



## **Pennsylvania Accomplishments (2008 through 2012)**

### **Legislation/Public Policy**

- The HSUS in Pennsylvania has been advocating alongside other state and national coalition partners for the following legislation:
  - 2008 Pennsylvania Dog Law regulating the large number of kennels in the Commonwealth including banning wire flooring, cage stacking, and setting comprehensive cleanliness, pest control and veterinary care standards (passed)
  - Legislation banning anyone but a veterinarian under anesthesia from performing tail docking, ear cropping, and surgical births on dogs (passed)
  - Commonwealth's poaching penalties strengthened, creating a comprehensive penalty system including felony level penalties and clarified rights and duties of wildlife conservation officers
  - Ban on greyhound racing strengthened by forbidding the simulcasting of greyhound racing
  - Creation of the Pennsylvania Animal Protection Caucus, where legislators are informed and create consensus on animal protection issues. The HSUS also provided support, guidance and commentary on the creation of new regulations to crack down on puppy mills.
  - Increased protection of service dogs from abuse by holding the abuser, or owner of a dog responsible for the attack, responsible for paying the veterinary fees and the costs of retraining or replacing the service animal (passed)

### **Grants, Aid, and Project Contributions**

- Over \$194,000 provided to local Pennsylvania animal shelters, Pennsylvania law enforcement; also provided medical assistance and animal care supplies

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

- The HSUS holds its annual Humane Lobby Day at the state capitol and hundreds of advocacy events statewide.
- Provide training to the Philadelphia City Police and York City Police on animal fighting
- The HSUS led the charge in the arduous process of convincing the Pennsylvania Bar Association to take their first-ever stance against animal cruelty by supporting legislation to ban live pigeon shoots. This support gives access to two full-time lobbyists employed by the PBA to assist in the passage of this important legislation.

### **Partnerships**

- Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team – The HSUS holds a seat on the board and has participated in strategic planning, grant funding, and policy decisions for the past six years.
- Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture – We worked together to crack down on illegally operating commercial kennels, including the raid on Almost Heaven, a notorious puppy mill in which The HSUS seized and cared for 253 dogs with the assistance of the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team and PetSmart Charities,
- Pennsylvania Game Commission – The HSUS issued multiple rewards for poaching-related crimes statewide, and worked together to achieve legislative improvements for wildlife,



including the 2010 poaching legislation, and is currently making effort to ban the possession of exotic animals.

#### **Corporate Reform**

- **Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge** – To date, six pet supply retailers have taken The HSUS's Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge, committing not to sell puppies in favor or promoting shelter adoptions.

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

- In February 2012, The HSUS worked with Allegheny County Police to rescue 13 animals from illegal animal fighting, and invested over \$3,800 to save these dogs from life-threatening cruelty. Additionally, we paid a reward of \$5,000 for assistance in this case.
- The HSUS partners with 14 shelters and rescues in Pennsylvania to care for rescued animals and help find their forever homes.
- The HSUS assisted the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law in the seizure of more than 250 dogs from the infamous Almost Heaven Kennel. Kennel owner Skip Eckhart is still serving time for his conviction of multiple animal cruelty charges.

#### **Disaster Planning and Response**

- Since January 2011, The HSUS has worked with other agencies to care for hundreds of animals displaced or in danger because of natural disasters, including Hurricane Irene. The HSUS is also an important member of the board of the Pennsylvania State Animal response team, and has teamed up with county animal response teams to provide support for law enforcement support and disaster response.