

Abusive Fox and Coyote Penning a Regional Horror

FOOTBALL STAR MICHAEL VICK'S conviction for dogfighting cast a spotlight on a brutal blood sport most people never see. Now another form of underground animal fighting has surfaced following a multistate investigation into the grisly practice of wildlife penning.

It is difficult to imagine who could invent a spectacle so cruel: A pack of dogs are set loose in an enclosed pen to chase a fox or coyote until they corner and then literally rip the exhausted animal apart. The HSUS's investigation last fall revealed that this activity occurs in many places throughout our region, prompting state and federal wildlife officials in North Carolina, Virginia, and six other states to take the commendable step of citing individuals for violating existing regulations.

In fox and coyote pens across the
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Foxes and coyotes sold to penning operations throughout the region face sure suffering and death.

© MAMIE MOODY

After Katrina: Progress for Gulf Coast Animals

THANKS TO A REMARKABLE INITIATIVE that unites more than 50 Louisiana and Mississippi shelters, the clouds of Hurricane Katrina have given way to a new dawn for animal care in the Deep South. In mid-October, officials of The HSUS and Maddie's Fund launched "After Katrina: Improving the Lives of Gulf Coast Dogs and Cats." This project was underwritten by a \$999,700 grant from Maddie's Fund.

HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle and Maddie's Fund President Richard Avanzino kicked off the project in New Orleans. The three-day tour included stops in five more cities. They met with many of the recipients of more than \$900,000 in grants awarded to 57 animal shelters. These unrestricted funds are supporting diverse initiatives such as low-cost spay/neuter services, upgraded disease-control systems, modern cat housing, enhanced surgical suites, and staff expansions. These grants are on top of the millions of dollars The HSUS has already donated to Gulf Coast animal shelters.

In exchange for the grants, which ranged from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each, participants in the project are tracking and reporting shelter intake and disposition numbers from 2005 to 2010. These statistics will help illuminate the dynamics of pet overpopulation, providing a basis for strategies to increase spay/neuter rates and reduce animal homelessness in the Gulf Coast.

The After Katrina project also includes a \$2 million campaign focused on spaying and neutering. And The HSUS is helping the region prepare for the next disaster, donating \$600,000 to the Dixon Correctional Institute, a medium-security prison in Louisiana that will house an



THE HSUS

This pup is one of many Gulf Coast animals who will benefit from grants awarded by The HSUS and Maddie's Fund.

emergency animal shelter and medical clinic for use during future emergencies.

For everyone participating, the Gulf Coast tour was a mission of hope. "Thanks to the generosity of The Humane Society of the United States and Maddie's Fund, the Corinth-Alcorn Animal Shelter will be able to realize a long-time dream: building a surgery clinic at the shelter," said Michael Boston, the shelter's director. 🐾

HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle speaks to grant recipients on his tour of Gulf Coast animal agencies affected by Hurricane Katrina.



THE HSUS

The HSUS on Scene of Rescue

“WHAT UPSET ME THE MOST

was how quiet the older dogs were,” said Eastern Mountain Regional Director Ann Church of her experience in rescuing animals from a puppy mill in Hillsville, Va. “Their little pups were making the usual noises, but most of the adult dogs had lost all enthusiasm and interest in life. Their eyes were blank or so fearful it hurt to make eye contact.”

Each dog was photographed, identified, documented, and medically examined. When rescuers first held the dogs, the animals were scared but soon seemed to realize that they were with people who would not harm them. “They could feel our warmth and hear our kind words,” Church said. “In a matter of moments, we would bond. Letting loose of them was very difficult. Many would hide their faces in my neck as if they would hang on to this safe spot forever.”

Even though the dogs were adorable, most were coated with hardened feces. Nearly every adult dog had dental diseases known to cause animals pain. Living on wire for their entire lives had caused their feet to become twisted and curled. “I’m glad I was able to provide them with the first real warmth they had ever received,” said Church.

Working with local activists, The HSUS helped remove about 1,000 dogs, many of whom were adopted into loving homes.

A dog rescued from a Hillsville, Va., puppy mill gets a high-five from a caretaker.



THE HSUS/KATHY MILANI

Boutique Pet Store Linked to Puppy Mills

PETS OF BEL AIR IS FAMOUS FOR ITS celebrity clientele, but the glitzy California boutique gained a new kind of notoriety last fall after an HSUS investigation linked it to mass-breeding facilities in the Midwest.

Though store managers claimed all their “babies” came from private breeders, shipping documents revealed that Pets of Bel Air obtained some of them from puppy mills that crowd young animals in inhumane conditions and treat their mothers as assembly-line production units.

When HSUS investigators visited some of the facilities, they witnessed dogs made “cage-crazy” from long-term confinement and paws made raw from sharp-edged wire cage flooring. Several businesses that supplied Pets of Bel Air had been cited for animal welfare violations that included feces-encrusted runs and filthy food bowls.

The results of such cruelty are something the puppy mill industry—which sells 2 to 4 million puppies per year—hopes consumers will never see. But another HSUS investigation exposed its existence on a mass scale. Hundreds of dogs rescued from a Virginia puppy mill in November were riddled with illness. Many were unable to walk on solid ground or eat from bowls; some had difficulty relieving themselves because their hair was so severely matted.

On visits to other Virginia properties



THE HSUS

This puppy was rescued from a Virginia puppy mill along with nearly 1,000 others, many of whom were injured or ill.

during the five-month investigation, The HSUS found dogs in urine-soaked trailers and ramshackle kennels with no clean water, veterinary care, or protection from the elements.

While The HSUS continues to investigate puppy mills and push for stronger laws, a cultural shift is critical to ending the suffering. “People who love dogs are the ones keeping puppy mills in business,” said Stephanie Shain, director of outreach for The HSUS’s Companion Animals section. “If we want puppy mills to be gone, we have to stop buying their puppies. Everybody can help.”

To view our undercover videos and find out what you can do, visit our website at humanesociety.org/puppymills. 🐾

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Southeast, wild animals face death in these staged animal fights. Enclosures may be several hundred acres in size, but the pursued animal will eventually run up against a fence, only to meet a pack of snarling faces.

The relentless pursuit is cruel enough to justify a ban on penning, but the captive animals must also endure an even more savage demise. Although enthusiasts portray penning as a form of hunting, it is nothing more than an amalgam of captive hunting and animal fighting—two of the most egregious forms of cruelty. Wild animals aren’t the only ones who suffer: According to reports from Georgia, poorly performing dogs are sometimes killed, and their feet are treated with chemicals to make them run longer.

A demand for wild animals to restock the pens has created a live market. The investigation by state and federal agencies revealed that many coyotes and foxes who end up in pens have been trapped in other states and shipped hundreds of miles, sometimes illegally. One eyewitness described traveling to truck stops to meet a truckload of coyotes and foxes. The animals, usually solitary in the wild, are crammed into communal cages; some suffocate during the journey.

There is no reason for this practice to continue in our region. Please join us in bringing it to an end. Visit humanesociety.org/hunt to learn more. 🐾

The HSUS Donates to North Carolina Program

THE SPAY NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF NORTH CAROLINA (SNAP-NC) PURCHASED a new mobile surgical hospital after receiving \$100,000 from The HSUS and an equivalent donation from Chrissie's Fund, a California-based foundation to honor the memory of a shelter dog named Chrissie. The mobile hospital will increase the availability of low-cost spay/neuter services statewide.

Formed seven years ago by licensed veterinarians and led by Laureen Bartfield, D.V.M., SNAP-NC was the first mobile low-cost spay/neuter service in North Carolina and has performed more than 37,000 successful surgeries since its inception. "SNAP-NC has done a fantastic job of reducing the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens born in its operating region of North Carolina," said HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle. "Providing low-cost spaying and neutering services is a critical component of the larger strategy of ending the tragedy of euthanizing homeless pets."

"Overpopulation is the leading killer of companion animals in the United States. By attacking the problem at its source with our newly expanded fleet of mobile clinics, we will be saving the lives of countless animals," said Bartfield. In addition to running SNAP-NC, Bartfield is the contract veterinarian for Wake County Animal Shelter and Control in Raleigh. She is also the veterinarian for Chatham County and a certified animal cruelty investigator.



SNAP-NC

Bartfield and her crew have designed the new unit to allow for additional large kennels. The new hospital's target population will be large, mixed breed dogs, who are usually the least likely to be adopted from shelters. The new unit rolled into service in February.

Visit snap-nc.org to learn more. 🐾

Veterinarian Beverly Shelbourn examines a dog in the new SNAP mobile clinic.

Tennessee Veterinarian Violates Law

THE DEFINITION OF EUTHANASIA IS "HUMANE DEATH"—something veterinarian William Baber and Sumner County Animal Control workers seemed to have forgotten last October. When local activists released undercover video of the veterinarian and shelter employees using an inhumane and illegal method to euthanize animals, Baber and the county were reminded the hard way.

Tennesseans were outraged by a video showing staff members holding dogs in the air and cats on catch poles while Dr. Baber performed unsedated intracardiac injection—a violation of the Tennessee Non-Livestock Humane Death Act.

The Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners acted swiftly, suspending Baber's license for four months with five years of probation and fining him \$2,000. The Sumner County Sheriff's Department charged Baber with 12 misdemeanor counts ranging from animal cruelty to records falsification.

The HSUS worked with county and state officials to change protocols at the animal control agency and implement programs that will help reduce euthanasia. The incident also prompted state Rep. Janis Sontany to introduce legislation addressing lack of accountability in Tennessee animal shelters. The HSUS will work alongside Sontany and representatives from the Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee and Tennessee Humane Association to help strengthen the laws. 🐾



THE HSUS

The HSUS's Chris Schindler removes a bird during the largest cockfighting raid in U.S. history last October.

Animal Fighters Are Being Hemmed In

THEY MAY RUN, BUT ANIMAL fighters will soon have few places left to hide.

On the heels of our participation in a California cockfighting bust thought to be the largest in U.S. history—and just before our teams were called to assist with one of New Mexico's first-ever raids—The HSUS in November doubled rewards for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of animal fighters and other animal abusers.

The efforts are part of our ever-expanding campaign to end dogfighting and cockfighting through legislation, law enforcement, and community action. Without this three-pronged approach, the December bust in New Mexico would not have been possible; cockfighting was outlawed statewide only after years of effort by The HSUS and Animal Protection of New Mexico.

The October seizure of more than 5,000 roosters in San Diego also represents a new era for law enforcement and the courts. Led by the County of San Diego Animal Services and assisted by 20 HSUS disaster responders, the multi-

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site raid was the scene of a 2,500-bird seizure six years ago. Since then, The HSUS has successfully pushed for a law that carries stiffer penalties, so cockfighters will have to think twice before rebuilding operations now.

As The HSUS continues to fight for strengthened laws and build coalitions with local agencies, our Animal Cruelty Response and

Reward Fund will help us attack the problem on all fronts. In addition to doubling rewards to \$5,000, The HSUS is devoting more funds to investigations, law enforcement training, lobbying, community outreach, and care of animal victims. Partners so far include attorneys general in Ohio, South Carolina, and Connecticut; the Chicago Police Department; the Georgia Sheriff's Association; and U.S. Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.). They are calling upon community members and legislators to stand up to the brutal blood sport.

"It's time that the severity of the punishment reflects the absolute inhumanity of cockfighting and dogfighting," said Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann, who last year received an award from The HSUS for breaking up a dogfighting ring. Visit humanesociety.org/animalfighting to learn more. 🐾

Got an Old Car?

DONATE IT TO THE HSUS. Cars, Trucks, RVs, Boats, Trailers, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, Airplanes, Farm and Construction Equipment. Call 877-836-6674.



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The HSUS Aids Animals Displaced by Tennessee Tornadoes

By HSUS Tennessee State Director Leighann McCollum

LIVE IN SUMNER COUNTY, where eight people were killed in the tornadoes that hit the Southeast on Feb. 5, 2008.

More than 50 people were killed—32 of them in Tennessee. The morning following the storms, I called the Tennessee State Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) coordinator to see if we could help. HSUS Disaster Services Director Scotlund Haisley came to Tennessee to evaluate the needs, and we met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the assistant state veterinarian, who invited us to deploy our DART team and assist with companion animal recovery. A large number of HSUS staff members were deployed and worked for many days in response to this disaster.

Wilson County DART began rescues the night of the tornado and set up a temporary shelter for companion animals.

Nashville Humane Association brought its mobile adoption units to set up a pet-friendly shelter for people housed at the Red Cross shelter in Lafayette, Tenn. The HSUS assumed operations of the rescue shelter on Friday, Feb. 8. Macon County Fairgrounds allowed us to use two buildings to set up a headquarters and shelter the animals.

Volunteer Jane Berry joined Scotlund and me in searching for displaced pets. As we drove around the devastated areas and searched through rubble, animals began coming out to us. A golden retriever was scavenging for food at a busy intersection, and as we tried to catch him, he led us back to his friends who were still chained in the rubble. State troopers were flagging us down, and people were calling the number we had set up to report animals in need. We left food for animals we couldn't catch and went back for them later.

There were several memorable rescues, including a Jack Russell terrier mix we called Toto because the person who brought him in said, "He just fell out of the tornado into my yard."

A shepherd mix puppy survived the tornado but then wandered into the road and was hit by a car. He has a broken pelvis and is currently recuperating at my house. He's limping around but still trying to get my dogs to play. We're calling him Murphy—as in Murphy's Law. I'm also fostering a cat whose owner is staying with family until her emergency housing trailer comes and she can take him back home.

We also had a black and white border collie mix called Coltrain. After the tornado came, his owners ran outside and saw that the barn had fallen over onto the dog kennel and demolished it. The owner found a black lump in the dark, and he thought it was Coltrain and that he'd been killed. They left and came back two days later to sift



ARNELIA BIRCHFIELD

From left: HSUS Tennessee State Director Leighann McCollum, Peg Petrelli of the Humane Society of Sumner County, Dr. Louis Graham of Graham Animal Hospital in Hendersonville, and Coltrain, a dog injured in the storms.

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World's Largest Food Service Provider Moving Away from Battery Eggs

LESS THAN THREE YEARS AFTER launching our No Battery Eggs campaign, The HSUS in December announced another major step forward: Compass Group, the world's largest food service provider, is moving away from using eggs from caged hens for its 7,500 U.S. clients.

The new policy will replace 48 million eggs laid by hens in battery cages with eggs sourced from cage-free environments, significantly improving the welfare of more than 200,000 chickens. Beyond its immediate impact, the precedent-setting decision could have sweeping implications for the rest of the nation's 280 million hens crammed together so tightly that each lives in a space smaller than a sheet of paper.

"Compass Group's decision is truly a major advance," said HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle. "It offers hope that one of the worst factory farming abuses is on its way out. It's clear that this type of

intensive confinement has no place in the egg industry's future."

The policy requires that producers supplying Compass with cage-free eggs adhere to the standards of the third-party auditing organization Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC). The standards do not mandate outdoor access for laying hens but do prohibit battery cages. Hens must be able to stand normally, stretch their wings, and engage in natural behaviors such as dust bathing, perching, and laying eggs in a nest—all acts they can't perform while confined in a battery cage. HFAC standards prohibit forced molting, a process that involves starving hens or severely restricting their caloric intake to manipulate laying cycles.

"This is a huge undertaking for our company," said Cheryl Queen, Compass Group's vice president of corporate communications, "but we're proud to be making such a significant contribution to the welfare of farm animals."

Compass Group's 7,500 U.S. clients include the Hearst Corporation, Microsoft, Sarah Lawrence College, Bard College, and Northeastern University. The retail leader's landmark move follows similar decisions by many other companies, colleges, restaurants, and grocery chains, including Ben & Jerry's, Burger King, Carl's Jr., Hardee's, Wolfgang Puck, Google, AOL, and Whole Foods Market. Learn more at humanesociety.org/farm. 🐔

Thanks to a decision by Compass Group, more than 200,000 chickens will be spared living in battery cages.



Congressional Champions

WHILE MUCH OF OUR WORK takes place in communities across the country, we also maintain a strong presence in the nation's capital. From cracking down on illegal ani-

mal fighting rings to easing the suffering of farm animals shipped to slaughter we work shoulder-to-shoulder with elected officials to draft and pass laws that protect all animals. And we recognize the members of Congress who stand up for animals with their votes and their voices with our annual legislative achievement awards, cosponsored with the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF). In March, we held a reception in the U.S. Capitol to present awards to 132 legislators from 37 states who were in front of the pack on humane public policies.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) was named Humane Legislator of the Year for his outstanding work on animal protection measures in Congress over the last 12 years. Blumenauer has long supported our efforts to end animal fighting. Last year, he sponsored and successfully pushed for enactment of the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act to strengthen federal penalties for animal fighting crimes. In the wake of the Michael Vick scandal,

Blumenauer introduced additional legislation in 2007 to further strengthen federal penalties against dogfighting and target all who participate in this cruelty. He is also leading a bill introduced last year to authorize federal tax provisions to allow people to establish trusts for the long-term care of their pets. A stalwart champion for animals, Blumenauer consistently receives perfect scores on the HSLF's federal *Humane Scorecard*.

In addition, 31 legislators received Humane Champion awards for taking the lead on animal welfare issues in 2007 and earning a perfect score in the 2007 *Humane Scorecard*. Another 48 received Legislative Leader awards for their leadership as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation, and 52 were given the Humane Advocate award for scoring 100 on the 2007 *Humane Scorecard*. See the box for award winners among your representatives, and visit hslf.org/humanescorecard for a complete list. 🐔

Regional Winners

Humane Champions: Rep. Stephen Cohen (D-9th, Tenn.), Rep. James Moran (D-8th, Va.)

Legislative Leaders: Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R-N.C.), Rep. Ben Chandler (D-6th, Ky.), Rep. Thomas Davis III (R-11th Va.), Rep. Walter Jones, Jr. (R-3rd, N.C.), Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-3rd, W.Va.), Rep. Edward Whitfield (R-1st, Ky.)

Humane Advocate: Rep. Brad Miller (D-13th, N.C.)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: New Region, New Goals



*Director of
The HSUS
Eastern
Mountain
Regional
Office*

ANN CHURCH

TO BETTER SERVE ANIMALS, ACTIVISTS, and our members, The HSUS operates regional offices that oversee coordinators in multiple states. The new Eastern Mountain Regional Office covers Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. While we can point to many successes for animals in these states over the years, we want to focus more resources on the problems that persist. Animal fighting is rampant in this region, and coyote and fox penning are on the rise. Painful “soring” of Tennessee walking horses—a practice that involves trimming their hooves almost to the bloodline to force exaggerated gaits—occurs almost exclusively in our region. We are concerned with the continued use of carbon monoxide chambers in North Carolina and the existence of many sub-

standard animal facilities. That state also needs a ban on the keeping of wild animals as pets. Tennessee is home to many cockfighters, and animal control facilities are absent in many parts of Kentucky. We need a felony cockfighting law as well as a ban on exotic pets in West Virginia. As a recent HSUS investigation revealed (see page 2), the puppy mill industry in Virginia is booming.

To address these problems in Kentucky, Pam Rogers serves as our state director in Louisville. She works on a variety of local and state initiatives, collaborates with many local groups, and serves on the board of directors of a statewide coalition called the Kentucky Animal Welfare Alliance.

Our Tennessee efforts are led by Leighann McCollum, located in the Nashville area. Leighann has worked in the animal sheltering field for more than 10 years and is passionate about inspiring animal lovers to become more involved in the legislative process.

I have an extensive background in government relations after nearly 20 years directing HSUS state legislative efforts and five years working in the U.S. Senate. I relish the opportunity to focus more directly on efforts in a small number of states. The region will soon have a new state director in North Carolina and will eventually hire a West Virginia director as well. I will most directly handle Virginia efforts.

To accomplish our overall goals, HSUS regional staff will lobby state legislatures and present Lobbying 101 workshops to galvanize activists. We also offer workshops on animal fighting for law enforcement personnel and disaster response training for volunteers and state personnel.

Visit humanesociety.org/emro for more information about the region's work. For updates on pending bills see humanesociety.org/legislation. 🐾

Weights and chains like these are used to force Tennessee walking horses to affect their unique gait. These and other methods make it painful for the animal to put full weight on the feet, resulting in the high-stepping stride.

continued from “Tornadoes,” page 5 through their belongings. All of a sudden Coltraine came out of the woods. He had a 14-inch gash on his side, his two bottom canines had pierced his muzzle, and he had a 3-inch gash on his shoulders. His owners didn't know how they were going to help him; they had just lost everything. He is now being boarded at a veterinarian's office, and The HSUS is providing financial support for Coltraine's 24-hour medical care.

Sixteen of the rescued animals were soon picked up by their owners. All 43 unclaimed animals were moved to three shelters: the Humane Society of Sumner County, the Nashville Humane Association, and Rutherford County PAWS. In accordance with Tennessee DART regulations, animals rescued during disasters must be held for 30 days, so animals remaining at the shelters after March 7 were placed for adoption. 🐾



THE HSUS/LEIGHANN MCCOLLUM

HSUS Disaster Services Director Scotlund Haisley holds Toto, the dog who fell from the tornado.



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