

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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IN THIS ISSUE

Chemical Reaction

Reducing the use of animals
in toxicity testing

Watershed Moment

McDonald's announces plans to
go 100-percent cage-free for its
U.S. and Canadian operations

SLAYING OF CECIL

MAJESTIC LION'S DEATH LEADS
TO INCREASED EFFORTS TO
END TROPHY HUNTING



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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.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

It's not just Europe where ground beef and meatballs could be tainted with horsemeat.

It could happen in America, too, according to a recent study conducted by researchers in Chapman University's food science program and published in the journal *Food Control*. The study tested a variety of fresh and frozen ground meat products sold in the U.S. commercial market and discovered that 10 of 48 samples were mislabeled—and two of them contained horsemeat.

This appears to be the first extensive research on meat species labeling in the U.S. since 1995, and the first serious look at the issue in this country since Europe was rocked with a horsemeat scandal in 2013. The U.S. products containing horsemeat came from two online specialty retailers. One product was labeled as bison and listed its country of origin as Canada, while the other was labeled as lamb and listed its country of origin as the United States.

It's one more reason for Congress to pass the federal Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, S. 1214 and H.R. 1942, introduced by Sens. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., and Reps. Frank Guinta, R-N.H., Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., and Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M. And it's a strong argument for Congress to maintain the current prohibition on spending federal tax dollars to resume horse slaughter operations in this country.

Some would-be horse slaughter profiteers are actively trying to open plants here in the U.S., which would make it much more difficult to avoid the type of commingling and food fraud—with horsemeat being passed off as other species—that researchers discovered in this study. Unintentional mislabeling may occur when several species are slaughtered in the same plants, using the same equipment or in the same general vicinity. Or unscrupulous producers could purposely mix the meat of lower-cost species with that of higher-cost species to increase profits.

Americans don't want to eat horsemeat or see these majestic creatures crammed tightly into cattle trucks and driven hundreds or thousands of miles to slaughter plants. It's a grisly end for an American icon, and it's generally reserved for the strongest, healthiest horses, since they yield the most meat and the biggest profits.

There's another major reason our lawmakers should act: Because American horses are not raised for human consumption, they are given drugs and medications throughout their lifetimes that can be toxic to humans if ingested. Horses sent to foreign slaughter plants are rounded up from random sources, and there is no system in the U.S. to track their past medications and veterinary treatments to ensure that their meat is safe for human consumption. This tainted meat is dumped on unsuspecting consumers overseas or here at home.

The prior experience in Europe, and now the new study in the U.S., show there is no fool-proof way to be certain that horsemeat will not enter the human food chain, and allowing slaughter plants to operate here would greatly increase that risk. The predatory kill buyers who outbid families and rescue groups so they can scoop up healthy horses and sell their meat are not providing a service to horses, as some claim, but are creating threats to our equine companions and to food safety here and abroad.

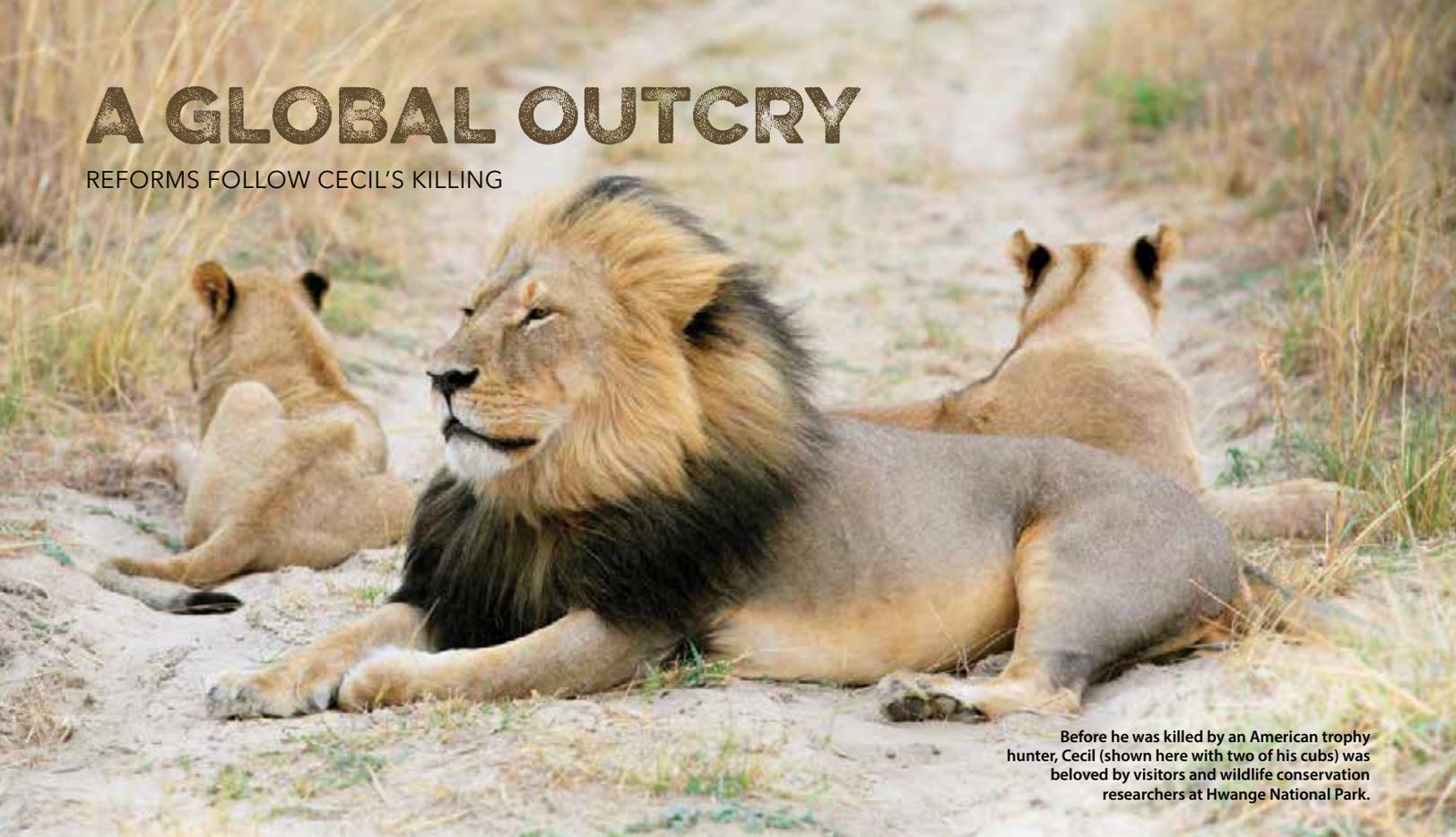
Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

A GLOBAL OUTCRY

REFORMS FOLLOW CECIL'S KILLING



Before he was killed by an American trophy hunter, Cecil (shown here with two of his cubs) was beloved by visitors and wildlife conservation researchers at Hwange National Park.

SOCIOLOGISTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY write numerous think pieces analyzing the swiftness and ferocity of the public uproar over the killing of Cecil the lion outside a national park in Zimbabwe.

Like the rest of the world, Wayne Pacelle, executive vice president of HSLF, found himself outraged at Walter Palmer, the dentist now infamous for allegedly luring the lion with the distinctive black mane off protected grounds so that he could kill him.

“The appalling killing confirmed my view that so many of these trophy hunters, in addition to being desensitized to the well-being of animals, are cheaters,” Pacelle says. “They often bend the rules or break the law in their self-centered pursuit of acquiring and then displaying trophy animals.”

As angry as he felt, Pacelle challenged others mourning Cecil to channel their grief into efforts to end trophy hunting rather than focusing on Palmer.

“We’ve attempted to articulate the case against globe-trotting trophy hunting,” Pacelle says. “It’s been a wake-up moment for our society on the issue.”

Although the killing of Zimbabwe’s most celebrated lion has faded from the news, the

reverberations continue to be felt. Perhaps the most tangible consequence is that it’s now more difficult for safari hunters to ship trophies back to the U.S. As of September, 44 airlines have established or reinvigorated bans that were already in place on transporting trophies—especially for Africa’s “Big Five”: African elephants, rhinoceroses, African lions, leopards and Cape buffalo.

Hunters would find shipping lion trophies to the U.S. even more difficult if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would at long last finalize a proposed rule to list the African lion under the federal Endangered Species Act. Imports of lion trophies would then require a permit, and hunters would need to prove the import enhanced the survival of the species as required under the Act, explains Adam Peyman, program manager at Humane Society International.

Reps. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., and Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., hope to speed up the process. In July, they sent a letter, signed by 48 other House Democrats, to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the FWS director urging finalization of the proposed rule.

In addition, Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., introduced the Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large (CECIL) Animal Trophies Act (S. 1918) in August. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the bill would extend ESA protections to species that have been proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. A companion bill (H.R. 3526) was introduced in the House by Rep. Grijalva.

Even as the public continues to decry the senseless killing of Cecil, some members of Congress are trying to pass sweetheart deals for elite trophy hunters. The so-called Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act (S. 405) in the Senate and the SHARE Act (H.R. 2406) in the House would allow wealthy pay-to-slay trophy hunters to import the heads of polar bears who were shot in Canada after the species was listed as threatened.

These bills will likely find less support in Washington than they would have before Cecil was in the news, Pacelle says. “I do think there will be less of an appetite for lawmakers to cater to people who do such terrible and unconscionable things to animals.”

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 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. 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. 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.

Pets on Trains Act

H.R. 674/S. 1087

To require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains. Sponsors: Reps. Denham, R-Calif.; Cohen, D-Tenn. / Sen. Whitehouse, D-R.I.

WILDLIFE



Global Anti-Poaching Act/Wildlife Trafficking Enforcement Act

H.R. 2494/S. 27

To allow prosecution for wildlife trafficking under federal racketeering and money laundering statutes, allow financial penalties from these crimes to be used for conservation efforts, authorize the Department of Defense to provide training and equipment to fight poaching on the front lines and pressure countries to step up their enforcement efforts. Sponsors: Reps. Royce, R-Calif.; Engel, D-N.Y. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Graham, R-S.C.

Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act

H.R. 2280

To help prevent millions of bird collisions and deaths by incorporating bird-safe building materials and design features in federal buildings. Sponsors: Reps. Quigley, D-Ill.; Griffith, R-Va.

Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act

H.R. 2016/S. 1081

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.

Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large (CECIL) Animal Trophies Act

H.R. 3526/S. 1918

To extend Endangered Species Act protections to species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. Sponsors: Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz. / Sen. Menendez, D-N.J.



EQUINES



Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act
H.R. 3268/S. 1121

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.

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act
H.R. 1942/S. 1214

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

Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act
H.R. 3084

To improve the integrity and safety of Thoroughbred horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping program to be developed and enforced by an independent Thoroughbred Horseracing Anti-Doping Authority. Sponsors: Reps. Barr, R-Ky; Tonko, D-N.Y.

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.

Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/ Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA)
H.R. 1552/S. 621

To phase out routine nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals—a common practice to promote growth and compensate for overcrowded, stressful, unsanitary conditions on factory farms—in order to maintain the effectiveness of these medicines for treating sick people and animals. Sponsors: Rep. Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Collins, R-Maine

ANIMAL RESEARCH



Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act
H.R. 1095/S. 587

To require the Department of Defense to develop, test and validate sophisticated human simulators for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries, with the goal of replacing live animal-based training methods. Sponsors: Rep. Johnson, D-Ga. / Sen. Wyden, D-Ore.

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 animals. Sponsors: Sens. Udall, D-N.M.; Vitter, R-La.



21ST CENTURY SCIENCE

TOXICITY TESTING REFORMS MEAN LESS SUFFERING

IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS since Congress passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), requiring Environmental Protection Agency oversight of chemical companies and their products.

Today that law is considered by many to be outdated and ineffective, leading Sens. Tom Udall, D-N.M., and David Vitter, R-La., to introduce the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (S. 697). Co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 58 lawmakers, the bill would overhaul the U.S. chemical regulatory program.

Proponents of the legislation, named after the late Sen. Lautenberg, who fought for years to get the TSCA rewritten, will tell you the law needs to be updated to reflect scientific advancements over the last four decades. They're also quick to say that the TSCA was a poorly written law from the beginning, one that left the EPA so impotent that regu-

lators couldn't act on known health dangers like asbestos.

In addition to protecting public health, the legislation includes precedent-setting language to spare thousands of animals from testing and support the development of non-animal alternatives.

"What we're doing is including language in this bill that minimizes—and in many cases eliminates—the use of animals for regulatory toxicity testing by requiring the use of existing validated alternatives to animal testing where available," says Sara Amundson, executive director of HSLF.

Toxicity testing in animals is notoriously inhumane. Each year, tens of thousands of animals suffer as harsh industrial chemicals are rubbed into their skin, forced down their throats or even dripped into their eyes. They often die horrific deaths.

A decade ago, HSLF staff began lobbying draft language for TSCA reform to reduce the use of animals in toxicity testing in favor of modern science-based alternatives.

"Sen. David Vitter, who is a real animal protection advocate, definitely saw how the science could evolve on this issue," says Amundson. "He started in those early stages including our language in the discussion draft. And Sen. Cory Booker picked up the mantle and fought hard for very progressive language in the current bill."

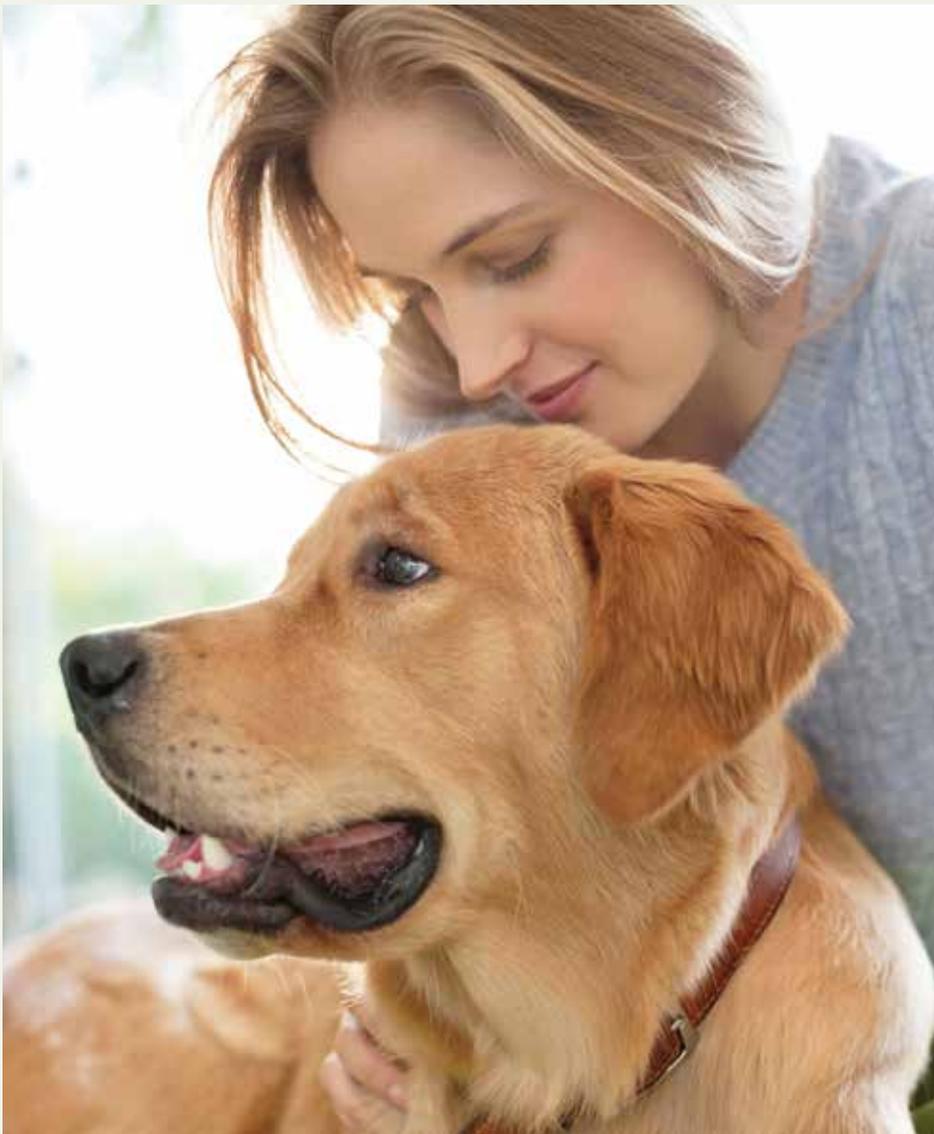
An estimated 80,000 man-made chemicals are used in this country, and the EPA hasn't assessed the risks of the majority of them. If the government attempted to evaluate that backlog using the current toxicity testing paradigm—which is largely based on animal-testing methods that were developed as long ago as the 1930s and 40s—thousands of animals would suffer and die.

In addition to being cruel, animal-based test methods are time-consuming and expensive. For all of those reasons, scientists and regulators around the world—including at the EPA—want to rely on a more modern approach.

Recognizing the numerous problems of predicting impacts on human health with animal testing, the EPA commissioned the National Academy of Sciences to come up with a new approach. Under the NAS proposal, all routine chemical testing would be carried out on human cells or tissues. The report recommends assessing—in the test tube—a chemical's ability to disrupt one or more of the human body's key biological pathways.

As EPA assistant administrator Jim Jones stated in a recent press release: "These new technologies allow us to screen more chemicals in less time, use fewer animals and reduce costs for everyone."





NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

PAWS ACT WOULD HELP PROTECT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND THEIR PETS

NATIONWIDE, AN ESTIMATED one-third of domestic violence victims prolong abusive relationships out of concern for their pets. Staffers answering the hotline at the Salvation Army's Turning Point, a domestic violence shelter in southwest Virginia, often hear horrifying accounts of abusers who control and intimidate their partners by threatening or harming their beloved pets.

One hotline caller told of how her abuser killed her cat, says shelter director Jamie Starkey. Afterward, the abuser got a likeness of

the animal tattooed on his arm. "So he could rub it into her face that her cat was gone," she says.

Turning Point staff will often help make arrangements for pets when a hotline caller is considering coming to the shelter, either boarding the animals with a nearby nonprofit animal adoption center or placing them in temporary foster homes.

But many shelters don't offer such services and intake staff never hear from callers again. In many cases, abuse victims decide to

stay in a dangerous situation because they fear for their pets' safety.

The Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act of 2015 would help the victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault by protecting their pets from their abusers. The House bill (H.R. 1258) was introduced by Reps. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. The companion bill in the Senate (S.1559) is led by Sens. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., and Gary Peters, D-Mich.

This legislation extends existing federal domestic violence protections to the animal members of a household, whether they have fur, fins or feathers. It also encourages states to expand their legal protections for pets in abusive households. More than half of the country's states have pet protective order laws, which allow pets to be included in restraining orders that prevent suspected abusers from having access to their victims.

"What a shame if you live in a state where you're able to get that protection for your pet, but then you have to go live with your parents in another state that lacks those protections," says John Goodwin, political director for HSLF. "You end up somewhere where a protective order doesn't protect a dog or cat and that abuser follows you there. This prevents that sort of scenario."

The PAWS Act would also establish a grant fund that would offer financial support to programs that provide safe housing for pets of domestic violence survivors, help arrange for pet shelter, or train support workers to better understand the link between domestic violence and pet abuse.

Today, only 3 percent of domestic violence shelters nationwide are able to house companion animals, but many more would like to open their doors to victims' pets. Starkey, for instance, already has plans to one day attach a kennel and a pet visitation room to the Turning Point shelter—the trick is finding the funds.

The legislation would authorize \$3 million a year for the grant fund. "It's a drop in the bucket," Goodwin admits. "But we need something so that these shelters can provide sanctuary for all of the victims of domestic violence, human and nonhuman."



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THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ In a watershed moment for animal welfare, **MCDONALD'S** announced plans to switch to 100-percent cage-free eggs for its U.S. and Canadian operations. This move will spare nearly 8 million animals each year from the currently standard industry practice of confining egg-laying hens in cramped cages. The company's decision follows a multiyear study McDonald's helped fund into the animal welfare, economic, food safety and market factors around cage confinement and cage-free housing.

➡ In September, the **U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION** finalized a rule to improve the safety of pet food products—and shift the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it. New FDA regulations require that manufacturers of pet food sold in the U.S. use basic measures to prevent contamination and food-borne illnesses such as salmonellosis. The rule has been a long time in the making: Key members of Congress, including Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., have been demanding greater oversight of the pet food industry since 2007, when contaminated products sickened or killed thousands of pets.

➡ **AMTRAK** announced that it is expanding its Pets Aboard program, allowing passengers to travel with small pets on select trains along the heavily trafficked east coast and northeast corridor. The Pets on Trains Act, introduced by U.S. Reps. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., and Steve Cohen, D-Tenn. (H.R. 674), and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I. (S. 1087), got the attention of Amtrak, prompting them to make this move.

➡ **THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA** upheld the National Marine Fisheries Services' denial of an import permit application for 18 wild-caught beluga whales for the Georgia Aquarium, Sea World facilities and two other aquaria. When the whales were captured in 2010, five of them were less than two years old, were likely still nursing and were not yet independent of their mothers. The federal government rejected the 2012 permit application, finding that the Georgia Aquarium failed to demonstrate, as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, that the import would not likely have an adverse impact on the species. Judge Amy Totenberg found that the agency's decision was well-reasoned and dismissed a lawsuit challenging the permit denial.

