



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Animal Protection Priorities – 111th Congress (rev. 7/30/09)

COMPANION ANIMALS

Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act– H.R. 503 / S. 727 – To prohibit knowing and intentional possession, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or receiving of a horse for slaughter for human consumption.

Leaders: Reps. Conyers, Burton, Rahall, Whitfield / Sens. Landrieu, Ensign

Puppy Mills – To close a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act by requiring that large commercial breeders who sell puppies online and directly to the public be licensed, regulated, and inspected, and to require exercise for dogs at all commercial breeding facilities.

Leaders: Reps. Farr, Gerlach, Capps / Sen. Durbin

Truth in Fur Labeling Act – H.R. 2480 / S. 1076 – To require species-specific labeling on any fur product regardless of value, in order to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed choices and combat the import of dog and cat fur. Currently, a loophole allows fur products valued at \$150 or less to be sold in the U.S. without disclosure of the species of animal used in the garment.

Leaders: Reps. Jim Moran, Bono Mack / Sen. Menendez

Pet Trusts – To authorize federal provisions to provide for companion animals through uniform pet trusts after the death of the guardian/owner.

Leaders: Rep. Blumenauer

Horse Transportation Safety Act – H.R. 305 – To prohibit the interstate transport of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another; creates civil penalties between \$100 and \$500 for each horse involved.

Leaders: Reps. Kirk, Cohen, Whitfield

Dog Bite Prevention Week – H. Res. 355 – Recognizing May 17-23, 2009, as National Dog Bite Prevention Week, and calling upon all municipalities to adopt and implement effective dog bite injury prevention programs to protect Postal Service employees, including laws encouraging responsible dog ownership.

Leader: Rep. McCotter

Wounded Warrior K-9 Corps – H.R. 3266 / S. 1495 – To establish a program of grants to nonprofit groups to encourage the use of service and therapy dogs to assist disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Leaders: Reps. Klein, Whitfield / Sen. Franken

CRUELTY

Animal Cruelty Reporting – To require the collection of data on animal cruelty crimes as a separate category in federal databases that collect crime statistics, so that law enforcement agencies can analyze trends in animal cruelty-related crimes, including animal fighting.

Leaders: Reps. Conyers, Gallegly, Van Hollen / Sen. Menendez

Animal Cruelty/Human Violence Link – H. Res. 191 – To designate May 2009 as National Link Awareness Month in recognition of the link between animal cruelty and other forms of societal violence.

Leader: Rep. Susan Davis

FARM ANIMALS

Farm Animal Stewardship Purchasing Act – To require that suppliers of meat, egg, and dairy products to federal programs provide enough space so that animals raised for these products can stand up, turn around and lie down.

Leader: DeFazio

Antibiotic Resistance – H.R. 1549 / S. 619 – To phase out the routine non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals – a common practice to promote growth and compensate for overcrowded, stressful, unsanitary conditions on factory farms – in order to maintain the effectiveness of antibiotics for treating sick people and animals.

Leaders: Rep. Slaughter / Sens. Kennedy, Snowe

Downed Animals – To require humane euthanasia and condemnation of livestock too sick or injured to walk at slaughter plants, auctions, and other facilities, and to prohibit USDA certification of meat from those animals for human consumption.

Leaders: Reps. Ackerman, LaTourette / Sen. Akaka

RESEARCH

Class B Dealers – To prohibit the sale for research of dogs and cats by Class B dealers, who obtain these animals from random sources such as pet theft and free-to-good-home ads.

Leaders: Rep. Doyle / Sen. Akaka

Great Ape Protection Act – H.R. 1326 – To phase out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research, retire all (approximately 600) federally owned chimpanzees to sanctuary, and codify the NIH moratorium on breeding of these animals for invasive research.

Leaders: Reps. Towns, Reichert, Langevin, Bartlett

Dissection Choice – To require and/or authorize funding for schools to provide students with humane alternatives (e.g., interactive CD-ROMs) to traditional animal dissection without being penalized.

WILDLIFE

Captive Primate Safety Act – H.R. 80 / S. 462 – To prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade.

Leaders: Reps. Blumenauer, Kirk / Sens. Boxer, Vitter

H.R. 80 was approved on 5/14/09 by voice vote in Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. H.R. 80 was approved on 2/24/09 by vote of 323-95.

Wild Horses – H.R. 1018 – To restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros, a protection undercut by a rider in the FY 2005 omnibus spending bill, and encourage broader implementation of immunocontraception program as a long-term solution to eliminate round-ups, removal, and “storage” of wild horses.

Leaders: Reps. Rahall, Grijalva

H.R. 1018 approved on 4/28/09 by a vote of 21-14 in Natural Resources Committee.

Shark Conservation Act – H.R. 81 / S. 850 – To end the cruel practice of shark finning (cutting off sharks’ fins and throwing the sharks back in the water, often while still alive). Congress banned this practice in 2000, but enforcement is complex and there is room for cheating. H.R. 81 closes a loophole that currently permits a vessel to transport fins obtained illegally as long as the sharks were not finned aboard that vessel.

Leaders: Rep. Bordallo, Del. Faleomavaega / Sen. Kerry

H.R. 81 approved on 3/2/09 by voice vote.

International Whale Conservation and Protection Act – H.R. 2455 – To amend the Whale Conservation and Protection Study Act to promote international whale conservation, protection, and research, and for other purposes.
Leader: Del. Faleomavaega

Pythons – S. 373 / H.R. 2811 – To amend the Lacey Act to add pythons to the list of injurious species prohibited from interstate commerce and importation.
Leaders: Sen. Bill Nelson / Rep. Meek
House Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 2811 held on 7/29/09, narrowing bill to Burmese pythons and Rock pythons. Hearing on S. 373 held on 7/8/09 in EPW Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife.

Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act – H.R. 669 – To prevent the introduction and establishment in the U.S. of nonnative wildlife species that may hurt the economy, environment, human health, or native wildlife.
Leader: Rep. Bordallo
Hearing held on 3/23/09 in House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife.

Great Cats and Rare Canids Act – H.R. 411 / S. 529 – To assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations, and for projects of experts in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations.
Leader: Rep. Inslee / Sens. Lieberman, Brownback
S. 529 approved on 5/14/09 by voice vote in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. H.R. 411 approved on 4/21/09 by a vote of 290-118.

Crane Conservation Act – H. R. 388 and S. 197 – To assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of experts in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.
Leader: Rep. Baldwin / Sens. Feingold, Crapo
H.R. 388 approved on 5/14/09 by voice vote in Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. H.R. 388 approved on 4/21/09 by vote of 288-116.

Canadian Seals – S. Res. 84 – To urge Canada to end its commercial seal hunt.
Leaders: Sens. Levin, Collins
Approved on 5/7/09 by voice vote in the full Senate. Approved on 5/5/09 by voice vote in Foreign Relations committee.

Marine Mammal Strandings – S. 859 – To provide grants for marine mammal rescue and disentanglement.
Leader: Sen. Cantwell
Approved on 5/20/09 by voice vote in Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalties – H. R. 2062 – To establish felony penalties for intentional take of migratory birds and other intentional violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
Leader: Rep. DeFazio / (seeking Senate sponsor)
Hearing held on 5/13/09 in Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife.

Sportsmanship in Hunting Act – H.R. 2308 – To prohibit “Internet hunting” (computer-assisted remote hunting where guns are aimed and fired with the click of a computer mouse), and to ban interstate and foreign commerce of captive exotic animals for “canned hunts” (trophy shooting of animals penned within fenced areas).
Leaders: Reps. Cohen, Sherman and Whitfield

Safe Drug Disposal Act – H.R. 1191 – To encourage the proper disposal of unwanted medications, including veterinary drugs, thereby reducing the occurrence of pharmaceuticals in waterways and the diversion of those medications to illicit use.
Leaders: Reps. Inslee and Moran

Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act – H.R. 556 – To establish a program of research, recovery, and other activities to provide for the recovery of the southern sea otter.

Leader: Rep. Farr

Approved on 7/28/09 by a vote of 316-107. Approved on 6/10/09 by voice vote in House Natural Resources Committee.

Aerial Hunting of Wildlife – S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 – To amend the federal Airborne Hunting Act to bar the shooting of wolves, bears, and other predators from aircraft except in limited cases involving a designated biological emergency.

Leaders: Sen. Feinstein / Rep. George Miller

Wildlife Poisons – To prohibit the manufacture, processing, possession, or distribution in commerce of sodium fluoroacetate (“Compound 1080”), a highly toxic poison commonly used in lethal “wildlife control” programs. Compound 1080 poses unacceptable national security risks and causes terrible suffering for wildlife as well as unintended targets, including endangered species and pets.

Leader: Rep. DeFazio

Wildlife Penning Prohibition Act – To amend the Lacey Act to prohibit the interstate transport of animals used in wildlife penning (fenced enclosures in which wild animals are torn apart by packs of dogs in competitive animal fights).

Leader: Rep. Holt

Bear Protection Act – To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to extend their protections to bears illegally killed for their viscera.

Leaders: Reps. Grijalva, Campbell

APPROPRIATIONS

Animal Welfare Enforcement Funding – To ensure adequate funds to enforce the Animal Welfare Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (laws that require basic protections for millions of animals at slaughterhouses, puppy mills, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and other sites), to address the needs of animals in disasters, and to ease the shortage of veterinarians in underserved rural and inner-city areas and public health practice through student loan forgiveness.

Leaders: Reps. Blumenauer, Chris Smith / Sens. Levin, Vitter

Alternatives Support – To provide directed funding for research, development and validation of alternative methods and to realize the vision of the National Research Council for toxicity testing in the 21st century.