

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND™

The Humane Society Legislative Fund is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States. HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal levels, to educate the public about animal protection issues and to support humane candidates for office. On the web at hslf.org.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear friends,

The humane movement lost a dear friend and lifelong supporter when Doris Day passed away in May at the age of 97. A Hollywood icon, Doris was famous for her decades-long successful careers in film and music. But she most wanted to be remembered for her compassion for animals and her commitment to their humane treatment.

I had the privilege of working for Doris for 18 years at the Doris Day Animal League, one of the first lobbying organizations devoted to passing animal protection legislation at the state and federal levels. She had a unique way of using her stardom to influence lawmakers and even the White House, and we had a pretty good record of winning protections for a variety of species, from chimps to rabbits.

In the 1970s, Doris was a founding member of Actors and Others for Animals, and she was among the first celebrities to leverage her fame to raise awareness of animal protection issues. At a time when untold millions of homeless pets were dying in shelters and no one batted an eye when someone wore fur, she spoke out about the importance of spay/neuter, the cruelty of the fur trade and many other issues.

Her advocacy continued throughout her life, including a \$1.6 million donation to the campaign to end greyhound racing in Florida last year, which helped secure a landslide victory in that historic ballot campaign.

In many ways, HSLF and the work that we carry out today is Doris' most lasting and impactful legacy. Recognizing the need for an organization devoted to lobbying for animal protection laws, she formed the Doris Day Animal League in 1987. In 2006, DDAL joined forces with the Humane Society of the United States, and many of the organization's staff members moved into positions with HSUS or HSLF. In addition to my role at HSLF, I also serve as executive director of DDAL.

As the founder of the first national animal protection organization dedicated to legislative remedies for the worst forms of animal abuse, Doris laid the groundwork for HSLF's continued public policy successes over the years. These include the introduction of the first bill to halt the slaughter of horses for human consumption, a federal final rule to regulate the online sales of puppies, and a federal ban on the sale and distribution of fetish videos depicting extreme animal cruelty.

HSLF is honored to continue the work that Doris envisioned more than 30 years ago.

Sincerely,

Sara Amundson
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund



A new path forward

ENSURING A FUTURE FOR THE WEST'S WILD HORSES AND BURROS

FOR DECADES, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has “managed” the wild horses and burros who live on public lands in the West by removing animals from the range and warehousing them in holding facilities—instead of making a significant investment in fertility control. Unsurprisingly, wild horse and burro populations have continued to grow, and so have political tensions surrounding the program.

Over the years, leaders from HSLF and other animal welfare organizations repeatedly met with members of Congress to share their vision for humane, long-term management of these iconic animals through increased application of a fertility control vaccine. When those same lawmakers met with groups advocating for ranchers, however, they’d be presented with an entirely different set of demands.

“Congress was tired of groups saying ‘no’ to everything that came up as a potential solution,” says Keisha Sedlacek, director of regulatory affairs for HSLF. “It was clear that legislators wanted a proactive solution, and it would be a struggle to reach consensus.”

Inch by inch, lawmakers seemed to be warming to lethal control of wild horses and burros. In three of President Trump’s budget proposals, he asked for the BLM to be allowed to manage herds using “the full suite of tools”—coded language for killing. The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommended that the agency consider killing all unadopted horses in holding facilities. Most alarming of all, a House committee voted in 2018 to lift the long-term prohibition on the destruction of healthy wild horses and burros, creating a pathway for mass killings.

The Senate kept that proposal out of the final spending bill, but it still came too close for comfort. “We saw that we could have horses being killed as a management solution,” says Sedlacek.

Leaders at HSLF, the HSUS and our ally organizations decided to sit down with ranching advocates and other stakeholders to find a responsible way forward, one that didn’t include mass killings. “We said we wouldn’t begin discussions unless lethal management was completely off the table,” Sedlacek explains.

This group representing a diverse set of interests developed a draft proposal for the care of America’s wild horses and burros. If adopted by Congress, it would direct the BLM to advance fertility control initiatives, fund more adoption efforts, and provide larger, more humane pasture facilities for horses and burros currently in holding facilities. The goal is that robust fertility control efforts will eventually eliminate the need for large-scale removals on BLM lands.

On the cover of the submitted proposal, names like the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association appeared next to those of the HSLF, ASPCA and Return to Freedom, and this caught the attention of lawmakers. “It made a huge difference,” says Gillian Lyons, senior regulatory specialist at HSLF. “It made it a bipartisan nonlethal solution that offices on both sides of the aisle could support.”

On June 25, the House passed an appropriations package that included \$6 million to fund a pilot program based on the draft proposal. HSLF and other advocates are now working to ensure that this allocation of funds makes it into the final spending bill. “We’re still in the middle of this process,” Lyons says.

If their efforts succeed, the pilot program would first be implemented on two to three herd management areas. The hope is that the approach is so successful it garners additional funding and ultimately allows fertility control to become the heart of the BLM’s wild horse and burro management plan.

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

THE FOLLOWING is a sampling of HSLF-supported animal protection bills before the U.S. Congress. It's vital that you call, email or write your federal legislators to let them know your views on these bills. To find out who your legislators are and how to reach them directly, go to hslf.org/leglookup or call 202-676-2314.

When you call a legislator's office, ask to speak with the staff person handling animal protection issues. Give the bill number and the name of the bill or issue. Be polite, brief and to the point. If you plan to visit

Washington, D.C., make an appointment to meet with your legislators or their staff to discuss animal issues. We can help you with background information and may be able to accompany you on your visits.

Please note: Due to security procedures on Capitol Hill, regular mail to members of Congress may be significantly delayed. Telephone calls and emails are the best ways to contact your legislators about pending bills.

For the latest information about all animal protection bills, visit legislation.hslf.org.

Pets and Cruelty



Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act
H.R. 724 / S. 479

To prohibit extreme acts of animal cruelty when they occur on federal property or in interstate or foreign commerce. Sponsors: Reps. Deutch, D-Fla.; Buchanan, R-Fla. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.



Welfare of Our Friends (WOOF) Act
H.R. 1002

To prohibit commercial dog breeders whose licenses have been revoked from obtaining a new USDA breeding license and to close related loopholes. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Crist, D-Fla.; Thompson, R-Pa.; McGovern, D-Pa.

Puppy Protection Act
H.R. 2442

To improve standards of care required of licensed breeders by prohibiting wire flooring and stacking of cages and by requiring larger enclosures, outdoor exercise runs, annual veterinary exams, regular feeding and access to clean water. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Crist, D-Fla.; Reschenthaler, R-Pa.; McGovern, D-Mass.

Disaster Preparedness



Providing Responsible Emergency Plans for Animals at Risk of Emerging Disasters (PREPARED) Act
H.R. 1042

To require facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act to submit annual plans for emergency situations, including plans for evacuations, backup food and water, and veterinary care in response to natural disasters, power outages, animal escapes and other emergencies. Sponsors: Reps. Titus, D-Nev.; King, R-N.Y.

Wildlife



Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act
H.R. 737 / S. 877

To prohibit possession, sale or purchase of shark fins or any product containing shark fins, and to establish penalties for violations. Sponsors: Reps. Sablan, D-N. Marianas; McCaul, R-Texas / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Capito, R-W.Va. (Approved by Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in April.)



Scientific Assistance for Very Endangered (SAVE) North Atlantic Right Whales Act
H.R. 1568

To authorize \$5 million per year over the next 10 years for collaborative research and conservation efforts for critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. Sponsors: Reps. Moulton, D-Mass.; Rutherford, R-Fla.

Big Cat Public Safety Act
H.R. 1380

To prohibit possession and breeding of lions, tigers, leopards and other big cat species by individuals and unqualified exhibitors. Sponsors: Reps. Quigley, D-Ill.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.

Equines



Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act
H.R. 693 / S. 1007

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed system of industry self-policing and use of devices integral to soring, and to establish felony penalties for this cruel practice. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Yoho, R-Fla.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Estes, R-Kan.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Collins, R-N.Y. / Sens. Crapo, R-Idaho; Warner, D-Va.

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
H.R. 961

To ban domestic horse slaughter, stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and prevent health threats posed by meat from horses raised in the U.S. and given drugs unsafe for humans. Sponsors: Reps. Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Buchanan, R-Fla.



John Stringer Rainey Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
S. 2006

To amend Title 18 of the U.S. Code to make it illegal for anyone to knowingly transport, purchase, sell, possess, ship or receive any horse with the intent of slaughtering the animal for human consumption, and codify penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for individuals who violate the law. Sponsors: Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Whitehouse, D-R.I.; Collins, R-Maine

Horseracing Integrity Act
H.R. 1754 / S. 1820

To end doping of all race horses, including same-day drugging, by putting a new nonprofit headed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency in charge of setting national uniform rules, testing standards and enforcement processes for medication use in horse racing. Sponsors: Reps. Tonko, D-N.Y.; Barr, R-Ky. / Sens. Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; McSally, R-Ariz.



Authorities removed more than 90 dogs from abysmal conditions in a Michigan puppy mill in 2014.

More than a mouthpiece

Michigan's attorney general targets puppy mills and more

AFTER WINNING A TIGHT RACE for her state's top law enforcement position, Dana Nessel wasted no time speaking out for animals.

In a video she made a few weeks before being sworn in as Michigan's attorney general, Nessel railed against the lame-duck state lawmakers who were attempting to force through a pair of bills that would have made it impossible for localities to ban the sale of puppies from puppy mills.

Holding a wrinkly and wriggly bulldog puppy named Newman on her lap, Nessel explained that breeders had dropped the puppy at a shelter after discovering he had health problems. She recommended that consumers avoid supporting puppy mills, like the one where Newman was born, by not buying dogs online or from pet stores.

"Let Michigan senators know that protecting dogs is a bipartisan issue that we should all agree upon," Nessel urged viewers, "and that protecting puppy mills with bills like the ones that are currently [being] considered is not what the people of Michigan want."

Nessel's video gave Michiganders a preview of how outspoken their new attorney general would be on animal protection issues, a quality that earned her HSLF's endorsement in the 2018 election. "She's definitely not shy about taking a stand," says Molly Tamulevich, Michigan state director for the Humane Society of the United States.

On April 18, just a few months into her administration, Nessel led a roundtable discussion on puppy scams with members of the state consumer protection bureau and staff from the HSUS.

Since 2017, the attorney general's office has received nearly 20 complaints about puppy scams, where people pay for a puppy who turns out to be not as described or who never existed at all. "The saddest stories to me are people who purchased puppies and think they're getting a healthy animal and the animal ends up being incredibly sickly," Nessel said at the event.

To Brad Pyle, HSLF political director, Nessel exemplifies the importance of electing the right people to state offices. State attorney general offices play a critical role in creating and prosecuting animal protection laws at the state level and can assist prosecutors in cracking down on animal abusers, Pyle explains. "Electing humane candidates like Dana Nessel to these offices is vital to ensuring animal protection laws are enforced."

After completing law school at Wayne State University, Nessel worked as a prosecutor in Wayne County for over a decade before moving to private practice. But her connection with animals predates her work in law and politics. Growing up in West Bloomfield, she and her two siblings enjoyed the companionship of numerous pets, including dogs, cats and gerbils, according to the *Hillsdale Daily News*.

"You can tell she has a genuine love for animals," Tamulevich says. "It's not a talking point for her."

Last fall, after HSLF endorsed her candidacy, Nessel appeared with her cats in a video she posted to Twitter.

"I'm going to do everything I can to ensure the safety of household pets," Nessel said in the video. "I'm going after puppy mills. I'm going to do everything we can to protect endangered species and so much more."

Judging from her first six months in office, she's well on her way to keeping those promises.



Dana Nessel

The House ups the ante

BILLS INCLUDE INCREASED FUNDING AND PROTECTIONS FOR ANIMALS

THE \$4.75 TRILLION BUDGET PLAN that the president sent to Congress in March was the largest in federal history. Even so, it included spending cuts to programs that protect animals.

Representatives in the House wasted little time rejecting those funding ideas, and in May and June, the House Appropriations Committee approved three fiscal year 2020 bills that cover funding for agencies whose activities and programs have enormous consequences for animals.

SOME OF THE BILLS' KEY PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

- A strong directive for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to resume online posting of all inspection reports and enforcement records under the Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act.
- A requirement that the Interior Department carefully analyze state management plans to ensure adequate protections will be in place before federal policymakers remove a species, such as the gray wolf, from protection under the Endangered Species Act.
- Increased funds for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Ecological Services program, which is central to on-the-ground activities to protect ESA-listed species and aid in their recovery.
- A prohibition on government spending on horse slaughter inspections, effectively preventing the reopening of horse slaughter plants in the U.S. for 2020.
- A \$2 million allocation to fund a new grant program, based on the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, which will help provide emergency and transitional shelter options for domestic violence survivors with companion animals.



An amendment to an FY 2020 spending bill could delay (and hopefully end) the USDA's reckless plan to allow slaughterhouses to kill pigs at even faster rates.

- A \$294,000 increase (raising the program's funding to \$1 million) for stronger USDA enforcement of the Horse Protection Act, which bans the cruel soring of Tennessee walking horses and related breeds.
- An almost \$4 million increase for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, designed to protect iconic global species such as elephants and great apes.
- A ban on the use of USDA funds to license "Class B" dealers, notorious for obtaining dogs and cats through fraudulent means, including theft, to sell them for research.
- A \$40 million increase above the president's request for the Environmental Protection Agency to develop replacements for traditional animal tests.
- Committee report language directing the USDA to require inspectors to document every observed violation of the AWA and pressing the inspector general to step up efforts to crack down on animal fighting and to audit the USDA's enforcement of key animal welfare laws.
- A hold on the USDA's rule that allows slaughterhouses to kill pigs at unrestricted speeds, which would undoubtedly result in even more inhumane treatment as well as harm to food safety and workers.

When the House took up the spending packages on the floor in June, animals won even more victories, including approval of amendments to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales; prevent imports of elephant and lion trophies from Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania; strengthen enforcement of laws against wildlife trafficking; and ensure that military working dogs are returned to the U.S. once they have completed their service to our soldiers abroad.

HSLF President Sara Amundson cautions that the funding process is long and winding, and the final budget is still far from final enactment. "But it's off to a very strong start," she says. "And we are determined to see these important provisions over the finish line."

THE EYES HAVE IT



→ **NEW YORK STATE LAWMAKERS** elicited purrs around the nation with the June 4 passage of legislation to ban the routine declawing of cats. If Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs the bill, New York will be the first state in the country to outlaw this painful and highly controversial convenience surgery, which entails amputating the last joints on a cats' toes and can lead to lifelong health risks and complications. Declawing (except in the rare cases where it's medically necessary) is already illegal in nearly two dozen countries around the globe.

→ **THE DC CAT COUNT** embarked on a new kitty-counting season on April 1. Field technicians set up motion-activated cameras in alleys, parks, commercial districts and other places as part of an ambitious, three-year effort to figure out how many felines (including community cats, owned pets and shelter residents) live in the nation's capital. The project also relies on data from the Humane Rescue Alliance, which operates the district's only shelters and a trap-neuter-return program, as well as surveys of residents. D.C. residents can help by downloading the iNaturalist app and snapping photos of outside cats seen within the city. A multiyear research collaboration between the HSUS, Humane Rescue Alliance, PetSmart Charities, the ASPCA and leading academics, the DC Cat Count (dcccattcount.org) will lay the groundwork for more scientific approaches to humanely reducing outdoor cat populations.

→ On May 1, Colorado Governor **JARED POLIS**, alongside first gentleman **MARLON REIS** and Lt. Governor **DIANNE PRIMAVERA**, introduced the People for Animal Welfare committee to

advise state leaders on animal protection issues. "There is so much great work happening in our state around animal welfare and the PAW Committee is an opportunity to bring together experts on these issues and make Colorado a national leader," Reis said in a press release. The same day, Polis signed two bills: one prohibits anyone convicted of felony animal cruelty from owning a pet for three to five years, and the other allows a specially trained dog to accompany court witnesses during their testimony (a practice that can ease the fears of child victims testifying against their alleged abusers).

→ Late spring brought two landmark victories for wildlife. **CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS** passed a bill on May 23 to create a moratorium on the trophy hunting of the state's iconic bobcats. Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove introduced the bill, which passed by a 54-21 vote. Over the past decade, nearly 10,000 bobcats have been killed in California, most of them at the hands of a small number of trophy hunters. On June 10, the **CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS** overwhelmingly passed the Ending the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins Act, demonstrating how the global movement to end the captivity of marine mammals has intensified in recent years. The bill includes a sweeping ban on the trade, possession, capture and breeding of all cetaceans for entertainment.



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