



Florida Accomplishments (1990 through 2012)

Legislation/Public Policy

- The HSUS in Florida has been working alongside other state and national coalition partners on the following legislation:
 - Law banning the sale of dog and cat fur products (passed)
 - Major update to Animal Fighting law that makes any and all involvement with dogfighting, cockfighting, hog/dog fighting, or greyhound baiting a felony (passed)
 - Florida "Animal Friend" license plate to fund spay/neuter programs, more than \$2.5 million distributed since 2006 (passed)
 - Four-year effort to make bestiality illegal again in Fla. (passed)
 - Bills to ban any undercover investigations at factory farms, i.e. "Ag Gag" bills (killed)
 - Successfully campaigned to end fox/coyote penning
 - Stopped the entombing of gopher tortoises by campaigning to end issuance of "take permits" that allowed developers to pay for the right to kill tortoises instead of relocating them; also campaigned for tortoises to be listed as "threatened" species
 - Campaigned to end black bear hunting in Fla. and continue to combat efforts to re-open hunting via the new black bear management plan
 - Ban on sale and possession of Burmese pythons and other giant constrictor snakes as pets (passed)
 - Ban on commercial trade of freshwater turtles (passed)
 - Successfully campaigned to stop the Destin Deepwater Shark Tournament in 2007
 - Gestation crate ban ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to ban gestation crates, the first of its kind in the country (passed)
 - After conducting an undercover investigation into Santeria slaughter, we successfully set a precedent that animal cruelty laws still apply to animal sacrifice situations, after the Santeria priest in our investigation was convicted of animal cruelty in the town of Hialeah. (This came after the Supreme Court struck down a 1989 Miami ordinance banning animal sacrifice.)
 - At the request of The HSUS, Florida's attorney general issued an opinion that hog-dog "rodeo" is a felony under the state's animal fighting and baiting law, effectively banning the blood sport.

Grants, Aid, and Project Contributions

- Provided or facilitated grants totaling \$361,000

Training, Shelter, and Advocate Outreach and Events

- Participated in multiple statewide hurricane exercises, including involvement in major "catastrophic planning" exercise funded by FEMA
- Presented workshops at multiple Governor's Hurricane Conferences and National Hurricane Conferences – including trainings on emergency animal sheltering, disaster animal response teams, and animal responder health and safety
- Disaster Animal Response Team trainings started in Fla. in 1996, which The HSUS took nationally in 2004; more than 10 DART trainings have been held in the state
- Co-sponsored Fla. Animal Disaster Conference, the first of its type, in 1998 with Fla. Department of Agriculture. In 2000, the training became the first National Animal Disaster Conference in



conjunction with Fla. Department of Agriculture and USDA. The conference morphed into The HSUS's National Animal Disaster Conference and later the disaster track at The HSUS's Animal Care Expo.

Partnerships

- The HSUS participated in the Manatee Coalition, including a lawsuit against the USFWS, Fla. Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Army Corps of Engineers; the coalition ended with a landmark settlement in which agencies agreed to provide greater protections for manatees. The HSUS continues to participate in the Manatee Forum through the Fla. Wildlife Commission.
- The HSUS Florida staff members have served on two committees appointed by the Fla. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission working on improvements to captive wildlife regulations. The last committee banned the private ownership of cougars as pets.

Corporate Reform

- The HSUS filed lawsuit against Ft. Lauderdale puppy broker Wizard of Claws. After the case was settled, The HSUS received custody of the puppies when the company filed bankruptcy in 2007.

Direct Assistance, Hands-On Care, Transport, or Placement

- 2004 – Assisted Indian River County Sheriff in one of the country's largest cockfighting raids
- 2004 – After passage of Fla.'s upgraded animal fighting law, almost 1,800 fighting roosters and hens were confiscated from four properties.
- 2006 – Rescued more than 2,000 threatened gopher tortoises from construction sites where developers held permits to entomb or crush the animals; secured more than \$250,000 in funding to assist with the rescue relocation efforts (ongoing)
- 2011 – Gainesville cat hoarder: Almost 700 cats were seized from The Haven Sanctuary in High Springs; cats were cared for in a temporary shelter and a massive cat adopt-a-thon saw almost 300 adopted in three days.
- 2011 – Assisted Union County Sheriff's Office with seizure of 24 fighting dogs and almost 100 cockfighting roosters/hens
- 2012--Assisted Duval County with seizure of 19 fighting dogs
- An HSUS investigation uncovered inhumane killing of dairy calves at a major dairy. The dairy corporation pled no contest to felony animal cruelty charges, and agreed to pay for development of humane euthanasia training through the University of Florida, as well as the passage of humane euthanasia of livestock law and regulation.

Disaster Planning and Response

- Coordinated animal rescue and response to major disasters in Fla.:
 - 1992 – Hurricane Andrew: co-founded first temporary emergency animal shelter ever, 600 impacted animals housed and 2,000 animals provided free veterinary care over a six-week period
 - 1995 – Hurricane Opal: Massive cat trapping project on Navarre Beach
 - 1998 – Fla. Wildfires: 66 of 67 counties had wildfires, assisted in evacuation of Flagler County temporary animal shelter, coordinated response to other counties
 - 2004 – Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne: Coordinated companion animal response for four storms in Florida
 - 2005 – Hurricane Wilma: Damage assessment for Florida in Broward, Dade, and Monroe counties