

Heroes & Zeroes

HEROES

With annual revenues in excess of \$700 million, online retailer **Overstock.com** dropped a bombshell on the fur industry this summer by announcing it will no longer sell products containing real animal fur. The Salt Lake City-based company made history by becoming the 100th on a list of retailers and designers that The HSUS's Fur-Free Campaign has persuaded to ditch this cruel commodity. Overstock.com chairman and CEO **Patrick Byrne** says that after speaking with The HSUS, he realized that the fur industry treats animals like decorative objects. "Gandhi said of all social movements: 'First they ignore you. Then they laugh at you. Then they fight you. Then you win,'" Byrne says. "I think the adoption of a fur-free policy by a number of major brands has shifted the fight into the third phase." With compassionate leaders like Byrne leading the charge, advocates of fur-bearing animals have cause to hope the final chapter is at hand.

Actor **Clint Eastwood** is known for his early roles as Dirty Harry and Josey Wales, renegades and outlaws who needed their firearms to survive. But life doesn't imitate art for the four-time Academy Award-winner. In reality, this Hollywood tough guy has a softer view about animals and doesn't believe in hunting. In a recent interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Eastwood commented on a politician who had spoken about "bagging a

bird." "I was thinking, 'The poor duck; what the hell did she do that for?'" Eastwood said. "I don't go for hunting. I just don't like killing creatures." In this day of rampant trophy hunting, captive shooting, and poaching, wild animals everywhere could use a champion like Eastwood on their side.



When members of the public urged the state of Indiana en masse to ban the sale of coyotes to wildlife penning operations, the **Indiana Natural Resources Commission** responded by banning coyote trafficking for seven months of the year (although the practice will continue during the state's coyote hunting and trapping season). Of the 1,900 comments the NRC received regarding the proposed ban, most supported it and many wanted to see it pass as a year-round measure. As NRC hearing officer Sandra Jensen noted, "certain of these running pens are involved in the unsavory practice of allowing the chasing

dogs to kill the coyote by tearing it apart limb from limb. ... The [Department of Natural Resources] and the NRC would be remiss in their responsibility to protect [the state's] wildlife if [they] were to continue allowing the sale of live coyotes." The animals are trapped in Indiana and shipped to wildlife pens in other states, so the ban has national implications for shutting down this sick "sport" for good.

ZEROES

After the Helena-West Helena, Ark., animal shelter had deteriorated into a state of despair, the city's mayor thought the best thing he could do for the dogs there was to set them free. So, **James F. Valley** saw that at least 10 dogs being kept in the crowded, makeshift shelter were released near the St. Francis National Forest. According to news reports, a local rescue group recovered four of the dogs, and individuals found and took in at least three others. Another three dogs were shot and killed when they showed up in a resident's yard. Valley has since been arrested on animal cruelty charges—only a misdemeanor in Arkansas—but insists that he didn't break any laws. Hindsight is 20/20: Following public outcry when news of his shortsighted actions broke, Valley talked about raising money for a proper animal shelter—a much more humane and effective solution, albeit too late for the abandoned dogs who lost their lives. ■

Humane Activist

THE GRASSROOTS AGENDA OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND

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Taking the Initiative

To huge industrial farming giants obsessed with cutting corners, the welfare of the tens of thousands of animals crammed into a single building is barely an afterthought.

This November, California voters will have the chance to send a message about this institutionalized cruelty. Proposition 2 on the statewide ballot (the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act) could free some 20 million animals trapped in a living hell. The proposed law would ban tiny crates and cages where pigs are confined in spaces so tight they can't turn around, egg-laying hens have less room than a sheet of paper, and veal calves are tethered to the spot. A successful "yes" vote on Prop 2 would ease the torment of these abused animals so they have enough room to stand up, lie down, turn around, and extend their limbs.

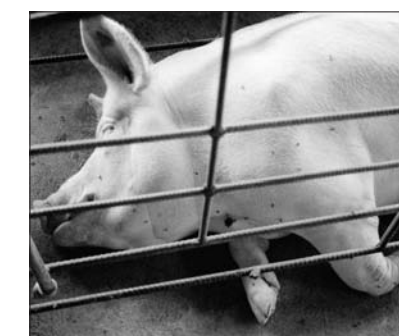
Nearly 800,000 Californians signed their names to petitions that more than 4,000 volunteers helped circulate. That volunteer army

(which is growing every day) is working around the clock to shepherd Prop 2 over the finish line.

California isn't the first state to weigh in on the cruelty of intensive confinement. In 2004, Florida voters banned gestation crates for breeding pigs, and in 2006, Arizona voters went a step further, banning veal crates as well. Influenced by these results, the largest pork and veal producers in the U.S. said they would phase out the crates over the next decade, and state lawmakers in Colorado and Oregon passed landmark legislation phasing out the confinement of farm animals in crates.

Because California is the largest farming state, passage of Prop 2 could take these reforms to the next level, generating even more national response. "No ballot measure ever advanced has promised to relieve so much suffering and pain," says Wayne Pacelle, executive vice president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF). *continued on page 6*

BALLOT INITIATIVES AT A GLANCE



PREVENTION OF FARM ANIMAL CRUELTY ACT

State: California

Number: Proposition 2

What It Does: Requires that certain animals confined on industrial farms have enough room to freely turn around and extend their limbs

How to Vote: Yes

On the Web: YesonProp2.com



GREYHOUND PROTECTION ACT

State: Massachusetts

Number: Question 3

What It Does: Phases out commercial dog racing in Massachusetts by 2010

How to Vote: Yes

On the Web: protectdogs.org

Get Connected

Join the web of change HSLF is generating for animals—link up with us on social networking sites MySpace and Facebook. Find out how you can help the latest efforts to get political for animals, learn about the importance of the political process in promoting a more humane society, and download graphics so you can spread the word on your own sites. Visit myspace.com/hslf for a look at HSLF's MySpace page; from there, you can link to the Facebook page.



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Dear Friends,

On Nov. 4, animal protection issues will appear on the ballot from coast to coast, giving voters the chance to help farm animals in California and protect dogs in Massachusetts (see cover story). No matter where you live, you can make a difference for animals this election by choosing candidates who support animal protection policies.

While HSLF is backing both Democratic and Republican congressional candidates, we have endorsed Barack Obama and Joe Biden as the best presidential ticket for animals. As leaders for animal protection in the U.S. Senate, they would bring a humane sensibility to the White House. While John McCain has sometimes supported animal issues, Sarah Palin has one of the worst records imaginable in this arena. Her policies in Alaska have targeted wolves and bears through aerial hunting, sought to remove protections for threatened polar bears, and essentially waged all-out war on the state's wildlife.

In Congress, HSLF is working to re-elect animal welfare champions facing some of the country's most contested races. We hope to bring leaders from both parties back to Washington for the 111th Congress, such as Sens. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), as well as Reps. Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) and Chris Shays (R-Conn.).

We're also working to defeat some of the worst enemies of animal welfare, such as Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Mich.), who has opposed efforts to halt some of the cruelest forms of animal abuse: the slaughter of horses for foreign consumption; the processing of animals too sick or injured to walk to slaughter and who pose a greater threat of spreading "mad cow disease;" the killing of threatened Arctic polar bears by wealthy American hunters; the shooting of bears lured by piles of grease and doughnuts left in national forests and on other federal lands; the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and wire neck snares on national wildlife refuges; and the drowning of dolphins in tuna nets.

Although he claims to be a fiscal conservative, Knollenberg voted to use tax dollars to promote elephant trophy hunting in Africa, prop up the luxury mink coat industry, and pay ranchers to kill predators with cruel traps and poisons. He also sought to defund enforcement of the federal animal fighting law—the same law used to break up Michael Vick's dogfighting ring.

To pass humane laws, we must elect humane lawmakers. For the dozens of open seats in this election, HSLF is reviewing the animal protection records of the contenders, and we'll be making endorsements. You're invited to spread the word to animal-friendly voters. Visit our website at hslf.org, and my blog at animalsandpolitics.org, for the full list of recommendations and up-to-the-minute news on the hottest races.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund

Reining in Horse Slaughter

In the past year, the last three horse abattoirs in the U.S. have closed because of state laws outlawing horse slaughter, and the U.S. Supreme Court has denied appeals to keep the plants open. But due to the lack of a federal policy on the issue, American horses are still being shipped over national borders and slaughtered for human consumption at plants in Mexico and Canada. In fact, more horses have gone to slaughter this year than had by this time last year.

The long journey is a nightmare from start to finish. Pregnant mares, foals, and injured and even blind horses are packed into double-decker trailers where they are exposed to the elements and deprived of food, water, and rest. When they arrive at the foreign slaughterhouses, they are often improperly stunned and still conscious when they are hung by their legs to have their throats slashed. Their meat is then shipped to countries like France and Japan where some consider the flesh to be a delicacy.

With the introduction of a new federal bill—H.R. 6598, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008—an end to the nightmare is finally in sight. Horse advocates are optimistic about the bill's potential: It was authored by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee (where a hearing has already been held), along with Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), the lead Republican on the legislation.

Similar to the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act—H.R. 503/S. 311, a previous attempt at legislation that passed the House in the 109th Congress but has stalled in the current session—the new bill prohibits anyone from knowingly possessing, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or receiving horses to slaughter for human consumption. The bill brings enforcement under the purview of law enforcement authorities, rather than agriculture officials, and creates a strong deterrent for "killer buyers," who outbid good homes at auctions to purchase truckloads of horses and ship them to their deaths. At press time, advocates and lawmakers were working hard to pass this legislation before Congress adjourned. Check hslf.org for updates.

—Horse Slaughter Bill—

Bill Name: Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008

Bill No.: H.R. 6598

Sponsors: U.S. Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Dan Burton (R-Ind.)

Position: Support

Status: Introduced in the House; referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

— Act Now —

YOUR STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS NEED TO HEAR FROM you on these and other animal protection issues. Look up your legislators by visiting hslf.org/leglookup or calling HSLF at 202-676-2314.



An HSUS undercover camera captured the panicked last moments of this horse entering a Mexico slaughter plant.

THE HSUS

Cleaning Up Puppy Mills

This past November, following an extensive HSUS investigation into Virginia puppy mills, rescuers saved nearly 1,000 dogs from a mass commercial dog breeder in a rural part of the state. The dogs were found packed into filthy cages, wallowing in waste, and denied clean water and access to adequate veterinary care. Eight months later in Tennessee, The HSUS led the rescue of more than 700 animals from a similarly squalid facility. And in August, nearly 1,000 more dogs were extracted from a Parkersburg, W.Va., mass breeding facility. In the middle of it all, an April episode of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* revealed to an audience of millions the disturbing truths behind puppy mills.

Animal advocates have been working to shut down puppy mills for decades, but these developments have helped vault the issue onto the agenda in state capitols nationwide. Most puppy mills are not technically illegal; breeders can keep huge numbers of dogs in cages for their entire lives, with no socialization or human interaction, and simply treat the animals like a cash crop. But bills recently passed or introduced in several states seek to curb the worst abuses, providing a crucial piece of the puzzle in combating this cruel industry.

In May, the Virginia legislature overwhelmingly passed a law backed by HSLF to keep commercial dog breeders from holding more than 50 adult dogs in a single facility. And in July, Louisiana passed a law limiting individuals and businesses to no more than 75 breeding dogs over the age of 1 year. These are modest steps, but it's the first time states have capped the number of dogs who can be confined in these factories.

In "the puppy mill capital of the East," Pennsylvania legislators are considering a bill to improve conditions for thousands of dogs in the state's 650 commercial kennels. A related bill would effectively prohibit puppy mill operators from performing certain surgeries, such as cutting the dogs' vocal cords, a common practice at puppy mills to stop the animals from barking. And animal lovers in Tennessee and West Virginia are hoping the recent developments spur lawmakers to introduce tougher legislation against puppy mills.

When Bitter Is Sweet

After someone fed a toxic stew of onions, rawhide, and sweet-tasting but fatal antifreeze to dogs Sam and Jessie, the beloved friends of 11-year-old Haley Ham were soon fighting for their lives. Just a teaspoon of antifreeze can be fatal, and each year hundreds of children and thousands of animals are accidentally or deliberately poisoned by it.

Help for Sam and Jessie didn't arrive in time to save their lives, but Haley, of Sevierville, Tenn., soon embarked on a mission to protect other animals and children who might be lured to drink this sweet poison. At the time, six states—Arizona, California, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington—had enacted laws requiring that all antifreeze and engine coolant sold in the state include a bittering agent. Haley made it her goal to make Tennessee the seventh.

She won the support of state Sen. Raymond Finney (R-8), who took up the cause with gusto as a key sponsor. State Rep. Janis Sontany (D-53) sponsored the bill in the House. In June, Haley joined Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) in Nashville to help sign The Haley Ham Act (H.B. 2808/S.B. 2399) into law.

The victory was bittersweet for Haley, as it came too late for Sam and Jessie. But she hopes her success is a model for similar legislation

At the local level, city or county ordinances can be just as effective. Laws in some municipalities regarding kennel permits, licensing, shelter, and inspections are so strict that they effectively prohibit puppy mills. For animal advocates looking to bring regulations to their hometowns, The HSUS's state directors can provide guidance and model ordinances; for contact information, visit humaneociety.org/about_us, then click on "Offices & Affiliates."

—Puppy Mill Bills—

State: Pennsylvania

Bill No.: H.B. 2525

Sponsor: Rep. James Casorio (D-56)

What It Does: Establishes requirements for food and water, shelter, vet care, and housing for dogs in commercial kennels; prohibits stacking of wire cages containing dogs over the age of 12 weeks; and requires increased space and vet care for breeding dogs

Position: Support

Status: Passed the House

State: Pennsylvania

Bill No.: H.B. 2532

Sponsor: Rep. Thomas R. Caltagirone (D-127)

What It Does: Prohibits tail docking of dogs over 3 days old, debarking, and surgical births unless performed under anesthesia by a veterinarian

Position: Support

Status: Passed the House

hslf.org: State Legislation: Puppy Mill Laws

throughout the country, including pending bills in New Jersey and Ohio.

"I'm happy about the [Tennessee] act becoming a law; it's what I worked so hard for," says Haley, now 12. "But I want to see it become a law in every state."

—Antifreeze Bills—

State: Ohio

Bill No.: H.B. 38

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Skindell (D-13)

Position: Support

Status: Introduced

State: New Jersey

Bill No.: A. 1577; S. 979

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Van Drew (D-1) and Assemblywoman Joan Voss (D-38)

Position: Support

Status: Passed Assembly; introduced in Senate

hslf.org: State Legislation



The death of Haley Ham's canine companions (including Sam, shown) inspired her mission to prevent antifreeze poisoning of children and animals.

GINNIE HAM



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. HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office.

HSLF was formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). As a (c)(4) organization, we can spend an unlimited amount of our income on lobbying work—helping to level the playing field for animals. We may not be able to match our opponents dollar for dollar, but we will be more aggressive and more effective.

By contributing to HSLE, you can be a part of the animal protection movement's new lobbying and political force.

Contributions or gifts to the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF) are not tax deductible. Your donation may be used for lobbying to pass laws to protect animals, as well as for political purposes, such as supporting or opposing candidates. HSLF does not accept contributions from business corporations or labor organizations.

Humane Activist
THE GRASSROOTS AGENDA OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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Legislative Lineup provides a sample of HSLF-supported animal protection bills before the U.S. Congress. It's vital that you call, write, e-mail or fax your legislators to let them know your views. Your input will help get your senators and representative to focus on animal issues.

For more specific information on an issue, go to hslf.org or call 202-676-2314.

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.

When communicating with your legislators, give the bill number (if available) *and* the name of the bill or issue. Be polite, brief, and to the point.

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

Call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121 to reach your legislators. To find out who your legislators are and how to reach them directly, go to hslf.org/leglookup or call 202-676-2314.

Please note: Since the anthrax contamination of some congressional office buildings, regular mail to members of Congress is significantly delayed. Telephone calls, e-mails, and faxed letters are the best ways to contact your legislators about pending bills.

Key

- ◆ **No bill number yet**
- ◇ **We expect this legislator to sponsor this bill**

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

Bill/Issue	Bill #	Purpose and Sponsors	Status
Animals in Research			
ANIMAL WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY IMPROVEMENT ACT	HR 2193	To ban the use of animals in medical sales demos, increase fines for AWA violations, and require annual reports on AWA enforcement efforts. Sponsors: Reps. Israel (D-NY), Doyle (D-PA), Kirk (R-IL)	Increased fines enacted in Farm Bill
GREAT APE PROTECTION ACT	HR 5852	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. Sponsors: Reps. Towns (D-NY), Reichert (R-WA), Langevin (D-RI), Bartlett (R-MD)	Introduced
PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION ACT	HR 1280 S 714	To prohibit the sale of dogs and cats from random source "Class B" animal dealers for research. Sponsors: Reps. Doyle (D-PA), Israel (D-NY), English (R-PA); Sen. Akaka (D-HI)	Passed House and Senate but dropped in final Farm Bill
Companion Animals			
AMERICAN HORSE SLAUGHTER PREVENTION ACT	HR 503 S 311	To prohibit the trade and transport of horses and horseflesh for human consumption. Sponsors: Reps. Schakowsky (D-IL), Whitfield (R-KY), Spratt (D-SC), Rahall (D-WV); Sens. Landrieu (D-LA), Ensign (R-NV)	Passed Senate committee; defunding language enacted in PL 110-161
DOG AND CAT FUR PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT	HR 891	To require the accurate labeling of all fur products and ban the sale of fur from raccoon dogs. Sponsors: Reps. Moran (D-VA), Ferguson (R-NJ)	Introduced
PREVENTION OF EQUINE CRUELTY ACT OF 2008	HR 6598	To prohibit knowing possession, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or receiving of a horse for slaughter for human consumption. Sponsors: Reps. Conyers (D-MI), Burton (R-IN)	House subcommittee hearing
Cruelty Issues			
ANIMAL CRUELTY CRIME REPORTING	HR 6597 S 2439	To require the federal government to collect data on animal cruelty crimes. Sponsors: Reps. Conyers (D-MI), Gallegly (R-CA); Sen. Menendez (D-NJ)	House subcommittee hearing
DOG FIGHTING	HR 3219 HR 3327 S 1880	To strengthen federal penalties against dogfighting and make it a felony to knowingly possess, breed, or train dogs for fighting. Sponsors: Reps. Sutton (D-OH), Gallegly (R-CA), Blumenauer (D-OR); Sen. Kerry (D-MA)	Similar provisions covering all animal fighting enacted in Farm Bill
Farm Animals			
DOWNED ANIMAL AND FOOD SAFETY PROTECTION ACT	HR 661 S 394	To end the use of nonambulatory livestock in human food and require that "downed" animals be immediately and humanely euthanized at slaughter facilities. Sponsors: Reps. Ackerman (D-NY), LaTourette (R-OH); Sen. Akaka (D-HI)	Rule pending to close loophole allowing slaughter of downed cattle
DOWNED ANIMAL ENFORCEMENT ACT	S 2770	To ban the slaughter of downed livestock and establish stricter penalties for violations of the downer ban and humane slaughter law. Sponsors: Sens. Feinstein (D-CA), Stevens (R-AK)	Introduced
FARM ANIMAL STEWARDSHIP PURCHASING ACT	HR 1726	To require that suppliers of farm animal products to federal programs meet basic animal welfare standards. Sponsors: Reps. DeFazio (D-OR), Shays (R-CT)	Introduced
FOOD SAFETY RECALL INFORMATION ACT	HR 5762	To require the release of the names of retailers and school districts that purchased recalled meat, poultry, or egg products and to ban the slaughter of downed livestock. Sponsor: Rep. DeLauro (D-CT)	Introduced
Wildlife			
BEAR PROTECTION ACT	HR 3029 ◆	To prohibit the import, export, and interstate trade of bear gall bladders. Sponsors: Reps. Grijalva (D-AZ), Campbell (R-CA); Sen. Boxer (D-CA) ◇	House subcommittee hearing
CANADIAN SEALS	HR 427 S Res 118	To urge Canada to end its commercial seal hunt. Sponsors: Reps. Lantos (D-CA), Shays (R-CT), Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Sens. Levin (D-MI), Collins (R-ME), Biden (D-DE)	Passed House by unanimous vote
CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT	HR 2964 S 1498	To prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade. Sponsors: Reps. Johnson (D-TX), Kirk (R-IL); Sens. Boxer (D-CA), Vitter (R-LA)	Passed House by 302-96 vote; passed Senate committee
COMPUTER-ASSISTED REMOTE HUNTING ACT	HR 2711 S 2422	To prohibit remote-controlled hunting, in which computer users can aim and fire a weapon to kill captive wildlife hundreds of miles away. Sponsors: Reps. Sherman (D-CA), Davis (R-VA); Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI)	Introduced
POLAR BEAR PROTECTION ACT	HR 2327 S 1406	To prohibit the import of sport-hunted polar bear trophies. Sponsors: Reps. Inslee (D-WA), LoBiondo (R-NJ); Sens. Kerry (D-MA), Snowe (R-ME), Reed (D-RI)	Endangered Species Act listing bars imports
WILD HORSES AND BURROS	HR 249	To restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. Sponsors: Reps. Rahall (D-WV), Whitfield (R-KY)	Passed House by 277-137 vote

Taking the Initiative

continued from page 1

A RACE FOR THEIR LIVES

In Massachusetts this November, voters will have the chance to rule on another abusive industry: greyhound racing. A measure to ban racing was defeated in 2000 by the narrowest of margins (a minuscule 2 percent), and in 2006, a lawsuit knocked the measure off the ballot at the last minute. This year, animal advocates are trying again—and are more revved up than ever as they seek passage of Question 3 (the Greyhound Protection Act), which would eliminate commercial dog racing in the state by 2010.



As in California, the vote carries broad implications. With dwindling attendance and profit margins, dog tracks in the 15 states where racing is legal are part of a dying industry. A victory on Question 3 would help to phase out the cruel practice and save dogs from inhumane treatment. At the state's two tracks, dogs are caged for 20 hours or more a day, and state records show that more than 800 greyhounds have been injured in six years. Traces of cocaine given as a stimulant have even been found in the dogs.

"Until we end dog racing, greyhounds will continue to suffer," says Christine Dorchak, co-chairwoman of the Committee to Protect Dogs, a coalition of groups working on the initiative. "These dogs are exploited for their speed and kept in tiny cages, and they face uncertain futures if they survive the racing."

A WINNING STRATEGY

The Humane Society of the United States has launched dozens of ballot initiatives since 1990 and has won victories more than two-thirds of the time—measures that banned cockfighting, factory farm abuses, cruel traps and poisons, and inhumane trophy hunting practices. This strategy has allowed voters to make a difference for animals when lawmakers refuse to heed constituents' wishes.

"State legislatures are often held captive by special interest groups—such as the agribusiness and trophy hunting lobbies—that are out of step with the views of the public," says HSLF president Michael Markarian.

Activists may feel daunted by the prospect of going up against these special interests to make their case. But in two states this election season, they can take matters into their own hands—and bring a measure of comfort to millions of suffering animals. "When voters have the opportunity to make animal welfare laws through direct democracy," Markarian says, "they usually side with common-sense humane reforms." ■



At The HSUS's Taking Action for Animals 2008, Rep. Blumenauer told activists they are the most powerful unsung voice in the public policy arena today.

When it comes to leadership on animal protection issues in the U.S. Congress, few can match the record of Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), The HSUS/HSLF 2007 Humane Legislator of the Year. He has been an outstanding ally on efforts such as ending animal fighting, increasing funding for enforcement of key animal welfare laws, stopping the abuse of downer livestock, and enabling people to establish trusts for the long-term care of their pets. In this excerpted interview, he spoke with *Humane Activist* about his work on Capitol Hill.

WHY DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH ANIMAL ADVOCATES?

These are people who care deeply; they aren't doing this because it's going to result in a year-end bonus or more money. Animal advocates are becoming very effective in being spokespeople, in building alliances, [doing] the research, and frankly, being able to help the public understand the bigger picture. It's exciting to see that even some of the largest corporations that have been aiding and abetting some of the most brutal inhumane treatment of animals are starting to pull back.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE ANIMAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT PLAY IN THE POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS?

Some of these strategic ballot measures—for instance, about hunting practices, about treatment of farm animals—these are potentially game-changing because they give the animal welfare community an opportunity to organize and to show both their passion and their effectiveness, as well as the logic of what they're proposing. I think it's one of the most important dimensions in the political process today.

The other thing that has been so significant is demonstrating that animal welfare advocates will remember these issues at the polls. These initiative victories and defeating people who have been apologists for animal abuse have been stunning. [Rep. Richard] Pombo [former House Natural Resources Committee chairman, defeated in the 2006 election for a deplorable record on animal and environmental issues] is not chairing that committee in no small part because animal welfare and environmental interests just held him accountable.

HOW HAVE YOU WORKED TO EDUCATE YOUR COLLEAGUES ON ANIMAL ISSUES?

We've tried to zero in on a few simple elements. The animal fighting bill is one of the best examples. You have to build the broad picture; you have to reach out to other allies in law enforcement, in animal health and welfare. Tying the connections to violence, drugs, illegal gambling helped broaden the circle of people who were concerned.

There's virtually no one that we cannot engage. They may not be our friend on everything, but I think that we've reached the point that it's only the most recalcitrant, determined foe that can't work with us on one or two items. And this to me is extraordinarily exciting because that's how we'll weave together the coalition for broader achievement. I think it also just makes for a healthier political process. ■

Farm Bill Finale

The massive Farm Bill sets five-year policies and funding for crop subsidies and a range of agricultural issues. But it also includes animal-related programs under the authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, from slaughterhouses to research facilities. Thanks to support from Agriculture Committee leaders—Reps. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and Robert Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Sens. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.)—the Farm Bill approved this summer contains several HSLF priorities and key victories for animals.

- **Puppy imports:** Any dog imported to the U.S. for commercial sale must be at least 6 months old and deemed healthy prior to entry. The law will curb the import of puppies for commercial sale from foreign puppy mills and ensure that young, unweaned, and unvaccinated puppies are not forced to endure harsh long-distance transport. *Sponsored by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Reps. Sam Farr (D-Calif.), Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), and Terry Everett (R-Ala.)*

- **Animal fighting:** The Farm Bill makes it a crime to knowingly possess or train animals for fighting and increases the penalty for animal fighting offenses from a maximum three years in prison to a maximum five years. In contrast to previous law, which required prosecutors to prove that animals had moved across state lines, prosecutors can now act on other evidence of interstate commerce, such as equipment sales, financing, and website marketing. *Sponsored by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Reps. Betty Sutton (D-Ohio), Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), and Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) with key support from House and Senate Judiciary Committee chairs John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)*



- **Animal Welfare Act violations:** Fines for AWA violations at research laboratories, puppy mills, circuses, and other federally regulated facilities were quadrupled to a maximum \$10,000. The penalties hadn't been upgraded for more than 20 years, and a 2005 internal audit found that violators considered them to be a cost of doing business rather than a deterrent. *Sponsored by Reps. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.) and Mike Doyle (D-Pa.)*

One animal-friendly provision was approved by both chambers but didn't make it into the final bill: a ban on animal dealers who acquire dogs and cats from "random sources," which can include pet theft. Some such dealers keep animals in horrendous conditions before selling them to research facilities. The Pet Safety and Protection Act, H.R. 1280 and S. 714, which would ensure that research dogs and cats are legally obtained, remains pending before Congress. ■



Marlton (N.J.) Middle School teacher Lisa DiGangi (center) presents The Animal Orphanage director Maria Clarke (right) a check and supplies following a Pennies for Pets drive held at the school, as Taylor Clarke, Maria's daughter, hugs a dog from the Voorhees, N.J., shelter.

Three years ago, social studies teacher Lisa DiGangi found a way to involve her students in community service while fulfilling their desire to help animals: She started the Marlton (N.J.) Middle School Animal Welfare Club.

In May, the group hosted its first Party Animals event, featuring a unique twist: a Guitar Hero tournament. More than 50 students attended, raising more than \$200 for HSLF.

The group also has held a Pennies for Pets campaign that generated \$2,300 in seven days, raised money to purchase a safety vest for a local police dog, and collected toys, food, and donations for the local animal shelter.

DiGangi is no stranger to the cause. As a student at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, she started People Against Animal Cruelty. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, she hosted her first Party Animals event, raising money in support of animal disaster planning legislation. When she isn't with her students, DiGangi volunteers at the local shelter. Next on her agenda: raising awareness and money for Baghdad Pups, a group that rescues dogs from Iraq.

—Next Party Animals Event—

Date: Oct. 19

Special Guests: TBA

Theme: Humane Bloc Party

On the Web: hslf.org/partyanimals

Grassroots Profile

Carolyn Kilborn wants activists to be first on the scene whenever animal issues pop up on the agenda of the Maryland General Assembly. Since founding Annapolis for Animals earlier this year with her husband, Jeremy, she's helped persuade nearly 100 people to join her, pledging to lobby their state lawmakers for humane legislation, attend legislative hearings, and even testify on behalf of animals when necessary.

Kilborn points to a lack of some basic animal protections on the Maryland books as the main reason for her fledgling group's success. "New Hampshire has basic spay/neuter laws. New Jersey knows how to deal with their black bears without shooting them," she says. "Even Georgia, on their state tax returns, [has] an option to give \$1 to a spaying and neutering fund. Maryland has none of these things."

Inspired to found the group after seeing the power in numbers during a lobbying event at the Maryland State House this past February, Kilborn relishes taking up the fight to institute spay/neuter laws in Maryland and ban puppy mills, gestation crates, and foie gras. With staff from HSLF and The HSUS guiding her, she'll be leading her Annapolis army right into the fray. ■



Annapolis for Animals founder Carolyn Kilborn signs up new member Ken Mayer, with moral support from Mayer's dog, Caspian.