

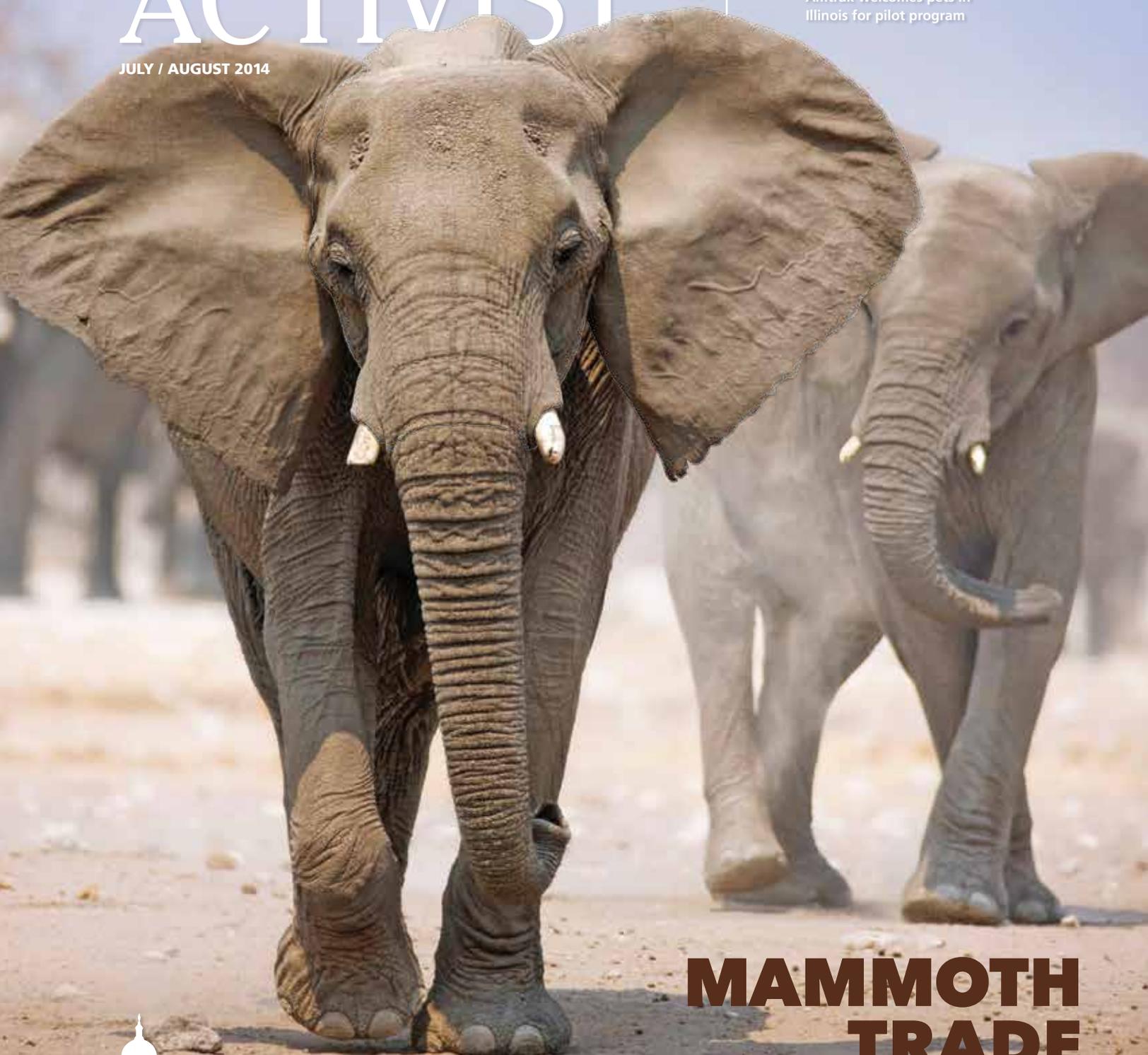
# HUMANE ACTIVIST

JULY / AUGUST 2014

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## MAMMOTH TRADE

AFTER DECADES-LONG EROSIONS TO A  
WORLDWIDE BAN ON THE IVORY TRADE, AFRICAN  
ELEPHANTS ARE ONCE AGAIN IN CRISIS



HUMANE SOCIETY  
LEGISLATIVE FUND

[hslf.org](http://hslf.org)



## 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).

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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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

It took less than 10 minutes after the Kentucky polls closed on May 20 for Sen. Mitch McConnell to be declared the victor in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate over challenger Matt Bevin—about the same amount of time birds with razor-sharp gaffs strapped to their legs will last in a cockfighting match.

Bevin's campaign was derailed by cockfighting, and he lost ground after showing appalling judgment and speaking at a March rally organized to legalize the blood sport in Kentucky, getting trounced by a statewide margin of 25 points in what was originally supposed to be a competitive race.

In fact, Bevin lost by even wider margins and underperformed against his state-wide totals in some of the most notorious cockfighting counties in the state. In Clay, Edmonson, Floyd, Laurel and Pike counties—home to some of the state's largest cockfighting pits, with names like the Big Blue Sportsmen's Club, which features arena-style seating, a full-service restaurant and laminated membership cards—Bevin lost by a range of 31 to 60 points. The cockfighters don't seem to be much of a voting bloc, and politicians have nothing to gain by catering to these organized criminals who commit unspeakable cruelty to animals.

In Georgia, we were pleased to see Rep. Paul Broun place fifth among the GOP candidates, getting only 9.6 percent of the vote. Broun described himself as a volunteer lobbyist for Safari Club International before coming to Congress, and during his time in office, he has had one of the most extreme anti-animal records, opposing the most modest efforts to prevent cruelty and abuse, and going out of his way to attack animal protection. Shockingly, he was one of only three lawmakers to vote against legislation in 2010 to ban the trafficking in obscene animal "crush" videos, in which scantily clad women in high heels crush puppies, kittens and other small animals to death for the sexual titillation of viewers. Good riddance to him, since he gave up his House seat for his failed Senate run.

Paul Broun and Matt Bevin may be the poster boys for a new premise in politics: Being soft on animal cruelty can be fatal to your prospects. It's clear that animal issues are becoming a larger part of our civic and political discourse, and mainstream voters stand on the side of decency, opposition to cruelty, and the rule of law. No party or candidate, whether Democrat or Republican, should defend animal cruelty without understanding the political consequences. When candidates court the cockfighting crowd or others who profit from cruelty, they're taking a bigger political risk than they ever imagined.

Serious-minded candidates and public-office holders should stand against all forms of animal cruelty, whether cockfighting, dogfighting or horse soring.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian

President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



On May 22, one week after the start of Hong Kong's 29-ton ivory crush, seized tusks sat on display before incineration.

## IT TAKES A WORLD

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER CITES BANNED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TRADE IN IVORY, MORE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE FOR ELEPHANTS

**CONNIE HARRIMAN-WHITFIELD** couldn't get the images out of her mind. "The pictures were what got me," she recalls, "...of little baby elephants slaughtered for their tiny tusks."

As Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the Department of the Interior under President George H.W. Bush, and as the head of the American delegation to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, she found herself in the perfect position to defend the animals she calls "majestic, intelligent creatures."

Harriman-Whitfield, now senior policy advisor for HSLF, was charged with securing a vote of member countries in favor of a worldwide ban on the ivory trade at the 1989 CITES meet-

ing in Lausanne, Switzerland. "It was very tense, and it was high drama," she recalls, describing resistance from delegates of countries with rapacious demands for ivory. "We just were persistent and very passionate. I don't think anyone imagined that we would be successful. After we passed the worldwide ban, the price plummeted, and poaching virtually came to an end."

Unfortunately, over the years, erosions to the rule were made at CITES in the form of exemptions. Now, African elephant poaching is rampant and once again threatens the survival of the species. Last year, poachers killed at least 35,000 African elephants. The slaughter is widely attributed to an increased demand for ivory in major markets such as China, which

CITES names the main destination for poached ivory. "Unless you tackle the worldwide demand and have an international ban that affects all markets," she says, "you're going to have poaching."

Major markets have recently shown a willingness to combat ivory trafficking by destroying their ivory stockpiles. Last November, the U.S. government crushed nearly 6 tons. With encouragement from the United States and advocates around the world, including local groups in China, the Chinese government then crushed 6 tons of its own illegal stockpiles in January. And in May, Hong Kong—a top transit point and destination market for ivory—began to destroy its 29 tons of confiscated ivory, the largest amount of illegal ivory to be destroyed to date.

The White House in February unveiled its National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, including steps that the U.S. (the second largest ivory marketplace after China) has taken and will take to reduce demand for ivory and other illegal wildlife, to enhance enforcement and to expand international collaboration to stop commercial ivory trade within the country and across its borders. Among the steps that the Administration is considering is a ban on the domestic trade in ivory, including prohibitions of ivory sales across state lines. All commercial imports of African elephant ivory into the country have been prohibited since the issuance of new regulations in February.

In addition, The HSUS and Humane Society International are working with state lawmakers in New York, Hawaii and New Jersey to close trade within the states.

With all the good work, much more remains to be done. "As the main destination of illegal ivory, China must take additional steps to address the prevalent illegal trade activities within its domestic markets and ultimately close its domestic ivory trade," says Iris Ho, program manager for HSI, who attended the U.S., Hong Kong and mainland China ivory crushes. "The good news is that public support for elephant protection is growing. And I really think we're seeing ... a new resolve by the Chinese government."

## 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](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 (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



**Pets on Trains Act**  
H.R. 2066 / S. 1710

To require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains.

Sponsors: Reps. Denham, R-Calif.; Cohen, D-Tenn. / Sen. Whitehouse, D-R.I.

**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.

**Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act**  
H.R. 2847

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

## WILDLIFE



**Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act**  
H.R. 1998 / S.1381

To amend the Lacey Act to better address the exotic pet trade by limiting the breeding of lions, tigers, and other big cats to accredited zoos, and by preventing unqualified individuals and facilities from possessing these dangerous predators, who suffer from being kept in abusive and unsafe conditions and threaten public safety. Sponsors: Reps. McKeon, R-Calif.; Sanchez, D-Calif. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.

**Captive Primate Safety Act**  
H.R. 2856 / S. 1463

To amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals specified in the Captive Wildlife Safety Act who cannot be traded and transported across state lines as pets. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Boxer, D-Calif.; Vitter, R-La



**End All Shark Finning Resolution**  
H.Res. 285

To raise awareness of the dangers of shark finning and express the view of Congress that, in order to even the playing field for U.S. fishermen and prevent the overfishing of sharks on a global scale, the U.S. should end the importation of shark fins from foreign fisheries that practice shark finning. Sponsors: Reps. Buchanan, R-Fla.; Huffman, D-Calif.; Grimm, R-N.Y.; Farr, D-Calif.

**Transparency for Lethal Control Act**  
H.R. 2074

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to submit to Congress, and make available to the public on the Internet, a report on the animals killed under the Wildlife Services program. Sponsor: Rep. Davis, D-Calif.

## FARM ANIMALS

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**Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments**  
H.R. 1731 / S. 820

To provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, phased in over a period of 15-16 years, which will significantly improve animal welfare and provide a stable future for egg farmers. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Denham, R-Calif.; Farr, D-Calif; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa. / Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif.

**Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act / Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act**  
H.R. 1150 / S. 1256

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. / Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif.

## ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

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**Pet Safety and Protection Act**  
H.R. 2224

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. Sponsor: Rep. Doyle, D-Pa.

**The Humane Cosmetics Act**  
H.R. 4148

To make it unlawful for anyone to conduct or commission cosmetic animal testing in the U.S., and to prohibit selling, offering for sale or transporting any cosmetics in interstate commerce if the final product or any component was developed or manufactured using animal testing. Sponsors: Reps. Moran, D-Va.; Grimm, R-N.Y.

## EQUINES

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**Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2013**  
H.R. 2012 / S. 973

To require an independent anti-doping organization to ensure the integrity and safety of horse races that are the subject of interstate off-track wagers. Sponsors: Reps. Pitts, R-Pa.; Whitfield, R-Ky.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Eshoo, D-Calif. / Sen. Udall, D-N.M.

**Prevent All Soring Tactics Act**  
H.R. 1518 / S. 1406

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. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Warner, D-Va.

**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. American horses are not raised for food and 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.

## VETERINARY

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**Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act**  
H.R. 1528 / S. 1171

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow veterinarians to transport, administer and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered locations to help ensure that proper care can be provided to patients in rural or remote areas, including pets in disasters, farm animals and wildlife. Sponsors: Reps. Schrader, D-Ore.; Yoho, R-Fla. / Sens. Moran, R-Kan.; King, I-Maine.



Horses leave the starting gate in the 138th Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 5 in Louisville.

## RUN INTO THE GROUND

BEHIND THE EXCITEMENT OF THE TRIPLE CROWN, A CULTURE OF DOPING HAS HORSES RUNNING THROUGH THEIR PAIN

**“EXTRA OOMPH,”** is what Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner California Chrome’s trainer said an adhesive nasal patch gave the champion in a *Sports Illustrated* interview.

And concerned the horse might not be allowed to wear the nasal strip at New York’s Belmont Stakes, trainer Art Sherman hinted at the possibility California Chrome could skip the June race—and thus forego his run at a Triple Crown. The mini controversy sparked countless headlines and opinions around the sports world.

What the Triple Crown lacked this year was as much thoughtful consideration over a much more concerning potential “advan-

tage”: the use of drugs as race aids. Between the Kentucky Derby on May 3 and the Belmont on June 7, it’s estimated that 120 horses will have died on racetracks around the country due in part to medications that have pushed them past their limits.

One poster child for the dangers of doping racehorses is thoroughbred Coronado Heights, who was plagued with early degenerative joint disease and suffered a fatal on-track breakdown at New York’s Aqueduct Racetrack at the age of just 4. According to *Thoroughbred Daily News* magazine, during the last 25 days of his six-week career, Coronado Heights was given

24 injections and nine different drugs—including DepoMedrol and hyaluronic acid injected into his joints for inflammation, intravenous painkillers Phenylbutazone and Flunixin, intra-muscular shots of Estrone to prevent pulmonary hemorrhaging while running and joint treatment Adequan before he was euthanized in February 2012. It was all legal.

Coronado Heights’ story is not an anomaly for the track at which he ran his last race nor the larger national industry today. Coronado Heights was one of 30 horses who died racing at Aqueduct between late 2011 (when a high prize casino opened there) and April 2012, according to a *New York Times* expose. Many had been injected repeatedly with pain medication in the weeks before their breakdowns. And high-profile, Kentucky Derby-winning trainers have been cited for violations regarding use of painkilling and performance-enhancing drugs.

“I had heard about problems in horse racing for years: permissive raceday medication rules that result in almost every horse being injected just hours before post time, sore horses given powerful painkillers in order to race, and horses breaking down at alarming rates at tracks across the country,” says Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.). “So in 2010, I started looking into this more closely and learned that these problems were even worse than I imagined.”

Sen. Udall and Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) introduced the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2013 to provide for national standards and independent monitoring of drug use through the existing U.S. Anti-Doping Association. Any racetrack that chooses to offer “simulcast” wagering would first need to have an agreement with the association, which would include covering the costs of the anti-doping measures so that taxpayers won’t take the hit.

“The travesty of horses dying on America’s racetracks begs for attention and action,” Rep. Pitts says. “It’s past time we had a sensible, comprehensive solution to this problem. It is time to enact uniform rules prohibiting drugs on race day.”

# ALL ABOARD

PILOT PROGRAM COULD LAY TRACKS FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ALLOWING PETS TO TRAVEL WITH AMTRAK

**DOGS AND CATS ACCOMPANY US** in cars and fly with us on planes. They join us overnight in many hotels.

Now, trains may soon be added to the list of pet-friendly travel options.

Sponsored by the state of Illinois, Amtrak on May 5 began inviting small dogs and cats up to 20 pounds aboard its trains between Chicago and Quincy. The “Carry-on Pet Pilot Program” will run for six months, until Nov. 2, and is designed to test the concept of pets in cabins and to work out logistics before broader acceptance of pets by the national rail operator.

“Trains could be a great middle-ground option between bus travel—which generally prohibits pets—and air travel, which can be unsafe for pets and expensive,” says KC Theisen, HSUS director of pet care issues. “More and more people are concerned with air travel with pets and are looking for viable alternatives. We feel there’s a lot of promise in this. Amtrak genuinely wants it to work and is doing things very thoughtfully and carefully.”

The program comes on the heels of legislation—introduced in May 2013—to require Amtrak to propose a policy that allows passengers to transport cats and dogs on trips 750 miles or less. The Pets on Trains Act

of 2013 is supported by a bipartisan group of 33 cosponsors, led by Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.) and Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.). The policy would pave the way for pets to be welcomed not only on rails owned by Amtrak but those that Amtrak doesn’t own but runs on. Rep. Denham, the lead sponsor, worked with Amtrak to help develop the Illinois pilot program.

“Millions of American families have beloved pets, and allowing them to travel by train will support the human-animal bond,” says HSLF president Michael Markarian. “It’s time to extend this same access to pet owners for whom passenger trains are the most convenient or affordable method of traveling with their beloved companions.”

If enacted, the legislation would benefit not only those taking their pets with them on shorter day trips, including to work and back, it would also impact families who are relocating with their pets

In Illinois—as with pets on planes—animals must be in carriers placed under travelers’ seats and have proper health documentation. But pet-owning travelers are charged a lower fee for these short train trips than the \$100 most airlines charge: \$25 per pet.

“We are confident,” Markarian says, “that once people see how safe and hygienic it is to have companion animals on passenger trains, and how it’s an additional revenue stream for Amtrak, this policy will be fast-tracked.”



Soon, nationwide access to train travel may be available to people and pets. Above: Congressman Denham and his dog, Lily, a French bulldog.



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## THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ The **NATIONAL AQUARIUM** in Baltimore announced that it is considering retiring its eight dolphins to an ocean-side sanctuary. The aquarium has hired a diverse team of consultants to help its board make the decision. “Times have changed, and our understanding of the needs of the animals in our care has changed,” said the aquarium’s CEO, John Racanelli, who pointed to research on the cognitive and social behavior of dolphins in a *National Geographic* interview. “It’s incumbent upon us to avail ourselves of these findings, and that means figuring out how we can better care for these dolphins in the future.”

➡ **U.S. REP. TONY CÁRDENAS** (D-Calif.) and his staff will participate in Meatless Mondays in both his Washington, D.C., and San Fernando Valley offices. “Eating right is a good way to encourage a healthier worker and a healthier working environment,” Cárdenas said in a release. “All good nutrition choices begin with moderation and I think skipping meat one day each week is a great way

for my staff and I to send a message to the Valley that smart choices can be made anywhere.”

➡ Marking a historic milestone for the animal protection movement, **SOUTH DAKOTA** in March became the 50th state to establish felony penalties for malicious acts of animal cruelty. The law also sets felony penalties for cockfighting, which is now a felony in 41 states.

➡ **PORSCHE** urged all of its U.S. dealers to exclude tiger cubs and adult tigers from promotions of the Macan, a new SUV that takes its name from the Indonesian word for tiger. The move came after dealers in North Carolina and Florida rented live tiger cubs for sales events and the company was contacted by Big Cat Rescue and other animal protection advocates with concerns about animal welfare and public safety.

