

HSUS 101

About The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

Introduction

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated the most effective by its peers. Since 1954, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education, and hands-on programs. We rescue and care for tens of thousands of animals each year, but our primary mission is to prevent cruelty before it occurs. We're there for all animals, across America and around the world.

The HSUS seeks a humane and sustainable world for all animals—a world that will also benefit people. We are America's mainstream force against cruelty, exploitation and neglect, as well as the most trusted voice extolling the human-animal bond.

Our mission statement: Celebrating Animals, Confronting Cruelty

We work to reduce suffering and to create meaningful social change for animals by advocating for sensible public policies, investigating cruelty and working to enforce existing laws, educating the public about animal issues, joining with corporations on behalf of animal-friendly policies, and conducting hands-on programs that make ours a more humane world. We are a leading disaster relief agency for animals, and we provide direct care for thousands of animals at our sanctuaries and rescue facilities, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and mobile veterinary clinics.

We celebrate pets, as well as wildlife, and protect habitats. We are the nation's most important advocate for local humane societies, providing shelter standards and evaluations, training programs, a national advertising campaign to promote pet adoption, direct support, and national conferences. We operate a Humane Wildlife Services program in the D.C. metro area to provide homeowners and businesses with humane and effective solutions to conflicts with our wild neighbors. We promote scientific innovation by driving the development of humane alternatives to replace harmful animal experiments. The HSUS publishes *All Animals*, a membership magazine, and *Animal Sheltering*, a bi-monthly magazine for animal sheltering professionals.

We confront national and global cruelties through major campaigns targeting the barbaric practices of dogfighting and cockfighting; abusive puppy mills where dogs are treated not like family but like production machines; the worst cruelties of factory farming in modern agribusiness such as confinement of animals in crates and cages; inhumane and unsporting hunting practices such as "canned hunts" of captive exotic animals; the suffering of animals in experimentation, including chimpanzees and pets; the slaughter of American horses for export to foreign countries where horsemeat is considered a delicacy; and the clubbing of baby seals and use of other animals for the commercial fur trade. Our track record of effectiveness has led to meaningful victories for animals in Congress, state legislatures, courtrooms and corporate boardrooms.

Office Locations

The headquarters of The HSUS is located in Gaithersburg, Md., with another office location in Northwest Washington, D.C. In addition, we have an office in Los Angeles, Calif., and we operate six animal care centers around the country in partnership with affiliates. We have state directors in over 40 states and Puerto Rico, who reside locally and represent all HSUS matters at the state level. They are responsible for establishing relationships with local lawmakers, animal protection groups and other stakeholders, interacting with constituents, passing legislation, and are responsible for the effective implementation of our work on the ground. So whether you are from Mississippi, Virginia or Nebraska, State Affairs has probably been involved in

some way in your home-state's animal issues. To connect with your state director on the issues affecting animals in your own state, fill out the short form [linked here](#).

Reading materials

Statement of Principles and Beliefs

The mission of The HSUS is to create a humane and sustainable world for all animals—a world that will also benefit people. We seek to forge a lasting and comprehensive change in human consciousness of and behavior toward all animals in order to prevent animal cruelty, exploitation, and neglect and to protect wild habitats and the entire community of life.

The HSUS seeks to achieve our goals through education, advocacy, public policy reform, and the empowerment of our supporters and partners. We do not engage in or support actions that are illegal or violent or that run counter to the basic principles of compassion and respect for others (see [Statement on Nonviolence](#)).

The HSUS strives for integrity, fairness, and professionalism in pursuit of our mission. We will seek to be inclusive and to develop partnerships with a broad array of society's institutions to further our goals.

[Policies](#)

We have statements available on our website that address the following issues:

- Nonviolence
- Animals in Biomedical Research, Testing and Education
- Animals in Entertainment and Competition
- Climate Change
- Companion Animals
- Disasters
- Euthanasia
- Farm Animals and Eating with Conscience
- Wild Animals

Supporting Materials

- [Departments and Affiliates](#)
- [Leadership](#)
- [We are HSUS video](#)

Programs and Campaigns

Introduction

Each of our campaigns is multi-faceted and works to attack the root causes of cruelty by making changes at the policy level. Our campaigns also seek to engage the public to take action on behalf of animals through grassroots advocacy.

[Animal Rescue Team](#)

Our highly-trained Animal Rescue Team is on the front lines at a moment's notice to rescue animals in peril. Whatever and wherever the disaster—from the wrath of hurricanes to the misery of puppy mills—our staff is dedicated to the safety and protection of animals and their communities.

[Animal Research Issues](#)

Our Animal Research Issues department is working to decrease and eventually end the use of animals in experiments by promoting the development and implementation of innovative and effective alternative

methods. Our two largest campaigns are focused on [ending the use of chimpanzees in harmful research while securing their retirement to sanctuaries](#) and [ending the use of animals for cosmetic testing](#).

[Companion Animals](#)

The HSUS is committed to creating a safer, kinder world for cats, dogs and other companion animals. We provide legislators, communities, shelters and pet owners the tools and information they need to eliminate animal cruelty, end the tragedy of pet overpopulation, and provide safe, happy homes for companion animals (and their people). Our [Adopt a Shelter Pet](#) campaign encourages people to adopt, and not shop.

[End Animal Cruelty and Fighting](#)

The HSUS works to implement, at both the state and federal levels, laws that make cruel practices like cockfighting and dogfighting felony-level offenses.

[Equine Protection](#)

The Equine Protection Department fights to safeguard the welfare of horses, burros, and donkeys. We work to end cruelty and abuse, horse slaughter, and irresponsible breeding while encouraging responsible horse ownership and providing support and resources to the horse rescue community.

[Farm Animal Protection](#)

We work to reduce the suffering of animals raised for meat, eggs and milk.

[Fur-Free](#)

We seek to end cruelty and killing for fur in favor of compassion in fashion. Our [Protect Seals](#) campaign focuses on ending the Canadian baby seal hunt.

[Stop Puppy Mills](#)

Our campaign is focused on putting an end to puppy mills, which are inhumane commercial dog breeding facilities that cause and perpetuate suffering for the animals who are trapped in the production of puppies, often born with serious medical conditions.

[Wildlife Abuse](#)

The Wildlife Abuse Campaign works to address the most egregious cruelties against wildlife. We're focused primarily on stopping poaching, captive hunting, and fox and coyote penning. We also work to maintain protections for wildlife where they already exist.

Animal Care Centers

Each year, thousands of animals come to one of the care centers we operate in partnership with our affiliates The Fund for Animals and South Florida Wildlife Center in desperate need of healing and care, which skilled staff, volunteers and interns at our six animal care centers provide. While the animals receive care and get a second chance at life, our campaigns work to end the intentional cruelty and accidental suffering that result in abuse and injury to animals in the first place.

[Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch \(CABBR\)](#)

Started by Cleveland Amory, CABBR is a permanent haven to more than 1,200 domestic and exotic animals, including bison, monkeys, tigers and chimpanzees.

[Cape Wildlife Center](#)

Our Barnstable, Mass. facility includes a state-of-the-art wildlife center and is open 365 days a year providing emergency care and wildlife rehabilitation.

[Doris Day Equine Center](#)

Located on the grounds of the CABBR, our horse adoption and rescue center is an innovative facility that rehabilitates and rehomes abused and neglected horses.

[Duchess Sanctuary](#)

Our Oregon facility offers abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless horses a chance to forget their past—many were used by the pharmaceutical industry—and enjoy their well-earned freedom on 1,120 acres.

[The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center](#)

Our southern California wildlife center treats injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of releasing them back into the wild, and provides sanctuary to some very special residents including a hippopotamus.

[South Florida Wildlife Center](#)

Each year, the South Florida Wildlife Center rescues and rehabilitates over 12,000 injured and orphaned native and non-native animals—along with a few lost pets.

Affiliates

[Doris Day Animal League](#)

The Doris Day Animal League's overriding mission is to reduce the pain and suffering of non-human animals through legislative initiatives, education, and programs to enforce statutes and regulations which have already been enacted protecting animals. We strongly encourage the spaying and neutering of companion animals.

[Humane Society International](#)

Humane Society International is one of the only international animal protection organizations in the world working to protect all animals—including animals in laboratories, farm animals, companion animals and wildlife—and our record of achievement demonstrates our dedication and effectiveness.

[Humane Society Legislative Fund](#)

Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF) is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office. HSLF was formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of The HSUS. As a 501(c)(4) lobbying organization, HSLF can engage in more public policy work, build an army of trained activists and compete with other groups that have long been operating at a different level.

[Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association](#)

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) was formed as a home for veterinary professionals who want to engage in direct care programs for animals in need and educate the public and others in the profession about animal welfare issues. HSVMA Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) is our primary direct care program. We are also actively involved in advocating for better public policies for animals and advancing humane alternatives in veterinary education. HSVMA's mission is to protect and advocate for animals while providing leadership and service opportunities that support a humane veterinary profession.

[Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust](#)

The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (HSWLT) celebrates and protects wild animals by creating permanent sanctuaries, preserving and enhancing natural habitat and confronting cruelty. Landowners who have property that provides valuable wildlife habitat know that such lands are rapidly disappearing to development and other

exploitative uses. Refusing to sell to those who would destroy the land is an admirable, but temporary, defense against unwanted changes to the land and disruption or destruction to the wildlife it harbors. Permanent protection of both land and wildlife is possible, though, and that is what the Wildlife Land Trust enables landowners to achieve.

[The Fund for Animals](#)

The Fund for Animals was founded in 1967 by prominent author and animal advocate Cleveland Amory. Since then, The Fund has spearheaded some of the most significant events in the history of the animal protection movement by employing hard-hitting advocacy campaigns and operating world-famous animal care facilities like the Black Beauty Ranch. In 2005, The Fund and The HSUS joined together to form an unprecedented partnership for animals. Since then, The Fund has expanded its efforts to protect animals in the courts and provide for their veterinary, sanctuary and rehabilitative needs at direct care facilities.

How to stay informed of our work

As the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization, The HSUS is always making news. It's essential our volunteers remain current on the happenings within the organization, and we have a variety of ways to do so.

1. Review our [press releases](#) on our website, or sign up to have them emailed to you so you can keep abreast of all developments as they happen.
2. Sign up for CEO Wayne Pacelle's [blog](#) which often provides deeper insights into the happenings reported to the media.
3. Keep up to date on the latest in your own state. Visit our [In Your State page](#) where you can sign up for your state's Facebook page and get to know your state director.
4. Participate in [Taking Action for Animals \(TAF\)](#), our bi-annual advocacy conference in Washington, D.C.
5. Attend [Animal Care Expo](#), an annual conference for members of the animal protection community.
6. Subscribe to [Animal Sheltering](#) magazine, a resource for animals, rescues and the people who work on behalf of companion animals.
7. [Become a member](#) of The HSUS. As a thank you for joining, you'll receive a subscription to our award-winning [All Animals](#) magazine.