

Into the Light

IN JANUARY, AN HSUS UNDERCOVER investigator exposed appalling abuses at the Westland/Hallmark slaughter plant in Chino, Calif. Graphic videotape showed workers using forklifts, electric shocks, and high-pressure water hoses to try and force downed dairy cows to their feet in order to legally slaughter them. Spent dairy cows often arrive at sales barns and slaughter plants too sick or injured to walk.

The cruelty was a regular occurrence despite the presence of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors. A criminal investigation led to felony animal cruelty charges against two workers, the closing of the plant, and the recall of 143 million pounds of beef—the largest such action in the nation's history. Much of the meat had already been consumed by children through the National School Lunch Program.

Since then, HSUS investigators have continued their work, going undercover at six livestock auctions in five states and uncovering additional abuses at each loca-

tion. The latest probe occurred in May at the Portales Livestock Auction in Portales, N.M.

An HSUS investigator secretly filmed downed cows being repeatedly shocked—one was forced to crawl on her front knees—and a calf being kicked in the head to get him to stand. He saw calves and cows with broken legs, a blind cow being shocked and struck, others with serious eye injuries or diseases, and a downed cow with a chain around one leg being dragged by a tractor. New Mexico inspectors were present at the auctions and apparently saw much of the abuse.

"No longer can anyone in government or industry reasonably claim that the abus-



THE HSUS

HSUS investigators took this photo of a downed cow while researching the treatment of animals transported to slaughter.

es we documented at Westland/Hallmark were an aberration or an isolated case," says Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "This gross mistreatment of spent dairy cows should turn your stomach, and it has been uncovered in location after location."

Downed animals are at higher risk of
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Rescuers Free 1,700 Dogs in Summer Puppy Mill Raids



THE HSUS

This ramshackle kennel with a wire floor was the only home this puppy mill dog in West Virginia ever knew.

ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 23, in Parkersburg, W.Va., a cycle of animal abuse lasting nearly two decades was finally broken. Local authorities raided the Whispering Oaks Kennel and found one of the most prolific puppy mills in the state's history. By the end of the day nearly 1,000 neglected and abused dogs were freed from the horrendous industry that traps dogs in a dismal cycle of suffering.

Once on site, the officials convinced the property owner to relinquish ownership of all 1,000 dogs at the facility. The owner also signed a document barring her from ever operating another breeding facility.

The HSUS was appointed lead animal welfare agency on this case and had spent weeks preparing for the complexities of caring for what was expected to be—and indeed became—a heart-breaking number of animals.

Breeding dogs were housed in small rabbit hutches throughout the property—many with no access to water in the potentially deadly 95-degree heat.

The Humane Society of Parkersburg knew about and had tried to help these dogs in the past, but they were unable to inspect the premises. When they first contacted The HSUS, they didn't know the condition of the dogs or how many were even there.

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Virginia Puppy Mill Law First

LAST FALL, VIRGINIA WAS THE focus of national media interest as The HSUS helped release more than 1,000 dogs from a massive puppy mill. Their removal was prompted by The HSUS's undercover investigation of the Virginia puppy mill industry. It uncovered nearly 1,000 unlicensed puppy dealers and revealed an industry virtually unregulated and often in violation of state and federal laws.

Investigators found dogs and puppies living in cramped cages caked in feces, in urine-soaked trailers, and in ramshackle kennels without clean water, veterinary care, or protection from the elements.

Responding to public outrage over the animal abuse revelations, the Virginia Legislature became the first to enact a law limiting the size of commercial dog breeding operations. Now it is illegal for any commercial breeder to maintain more than 50 dogs who are more than a year old unless a local ordinance allows it.

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"Because this humane group has such an excellent relationship with the community, our effort was greatly aided, turning this experience into one of happiness for all the volunteers, local veterinarians, and especially the animals," said Ann Church,



LAURA BEVAN/THE HSUS

Horrors of Hound Hunting

ONE VIRGINIA TRADITION WE'D LIKE to consign to history's rubbish bin is hunting with packs of hounds. The prey animals suffer, of course, but the hounds are often mistreated or neglected, and landowners' rights are trampled by these packs of dogs. What hunters call a proud tradition is, in reality, a shameful rural pastime.

Because state officials acknowledge that problems exist, they created a Hunting With Hounds Stakeholder Advisory Committee affiliated with Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The HSUS recently asked a small portion of our Virginia members to e-mail the committee in support of strong restrictions on hound hunting. To date, nearly 1,600 people have done so, and more than 300 Virginia residents took the time to recount their personal experiences and opinions. The volume of the response from Virginia residents is noteworthy and reflects the scope of the problem.

Many of the letters contained disturbing accounts of animal neglect and cruelty. Others complained of blatant disregard for personal property. It's very clear that many hunters have little or no regard for their dogs, nor people's property.

This comment is representative: "I am a volunteer with a humane society, and more than 50 percent of our intake results from irresponsible owners of hunting dogs. They release old, diseased, or poor performing animals into the wild. They breed with other domestic animals as they cross private property. More than 80 percent are heartworm positive." Another said, "Many of the dogs I see running through fields are emaciated, have untreated wounds, and their living conditions are horrible. When they do not perform well, they are shot."

The HSUS will continue to bring this information to the attention of policy makers. The state cannot ignore the many concerns expressed by citizens who see firsthand the suffering caused by hound hunting. 🐾



THE HSUS

A kind person fed this hunting dog, found wandering on her property.

eastern mountain regional director, who was on the site for a week. "Together, we set up an emergency shelter and began to rescue the dogs from the squalid cages where the breeding adults would've spent their entire lives." Instead they were transported to humane organizations across the nation where they will be evaluated and put up for adoption.

This past June, teams of rescuers led by The HSUS arrived in Lyles, Tenn., to free more than 700 dogs from a puppy mill. HSUS Tennessee State Director Leighann McCollum received undercover tips and worked with investigators at the district attorney's office for the 21st Judicial District to build a case against the puppy mill operator.

A Newfoundland looks out from a makeshift pen in a barn on the puppy mill property in Lyles, Tenn.

More than 700 dogs were removed from the facility, known as the Pine Bluff Kennels. They had been living in cramped rabbit hutches amid piles of their own feces. Many had significant health problems ranging from painful open wounds to hair so matted that the animals were unable to walk.

The HSUS was joined by rescuers from the ASPCA, Nashville Humane Association, Humane Society of Missouri, High Forest Humane Society, Hickman County Humane Society, SPCA Tampa Bay, and volunteers from across the nation. PetSmart Charities donated numerous essential supplies to both rescues.

To combat puppy mills, "consumers should stop buying dogs from pet stores or through the Internet and instead adopt homeless dogs from reputable shelters," said McCollum. 🐾

Animal Fighters Feeling the Squeeze



THE HSUS

The HSUS's John Goodwin announces increased rewards for providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of animal fighters alongside Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell.

IN A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE VICTORY, The HSUS led efforts that toughened Virginia's animal fighting penalties and closed a large loophole in the law. In the past, it was illegal to gamble on a cockfight, but cockfighting itself wasn't banned. Organizing, participating in, or attending an organized cockfight are now Class 6 felonies, and allowing a minor to attend or participate in an animal fight is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

The HSUS commends Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-8) and Sen. Tommy Norment (R-3) for their leadership in strengthening the law. The HSUS is also grateful to Gov. Tim

Kaine, Attorney General Bob McDonnell, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Robert S. Bloxom, and Sen. Ward Armstrong (D-10) for their support.

McDonnell announced his support for the legislation and for The HSUS's \$5,000 reward program for information that leads to the conviction of animal fighters. The cockfighters hired lobbyists and fought the bill, but they were no match for our intense lobbying efforts and overwhelming public support.

The Legislature also passed a bill sponsored by Sen. Roscoe Reynolds (D-20) to add organized dogfighting as a qualifying offense under the Virginia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

Three years ago we were able to gain passage of a strong animal fighting ban in

North Carolina. As a result, people who wanted to continue this abusive business simply traveled to Virginia, and many of those arrested in recent raids were from North Carolina.

Thanks to Michael Vick's dogfighting conviction, all animal fighters are feeling the pressure from increased law enforcement and public awareness. Unfortunately, in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee, the laws remain too weak to be effective, and cockfighting continues.

In the most recent session of the Tennessee Legislature, anti-animal fighting bills received majority votes in the Judiciary committees of both houses, but the session adjourned before we could push the bills over their final hurdles. The measures sponsored by Rep. Janis Sontany (D-53) and Sen. Bill Ketron (R-13) had not made it this far in years, signaling that Tennessee legislators are moving closer to passage of a felony cockfighting measure. To find out how you can help, visit humansociety.org/animalfighting. 🐾

Poaching in Our Backyard

THE WORD "POACHING" TRIGGERS images of majestic elephants in Africa cruelly gunned down for their tusks. But in the U.S., poaching is just as deadly and every bit as brutal. Conservation officials estimate that for each wild animal killed legally—tens of millions per year—another is killed illegally. With wildlife enforcement resources spread thinly, only a tiny percentage of illegal hunters are caught and punished.

Poachers indiscriminately kill endangered and threatened wildlife. They shoot and trap animals on posted land where hunting is banned, and they ignore seasonal restrictions and bag limits. They use illegal weapons to carry out the carnage and act as unlicensed guides.

Poachers can be chillingly callous. In one Utah case, two teenagers participated in a group that trained dogs to chase black bears. After a mother bear and two cubs took refuge in a tree, the youths shot and

wounded the helpless bruins and left the dying animals on the ground.

Many hunt animals simply to hang a trophy on the wall. Typically, they shoot large elk or deer, remove the head, and leave the carcass to rot. Some stockpile the antlers or submit macabre photographs of the animals to trophy hunting magazines.

Wildlife officials report that organized poaching rings are proliferating because many of the target animals can be sold on a lucrative black market. A set of big-horned sheep antlers may go for tens of thousands of dollars. Bear gall bladders are sold to buyers supplying the traditional Chinese medicine market.

Poachers exploit animals with the knowledge that they probably won't be caught. But when state wildlife agencies share information on poachers and citizens take their role as stewards of wildlife seriously, we can stop these killers. The HSUS offers help to both groups.



THE HSUS

This Oregon state trooper reveals the illegal quarry of a poacher.

Our Web site offers links to your state's hunting and wildlife regulations, a listing of state anti-poaching hotlines and Web sites, and a form for you to report suspected poaching incidents to us. The site is at humansociety.org/poaching. We also work with local and state agencies nationwide to increase public awareness of these wildlife crimes and offer rewards for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of poachers. Visit our Web site to learn more about how you can get involved to end this cruel wildlife abuse. 🐾

New Hope for Horses

IN JUNE, THE HSUS OPENED ITS FOURTH animal care and rescue facility, the Duchess Sanctuary for horses, located near Roseburg, Ore., south of Eugene. The 1,120-acre preserve joins the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas and wildlife havens in southern California and Cape Cod, Mass., that we operate in conjunction with The Fund for Animals.

Made possible by a \$3.5 million donation from the Roberts Foundation, the Ark Watch Foundation, and Ark's founder and president Celine Myers, the Duchess Sanctuary is named in honor of the Myers family's first horse, who was named after Black Beauty's mother in Anna Sewell's famous novel.

The first equine residents of the sanctuary came from the Ark Foundation's Knightsbridge Farm Draft Horse Sanctuary in Alberta, Canada. Saved from the pregnant mare urine industry, many of the ag-

ing horses had spent six months of each year for 20 years attached to urine collection devices in stalls where they could not even turn around.

The mares were constantly impregnated so their urine could be used to produce Premarin, commonly prescribed for estrogen replacement therapy to relieve hormonal deficiency symptoms associated with menopause or hysterectomy.

Collectively, the Ark Watch Foundation's rescued mares spent nearly 500 years on the PMU lines and delivered almost 1,000 foals. Many of the offspring



A mare and her foal will get to live normal lives at Duchess Sanctuary, far from the pregnant mare urine industry.

and mares who outlived their usefulness were sent to slaughter. "We rescued our large family of draft mares literally 15 minutes before they were to be loaded onto trucks and sent to an auction near the former Cavel slaughter plant in Illinois," said benefactor Celine Myers. "Most were pregnant and just weeks away from giving birth. After all these horses have been through, we are thrilled this family group will be able to live out their lives at the Duchess Sanctuary."

The HSUS has worked for years at the state and federal levels promoting policies to protect horses from slaughter, racing-industry abuses, and the cruel practice of soring common in Tennessee walking horse competitions. We recently published *The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Horse Care*, and we are in the second year of a \$1.7 million Western wild horse contraception program funded by the Annenberg Foundation. In partnership with the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the Homes for Horses Coalition, we are developing standards of accreditation for equine rescue facilities.

Scott Beckstead, a former mayor of Waldport, Ore., will serve as Duchess Sanctuary director. He is an expert in animal law and has run a foster care network and sanctuary for horses. Ranch manager Jennifer Kunz has spent the past decade working to rescue horses in need, facilitating the placement of more than 1,000 PMU mares and foals. 🐾

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suffering from mad cow disease, a disease invariably fatal if passed on to humans through meat. There is also an increased risk of meat consumers suffering from E. coli and Salmonella as downers often wallow in feces.

To protect the nation's food supply, the USDA temporarily banned the slaughter of downed cattle for human consumption in 2003, but a loophole allowed USDA inspectors to approve such use in certain circumstances. When the first HSUS investigation was made public, the USDA announced plans to close the loophole and require that downed cattle be euthanized.

The HSUS is calling for the USDA to apply the rule to all downed livestock at some 1,200 markets and auctions in addition to slaughter plants. Further requirements should include stiffer penalties for rule breakers and basic animal welfare standards for food purchased through federal programs like the National School Lunch Program.

Passage of a raft of bills now pending in Congress would help protect animals and consumers alike. The Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act (S. 394/H.R. 661) would end the use of downed livestock for human consumption and require that they be immediately euthanized at slaughter plants.

The Downed Animal Enforcement Act (S. 2770) would strengthen the Federal Meat Inspection Act with stricter penalties for the slaughter of downers and humane handling violations. The Food Safety Recall Information Act (H.R. 5762) would require publishing the name of retailers and school districts that have purchased products subject to voluntary recall.

The Farm Animal Stewardship Purchasing Act (H.R. 1726) would mandate that producers supplying meat and dairy products to the military, federal prisons, school lunches, and other federal programs comply with basic animal welfare requirements.

The HSUS urges you to contact your members of Congress and ask for support of these critical humane measures for farm animals. Visit humanesociety.org/leglookup to identify them or call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121. 🐾

Tragedies Lead to New Laws

SOMETIMES WHEN AWFUL CRUELTY occurs, something positive also results. Romeo, an 8-month-old Labrador retriever, survived a horrific beating by his former owner. As a result, a strong new law was enacted this year in Kentucky. With the passage of S.B. 58, torturing a dog or cat and causing serious physical injury becomes a first-offense felony. The severe abuse Romeo suffered was caught on videotape by neighbors and served as a catalyst for the legislation. The abuser was found guilty of animal cruelty, imprisoned, and fined.

Public support for the bill was overwhelming, according to HSUS Kentucky State Director Pamela Rogers. "The legislative message lines were overflowing with calls from HSUS members and other animal protection groups and citizens," she said. "They wanted legislators to know that Kentuckians really care about the humane treatment of animals."

The connection between animal cruelty and human violence is well documented. The bill's primary sponsor, Sen. Tom Buford (R-22), acknowledged that connection at

the bill's signing, calling the passage of Romeo's Law a "lesson in human feelings."

In neighboring Tennessee, the General Assembly approved a bill that will save animal lives and reduce the number of childhood emergencies with the passage of the Haley Ham Act. Championed by Rep. Janis Sontany (D-53) and Sen. Raymond Finney (R-8), the law requires that a bittering agent be added to antifreeze products. Sen. Finney introduced the bill after hearing the story of 11-year-old Haley Ham from Sevierville, Tenn., who lost her dogs Jessie and Sam when they were intentionally poisoned with antifreeze. Tennessee is the seventh state to require addition of a bittering agent to make it unpalatable.

Hundreds of children and thousands of animals, including endangered species, are accidentally poisoned each year from ingesting antifreeze. Its sweet taste attracts them, but less than a teaspoon can be fa-



HSUS Kentucky State Director Pam Rogers and Romeo, a dog whose cruelty case inspired a new law.

tal. One survey found that two out of three veterinarians see at least one accidental antifreeze poisoning each year.

"We're very grateful to Rep. Sontany and Sen. Finney for their leadership on this important piece of legislation," said Leighann McCollum, HSUS Tennessee state director. "We are also grateful to Haley for her willful determination to see this bill through to the end. It will help prevent many unnecessary deaths." 🐾

Virginia Laws Improve for Animals

NEW LAW SHEPHERDED THROUGH the Virginia General Assembly by Del. Rob Bell (R-58) allows a court to order the owner of an animal held for more than 30 days in a cruelty case to pay for the animal's boarding.

Animals now can't be abandoned for more than 24 hours, and water must be provided regularly, a measure introduced by Del. Kenneth Alexander (D-89). And thanks to Del. Bobby Orrock (R-54), inhumane euthanasia gas chambers are now banned in all animal shelters.

Sen. Harry Blevins (R-14) fought to increase the license fee cap for cats and dogs from \$10 to \$25, providing shelters with much-needed funding. Sen. Patsy Ticer's (D-30) new law specifies that animal control officers report signs of child abuse to law enforcement. 🐾

Flea Markets Are No Bargain for Animals

PUPPIES AND KITTENS SOLD OUT OF CARDBOARD BOXES AT FLEA MARKETS MAY conceal a host of problems. Flea markets allow irresponsible pet owners, inexperienced breeders, and puppy mill operators to sell animals without any oversight. The spur-of-the-moment purchases often lead to unhappy situations for both the animals and the new owners. Consider these problems documented by The HSUS:

- Many animals sold at flea markets are raised in substandard and often inhumane environments.
- The animals often have diseases and many have not received vaccinations or been spayed or neutered. Future veterinary costs may be higher than a family can afford.
- Kittens and puppies should not be taken away from their mothers until they are eight weeks old, but much younger animals are sold in flea markets.
- Young puppies and kittens are over-handled, causing them discomfort and stress.
- Some people breed their animals just to make extra money at these sales even though shelters are overflowing with adoptable pets.
- Other creatures such as turtles and rabbits are sold without information about their specialized care needs.

In the aftermath of the puppy mill case in Lyles, the Tennessee State Fair board of commissioners decided to discontinue the sale of pets at the Nashville state fairgrounds flea market. The HSUS applauds this decision and is working to ban other flea market sales in order to prevent the exploitation of thousands of kittens, puppies, and other animals each year. 🐾

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Animal Control Benefits People, Too



*Director of
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ANN CHURCH

TYPICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMAL problems go like this, "There's a stray dog in our yard. He looks hungry. Who do I call?" Or, "I've lost my cat. Where should I look to find her?" Or, "The man next door is beating his dog. Please help!"

Every day homeless, injured, or stray animals need help, but many communities are unable to provide assistance. Of particular concern is Tennessee where animal control services are optional. Every community is enriched by the presence of

Amanda Arrington: New North Carolina Director

WHEN SHE WAS GROWING UP IN rural Texas, Amanda Arrington saw relatives and neighbors keeping their dogs outside on chains. It always bothered her.

"It hit me hard to see how these animals lived," said Arrington, the new North Carolina state director for The HSUS. "The dogs spent their whole lives on chains and some even gave birth to puppies while shackled. My passion to help animals began there, and I started rescuing them. Today, I'm determined to continue educating people on how to confront the mistreatment of animals."

Arrington founded the Coalition to Unchain Dogs in 2006. Coalition volunteers teach communities about the damaging effects of chaining. They provide free labor and materials to fence in yards. The group also works to pass tougher chaining legislation. In its first year, Arrington says, the coalition freed more than 75 dogs from their chains.

As state director, Arrington is tackling several new issues including encouraging restaurants to use cage-free eggs, lobbying members of the Legislature to support animal-friendly legislation, re-establishing a statewide animal fighting task force, and eliminating outdated gas chambers used for euthanasia in shelters. "I believe legislation is the key to making real advancements in the fight for animal protection," she said.

The HSUS—and animals of North Carolina—are lucky to have her on their side. 🐾

dogs and cats, but in too many instances, city and county governments refuse to accept the responsibility for taking care of animals when they need it most.

Fortunately, John G. Morgan, comptroller of the Tennessee Treasury, recently issued a comprehensive and compelling report recommending a change in the status quo. As many as 23 counties do not offer animal services, affording citizens no assistance in finding lost pets, handling abandoned animals, or investigating cruelty cases. Other communities that do offer services often take up the slack, incurring the expense for their neighbors who ignore these problems. Even in counties with minimal services, there is no oversight, and animals suffer as a result.

After examining animal programs in neighboring states, the report recommends that Tennessee mandate minimum standards of care, provide oversight of shelters, and require training for animal control officers. It calls for the state to identify and expand funding sources with particular emphasis on pet overpopulation concerns



through better enforcement of the state spay/neuter law. We applaud this report.

Animals deserve better, and all citizens benefit when basic health concerns (such as rabies and dog bites) are addressed uniformly. The HSUS will work with legislators for adoption of humane state standards so that Tennessee animals—as well as those in our other states—have a chance at a better lives. 🐾



*HSUS North Carolina State Director
Amanda Arrington with Jasmine, who
was freed from her chain last year.*

Attention, Students

WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOUR animal protection group! Please contact us at emro@humanesociety.org for more information.

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