers, informing passersby that the high-priced pups for sale were born from the misery of breeding mills.

Protesters stay on public sidewalks and don't engage with belligerent people. Their mission, Mazey emphasizes, is "to educate people about puppy mills and how many dogs are put to sleep each year, and to encourage people to adopt"—not to get into shouting matches with people whose minds aren't likely to be changed.

Mazey's group is currently demonstrating outside Scottsdale's Fashion Square shopping mall, which houses Puppies 'N Love, one in a chain of stores in the area. Two independent pet stores previously targeted by the protesters closed, although putting stores out of business

isn't the goal, Mazey says. The group first contacts the stores' owners, asking for a chance to discuss how their businesses can "go humane" by replacing puppy sales with grooming services, shelter adoption partnerships, and the like.

Mazey made the same offer to the owner of the Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom chain but got no response. So, the protest proceeded, with visible results: banners and signs declaring "No puppy mills, guaranteed" have almost entirely disappeared.

The mere possibility of a protest by Ena Fisher's group, All4Dogs, prompted the owners of the Rocklin Family Pet Shop in Rocklin, Calif., to agree to stop selling puppies and sign The HSUS's Puppy Friendly Pet Store pledge in January.

The conversion to a more humane business model came on the heels of the December closing of a Petland store in nearby Roseville that had been the subject of a year-long protest led by Fisher and The HSUS's California state director, Jennifer Fearing. The group capitalized on the momentum of this victory and informed the owners of the Rocklin store that it would hold an "Adopt, Don't Shop" demonstration unless they agreed to stop selling puppies.

By the time Fisher made the call, community members had inundated the store with phone calls, e-mails, and in-person requests to stop profiting from the cruelty of puppy mills. The Rocklin Family Pet Shop now hosts adoption events with area rescue organizations and has added a self-serve dog wash to replace the revenue previously earned on puppy sales.

In February, All4Dogs began targeting a high-volume pet store in Fair Oaks, where protesters "get a lot of thumbs up from people driving by, people clapping," Fisher says.

Fisher also staffs booths at animal-related events throughout Sacramento, distributing fliers and dispensing truths about the connection between pet stores and puppy mills. "People [thank] us for being out there, agreeing with what we're doing," she says. "... It just feels wonderful that we educated somebody who is now a supporter because of our outreach."



Charlie, adopted from a California shelter, opened Ena Fisher's eyes to "the wonderful animals we can get at our shelters," she says—an awakening that launched her on a path to advocacy.



Sen. Byrd with Trouble



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## [ AYES & NAYS ]



✔ Two recently released reports are increasing public scrutiny of puppy mills—and pressuring government officials to take action against these cruel breeding factories. During a multiyear audit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s kennel inspection program, the USDA **Office of the Inspector General** found lax enforcement of the minimal animal care standards, as well as anemic penalties that did little to improve conditions at mass breeding facilities. These systemic flaws were confirmed in a report by three Missouri offices of the **Better Business Bureau**, which investigated their state’s puppy mills after receiving 350 complaints from consumers, including people who purchased sick puppies. Released in March, the BBB report recommends that officials more aggressively pursue penalties for repeat offenders and that consumers consider adopting pets from shelters.

✘ For more than 40 years, Class B dealers—middlemen who round up animals from a variety of sources and sell them to research facilities—have been plagued by scandal. Investigations have documented mistreatment of animals at dealers’ holding facilities and unsavory acquisition practices, including theft of family pets and fraudulent adoptions. While the number of universities that continue to buy cats and dogs from this shady supply chain has dwindled, **Johns Hopkins University** and **Auburn University** remain two of the biggest users of Class B animals; the schools have persisted in the practice despite pressure to end it. By ignoring the

justified concerns of pet owners and animal advocates, Hopkins and Auburn are belying their reputations as forward-thinking institutions.

✘ Under the guise of teaching viewers how to survive situations that few, if any, are likely to encounter, *Man vs. Wild* television host **Bear Grylls** has acted out some barbaric scenes of violence toward wildlife. “Wandering” on the North Africa coast, Grylls plucked an octopus off a shipwreck and killed the animal with a bite between the eyes. “Stranded” in the Texas desert, he pulled a hapless rattlesnake from its hiding place and smashed the reptile with a rock. “Lost” in a Chinese jungle, he played “bat tennis” for a meal, smoking the sleeping mammals out of a cave, swatting them to the ground, and stomping on them. Grylls, a self-proclaimed lover of the outdoors, ignores the real challenge: learning to respect and coexist peacefully with the wild animals who share our world.



✔ The whales of the world had some high-profile voices speaking up for them in advance of a proposal to allow resumption of commercial whaling. Joining forces with the Save the Whales Now campaign, **Pierce Brosnan** and wife **Keely Shaye Smith** urged President Obama to show leadership by defending the 24-year ban on whaling. Congress also made itself heard on the issue; in a letter cosigned by 15 Senate colleagues,



Sens. **Carl Levin**, D-Mich., and **Susan Collins**, R-Maine, called on the president to require U.S. officials to support upholding the ban at the June meeting of the International Whaling Commission. Rep. **Madeleine Bordallo**, D-Guam, championed the cause in the House, leading 66 colleagues on a similar letter. In its opening statement at the meeting, the U.S. delegation announced it would not support the proposal and noted that whale conservation is “paramount” to the country. The proposal was later withdrawn from the meeting.