

HUMANE ACTIVIST

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

SPECIAL POST-ELECTION ISSUE

A heart in Texas
Animal-friendly candidate sends
Pete Sessions packing

Nick of time
How the midterm elections could save
the Endangered Species Act



VOTE



THE PEOPLE HAVE
SPOKEN

Ballot campaigns usher in
history-making reforms



HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

hslf.org



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.

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.

STAFF: President, Sara Amundson; Vice President of Federal Affairs, Tracie Letterman; Federal Affairs Director, Mimi Brody; Senior Federal Legislative Specialist, Jocelyn Ziemian; Deputy Political Director, Brad Pyle; Director of Regulatory Affairs, Keisha Sedlacek; PAC and Compliance Manager, Faith Williams; Director of Philanthropy, David Balmer; Director of Online Communications, Kate Blocher; Coordinator, Jessica Simpson. HSUS Publications: Operations Manager, Elizabeth McNulty; Managing Editor, Rachel Querry; Senior Editor, Julie Falconer; Graphic Designer, Pat Ormsby; Contributing Editor, Beth JoJack.

Humane Activist (ISSN 1524-5233) is published five times a year by the Humane Society Legislative Fund. To subscribe to *Humane Activist* and to receive our annual *Humane Scorecard*, send a donation of \$10 or more to the Humane Society Legislative Fund at 1255 23rd St., NW, Suite 455, Washington, D.C. 20037, or contact us at 202-676-2314 or humaneactivist@hslf.org.

No permission is required for the reproduction of text from *Humane Activist*, provided that 1) it is not altered, 2) the context does not contradict its spirit and intent, and 3) credit is given as follows: Reprinted from *Humane Activist*/Humane Society Legislative Fund. For information on the reproduction of photos or other graphics, email humaneactivist@hslf.org.

Printed on recycled paper, elemental chlorine-free, with soy-based ink. ©2018 Humane Society Legislative Fund. All rights reserved.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear friends,

Elections have consequences. You've probably heard that adage frequently over the last two years and certainly leading up to the 2018 midterms—which some dubbed the most consequential of our lifetimes.

Elections absolutely have consequences for animals. We've seen that over the past two years in the repeated assaults on the Endangered Species Act, the removal of Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act enforcement reports from public view, and the preferential treatment shown to trophy hunters in policies ranging from imports of imperiled species to particularly egregious trophy hunting methods on public lands.

Those issues provided more than enough motivation for HSLF's team to put our all into the November elections, and we're thrilled to report that our efforts paid off. In 93 percent of the races we were involved in, HSLF-endorsed candidates won. On these pages, you'll read about some of the many pro-animal lawmakers who triumphed at the ballot box. We have high expectations for them to deliver on their campaign promises and will be reminding them of those positions throughout their terms.

I want to extend a special thanks to all of you who reviewed our endorsement website and our *Humane Scorecard* and urged your friends and family members to consider candidates' stances on animal protection before casting a vote. Our staff and volunteers were right by your side, placing television ads in key districts, sending mailings to voters, knocking on doors and otherwise engaging in important races.

We look forward to working with all of the new lawmakers as we build new coalitions of bipartisan support for bills to end cosmetics testing on animals, to strengthen protections for dogs at commercial breeding operations, to require greater consideration of all animals in disaster planning and to tackle many other priority issues.

In the coming months, we'll be inspired by the friendship between Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware and former Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, whose working bond was forged through their efforts on legislation to address wildlife trafficking, demonstrating the power of animal issues to be a uniting force for our country and its leaders.

My hope for the 116th Congress is that all members, from progressives to staunch conservatives, will embrace the opportunity to create a more humane world for animals. They share our homes and our lives. Their suffering is tangible and urgent.

We are buoyed by the outcomes in November, and we start the new year more hopeful than ever that we can make progress and deliver real change.

Sincerely,

Sara Amundson
President
Humane Society Legislative Fund



Outside a polling station in Tampa, Florida, rescued greyhound Pluto helps send a clear message to voters.

“Kind people came together”

GROUNDBREAKING VICTORIES PROMISE

BETTER LIVES FOR DOGS AND FARM ANIMALS

FOR DONNA KRUDWIG OF SAN DIEGO, it was an image she saw in her 20s: a mother pig in a gestation crate, confined so tightly she couldn’t turn around.

For Sonia Stratemann of West Palm Beach, Florida, it was the broken bones of the former racing greyhounds she adopted, especially one whose leg was shattered—a dog she narrowly saved from euthanasia.

Both women wanted to stop animal suffering. Yet both were up against industries that had resisted even modest reforms at every turn. For Krudwig, that meant Big Ag, which wanted to continue to flood the California marketplace with eggs, pork and veal from cruelly confined animals; in Stratemann’s case, it was greyhound racing, which continued to run dogs even though it was losing money and hardly anyone was watching or betting anymore.



Sonia Stratemann

On Election Day, all that changed with the passage of two ballot measures backed by HSLF, the Humane Society of the United States and other animal protection groups. California’s Proposition 12 (approved by 62 percent of voters) bans the confinement of egg-laying hens, breeding pigs and veal calves in tiny cages or crates, and it requires that eggs, pork and veal sold in the state come from producers that meet the same standard. Florida’s Amendment 13 (approved by 69 percent) shuts down greyhound racing by the end of 2020 and nullifies a state

law that required tracks to run dogs in order to offer more profitable forms of gambling.

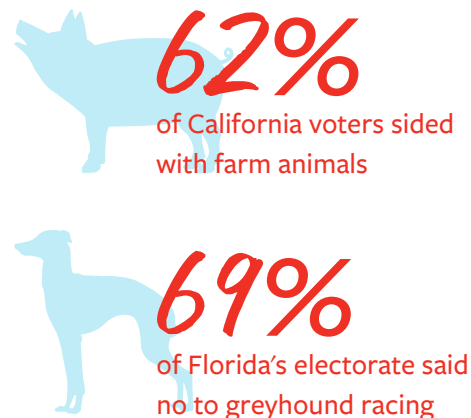
The strongest farm animal protection law in the world, Prop 12 is “groundbreaking for the welfare of animals,” says HSLF President Sara Amundson, noting that California could be a bellwether for the nation and even the globe when it comes to the fair treatment of farm animals.

Building on protections first passed by voters in 2008, Prop 12 will ensure that pork, eggs and veal products produced or sold in California come from facilities that don’t confine animals in tiny cages for most of their lives. The fifth consecutive state ballot initiative win on farm animal confinement issues since 2002, the measure will create immediate relief for millions of animals and bring more pressure on the industries to accelerate their transitions to cage-free and crate-free housing systems.

Florida voters’ overwhelming passage of Amendment 13 means that 11 of the country’s 17 remaining greyhound tracks will close (rescues are ready to find homes for the estimated 6,000 Florida dogs still being raced as of November).

“This big chunk of the industry is gone,” says HSUS Florida State Director Kate MacFall, who has worked to end greyhound racing for a decade. “It’s not going to be overnight, but the rest of the industry will come down.”

continued on p. 4



BALLOT MEASURES PREVAIL



With the success of Proposition 12, California now boasts the strongest farm animal protection law in the world.

HSLF partnered with the HSUS, the Doris Day Animal League, GREY2K USA Worldwide and a number of coalition partners to sound the death knell for greyhound racing in the United States.

“No industry that inflicts so much pain, suffering and death on thousands of gentle greyhound dogs deserves to survive,” says Amundson.

UNITED EFFORT

These victories were never guaranteed and took years of hard work by animal protection organizations and individual advocates. To be approved, Proposition 12 needed 50 percent of the vote, while Amendment 13 needed a supermajority of 60 percent. Thousands of

volunteers mobilized on behalf of the animals. Krudwig collected more than 7,000 signatures to place Prop 12 on the ballot. To help get Amendment 13 passed, Stratemann publicized dogs’ racing injuries—which caused angry trainers and owners to stop allowing her to rescue their

greyhounds—and attended public hearings throughout the state.

HSLF volunteers texted about 50,000 voters in Florida, encouraging them to end greyhound racing in the state. In California, HSLF volunteers carried Prop 12 brochures while canvassing for HSLF-endorsed candidates.

In July, the Doris Day Animal League, where Amundson also serves



50,000

Florida voters received texts from HSLF volunteers

as executive director, made a \$1.6 million contribution to the Committee to Protect Dogs, the coalition group that campaigned to pass the Florida ballot measure. The money was spent almost entirely on advertising. In both Florida and California, organizers say television and digital ads were essential to educate electorates and counter the industries’ misinformation.

Advocates fought right up to the last minute.

On Election Day, Krudwig stood on a corner in downtown Los Angeles with a “Yes on 12” sign from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. On another corner was Kristie Middleton, HSUS managing director of farm animal protection, wearing a cow suit. Nearby was Josh Balk, HSUS vice president of farm animal protection, in a pig costume.

In Florida, Stratemann and her daughters and friends spread out to polling places across Palm Beach County.

Before either Krudwig or Stratemann expected, the ballot questions were decided. Stratemann was at a friend’s house with his 10 rescued greyhounds. Around 7:30 p.m., when it became clear Amendment 13 would pass, she marveled over witnessing a change she once thought only her children would see. “The dogs finally got their voice.”

On the opposite coast, Krudwig was at a watch party in Los Angeles. At first, the numbers didn’t look good. That changed around 8:40 p.m., when LA tallies began to come in. By 10, the Associated Press and other news agencies were calling Prop 12 a win. Balk was elated. People started celebrating. Krudwig realized what was happening when Middleton gave her a hug.

That next day, on the train back to San Diego, Krudwig got a call. It was Balk, his voice hoarse after months of interviews and debates, thanking her.

“It finally sunk in,” Krudwig says. “Kind people came together for animals.”



On Election Day, Donna Krudwig (left) joined Get Out the Vote efforts in downtown Los Angeles.

WITH A NEW CONGRESS convening, we'll have new opportunities and new challenges, and we will be working to ensure that laws and policies reflect Americans' humane values and transcend partisan politics. At HSLF, we stand ready to work with lawmakers across the political

spectrum to advance a commonsense animal welfare agenda and, at the same time, to fight policies that threaten animals.

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

Reintroducing priority bills

We're working to get these and other key bills reintroduced in the 116th Congress.



Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act

The PAST Act would crack down on the cruel practice of “soring,” in which trainers deliberately inflict pain on the hooves and legs of Tennessee walking horses and related breeds to force them to perform an unnaturally high-stepping gait for competitions. Congress passed the Horse Protection Act almost 50 years ago to end this abuse, but rampant soring continues, as shown in a 2010 audit by the USDA inspector general and by the Humane Society of the United States’ undercover investigations in 2012 and 2015.

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act

This legislation would protect horses and consumers by prohibiting the transport and export of U.S. horses to slaughter for human consumption. American horses aren’t raised for food and are routinely given drugs that can be toxic to people if ingested. Horse slaughter is cruel, and the U.S. public overwhelmingly opposes it. Horses are shipped for long distances and are often seriously injured or killed in transit.

Humane Cosmetics Act

Congress should pass this legislation to phase out the testing of cosmetics on live animals and the sale of animal-tested cosmetics in the U.S. These tests performed on rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice are intensely cruel and unreliable predictors of effects on humans. Cosmetics companies can choose from thousands of ingredients already known to be safe for humans. For new ingredients, there are faster, less expensive non-animal methods to ensure products are safe for human use.



Welfare of Our Friends (WOOF) Act

The USDA often allows commercial dog breeding facilities with severe and multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act to be licensed year after year and allows those whose licenses have been suspended or revoked to operate under a new license using a family member’s name. The WOOF Act would prohibit the agency from issuing licenses to breeders whose previous licenses have been revoked or suspended or to their immediate family members at the same address.



Animal Emergency Planning Act

With climate change and more frequent extreme weather events—from raging wildfires to catastrophic hurricanes—preparedness includes having a plan in place to safely evacuate animals from impacted areas. The Animal Emergency Planning Act would require that entities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (such as commercial animal dealers, zoos, aquariums and research facilities) have contingency plans to safely evacuate and care for animals in an emergency or disaster situation.



November's elections saw the ouster of a congressman who was notoriously unfriendly to animal protections, including measures to save elephants from being killed for their tusks.

Pete Sessions' chickens come home to roost

HSLF-ENDORSEE TOPPLES INCUMBENT WITH ABYSMAL VOTING RECORD

DURING THE TWO DECADES PETE SESSIONS REPRESENTED TEXAS in the U.S. House of Representatives, he voted against vital animal protection legislation 40 times.

The powerful Republican scored only 17 out of 100 on HSLF's 2017 *Humane Scorecard*—and his average score over the years is a dismal 11.

Sessions' record on wildlife protection stands out as particularly loathsome. He helped to block efforts to protect elephants from the ivory trade and supported efforts to allow a small group of wealthy trophy hunters to import threatened polar bears' heads and hides for display. He voted to eliminate vital protections on federally owned, taxpayer-supported lands in Alaska, making it legal for hunters to use extreme methods, including killing hibernating mother bears and their cubs in their dens.

As the chair of the House Rules Committee, Sessions time and time again worked to prevent commonsense, bipartisan measures from reaching the floor for a vote, such as an amendment to stop the cruelty of horse soring.

Fortunately, on Nov. 6 voters decided to end Sessions' reign on Capitol Hill, instead electing HSLF-endorsee Colin Allred to represent Texas' 32nd Congressional District.

Allred, an animal lover who called his dog Scarlet his "best friend and #1 Campaign

sidekick" on Twitter, pledged to support HSLF's legislative priorities, including the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, which would prohibit the export and slaughter of horses for human consumption overseas, and the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) Act, which would make grants to eligible nonprofits that provide trained service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Congressman Allred will be a strong voice for animal welfare in the U.S. Congress," says Sara Amundson, president of HSLF.

With limited resources, HSLF's leaders search for races that can make the biggest impact on animal protection.

Unseating Sessions "was a natural priority for us," says Brad Pyle, deputy political director for HSLF. "HSLF fights the big fights."

HSLF aired a TV ad in the Dallas-Fort Worth area that exposed Sessions' abysmal voting record against commonsense animal protection legislation. Additionally, nearly 100 HSLF volunteers supported Allred by sending 20,000 text messages to voters in his district, initiating discussions about how animals would fare if Sessions returned to Congress.

The volunteers included Pat, the 85-year-old mother of Hans Dunshee, former political director for HSLF. "She told me ... she can't march anymore, but she can do this," Dunshee says of his mom's efforts.

Those personal, one-on-one discussions, Pyle believes, compelled some Texas animal lovers to get to the polls. That could have made all the difference. "This election was about who turned out," Pyle says.

HSLF couldn't be happier that our efforts were rewarded with such a consequential win, one that "removed a major roadblock to animal protection laws," says Pyle.



Rep. Colin Allred

A better outlook for wildlife

Humane legislators empowered to protect Endangered Species Act

IF ELECTION DAY HAD TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY, this issue of *Humane Activist* might have included an obituary for the 45-year-old Endangered Species Act—the landmark piece of legislation that prevented the extinction of the American bald eagle and the gray whale.

If that sounds dramatic, consider this: Over the past two years, extremist lawmakers beholden to business interests and trophy hunters have launched over a hundred attacks on the ESA—despite the law’s widespread popularity with the American public.

Now with more animal-friendly legislators in Congress, they will have some leverage to block the nonstop attacks on wildlife.

“We’re excited there’s finally going to be a check on this administration,” says Tracie Letterman, HSLF’s vice president of federal affairs.

The power transfer comes in the nick of time. In September, the GOP-controlled House Committee on Natural Resources passed four bills, all designed to gut the ESA under the guise of “modernization.” These proposals would give state and county governments the opportunity to veto proposed listings and allow the U.S. Department of the Interior to de-prioritize the protection of species or even remove some from protected listings entirely. In November, the House passed legislation to remove ESA protections for gray wolves in the 48 contiguous states.

As this issue went to press, there was still a danger that lame-duck legislators would manage



Animal advocates are hopeful that new House leadership will end the relentless attacks on wildlife protections.

to pass some of these bills. “We’re working with members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, to ensure that doesn’t happen,” Letterman says.

There are also looming battles over the Trump administration’s proposed regulatory changes that are clearly designed to decimate the ESA’s effectiveness. One proposal would end automatic protections for species categorized as threatened. Another would allow agency officials to publish economic impacts, which should have no bearing on whether a species is at risk. While a divided Congress can’t directly stop those rulemaking processes, the shift to Democratic control of the House changes the makeup of key committees and could put leaders committed to preserving wildlife protections in positions where they can make more of an impact, says Letterman.

One of those committed lawmakers will likely be Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz.

“President Trump and Republicans in Congress are hellbent on weakening endangered species protections,” Grijalva said in a statement to HSLF. “If I chair the Natural Resources Committee next year those efforts will run smack into heavy resistance based on a commitment to science, a belief in the professionalism of career experts, and faith in our judicial system to resolve hard cases.”

Humane legislators like Grijalva, Letterman predicts, will ensure that the Trump administration’s decisions face greater scrutiny.

“We’re expecting the Natural Resources Committee to have a significant number of oversight hearings,” she says. “This is their opportunity to have high-level officials come in and explain why they are attempting to dismantle the ESA rules.”

“Our agenda in the 116th Congress will be about increasing protections for at-risk species, not eliminating them,” Grijalva told HSLF.



Rep. Raúl Grijalva



HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

1255 23rd Street, NW
Suite 455
Washington, DC 20037

November's "animal wave"

Compassion pays off for candidates in midterm elections



Rep. Harley Rouda

→ Republican-turned-Democrat **REP. HARLEY ROUDA** beat 30-year incumbent Rep. Dana Rohrabacher in the race to represent California's 48th Congressional District. HSLF canvassed thousands of households in this Orange County district, urging voters not to support Rohrabacher, a Republican who scored zero on the 2017 *Humane Scorecard* and recently voted against enforcing animal fighting prohibitions in U.S. territories. In February 2018, Rohrabacher also gave his unsolicited opinion on eating dog meat when asked by Voice of America China whether he had a message for listeners celebrating Chinese New Year. "I don't blame them for eating dog," he said. "I mean, if that's what tastes good, that's what tastes good." Rouda, on the other hand, has pledged to support critical federal animal welfare legislation, including the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act and the Humane Cosmetics Act.



Sen. Debbie Stabenow

→ **MICHIGAN VOTERS** demonstrated their commitment to the humane treatment of animals, with HSLF-endorsed candidates winning key races. Democratic **SEN. DEBBIE STABENOW** was re-elected for a fourth term to the U.S. Senate, where she serves as a ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, a position she's used to seek animal-friendly policies in the farm bill and press the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restore essential animal welfare data to its website. Michigan's newly elected governor Democrat **GRETCHEN WHITMER** has a strong record of animal protection during her tenure in the state legislature, including votes to uphold protections for wolves and other wildlife. Democrat **DANA NESSEL**, who won a tight race for state attorney general, received HSLF's endorsement for her work to create a dedicated task force to assist prosecutors in cracking down on animal cruelty. HSLF-endorsees also won in six out of seven races for congressional seats.

→ **PENNSYLVANIA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION** to the 116th Congress will include a number of animal protection stalwarts. Voters decided that HSLF allies Democratic **REP. CONOR LAMB** and Republican **REP. BRIAN FITZPATRICK** will return to Congress, and HSLF-endorsee Republican **GUY RESCHENTHALER** won his race to represent the 14th Congressional District. As a state senator, Reschenthaler supported Libre's Law, which increased penalties for animal abuse, and he introduced a bill to end the sale of commercially bred puppies at pet

stores. HSLF also worked to elect Democratic **REP. SUSAN WILD** in the 7th Congressional District. Wild has pledged to support important federal animal welfare bills.



Rep. Conor Lamb

IN MEMORIAM

→ We mourn the loss of former **U.S. SEN. JOSEPH D. TYDINGS**, D-Md., a tireless champion for horses, who died in October at the age of 90.

During his time in the Senate from 1965 to 1971, Tydings introduced the federal Horse Protection Act to end



Former Sen. Tydings

soring (the intentional infliction of pain on a horse's legs or hooves to force the animal to perform an artificial, exaggerated gait). Upon hearing that the law he'd worked so hard to enact had failed to accomplish its goal due to loopholes that enable violators to evade detection, Tydings rejoined the battle, working pro bono for HSLF in recent years to gather support for the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act. To honor Tydings' legacy, Congress should now secure the long-overdue passage of this legislation.