



HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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{ THE **AYES** HAVE IT }



➡ Florida's gentle giants can rest easier. To protect endangered manatees from being maimed or killed by boat propellers, the **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** has designated all of Kings Bay in Citrus County a permanent year-round manatee refuge, expanding restrictions on boat speed and waterborne activities. Refuge regulations also prohibit disturbing manatees in any way, including touching, chasing, prodding, riding, feeding, and trying to separate a mother and calf. The refuge includes seven existing manatee sanctuaries where all water activities are banned during breeding season. Fed by warm springs that keep the average water temperature at 72 degrees, Kings Bay provides an important haven for cold-intolerant manatees.

➡ In a precedent-setting statement, **BURGER KING** announced in April that by 2017, all of its 7,200 U.S. restaurants will use eggs only from cage-free hens. Additionally, the company committed to eliminating gestation crates for breeding pigs from its supply chain. Burger King has set an example for other restaurants since 2007, when it began phasing out eggs and pork from extreme confinement systems.

➡ **THE L'OREAL GROUP**, the world's largest beauty and cosmetics company, is partnering with the **U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** to evaluate the safety of its products without using animals. L'Oreal is providing the EPA with \$1.2 million to test the effectiveness of the agency's chemical evaluation tool, Toxicity Forecaster (ToxCast), on substances used in

cosmetics. Consisting of more than 700 rapid-response tests, ToxCast has been used successfully on pesticides and industrial chemicals to predict the potential for cancer and toxicity. Similar success with cosmetics materials will mark a significant step toward a day when animals will no longer be subjected to suffering for the sake of beauty.

➡ After several rejections, **MADELEINE PICKENS'** proposal to establish a wild mustang eco-sanctuary in Nevada has been accepted for evaluation by the **U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**. The proposal calls for a unique public-private partnership in which 14,000 acres owned by Pickens' nonprofit organization, Saving America's Mustangs, would be combined with 530,000 acres of public-use land to create a nonreproductive sanctuary for 900 wild horses. Pickens has been working since 2008 to persuade the BLM to adopt eco-sanctuaries as one alternative to its current program of roundups and long-term holding facilities for controlling mustang populations.



HUMANE ACTIVIST

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GUILTY BYSTANDERS



BILL CREATES FEDERAL PENALTIES FOR
ANIMAL FIGHTING SPECTATORS



The undercover camera pans left to capture a troubling scene: Two young boys walk behind the bleachers at a large cockfighting event in Kentucky. One holds a live rooster; the other carries a dead one. They lift the birds up to touch each other—once, twice—just as the adults do on the main stage, a prefight ritual to incite the combatants. The kids then let the birds go: The dead one drops in a heap; the live one lunges toward him in attack.

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HUMANE SOCIETY
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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

Contributions or gifts to HSLF are not tax deductible. Your donation may be used for lobbying to pass laws to protect animals, as well as for political purposes, such as supporting or opposing candidates.

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Dear Friends,

Dog lovers across the country are barking mad over a recent decision from the Maryland Court of Appeals declaring that all pit bull-type dogs are “inherently dangerous.” The misguided and overreaching ruling treats all pit bulls and pit bull mixes as a category, rather than as individual animals. It could make owners, landlords, veterinarians, kennels, animal shelters, rescue groups, and anyone in custody of a dog automatically liable, regardless of whether they know if he actually poses a threat.

This sweeping decision is a case of canine profiling. It marks a major step backwards for the state of Maryland, and it puts both dogs and people at risk. It may force law-abiding citizens to face a painful and life-changing decision: move out

of Maryland or give up their beloved dogs. It could increase the number of strays on the streets and euthanized in shelters, turning back progress made by animal shelters and rescue groups over the past few decades. There are already reports of pit bulls abandoned in the wake of the court ruling, such as two unaltered dogs thrown out on the street in the Southern Park Heights neighborhood of Baltimore when their owner was threatened with eviction.

The entire decision is misguided because breed alone does not predict whether a dog may pose a danger. A dog's propensity to bite is a product of factors including early socialization, living conditions, and the owner's behavior. For example, chained dogs and non-neutered dogs are much more likely to bite.

And how can a cursory visual exam determine whether a dog is a pit bull and therefore unwelcome? According to a recent study co-authored by the Maddie's Fund Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, which looked at a group of 120 dogs at four animal shelters, shelter staff identified 55 of those dogs as “pit bulls,” but DNA analysis confirmed the ID in only 25 of those cases. Additionally, the staff missed identifying 20 percent of the dogs who were pit bulls by DNA analysis, while only 8 percent of the “true” pit bulls were identified by all staff members.

Many dogs merely resembling the pit bull-type look will be swept up and punished by this ruling, and there may be expensive court battles over whether a dog is or isn't a pit bull. With as many as 75 percent of shelter dogs being mixed breeds, this is not an anti-pit bull decision, but an anti-dog decision.

In issuing this ruling, the Maryland Court of Appeals has clearly overstepped its authority. Sound public safety policies should be made by the legislature after conducting appropriate fact-finding, holding hearings, and considering the available science. We are asking

Maryland state lawmakers to pass legislation to clarify the law and overturn this dangerous ruling. Concerned Maryland citizens and dog lovers should contact their state legislators today. You can also show your support by posting your favorite pit bull photos on Twitter with the hashtag #LoveMDpitbulls. Let's show Maryland officials they should punish the deed, not the breed.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

**YOUR
VOICE IS
NEEDED!**

The USDA published a proposed rule in May to regulate large-scale dog and cat breeding facilities that sell animals directly to the public—facilities that had previously escaped federal licensing requirements and inspections because of a loophole in Animal Welfare Act regulations. The USDA will be collecting public comments on the rule until July 16. Visit hslf.org/pupppymillrule to express your support.

Above them, the stadium-style bleachers are packed four rows high, encircling a fenced-in dirt area where men in jeans and T-shirts oversee a steady stream of fights; the birds collide desperately—flapping, flopping. At one point, the fans in front of the camera stand quickly for a better look at a burst of action. At another, the camera finds a man sitting in the second row, a young boy in his lap.

When it comes to animal fighting, the most enduring images almost always involve the animals—the scarred pit bull with a missing upper lip, the dead roosters lying bloodied on the ground, eyes still open. But the images from Kentucky capture the hidden heart of these illegal blood sports: the fans, who pump life into the cruel competitions with their entry fees and gambling dollars.

“When you try to stop any criminal activity, the first thing you watch or go after ... is the money,” says Tom Farrow, who established himself as a court-recognized expert on cockfighting during his 21 years with the FBI. “There’s an old adage on almost any investigation: When you can’t figure out who’s who, and what’s what, follow the money. Well, with the spectators comes the money.”

The wisdom of that adage is enshrined in a recently introduced federal bill targeting the crowds that help fuel the problem. The Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act (H.R. 2492/S. 1947) establishes misdemeanor penalties for anyone attending an organized animal fight and sets felony penalties for those bringing a minor to one.

The bill would create an avenue for prosecution in states without penalties for attending a cockfight: Alabama, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, and New Mexico.

It would also close a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act (enforced by multiple agencies, including the USDA), which has been updated throughout the past decade to outlaw sponsoring an animal in a fight, possessing an animal for the purpose of fighting, using the mail service to promote animal fighting activities, and shipping across state lines the sharp knives, or gaffs, that are attached to a rooster’s leg in a cockfight.

“This is definitely one of the last remaining hurdles,” says John Goodwin, director of animal cruelty policy for The HSUS. “Because when the USDA has the power to go into a cockfighting pit and charge every single person with a federal crime, you’re going to see



At dogfights in Georgia (above), spectators watched the bloodshed from a parked school bus.



this problem diminish in scope to a huge degree.”

It’s a problem that extends beyond the suffering of the animal victims. Already this year, violence at three separate cockfights—in Texas and California—has left five people dead and eight wounded. In April, the U.S. Attorney’s Office indicted five Hawaiian cockfighters on federal gambling charges. Farrow, who now runs a private investigative agency, remembers informants telling him of a cockfighting pit: “Man, I’ve never seen that much meth in my life.” And Goodwin says The HSUS has seen evidence of illegal guns and prostitution at animal fights as well.

All of that contributes to the push to protect minors. Says Farrow, “We’ve never ever been to any pit [where] there weren’t kids just running all over the place.”

Goodwin, who believes exposure to animal fighting can desensitize children to suffering, has accompanied federal agents on a half-dozen cockfighting raids. “In most of those cases,” he says, “a handful of key principles

were prosecuted, but most people got off scot-free because they claimed to be spectators.” He points out that during a raid, the spectators can help protect the fighters by swallowing them up into the crowd—a particularly effective cover-up in states that don’t penalize attendees or that merely hand out small fines.

In Halifax County, N.C., lead animal control officer Robert Richardson recalls the craze of such a raid.

Acting on a tip, his team crept up on 50 people at a suspected dogfighting operation some two miles into the woods. There, under a farm shelter, someone looked up and yelled “Cops!”—sending people scurrying further into the trees to hide or escape. One man grabbed his dog and ran. Others lost their coats running through briar thickets. Highway patrol was eventually called to catch those trying to hitchhike to the state line.

“That raid lasted about four hours,” Richardson remembers. Officers towed 14 vehicles, found



additional dogfighting equipment, and seized guns, alcohol, marijuana, and four dogs. All told, they were able to arrest about 13 people—thanks in part to North Carolina’s felony charge for spectators.

“I think people that can stand and watch [an] animal tear another animal’s head off,” Richardson says, “are just as horrible as the people that put that animal in the pit.”

“WE’VE NEVER EVER BEEN TO ANY PIT [WHERE] THERE WEREN’T KIDS JUST RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE.”

— TOM FARROW, FORMER FBI AGENT



WHAT IT IS: Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act (H.R. 2492/S. 1947)

WHAT IT DOES: Establishes misdemeanor penalties for knowingly attending an organized animal fight and felony penalties for bringing a minor to such a fight.

SPONSORS: Reps. Marino, R-Pa., and Sutton, D-Ohio; Sens. Blumenthal, D-Conn.; Kirk, R-Ill.; Cantwell, D-Wash.; and Brown, R-Mass.

HOW TO HELP: Ask your U.S. representative and senators to cosponsor this important legislation. To identify your lawmakers, call 202-676-2314 or visit hslf.org/leglookup.

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 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.

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



BEST Practices Act
H.R. 1417

To prohibit the use of animals such as goats and pigs for training members of the armed forces in the treatment of combat injuries.
Sponsor: Rep. Filner, D-Calif.

Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act
H.R. 1513 / S. 810

To phase out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research, retire the approximately 500 federally owned chimpanzees to sanctuary, and codify the NIH ban on breeding chimpanzees for invasive research.
Sponsors: Reps. Bartlett, R-Md.; Israel, D-N.Y.; Reichert, R-Wash.; Langevin, D-R.I.; Towns, D-N.Y. / Sens. Cantwell, D-Wash.; Collins, R-Maine; Sanders, I-Vt.

Pet Safety and Protection Act
H.R. 2256

To prohibit the use in research of dogs and cats obtained through Class B dealers from random sources such as pet theft and free-to-good-home ads.
Sponsors: Reps. Doyle, D-Pa.; Smith, R-N.J.

EQUINES



American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act
H.R. 2966 / S. 1176

To prohibit the knowing and intentional possession, shipment, transport, purchase, sale, delivery, or receipt of a horse for slaughter for human consumption.
Sponsors: Reps. Burton, R-Ind.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Landrieu, D-La.; Graham, R-S.C.

Horse Transportation Safety Act
S. 1281

To prohibit the interstate transportation of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels, regardless of the destination.
Sponsors: Sens. Kirk, R-Ill.; Lautenberg, D-N.J.

Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act
H.R. 1733 / S. 886

To prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horse racing, which jeopardizes the health and safety of horses and jockeys.
Sponsors: Rep. Whitfield, R-Ky. / Sen. Udall, D-N.M.

FARM ANIMALS



Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments
H.R. 3798 / S. 3239

To provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, phased in over a period of 15–18 years, that will significantly improve animal welfare and provide a stable future for egg farmers.
Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Gallegly, R-Calif.; Farr, D-Calif.; Denham, R-Calif. Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif.

Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act
H.R. 965 / S. 1211

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

PETS AND CRUELTY



Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act

H.R. 4103 / S. 2134

To provide for the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military working dogs as canine members of the armed forces (no longer to be classified as equipment).

Sponsors: Rep. Jones, R-N.C. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act

H.R. 835 / S. 707

To establish licensing and inspection requirements for breeders who sell 50 or more puppies per year directly to consumers online or by other means, and to require that breeding dogs at commercial breeding facilities be allowed to exercise daily.

Sponsors: Reps. Gerlach, R-Pa.; Farr, D-Calif.; Young, R-Fla.; Capps, D-Calif.
Sens. Durbin, D-Ill.; Vitter, R-La.

Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act

H.R. 198 / S. 1838

To create a pilot program for veterans to train dogs (including those from shelters) as a form of therapy for post-deployment mental health conditions. The dogs are then given to veterans with disabilities.

Sponsors: Rep. Grimm, R-N.Y. / Sens. Baucus, D-Mont.; Boozman, R-Ark.

WILDLIFE



Captive Primate Safety Act

H.R. 4306 / S. 1324

To prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates for the pet trade.

Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Boxer, D-Calif.; Vitter, R-La.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Constrictor snakes

H.R. 511

To prohibit importation of certain injurious species of constrictor snakes.

Sponsor: Rep. Rooney, R-Fla.



A Perilous Package

A bill pending in the Senate could open national parklands for recreational hunting and overturn key protections for threatened polar bears.

And that's just the beginning.

The Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012 would also prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from protecting humans and the environment from the harmful effects of toxic lead ammunition. It's one of several measures that would force the federal government's focus and priority away from conservation and over to hunters and shooters.

"Each of these attacks on wildlife—and all Americans who cherish the outdoors—warrants our resistance," notes The HSUS's Lena Spadacene, "but the fact that that these efforts could become law in one swoop is reason for major concern and opposition."

The bill would create loopholes in a ban on importing polar bear trophies from Canada, including an exception for hunters who killed their bears before the ban took effect in May 2008.

In April, with H.R. 4089 under consideration in the House, Rep. Gary Peters offered an amendment to strike the polar bear language,



noting that hunters had been warned about the ban prior to implementation: "Passing this bill creates a perverse incentive for trophy hunters who rush to hunt any species that will soon be protected under the Endangered Species Act," said the Michigan Democrat, "because their friends in Congress will simply bail them out after the fact."

The Peters amendment ultimately lost, and the bill passed the House on April 17. A coalition of more than 65 organizations has mobilized to now fight it in the Senate.

Urge your U.S. senators to oppose H.R. 4089 or any recrafted legislation attempting to undo years of wildlife protection. To identify your lawmakers, call 202-676-2314 or visit hslf.org/leglookup.

Advocate Dave Hornoff (far right) says one of his favorite Yellowstone wolves is No. 06 of the Lamar Canyon pack (top photo; middle photo, second from right). A descendant of the famous Druid Peak pack, she recently had pups. "She's a rock star ... a strong and dynamic wolf with the characteristics of both of her grand-parents," he says.



WATCHING OVER WOLVES

Retired police officer finds new calling

Those first few wolves released into Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park in 1995 deeply touched Dave Hornoff. Half a century after the species had all but vanished in the lower 48 states because of human persecution, it was profound seeing tears in the eyes of wolf scientists on television as the majestic creatures took their first steps on American soil. They'd been plucked from the Canadian wild and relocated with the hope the experimental population would succeed. America's "lion" was finally back.

While many rallied behind the reintroduction, prejudices remained, mostly from ranchers who feared livestock depredation and hunters who were concerned over the effects on big game. Despite federal protections under the Endangered Species Act, wolves were still persecuted. "[Some opponents] used to have this philosophy when they first reintroduced them called 'shoot, shovel, and shut up,'" says Hornoff, who retired that same year after two decades as a Rhode Island police officer. Mesmerized by the unfolding drama, he took to the road on his motorcycle to see wolves firsthand in the wild.

For nine years, he crisscrossed the country, visiting wolf sanctuaries and parks with wild populations. He spoke to scientists and befriended Yellowstone's wolf-watching guides. When he saw his first wolf in the wild, he cried. Most people do, he says.

With each trip, Hornoff grew more concerned

about the challenges facing wolves—concerns that today fuel his fight to keep a spotlight on the animals' plight.

From those first steps into Yellowstone, they've needed the help. Ranchers and trophy hunting interests lobbied continually to strip wolves of protections. Illegal trapping and shooting devastated Yellowstone packs. Automobiles, disease, and territorial disputes between packs also took their toll. Hornoff saw two of the last of Yellowstone's famous Druid Peak pack in 2010—sisters who had contracted mange. One was killed by a rival pack. The other left the park and was shot by a rancher. Outside Yellowstone, though wolf populations began climbing in the Great Lakes and northern Rocky Mountains, their numbers remain precariously low, between 5,000 and 6,000 wolves in eight states.

But as the populations grew gingerly, their fan base burgeoned. Wolf-watching Yellowstone tourists fueled a booming industry marked by wolf-themed T-shirts, jewelry, and coffee mugs. Even Hornoff's elderly mother couldn't resist the wolf's charm. "Every time I would go to Yellowstone, I'd bring back photos of wolves and put them in her nursing home room," he remembers. "She would always ask, 'How are our wolves?'"

In 2006, Hornoff started Wolfwatcher.org to help people find the latest news and research. The site developed into a forum for posting wolf stories and connecting fans.

“These federal and public lands are ours. As such we need to take a stand and make our voices heard.”

—Dave Hornoff

A LITTLE HELP FOR HER FRIENDS

National Council member has worked for animals at local, state, and national levels

Not only had the little dog been hit by a car, but she was suffering from heartworm as well. A sign on her shelter cage read: "Please help pay for Daisy's treatment."

Stopping by to drop off a stack of donated towels, Candis Stern was smitten. Within a day and a half, she'd tested the dog with cats, consulted her pet sitter, and arranged to adopt her. "I knew she needed a home," says Stern, who renamed her "Amiga"—the Spanish word for "friend."

It's a fitting label in many ways, as Stern herself has been a longtime ally for animals, serving on the board of the Humane Society of Huron Valley and raising funds for a new shelter in Ann Arbor, Mich. In addition to Amiga, she's adopted three cats and, along with her husband, established the Helmut and Candis Stern Animal and Bird Welfare Fund at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. She first connected with HSLF while collecting signatures to put a 2006 referendum on dove hunting onto the Michigan ballot. "I hate cold weather, but it was the one thing that got me out there," she says.

Now an HSLF National Council member, Stern spoke recently with *Humane Activist* for this edited interview.

What was it about the issue of dove hunting that so struck you? First of all, I don't like hunting. The only time I approve of hunting is if people really need it for the food. I mean, I don't like it personally, but I don't feel like I can make that

judgment for people [who] have very little.

The reason I happen to love doves so much—and I like all birds—but they're songbirds. There's no meat on that bird. Secondly, I have wonderful memories of mourning doves because my grandfather had a lot of them in his yard. And that's what I remember about being in his backyard. Plus, I fed birds for years—wild birds—and among them, mourning doves. So it just seemed ridiculous to me to go out and shoot them.

What did you take from the experience of working on that campaign? I learned that most hunters were on our side.

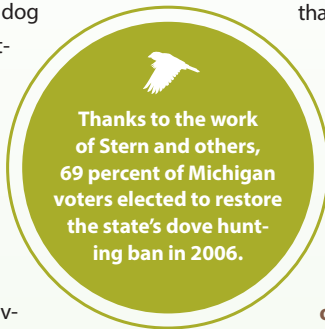
Most people that hunt didn't want to shoot them either. That didn't mean everybody, and some people who refused to sign—that did hunt—the only reason they refused is because they wanted to stand with their fellow hunters. But most hunters signed it. That was very interesting to me.

Regarding the dog, Amiga, you adopted, was there something about her having special needs that made you choose her over another who might not need as much help? Well, she was really cute. That helped. But no, that didn't matter to me at all. When it comes to animals, so it's a little extra work, so what? I knew she needed a home. I told

them, if I don't adopt her, I'd pay for her heartworm treatment. But it all turned out happily.

What's your advice for someone interested in getting more involved in animal protection issues? Go down to the local shelter and volunteer, and then find out what their issues are. And learn a little bit about the political system.

I've always felt [that] the way things are going to change is through the law and the legislature. We can help a local shelter, but we're not going to help on a national level or even a state level without changing the laws or creating new laws.



Candis Stern, shown here with her husband, Helmut, notes: "I'm very, very happy that HSLF is taking on factory farming. I just don't think most people in this country have ever given it a thought!"

When federal protections were lifted briefly in 2009 and several members of Yellowstone's celebrated Cottonwood pack were killed outside the park, Hornoff fought successfully alongside wolf-watching guide Nathan Varley to limit hunting near park boundaries. Wolfwatcher.org soon became a medium for informing members and taking action as a more permanent delisting of the gray wolf loomed.

When the delisting came in 2011, state management plans began to allow trophy hunting, trapping, and hounding. Idaho and Wyoming plan to hunt their populations to the bare minimum before the species would be relisted—150 and 100, respectively. Idaho's wolf hunts have been a bloodbath,

with dozens of online photos showing hunters with their kills.

Last year, Hornoff founded the National Wolfwatcher Coalition, taking the case for protection to state representatives, scientists, wildlife agents, conservation organizations, and hunting groups. "These federal and public lands are ours," he says. "As such we need to take a stand and make our voices heard."

Through it all, Hornoff stays connected to his roots, regularly visiting Yellowstone. It's a special place, with rolling terrain and wide open spaces. Easy for wolf viewing, he says. "There's nothing like hearing a wolf howl, nothing like seeing their majestic figures in their historic range." It's something he encourages everyone to do.