



## New York Accomplishments (1993 through 2012)

### Legislation/Public Policy

- The HSUS in New York has been working alongside other state and national coalition partners on the following legislation:
  - Legislation to strip animal fighters of the tools necessary for the cruelty and used to prepare animals for fights (passed)
  - "Ag Gag" bill, which would have criminalized undercover investigations and whistleblowing of factory farm cruelty (killed)
  - Legislation to institute moratoriums to forbid the licensing of new storefront slaughterhouses (passed)
  - Bill to increase penalties for animal fight spectators whose admission fees and gambling dollars fuel the blood sport (passed)
  - In 2010, as NYC considered an inhumane policy to kill raccoons, The HSUS worked to educate city officials, the media, and community leaders on the fears and hysteria over health risks posed by raccoons, including holding a community workshop on living humanely with raccoons in Brooklyn, which helped defeated the proposal.
  - The HSUS won a [major water pollution court case](#) against New York's Hudson Valley Foie Gras. The judge issued an injunction, ordered fines of \$25,000 for each future violation by the company, and ordered it to pay \$50,000 for an environmental clean-up project.
  - After investigations by The HSUS found retailers peddling animal fur as fake fur or selling fur without proper labeling, the state legislature passed a law requiring fur garments to be labeled as "real fur." Follow-up investigations found major retailers flouting fur labeling laws and selling animal fur such as raccoon dog fur as "faux fur." In 2010, President Obama signed H.R. 2480, the [Truth in Fur Labeling Act](#), into law.
  - The HSUS successfully challenged and helped overturn the NYC Department of Health's unscientific and inhumane policy of classifying and mandating lethal control of opossums as a rabies vector species, saving countless thousands of these gentle creatures from killing.
  - In 2010, The HSUS and the Humane Society of New York helped [pass a law](#) which requires schools to notify students and parents of the right of students to abstain from animal dissection and to abstain from witnessing the dissection of animals without being penalized. (Though a dissection choice law protecting the right of students to opt out of dissecting animals without penalty has existed since 1994, many students are either unaware of the law or afraid to speak up.)
  - The HSUS helped table a 2012 Senate bill that would have opened up the first mourning dove shooting season in decades. (Doves are the traditional bird of peace and a beloved backyard songbird. But some people use mourning doves as live targets, sometimes calling them "cheap skeet.")

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

- The HSUS conducted training on investigating animal fighting and cruelty at the [New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute's](#) 10th annual Law Enforcement Supervisors' Training Conference.
- The HSUS has trained, provided [support for](#), and conducted seminars for hundreds of prosecuting attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officials in animal cruelty prosecutions. Recent trainings include a 2010 prosecutor training with the Rockland County DA's Office, a



2011 seminar at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges annual conference in New York City, and a 2012 seminar on animal cruelty and the use of veterinary forensics at the New York City Bar Association.

- In 2008, The HSUS conducted a major exposé with [The New York Post](#) that hampered the grisly underground trade of pigeons rounded-up in NYC for cruel pigeon-shooting contests in Pennsylvania.
- The HSUS celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> annual [National Feral Cat Day](#) in 2011 by offering 100 scholarships to certified feral cat caretakers trainings. The scholarships provided humane advocates with training through Humane Society University's online course, "Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony." The participants became certified feral cat caretakers with the New York City Feral Cat Initiative.

### Partnerships

- Celebrating the [17<sup>th</sup> annual World Spay Day](#) in 2011, The HSUS joined the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals and the ASPCA to host the event as part of I Love NYC Pets Month. The [event](#) offered more than 100 free spay/neuter surgeries through the ASPCA's mobile clinics, free vaccinations, and microchips.
- In addition to attending and participating in fashion industry events in NYC to promote fur-free fashion, The HSUS has sponsored Fashion Week shows with fur-free designers such as Charlotte Ronson, Victoria Bartlett, Benjamin Cho, and Jay McCarroll.
- The HSUS and The Art Institute's [Cool vs. Cruel](#) fur-free fashion design competition challenges students to reinterpret a runway look that uses animal fur by creatively replacing it with cruelty-free alternatives; winners of the competition receive coveted internships in NYC with fur-free designers.

### Corporate Reform

- To date, [175 pet stores](#) in New York have taken The HSUS Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge, committing not to sell puppies in favor of promoting shelter pet adoptions.

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

- The HSUS Pets for Life NYC program provides hands-on assistance and alternatives to help prevent animal surrender, with the support of more than 50 volunteers and donated services from 23 dog and cat behaviorists, 40 foster parents, several pro-bono attorneys, and more than 25 reduced-cost veterinarians and boarding kennels.
- A 2011 six-month long investigation documented the link between pet stores in New York and puppy mills in the Midwest. The investigation resulted in days of feature coverage by major media outlets and educated New Yorkers on the cruelty of puppy mills and not to buy puppies from pet stores.
- In 2003, The HSUS assisted state police in the investigation and conviction of James Fricchione, publisher of [Sporting Dog Journal](#) and a major figure in the dog fighting world. He was found guilty of six felonies and five misdemeanors for his dogfighting-related activities in Orange County, N.Y.
- A 2009 investigation by The HSUS of a slaughter plant from Vermont that supplied meat to NYC exposed abuse of dairy calves and resulted in an ongoing USDA investigation, [closure of the Vermont plant](#), and a [felony conviction](#).



- After thousands of Canada geese in New York City were slaughtered in 2009 and 2010 as part of an effort to manage their population, The HSUS provided training to implement a more humane goose management program – effectively ending the killings at Brooklyn's largest park. Intervention by The HSUS resulted in cancellations of similar goose-slaughter programs.
- A [2011 investigation](#) exposed unethical and cruel practices in captive hunting ("canned shoot") facilities in New York.

### **Disaster Planning and Response**

- The HSUS serves on local and state committees and task forces in disaster planning and emergency response. As a member of the NYC Office of Emergency Management's Animal Planning Task Force, The HSUS is instrumental in establishing the city's pet-friendly policies in disaster response. In 2011, as part of the Hurricane Irene response, The HSUS served at the NYC OEM's Emergency Operations Center to field response issues relating to animals, help evacuees locate pet-friendly shelters, and assist animal shelters and evacuation centers.
- The HSUS provides training, resources, and assistance to disaster responders and emergency planning managers throughout New York. In 2007, The HSUS hosted a Disaster Animal Response Team training in Westchester County and provided a grant to the Pet Safe Coalition to expand disaster response training on Long Island. In 2010 and 2011, The HSUS conducted and participated in workshops and presentations at the American Red Cross and New York State OEM's New York State Citizen Preparedness Program's annual conferences.