



The NATIONAL FEDERATION of HUMANE SOCIETIES

May 25, 2010

Member Organizations

A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc.
American Humane Association
Anderson Animal Shelter
Animal Humane Society
Animal Care League
Animal Lovers League
Animal Welfare Society
Asheville Humane Society
California Animal Control Directors Assoc.
Capital Humane Society
Chataqua County Humane Society
Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies
Dumb Friends League
Erie County SPCA
Greenhill Humane Society
Hawaiian Humane Society
House Rabbit Society
Humane Society of Broward County
Humane Society of Indianapolis
Humane Society of Kent County
Humane Society of the United States
Illinois Animal Welfare Federation
Iowa Federation of Humane Societies
Kokomo Humane Society
Larimer Humane Society
Michigan Humane Society
Monroe County Humane Association
Naperville Area Humane Society
Nashville Humane Association
New Hampshire SPCA
Norfolk SPCA
Oregon Humane Society
PAWS Chicago
Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
Peoria Humane Society
Pet Haven of Minnesota
Potter League for Animals
Richmond SPCA
Sacramento SPCA
Salem Animal Rescue League
San Francisco SPCA
Southeast Area Animal Control Authority
SPCA Cincinnati
SPCA Los Angeles
SPCA for Monterey County
SPCA Tampa Bay
SPCA of Texas
St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center
Tails Humane Society
Tri-County Humane Society
Virginia Federation of Humane Societies
Washington Animal Rescue League
Washington Humane Society
Wayside Waifs Humane Society
Wisconsin Humane Society

Richard B. Berman, CEO
Center for Consumer Freedom
1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Berman,

The National Federation of Humane Societies is the nation's first trade advocacy federation representing the animal welfare industry. We are comprised of local, state and national animal welfare organizations with a focus on animal sheltering and companion animal issues.

We understand that the Center for Consumer Freedom is an industry lobby and paid representative for the restaurant, tobacco, agricultural producers and alcoholic beverage industries with a well documented history of opposing public health and animal welfare reforms. That being said, we find your statements regarding the Humane Society of the United States to be inaccurate based on our collective experiences. In a March article published by the Chronicle of Philanthropy the "charitable purpose" of the Center for Consumer Freedom was questioned as "the pattern of payments to one individual and company might constitute a private benefit because the charity appears to be benefiting Mr. Berman and his lobbying firm rather than the public."

While the HSUS does not provide direct community service through local sheltering of animals, its charitable purpose has never been questioned. It has a long history of supporting the local animal welfare community through programs like Animal Care Expo, the Animal Services Consultation program, publishing Animal Sheltering magazine and the many training and educational programs offered to shelter employees through Humane Society University, in addition to its puppy mill and hoarding investigations and disaster response efforts that few local sheltering organizations could possibly underwrite individually.

The HSUS mission has always included a focus on large-scale animal cruelty and eliminating animal suffering. HSUS has always been transparent about that mission. While HSUS takes on many large issues, local humane organizations generally focus on companion animal issues but many share an interest in ending animal cruelty or neglect.

For anyone to begin to take CCF seriously you will need to disclose those companies which fund your lobby activities so informed consumers can draw their own conclusions as to credibility and the agenda you promote. We urge you to cease your smear campaign against HSUS that negatively impacts the efforts of our members to improve the lives of animals in their local communities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors & Members,

Steve Putnam, Executive Director

"There is a strong voice for animals when we all speak as one."™

808 Cottage Street SW, Vienna, VA 22180 703.242.3675 humanefederation.org