



Pacelle speaks outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., in August 2006 during a demonstration protesting the Chinese government's decision to kill thousands of dogs due to a rabies scare.

An active CEO, Pacelle reaches out to members in a monthly column, “The Animal Advocate,” in which he discusses pertinent issues. Through his columns, Pacelle has argued for banning exotic animals as pets and against animal cloning - whether for pets or to produce food.

“He’s a very professional, ethical person, dedicated to his job,” says Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona, a NIAF member who recently worked with Pacelle to support a state ballot initiative banning the use of cages for sows. The initiative passed and will take effect in five years as a misdemeanor offense.

Pacelle’s road to the Humane Society began years ago while studying at Yale. He majored in history and studies in the environment, choosing to concentrate on how our country has historically treated animals. “It was formative for me,” he wrote in a December 2006 New York Times column. “I saw that a destructive attitude toward animals in the natural world, along with innovations in technology, could produce colossal damage to animals and ecosystems.”

He lobbied for animal rights during a college internship and during the following summer worked at Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, just south of Canada. “That was another marker for me,” he wrote in the same New York Times column. “The physical beauty of both the landscape and the waterscape brought home to me that animals should live unmolested.”

Following college, Pacelle served as executive director of The Fund for Animals and as an instructor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Training Academy. He joined the Humane Society in 1994 as its chief lobbyist.

“In the work of the Humane Society, we’re really dealing with the relationship between people and animals,” Pacelle says. “We want people to think of animals as part of the community and that they deserve respect.”

A HELPFUL HERITAGE

The youngest of four children, Wayne was born to parents Patricia and Richard Pacelle in New Haven, Connecticut. His mother was a homemaker and worked as an office assistant while his father taught physical education and coached football.

His father’s family descended from immigrants who hailed from Provincia de Caserta and Castelpagano, Italy, and traveled to the U.S. in the late 1800s. His grandparents, John M. and Esther Maselli Pacelle, were both born in the United States and lived in Connecticut; a descendant of trained masons, John M. Pacelle was a factory worker and custodian in the local Hamden school system.

“Pacelle’ appears to have been ‘Pacelli’ when the family arrived in the United States,” wrote the CEO’s brother, Richard Jr., chair of the politi- ➤