



## 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](http://humanefederation.org)