



## Connecticut Accomplishments (1992 through 2012)

### Legislation/Public Policy

- The HSUS in Connecticut has been working alongside other state and national coalition partners on the following legislation:
  - Felony cruelty law (passed)
  - Increased penalty for subsequent offenses of cruelty to animals (passed)
  - Bow hunting on Sundays (killed)
  - Bear hunting (blocked bill from coming up for consideration)
  - Sunday hunting (blocked)
  - Importation law requiring animal importers to (1) register with the Department of Agriculture; (2) have imported animals examined by a state-licensed veterinarian; and (3) notify Department of Agriculture and local zoning officials before offering the animals for sale, adoption, or transfer (passed)
  - Cross-reporting of child abuse/animal cruelty requiring animal control officers and Department of Children and Families employees to report to the DoAg when they reasonably suspect that an animal is being treated cruelly, harmed or neglected (passed)
  - Authorization of a regional or municipal dog shelter to contract with a public or private nonprofit animal rescue organization to pay a licensed veterinarian to treat an injured, sick, or diseased animal that is impounded (passed)
  - Internet hunting ban (passed)
  - Exotics ban: adds gorillas, chimpanzees, and orangutans to animals considered potentially dangerous (passed)
  - Tethering dogs: prohibits confining or tethering a dog for unreasonable period of time or tethering to a stationary object or mobile device under certain conditions and in some situations (passed)
  - Initial legislation and then expansion of the Animal Population Control Program (both passed)
  - Mandatory animal control officer training for new ACOs; allows ACOs use state spay/neuter vouchers to sterilize animals before releasing them to adopters (passed)
  - Evacuation of pets and service animals: broadens the definition of “civil preparedness” to include measures addressing the nonmilitary evacuation of pets and service animals (passed)
  - Civil preparedness: requires municipalities to consider whether to address the nonmilitary evacuation of livestock and horses in their emergency plans of operation (passed)
  - Pet trusts: authorizes the creation of a testamentary or inter vivos trust to provide for the care of an animal (passed)
  - Pet lemon law: expands protections for people who buy from a licensed pet shop a dog or cat that is ill or dies shortly after the sale; requires certificates of origin for dogs sold in pet shops (passed)

### Grants, Aid, and Project Contributions

- Over the past decade, The HSUS has facilitated almost \$137,000 in grants to Connecticut organizations that help animals.



### **Training, Shelter, and Advocate Outreach and Events**

- Humane Lobby Day, Lobby 101s
- Numerous tabling events and talks to groups/students
- Networking with rescue and wildlife rehab groups/building grassroots base
- Faith outreach (ongoing)
- Corporate outreach (e.g., promotion of Meatless Mondays, vegan options at local hospital – ongoing work to provide a plan for utility providers (CL&P, UI) to humanely deal with animals affected by tree-trimming)
- Assistance with cruelty cases (rewards, advice)
- Served on Governor Weicker's Task Force on Hunting and Public Safety, which was pulled together after tragic death of jogger due to a hunting accident
- Instrumental work in creation of Connecticut's Animal Population Control Program and passage into law
- Formed the CT Animal Fighting Coalition, did a joint press conference with the attorney general's office to announce our new dogfighting reward of \$5,000, plus the attorney general's office created a toll-free number to report animal fighting (Organization no longer exists.)

### **Partnerships**

- Held an informational session for the Environment Committee on the topic of banning gestation and veal crates; presented along with representatives from the Farm Bureau, UCONN College of Agriculture, and the Dept. of Agriculture
- Served on CT Rabies Advisory Council, which pulled together strategy and created a plan to address the spread of rabies to, and then throughout, Connecticut (early 1990s)
- Partnered with the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association in establishing the long-running annual conference

### **Corporate Reform**

- Twenty-three pet store locations have signed our Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge.

### **Disaster Planning and Response**

- Offered assistance with disaster-related needs for two disasters
- Facilitated posting of The HSUS's link for disaster preparedness for pets on the governor's emergency website during Hurricane Irene (July 2011)
- Provided trainings on disaster preparedness over the years to various groups, including municipal ACOs, shelters, emergency management officials, local animal response teams, etc.