



Vermont Accomplishments (1995 through 2012)

Legislation/Public Policy

- The HSUS in Vermont has been advocating alongside other state and national coalition partners for the following legislation:
 - Felony animal cruelty (passed)
 - Dissection choice (passed)
 - Civil forfeiture (passed)
 - Civil ticketing for animal cruelty (passed)
 - Improved penalty provisions for the state's humane slaughter law (passed)
 - Pet protection orders (passed)
 - Internet hunting (passed)
 - Canned hunting regulation, ban on new facilities (passed)
 - Circus ban in Burlington, via local ordinance (passed)
 - Spay/Neuter Month by governor proclamations, yearly (passed)

Grants, Aid and, Project Contributions

- The HSUS has provided over \$5,500 in grants to Vermont since 2009, but going back 10 years, we have put over \$88,500 in grant dollars into Vermont and the surrounding states.

Training, Shelter, and Advocate Outreach and Events

- Worked with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Agency from 1998-2008 (10 years) on an egg-addling program on Lake Sadawga in Whitingham in order to reduce the Canada goose population on the lake, following homeowner complaints
- Regularly offer in-service workshops to shelter staff on topics such as compassion fatigue, customer service, and disaster planning

Partnerships

- Work with the Vermont Law School's student chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and gave several presentations to the group on animal advocacy efforts in Vermont
- The HSUS Vermont State Director is current chair and board member of the Vermont Humane Federation, a professional association of the state's shelters, rescue groups, and animal advocates
- The HSUS Vermont State director is a founding member and chair of the Whitingham Animal Group, for which The HSUS served as a fiscal sponsor. This group of local citizens is a model for engaging the community in local animal control and animal cruelty issues and has participated in many fundraising activities over the years to raise money for its local animal control program, including spay/neuter assistance and emergency veterinary care. The HSUS sponsored a low-cost spay/neuter clinic for local residents and feral cats at its location in Jacksonville.
- 2000: The HSUS Vermont State Director is a founding member and chair of the Vermont Animal Cruelty Response Coalition, which coordinates efforts to prevent and respond to animal cruelty through communication, education, and training. The HSUS has been the "go to" organization for animal cruelty questions and resources since the coalition was established. Efforts include:
 - Developed the manual, Investigating Animal Cruelty in Vermont, which is used as the training curriculum for every law enforcement officer, municipal official, humane agent in the state



- Developed public education materials and a website for the coalition, www.vactf.org
- Developed the training curriculum for three, day-long workshops on animal cruelty investigations which are done in conjunction with the Vermont Police Academy; The HSUS has provided cruelty response training to more than 800 individuals in the past 10 years at more than 40 training workshops on the topic of animal cruelty investigations.
- Developed a four-hour in-service on animal cruelty investigations for police officers, which is hosted by the police academy
- Developed a two-hour module on animal cruelty investigations for the full-time basic academy
- Working with the Vermont Humane Federation, The HSUS granted \$10,000 to further develop county-wide Cruelty Response Systems in all 14 counties, along with an online reporting website, ReportAnimalCruelty.com. This is the first website of its kind and features a unique, password-protected case management system for humane agents throughout the state, along with a toll-free number to report animal cruelty.
- Conducted training on animal cruelty investigations, as well the coordinated county-by-county response system that The HSUS helped to put in place for the state, for state prosecutors at their annual conference
- Conducted cross-trainings on identifying animal cruelty with Social and Rehabilitative Services, which in turn trained humane agents in identifying signs of domestic violence and child abuse
- Conducted trainings on basic animal control and animal cruelty investigations for animal control officers with Vermont Animal Control Association

Corporate Reform

- To date, 49 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

- July 2011 – In cooperation with the state police, The HSUS led the effort to rescue, shelter, and adopt close to 60 Labradors seized from a puppy mill in Bakersfield. The dogs were awarded to the state (and ultimately The HSUS) in a civil motion for forfeiture, and the owner later pleaded guilty to misdemeanor animal cruelty charges.
- May 2011 – In cooperation with the Hardwick Police Department, The HSUS led the effort to rescue, shelter, and adopt out 24 chihuahuas from a hoarding situation in Hardwick. The owner voluntarily surrendered the animals and improved living conditions for the remaining dogs, so was never charged.
- July 4, 2010 – The HSUS assisted with the capture and care of 11 cats from a home in Readsboro after their owner committed suicide.
- 2010 – The HSUS founded the Vermont Equine Welfare Coalition with various partners throughout the state. The group has successfully raised funds through grants and other fundraising opportunities to start a hay bank and created a statewide foster care database for equines.
- October 2009 – An HSUS undercover investigation at the Bushway Slaughter Plant in Grand Isle led to the closure of the plant and felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty convictions against two of the plant owners. The case made national headlines.



- June 2007 – In cooperation with the state police, The HSUS led the effort to rescue, foster, and adopt nine horses from a hoarding situation in Readsboro. The owner was convicted of animal cruelty.
- Since January 2011, The HSUS worked with Vermont law enforcement to rescue 112 animals from illegal animal cruelty and worked with other agencies to care for seven animals displaced because of natural disasters. The HSUS has invested nearly \$65,000 in Vermont to save animals from life-threatening cruelty.
- We trained 18 law enforcement officers in Vermont on illegal animal cruelty and fighting investigations, and we assisted dozens of state residents with cruelty situations in their communities.
- The HSUS also partners with four shelters and rescues in Vermont to care for rescued animals and help find their forever homes.

Disaster Planning and Response

- October 2011 – On behalf of the Vermont Humane Federation, The HSUS applied for and received a \$2,500 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to distribute reimbursement checks for lost supplies and hay to several horse owners throughout the state following Tropical Storm Irene.
- August 2011 – The HSUS led damage assessment and sheltering for pets displaced after Tropical Storm Irene in Wilmington, and assisted with securing and distributing more than 60,000 pounds of pet food to impacted areas throughout the state.
- The HSUS Vermont state director serves on the board of the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team.
- The HSUS conducted training on emergency animal sheltering for local DART teams.
- The HSUS Vermont state director was on the original steering committee that drafted the state's emergency annex for animals.
- The HSUS signed an MOU with the Department of Agriculture to assist with disasters.