

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

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## UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

BALLOT CAMPAIGN SEEKS  
TO PROTECT MAINE BEARS

In the spring of 2012, as black bears began to awaken from a long winter's nap, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife publicized a few helpful hints.

Keep garbage inside until pickup. Bring in bird feeders. Store grills in garages. As the announcement warned: "Bears who become reliant on people for food return to the same locations to eat and become less fearful of people."

It was a good bit of practical advice, useful reminders for a state that celebrates its dazzling array of wildlife with moose-watching trips, bird-watching trails, whale-watching rides, and 542,000 acres of state and national parks.

But it all stood in stark contrast to scenes that would play out four months later. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
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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).

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.

**STAFF:** President, Michael Markarian; Executive Vice President, Wayne Pacelle; Executive Director, Sara Amundson; Political Director, Dane Waters; Senior Federal Policy Advisor, Connie Harriman-Whitfield; Philanthropy Director, Steve Ann Chambers; Online Communications Manager, Scott Tucker; Administrative Assistant, Sahar Eshghi. HSUS Publications: Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Lawson; Creative Director, Jennifer Cork; Editorial Director, Angela Moxley; Deputy Director, Elizabeth McNulty; Managing Editor, Michael Sharp; Associate Editor, Arna Cohen; Graphic Designer: Think Baseline.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

When Congress failed to reach an agreement on deficit-reduction legislation last year, we knew budgetary issues and sequestration cuts could negatively affect animals at some point—from the number of inspectors enforcing the law at puppy mills, to the number of wild horses treated with a fertility control vaccine to prevent round-ups. We just didn't know who would take the first big hit.

Now we know one of them is the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise.

The recent news of the upcoming closure of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Desert Tortoise Conservation Center near Las Vegas shines a light on the real world impact the economic crisis and congressional gridlock can have on animals.

The center was opened in 1993 to house desert tortoises rescued from the path of development and to use those animals to aid in the recovery of this threatened species. Built on Bureau of Land Management property, the center is partially funded by the mitigation fee housing developers pay the BLM when they disturb critical tortoise habitat.

During the Nevada housing boom, mitigation fees flowed freely, helping to fund the rescue and research center's \$1 million annual budget. But when the foreclosure crisis hit the Sun Belt, the funds that once sustained the center dried up. Because sequestration also led to a slashing of the BLM's budget, the agency was not able to fill the gaps for the tortoise program. With few other options, the center is set to close its doors in late 2014.

As a result, new plans must be made for the 1,400 desert tortoises currently residing at the center. The FWS plans to release the healthy tortoises under its care into the wild in designated areas that will contribute to the recovery of the species over the next year. But the future of those tortoises who are injured or otherwise deemed not fit for release is still up in the air.

The HSUS has offered its assistance in addressing the short-term placement and long-term facility issues the tortoises are facing. Animal advocates are looking to help identify sustainable and humane solutions—such as getting the non-releasable tortoises to accredited zoos and sanctuaries and keeping them out of the inhumane exotic pet trade—as well as supporting the recovery of this important species.

Protected or not, no more animals should suffer because of the banking and foreclosure crisis. Desert tortoises can live up to 100 years, and those lives shouldn't be cut short because the government and the financial sector fell short of their duties.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian

President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

The 2013 federal government shutdown also impacted animals—from puppy mill inspections, to wild horse adoptions, to rules ensuring the safety of pet food. Read more on HSLF president Michael Markarian's blog: [hslf.org/shutdown](http://hslf.org/shutdown).



CONTINUED FROM COVER

Starting each August, trophy hunters in Maine begin piling up bait: everything from animal carcasses to jelly doughnuts to leftover pizza. For the next month, bears amble up to feast. Then, as the calendar flips to September and another hunting season opens, those hunters position themselves for easy, predictable shots.

"Shooting a bear at point-blank range while his head is buried in a pile of food is inhumane and unsporting," says Elise Traub, director of wildlife protection for The HSUS. "It's also really irresponsible because it conditions bears to human food sources and flies in the face of admonitions not to feed the bears."

Placing "millions of pounds of junk food" out in the wild creates other problems too, says Daryl DeJoy, executive director of the Wildlife Alliance of Maine. "By putting bait down ... we are also concentrating populations of other wildlife species," he says. "And some of those wildlife species are fox, raccoon, and skunk—all of which are rabies vectors. When you concentrate rabies vector species, or any animal species, you quickly can spread disease."

Seeking to address the problem and other cruel aspects of the state's bear hunt, volunteers with the HSLF-supported coalition Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting began gathering signatures this fall to put an initiative on the 2014 state ballot. The initiative would ban bear baiting, as well as bear trapping and hound hunting.

"Maine is the only state left in the union that still allows all three of these egregious and inhumane acts," says Dane Waters, HSLF political director.

Maine is also the last state to allow widespread trapping of bears. As snare traps there are required to be checked only once every 24 hours, some bears have chewed off their paws to break free; others have frantically stripped the bark off all trees within reach. Hunters then simply walk up for a close-range shot.

Frightened, trapped animals are similarly targets for hound hunters, who wait for GPS- or radio-collared dogs to chase down and corner a bear into a tree—unless the bear turns to fight back first. "In those instances," Traub says, "we hear stories of dogs being killed or seriously injured. Or, the dogs can literally rip the bear apart alive."

In 2004, when a similar ballot campaign fell narrowly short, opponents argued that bans on hounding, baiting, and trapping would hurt Maine's bear hunting industry, while at the same time fanning fears about the animals. "The state will literally say in one breath that if we can't hunt bears by baiting, trapping, and hounding, we'll never see a bear," DeJoy says. "And then in the next sentence they will say if we do away with baiting, trapping, and hounding, we're going to have a bear problem."

But data from states that banned baiting and hounding in the 1990s contradicts both claims. In Colorado, the number of bear hunters has since tripled. In Washington, it's nearly doubled. In Oregon, the number of nuisance complaints (436 in '93, 457 in 2011) has remained stable. Ditto in Washington.

In the years since 2004, HSLF and other organizations have attempted to find a legislative solution. Most recently, this past spring, Maine legislators quickly dismissed The Bear Protection Act—with little discussion—voting unanimously not to pass a proposed ban on hounding and trapping out of committee.

(The act also would have increased penalties for repeated bear poaching, codified an existing ban on the spring bear hunt, and banned the trade in certain bear parts, including gallbladders and paws.)

The legislature spent more time this spring debating a constitutional amendment that would have prohibited any ballot initiative seeking to limit hunting or fishing. The unprecedented amendment—Mainers have had the right to vote on such matters for more than 100 years—reached the floor of both the House and the Senate before falling short.

"Over the last decade, we as an organization continued to hear from our members, and they feel that it's important that we try this [ballot measure] again," Waters says. "We felt that the research was there, the time was right, for us to bring it back to the people."

People like Connie McCabe, a wildlife advocate in Maine.

"I hate the idea of any animal suffering purely for our entertainment," she says. "... Is that what our hunting tradition is? Do we really need to cheat to go out and do what our fathers, grandfathers [did]? It's not the Maine way. It's not the fair way."

# 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 at Capitol Hill, regular mail to members of Congress may be significantly delayed. Telephone calls and emails are the best ways to contact your legislators about pending bills.

## PETS AND CRUELTY



**Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act**  
H.R. 366 / S. 666  
Related language included in Farm Bills (H.R. 2642 / S. 954)

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.

**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 require that breeders who sell 50 or more puppies per year directly to consumers online or by other means be licensed and inspected; and to require that breeding dogs at commercial 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. 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



**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.

## 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.

## WILDLIFE

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**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: Rep. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa. / 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.



# “makeup makeover”

Beauty queen campaigns for cruelty-free cosmetics on the pageant circuit

**AFTER BEAUTY, BRAINS, AND TALENT**, an essential tool for every pageant hopeful is makeup; few contestants would dare be caught on camera without it.

And yet, one participant in the Miss America 2014 competition was willing to appear on stage barefaced if it would draw attention to her platform—ending animal testing in the cosmetics industry.

To Bindhu Pamarthi, Miss DC 2013, it makes perfect sense to promote cruelty-free cosmetics within the pageant industry. “So many of us and so many of the enthusiasts who ... support it are huge consumers of cosmetics,” she says. “[Speaking] directly to the target audience about something they should care about ... would make such a difference in pressuring corporations to change the way they produce cosmetics.”

Pamarthi’s passion for the issue grew from her involvement in college with an anti-genocide group, talking to schoolchildren about the relationship between genocide and conflict minerals. “I saw how teaching young people and consumers about the negative [aspects of] products that are very glamorous but also very vain—diamonds, jewelry, cosmetics—can help illuminate whether they really want to support it by purchasing these products.”

Now a second-year law student at Georgetown University Law Center, she won the title of Miss DC back in June. One of her first acts then was to sign The HSUS's Be Cruelty-Free pledge, stating she didn't believe animals should suffer for the sake of physical beauty. The news was noteworthy not only in animal advocacy circles but in the pageant world as well, appearing in online industry newsletters.

Before leaving to compete for the Miss America title in Atlantic City, Pamarthi accompanied HSLF executive director Sara Amundson to Capitol Hill to meet with staffers in the office of Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., co-chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus.

"Bindhu is an articulate, passionate advocate for public policy in the United States ending the use of animals to test the safety of cosmetics," says Amundson. "I welcome the opportunity to lobby with her to make that policy a reality."

During an appearance on *The Pet Show*—a local television show in the D.C. area—veterinarian and host Katy Nelson asked Pamarthi about the risk she was taking with her "Makeup Makeover" platform given that cosmetics companies are important sponsors of the pageant.

"You are right," she responded. "I started off urging consumers to pressure corporations to change their ways. I've spoken with [The HSUS] and they've been really helpful in helping me develop my platform more so it's been more effective. And I found that working with corporations ... in order to change the law is actually a better way to go. Being able to partner with some of those sponsors is going to offer me that opportunity."

In the end, Pamarthi didn't compete barefaced; her team of advisors wasn't down with the idea. The Miss America crown eluded her, but she did get a shout-out on Facebook from R.E.I.G.N., the pageant's new makeup partner, which honored her "thought provoking platform" and called her "a beyond beauty inspiration to us all."

With the pageant behind her, Pamarthi is back in school and eager to work closely with HSLF and The HSUS to promote the Be Cruelty-Free campaign. She'd like to visit classrooms and lobby, activities she pursued in her hometown of Chapel Hill, N.C., and she's game to make a splash for more media attention. "I'm free to do that [now]," she says. "I have nothing really to lose."



## FOR THE DOGS

*USDA announces rule to close puppy mill loophole*

**IT STARTED WITH A MAN** who had purchased several dogs in response to an ad in the back of a magazine.

One dog had died. The others arrived needing urgent veterinary care.

This was 1989, and through his local humane society in Oklahoma, the buyer contacted the Doris Day Animal League, now an affiliate of the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

"He wanted to know," says Sara Amundson, now HSLF executive director, "if this was an interstate commerce sale—which it was, they were bred in one state and transported for sale to the ultimate consumer in another state—why it was that the government didn't have any oversight."

It was that question, that letter, that began the push to extend Animal Welfare Act regulations to large-scale breeders selling dogs directly to the public—a decades-long push that earned a major victory in 2013.

In September, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that breeders selling puppies and kittens directly to the public via the Internet, mail, or phone, sight unseen, would now be subject to the same licensing and inspection regulations as those selling to brokers or pet stores. The change will help ensure commonsense care standards for an estimated 150,000 animals annually in the United States.

The issue reached a tipping point in recent years, with HSLF joining other organizations in helping to gather 32,000 signatures for a petition on the official White House website asking the Obama administration to address puppy mill cruelty. HSLF then helped collect more than 350,000 public comments in support of the draft rule. Amidst the lobbying, the pressure on regulators, and that push to spark public support, a damning 2010 report from the USDA Office of Inspector General also proved critical.

Now, Amundson says, "I look forward to us doing the hard work—and that is, digging in and making sure that the USDA begins to license, regulate, and inspect these folks in the first 60 days that [the department's] allocated to getting down to business."



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2100 L Street, NW  
Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20037

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## { THE AYES HAVE IT }



➡ Florida's state cabinet meetings have gone to the dogs. Since September 2012, **STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI** (above) has promoted shelter pet adoption by bringing an adoptable dog from a local animal shelter for a meet-and-greet at the meetings. Bondi, who frequently brings her rescued Saint Bernard to work, chooses dogs who are typically harder to place—middle-aged, larger, or dark-colored—and need a little extra exposure. All 14 of the dogs she's showcased have been adopted, many by people who attended a meeting or saw a photo on her Facebook page. Her success has inspired a friend on the Tulsa, Okla., city council to follow suit.

➡ **ETSY**, the online marketplace for handcrafted and vintage goods, has prohibited its 30 million users from selling on its site items made from any part of a threatened or endangered animal. The ban applies to both new items and those that predate the Endangered Species Act, even if the seller has documented proof of the legal right to sell.

➡ **THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION** announced in August that it does not support breed-specific legislation, such as bans on the ownership of pit bulls, calling them “largely ineffective and

often a waste of public resources.” The White House issued the statement on its “We, the People” website in response to a 30,000-signature online petition asking for a ban on such legislation.

➡ In September, the **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION** voted unanimously to prohibit the import of deer, elk, and other cervids (antlered ruminants) into the state to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease. Cervids bred in captivity are frequently imported from other states to stock Florida's captive hunting ranches; infected animals could contaminate wild populations with the fatal neurological condition, similar to mad cow disease. Several hunting groups joined the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and animal advocacy organizations in support of the measure. Eighteen other states have also banned live cervid imports in an effort to contain the disease.

