Celebrating Animals, Confronting Cruelty

The Humane Society of the United States
Annual Report 2010

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Hero for Puppies: After seeing for herself the inside of a puppy mill and learning where her own beloved dog came from, Amanda Hearst helped raise $1 million for The HSUS’s campaign against mass breeding facilities.

Shutting Down Puppy Mills: Page 34

The Accidental Activist: When Cristin Tank and her family saw the cruel activities next door, they didn’t stay silent, helping bring an end to fox and coyote penning in Florida.

Protecting Wildlife: Page 22

Compassionate Farmer: Bruce Rickard, who pays special attention to animal behavior on his farm and lets chickens be free to express their “chicken-ness,” has joined the fight against extreme confinement practices.

Protecting Farm Animals: Page 8

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Exposed! If you’re not already anti-factory farming, this will do it: The Humane Society just released an undercover investigation. … The video pretty much leaves me speechless.

—Food writer and New York Times Magazine columnist Mark Bittman

Transformations: Underneath a mass of filth-caked, impenetrable fur, this dog, long confined to the garage of a Carriere, Miss., puppy mill, was all bones. Saved by the HSUS Animal Rescue Team, Boomer is actually not brown but a mostly white dog with gray patches. See more transformations in Rescuing Animals: Page 4.

—Food writer and New York Times Magazine columnist Mark Bittman

On the Cover: Responding to a request from the Fallon County Sheriff’s Office in Montana, the HSUS Animal Rescue Team removed nearly 100 animals, including this cat, from an overcrowded property in July. Taken to an emergency shelter, they were later transported to agencies around the country for adoption.

[ 2010 Key Accomplishments ]

→ HSUS animal care centers provide emergency treatment and sanctuary to nearly 16,000 animals, while our veterinary clinics and wildlife experts rescue and treat thousands more

→ Federal bills to strengthen shark finning ban and prohibit crush videos are signed into law

→ Five HSUS undercover investigations expose horrific abuses at industrial egg, pork, and turkey facilities

→ Humane Society International launches a groundbreaking initiative in Haiti, including spay/neuter, disaster response, and veterinary training programs

→ HSUS teams deploy to 51 emergency rescues, saving nearly 11,000 animals from puppy mills, animal fighting operations, and egregious neglect

→ Ohio agriculture leaders agree to a landmark set of farm animal welfare reforms

→ 98 pro-animal state laws and regulations are enacted, including the nation’s first ban on the sale of whole battery cage eggs

→ Hellmann’s mayonnaise pledges to convert all 350 million eggs it uses annually to cage-free, while Kraft Foods, Walmart, Subway, Burger King, IHOP, and other major companies decrease their purchases of eggs from caged hens

→ The federal Truth in Fur Labeling Act is enacted, following years of lobbying, lawsuits, and exposés of mislabeled and unlabeled fur-trimmed garments by The HSUS

→ The HSUS combats Gulf Coast pet overpopulation through innovative outreach programs and funding assistance for three spay/neuter clinics

→ Florida prohibits fox and coyote penning operations in which packs of dogs are set loose on captive wildlife

“I was troubled to learn from my friends at The Humane Society of the United States about the practice of confining egg-laying hens in tiny cages. … Turning these defenseless animals into egg-producing machines with no consideration for their welfare whatsoever is a degradation of our own humanity.”

—The Dalai Lama

“It’s a subject that I am extremely passionate about. By working together, we can find good homes for millions of adoptable, homeless, and abandoned pets.”

—Ellen DeGeneres, a longtime HSUS supporter who worked with us to provide 1 million servings of Halo pet food to shelter animals during the Postal Service’s Stamps to the Rescue campaign

—Actress Wendie Malick, a supporter of HSUS efforts to end wild horse roundups and horse slaughter

In Their Words
O ur 2010 annual report is a compendium of the problems facing animals, but it is also a chronicle of our efforts to turn the situation around. It is painful to confront cruelty, but none of us should be bystanders in the face of the current crisis for animals. We must do something about it, and The HSUS exists to exert the collective power of millions of people of conscience to show a better way for the whole of society.

The task is immense because there are so many varieties of animal harm and exploitation—in the realms of agriculture, animal research and testing, fashion, and wildlife management, as well as in more modest areas of commerce and entertainment that involve the use of so many animals. Because the animals have no voice, we must act as their surrogates and call others to a more honorable and decent standard of care for creatures less powerful than ourselves. Our challenge is compounded by the resistance of our political adversaries, who are often not only wedded to the status quo but also well-equipped to defend their positions in the political domain. Only through determined, multipronged, and strategic action can we overcome these many roadblocks and make animals’ lives better, bringing us all, step by step, closer to creating a humane society.

We must of course focus on the crises right in front of us, and we do. There’s no time to waste because animals are homeless, in distress, or in fighting pits right now. That’s why The HSUS has developed so many capabilities to provide hands-on care for animals in need—through our five animal care centers, our veterinary services programs, our disaster response work, and our emergency deployments in cases of cruelty and neglect. In 2010, we provided direct care and relief to about 100,000 animals, putting our assets to use in so many areas where local communities do not have the resources or the expertise to step in and provide relief where needed.

But if that’s all we did, we would be failing in our mission. Our great charge must be to prevent cruelty. If we only come to the aid of animals already injured, left homeless, or otherwise in distress, we will expend all of our resources attacking the symptoms of the problem. We must expand our efforts to strike at the root causes of cruelty, so that animals don’t get in trouble in the first place.

Take, for instance, our successful effort in Missouri to pass Prop B, a ballot measure to crack down on puppy mills. There are 3,000 mills in the state, with perhaps 200,000 breeding animals and up to 1 million puppies churned out each year by these large-scale breeders. If we just rescued the discards or came to the aid of animals already injured, left homeless, or otherwise in distress, we would expend all of our resources attacking the symptoms of the problem. We must expand our efforts to strike at the root causes of cruelty, so that animals don’t get in trouble in the first place.

Similarly, we also work at the federal level to combat systemic abuses of animals. Each year, 73 million sharks are killed globally for their fins, used as an ingredient in soup. By strengthening our federal law to ban finning, as well as working in international circles to curb the industry, we are helping to prevent the gruesome killing of so many of these creatures.

Building Humane Communities: In 2011, HSUS programs have continued to combat root causes of animal suffering. At a recent End Dogfighting in Chicago event, volunteer Angela Love-Bradford (right) helped owners sign their dogs up for free rabies vaccinations, training classes, and spay/neuter surgeries. At another April event, The HSUS worked with local church leaders to provide vaccinations and other services for pets of families in underserved areas.

We’ve not yet shut down Canada’s seal hunt, but we are methodically closing down markets for seal skins and diminishing the commercial value of the pelts, making the whole enterprise for the sealers and the government of Canada a losing proposition. Through these efforts, we are saving hundreds of thousands of seal pups every year, and we’ll not relent until the job is finished once and for all.

So much of our mission involves exposing abuse and holding it up to the light of day, reminding people that the mistreatment of animals violates the standards and ideals of our civil society. In 2010, The HSUS conducted five major exposés of factory farming, investigating some of the largest companies in agribusiness and exposing their extreme and callous confinement of animals raised for food. Factory farming is an example of human creativity and innovation divorced from conscience. We are reminding the American public about the need to sync our economic institutions and our commercial practices with our values and ideals.

Last year, we also exposed the archaic practice of bear baiting in South Carolina, plus cockfighting in Texas and so many other cruel practices throughout the nation.

It’s part of our effort to throw back the curtain on animal abuse, and to call the good people of America to act on their conscience. And person by person, we are spreading the message—to young people in urban communities, to people of faith, to law enforcement officials, to political leaders, and even to corporate leaders involved in industries that must find a new pathway to conduct their business or entertainment.

There’s no group in the world like The HSUS. It brings more capabilities, more know-how, and more urgency to the fight for animals than any group ever has. As we press forward on so many fronts, we need your help more than ever.

Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States

Person by person, we are spreading the message—to young people in urban communities, to people of faith, to law enforcement officials, to political leaders, and even to corporate leaders involved in industries that must find a new pathway to conduct their business.
11,000 animals are saved by the Animal Rescue Team in 51 emergency rescues involving animal fighting operations, puppy mills, hoarding cases, and other abusive situations.

3,380+ reports are fielded by animal cruelty experts, who also advise law enforcement agencies in more than 365 cases.

A $250,000 grant for large-scale animal rescue operations is awarded to The HSUS for being voted a top cause in the Pepsi Refresh online contest.

1,300 animal protection professionals and volunteers participate in disaster response training.

Humane Society International provides disaster relief for animals in partnership with local groups in Haiti, China, Mexico, and Chile.

After seeing the absolute squalor these people and animals lived in, you can’t help but feel anything but sorrow for both. But then you get to see the whole ordeal come to an end, and you see the compassion the animals get from the staff and the volunteers, and it really does make the overload of sights, smells, sounds, and emotions you’ve experienced over the last eight hours worthwhile.

—Photographer Bradly Boner on bearing witness to an HSUS rescue of 157 cats from a Wyoming home and their subsequent emergency care.
When HSUS rescuers first laid eyes on the dog now known as Chunk, he was standing on a layer of feces and trash, in the front room of a bug-infested house in rural Mississippi (above, left). The floor was so deep in filth, it squished when responders walked on it.

Throughout a long, rainy day, teams removed 181 animals from the property belonging to a hoarder masquerading as a rescue group. Many of them were malnourished and plagued by worms and skin infections.

After a long trip north on the HSUS rig, Chunk was taken in and treated by the Washington Animal Rescue League. These days, he looks like a different dog (above, right)—“more basset-y in the snout,” says adopter Dan Metcalf, noting that when he and his wife first got Chunk, his face was swollen and misshapen from skin disease and medications.

The dog’s affable nature has helped bring out the best in his new playmate, Daisy, a rescued boxer. “They balance each other out really well,” Metcalf says. “She was isolated; she’s kind of shy and jumpy, but they both sort of bring each other to the center.”

Happy endings are common following rescues by The HSUS. Once chained at dogfighting operations, pit bulls like Abby will never have to fight again. Fostered by a Casa Del Toro Pit Bull Education & Rescue volunteer named Holly, Abby befriended Holly’s grandfather during his hospice stay. “Grandpa would have them mark on the calendar when Abby would come back for the next visit,” reports the group’s director, Laurie Adams. Now living permanently with Holly, the dog is enjoying her newfound purpose in life: as a family pet.
5 undercover investigations reveal endemic cruelties and food safety concerns at U.S. factory farms

California is first state to ban sales of whole battery cage eggs, while major companies such as Kraft Foods commit to dramatically increase their cage-free purchases

Ohio agriculture leaders agree to phase out or limit the worst confinement systems

A federal court rules against foie gras producer for Clean Water Act violations

The USDA announces stronger oversight of the federal humane slaughter law

Cruelty charges stemming from an HSUS 2009 investigation result in conviction of a former slaughterhouse co-owner and employee

Industrial farms are not a step forward. Somewhere along the line, animals became machines, and cogs in machines. They’re replaceable parts; when a chicken dies in a cage, you pluck it out and stick another one in. Same thing with a hog. We don’t operate that way. We still practice traditional forms of husbandry. We know about animal behavior, and we have a long-standing relationship with these animals.

—Bruce Rickard, an Ohio farmer who has joined The HSUS’s fight against extreme confinement practices
The HSUS isn’t in sync with how the public wants to get their eggs.”

Weeks removing decomposing corpses from cages: “This free systems. Our investigators are the public’s eyes and awareness and prompting many producers to shift to cage-farming family farmers and other stakeholders, The HSUS is raising cages that they can’t even spread their wings. Working with egg-laying hens—in the U.S. are confined so tightly in barren factory-style caging systems. Countless animals suffered painful injuries and illnesses; many became trapped in cage no anesthetic. Sick and injured hatchlings fell from conveyor belts and flapped helplessly for hours on the factory floor—until the end of the day, when they and any surplus birds were tossed into a machine that ground them up alive.

It was The HSUS’s first undercover exposé of the egg industry, which produces more than 250 million birds each year. Willmar and one of its customers defended the abuses as standard industry practices. Sadly, they’re correct: Federal animal welfare laws don’t apply to animals on the farm, enabling businesses to treat birds as mere production units.

The HSUS ran ads reminding the public and policymakers that intensive confinement systems aren’t just cruel—they’re also a health danger. Citing numerous recent studies that show a clear link between battery cage confinement and salmonella contamination, The HSUS filed a complaint with the FDA about the Cal-Maine findings, asking the agency to amend the federal egg safety rule. Says The HSUS’s Dr. Michael Greger: “This is the science that the FDA cannot afford to ignore.”

“ “It makes me angry for people who buy these products in the grocery stores, where everything is bright and clean. The barns are not bright. They’re not clean. It’s not at all what it seems.”

—An HSUS undercover investigator who spent a month at a Cal-Maine Foods facility in Texas, where four “house-keepers” were expected to care for 240,000 animals each.

Exposed: Industrial pig breeding facility owned by the world’s largest pork producer

At a massive pig breeding farm owned by a Smithfield Foods subsidiary, an HSUS undercover investigator documented the miserable lives of breeding sows virtually immobilized in gestation crates. Open pressure sores and untreated abscesses were common. Some animals showed compulsive swaying and head-bobbing; others chewed the cage bars until their mouths bled. Outside the crates, the animals were treated roughly—struck with iron rods or even thrown into a dumpster to die.

The HSUS’s Paul Shapiro. “The more Americans learn about the routine abuses, the greater the demand for change.”

Location: Waverly, Virginia

Exposed: Largest egg producer in the U.S.

At Cal-Maine Foods’ million-chicken egg operation, two details were inescapable: animal suffering and filth. The fly infestation in one barn was so severe, says the HSUS undercover investigator who worked there in November, it was like “walking on Rice Krispies.” Hens and eggs were covered in chicken waste that rained down from the cages above.

The exposé occurred in the wake of the nation’s largest egg recall, in which a half-billion eggs from battery cage facilities were deemed at risk for salmonella contamination. The HSUS ran ads reminding the public and policymakers that intensive confinement systems aren’t just cruel—they’re also a health danger. Citing numerous recent studies that show a clear link between battery cage confinement and salmonella contamination, The HSUS filed a complaint with the FDA about the Cal-Maine findings, asking the agency to amend the federal egg safety rule. Says The HSUS’s Dr. Michael Greger: “This is the science that the FDA cannot afford to ignore.”

Location: Waelder, Texas

Exposed: Largest egg producer in the U.S.

The HSUS isn’t in sync with how the public wants to get their eggs. “This isn’t in sync with how the public wants to get their eggs.”

Location: Willmar, Minnesota

Exposed: Largest turkey hatchery in the U.S.

Days before Thanksgiving, an HSUS investigation revealed the unapologetic reality behind industrially produced turkey products. Working at the Willmar Poultry Company, an investigator videotaped conveyor belts drenched in the blood of young turkeys whose toes, snoods, and beaks were cut off with no anesthetic. Sick and injured hatchlings fell from conveyor belts and flapped helplessly for hours on the factory floor—until the end of the day, when they and any surplus birds were tossed into a machine to end the use of gestation crates. “If you’re not already anti-factory-farming, this will do it,” wrote New York Times Magazine columnist Mark Bittman in his blog. “…The video leaves me pretty much speechless.” Grist food and agriculture columnist Tom Philpott had a similar reaction, concluding: “Thank goodness we have the Humane Society acting as our eyes on the meat-factory floor.”

Exposed: Largest egg producer in the U.S.

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Exposed: Second and third largest egg producers in the U.S.

“I’ve seen some terrible things in my undercover experience, but nothing even begins to compare to these battery cage facilities,” says the HSUS investigator of the 25 days he worked for Rose Acre Farms and Rembrandt Enterprises.

At four facilities, he documented the cruelty typical of factory-style caging systems. Countless animals suffered painful injuries and illnesses; many became trapped in cage wire and slowly perished. Survivors didn’t fare much better. After months of battery cage life, they were rendered “hollow shells” of birds, he says—scrawny, featherless, defeated creatures ground up for chicken byproducts or slaughtered for low-grade meat.

Nearly 270 million chickens—more than 90 percent of egg-laying hens—in the U.S. are confined so tightly in barren cages that they can’t even spread their wings. Working with family farmers and other stakeholders, The HSUS is raising awareness and prompting many producers to shift to cage-free systems. Our investigators are the public’s eyes and ears into the conditions at the facilities of producers resistant to change, says senior director of investigations Mary Beth Sweetland. “They bring the suffering out in the open.”

Says the investigator of the Iowa facilities, who spent weeks removing decomposing corpses from cages: “This isn’t in sync with how the public wants to get their eggs.”

Location: Winterset, Stuart, Guthrie Center, and Thompson, Iowa

Exposed: Second and third largest egg producers in the U.S.

Location: Waelder, Texas

Exposed: Largest egg producer in the U.S.

Exposed: Largest egg producer in the U.S.
Justice for Abused Calves
The calves being tormented at the Vermont slaughterhouse couldn’t walk or even stand. With the undercover camera rolling, the newborns—many with their umbilical cords still attached—were kicked, slapped, and repeatedly shocked with electric prods. Some were still conscious while they were skinned alive or had their throats slit or heads sawed off. In the months following its fall 2009 investigation, The HSUS filed a legal petition with the USDA to improve slaughterhouse calf-handling and oversight. In December 2010, the agency announced it would improve slaughterhouse calf-handling and oversight.

Marketplace Reform
Fresh from an HSUS internship and heading into her junior year at Grand Valley State University, Lena Spadacene decided to persuade the Michigan college to go cage-free. In September, she began working with a dining services advisory group. Months passed and nothing happened. So in February 2010, Spadacene collected more than 1,000 student signatures and appealed directly to the head of campus dining. Within two weeks, the first cage-free egg was cracked on campus.

“Students have way more power than they’ve been led to believe,” says Spadacene, who received The HSUS’s Student Leadership Award for her efforts. “[D]o something about it, because it’s possible.”

With The HSUS’s encouragement, more than 100 schools began using cage-free eggs in 2010, along with more than 100 restaurants, including major chains like Subway, and well-known brands such as Kraft Foods, Hellmann’s, and Sara Lee.Along with prior commitments from thousands of additional establishments, the changes help drive reduction in the number of products purchased from extreme confinement facilities.

Humane Society International also continued its cage-free campaign abroad, winning the first pledge of downed cattle, plus appoint an ombudsman to hear inspectors’ concerns. In addition, the USDA is seeking public comments on an HSUS petition it tentatively inspectors’ concerns. In addition, the USDA is seeking public comments on an HSUS petition it tentatively granted to prohibit slaughter of downed calves.

The HSUS also persuaded the Vermont attorney general’s office to prosecute the case. In his quest for justice, HSUS director of animal cruelty investigations Adam Parascandola counted every kick and shock in the undercover video. A co-owner and one worker were convicted, the latter of felony cruelty—sending a message, Parascandola says, that “people care what happens to farm animals, and these cases can be successfully prosecuted and taken seriously.”

Applying for Action
“Humane” and “happy” are increasingly popular marketing terms—the next big thing after “organic” and “fair trade,” according to one consumer behavior analyst. Trouble is, they often don’t reflect what’s actually happening to farm animals. So in 2010, the HSUS took action against two of the most egregious perpetrators of consumer misinformation.

In June, we filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission to stop Rose Acre Farms, the country’s second-largest egg producer, from making false and misleading animal welfare claims to consumers. And in November, The HSUS’s Animal Protection Litigation team helped represent an HSUS member in a class action lawsuit against Perdue, alleging that the company is unlawfully marketing its chicken products as “Humanely Raised.”

The truth behind the foie gras served in fine restaurants isn’t pretty either, and last year The HSUS won a major victory in a lawsuit against Hudson Valley Foie Gras. A judge ruled that the company, which obtains its product by force-feeding ducks, had violated the federal Clean Water Act by polluting the Middle Mongaup River. Hudson Valley was ordered to fund a $50,000 environmental cleanup project, plus pay $25,000 to $30,500 for each additional day it continues to break the law.

Building Momentum
It was an achievement “that few people would have thought possible for Ohio even just a couple years ago,” says Paul Shapiro, senior director of farm animal protection for The HSUS: commitments by the state’s agribusiness industry in June 2010 to phase out tiny crates forveal calves and pigs and to place a moratorium on new battery cage facilities for egg-laying hens.

In one of the nation’s top agricultural states, where millions of animals suffer in factory farms, The HSUS had laid the groundwork for the agreement with successful legislative and ballot campaigns in seven other states since 2006. And as 2010 came to a close, Shapiro and his staff continued to build on these victories, gearing up for possible ballot initiatives in Washington in 2011 and Oregon in 2012.

Overjoyed by the Ohio reforms was unemployed-salesman-turned-advocate extraordinary David Meadows. While gathering signatures for an HSUS-led ballot initiative preempted by the negotiations, Meadows had encountered many voters angry about farm animal suffering, and he says that Ohio’s animal lovers will be holding the industry to its promises. “This is definitely something that we’ll keep up the pressure, and keep pushing for what is already happening in other states,” says Meadows, who was inspired by his volunteer experience to join the HSUS staff.
We’re all aware of the overpopulation of pets, plus with the state of the economy right now, it’s obvious that people are in need of help. The HSUS has a good reputation, so it was a way to reach out to the community with a strong organization and really do some good.

— Stephen Owen, associate pastor of Shallow Well United Church of Christ in Sanford, N.C., which cohosted an October 2010 vaccine clinic and spay/neuter voucher distribution
Talkin’ Spay/Neuter in the Gulf

Build it and they will come—a proposition validated by the early turnout at low-cost spay/neuter facilities opening in the Gulf Coast in the years after Hurricane Katrina. The HSUS and other groups helped fund the operations in response to findings that pet owners cite cost as the No. 1 barrier to spay/neuter in a region battered by high rates of poverty and shelter euthanasia. Though successful, the services weren’t reaching everyone, so The HSUS helped find new ways to promote spay/neuter beyond billboards and radio and TV ads. “There’s a huge segment of our population that is underserved and that doesn’t respond or have access to the traditional marketing,” says Amanda Arrington, HSUS manager of spay/neuter initiatives. “Those are the people that we really need to get the message and the services to. Cable TV is not necessarily going to do it.”

Throughout 2010, the spay/neuter facilities and The HSUS held community outreach events to provide vaccines and microchips and talk to pet owners about the connection between unaltered pets and euthanasia. Promotional flyers were hung in grocery stores, laundromats, even check-cashing outlets. In one community, free pet food was snatched up while eager to learn new skills, they worried that the knowledge would be worthless when the Westerners left and they wouldn’t have the necessary supplies to perform the surgeries. Dispelling such fears was just one of the challenges Humane Society International faced in 2010—the first year of an ambitious animal welfare initiative in a country that, even before the January earthquake, had not a single animal shelter, animal protection group, or low-cost veterinary clinic. HSI teams spent months assessing the situation, meeting with government officials and other NGOs, and mapping out a multiyear project with long-term sustainability.

In partnership with Best Friends Animal Society, HSI laid the groundwork for the January 2011 opening of the Haiti Animal Care and Welfare Center, which includes a veterinary hospital, community workshop space, and veterinary training center. And more than 30 Haitian vets received hands-on training in spay/neuter surgeries and companion animal care—setting the stage for high-volume sterilization and vaccination clinics for street dogs and wellness clinics for working equines throughout the island.

It’s a comprehensive, longsighted approach to improving animal welfare in developing nations. In the kingdom of Bhutan, HSI is leading the first-ever nationwide street dog spay/neuter initiative. By the end of 2010, the program had sterilized and vaccinated nearly 17,000 dogs, and it had begun training local veterinary professionals and others in the skills needed to keep the work going in the years to come. “Our staff are reaching into every corner,” says Sunil Chawla, HSI’s lead veterinarian in Bhutan, describing the thrill of visiting a remote area and finding a dog with the telltale notched ear borne by beneficiaries of HSI’s spay/neuter program. “They are doing very hard work.”

The HSI street dog program caught the attention of animal lovers and government officials in other nations with large street dog populations. In November, the mayor of Cebu City in the Philippines signed an agreement with HSI to launch a two-year catch-neuter-release program for street dogs; other Philippine cities have expressed interest in doing the same. HSI has also helped address cultural mindsets that affect animal welfare. In Cuenca, Ecuador, we cosponsored the first adoption fair for ARACA (Activismo, Rescue, and Conscience for Animals)—promoting shelter pets in a country where adoptions aren’t common. Two cats and 32 dogs found new homes at the event, which attracted more than 200 people.

In Haiti, the trickle-down effect on cultural attitudes is already apparent. “Now minds are changing,” says HSI program assistant Jean-Claude Cesaire, a Haitian native. “They are learning that animals are our neighbors, our friends; we’ve got to treat them better. The community is changing in terms of appreciation of the animals.”
Foul-Weather Friends: Long engaged in post-Katrina rebuilding in the Gulf Coast, The HSUS was there to help when the Deepwater Horizon oil spill drove out-of-work locals to surrender more animals to area shelters. “Every room had dogs in it, kennels on top of each other. You could tell they were just struggling to get any dogs out,” recalls The HSUS’s Sarah Barnett, who in June helped transport animals from two Louisiana shelters to Washington, D.C., groups.

“Knowing they’re going to a good place and a safe place, it took a load off the whole staff,” said a relieved Beth Brewster, director of the St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter. Brewster’s shelter itself is a post-Katrina project and other in-kind assistance from proceeds, and a $250,000 grant Katrina project come to fruition. “Knowing they’re going to a D.C., groups.

Louisiana shelters to Washington, D.C., groups. helped transport animals from two schools. After graduating in 2005, she continued to return to her alma mater to promote alternative training. Now a professional HSVMA member, Sullivan helped persuade her school to eliminate terminal surgeries in 2010. Ending terminal surgeries is just one way that HSVMA helps animals through action, advocacy, and education. In 2012, members rallied for two crucial ballot campaigns—a puppy mill initiative in Missouri and Ohio’s humane farm initiative—and worked to ban the devocalization of dogs in Massachusetts. HSVMA Field Services teams also provided $1.3 million in free veterinary care to more than 8,000 companion animals and equines in rural and underserved areas here and abroad.

The Show Must Go On: What happens when you play a country song backward? Your wife comes back, your truck gets fixed, and your lost dog comes home. It’s an old joke, but it was in that spirit of reversing misfortune that The HSUS rolled ahead with Animal Care Expo 2010, in country music’s mecca of Nashville, Tenn.—only a week after the city experienced heavy flooding that left the original conference site 14 feet under water. HSUS conference planners and local partners kicked into high gear, relocating the entire meeting—which appropriately included workshops on disaster planning—to another hotel with less than a week to spare. More than 1,000 animal shelter and rescue staff and volunteers came to learn, network, and get inspired. The year 2011 will mark the 20th anniversary of Expo and the SPCA veterinarian had to pull all but one.

The SPCA is one of 100-plus organizations in The HSUS’s Placement Partner program, which care for victims of large cruelty cases investigated by The HSUS and law enforcement agencies. Partners like the Sacramento SPCA join a “collaborative effort that’s key to improving the lives of animals in our community,” says executive director Rick Johnson.

Yes, They Had Some Chihuahuas: “When I first got him, they were calling him Dr. Death because he just looked so bad,” says Erin Long-Scott, who adopted the dog now known as Lovie. One of 158 animals removed from substandard conditions by The HSUS and Kern County Animal Control in California, the Chihuahua’s teeth were so decayed that a Sacramento SPCA veterinarian had to pull all but one.

A Roadmap for Shelters: Rural or urban, large or small, government-funded or private nonprofit, animal shelters face unique challenges. Everything from cage-cleaning protocols to building design to public relations ultimately impacts a shelter’s animals and its employees. To help shelters reach their highest potential, The HSUS’s Shelter Services program provides guidance, training, and on-site assessments, bringing the latest research and progressive solutions to shelters across the country. “I’m still astonished by all we learned,” says Karen Stimpson, executive director of the Coastal Humane Society in Maine, which received an on-site evaluation in 2010. Stimpson and her staff have already implemented many of the HSUS team’s recommendations—with noticeable results. Best of all, Stimpson says, her organization now has a five-year roadmap and HSUS experts to advise them. “Whatever’s coming our way, we’ve got the wisdom behind the report and follow-up and guidance if we need it.”
Delivered from Danger

White skulls and decaying bodies dotted the terrain, while the trees offered another haunting reminder of just how bad things had gotten on this decrepit Texas farm. The horses were so starved, so desperate, they had taken to chewing the bark off the trunks.

In December, The HSUS stepped in and helped authorities seize 43 horses from the property—one of several major rescues in 2010. More than 20 horses were placed in new homes, while 14 were sent to foster trainers as “a symbol of hope and rebirth and the survival of all these horses,” Armstrong says.

Also last year, The HSUS assisted the Cabell-Wayne Animal Shelter with the rescue of 49 starving and neglected horses, mules, and donkeys from a West Virginia property. Seven months later, 114 horses were seized from the overrun Arkansas property of a horse trader and auctioneer. The HSUS and ASPCA devoted many resources to caring for the rescued horses at an abandoned livestock auction, as they awaited a final court disposition with hopes of taking custody and holding an adoption fair. A rancher later provided temporary sanctuary throughout the legal process.

Beyond rescues and adoptions, The HSUS has found other ways to help horses, like teaming with the American Competitive Trail Horse Association for a weekend of benefit trail rides around the U.S. The group raised $70,000 from the event, then donated the money to The HSUS, which in turn awarded grants to horse rescue organizations.

Progress for Horses

Hal Bowden will never forget the sight.

When he adopted John Henry, the abused and under-weight Tennessee walking horse suffered telltale signs of soring—the cruel practice whereby trainers cause intense pain in an effort to exaggerate the breed’s high-stepping gait and thus gain an unfair edge in shows. For starters, John Henry’s hooves had been cut out, and there were three lines of scars across his ankles.

Fast forward three years, and as part of a lengthy rehabilitation process, Bowden had brought John Henry to a North Carolina show to see how the horse would react to the setting. Returning to the barn after dinner, he got his answer: There was John Henry, cowering, covered in a cold sweat.

“To tell you the honest truth, I just cried, and I just went and held him for awhile,” Bowden says, adding: “I’ll never forget that big old horse, standing in the corner of that stall, trembling in fear.”

Today, John Henry’s hooves have grown back to normal, he’s more trusting of people, and his adopter promotes walking horses naturally smooth gait. “To bring justice to those who would cause such suffering, the HSUS has been pushing for better enforcement of a 1970 law against soring. In March 2010, a bipartisan group of 40 senators and 131 representatives supported President Obama’s request for the first-ever increase in funding for Horse Protection Act enforcement, from $550,000 to $900,000 during fiscal 2011. Although Congress ultimately did not pass the president’s budget, The HSUS will keep up the fight, and President Obama has again requested the $400,00 increase for fiscal 2012—a request backed by more than 100 representatives. “We’re still seeing a lot of soring being detected in the field, and we’re still not seeing as many USDA inspectors attending shows as we would like,” says Keith Dana, HSUS director of equine protection.

Changes announced in 2010 by the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service could help, including hiring, training, and licensing independent inspectors. The announcement followed a recommendation from the USDA’s Office of the Inspector General that APHIS abolish its current problematic inspection system. Among other horse protection efforts, The HSUS has continued pressing for more humane and effective treatment of wild horses and burros, who are viewed as foraging competition for livestock and other grazing wildlife. In February of this year, the Bureau of Land Management announced it was accelerating “fundamental reforms” to its system of rounding up the animals via helicopter and placing them in long-term holding facilities. Implemented on a two-year trial basis, the changes include increasing the number of mares treated with the fertility control drug PZP from 500 to 2,000, and reducing the number of wild horses removed annually from 10,000 to 7,600.

The reforms have been met with mixed reviews. “We’re praising the BLM for the efforts that they’re making to change the status quo and to fix the broken program,” says Stephanie Boyles, wildlife scientist at The HSUS. At the same time, she says the organization will continue to push for even more use of PZP.
[ Protecting Wildlife ]

- **19 state measures** are enacted against wildlife abuses such as poaching, the exotic pet trade, and captive shooting.
- **National shark finning ban** is strengthened.
- **Arizonans uphold their right** to launch citizen initiatives on wildlife protection issues.
- **The Truth in Fur Labeling Act** is signed into federal law.
- **Florida prohibits** fox and coyote penning operations.
- **Deaths in Canada’s seal hunt plummet** to less than 20 percent of government quota.
- **Sea lion killings are halted** and North Atlantic right whales gain protections.
- **Proposals to lift the commercial whaling ban** are defeated; trade protections are gained for elephants, tree frogs, and other species.

These baby seals are subjected to unimaginable suffering. The sealing industry would like the brutality to remain a secret, for the killing to happen out of public view. But we can’t let that happen. The tragic deaths of these defenseless animals will ultimately bring down the industry. As the images of this cruelty are broadcast around the world, global markets for seal products are closing, and consumers are taking action to stop the slaughter.

—Humane Society International Canada director Rebecca Aldworth, reporting live from the ice during her 12th year documenting the hunt.
It inspired me so much that I wanted to take that enthusiasm and express it to my fellow designers.

—Fashion designer John Bartlett, describing an initial meeting with HSUS staff that sparked his fur-free leadership

“They are not thinking about the reality of the carnage that’s involved,” Bartlett says. “Many designers don’t know where their fur’s coming from or even what kind of animal it’s coming from.” The new law, which took effect in March, forces them to find out, he says. Retailers are getting the message as well. In response to an HSUS lawsuit, companies including Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale’s, and Lord & Taylor agreed to reform their labeling and advertising policies. Saks and Bloomingdale’s also joined Macy’s and Andrew Marc in agreeing to endorse the Truth in Fur Labeling Act, while a judgment was entered against Neiman Marcus in the case. In September, a quick response by thousands of HSUS members—many of them fans of our Facebook page—helped persuade Talbots to reverse its decision to reintroduce animal fur after a decade of being fur-free. It remains one of more than 300 designers, brands, and retailers that do not sell fur, including Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne, Tommy Hilfiger, and Calvin Klein.

With the passage of the Truth in Fur Labeling Act, that number should grow, says Bartlett. “Now the consumer will know more, and I think the design world and the retailers will be much more hesitant to buy something,” he says. “I think that they will ask questions.”
Wild Revival
As field ornithologists John and Sue Gregoire gazed over the barren terrain surrounding their new property in western New York, they were profoundly disturbed by the absence of native plants and animals. “You could see forever, from one end of the property to the other,” says John Gregoire. “It was that open and bare.”

They set about on a mission to restore the setting to provide food, water, and shelter for wildlife. Over the next 25 years, they planted more than 10,000 trees and built a diversity of habitats. Their 60-acre property is now a vibrant wildlife sanctuary rich with regenerating fields, thick stands of pine trees for owls and other animals, and ponds offering edifices of depth and native vegetation. They’ve sighted more than 200 bird species there, as well as bears, deer, bats, coyotes, and other animals.

But even as their forested property flourishes with life, the surrounding landscape bears evidence of the destruction caused by large-scale dairy farms. To feed their animals and reduce the amount of waste stored in massive manure lagoons, these operations raze natural habitats and spread manure over thousands of acres. The resulting monoculture of feed crops creates a stronghold on biodiversity.

To protect their property from such a fate and designate it as permanent wildlife habitat, the couple gained a conservation easement through the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust in 2010. Known as the Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, the property has become an inviting migratory stopover and year-round sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. “I feel like we’ve really done something positive,” John Gregoire says. “And perhaps the most positive is knowing that it will always be that way.”

New Digs for Embattled Species: Under cover of pre-dawn darkness, HSUS environmental scientist Lindsey Sterling Krank embarked on an unusual series of moving days last July: the mass relocation of black-tailed prairie dogs to protected grasslands.

Persecuted and decimated by disease, the species—and the other creatures who depend on it—faces significant threats to survival. So when a landowner near Wyoming’s Thunder Basin National Grassland wanted the two colonies near his property poisoned, a U.S. Forest Service biologist approached The HSUS for help. A groundbreaking partnership ensued, and 550 prairie dogs were moved (nearly 450 more were humanely relocated from two other locations in 2010).

The humane solution sets the stage for reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret—a prairie dog predator—and future federal conservation efforts. Even the uprooted animals seemed relieved, popping out of freshly dug holes to chirp and “jump yip”—a call used to spread the news that the coast is clear.

Ruthless “Recreation”: They couldn’t ignore what was going on in their state: dogs set loose on wild-cought foxes and coyotes trapped inside fences. So they rose up and joined The HSUS in persuading the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to take a stand.

They were people like Cristin Wentworth, who promoted a ban to anyone who would listen. In September, commissioners unanimously outlawed pens, with chairman Rodney Barreto noting, “I think Florida needs to end this and we need to end this now.” More than 50 pens had operated in the state at the peak of this inhumane “sport.”

Footage of a different form of cruelty elicited outrage in South Carolina: hounds being released to harass a black bear chained to a pole before a large audience. Calls for a ban poured in while HSUS staff pushed state officials to act. Says The HSUS’s undercover investigator: “How can you not be disgusted by this spectacle?”

Curtailing a Cruel Trade: With their skins fashioned into home decor and their tusks carved into necklaces, some of the world’s most magnificent animals also face the gravest dangers.

Every three years, special interest conspir to further decimate the earth’s natural treasures during debates at the U.N. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. But among the ivory carvers, fur traders, trophy hunters, and exotic pet dealers, a powerful voice has emerged: the Species Survival Network, a global coalition cofounded by Humane Society International’s Teresa Telecky. Last year the group gained or preserved protections for a range of species, including African elephants, Central American tree frogs, and great green macaws. Critically endangered Kaiser’s spotted newts have been poached for the pet trade, and professor Mozafar Sharifi’s proposal—the first by an Iranian scientist—prompted an international commercial trade ban. “It’s very exciting to see that your knowledge can be linked to practical conservation practices,” he says.

Wolverine Watch
Wolverines have been spotted playfully tumbling down alpine slopes—but can also win staring contests with grizzlies over food and scale mountains that would defeat the hardest of humans. Author and Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust supporter Douglas Chadwick has noted their unlikely strength: “Trying to keep up with them amounts to constant adventure in a world of avalanches, blizzards, sheer cliff faces, patches of thin lake ice, sub-zero moonlit ski trips, marathon hikes, cliff walls with tiny handholds, and big silver-tipped bears,” says Chadwick, shown above in blue, helping to remove an anesthetized animal from a humane trap.

Partially funded by the Wildlife Land Trust, the multiyear Glacier Wolverine Project conducted by Chadwick and other researchers revealed that the little-studied animals are vulnerable to the warming of their Montana high-country home. Though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service denied them protection in December 2010, the study—and Chadwick’s subsequent book, The Wolverine Way—should help make the case for the habitat connectivity and trapping restrictions necessary for their survival.
Seal Hunt Death Rattle:  For more than a dozen years, Rebecca Aldworth, director of Humane Society International Canada, has documented the heartbreak of Canada’s annual commercial seal hunt, when pups as young as 12 days old are shot and clubbed to death for their pelts. The only salve for the emotional wound is the knowledge that the relentless quest to end the brutal hunt is paying off. While the legal catch limit rises every year, the actual take is plummeting. The Canadian government set the 2010 quota at 388,200 seals, yet 69,184 were killed and fewer sealers participated. Spurred by footage and persuasive arguments from The HSUS and HSI, the EU’s ban on seal products, which took effect on June 1, has driven pelt prices to a record low.

Footage and persuasive arguments are key to the HSUS and HSI’s success in getting states to pass similar measures. Hawaii’s stance helped kick-start a trend. Washington State, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have since barred from piercing fishes’ organs while they are still alive. And retailers must report the number of fish who die. And collectors are no longer allowed to pierce fishes’ organs with needles, withholding food for more than 24 hours during transport, and cutting their spines or fins. Humane Society International hopes to gain similar protections elsewhere. The HSUS and HSI, the National Marine Fisheries Service agreed to propose expanding critical habitat for the 400 remaining North Atlantic right whales.

Shark Finning Out of Bounds  Tens of millions of sharks are killed each year to supply the market for shark fin soup. Many of them are victims of finning: Fishermen cut off the fins, then toss the bodies back overboard. Essentially paralyzed, the sharks typically die from suffocation, starvation, or predation. “It’s like cutting off your limbs and leaving you to bleed to death,” says Rebecca Regnery, deputy director of wildlife at Humane Society International.

But the sharks in U.S. waters recently gained more protection from the brutal practice after President Obama signed the Shark Conservation Act into law. That measure, which requires fishermen catching sharks to clean up their act when you have problems in your own country.” Just as important, it gave advocates a stronger hand in negotiating increased protections with the EU and nations such as Australia and Indonesia. As Regnery says: “It’s hard to try to convince other countries to clean up their act when you have problems in your own country.”

State legislation passed in Hawaii last year went even further, after Hawaii’s stance helped kick-start a trend. Washington State, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have since passed similar measures.

Safe Harbor for Whales:  It took the death of a SeaWorld trainer, but in 2010 the government and media finally started listening to arguments against the captive display of orcas. Naomi Rose, senior scientist for Humane Society International, gave congressional testimony in April, two months after Tilikum killed trainer Dawn Brancheau in Orlando. The orca was previously involved in the deaths of two other people. “No matter how big the tank looks, it’s a kernel to this large, wide-ranging predator,” says Rose. In August 2010, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued SeaWorld with a citation, which the company will appeal at a September hearing. Meanwhile, in March 2011, after 13 months in a back tank, Tilikum was brought out to perform again. Also in 2010, HSI successfully fought to maintain an International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whale hunting. And following litigation by The HSUS, the National Marine Fisheries Service agreed to propose expanding critical habitat for the 400 remaining North Atlantic right whales.

Stopping Reef Raiders:  Some of the most popular saltwater fish for home aquariums. Ending the commercial collection of fish who die. And collectors are barred from piercing fishes’ organs with needles, withholding food for more than 24 hours during transport, and cutting their spines or fins. Humane Society International hopes to gain similar protections elsewhere. Says SeaWorld’s Naomi Rose, senior scientist for Humane Society International, gave congressional testimony in April, two months after Tilikum killed trainer Dawn Brancheau in Orlando. The orca was previously involved in the deaths of two other people. “No matter how big the tank looks, it’s a kernel to this large, wide-ranging predator,” says Rose. In August 2010, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued SeaWorld with a citation, which the company will appeal at a September hearing. Meanwhile, in March 2011, after 13 months in a back tank, Tilikum was brought out to perform again. Also in 2010, HSI successfully fought to maintain an International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whale hunting. And following litigation by The HSUS, the National Marine Fisheries Service agreed to propose expanding critical habitat for the 400 remaining North Atlantic right whales.

Going to Court for Sea Lions:  Along the pristine waters of Oregon’s Columbia River, California sea lions are branded and then monitored for their salmon consumption. In 2008, wildlife officials began killing sea lions who they decided had eaten too many fish. A few were sent to zoos. Advocate Bethanie O’Driscoll remembers the fearful cries of two sea lions being removed last spring at the Bonneville Dam. “I had never heard them make that sound before—the way a dog sounds when it’s injured.”

The basis for killing stemmed from the National Marine Fisheries Service’s conclusion that these federally protected animals had a significant negative impact on endangered or threatened salmon. But sea lions eat an average of 0.4 to 4.2 percent of the salmon returns, while fishermen are allowed to take up to 17 percent. In 2010, a lawsuit by our litigation team and other plaintiffs prompted a federal appeals court to block the killings.

Dawn Brancheau in Orlando. The orca was previously involved in the deaths of two other people. “No matter how big the tank looks, it’s a kernel to this large, wide-ranging predator,” says Rose. In August 2010, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued SeaWorld with a citation, which the company will appeal at a September hearing. Meanwhile, in March 2011, after 13 months in a back tank, Tilikum was brought out to perform again. Also in 2010, HSI successfully fought to maintain an International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whale hunting. And following litigation by The HSUS, the National Marine Fisheries Service agreed to propose expanding critical habitat for the 400 remaining North Atlantic right whales.
[ Ending Animal Fighting ]

- **5 states** strengthen laws against animal fighting
- **6,389 animals** are helped by The HSUS’s work on animal fighting raids and investigations
- **1,300+ law enforcement officials** are trained in animal fighting and cruelty investigations
- **300 prosecutors and 100 judges** attend seminars on the complexities of animal fighting and cruelty cases
- **835 calls** are made to the animal fighting tip line; 24 rewards are paid for information leading to arrests
- **The End Dogfighting program**—a comprehensive approach to combat urban dogfighting—launches in Philadelphia
- **470+ schoolchildren** participate in an eight-week anti-dogfighting humane education course

[HSUS teams] made it a lot easier and a lot less stressful to do this. [They were] a can-do, ‘we’re-going-to-get-it-done’ group of people. You could tell they were focused, they were interested in what they were doing, and it meant a lot to them to do it. And that’s what we’re looking at for people who are going to help us.

—Lt. Jim Burriss, describing how The HSUS helped the Greenville County (S.C.) Sheriff’s Office investigate and raid a notorious cockfighting pit

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A bloodstained fighting circle, a crater full of dead birds, and 197 roosters on the day’s fight docket were among the horrors discovered in June at a South Carolina property. In August, The HSUS helped rescue nearly 200 fighting pit bulls in Ohio, sending them to rescues and shelters around the country (opposite).
The Good Fight

“This program is about the dogs,” says Ralph Hawthorne, community organizer for The HSUS’s End Dogfighting program in Atlanta. “But it’s just as much about the people, and helping them through the life changes that they experience while we’re working with them.” In 2010, The HSUS continued reaching out to communities plagued by dogfighting, working to bond owners and pit bulls and change perceptions of a misunderstood group of dogs. The End Dogfighting program expanded its work in Chicago and Atlanta while launching in a third location, the Hunting Park neighborhood in North Philadelphia. “It’s a city that’s very much in need, as are most of the large cities across the country,” says Amanda Arrington, associate director of The HSUS’s Building Humane Communities Program. In more than a dozen other cities, The HSUS helped groups plan their own End Dogfighting programs. In Atlanta, one success story was the transformation of DeAndre Weaver. He’d fought pit bulls for four years, since age 16, until a dog he had grown close to was killed in a fight. “That’s what really opened up my eyes,” remembers Weaver. The day he learned about free dog training classes, he approached dogs safely.

The Law on Our Side

When John Goodwin recalls the June 2010 raid of a suspected cockfighting operation in Tennessee, what stands out in his mind even more than the 100 people charged and the 150 birds seized is the image of a little girl crying amidst the chaos. “Her sorry dad brought her to a cockfight that got raided, and then he started just yelling at her and chastising her for being upset,” says Goodwin, HSUS director of animal cruelty policy. Last year, Goodwin and fellow HSUS experts helped law enforcement officials bust 33 animal fighting operations, while their advocacy work focused on preventing cruelty in the first place: Minnesota and Nebraska banned animal fighting paraphernalia, Delaware increased penalties for animal fighting participants and spectators, Illinois strengthened penalties for dogfighting near schools, and Louisiana outlawed attendance at a cockfight.

Out of the Ring, Into Loving Homes

What started as a narcotics bust at a southeastern Ohio home soon turned into one of the largest seizures for alleged dogfighting ever documented on a single property. Last August, when The HSUS was asked to assist law enforcement with an investigation involving nearly 200 pit bulls, teams arrived to find more than 500 animals, including chickens, roosters, boars, hawks, and the desiccated remains of starved-to-death snakes. Weighted down by logging chains attached to buried car axles, many of the dogs had no shelter and suffered from mange, ringworm, infected wounds, and broken bones.

Help came from volunteers, including more than 30 from Pittsburgh-based Hello Bully. The HSUS’s new mobile crime lab served as a space for treatment and evidence collection. A horse arena served as a shelter and suffered from mange, ringworm, infected wounds, and broken bones.
We are gratified to serve as the emergency shelter and headquarters for the rescue. I can’t say enough about the HSUS staff who made it happen. With poise, power, and grace, they harnessed and coordinated a fairly darn complex set of logistical, legal, and communications issues. Pets Alive performed spay/neuter surgeries yesterday on nine of the rescued dogs. They will never be forced to breed again.

—James McNamara, former executive director of the Pets Alive spay/neuter clinic in Indiana, which helped The HSUS with a December rescue

[ Shutting Down Puppy Mills ]

- 3 states that produce more than half the puppies sold in U.S. pet stores—Missouri, Oklahoma, and Iowa—enact laws to crack down on abusive commercial breeding operations
- 677 dogs and 9 other animals are saved from squalor and neglect by HSUS teams deployed to puppy mill raids; staff assist local authorities in an additional 4 raids involving 544 dogs
- A 1,000-store milestone is reached when hundreds more retailers take the Puppy Friendly Pet Stores Pledge not to sell puppies

While most dogs at a fly-infested, feces-covered Carriere, Miss., puppy mill shrank in fear, a few sought attention from their rescuers. “Every time I bent over to get another dog,” recalls The HSUS’s Michelle Cascio (above), “one of the terriers would come up and lick me on the chin.” Rescued animals are brought to emergency shelters on their way to new homes (at left).
Feet bloody from wire cages. Rotten teeth. Skin and feet bloodied from wire cages.

Missouri: citizen-approved laws. The Most Important Battle Yet

In 2010, The HSUS won one of its greatest victories: citizens’ approval of a measure to require breeders in Missouri, the state with the most puppy mills, to keep no more than 50 breeding dogs and give them adequate food, water, shelter, space, exercise, veterinary care, and rest between breeding cycles. Winning passage of the new law involved collecting more than 190,000 signatures to get the measure on the ballot and combating a smear campaign by the Missouri Farm Bureau. As soon as Proposition B passed in November, state legislators set about trying to undo it; five months later, Gov. Jay Nixon signed a repeal bill and enacted what legislators set about trying to undo it; five months later, Gov. Jay Nixon signed a repeal bill and enacted what he termed “compromise” legislation that dramatically weakened the original provisions of Prop B. But The HSUS isn’t going away without a fight; we plan to strengthen Prop B protections, hold officials accountable for their stated support of strong enforcement, and launch a 2012 ballot initiative to preserve citizen-approved laws.

No More Business As Usual: Pam Sordyl of Clarkston, Mich., has made a name for herself by hitting puppy millers where it hurts most: in the wallet. Sordyl’s “Adopt, Don’t Shop” pet store protests have been instrumental in the closure of three Michigan Petland stores. The number of the chain’s stores nationwide has dropped from 140 to 95 since the 2008 release of an HSUS investigation into its dealings with puppy mills. Sordyl also singlehandedly recruited 90 pet stores to take The HSUS’s Puppy Friendly Pet Stores Pledge to never sell puppies—a feat that helped The HSUS sign up 1,000 before the end of the year. For Puppy Mills Campaign outreach coordinator John Moyer, the milestone had become a personal mission requiring nonstop emails and phone calls. On Dec. 24, Moyer received a message from a chain saying that all 38 of its stores would take the pledge. He’d beaten the deadline. On to the next 1,000.

Who Rescued Whom?: The treatment of dogs at the hands of puppy millers “hurt my heart and my feelings,” says 12-year-old Micah Staub, who has made it his mission to help care for those rescued from cruel mass breeding operations. Micah’s learning disabilities have often led to teasing from other kids, but he found acceptance and hard work, Micah was made an honorary task force member. His pride was a boon for a boy who “gets so few things that he can be proud of,” says his mother. In addition to the Bloomfield, Ind., raid—described by one participant as “three days of ... animal welfare shock and awe”—the task force took part in four other puppy mill raids in 2010, saving 677 dogs from misery.

Newfound Friends: Finn is a little brown dog who carries a big stick: His best friend happens to be Amanda Hearst of the Hearst publishing family. She purchased Finn from a Manhattan pet store, unaware that he was born to a puppy mill mother who had probably never left her filthy cage or felt a loving touch. Shaken when she learned this, Hearst visited HSUS-rescued puppy mill dogs and saw for herself the results of chronic neglect and abuse. “It’s shocking that anyone can rationalize that,” she says. Hearst founded Friends of Finn, asking her other best friends, including Georgina Bloomberg, Dylan Lauren, Kick Kennedy, and Annie Churchill Albert, to join her in putting puppy mills out of business. Selling tables and soliciting auction items for The HSUS’s Make History Gala in New York City, Friends of Finn helped raise $1 million to support our campaign to shut down puppy mills.

Missouri: The Most Important Battle Yet

“When the people vote on an issue, the majority rules, and the elected officials should respect that,” says Michael Markarian, chief operating officer for The HSUS. Major milestones in the campaign against puppy mills were reached outside Missouri. Legislatures passed similar laws in Oklahoma and Iowa, the states with the second and third largest numbers of mass breeding facilities. Hawaii and Louisiana also strengthened regulation, bringing the number of states passing such laws to 16 since 2008. Meanwhile, The HSUS’s Puppy Mill Task Force, supported by Maddie’s Fund, drove truckloads of rescued Missouri dogs to Illinois, Colorado, and the East Coast for adoption. Rellinquished by high-volume breeders who were closing down their operations, they included breeds ranging from shih tzu to Labrador retrievers.

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Tessa was luckier, surviving six years of hellish confinement. Winning passage of the new law involved collecting more than 190,000 signatures to get the measure on the ballot and combating a smear campaign by the Missouri Farm Bureau. As soon as Proposition B passed in November, state legislators set about trying to undo it; five months later, Gov. Jay Nixon signed a repeal bill and enacted what he termed “compromise” legislation that dramatically weakened the original provisions of Prop B. But The HSUS isn’t going away without a fight; we plan to strengthen Prop B protections, hold officials accountable for their stated support of strong enforcement, and launch a 2012 ballot initiative to preserve citizen-approved laws.
Providing Sanctuary & Healing

Orphaned fox kits. A mule on the edge of starvation. A pygmy hippo scared by neglect. A chimpanzee retired from a research laboratory. A swan suffering from lead poisoning. A horse rescued from slaughter. Different species with different stories, but all with the same happy outcome: cared for by skilled, loving hands at one of The HSUS's five animal care centers.

Each year, they arrive by the thousands. Some are rescued from abusive or neglectful circumstances, while others have fallen victim to urban dangers—hit by cars, wounded by flying into windows—or have been suddenly orphaned. At the centers, they receive the highest level of treatment from expert staff and volunteers. Once nurtured back to health, they embark on the next leg of their journey, whether that’s a release back into nature, or a lifelong journey, whether that’s a release back into nature, or a lifelong home at the sanctuary or with a loving adoptive family.

Staff at our care centers give these animals the life and dignity they deserve, while our campaign staff work toward ending the intentional cruelty and accidental suffering that brought them to us in the first place. There are so many successes, and we celebrate each one.

The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center

Creature Comforts: Samson the lion tackled his toy, pinning it between his great front paws and uttering satisfied roars. It was fall in Southern California and staff at The HSUS’s Fund for Animals Wildlife Center in Ramona had rolled out pumpkins for the big cats—an ongoing strategy of letting them chase, pounce, and chew unexpected treats.

Last year, center staff cared for nearly 400 injured, orphaned, or abandoned wild animals, in addition to permanent residents like Samson, a victim of the exotic pet trade. Among the long-term guests are 44 feral cats from San Nicolas—an island where The HSUS staff made their first discovery. The HSUS had been working with feral cat colonies on the island for 10 years, and the cats were acclimated to human presence. The HSUS’s Wild Felid Project has worked to control the population and prevent the spread of feline diseases.

Love at First Flight: Staff at The HSUS’s Cape Wildlife Center put on their matchmaking hats when treating a mule swan who’d been found on the side of a road, flapping his wings to protect his gravely injured mate. His partner couldn’t be saved, but antibiotics helped the male swan recover from a joint infection. Staff introduced him to another female mending at the Barnstable, Mass., facility, and the pair bonded, even calling to each other when separated. On a cold, clear day in January 2010, they were released together, swimming a lap around Barnstable Harbor before lifting into the sky.

Birds account for more than 30,000 animals treated at the center, located along a major migratory route. In 2010, more than 750 birds were treated, including a two-legged American oystercatcher, a night heron, and two snowy egrets. Staff at the facility conducted a study to determine the impact of pet-feces cleaning on the birds, and they found that the practice had a positive effect on bird populations.

Cape Wildlife Center

Piecing Them Back Together: Veterinary student Alycia Monopoli went to Home Depot to buy screws for a remodeling project—repairing a turtle’s broken shell. Hit by a car, the turtle would have suffered a slow, painful death if she hadn’t been brought to The HSUS’s South Florida Wildlife Center. Wildlife veterinarian Stefan Harsh used screws and plastic cable ties to hold the pieces of her shell together until new tissue grew in. Swimming was prohibited in the meantime to prevent infection, but finally the day came when she could be released to the center’s enclosed pond to continue her recovery.

Species from squirrels to opossums to herons to ducks recuperate at the facility. Last year, more than 12,500 animals enjoyed the center’s hospitality on their way to a second chance.

South Florida Wildlife Center

South Florida Black Beauty Ranch

Saved from Starvation: Deputy Eric Ward had never before seen an animal cruelty case involving deer—until last January. A 19-year-old man had been keeping five deer on a Henderson County, Texas, farm as part of a school agricultural project. But after he began neglecting the animals, police were contacted. “They looked like they were starving to death,” Ward says, “and they were.” The deer were removed from the property and eventually sent to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, a 1,250-acre HSUS sanctuary in nearby Murchison. The doe was so malnourished that she died before the transfer, but the buck and three fawns now live together on a 35-acre plot at the ranch—four of the more than 1,200 animals, from chimpanzees to an ostrich, to receive care at the facility in 2010.
For chimpanzees in research labs, life is a cage lacking natural light, with loud sounds amplified by concrete walls, the smell of chemical cleaners, and brief episodes of terror when researchers do experiments. No amount of “enrichment”—toys or treats—can make up for the boredom, loneliness, and fear of existing in the equivalent of a prison cell.

“The lab environment is an insult,” says Rachel Weiss, who used to work at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center in Atlanta. “It’s not OK, and there’s no way to make it OK.”

In 2010, The HSUS continued pushing to have the nearly 1,000 chimps in U.S. labs moved to sanctuaries, where they can live in conditions simulating their wild forest homes. In a significant victory for animal protection groups, the National Institutes of Health reversed a plan to bring approximately 190 chimpanzees to New Mexico’s Alamogordo Primate Facility out of semi-retirement. Following the delivery of 25,000 letters from HSUS supporters, plus HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle’s appearance at a press conference with New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, agency officials announced the animals would not be used for invasive tests until a review of chimpanzee research is completed.

At the same time, The HSUS released additional findings about the New Iberia Research Center in Louisiana, where a 2009 undercover investigation revealed more than 300 alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act.
The HSUS
Megachurch pastors, best-selling authors, seminary professors—even CEOs like Michael Flaherty of Walden Media, which produced the movies—came together for a 2010 summit in Washington, D.C. After the meeting to introduce Christian leaders to The HSUS’s Faith Outreach Campaign, Flaherty was inspired to teach his children about animal protection, using the story in Charlotte’s Web.

“They loved Charlotte’s bravery and sacrifice and pledged they would have done the same,” Flaherty says. “I told them that The Humane Society was full of two-legged Charlottes, people who understood the blessing on it, and I dare anyone else to, that actually stood up for animals at their state capitols, network with grassroots campaigners, assist local shelters, and help with The HSUS’s field rescues. For more information, visit humanesociety.org/statecontacts.

Alaska: Kendra Witmer
Arizona: Kari Nienstedt
California: Jennifer Faring
Colorado: Holly Terry
Connecticut: Annem Hombish
Florida: Jen Hobgood
Georgia: Jessica Dubois
Hawaii: Inga Gibson
Idaho: Lisa Kaufman
Illinois: Kristen Strawbridge
Indiana: Anne Starling
Iowa: Carol Greiglone
Kentucky: Pam Rogers
Louisiana: Julia Braatz
Maine: Katie Lisnik
Maryland: Tami Lane
Massachusetts: Alexis Fox
Michigan: Jill Fritz
Minnesota: Howard Goldman
Mississippi: Lydia Satter
Missouri: Barb Schmitz
Montana: Wendy Hergenraeder
Nebraska: Jocelyn Nickerson
Nevada: Holly Haby
New Hampshire: Joanne Bourbeau
New Jersey: Kathy Schatzmann
New York: Patrick Kwan
North Carolina: Kim Alboum
Ohio: Karen Matson
Oklahoma, Cynthia Armstrong
Oregon, Scott Beekstead
Pennsylvania, Sarah Speed
South Dakota, Dari Adam
Tennessee, Leighann McCullom
Texas, Nicole Paquette
Vermont, Joanne Bourbeau
Virginia, Sue Long
Washington, Dan Paul
West Virginia, Summer Wyatt
Wisconsin, Alyson Bodai
Wyoming, Heidi Hopkins

Starrying Roles: Winning an HSUS Genesis Award was “more valuable to me than winning an Oscar,” says Louise Psihoyos. His documentary The Cove exposed Japan’s dolphin slaughter and “catapulted this issue onto the world stage,” says Beverly Kaskey, senior director of the HSUS Hollywood Office. Family Guy and The Ellen DeGeneres Show were also among the winners in the annual ceremony. Comedian and actor Hal Sparks stole the limelight at The HSUS’s 2010 Taking Action For Animals conference. Peppered with cutting jokes about factory farming, his monologue was cheered by hundreds of activists who’d come to learn the latest campaign strategies and recharge their batteries. It may have been an odd topic for a funnyman, but the committed advocate takes the subject very seriously. “I can’t find an angle on it, and I dare anyone else to, that actually supports it in any way,” he says.

The Cove’s Louise Psihoyos

"He was just skin and bones. I think we would have died that night or the next day if we hadn’t been there," says The HSUS’s Adam Parascandola of the tiny black kitten removed with more than 150 other cats from an overcrowded Wyoming home in August. Powell was nursed back to health (above) at the Billings Animal Rescue Kare shelter. Your continued support will help many more animals like Powell in the coming year.
For the Year Ending December 31, 2010

Consolidated Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Unrestricted  Temporarily Restricted  Permanently Restricted  Year Ending Dec. 31, 2010

Revenue
- Contributions and grants 106,991,568  21,475,287  2,116 128,468,971
- Cruelty prevention programs 22,342,970  4,478,107  53,226 26,874,303
- Realized and unrealized gain on investments 10,043,690  51,430 - 10,095,120
- Direct care and service 27,221,847 - - 27,221,847
- Change in net assets from operations 12,716,307 (10,119,263) 509,814 3,106,858
- Investment income 1,778,573 1,815,575 454,472 4,048,620
- Postretirement benefits adjustment 523,496 - - 523,496
- Transfers (net assets released from restrictions) 37,496,782 (37,496,782) - -

Change in Net Assets Before Postretirement Benefits
- Change in net assets from operations 12,716,307 (10,119,263) 509,814 3,106,858
- Postretirement benefits adjustment 523,496 - - 523,496
- Total Revenue 132,168,877 27,377,519 509,814 160,056,210

Total Expenses and Other Deductions
- Total Expenses and Other Deductions 156,949,352 - - 156,949,352
- Total Net Assets 205,106,200

Total Assets 231,267,912
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets 231,267,912
- Total Net Assets 205,106,200

Liabilities 26,161,712
- Total Net Assets 205,106,200

Unrestricted  Temporarily Restricted  Permanently Restricted  Year Ending Dec. 31, 2010

Unrestricted  Temporarily Restricted  Permanently Restricted  Year Ending Dec. 31, 2010

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Unrestricted  Temporarily Restricted  Permanently Restricted  Year Ending Dec. 31, 2010

Unrestricted  Temporarily Restricted  Permanently Restricted  Year Ending Dec. 31, 2 Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H., Chair of the Board
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Jerry Cesak, La Jolla, Calif.
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