



Maine Accomplishments (2000 through 2012)

Legislation/Public Policy

- The HSUS in Maine has been working alongside other state and national coalition partners on the following legislation:
 - Helped set a state referendum signature gathering record (103,000) as a driving force behind the bear hunting ballot initiative
 - Bill allowing judges to include pets in the "protection from abuse orders" in domestic violence cases (passed)
 - Bill requiring the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze and engine coolant (passed)
 - Improved animal welfare laws by expanding the definition of cruelty to animals, allowing for the creation of temporary animal shelters, authorizing removal of animals from unattended vehicles, and requiring veterinarians to report suspicions of aggravated cruelty
 - Ban of veal crates and restricting the use of gestation crates for sows (passed)
 - Creation of an Animal Welfare License Plate to help fund Maine's Animal Welfare Program and low-income spay/neuter (passed)
 - Expanded/strengthened laws relating to the breeding and selling of dogs and cats (passed)
 - Proclamation declaring November "Adopt a Shelter Pet Month" (passed)
 - Upgrade to anti-cruelty laws allowing state to collect reimbursement for relocating and care expenses for animals seized in criminal cases and expedited court hearings (passed)
 - Proclamation declaring March 25 "Spay Day" in Maine
 - Bill to enhance enforcement of fish and game laws by authorizing participation in an Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (passed)
 - Maine is the first state in the nation to attempt to pass a law to protect laboratory animals from extreme pain and distress
 - Bill eliminating the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund income tax check-off that provides funding for Help Fix ME (killed)
 - Bill seeking to open a spring bear-hunting season (killed)
 - Bills seeking to implement coyote bounties and snaring (killed)
 - Bills seeking to allow hunting on Sunday (killed)
- To address the lack of effective enforcement of Maine's animal welfare laws, The HSUS became a leading contributor to a working group and legislative effort that resulted in the restructuring and revamping of Maine's Animal Welfare Program and the creation of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council.

Grants, Aid, and Project Contributions

- 2003: Posted a \$2,500 reward in an arson case in Caribou, Maine in which five alpaca and two cats perished in a barn fire
- 2005: The HSUS expended more than \$55,000 to help coordinate and staff the first RAVS (HSUS's rural spay/neuter and wellness program) clinic held in the Northeast (Lubec, Maine); more than 260 animals were spayed and neutered and educational materials were distributed to pet owners and children in this grateful community, which is in the most impoverished county in the state.



- Over the last decade, The HSUS has provided over \$26,500 in regional grants to Maine and its surrounding states, and facilitated \$42,500 in grants to Maine shelters and other animal organizations. Two of the most recent were Disney Bequest Grants to the ARK in Cherryfield and to Central Aroostook Humane Society.

Training, Shelter, and Advocate Outreach and Events

- 2003-2006: Held numerous First Strike Workshops throughout the state to raise awareness about the connection between animal cruelty and human violence
- 2004: Held meetings to launch a statewide animal fighting coalition as part of the New England Task Force; attendees included animal control officers, state humane agents, shelter staff, government officials and a special agent from the USDA's Office of Inspector General
- 2006: Held Emergency Animal Sheltering training in Waterville
- 2008: Held Disaster Animal Response Team training in Augusta with 65 attendees
- 2009: Held EAS training in Augusta with 29 attendees
- 2011-2012: Held Community Cat Meetings throughout the state to get stakeholders talking, brainstorming, and working together to address the free roaming cat issue in light of the results of the survey sent to veterinarians, humane organizations and towns/animal control officers as part of the Maine Free Roaming Cat Project
- Ongoing Lobby 101s/advocacy events – Hold an annual Humane Lobby Day at the state capitol and numerous advocacy events and meet-ups statewide

Partnerships

- Maine Adoption Leaders Team – The HSUS worked with a partnership of Maine private businesses, non-profit organizations and government agencies that was responsible for spearheading the initiative to get the new "respect. love. ADOPT." specialty license plate passed during the 2009 legislative session to benefit the Animal Welfare Program. This was a huge collaborative effort that included the difficult task of collecting \$50,000 from citizens committed to pre-paying for the license plate.
- Maine Equine Welfare Alliance – The HSUS was a founding board member of this affiliation of horse owners, the equine industry, organizations and horse enthusiasts committed to enriching and enhancing the lives of Maine's equines through direct assistance, mentoring, emergency intervention and public education.
- Maine Federation of Humane Societies and New England Federation of Humane Societies – The HSUS is an active participant and board member in both of these organizations working to support animal shelters, to promote the adoption of homeless animals and responsible pet ownership, and to end pet overpopulation through education, outreach, and advocacy at a state and regional level.
- Shelter Partners – The HSUS partners with six shelters and rescues in Maine to care for rescued animals and help find their forever homes.

Corporate Reform

- To date, two pet-supply retail chains in Maine have taken The HSUS's Puppy Friendly Pet Store pledge, committing not to sell puppies in favor of promoting shelter adoptions.



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

- 2007: Expended in excess of \$43,000 to assist the Animal Welfare Program, Buxton Police, Animal Welfare Society, and Animal Rescue League with the rescue and sheltering operations for more than 350 dogs from a puppy mill in Buxton
- 2012: Assisted the Town of Casco with the rescue, temporary shelter, and placement of more than 50 cats from a hoarding situation