

THE
State
OF THE
Animals
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edited by **Deborah J. Salem**
and **Andrew N. Rowan**

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Preface

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) envisions a world in which people meet the physical and emotional needs of domestic animals; protect wild animals and their environments; and change their interaction with other animals, evolving from exploitation and harm to respect and compassion. Since this vision, and its supporting mission, have been the guiding principles underlying The HSUS's far-flung activities, we wished to make a data-based assessment of our progress (or lack of progress) toward achieving them. This volume is the result of our goal of developing an analytical framework for evaluating progress. While it is not comprehensive, we hope that you will find it to be a creditable beginning.

We chose the authors of the contributed chapters for their knowledge and expertise in a particular area of animal protection. As far as possible, we paired an HSUS staff person with an "outside" expert to provide a broad perspective on each issue. The authors were asked to review the ways in which their fields have changed in the past fifty years—from 1950 to 2000. As a result, we have chapters reviewing the care and welfare of companion animals, laboratory animals, farm animals, and wild animals. In addition, there is a chapter reviewing developments in the animal protection community itself and another addressing public attitudes to animal welfare. An overview chapter by the HSUS President Paul G. Irwin offers a broad summary of changes and progress in each field.

This volume is envisioned as the first in a series reviewing the state of animal protection in North America and worldwide. This series will form the cornerstone of the Public Policy Series of our newly-formed Humane Society Press (HSP). HSP's Public Policy Series is planned as a source of information and informed opinion for policy-makers, the academic community, animal advocates, and the media.

The editors wish to thank Lester Brown and the World-watch Institute for providing an excellent model for this volume, and we especially wish to express our appreciation to all the contributors for their commitment to the project. In addition, we wish to thank Paul G. Irwin for his encouragement and support and all the HSUS staff who helped make the volume what it is, most notably Creative Director Paula Jaworski and copyeditor Kristin Zimmer. All these individuals have put in time and effort to produce what we hope you, the reader, will view as a valuable publication, *The State of the Animals: 2001*.