

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

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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).

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

Catelli Bros., a veal and lamb supplier and slaughterhouse in New Jersey, quietly announced in March that it will no longer slaughter animals at its Shrewsbury plant. This is the same location where, two years ago, an HSUS investigation exposed numerous abusive handling and inhumane slaughter practices: still-conscious calves struggling while hanging upside down on a conveyor belt, calves being shot numerous times before reaching unconsciousness, a truck driver dragging a downed calf with a chain around the animal's neck, and plant managers twisting calves' ears and pulling them by their tails. The exposé led to a weeks long shutdown of the plant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The latest news in this story is a reminder, though, of unfinished business at the USDA: The agency has yet to finalize a rule, seven years in the making, to ban the slaughter of downed veal calves.

Unfortunately, what happened at Catelli Bros. is not an isolated case, but rather another instance of abuse and mishandling in the calf slaughter industry. In 2009, an HSUS investigation at Bushway Packing, a Vermont veal facility, revealed that calves only days old were kicked, slapped and repeatedly shocked with electric prods. The USDA shut down the Vermont facility, and the case resulted in a felony cruelty conviction.

The USDA should be commended for its swift response in both New Jersey and Vermont. But these cases highlight the need for a strong federal policy to protect young calves. That can be done by closing a loophole in the current downed animal regulations that invites cruelty by allowing these animals to be slaughtered for food if they can be made to stand. Current regulations create an incentive for workers to do everything they can—kicking, beating, prodding and dragging—to force downed calves to the slaughter floor.

Following the 2009 investigation in Vermont, The HSUS filed a legal petition asking the USDA to require that calves brought to slaughter unable to rise and walk be promptly and humanely euthanized and excluded from the food supply. More than 50,000 people wrote to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack supporting the change. And in May 2015, the USDA finally released a proposed rule to close this loophole.

We're grateful for the help from many members of Congress who have encouraged the USDA to implement this policy. In joint letters last year, 92 members of the House, led by Reps. Chris Smith, R-N.J., and Grace Meng, D-N.Y., and 14 senators, led by Sens. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, and Cory Booker, D-N.J., wrote to the USDA in support of the proposal.

One of President Obama's first actions on animal welfare when he took office in early 2009 was to close a loophole that allowed the slaughter of adult downed cattle too sick or injured to walk on their own. Now, in his final year in office, Obama should apply the same protections to young calves.

The USDA has acknowledged that this regulatory loophole needs to be closed. Now it's time for the Obama administration to take a consistent approach to animal welfare by finalizing the rule and plugging this downer loophole.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian  
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



Strong laws are needed to ensure public safety and to protect exotic animals like Teisha.

# Curbing the exotic animal trade

NEW PROTECTIONS FOR BIG CATS AND PRIMATES

**TEISHA**, an elderly tiger, was unable to walk when she was rescued from a private owner in Ohio. She had been living with four other tigers in an outdoor enclosure about the size of a bedroom. “They were all hugely overweight—I’m talking close to 200 pounds overweight,” remembers Carole Baskin, director of Big Cat Rescue, who agreed to take Teisha into her Tampa, Fla., sanctuary.

Baskin and the Big Cat Rescue staff are on the front lines of a battle against a national phenomenon that is disturbingly widespread: the private ownership of exotic animals. All across the U.S., tigers, servals, lions, cougars, chimps, monkeys and other animals languish in basements, garages and small outdoor enclosures, their biological and emotional needs unmet.

Every so often, news stories shocking enough to make international headlines surface from this rarely seen underground. Recall, for example, the nightmare of Zanesville, Ohio, in 2011 where 56 animals—including lions, bears, wolves, tigers and primates—were released from a private menagerie by their owner before shooting himself. Nearly all the animals were killed by local law enforcement officials. For years the local sheriff had expressed concern about unsafe caging and poor conditions at the facility, but without any laws restricting exotic pets in Ohio, there was little he could do.

It’s also not easy to forget the horrific 2009 incident in Stamford, Conn., where Charla Nash was mauled by her friend’s chimpanzee. The 200-pound, 14-year-old chimp unexpectedly turned on Nash, inflicting horrendous injuries. She lost her hands, nose, lips and eyes and subsequently underwent a full face transplant. The chimp was shot to death by police responding to the 911 call.

Clearly, keeping exotic animals as pets is not only bad for the animals, it’s also a threat to public safety. The HSUS has tracked more than 1,700 dangerous incidents since 1990 involving exotic animals, resulting in scores of deaths and hundreds of injuries. Fortunately, the federal government seems poised to take meaningful steps to protect both exotic animals and the public.

The Big Cat Public Safety Act, which would restrict the private ownership and breeding of big cats in the U.S., was introduced in the House by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., and in the Senate by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently finalized a rule that will help ensure that only properly accredited facilities engaged in legitimate conservation activities can breed and trade tigers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has also instructed its inspectors to crack down on public contact with exotic cats under 4 weeks old at exhibition facilities licensed under the Animal Welfare Act. “We will continue to urge USDA to do more on this issue and to explicitly prohibit public contact with tiger cubs of any age,” says HSLF president Michael Markarian.

With movement headed in the right direction for big cats, HSLF is also urging Congress to pass the Captive Primate Safety Act. The bill, introduced by Reps. Michael Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., and Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., would prohibit interstate commerce in primates as pets. “Until Congress takes action, dangerous primates will continue to be sold over the internet and this trafficking will put communities at risk across the country,” says Markarian.

## LEGISLATIVE LINEUP //

**THE FOLLOWING** is a sample 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).

## Animal Research



**Humane Cosmetics Act**  
H.R. 2858

To phase out animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients as well as the sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics. Sponsors: Reps. McSally, R-Ariz.; Beyer, D-Va.; Heck, R-Nev.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.

**Frank R. Lautenberg  
Chemical Safety for  
the 21st Century Act**  
S. 697

To improve the science behind chemical testing, encourage better safety decisions to protect the environment and human health and reduce the use of live animals. Sponsors: Sens. Udall, D-N.M.; Vitter, R-La.

## Farm Animals



**Animal Welfare in  
Agricultural Research  
Endeavors (AWARE) Act**  
H.R. 746/S. 388

To remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act and ensure that farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities receive the basic care required under the AWA. Sponsors: Reps. Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

## Pets and Cruelty



**Yulin Dog Meat Festival  
Resolution**  
H.R. 752

To condemn the "Dog Meat Festival" in Yulin, China, and urge China to end its dog meat trade that slaughters more than 10 million dogs annually (including many stolen pets). Sponsor: Rep. Hastings, D-Fla.

**Preventing Animal Cruelty  
and Torture (PACT) Act**  
H.R. 2293/S. 1831

To strengthen the animal crush video law and prohibit those same extreme acts of animal cruelty when they occur in interstate or foreign commerce, regardless of whether or not a video was produced. Sponsors: Reps. Smith, R-Texas; Deutch, D-Fla.; Marino, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

**Pet and Women  
Safety (PAWS) Act**  
H.R. 1258/S. 1559

To expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards for the pets of abuse victims on a national level and to provide grant money for domestic violence shelters to better accommodate families with pets. Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass.; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Peters, D-Mich.

## Wildlife



**Global Anti-Poaching Act/Wildlife Trafficking Enforcement Act/Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act/TUSKER (Targeted Use of Sanctions for Killing Elephants and Rhinoceros) Act**

H.R. 2494/S. 27/S. 2385/  
H.R. 1945

**CECIL Animal Trophies Bills**

H.R. 3526/H.R. 3448/S. 1918

To support and strengthen domestic and international efforts to combat the global epidemic of wildlife trafficking. Sponsors: Reps. Royce, R-Calif.; Engel, D-N.Y. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Graham, R-S.C. / Sens. Coons, D-Del.; Flake, R-Ariz. / Rep. DeFazio, D-Ore.

To prevent imports and exports of trophies from species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Sponsors: Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz. / Rep. Jackson Lee, D-Texas / Sen. Menendez, D-N.J.



**Big Cat Public Safety Act**

H.R. 3546/S. 2541

**Captive Primate Safety Act**

H.R. 2920

**Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act**

H.R. 2016/S. 1081

To prevent the breeding and possession of lions, tigers and other big cats except by accredited zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, universities and other restricted cases. Sponsors: Reps. Jones, R-N.C.; Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.

To amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals who cannot be traded or transported across state lines as pets. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore.

To end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sponsors: Rep. Lowey, D-N.Y. / Sen. Booker, D-N.J.

## Equines



**Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act**

H.R. 3268/S. 1121

**Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act**

H.R. 1942/S. 1214

**Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act**

H.R. 3084

**Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act**

H.R. 152/S. 1204

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed system of industry self-policing, ban the use of devices associated with soring, strengthen penalties and make illegal the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling the animal. Sponsors: Reps. Yoho, R-Fla.; Schrader, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Jolly, R-Fla.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Warner, D-Va.

To ban domestic horse slaughter and stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States. Sponsors: Reps. Guinta, R-N.H.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Lujan Grisham, D-N.M. / Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Mikulski, D-Md.; Collins, R-Maine

To improve the integrity and safety of thoroughbred horseracing by creating a single independent organization, with a majority of board seats held by officials of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, to develop and enforce uniform national anti-doping rules for thoroughbred racing. Sponsors: Reps. Barr, R-Ky.; Tonko, D-N.Y.

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge. Sponsors: Rep. Jones, R-N.C.; Sen. Burr, R-N.C.

## Ending cruel confinement

**THE CITIZENS FOR FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION** coalition gathered more than 133,000 signatures—double what was needed—to help get a measure on the 2016 statewide ballot in Massachusetts asking voters to ban cruel confinement of animals in cages on factory farms where they are immobilized for virtually their entire lives. The coalition is comprised of animal advocates, veterinarians, farmers, environmentalists and food safety organizations.

Their efforts ultimately broke the state's record for the number of signatures gathered for an animal protection effort. That's especially remarkable considering the coalition relied on volunteers rather than a paid signature-gathering firm.

A YES! vote on the November ballot measure would mean that veal calves, breeding pigs and egg-laying hens in Massachusetts will not spend their lives in cages barely larger than their bodies. It would also require that certain food items sold in the state are compliant with these standards.

Ten states already have laws to address these kinds of inhumane practices, and nearly 100 major food retailers—including McDonald's and Walmart—have committed to similar reforms.

Wayne Pacelle, HSLF executive vice president, says of the initiative: "The biggest names in the food retail sector are already moving to buy their pork and eggs from farmers raising animals outside



of small cages, and by approving this measure, Massachusetts voters will bring along the outliers and ensure more humane treatment of animals raised for food."



## Anti-wildlife trafficking

**ON THE WEST COAST**, volunteers from HSLF, The HSUS and other groups in the Save Endangered Animals Oregon coalition are busy collecting signatures to put a measure on the November state ballot that would crack down on the trade in parts and products from the world's most critically endangered wildlife. The most frequent question they encounter is, "Why do we need this? Isn't it already illegal?" While the

import and interstate trade of these products may be banned under federal law, smugglers still sell them in Oregon illegally. The measure creates an additional level of enforcement at the state level to bolster existing federal laws and rules.

Emily AhYou, an HSUS Oregon State Council member, remembers the ivory trinkets she saw on a trip to a rundown shopping center outside Portland last year. Most of the items looked new, even though it's no longer legal to import ivory into the United States.

"These products are for sale 10 minutes from my house," says AhYou. "It's happening, and we need tougher laws."

There are international and federal bans on the trade in ivory and other products from the 12 types of highly trafficked and imperiled animals named in the ballot measure: sea turtles, elephants, rhinos, lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, pangolins, whales, sharks and rays. But once items are smuggled into the U.S., there is little to stop the trade.

By mid-June, Save Endangered Animals Oregon was well on its way to gathering the number of signatures needed to put the measure on the ballot.

Last year, California banned the trade in all ivory and rhino horn within its borders, and voters in Washington state approved a measure similar to Oregon's by a margin of 70 to 30. If passed, the Oregon ballot initiative will be another blow to those who buy and sell illegally trafficked wildlife parts on the West Coast.



## Recognizing compassion in Congress

ANNUAL HUMANE AWARDS HELD AT CAPITOL

**HSLF AND ITS AFFILIATE** The Humane Society of the United States recently recognized a bipartisan group of federal lawmakers who've served as champions of animals in Congress.

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., and Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., were named the 2015 Humane Legislators of the Year. This top award recognizes federal lawmakers who have initiated path-breaking animal protection legislation and advanced reforms in the policy-making arena.

"Safeguarding threatened wildlife and promoting animal welfare should be a nonpartisan issue important to everyone," Buchanan said after learning he was to be honored with the award.

Udall was recognized for leading the effort—with Sens. David Vitter, R-La., and Cory Booker, D-N.J.,—to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act, including provisions to

reduce, if not eliminate, the use of animals in chemical testing. Those provisions are part of the final bill that passed the House in May by a vote of 403-12 and passed the Senate by voice vote in June. In addition, he successfully offered an amendment in the Senate Appropriations Committee to restore defunding language that's kept horse slaughter plants from reopening on U.S. soil. As the top Democrat on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, he helped fend off anti-wildlife riders that would have weakened the Endangered Species Act, stripped wolves of federal protections and blocked efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and the poaching of elephants for the ivory trade.

Buchanan also was active on a diverse set of policy reforms, including leading efforts to protect manatees by challenging the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service's decision to downgrade the species from endangered to threatened status. He co-authored the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act to stop horse slaughter for human consumption, voiced support for the appropriations defunding language to protect American horses, and urged the Department of the Interior to list African lions as endangered. In addition, he co-authored the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act to provide care standards for farm animals used in federal agricultural research.

Four retiring lawmakers were also specially honored at the April ceremony. Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., and David Vitter, R-La., as well as Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., received Lifetime Achievement Awards for their many years of championing humane public policies.

Boxer and Vitter teamed up annually to secure needed funds for the enforcement of key animal welfare laws, including the Animal Welfare Act, Horse Protection Act and Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. They also co-authored the Captive Primate Safety Act to crack down on the trade in primates as pets. Vitter and Farr were among the chief sponsors of the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety (PUPS) Act to require licensing and inspections of puppy mills that sell directly to the public or through the internet. With Mikulski as the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and Farr as the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, they both had pivotal roles on a host of animal protection concerns, including animal welfare enforcement funding and requiring humane treatment of farm animals at federal facilities.

An additional 175 federal lawmakers also received awards for leading on specific issues and/or achieving a perfect score on the 2015 Humane Scorecard.

"We're grateful to all of these members of Congress who are helping to forge a path to a more humane future through their demonstrated leadership on animal protection legislation," says HSLF president Michael Markarian.



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## THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ In April, the **U.S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** passed a “defund” amendment to prevent the opening of horse slaughter plants on U.S. soil. Reps. Sam Farr, D-Calif., and Charlie Dent, R-Pa., led the push for the amendment, which bars spending by the USDA to inspect horse slaughterhouses. In May, the Senate Appropriations Committee adopted an identical amendment led by Sens. Tom Udall, D-N.M., Mark Kirk, D-Ill., Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Christopher Coons, D-Del. The action by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees puts animal advocates in a stronger position to keep the doors of horse slaughter plants shuttered and prevent the use of American tax dollars for this cruel practice.

➡ In an agreement between **PROJECT CHIMPS**—a new sanctuary in northern Georgia that has received significant financial support from The HSUS and other parties—and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s New Iberia Research Center (NIRC), more than 200 chimps will be released from a laboratory life to retirement at the sanctuary. Project Chimps plans to eventually house more than 250 chimps in natural surroundings, ensuring the animals a healthy, enriched and peaceful future.

➡ **WALMART** announced in April that it intends to obtain all of its eggs from cage-free sources. This policy change from the nation’s biggest food seller is the latest sign that the era of confining hens in cages is ending. McDonald’s announced a cage-free timeline last fall, breaking the dam on the issue, and in the months that followed, The HSUS helped more than 100 major companies follow suit. Walmart’s policy, which will also apply to its Canadian stores, will be fully implemented within nine years.

➡ In a unanimous vote, the **PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL** banned all sales of puppy mill dogs in pet stores and at outdoor venues like flea markets. Passage of the ordinance signals growing support among lawmakers and other residents of Pennsylvania—a state with approximately 900 puppy mills—to shut down these operations that typically keep and breed animals in deficient and abusive conditions. The City of Brotherly Love joins more than 140 U.S. localities with similar ordinances.

