

PROTECT SEALS

• *Do Something.* •

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES.



KILLING CONTINUES

The Canadian government recently announced that hunters can legally club and shoot 975,000 young seals over the next three years. Most people think this slaughter ended in the 1980s, but more seals than ever now face horrible deaths—enough to lead to an expected serious decline in the population, with unknown ecological consequences.

SHOCKING BRUTALITY

Independent veterinarians who observed the hunt in 2001 found that most hunters skinned the seals without first checking to see if they were unconscious. The observers estimated that up to 40 percent of the animals were skinned while still conscious and able to feel pain.

The hunters also piled dying animals on dead ones, dragged live seals across the ice with sharpened steel hooks, and left seals they shot to suffer agonizingly slow deaths.

HARD TRUTH

Canada decided to drastically reduce the seal population without scientific basis or justification. The government has long mismanaged the cod fishery, allowing people to catch too many fish for decades. But now Canada claims the *seals* are responsible for cod declines! Blaming seals is unfounded and there is no evidence that slaughtering them would help the cod population rebound.

SPLITTING HAIRS

Hunters cannot legally kill seal pups who still have their white coats, but it's perfectly legal to kill two-week-old pups who are weaned and have just *begun* shedding. Hunters beat them to death with clubs or large ice-pick-like *hacapiks*. Adult animals are killed, too, but about 95 percent of the slaughtered seals are only 12 days to 12 months old.

SUBSIDIZED SLAUGHTER

Even after decades of public condemnation, the hunt goes on. In fact, the Canadian government *subsidizes* the sealing industry—providing \$20 million (Cdn) between 1995 and

The slaughter must stop.





Canada's seals need protection.

2001. The subsidies have funded salaries for seal processing plant workers, market research and development trips, and capital acquisitions for processing plants. And subsidies continue.

The harp seal hunt is sometimes represented as part of Canada's culture, but in truth it's just another commercial hunt—with 11,185 commercial sealing licenses issued in 2001. Hunters kill seals for their pelts, penises (used to make aphrodisiacs in Asian markets), oil (promoted in Canada as a health supplement), and meat.

YOUR HELP

Here's what you can do to help end this senseless slaughter.

Tell Canada's Prime Minister, Paul Martin, and the Canadian Tourism Commission that you are horrified that the Canadian government not only allows but promotes the unsustainable seal hunt. Insist that such a dramatic quota increase without the science to back it up will make Canada a pariah in the international community.

Let them know that 79 percent of the U.S. residents recently surveyed by The HSUS oppose Canada's seal hunt, and that 65 percent of those surveyed would not likely vacation in Canada if their tourism dollars subsidized the hunt.

Contact:

Right Honorable Paul
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2 Use your money to make a difference. For as long as the hunt continues, don't support Canada by vacationing there. If you purchase any products (such as beer or bottled water) from Canadian companies that do business in the United States ask them to tell their government that they want the hunt to stop. And use every opportunity to educate the people you know that this cruel hunt continues—with a vengeance.

3 Be an ambassador for seals and help us protect them by wearing this organic cotton Do Something T-shirt. Five dollars from every T-shirt purchase directly supports HSUS's program to protect seals. Visit www.protectseals.org to order yours online or find a list of retailers.



For more information on the threats facing seals and other wildlife, visit www.protectseals.org and www.hsus.org/wildlife or call The HSUS Wildlife and Habitat Protection staff at 202-452-1100.

About The Humane Society of the United States

The nation's largest animal protection organization with more than eight million members and constituents, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has worked since 1954 to create a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people, through education, advocacy, and the promotion of respect and compassion.

About Wildlife Works

The producer of the Do Something T-shirt, Wildlife Works protects wilderness areas such as the 80,000-acre Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary in Kenya and provides jobs for rural people so they can afford to let the wildlife live. Every product Wildlife Works sells helps fill the future with magnificent creatures. To learn more, visit www.wildlife-works.com.

**Promoting
the protection
of all animals**

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