

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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On a longline fishing boat off the Galapagos Islands, a concerned biologist working undercover as a cook films a horrifying scene.

As the camera rolls, a blue shark is dragged upside down out of the water, a sharp hook piercing in through the roof of the mouth and out through the side of the face. As the shark tries to wiggle free, fins flapping against the deck, a shirtless man enters the picture.

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HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

The first Tuesday in November marked a big election night for animals. The top priority for animal advocates across the country was Missouri's Proposition B, a ballot initiative to crack down on puppy mill abuses in the nation's top puppy mill state. I watched the election returns with a group of animal welfare supporters at the Humane Society of Missouri animal shelter in St. Louis, and it was a nail-biter. Ultimately, Prop B was approved by a margin of about 61,000 votes, establishing commonsense standards for the care of dogs.

The margin would have likely been much larger if groups like the Missouri Farm Bureau, Lucas Oil Products and Lucas Cattle Company, and Missouri

Veterinary Medical Association had not thrown in their lot with the puppy millers, running a late-breaking, scorched-earth campaign to confuse voters into believing that Prop B was about more than dogs. Fortunately, most Missourians saw through the rhetoric. And if we can beat the puppy millers and their allies on their home turf where they are the most entrenched, it should send a message across the country that dogs deserve to be treated like family pets, not like a cash crop.

In Arizona, we celebrated another victory with the defeat of Proposition 109, which the state legislature referred to the ballot at the National Rifle Association's request. Prop 109 would have blocked future citizen ballot initiatives on wildlife issues and weakened the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and it could have even overturned the 1994 ballot initiative restricting steel-jawed leghold traps and poisons on public lands.

A loss for animals took place in California, where voters rejected Proposition 21, which would have created a stable and adequate source of funding to maintain state parks and beaches and to promote wildlife conservation and habitat protection. And in North Dakota, voters defeated Measure 2, which would have banned the hunting of tame deer and elk trapped inside fenced pens. The measure, which was placed on the ballot by a group of North Dakota hunters who are strong advocates for sportsmanship and fair chase, was defeated due largely to a well-funded campaign by extreme elements of the trophy hunting lobby and commercial wildlife ranching industry.

As for the federal elections, many of the leading animal advocates in Congress were reelected to continue their work in 2011. By mid-November, 248 of 298 House and Senate candidates endorsed by HSLF had been declared winners, with three of those races still pending. HSLF focused much of its efforts on TV ads supporting leading animal protection candidates in five competitive races—Sen. David Vitter, R-La.; Rep. Betty Sutton, D-Ohio; Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va.; Rep. Mary Bono Mack, R-Calif.; and Rep. Gary Peters, D-Mich. All five were victorious. HSLF also campaigned for dozens of other lawmakers who are standing up for animals; in addition to TV ads, we sent mailings, conducted door-to-door canvassing, and mobilized volunteers.

Thank you to all who volunteered, wrote letters, donated, and cast your votes to help achieve these outcomes. It's because of you and your work that the animal protection movement can continue making progress in the political arena.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Soon, he's using a knife to cut into the large pectoral fin on the shark's left side. Another man steps on the right fin, pinning it down as the shark swings its tail in desperation, blood streaming across the deck. A second fin is cut off, then a third and a fourth, the other man now standing atop the struggling shark to hold it down.

Finally, they slice into the throat to retrieve another hook before kicking the shark back into the water. Nearly decapitated, the animal tries to swim off, half-spinning, half-slithering away—another victim of the cruel practice known as shark finning.

"It's like cutting off your limbs and leaving you to bleed to death," says Rebecca Regnery, deputy director of wildlife at Humane Society International. "We don't know how most of them die, but you can guess that they probably either bleed to death or suffocate, because they can't swim, so they're not getting oxygen. Obviously they can't eat, because they can't swim. Or they might get eaten by other sharks. So regardless, it's a pretty inhumane way to die."

Due to the high demand for shark fin soup, particularly in China, tens of millions of sharks meet similar fates each year—from skittish hammerheads to naturally curious silky sharks to ponderous, slow-moving basking sharks.

The practice is not only gruesome but dangerously efficient. Dumping the bodies and leaving the fins to dry on deck frees up freezer space, which fishermen can save for more valuable meats like swordfish and tuna.

Over the last two decades, their spree has been staggering, contributing to population declines as high as 90 and 99 percent in some species in the Gulf of Mexico, for example. The International Union for Conservation of Nature now lists common finning targets like the great hammerhead and scalloped hammerhead as globally endangered, while dusky and oceanic whitetip sharks are considered globally vulnerable.

"The impact has been devastating, not only to sharks, but ... their role in the ecosystem," says Randall Arauz, president of the Costa Rican conservation and research group PRETOMA, which helped open eyes to the

issue by capturing the Galapagos video in September 1997. "... Sharks are high in the food chain, and they control everything underneath them, so any impacts on shark populations will definitely trickle down the food chain."

Such ripple effects have already been generated; along the East Coast of the U.S., for example, fewer sharks mean more skates and rays, who in turn have taken a large bite out of the scallop population.

All this to provide for a luxury menu item, one that's especially popular at weddings and Chinese New Year celebrations. Unbelievably, the fin itself is flavorless; it's used instead for its texture and to symbolize status.

"[Shark finning] has no place in the 21st century," says Susie Watts, who consults for HSI on shark issues from her home in England.

"When I first heard about finning and realized the scale on which it was conducted, I thought to myself: If this were happening on land, if somebody was going around cutting off leopards' paws and just leaving the leopard to bleed to death on the ground—and doing it all over Africa and Asia—there would be an international outcry.

"And yet, at that time [in 1998], very few people were remotely concerned about shark finning,

which seemed to me to be a case of 'out of sight, out of mind.'"

Over the last decade, though, the outcry for sharks has grown louder. And in a monumental victory this past May, Hawaii became the first state to ban the possession, sale, and distribution of shark fins.

Congress technically banned shark finning in 2000, but the legislation has loopholes. For starters, fishermen are still allowed to have a limited number of separated fins onboard, if the rest of the animal isn't dumped back overboard to die. But the measure can be hard to enforce and leaves plenty of room for cheating.

The HSLF-supported Shark Conservation Act would close such loopholes. The federal bill has passed the House twice only to be held up in the Senate, though it has bipartisan support there and has won approval in committee. The bill would force fishermen to bring sharks to port with their fins still attached—a requirement that advocates hope would, by virtue of freezer space alone, finally provide some real limits to their haul.

"It's very sad to know that we are contributing to the demise of one of the greatest animals in history," says HSI campaign manager Iris Ho, herself a Taiwanese American. "It's shocking, it's embarrassing, and I just know we have to stop it. And I just honestly think that if Chinese people, if we are contributing to the problem, then the solution is also with us.

"We have to stop it."

BILL BOX

WHAT IT IS: Shark Conservation Act (H.R. 81/S. 850)

WHAT IT DOES: Requires that fishermen land sharks with their fins still attached and closes other loopholes in the 2000 shark finning law.

SPONSORS: Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, D-Guam; Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

HOW TO HELP: Contact your legislators and ask them to cosponsor the act and help it win final Senate approval. To identify your lawmakers, call 202-676-2314 or visit 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 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.

To see how a legislator voted on an animal issue, check out our Humane Scoreboard at hslf.org.

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



Great Ape Protection Act

H.R. 1326 / S. 3694

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. / Sens. Cantwell, D-Wash.; Collins, R-Maine; Sanders, I-Vt.

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 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

COMPANION ANIMALS



Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act

H.R. 5566: Awaiting president's signature into law / S. 3841

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.



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

WILDLIFE



Captive Primate Safety Act

H.R. 80: Passed 323-95; passed Senate committee / S. 462

Crane Conservation Act

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

Great Cats and Rare Canids Act

H.R. 411: Passed 290-118
S. 529: Passed committee

Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Amendments

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

Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act

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

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalties

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

Protect America's Wildlife Act

H.R. 3381 / S. 1535

Python Importation

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

Restore Our American Mustangs Act

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

Shark Conservation Act

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

Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act

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

Truth in Fur Labeling Act

H.R. 2480: Passed House by voice vote / S. 1076

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.

To support and fund conservation programs for cranes.

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

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

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

To provide grants for marine mammal rescue and disentanglement efforts.

Sponsors: Rep. Young, R-Alaska / Sen. Cantwell, D-Wash.

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

To strengthen penalties for intentionally killing or wounding protected migratory birds in an aggravated manner.

Sponsors: Rep. DeFazio, D-Ore. / Sen. Merkley, D-Ore.

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.

To ban interstate commerce in and importation of pythons.

Sponsors: Reps. Meek, D-Fla.; Rooney, R-Fla. / Sen. Nelson, D-Fla.

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.

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.

To establish a recovery program for the Southern sea otter, whose population is in steep decline, jeopardizing an entire ecosystem.

Sponsors: Rep. Farr, D-Calif. / Sen. Boxer, D-Calif.

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.; Collins, R-Maine



OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP: IVAN TYKHIVISTOCK; MANUFOTOLIA; CYNALAWRENCE/ISTOCK; ZAVYFOTOLIA. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: PETER OXFORD/MINDEN PICTURES; MEDIA BAKERY; RUSSELL LUGSTOCK; MAXXISTOCK; LAURI SIRRU



Soy Happy founder Johanna McCloy shows off a pair of veggie dogs at a baseball game in San Francisco.

The seeds for Soy Happy were planted at Dodger Stadium in 2000, as McCloy walked the entire ballpark in search of a vegetarian entrée. Something, anything, beyond an order of fries.

She never found it.

“I came home feeling really disappointed and defeated, because I saw the thousands and thousands and thousands of fans, and I saw that they were all buying food, and I thought, ‘This just isn’t right,’” McCloy says. She also found herself unable to reconcile the images of cheering fans eating hot dogs with thoughts of pigs suffering on factory farms—especially knowing that other options were available.

And so she began researching the rising demand for meat alternatives. She relayed her findings to ballpark concession managers and offered her assistance in adding menu items. She also reached out to vegetarian, environmental, health, and even sports groups, telling them about Soy Happy and providing easy links to contact their local baseball teams. Teams like the Chicago White Sox, who were the first to respond, and the San Francisco Giants, for whom she selected the veggie dog now offered at AT&T Park.

Covering All Bases

Advocate works to bring meatless options to ballparks

The photo is tucked away in an album somewhere, preserving what at first glance would seem to be a typical summer scene.

Johanna McCloy is sitting in a crowd of baseball fans, wearing a green cap, taking a bite out of what appears to be standard stadium fare.

But then, there are also tears in her eyes. And beneath the ketchup-, mustard-, and relish-topped meal in her hand is a bit of culinary history: the first veggie hot dog ever served at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

“I had a friend who was taking pictures, and I was bawling,” she recalls of that scene nine years ago. “So, it was not pretty, and I did not put it up on my website. I was like, ‘This is too personal.’”

For comedic value, McCloy says “personal” with a dramatic, on-the-brink-of-tears inflection. It’s a telling line, both for the bright personality that shines through with her humor, and because her 10-year campaign has indeed been a very personal pursuit.

A writer, editor, and actress based in Berkeley, Calif., McCloy is the founder and director of Soy Happy, which works to bring vegetarian options to menus at Major League Baseball stadiums and beyond. To date, 23 stadiums offer a meatless answer to the old ballpark hot dog—thanks in large part to McCloy’s work, which is largely self-financed and done alone.

“It’s doing the best I can to alleviate [animal] suffering and hopefully steer more fans in a healthier and more compassionate direction,” she says.

“Quite frankly,” says Sandie Filipiak, director of concessions for the Centerplate company at the San Francisco stadium, “I’ve actually had people call me and e-mail me and say, ‘It’s the best veggie dog I’ve ever had. What’s the brand?’”

Asked what stands out about working with McCloy, she adds: “Just the enthusiasm and the overall camaraderie. Like, immediately, ‘I’m here to do whatever I can for you.’ ... It just makes you want to work with her.”

Emphasizing that positive, cooperative approach—the “Soy” in Soy Happy refers to both the food and the Spanish wording for “I am”—McCloy has also worked to find nondairy cheese alternatives for pizzerias. She’s consulted for hot dog vendors and college dining halls, for a spa in Sonoma and a little country store on Venice Beach.

“I try to find ways to make it as fun, and as marketable, and as popular in sales as I can,” McCloy says. “So I’m trying to help everyone. Because it is a business, and it’s great to offer an item to those who want it, but if the item isn’t selling, then the business is hurting for it. ... I try to be like the happy in-between person who makes everyone content.”

Such was the feeling in 2001—back at Dodger Stadium, surrounded by friends—as she took a bite out of the jumbo veggie dog she had worked to make available.

“It was the most empowering experience that I’ve ever had, without a doubt,” says McCloy. “... The key is that people need to realize that the five minutes they take to chime in matter.”



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AYES & NAYS

✔ More help might finally be on the horizon for Tennessee walking horses whose trainers persist in the illegal practice of sor-ing: causing pain to horses' legs or hooves in an effort to exaggerate their high-stepping gait and thus gain an unfair advantage in shows. In a recent audit, the **USDA's Office of Inspector General** recommended that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service abolish its current inspection program, citing the inconsistencies, conflicts of interest, and other shortcomings that come from allowing horse industry organizations to hire their own inspectors. **APHIS** agreed and will now work to incorporate several of the inspector general's suggestions, including hiring, training, and licensing independent inspectors.



✘ **Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter** has been playing politics with his state's beleaguered population of approximately 850 gray wolves. In August, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy restored protections to wolves in Idaho and Montana, after the federal government had illegally removed the animals from the endangered species list in those states while they were still protected in neighboring Wyoming. The ruling forced both states to cancel public hunts that since 2009 had killed 260 wolves, including radio-collared members of Yellowstone's famous Cottonwood Pack who were crucial to ongoing research efforts. Two months later, Otter responded by halting his state's role in protecting wolves under the Endangered Species Act, which included duties such as monitoring the animals, investigating illegal killings, and enforcing poaching laws. The governor had unsuccessfully insisted on giving state managers more power to kill wolves who prey on elk, moose, or deer—species that are popular targets of hunters. In a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Otter wrote that he didn't

want Idaho residents, "especially sportsmen," to subsidize the ESA management program. His move comes on the heels of a federal bill introduced by **Idaho's senators, Jim Risch and Mike Crapo**, attempting to exempt the state's wolves from the protections restored by Molloy's order.

✔ In a move that could spare the lives of at least 200 dogs and sheep each year, the **Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph** announced it would

revise its curriculum to eliminate terminal surgeries, in which animals are operated on, only to be euthanized after the procedures. Effective this semester, students now practice on cadavers and perform supervised surgeries to help live animals, such as spaying and neutering shelter pets. As is often the case with policy changes that benefit animals, the decision brings perks for people as well: "The new approach is an ethical and practical solution that saves money and provides students with the latest educational technology," said Dr. Erika Sullivan, a 2005 graduate who worked with administrators on the changes.

✔ In an appalling act of cruelty, a 19-year-old California man allegedly hacked an opossum 44 times with a meat cleaver, killing the animal in front of neighborhood children. He then posted video of the incident on his Facebook page. The **Nevada County District Attorney's Office** worked with the **San Diego Humane Society and SPCA** to make an arrest in the case; Carter Livingston now faces a felony charge of animal cruelty, with the possibility of three years in jail. As **District Attorney Clifford Newell** told ABC News, "The degree of cruelty exhibited by the defendant in the video tape is what . . . made it a felony—his apparent callous disregard for the life, the torture, of the animal."