

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

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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](http://hslf.org).

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*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 450, Washington, D.C. 20037, or contact us at 202-676-2314 or [humaneactivist@hslf.org](mailto:humaneactivist@hslf.org).

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has relied on his adult sons to manage key aspects of his campaign. If this approach continues into a Trump presidency—which the candidate has indicated it would—wildlife advocates have reasons for serious concern. They travel the globe to slay rare wildlife, and the elder son has indicated he wants to serve as Secretary of the Interior in his father's administration.

In May, *Environment & Energy Daily* noted that the nominee doesn't claim to know much about hunting or the outdoors and has largely deferred on those issues to his son Donald Jr., who is organizing the campaign's outreach to sportsmen. In a January interview with *Petersen's Hunting* magazine, the younger Trump mused that he would like to be Secretary of the Interior and said, "So you can be assured that if I'm not directly involved I'm going to be that very, very loud voice in his ear. Between my brother and myself no one understands the issues better than us. No one in politics lives the lifestyle more than us."

Over the tenure of the Obama administration, the Department of the Interior has been perhaps the most active federal agency on animal welfare issues—restricting trophy hunting of some of the world's most imperiled animals, making wildlife trafficking and elephant poaching a priority issue, and increasing Endangered Species Act protections for African lions. What an appalling turnaround it would be to put the persecutors of wildlife in charge of U.S. policy on these issues.

Donald Jr. and his brother Eric made headlines for their trophy hunting exploits. Photographs show them posing with a dead leopard, Cape buffalo, waterbuck and other exotic creatures, and the tail of an elephant. The lifestyle they are living—spending their fortunes to travel the world and amass heads and hides of the rarest and most majestic animals on earth—is more on par with the type of killing done by Walter Palmer (the wealthy dentist who shot Cecil the lion) than it is with rank-and-file sportsmen or conservationists.

It's not an issue of partisanship. No Republican or Democratic president is ever going to be perfect on animal issues. The Obama administration, while making a great deal of progress for wild animals, also took several harmful policy actions, such as working to remove federal protections for wolves and grizzly bears and turn over their management to states that are hostile to predators.

But the risk of having a globe-trotting trophy hunter in the top job at the Interior Department, or having the ear of the president, is a real one. The administration is responsible not only for policies involving hundreds of millions of acres of federal lands, but also wildlife law enforcement, international treaties on trade and conservation, and import policies for wild animal parts and trophies.

A Trump presidency could set the stage for rolling back wildlife protections and implementing policies to advance trophy hunting around the world and here at home. It's something animal advocates should pay attention to as they evaluate the candidates.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian  
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund





ing and treatment of laying hens. He championed legislation to crack down on the abuse of show horses and animal fighting, and sponsored a bill that would have required Amtrak to establish a policy allowing companion animals to travel with their owners on certain passenger trains. Congress later agreed on a larger bill that included the provision.

**RUSS FEINGOLD, D-WIS.** (challenger for U.S. Senate seat). In 2010, Feingold lost his re-election campaign to the U.S. Senate to Republican Ron Johnson. Now he's running to regain his old seat. As a senator, Feingold worked to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting and for legislation to require truth in labeling of fur in clothing. His opponent, Sen. Ron Johnson, however, is a leading adversary of animal welfare and the sponsor of legislation to strip wolves of their federal protections and open up trophy hunting and trapping.

**MATT GAETZ, R-FLA.** (running for U.S. House seat). Gaetz, currently a state legislator, is one of several candidates competing in the Republican primary for the chance to run against Democrat Steven Specht. In the Florida House of Representatives, Gaetz advocated for protections for racing greyhounds. According to Maxwell, Gaetz "has worked diligently on behalf of our agenda and has taken a good firm stance to protect animals."

**LON JOHNSON-D-MICH.** (running for U.S. House seat). A former chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, Johnson ensured that a resolution was adopted to protect Michigan wolves. "Here's someone who wasn't already elected, but who took action at home, in his other capacities, to help protect animals," says Maxwell.

"It's important to ensure the right people are in our capitals—state and federal," says Maxwell, who's thankful for the many HSLF members who advocate on behalf of animals. He encourages members to "take that advocacy to the ballot box."



## The right candidates

### TAKING ANIMAL ADVOCACY TO THE BALLOT BOX

**IF HUMANE-MINDED CANDIDATES** don't win offices in state capitals and on Capitol Hill, there will be no legislators to speak out for animals. That's why HSLF devotes significant resources to supporting candidates in critical federal and state races.

"We can advocate all day long that something needs to be done, but if we don't have the kind of leaders in the capitals that want to have solid animal welfare laws in this country, our issues fall on deaf ears," says Joe Maxwell, senior political director for HSLF.

HSLF endorses candidates after carefully considering their records or positions on animal issues. "We're a nonpartisan organization," says Maxwell. "We look to each individual candidate and have a blind eye as to what party they're in."

In its annual *Humane Scorecard*, HSLF vets the animal protection records of incumbents at the federal level. Candidates seeking public office for the first time are asked to complete a survey to determine where they stand on animal protection issues. The process of researching political candidates is "one we take very seriously," Maxwell says. "We want to support those who support animals."

Here are some HSLF-endorsed congressional candidates in key races:

**JEFF DENHAM, R-CALIF.** (incumbent in U.S. House of Representatives). Rep. Denham, who represents a rural agricultural district, worked with animal protection groups and the egg industry to reform the hous-

## 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.

## Farm Animals



**Commodity Checkoff Program Improvement Act**  
S. 3201

To fix problems in commodity promotion ("checkoff") programs—such as those for eggs, beef and pork that collect mandatory fees from farmers—by strengthening prohibitions against using the collected funds for lobbying, banning anticompetitive and deceptive marketing activities, and requiring checkoff boards to publish their budgets and submit to periodic audits. Sponsors: Sens. Lee, R-Utah; Booker, D-N.J.

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

To remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) 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. Res. 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 cruelty 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



### Wildlife Trafficking Bills

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

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.

### CECIL Animal Trophies Bills

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

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

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.



### Captive Primate Safety Act

H.R. 2920

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.

### 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.

### Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act

H.R. 5584/S. 3095

To expand on current federal law by prohibiting commercial trade of shark fins or products containing shark fins. Sponsors: Rep. Sablan, D-Northern Mariana Islands / Sen. Booker, 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 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.

### Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act

H.R. 152/S. 1204

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.



Enactment of the Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act would expand on prior legislation limiting the cruel practice of shark finning.

## Strides for sharks

GETTING SHARK FIN SOUP OFF THE MENU

**AS A CHILD** growing up in Taiwan, Iris Ho remembers sampling shark fin soup, a celebratory East Asian dish traditionally served at weddings.

Today, as wildlife program manager for Humane Society International, Ho works to spread the word about the tens of millions of sharks who are killed each year by finning—the practice of hacking off a shark’s fins while the animal is alive and conscious, then discarding him into the water, where he will suffer a slow, painful death. This, for a bowl of soup.

Ho, along with HSLF and its partners, is working to end this unspeakable cruelty. “The U.S. is the largest market for shark fins outside of Asia,” says Ho. Stopping the trade in and out of the country is key to ending the killing. That’s why Ho is encouraged by the recent state and federal victories she’s helped create.

In June, Rhode Island joined 10 other states and three Pacific territories to ban the trade in shark fins, sending the message that this cruel product is not welcome within their borders.

At the federal level, U.S. Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.V., and U.S. Reps. Ed Royce, R-Calif., and Gregorio Kilili Sablan, D-Northern Mariana Islands, along with a bipartisan group of original cosponsors, recently introduced the Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act (H.R. 5584/S. 3095). HSLF is among a broad coalition of groups

advocating for the legislation, which would largely prohibit the commercial shark fin trade, including U.S. imports and exports, transport in interstate commerce and interstate sales.

“Although the act of shark finning is prohibited in U.S. waters, the market for fins incentivizes finning in countries that have lax finning laws and fishing regulations,” explains Michael Markarian, HSLF president. “If enacted, the legislation would make the U.S. a global leader and set an example for other nations to end the shark fin trade.”

With an estimated 73 million sharks killed each year for their fins, “it’s very important to have our voice heard and make sure we get this bill and other shark protection measures passed,” adds Ho.

Federal law has prohibited removing a shark’s fin at sea and discarding the rest of the animal since 2000. HSLF helped pass the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, which further prohibited the possession of detached fins on board a fishing vessel, the transfer of detached fins between vessels at sea or the landing of a shark without its fins naturally attached anywhere along the U.S. coastline. But implementation of the regulations stalled until this summer when—after a more than five-year wait—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration finalized the long-overdue rule.

With this action, Markarian says, “the administration reaffirms that the state and territory shark fin laws are not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, making clear that state and federal governments both have roles to play in stamping out this cruelty.”

# Leaving a legacy

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION COMES THROUGH FOR ANIMALS

**AS OBAMA'S PRESIDENCY** draws to an end, it's becoming clear that his administration has done more for animals than any in memory, especially during his powerhouse second term.

"In the past few years, the Obama administration has made remarkable progress in protecting animals through federal regulatory oversight," says Tracie Letterman, director of regulatory affairs for The HSUS, adding that the administration has advanced a wide range of animal protection policies. The administration's major accomplishments include:

**PUPPY MILLS** In 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) closed a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act regulations that previously exempted internet dealers of warm-blooded animals from federal oversight. In 2014, the USDA also issued a final rule prohibiting imports of puppies into the U.S. for resale.

**CHIMPANZEES** Harmful research on chimpanzees has essentially come to an end thanks to two major policy decisions in 2015. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) eliminated the split listing of chimpanzees under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Now all chimpanzees—whether captive or wild—are listed as endangered. This closes a loophole that allowed their exploitation for biomedical research and the pet and entertainment trade. The National Institutes of Health also announced it would reverse a decision to maintain a colony of 50 chimpanzees for research and retire all government-owned chimpanzees to sanctuary.



**DOWNED CATTLE AND CALVES** Within his first 50 days in office, President Obama personally announced a ban on slaughtering downed cattle—those too weak or injured to walk. Sadly, a loophole remained that allowed downed calves to be slaughtered for human consumption. In July 2016, the USDA finalized a rule putting a stop to this cruelty.

**IVORY** The FWS issued a final rule resulting in a near-complete ban on the commercial ivory trade in the U.S., the world's second largest market for ivory product sales, behind China. The president also negotiated an agreement with China to end the global ivory trade.

**AFRICAN LIONS** The FWS released a final rule listing western and central African lion populations as endangered and eastern and southern African lion populations as threatened under the ESA, providing important protections for this species.

**STOPPING RUTHLESS PREDATOR KILLING ON REFUGES AND PRESERVES** The FWS finalized a rule prohibiting cruel hunting methods on National Wildlife Refuge lands in Alaska. The action followed a similar rule enacted by the National Park Service. The rules limit killing of predators—including bears, wolves and coyotes—on a combined 100 million Alaskan acres.

**ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS** include enhanced protections for critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, stronger regulations to combat shark finning, and the listing of four species of large constrictor snakes as injurious under the Lacey Act, which will end imports and interstate trade in these reptiles.

With several months remaining before Obama leaves office, Letterman feels optimistic that the administration may enact more federal regulations benefiting animals, including rules to crack down on the cruel practice of horse soring, strengthen animal welfare standards on farms that use the organic label, and regulate toxic lead ammunition that poisons wildlife.

As Wayne Pacelle, executive vice president for HSLF, wrote in his State of the Animal Union blog in January, "The President can use this limited time to wield his still-immense power to put forward these meaningful protections and seal his legacy as a determined advocate for animals."







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## THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ **THE HSUS**, along with several other animal and environmental protection organizations, recently won a victory for marine mammals in a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Navy's use of high-intensity, low-frequency sonar. The practice, used for submarine detection, can have devastating impacts on dolphins, whales and other marine mammals who rely on their perceptions of underwater sound for catching prey, navigating, communicating and mating. In a decision that will have wide-ranging impacts on marine mammals, the court found that the National Marine Fisheries Service illegally approved the Navy's harmful activities, ignoring safeguards suggested by the government's own scientists.

➡ **PERDUE**, the country's fourth-largest poultry producer, announced in June a series of precedent-setting reforms to improve the lives of the roughly 700 million birds it raises and slaughters each year. Under the new policies, Perdue will provide birds with more space, natural light and enrichment (like hay bales and perches). The company will also test the use of slower-growing birds (currently, typical growth occurs so fast that it causes immense suffering). Finally, the company will transition its slaughterhouses from shackling live animals to controlled-atmosphere stunning, a method recognized by scientists and advocates alike as being far less cruel.

➡ In June, the **HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE** passed the most comprehensive U.S. state law targeting the illegal wildlife trade. The Aloha State, which is the nation's third largest market for ivory,

banned all sales of ivory, rhino horns and other endangered species products. Enforcement of the law is delayed until June 30, 2017, to grant individuals and businesses time to lawfully dispose of such items. The law provides reasonable exemptions for traditional cultural practices as well as items containing less than 20 percent ivory, including bona fide antiques, musical instruments, and guns and knives.

### ➡ **THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

made impressive progress for animal welfare in the 2016 session. Lawmakers passed bills to extend a moratorium on the licensing of any new live animal slaughter markets within 1,500 feet of a residential dwelling in New York City. Reauthorizing this law keeps in check the proliferation of storefront slaughter facilities. The legislature also passed a bill to provide cats and dogs formerly used in research laboratories the opportunity to be adopted into loving homes. In addition, lawmakers fended off ill-conceived legislation that would have repealed the state's decades-old ban on cruel snare traps.

