

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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*After decades in laboratories,
more than 100 former research
subjects will rediscover what it
means to be a chimpanzee.*

Captured in the African rain forest as an infant chimpanzee, Julius had spent a staggering 53 years in U.S. laboratories. But on Jan. 22 of this year, his life would begin anew.

That morning, Julius and eight other chimps left the New Iberia Research Center in southern Louisiana and were transported 220 miles north to Chimp Haven, the national chimpanzee sanctuary. As they rolled up to the rural property in Keithville, staff members lined the gravel driveway, clapping and cheering the first wave of the largest group of government-owned chimps ever to be retired from a lab.

"The best thing in the world is getting to feed them for the first time," says Adrienne Mrsny, animal care specialist at Chimp Haven. "... They are just so excited to see a cucumber and a tomato, and they're all food barking at each other, hugging each other, and crying with joy."

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HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

A food scandal has rocked Europe, where products labeled as beef—everything from frozen lasagna to Swedish meatballs—have tested positive for horsemeat. But it's not just government officials there who should take notice; the controversy affects the United States, too. More than 100,000 American horses are killed each year for their meat, and the main market for this product is Europe.

Former racehorses, carriage horses, family ponies, and other equines are scooped up at auctions by predatory “killer buyers,” who often outbid horse rescue groups and families wanting to give the horses new, loving homes. The majestic creatures are crammed tightly into cattle trucks and shipped hundreds or thousands of miles to slaughter plants in Canada or Mexico.

They are butchered, shrink-wrapped, and air-freighted to Belgium, France, Italy, or other countries. It's a grisly end for an American icon.

Stopping the cruelty of long-distance transport and slaughter of our cherished companions should be enough to spur action. But there's another major reason our lawmakers should now act: We are dumping unsafe and contaminated horsemeat on European dinner plates and supermarket shelves, and it may also end up mixed into food Americans consume.

On March 13, at a Capitol Hill press conference, U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and U.S. Reps. Pat Meehan, R-Pa., and Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., joined animal welfare groups, equestrians, and veterinarians to announce the introduction of the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act (S. 541/H.R. 1094), which would prevent the slaughter and export of American horses for human consumption. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is an additional co-author.

This legislation seeks to address the serious and far-reaching food safety concerns associated with slaughtering American horses. The European Union already forbids imports of American chicken because the carcasses are bathed in chlorine, and it bans the import of American pork treated with ractopamine to encourage rapid, lean weight gain. Yet tens of thousands of drugged-up American horses are entering the marketplace, even though they are routinely given medications that are banned overseas for use in animals slaughtered for human consumption.

The U.S. has no system in place to track these medications; therefore, there's no reliable way to remove horses from the food chain once they've been given prohibited substances. It's no surprise that phenylbutazone—“horse aspirin”—was found last summer in horsemeat shipped from Canada to Belgium and continues to turn up in random testing.

Now, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is considering the application of horse slaughter plants that want to open here on American soil. Why, in a time of sequestration, would we add the new expense of inspecting such plants, just to support a marginal and predatory industry that gathers and kills horses from random sources?

There has never been more urgency in passing this long overdue legislation to protect tens of thousands of companion animals from a grim death and to send a message that U.S. horsemeat is simply unsuitable for the dinner table.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



Chimpanzees at Chimp Haven are placed in groups where they can form friendships, groom each other, establish hierarchies, and play.

Chimp Haven opened in 2005, after federal legislation established a national sanctuary system for surplus government-owned chimps. Since Julius' arrival, the facility has greeted two more waves of chimpanzees this year—their retirement marking a culmination of watershed moments in the campaign to end invasive research on these animals.

That campaign began picking up speed in 2009, when an HSUS undercover investigation of New Iberia revealed traumatized chimpanzees living alone in barren cages or packed into overcrowded enclosures. Another key moment came in 2011, when an Institute of Medicine study concluded that chimpanzees are largely unnecessary for biomedical and behavioral research, leading the National Institutes of Health to decide against funding any new studies involving the primates while they examined the issue.

Several biomedical research facilities and pharmaceutical companies have discontinued using chimpanzees. And increased support and progress for the HSLF-backed Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act in the 112th Congress helped motivate NIH to send all 111 government-owned chimps at New Iberia to sanctuary—if funding for expanding the facilities can be obtained.

"It's been a long road," says Kathleen Conlee, HSUS vice president of animal research issues, who fought back tears as she stood before the forested habitat at Chimp Haven, where Julius—graying and arthritic—would eventually roam with friends. "Working in animal re-

search issues, you prevent additional research often, but you don't actually physically see animals get out to a place like this."

And there is more potential progress on the horizon. At press time, HSLF and others were awaiting an official decision from NIH about implementing unprecedented recommendations from its own advisory council: immediate sanctuary of almost all of the government's chimpanzees and a permanent ban on breeding them for research purposes.

Hundreds of privately owned chimpanzees not covered by the advisory council's report may benefit from action on another front. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a petition to list all chimpanzees as threatened (whether captive in the U.S. or wild), which could greatly limit their use in biomedical research, entertainment, and the pet trade.

"[For] these chimps who have given so much to humankind," says Cathy Spraez, Chimp Haven president, "it's only fitting that we give back to them and let them enjoy their retirement years in as natural a habitat as we can create."

The unofficial motto at Chimp Haven is "we're here to serve them." This means training the animals to present body parts so that handling and medical procedures are as stress-free as possible. It also means placing them in groups where they can form friendships, groom each other, and establish hierarchies. And it involves enabling species-typical behaviors like making a nest, climbing, and playing with others.

To ensure their charges are never bored,

caregivers devise activity calendars rivaling those of any senior center: watercolor painting, movies, and treat-filled toys that challenge the chimpanzees' problem-solving abilities. Belly dancers, puppeteers, and drummers perform for the chimps (who, when it comes to moving to the music, "have rhythm but no beat," says enrichment technician Erin Loeser).

If there's a downside to working at Chimp Haven, it's this: With a geriatric population, death is a sadly regular occurrence. "It's like losing a friend," says caregiver Diane LaBarbera. "The only way we can deal with it is [to remember] that they got to be here, even if it was for a short time."

Asked why the chimpanzees inspire such devotion, their caregivers rattle off a list of attributes: their intelligence, their sense of humor, even the cunning and ability to deceive that keep staff members on their toes.

While laboratory conditions have improved over the years, federal law still allows chimps to be kept alone in 5-by-5-by-7 foot cages. And many of Chimp Haven's elders experienced lab life when there were no regulations governing their care and housing. For some, recovering from past trauma takes time. They may show abnormal rocking behaviors typical of infant chimps deprived of their mothers. Many new arrivals are afraid of grass. Others are wall-walkers, fearful of open spaces. A few display obsessive-compulsive behaviors, such as picking at their skin.

But with patience and gentle training, staff members help these animals gradually heal. No matter what they've been through, Conlee says, "they do rehabilitate, and they deserve the chance to do so."

In one play yard, Cody—an outgoing, 32-year-old male—pushes a plastic barrel around like a hyperactive toddler with a shopping cart. In the distance, Henry, the neighborhood busybody, sways in a pine tree high above Habitat 2. And in a few hours, Julius and his group will be released to a play yard, where for the first time in more than four decades, they will look up at a sky without bars. ■



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 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 (if available) 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 at 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.

PETS AND CRUELTY



Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act
H.R. 366 / S. 666
Related language also included in Senate Farm Bill

To establish misdemeanor penalties for knowingly attending an organized animal fight and felony penalties for knowingly bringing a minor to such a fight.
Sponsors: Reps. Marino, R-Pa.; McGovern, D-Mass.; Campbell, R-Calif.; Moran, D-Va. / Sens. Blumenthal, D-Conn.; Kirk, R-Ill.; Cantwell, D-Wash.; Vitter, R-La. (For related provision to Farm Bill: Sens. Reid, D-Nev.; Stabenow, D-Mich.)

Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act
H.R. 847 / S. 395

To close a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act by requiring that large commercial breeders who sell 50 or more puppies per year directly to consumers via the Internet or other means be licensed and inspected; and to require that dogs used for breeding at commercial breeding facilities be provided the opportunity to exercise daily.
Sponsors: Reps. Gerlach, R-Pa.; Farr, D-Calif.; Young, R-Fla.; Capps, D-Calif. / Sens. Durbin, D-Ill.; Vitter, R-La.

EQUINES



Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act
H.R. 126

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for the management of free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge on North Carolina's Outer Banks.
Sponsor: Rep. Jones, R-N.C.

Safeguard American Food Exports Act
H.R. 1094 / S. 541

To protect American horses and the public by prohibiting the transport and export of U.S. horses to slaughter for human consumption. Horses in this country are not raised for food, and they are routinely given hundreds of drugs over their lifetimes that can be toxic to humans if ingested.
Sponsors: Reps. Meehan, R-Pa.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Landrieu, D-La.; Graham, R-S.C.

FARM ANIMALS



Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act
H.R. 1150

To phase out the 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.
Sponsor: Rep. Slaughter, D-N.Y.

700 and Counting

Progress for animals spreads state-by-state

In mid-March, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez signed two new bills into law. One allows law enforcement agencies to use funds to purchase bulletproof vests for police dogs; the other provides adoption options for such dogs once they retire.

And with that, the animal protection movement hit another major milestone: U.S. states have now enacted 700 new animal protection laws since 2005.

“In just eight years, animal protection advocates have completely reshaped the legal framework in the states, and we now have stronger protections on the books for pets, wildlife, and farm animals,” HSLF president Michael Markarian says. “There is more awareness of animal protection issues every day, more advocates getting involved in the legislative process, and more lawmakers embracing these common-sense reforms.”

The push toward 700 new state laws has included multi-state efforts to crack down on puppy mill cruelty, animal fighting spectators, the extreme confinement of breeding pigs, the private ownership of dangerous exotic animals, cockfighting, and the cruel practice known as hog-dog fighting.

Dogfighting is now a felony crime in all 50 states. Cockfighting is a crime in all 50 and a felony in 40. And all but two states—North Dakota and South Dakota—now have felony-level penalties in place to address animal cruelty.

And there are more laws on the horizon. Among them:

- The Maryland General Assembly has passed a bill banning the trade in shark fins. The legislation now awaits Gov. Martin O’Malley’s signature, which would make Maryland the sixth state to crack down on shark finning.



- In Arkansas, a bill banning the ownership of primates as pets is awaiting Gov. Mike Beebe’s signature.
- By a 60-5 vote, the New Jersey Assembly has approved a ban on gestation crates for breeding pigs. The bill now heads back to the Senate for concurrence.
- At press time, the West Virginia House was considering bills—already passed in the Senate—to establish regulations for large-scale dog breeders and provide for spay/neuter funding.



UPDATE

Coalition hits signature-gathering goal to help protect gray wolves in Michigan.

For 67 days, these advocates hustled, collecting signatures at ice sculpting events, outside pet supply stores, on college campuses, at women’s expos. They set up tables at hockey games; they collected names at concerts.

They would hit their goal—and then some.

In late March, a coalition of groups working to protect gray wolves delivered 253,705 signatures to Michigan’s secretary of state. As the 29 boxes of names were carried down the hall, supporters broke into cheers and applause. “It was an amazing scene,” says Dane Waters, political director for HSLF, which helped spearhead the efforts. “It was a very, very emotional and a very exciting time for all of us and our coalition partners.”

Three months after the Michigan legislature passed a law designating the state’s estimated 687 wolves as game animals, the signatures marked a critical first step toward putting the issue on the ballot.

The secretary of state now has until June 1 to verify that at least 161,305 of those signatures are valid—a milestone that would delay any prospect of a wolf hunt in Michigan until late 2014, when state voters would decide the issue.

“In 67 days, getting a quarter million signatures is just never heard of,” says Waters, noting the coalition has now begun holding educational forums across the state. “[It] just shows ... how

strongly Michiganders feel about this issue.”



Collecting 29 boxes worth of signatures was the first step toward getting the wolf hunt issue on the Michigan ballot.

ON THE EDGE

LIVING NEXT TO THE WILDERNESS,
RESIDENTS WORK TO PROTECT
ITS INHABITANTS



L.A.'s urban sprawl hasn't consumed the rugged landscape of Angeles National Forest, with its 650,000-plus acres of woods, meadows, and chaparral for mountain lions, quail, and bighorn sheep. The cities at the forest's edge are the last noise-filled bastions before the sounds of crickets prevail.

For locals like Monrovia resident Laura Ashmore, wildlife encounters come with the territory. She likes getting glimpses of coyotes. "They are not aggressive," she says. "... They are more like shy dogs running down the street."

But some people don't agree. Based on a few sightings and pet attacks, the city council

"About 90 percent [of people] were opposed to [the killing] and didn't even know it was going on."

in neighboring Arcadia decided during a closed meeting in August 2010 to sign a yearlong \$30,000 contract with a pest management company to kill coyotes. In the previous two years, a trapper hired under low profile had killed more than 100.



Proposals to follow a humane approach were rejected by the council and the mayor. "This was a case," says The HSUS's Lynsey White Dasher, "where we needed the public to step up." Animal advocacy groups sent alerts to members, one of which caught Ashmore's attention—Arcadia is where her grandparents live. She and other volunteers, including Beatrice Simpson from nearby South Pasadena, began visiting

grocery stores, the library, and the high school to spread the word. “About 90 percent [of people] were opposed to [the killing] and didn’t even know it was going on,” says Simpson. Some people naively thought trapped coyotes would be released in the mountains.

Volunteers sent information to homeowners associations and the local PTA, shared the latest kill tallies with local media, and attended council meetings to speak against the trapping and request preventative measures such as hazing. Simpson described “jellyhead” to council members: when a neck-snared animal suffers brain hemorrhage and a slow, agonizing death. She also pointed out that someone had been feeding coyotes, thereby drawing them in.

Simpson spoke from experience. Twenty years before, her own neighborhood had had an issue with coyotes. A five-person study committee, including Simpson’s husband, found that areas reporting conflicts had open trash cans, fallen fruit, and pet food left outside. The committee recommended education and not trapping, a model that still exists.

Ashmore was new to advocacy work and at first nerves occasionally got the best of her. Despite hours of research and preparation, she admittedly stumbled over words and argued a few times with confrontational opponents. Over time, her presentation became more polished. When seemingly supportive residents failed to show at meetings, disappointment fueled her determination. “We just kept going towards the goal of 1,000 petition signatures ... and eventually people started coming.”

In November, more than 250 people, including the mayor, attended an educational program on coexisting with coyotes, run by Project Coyote and other organizations. Turnout at meetings began growing; at one, a one-time trapping proponent spoke up for the coyotes. At another, Ashmore’s grandfather did the same. “It gave me chills,” she says. “I was so proud of him. ... He’s almost 80.”

In January 2011, after receiving the signatures of 1,000 Arcadians opposed to trapping, the council voted unanimously to halt the killings. The change of heart is reflected in the city’s newsletters and on its website, which now provide information on coexisting with wildlife.

Airplay

For fun-loving radio host Jerry Cesak, saving animals is no joke

For Jerry Cesak, life is good. Real good. He lives in sunny La Jolla, Calif., where he and his wife share space with a menagerie of rescued pets. From his home overlooking the Pacific Ocean, he can see dolphins cruising near the surf and gray whales spouting as they migrate along the coast. And his early morning radio show—“The Jeff and Jer Showgram” on San Diego’s KxXy 96.5 FM—has been wildly popular since first airing in 1988, featuring celebrities such as Mike Tyson and Dan Ackroyd.

Cesak fell into radio while studying theater in college and never left. He and longtime on-air partner Jeff Detrow roll unapologetically in the good times: “This is like high school with pay. ... We laugh more in four hours than most people do in four months.”

But the humor takes a serious turn when it comes to animals. After family, animals get top billing from Cesak, whose love for the furred and feathered stems from a childhood rich with rescued pets and thoughtful insights from his mother—like the time he wanted a chick for Easter. “I remember my mom saying ‘no’ because to have a baby chicken in our house would be cruel. They need to run around ... outside.” Her kind refusal struck a chord. “It was the first time I’d thought about an animal’s needs.”

For decades, Cesak has been working to stop such injustices as vivisection and fur. He and his wife created the Unicorn Foundation, which raises money to fight animal cruelty. And in 2010, he joined HSLF’s national council to focus his sights on policy change. He spoke with *Humane Activist* for this edited interview.

What was your introduction to animal protection? It was 1974. I was 23 years old and in Maine in a bookstore, looking around. I found this book by Cleveland Amory called *Man Kind?* ... and pulled it off the shelf. That was it. The night before I picked up that book was the last time I was able to get any peaceful sleep.

Do you cover animal issues on your show? If it’s something that I need people

to take action on, you bet. Our audience is very responsive. We did a major campaign on our show to get Proposition 2 passed here in California [in 2008]. People had no idea about battery cages or gestation or veal crates and were absolutely horrified. The day after I first talked about Prop 2 on the radio, we got 2,100 people to sign the petition. Another thing I do every year is read the humane scorecard on legislators in the San Diego area; that, and the voter guide.

What’s been your best moment in the animal protection movement? Proposition 2 was the most significant thing that I’ve ever been associated with and the most significant thing I’ve ever seen. [It] caused a tectonic shift in the progress of animal protection. And 100 years from now, when people look back on the history of animal protection, Prop 2 is going to stand as perhaps the most significant event in history to change factory farming.

What’s the best advice you’ve received about helping animals? The best advice was from Doris Dixon [former Michigan director for The Fund for Animals]. She taught me patience. It sounds like something Confucius said, but I wrote it down and never forgot it because sometimes protecting animals seems so overwhelming, like holding back a wall of water with your hands. She said, “You begin to move a mountain by carrying away small stones.”



Cesak wrote an award-winning children’s book, *My Personal Panther*, featuring a girl and her pet cat.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

{ THE EYES HAVE IT }



➤ In response to a lawsuit filed by wildlife advocacy groups, the **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** is proposing to classify wolverines as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Hunted almost to extinction for their fur in the 19th century, wolverines made a successful recovery, but loss of habitat caused by global warming leaves them vulnerable once again. Listing wolverines as a threatened species would not restrict recreational activities in the animals' ranges but would ban intentional hunting and trapping.

➤ Actress and new mother **KRISTIN BELL** urged the National Pork Producers Council to end its endorsement of confining pregnant sows in gestation crates, stalls so small that the animals can't turn around. In a letter to council CEO Neil Dierks, the star of *Veronica Mars* wrote, "I love being pregnant, but I can't imagine how awful it would be under conditions like these. [Crates are] cruel, inhumane, and totally out of whack with people's values about how we ought to treat animals." Nine states have banned gestation crates, and more than 40 leading food companies have pledged to remove the crates from their supply chain.

➤ With input from wildlife protection groups, a **FEDERAL APPEALS COURT** upheld the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) failed to ban global commerce in polar bear parts at their March meeting, but wildlife advocates successfully urged the assembly to apply the ban to African manatees and to regulate trade in several shark and manta ray species of high commercial value.

➤ A recent **NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** study found that genomic responses to inflammation in mice and humans are so dissimilar that mouse models should no longer be relied upon to research treatment for sepsis, burns, and trauma. The 10-year study focused on inflammation caused by these conditions, which are frequently fatal to humans; 150 drugs that successfully treated inflammation in mice failed in human trials—"a heartbreaking loss of decades of research and billions of dollars," wrote National Institutes of Health director Dr. Francis Collins in his blog. The NIH is dedicating millions of dollars to developing "tissue chips" that would replace animals in testing drug efficacy.

