

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

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HUMANE SOCIETY  
LEGISLATIVE FUND™



## 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](http://hslf.org).

Contributions or gifts to HSLF are not tax deductible. Your donation may be used for lobbying to pass laws to protect animals, as well as for political purposes, such as supporting or opposing candidates.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

While 2019 certainly presented challenges for all of us pushing for animal protection policies on the federal level, we've had much to celebrate in recent months.

On November 25, I stood in the Oval Office as President Trump signed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, making animal cruelty a federal crime. We at HSLF spent many years working to pass this bipartisan legislation.

Another win came on January 22 when the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a new proposed rule that would end breed discrimination by airlines. The proposed rule change followed a summertime announcement by Delta Airlines banning pit bull-type dogs from flights—a ridiculous decision considering scientists and animal professionals agree there is no evidence that one breed of dog is more dangerous than another. If finalized, the rule would also allow airlines to prohibit passengers from trying to fly with exotic animals like capuchin monkeys under the guise of calling them support animals, a practice that presents a safety risk for passengers, crew and the animals.

At HSLF, we cheered again on February 5, when the U.S. House passed the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act (H.R. 4305), which would create a pilot program at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to help individuals with post-deployment mental health disorders by pairing them with dogs to train as service animals. The bill directs the VA to provide grants to nonprofits that teach veterans how to train the animals. Once the training is completed, veterans can choose to adopt their dogs. At a time when our country can feel greatly divided, I take comfort in the considerable bipartisan support behind this bill; the House bill garnered 324 co-sponsors from both parties.

And three years after animal welfare enforcement records disappeared from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website, Congress successfully forced the agency to restore many of them in February. It was a win for both the animals and government transparency.

Animal protection should garner bipartisan support. After all, it's a cause supported by a majority of Americans—a fact politicians up for election would do well to remember. We look forward to partnering with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and with the administration on more pro-animal legislation and policies in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Sara Amundson  
President  
Humane Society Legislative Fund



## A safer bet

### EFFORTS TO REFORM HORSE RACING INDUSTRY GAIN SPEED

**“WHEN IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH?”** Rep. Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., asked a panel of horse racing experts at a January 28 congressional subcommittee hearing.

Three horses in three days had to be euthanized after sustaining injuries at Santa Anita Park racetrack in California earlier in the month. From late December 2018 through February 2020, 45 horses died at the famed racetrack according to ABC7.com.

Sadly, such horrific deaths aren't limited to Santa Anita. Spectators witness fatal accidents at racetracks across the country with alarming frequency. “People are aware now that many horses die when racing,” says Valerie Pringle, equine protection campaign manager for the Humane Society of the United States.

A key contributor to this rash of breakdowns, experts believe, is the widespread habit of doping horses to enhance their performance or, worse, to enable injured or unhealthy horses to race.

Reports about the horse deaths have left

the racing industry spiraling from widespread scrutiny, with calls for reform from within the industry as well as from animal welfare groups. “If something doesn't change, it could mean the end of the sport,” says Joe De Francis, former CEO and controlling shareholder of the Maryland Jockey Club and chair of the HSUS National Horse Racing Advisory Council, who testified at the January hearing.

“The general public are increasingly of the opinion that we, as the stewards of the industry, are failing to look after the health, safety and welfare of the horse,” De Francis laments. “I don't think you need a Ph.D. from the Wharton School to know that if you're not properly taking care of what should be your greatest asset, you're not going

**45 horses died at the  
Santa Anita Park racetrack  
in 14 months.**



A spate of highly publicized horse racing fatalities has drawn attention to the need for industry reforms.

to have a business.”

Lawmakers and reform-driven racing industry members hope to get the industry on a better track with the Horseracing Integrity Act (H.R. 1754/S. 1820), sponsored in the House by Tonko and Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky., and in the Senate by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Martha McSally, R-Ariz. The act would ban race-day medication, substantially increase out-of-competition testing, and grant control over rule-making, testing and enforcement oversight regarding drugs and medication to a new independent authority created by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. “We have a plan before us that is an action plan that respects the equine athlete from a medications perspective,” Tonko said at the January hearing. “Other ripple effects will come from this to the good.”

As this issue goes to press, a whopping 240 representatives and 25 senators have signed on as co-sponsors. Part of the reason for the legislation's popularity, according to Anna Marie Malloy, HSLF senior legislative specialist, is that animal welfare advocates are partnering with leaders in the horse racing industry. The Jockey Club (the breed registry for U.S. thoroughbred horses), track owners, trainers, jockeys and veterinarians are speaking out in support of the legislation. De Francis and Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron, another founding member of the HSUS National Horse Racing Advisory Council, have joined Malloy and Pringle in meetings with legislators.

It's great having people involved in horse racing “who are so focused on preserving the industry as well as caring for equine athletes,” Malloy says. “They are a very influential force when they visit the Hill.”

→ **SPEAK OUT:** Urge your U.S. representative and U.S. senators to co-sponsor the Horseracing Integrity Act (H.R. 1754/S. 1820) if they haven't yet and to do all they can to enact it soon.

## 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](http://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](http://legislation.hslf.org).

## Wildlife



**Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act**  
H.R. 2245

To ban imports of trophies and parts of lions and elephants from major hunting destinations in Africa into the U.S. and abolish the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's International Wildlife Conservation Council, an advisory group created to promote international trophy hunting. Sponsor: Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz. (Approved by House Natural Resources Committee in September 2019.)



**Scientific Assistance for Very Endangered (SAVE) North Atlantic Right Whales Act**  
H.R. 1568 / S. 2453

To authorize funding for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects, including the development and implementation of advanced technology to prevent entanglement with fishing gear. Sponsors: Reps. Moulton, D-Mass.; Rutherford, R-Fla. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Isakson, R-Ga. (Approved by House Natural Resources Committee and discharged by House Budget Committee in October 2019.)



**Big Cat Public Safety Act**  
H.R. 1380 / S. 2561

To prohibit the possession of big cat species such as tigers and lions by individuals as pets or by poorly run animal exhibitors that allow public contact or photo-ops with these animals. Sponsors: Reps. Quigley, D-Ill.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn. (Approved by House Natural Resources Committee in September 2019.)

**Shark Fin Sales 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 2019; approved by the House in November 2019 by a vote of 310 to 107.)

**Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies (ProTECT) Act**  
H.R. 4804

To ban the import of trophies and the hunting in the U.S. of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Sponsors: Reps. Jackson Lee, D-Texas; King, R-N.Y.; Lieu, D-Calif.

## Animal Research



**Humane Cosmetics Act**  
H.R. 5141 / S. 2886

To prohibit the manufacture and sale in the U.S. of cosmetics that have been newly tested on animals. Sponsors: Reps. Beyer, D-Va.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.; Tonko, D-N.Y.; Calvert, R-Calif. / Sens. McCally, R-Ariz.; Booker, D-N.J.; Portman, R-Ohio; Whitehouse, D-R.I.

## 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. / Sens. Crapo, R-Idaho; Warner, D-Va. (Passed the House in July 2019 by a vote of 333 to 96.)

**Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act/John Stringer Rainey SAFE Act**  
H.R. 961 / S. 2006

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. / 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.; McCally, R-Ariz.

## 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, such as puppy mills, zoos and laboratories, to submit annual contingency plans to care for their animals during natural disasters, power outages, animal escapes and other emergencies. Sponsors: Reps. Titus, D-Nev.; King, R-N.Y.

## Pets and Cruelty



**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-Mass.

**Puppy Protection Act**  
H.R. 2442

To improve standards of care required of licensed dog breeders by addressing cage stacking, veterinary exams, outdoor access and other provisions. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Crist, D-Fla.; Reschenthaler, R-Pa.; McGovern, D-Mass.

**PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act / K9s for Veterans Therapy Act**  
H.R. 4305 / S. 2948

To create a pilot program at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to help individuals with post-deployment mental health disorders, including PTSD, by pairing them with dogs to train as service animals. Sponsors: Reps. Stivers, R-Ohio; Rice, D-N.Y. / Sens. Tillis, R-N.C.; Sinema, D-Ariz. (Passed the House in February 2020 by a voice vote.)



## Defender of the wild

*Congressman Raúl Grijalva champions animals and the environment*

Since arriving on Capitol Hill in 2003, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., has served on the House Natural Resources Committee, the body that considers legislation about the nation's public lands, fisheries and wildlife. Here, Grijalva built a reputation as one of Congress' foremost champions for animals, particularly threatened and endangered species, and the environment. Since becoming chair of the committee in January 2019, Grijalva has served as a vocal critic of those who work to weaken the indispensable Endangered Species Act.

In this edited interview with HSLF, Grijalva describes what motivates him to work for a more compassionate world.

### **What inspired you to be an advocate for animals?**

I think it was my dad's kindness toward wildlife. My early upbringing was on a ranch where my dad worked as a vaquero, a cowboy. He wasn't a hunter. He didn't own a gun. He didn't subscribe to that. Even



*"I think the opportunity to generate bipartisan support for the ESA still exists once you remove the specter of this political fear."*

—REP. RAÚL GRIJALVA

when there were bounties on mountain lions and Mexican wolves, other cowboys would do that. My dad didn't believe in that. He was always very gentle with the animals, deferring to the animals, to the wildlife. So you grow up watching that, you pick up that ethic: that this is something that you respect, that you don't go out to dominate or to kill.

### **What impact did Democrats winning the House in 2018 have on wildlife issues?**

One is that we've passed some good pieces of legislation. They go into the abyss of the Senate; nevertheless, it represents the majority opinion of the American people that we should be protecting threatened and endangered animals. If we didn't have the majority, there would be no check and balance. The Endangered Species Act would be disbanded. So I think we've been a very important stopgap.

### **Historically, animal protection issues have served as the rare issue capable of generating bipartisan support. Why is dismantling the ESA now a priority for some D.C. lawmakers?**

Even under [President George W.] Bush, bipartisan support existed. You could work with members across the aisle. The ESA was never under the threat that it is now. There was bipartisan support. I think that would be more readily seen [today] except for the fear factor, the fear factor being [President] Trump and what he can do and undo to candidates and their campaigns. So I think the opportunity to generate bipartisan support for the ESA still exists once you remove the specter of this political fear.

### **What will the next few years bring?**

Whoever inherits the next administration and whoever inherits the Department of the Interior, before they do anything else, they have to repair the damage. We have to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. This regime has hurt environmental laws, the ESA being a bed-rock one that has been hurt a lot.

### **Why does your work for wildlife and the environment matter?**

Human lives are codependent on every other life on this planet. So the moral imperative here is that we protect other species for our own good, that we keep them from disappearing for our own good, that we protect oceans and coastlines as well because it's all tied together.

Climate change is telling us that, and other life forms on this planet are telling us that. I think it behooves us to listen.

## American beauty

### FEDERAL BILLS AIM TO GET CRUELTY OUT OF U.S. COSMETICS

#### IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD.

Sara Amundson, president of HSLF, first began working to end animal testing in 1988, when she was the legislative director at the Doris Day Animal League. She lobbied for state bills to require the use of alternatives to animal tests for industrial chemicals, cosmetics and other ingredients in California, New Jersey and New York, while also pushing for the passage of federal reforms.

She helped draft the 1990 Corporate Standard of Compassion for Animals, a set of criteria for cruelty-free cosmetics. That standard was subsequently adopted by the Leaping Bunny Program when DDAL, the Humane Society of the United States and six other animal protection organizations rolled it out in 1996. In 2000, Amundson helped secure enactment of legislation that established the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods, setting the stage for a coordinated effort by U.S. agencies to evaluate and adopt alternative test methods. Year after year, she has lobbied Congress on the issue, pushing for appropriations to provide increased resources to research non-animal test methods.

In November, Amundson was at the center of another major milestone in the battle to end animal testing: HSLF, the HSUS and the Personal Care Products Council announced a collaboration to champion the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 5141/S. 2886). Introduced by Sens. Martha McSally, R-Ariz.; Cory Booker, D-N.J.; Rob Portman, R-Ohio; and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I.; and by Reps. Don Beyer, D-Va.; Vern Buchanan, R-Fla.; Tony Cárdenas, D-Calif.; Paul Tonko, D-N.Y.; and Ken Calvert, R-Calif., the bipartisan

*“It’s obviously better for the industry and animal welfare to have one uniform standard across the country.*

*... We need consistency.”*

—VICKI KATRINAK, THE HSUS



Nearly 40 nations, including Australia, Guatemala, India, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and the member states of the European Union, have laws prohibiting or limiting animal testing for cosmetics.

legislation would prohibit the production and sale of cosmetics newly tested on animals. It would also prohibit companies from labeling their products as cruelty-free if they’re selling them in China, where animal testing is still required for many products.

For Amundson, a federal ban on animal-tested cosmetics is “a long-cherished personal and career goal.”

The Personal Care Products Council, the leading national trade association representing cosmetic and personal care product companies, worked with HSLF and the HSUS to draft the legislative language. “We are proud to support the Humane Cosmetics Act that takes us closer to eliminating new cosmetics animal testing and promoting recognition and acceptance of alternative approaches,” council president and CEO Lezlee Westine said in a statement.

While the Humane Cosmetics Act has been introduced annually in Congress since 2014, members of Congress are facing increased pressure to pass the bills since bans on sales of cosmetics newly tested on animals went into effect on New Year’s Day in California, Nevada and Illinois.

“It’s obviously better for the industry and animal welfare to have one uniform standard across the country,” says Vicki Katrinak, HSUS manager of research and testing for the Animal Research Issues department. “Industry leaders will continue to push federal legislators to say, ‘We can’t have a mismatch of state laws across the country. We need consistency.’”

Nearly 40 other nations already have laws prohibiting or limiting animal testing for cosmetics, Amundson points out. “Passage of the Humane Cosmetics Act will place the United States at the center of a worldwide shift from animal testing to cruelty-free methodologies for assuring the safety of cosmetics.”

→ **SPEAK OUT:** Urge your U.S. representative and U.S. senators to co-sponsor the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 5141/S. 2886).

## THE EYES HAVE IT



Kansas City Chiefs defensive tackle **DERRICK NNADI** celebrated his Super Bowl win by paying the adoption fees for 109 dogs at the KC Pet Project, an open-admission animal shelter serving the Kansas City metropolitan area. The Saturday after the big game, the KC Pet Project celebrated by hosting a “paw-rade” where Nnadi met families who had adopted pets during the week. He presented the shelter with a check for \$18,600 and announced the dogs would all receive a year’s worth of food from Nutrish by Rachael Ray. By February 11, 90 of the “Nnadi dogs” had been adopted, according to a spokeswoman for the shelter. Nnadi told CNN he had always wanted a dog growing up, but his parents didn’t allow pets. Today, fans can follow the antics of Nnadi’s two pooches Rocky and Saint on Instagram (@rocky\_saint).



Football star Derrick Nnadi is a champion for shelter dogs.



**REP. SANFORD BISHOP**, D-Ga., saw his hard work pay off in February when the U.S. Department of Agriculture began restoring inspection reports for puppy mills, roadside zoos, research facilities and other entities. The records had been blacked out in the early days of the Trump administration, hampering efforts to expose animal abuse and to hold the agency accountable for its enforcement duties. Bishop, chairman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, led the effort to take on this issue through the FY20 appropriations bill and saw it through to victory. “The lives of animals in USDA-regulated facilities hang in the balance every day,” says HSLF president Sara Amundson. “Congress heard that urgency and told the agency in no uncertain terms to promptly restore full transparency regarding federal animal welfare violations.”



In January, **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** officials confiscated 1,400 pounds of detached shark fins valued at nearly \$1 million at the Miami Port of Entry. The shipment, which originated in South America, violated the Lacey Act, which prohibits trade in fish, wildlife and plants in violation of U.S. and foreign law, and the international CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) treaty.

## IN MEMORIAM

→ A true friend of animals, former U.S. Rep. **MIKE FITZPATRICK** died January 6 at age 56 after a long battle with cancer. Fitzpatrick represented the Bucks County suburbs of Pennsylvania for four terms before retiring in 2016 to honor a term limit pledge. As the Republican co-chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus in the 114th Congress, he set the tone for the House to consider animal protection issues regardless of party affiliation. From 2012-2016, he was the lead sponsor of the Captive Primate Safety Act, and he helped lead efforts to require humane treatment of farm animals used in federal research, to end horse soring and to increase penalties for animal fighting. He was an early supporter of the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, signed into law in 2018, and the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, enacted last November. He was also vigilant in pushing for animal protection provisions in federal spending bills. Fitzpatrick’s brother Brian successfully ran for his seat in 2016 and has continued his brother’s legacy of championing animal protection reforms.



Former Rep. Fitzpatrick

## TAKE ACTION

The nation’s largest animal advocacy conference, **Taking Action for Animals** runs **July 24-27** in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [takingactionforanimals.org](http://takingactionforanimals.org).

