

HUMANE ACTIVIST

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In early 2011, Darby was just another “worthless” animal, on his way to slaughter.

The young gray gelding had been a promising show horse, until his owners used harsh bits, spurs, whips, and beatings to prepare him for the ring. The more they tried to force him, the more he refused. Eventually, in the eyes of his owners, Darby’s value dropped to \$400—the meat market price at the time—and they traded him to a trainer, expecting the horse would be auctioned off to a kill buyer.

Instead, that trainer called Last Chance Ranch, a rescue in Quakertown, Pa. After a six-month break and three weeks of training, Darby joined the newly revived mounted unit of the Philadelphia police. Now, he helps with crowd control and patrols city streets. As the only gray horse in the group, Darby stands out. “They love him,” says Lori McCutcheon, president and founder of Last Chance Ranch. “He’s one of their stars.”

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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 hsf.org.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

In 2004, the California legislature began making it illegal to force-feed geese to produce foie gras. In 2010, Hawaii took a stand against the cruel practice of shark finning, outlawing the possession and sale of shark fins. In 2012, Rhode Island banned the extreme confinement of breeding pigs and veal calves.

But now, one amendment to the Farm Bill could reverse all of that—and more.

Offered by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, the amendment attacks states' right by preventing individual states from banning the sale of agriculture products from other states, even if they don't meet their standards for food production. It's a radical federal overreach that would undermine the long-standing constitutional rights of states to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens and local businesses.

In addition to the aforementioned, the amendment takes aim at state laws such as California's Proposition 2—approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2008 to ban the extreme confinement of egg-laying hens, breeding pigs, and veal calves in small crates and cages—as well as a subsequent law requiring any whole eggs sold in California to comply with Prop 2.

The King amendment is most directly an attack on the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments (H.R. 1731/ S. 820), which would ratify an agreement between the egg industry and animal welfare groups to create a national standard for egg-laying conditions based on the California standard. Historically, when Congress pre-empts state laws it is in order to replace them with a uniform national standard, and that is the idea behind the egg bill.

If there is a problem with interstate commerce caused by conflicting state laws, such as on the housing of egg-laying hens, it should be solved with a uniform national standard that provides regulatory certainty and is supported by the key stakeholders. But rather than having a reasonable national standard, King wants no standards at all, state or federal.

A number of lawmakers have spoken passionately and fought hard against this federal power grab, cautioning the committee that this provision is so overbroad and far-reaching there's no telling how many state and local laws could be impacted. It could nullify state regulations concerning horse slaughter and the sale of horsemeat and potentially even bans on the sale of dog and cat meat. It is so broad and vague that it could be interpreted to negate an entire swath of state laws dealing with food safety, labeling, labor, and environmental protection, such as Maryland's ban on arsenic in poultry feed.

Legal safeguards and standards that protect the vast majority of Americans, as well as protections for untold millions of farm animals, would be upended by this power grab. All of these laws were duly passed by legislators, voters, or regulators.

It's not the proper role of Congress to eviscerate what the states are doing, especially when so many lawmakers say they are for states' rights. The states have a major role in agriculture policy, just as the feds do. They are partners, and Congress should not treat them as underlings. We'll be working to address this federal takeover as the Farm Bill progresses.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian
President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



On the cover: Once destined for slaughter, Flicka is being readied for adoption at a sanctuary. Meanwhile, Darby (at left, with fellow rescue Aiden) is now a police horse in Philadelphia, thanks to the work of Last Chance Ranch (above).

CONTINUED FROM COVER

This spring, Darby and another rescue horse in the mounted unit served as the backdrop for a press conference in Philadelphia supporting a new federal bill to stop the slaughter of American horses.

Introduced in March with bipartisan support, the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act would ban the export of horses to Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses as well as the slaughter of horses within the United States, which is poised to resume within months after a six-year hiatus. In Roswell, N.M., the Valley Meat Company has had its USDA walk-through inspection and is giving visitors tours, says Holly Gann, manager of The HSUS's campaign to end horse slaughter. "The building's there, they're ready to go," she says. The expected reopening of the plant and a recent horsemeat scandal in Europe now bring an added urgency to the issue.

Horse slaughter in the United States ceased in 2007 after Congress eliminated funding for USDA inspections of horse slaughter plants. But American horses—unwanted or stolen pets, failed show horses, retired racers—are still trucked to Canada and Mexico for slaughter. Their meat, not eaten in the United States, is sold to buyers in Europe and Japan.

But because they are not raised for food, horses in the U.S. are given a variety of drugs—an HSUS legal petition lists 115—that pose health risks for humans if consumed. "Horses are pets; they are our companions in work and

sport," says Gann. "And they are exposed to a whole range of legal and illegal substances that can make their meat toxic to humans."

Disturbing news from Europe highlighted in dramatic fashion how easily these substances can enter the food supply: Horsemeat was discovered in products sold as beef, and a common painkiller called "bute" (phenylbutazone)—which is banned in Europe and the United States in animals raised for food—was found in several shipments of horsemeat.

Supporters of horse slaughter, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Pork Producers Council, say the 166,000 U.S. horses currently killed for meat each year are old and sick with no other options. Opponents counter that the majority of these animals are young, healthy horses who could serve as companions, therapy animals—or partners in law enforcement. Also, whether horses are slaughtered here or abroad, the industry is inhumane. Horses suffer when crowded onto big transport trucks, and their disposition makes them impossible to slaughter humanely—as flight animals they cannot be reliably stunned before they are killed. Public opinion is with the opponents: Eighty percent of Americans surveyed say they oppose horse slaughter.

But in 2011 a stopgap measure that had

blocked horse slaughter in the United States failed to win renewal. After annually cutting USDA horse slaughter inspection money from the federal budget, Congress passed a spending plan that did not specifically remove it, paving the way for the reopening of horse slaughter plants in this country. Valley Meat sued the USDA to speed up the process, prompting objections from New Mexico's governor, members of the state's congressional delegation, and the state attorney general, who said that under state law drug-tainted horsemeat is an adulterated product and cannot be manufactured there.

Five plants in other states have applied for USDA permits to slaughter horses. If the USDA grants them, horsemeat could be sold in the

United States, potentially putting American consumers at risk.

Enter the SAFE Act. The recent spotlight on the public health threat gives horse slaughter opponents their best chance in years of instituting a ban here, says Jessica

Feingold-Lieberson, legislative specialist for The HSUS. "Now is more likely than any other time. [Currently] we don't process horsemeat, but if we start, what's to protect our food?"

The Obama Administration's proposed 2014 budget includes a measure that would once more eliminate funding for USDA inspections. If the cut is adopted by Congress, it would shut down Valley Meat and other plants that might reopen. Passage of the SAFE Act would ensure they stay closed.



166,000
American horses
are sent to slaughter
in Canada and
Mexico every year.

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.

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.)

Pets on Trains Act

H.R. 2066

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.

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 such 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.

Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act

H.R. 183

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. Sponsor: Rep. Grimm, R-N.Y.

EQUINES



Prevent All Soring Tactics Act

H.R. 1518

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed industry self-policing system, strengthen penalties, ban the use of devices associated with soring, and make illegal the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling the animal. Sponsors: Reps. Whitfield, R-Ky.; Cohen, D-Tenn.

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.



Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments

H.R. 1731 / S. 820

Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment

H.R. 1150

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, which will significantly improve animal welfare and provide a stable future for egg farmers. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Farr, D-Calif.; Denham, R-Calif. / Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif.

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. Sponsor: Rep. Slaughter, D-N.Y.

Silent Treatment

Ag-gag bills seek to stifle investigations

For a month, animal welfare advocates held their collective breath, waiting to see which side of the ag-gag fence Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam would come down on.

On his desk sat a bill requiring anyone who records cruelty to livestock to turn over raw photographs and video evidence to law enforcement within 48 hours or face criminal charges. If signed into law, it would stymie undercover investigations of animal abuse, such as the stunning footage of brutal soring that led to the arrest of Tennessee walking horse trainer Jackie McConnell.

"If this bill had already been passed into law, it would have prevented the investigation from taking place," says Keith Dane, HSUS director of equine protection. "He'd still be abusing animals the same way he was in our undercover video."

Undercover investigations have been inarguable catalysts for change in the animal welfare field, bringing to light horrific conditions and rampant abuse in factory farms, puppy mills, and stables. Fighting to protect their bottom line, these entities have turned to the legislative process to prevent damning images from reaching the public. So far this year 12 states have considered bills that use a variety of maneuvers to quash whistleblowers.

The bills share similar features, like criminalizing the videotaping of agricultural or industrial operations without the owner's consent, and demanding any evidence be turned over to law enforcement within a time limit, effectively short-circuiting investigators' ability to adequately document patterns of abuse and build a case.

None of these 2013 proposals has yet succeeded. HSLF has led coalitions of animal welfare groups in media blitzes, grassroots organizing, and direct lobbying, with more than half of the bills dying, rejected, or withdrawn; the rest have seen no action. In addition,

the controversy created has "led to more and more people seeing the video footage ... the very images that our opponents don't want people to see," says HSLF president Michael Markarian.

In Tennessee, the pressure on Gov. Haslam to veto the ag-gag bill was boosted by celebrities like Carrie Underwood, Emmylou Harris, and Ellen DeGeneres, who discussed the issue on her nationally televised talk show. "Shame on TN lawmakers for passing the Ag Gag bill," tweeted Underwood, a Tennessee resident. "If Gov. Bill Haslam signs this, he needs to expect me at his front door. Who's with me?"

On May 13, Haslam did in fact veto the legislation, citing concerns from the state attorney general that the bill was "constitutionally suspect," and that it appeared to repeal parts of Tennessee's Shield Law, which protects journalists from revealing sources of information. "Hopefully," Dane says, "the experience in Tennessee will in the future cause lawmakers to think about whether these bills, which may not survive a constitutional challenge, are even worthy of consideration."

Incidents of veal calf abuse in Vermont and horse soring in Tennessee would have remained hidden if ag-gag laws had been in place.





Speaking out for Sharks

Eleven-year-old Sawyer Chandler fights against finning

On Christmas morning, several years back, Sawyer Chandler unwrapped a present from her parents to find the movie *Sharkwater*.

Perhaps a documentary look into the tragic, beautiful, misunderstood world of sharks might strike some as an odd gift for a young daughter. But Sawyer, not surprisingly, ate it up. After all, this is a girl who has a wire shark hanging on the wall of her bedroom. Shark books dot her shelves. She owns shark documentaries and plastic shark figures—and, of course, she tunes into Shark Week on Discovery Channel.

But this particular movie would prove pivotal: For the first time, Sawyer caught a glimpse of the gruesome practice known as shark finning.

“You’ve got to understand, it would resonate with anyone watching it,” says her father, Emmy Award-winning actor Kyle Chandler. “You’re getting the actual vision of a shark, on a boat, having its fins lopped off and then dumped into the ocean. I mean, you don’t need much more than that to be viscerally affected—let alone a young child who happens to love sharks like someone would love puppies.”

Suddenly then, her favorite animal became her new mission.

Sawyer launched a web site, stopsharkfinningtoday.weebly.com. She began gathering signatures, petitioning the Texas legislature to stop the sale of shark fin soup in the state. And this March, she attended The HSUS’s Texas Humane Lobby Day, where she spoke with attendees and state legislators about a proposed bill to ban the trade in shark fins.

Tens of millions of sharks are killed each year to supply the demand for shark fin soup. “I feel bad for them, but I’m more angry that there’s no way that I can really make them stop,” Sawyer says. “In a lot of parts, it’s

“When an 11-year-old can open the eyes of adults and say, hey, this is wrong, it always makes the world stop and pause for a second.”

—KYLE CHANDLER

illegal, but people keep doing it; they showed that in the movie.”

A week after Lobby Day, Sawyer and her father returned to Austin, where they met with Gov. Rick Perry about the issue. (“It was very cool. He’s really nice.”) Two months later, the bill overwhelmingly passed the House, only to die when two senators blocked a vote on the Senate floor. There are plans to introduce it again next session.

“I wish that I had that kind of intelligence and passion when I was her age,” says Katie Jarl, HSUS Texas state director. “It was just so inspiring to see her go to these legislators. ... She just absolutely was fearless.”

Asked if she had any advice for someone perhaps planning to speak to their own legislator at a Lobby Day-type event, Sawyer replied: “Gosh. Probably to, when you’re speaking, remember [to] stay calm, because all these other people are doing the same as you, and they’re just as nervous as you. And just give them the facts. You’ll be fine.”

As he watches his daughter—a soccer player who loves hanging out with her friends at school—Kyle Chandler continues to be struck by the fact that, through the internet, children today have the chance to open so many more eyes. “When I was a kid,” he says, “everyone didn’t have the option of the world at their fingertips, and/or sharing the world, their world, with the world. ... It’s really incredible.”

Sawyer and her friend, Sam Mathieu, hope to take the fight to other states as well, like neighboring Louisiana. Down the line, she wants to become a marine biologist. Or a shark activist.

“What interests me, is that they are such—they’re not understood creatures,” she says. “A lot of people think of them as killing machines. But, I mean, people know more about outer space than the ocean, so they’re almost like aliens. ...

“If people did learn about them, like I have, they would probably think very differently about them.”



Lower photo, from left: Actor Kyle Chandler, family friend Sam Mathieu, Sawyer Chandler, Texas Rep. Eddie Lucio III, and HSUS Texas state director Katie Jarl. Asked what she hoped legislators took from her visits, Sawyer says: “That not only some adults are interested with [the shark finning issue], that now kids are starting to get involved with it. So, sooner or later, there should be a change.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH-LIGHTS

Colorado pets benefit from two new bills

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's first stop of the day on May 13 was the Denver Animal Shelter.

When he emerged, Colorado officially had a new state pet.

A dog lover, and the owner of a rescued canine, Hickenlooper signed two bills that day to benefit companion animals. The first, S.B. 201, aims to promote pet adoptions by declaring shelter dogs and cats to be Colorado's state pets. The bill was first proposed by middle-school students from Peakview School in Walsenburg who were studying the legislative process.

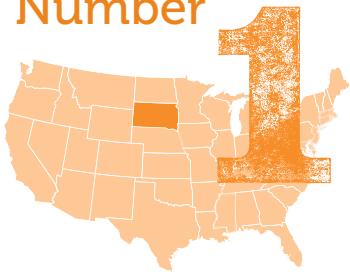
The students traveled to Denver to testify at hearings, but getting the bill passed wasn't a cakewalk—it faced surprisingly stiff opposition. Some groups wanted the honor to go to service dogs and other heroic canines, some felt the bill would hurt ownership of purebred dogs, and some thought it discriminated against other pets.

Kaylee Summers, a 14-year-old Peakview student attending a senate committee hearing, told *The Denver Post*: "The argument swung between service dogs and shelter dogs. It was difficult to decide, because both sides made sense."

The second bill, the Dog Protection Act (S.B. 226), requires all law enforcement officers in Colorado to receive training in canine behavior in order to accurately assess if a dog presents a threat. The bill was introduced in response to more than 30 cases over the last five years of family pets being shot by police who thought the dogs were dangerous. The law is the first of its kind in the United States.



The Loneliest Number



And then there was one.

That's how many U.S. states still lack a felony animal cruelty measure. South Dakota became the lone holdout this April after North Dakota passed felony-level penalties for malicious animal cruelty.

A 2012 ballot campaign, spearheaded by HSLF, helped generate momentum for the new law, which continues a remarkable run of progress in the area: Before 1986, only Massachusetts, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island had felony measures on their books.

"Our movement must focus on South Dakota, which has become an outlier because of its weak penalties for malicious cruelty," HSLF president Michael Markarian wrote recently on his blog. "And now that stronger laws are on the books in so many states, we must focus on training programs for police, sheriffs, and prosecutors ... to make sure the statutes are properly utilized and adequately enforced."

And the award goes to...

Senator Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and former Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., took home top honors in May as HSLF and The HSUS hosted their annual congressional Humane Awards.

All told, a bipartisan group of 146 legislators were honored for their leadership on a wide range of animal welfare issues, with Boxer and Brown named 2012 Humane Legislators of the Year. Boxer fought against such issues as toxic lead ammunition and the importation of polar bear trophies, while securing funding to strengthen USDA enforcement of animal welfare laws. Brown helped champion the Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act, while also supporting such causes as humane housing for egg-laying hens and a ban on horse slaughter.



HSLF executive director Sara Amundson (left), Sen. Barbara Boxer, and HSLF president Michael Markarian at the 2012 Humane Awards.



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{ THE EYES HAVE IT }



➡ **A NEW ANIMAL WELFARE RULE IN FLORIDA** should benefit thousands of racing greyhounds. Filed by the state's **DIVISION OF PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING**, the new requirements include detailed rosters of dogs kept by trainers, weekly documented walk-throughs of kennels by track officials, immediate notification to the state of any dog's death, and a ban against keeping multiple dogs in one cage.

➡ The four latest graduates of a **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM** don't demand large salaries: They work for treats. Selected from animal shelters and rescue groups, canines Viper, Butter, Lancer, and Locket completed a 13-week course in detecting hidden wildlife products, such as dried seahorses, tortoiseshell, elephant ivory, and rhinoceros horn. Rhino poaching, in particular, is on the rise, with a single horn bringing more than \$250,000 on the black market. The dogs, who are deployed in ports of entry across the U.S., take just five minutes to search 75 to 100 packages, a number that can take a human five hours to process.

➡ The Retail Council of Canada announced in April that **ALL EIGHT OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST SUPERMARKET CHAINS**—including the Canadian branches of Wal-Mart, Costco, and Safeway—have committed to eliminating sow gestation crates from pork supply systems within nine years. The move marks major



progress in the campaign against the crates—cages that virtually immobilize breeding pigs for months on end.

➡ In May, **SONORA** became the first Mexican state to ban bullfighting when its legislature unanimously passed a law that also provides unprecedented protections for other domestic species. Sonoran citizens began speaking out against the “sport” in 2011, when 18,200 people protested a bullfight. The feeling is shared in Spain, where **CATALONIA** has banned bullfighting, attendance elsewhere is dropping, and a recent Humane Society International survey there found that 76 percent of respondents opposed the use of public funds to support the bullfighting industry. Advocates hope public opposition will persuade the Spanish parliament to drop a proposal that would declare bullfighting a cultural heritage and allocate taxpayer money to support it.



FROM LEFT: AP PHOTO/CHRIS O'MEARA; FANELLE ROSIER/ISTOCKPHOTO