

# HUMANE ACTIVIST

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

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

A last-minute plea agreement was reached in August in a case against a Michigan hunter in connection with the gruesome killing of a coyote captured in a YouTube video.

The outcome of this case should be disappointing to anyone who stomachs the tough footage in this sickening snuff film, which showed decidedly dark behavior.

In the video, a coyote, injured and prostrate after suffering several gunshot wounds, lies in the snow as a narrator records the animal's suffering and describes his intent to let the dogs "finish him off." The barking and baying of hounds can be heard in the distance, and when the dogs

finally reach the wounded creature, the resulting "fight" is more brutal than you can imagine.

A jury found the cruelty statute applicable only to domesticated companion animals like dogs and cats, and not to wild animals in a hunting situation. But the hunting ethic calls for a clean and quick kill, and this man was seeking just the opposite. Any responsible hunter or decent-minded person should call for the state and federal laws to be strengthened to clearly prohibit the malicious torture of a defenseless animal.

While there are individual acts of cruelty to coyotes that go beyond the pale, there are also more concerted and normalized campaigns against these creatures. For 30 years, the federal government waged war on coyotes, killing millions of them in a scorched-earth campaign to eliminate "unwanted" animals from the United States. The result—aside from coyotes' biological adaptation and increasing range throughout the country—was a national hardening of conscience against them.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's 120-year-old Wildlife Services program is a little-known, taxpayer-funded agency that principally focuses on the outdated and inefficient model of lethal control when it comes to human-wildlife conflict. And the methods it authorizes and routinely carries out are shockingly inhumane and indiscriminate, such as toxic poisons, steel-jaw leghold traps and aerial gunning, to kill tens of thousands of coyotes each year—all to benefit private ranchers grazing their livestock on public lands.

There is a legitimate case to be made for a federal agency that helps to solve wildlife conflicts and provides training and research on best practices with an emphasis on innovation and nonlethal solutions. But Wildlife Services in its current form is a relic of the past. It exterminates wildlife as a government subsidy for private ranchers and other special interests, using inhumane and ineffective methods, while U.S. taxpayers foot a large share of the bill.

We have a right to expect better from our government, especially when humane alternatives are on the rise. The Obama administration should ban the most inhumane and indiscriminate methods of killing coyotes and bring much-needed reform to this outdated and wasteful government program. Transforming Wildlife Services into a program that truly serves wildlife and the public would be an amazing capstone to a presidency that has already produced substantial benefits and protections for animals.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian

President

Humane Society Legislative Fund



# The fix is in

## ENHANCING INTEGRITY IN HORSE RACING

**HORSE RACING**, the “sport of kings,” is in trouble.

For proof, look to a 2011 report commissioned by The Jockey Club. Attendance at tracks declined 30 percent over the first decade of this millennium. Meanwhile, only 22 percent of the general public surveyed has a positive impression of the sport. Even among racing fans, fewer than half would recommend the sport to others.

U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky., didn’t sugarcoat it when he opened an April hearing of the Congressional Horse Caucus, a bipartisan group of legislators that aims to educate Congress about horse-related concerns. “While those of us close to the racing industry hold the sport in high regard,” Barr said, “a growing segment of the American public has grown weary of a sport that has suffered from a litany of bad publicity and negative instances that have undermined public confidence in the integrity of racing.”

Much of the bad publicity stems from the 24 horses who die, on average, each week on racetracks around the country, according to a 2012 *New York Times* series. Animal welfare advocates maintain that many of the deaths are caused by a culture that places profits ahead of the animals’ well-being.

Tempted by large purses, and the limelight of winning, some owners and trainers race horses who aren’t fit. Many are raced too young (before their bones are fully developed) and often bred for speed rather than soundness. Dishonest people in the industry routinely give horses drugs to mask the pain of injuries or to simply give them an edge on race day.

The United States has over three dozen horse racing jurisdictions, all with different rules on medications, different penalties for violations and different laboratories used to do the testing. Without one single regulating body, horse owners and trainers who are barred from one jurisdiction can simply move their business elsewhere. “You have too many people who can’t agree and too many sets of rules,” explains Marty Irby, senior director of rural outreach and equine protection for The HSUS. At the same time, he adds, the industry’s lack of ability to enforce the rules has proven the need for national uniform standards.

Of racing’s myriad problems, doping may be the one with a solution most in reach.

HSLF is aggressively advocating for the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015, H.R. 3084, sponsored by Reps. Barr and Paul Tonko, D-N.Y. The legislation would put the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) in charge of establishing a Board to set and enforce drug rules for racing horses, and has garnered 74 additional cosponsors in Congress. “It’s time for Congress, which enables this entire industry to operate by allowing gambling through the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978, to impose some rules on an industry that has failed to clean up its problems on its own,” Wayne Pacelle, executive vice president of HSLF, wrote in a recent blog.

In June, Pacelle announced the formation of the HSUS National Horse Racing Advisory Council, composed of industry professionals and equine experts. Members of the group regularly travel to Capitol Hill to advance H.R. 3084. Some legislators are surprised to find a racing industry executive or breeder standing beside a member of The HSUS, Irby says. “I think that’s what makes us stand out. It’s an unlikely coalition of people who are all working together.”

## LEGISLATIVE LINEUP //

**THE FOLLOWING** is a sample of HSLF-supported animal protection bills before the U.S. Congress. It's vital that you call, email or write your federal legislators to let them know your views on these bills. To find out who your legislators are and how to reach them directly, go to [hslf.org/leglookup](http://hslf.org/leglookup) or call 202-676-2314.

When you call a legislator's office, ask to speak with the staff person handling animal protection issues. Give the bill number and the name of the bill or issue. Be polite, brief and to the point. If you plan to visit

Washington, D.C., make an appointment to meet with your legislators or their staff to discuss animal issues. We can help you with background information and may be able to accompany you on your visits.

**Please note:** Due to security procedures on Capitol Hill, regular mail to members of Congress may be significantly delayed. Telephone calls and emails are the best ways to contact your legislators about pending bills.

**For the latest** information about all animal protection bills, visit [legislation.hslf.org](http://legislation.hslf.org).

## Animal Research



### Humane Cosmetics Act

H.R. 2858

To phase out animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients as well as the sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics. Sponsors: Reps. McSally, R-Ariz.; Beyer, D-Va.; Heck, R-Nev.; Cárdenas, D-Calif.

## Farm Animals



### Commodity Checkoff Program Improvement Act

S. 3201

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

### Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act

H.R. 746/S. 388

To remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and ensure that farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities receive the basic care required under the AWA. Sponsors: Reps. Blumenauer, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Slaughter, D-N.Y. / Sens. Booker, D-N.J.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

## Pets and Cruelty



### Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act

H.R. 2293/S. 1831

To strengthen the animal crush video law by prohibiting those same extreme acts of animal cruelty, such as deliberately crushing, burning, drowning, impaling and suffocating, when they occur in interstate or foreign commerce, regardless of whether or not a video was produced. Sponsors: Reps. Smith, R-Texas; Deutch, D-Fla.; Marino, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Sens. Toomey, R-Pa.; Blumenthal, D-Conn.

### Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act

H.R. 1258/S. 1559

To expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards for the pets of abuse victims on a national level and to provide grant money for domestic violence shelters to better accommodate families with pets. Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass.; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Peters, D-Mich.

### Yulin Dog Meat Festival Resolution

H. Res. 752

To condemn the "Dog Meat Festival" in Yulin, China, and urge China to end its dog meat trade that slaughters more than 10 million dogs annually (including many stolen pets). Sponsor: Rep. Hastings, D-Fla.

## Wildlife



### Wildlife Trafficking Bills

H.R. 2494/S. 27/S. 2385/  
H.R. 1945 (An amended version  
of H.R. 2494 was signed into law  
in October as P.L. 114-231.)

### CECIL Animal Trophies Bills

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

### Big Cat Public Safety Act

H.R. 3546/S. 2541

To support and strengthen domestic and international efforts to combat the global epidemic of wildlife trafficking. Sponsors: Reps. Royce, R-Calif.; Engel, D-N.Y. / Sens. Feinstein, D-Calif.; Graham, R-S.C. / Sens. Coons, D-Del.; Flake, R-Ariz. / Rep. DeFazio, D-Ore.

To prevent imports and exports of trophies from species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Sponsors: Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz. / Rep. Jackson Lee, D-Texas / Sen. Menendez, D-N.J.

To prevent the breeding and possession of lions, tigers and other big cats except by accredited zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, universities and other restricted cases. Sponsors: Reps. Jones, R-N.C.; Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif. / Sen. Blumenthal, D-Conn.



### Captive Primate Safety Act

H.R. 2920

### Trapping Bills

H.R. 2016/S. 1081/  
H.R. 5954/H.R. 5560

### Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act

H.R. 5584/S. 3095

To amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals who cannot be traded or transported across state lines as pets. Sponsors: Reps. Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Blumenauer, D-Ore.

To end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System; end their use by personnel and on lands of the Departments of Interior and Agriculture; and restrict use of steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear traps in the U.S. Sponsors: Rep. Lowey, D-N.Y. / Sen. Booker, D-N.J. / Rep. Blumenauer, D-Ore. / Rep. Adams, D-N.C.

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

## Equines



### Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act

H.R. 3268/S. 1121

### Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act

H.R. 1942/S. 1214

### Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act

H.R. 3084

### Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act

H.R. 152/S. 1204

To amend the Horse Protection Act to end the failed system of industry self-policing, ban the use of devices associated with soring, strengthen penalties and make illegal the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling the animal. Sponsors: Reps. Yoho, R-Fla.; Schrader, D-Ore.; Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; Cohen, D-Tenn.; Jolly, R-Fla.; Schakowsky, D-Ill. / Sens. Ayotte, R-N.H.; Warner, D-Va.

To ban domestic horse slaughter and stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad and to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States. Sponsors: Reps. Guinta, R-N.H.; Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Buchanan, R-Fla.; Lujan Grisham, D-N.M. / Sens. Menendez, D-N.J.; Graham, R-S.C.; Mikulski, D-Md.; Collins, R-Maine

To improve the integrity and safety of thoroughbred horse racing by creating a single independent organization, with a majority of board seats held by officials of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, to develop and enforce uniform national anti-doping rules for thoroughbred racing. Sponsors: Reps. Barr, R-Ky.; Tonko, D-N.Y.

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge. Sponsors: Rep. Jones, R-N.C.; Sen. Burr, R-N.C.



## Matters of state

HSLF DIVES INTO STATE ELECTIONS

**WHILE MOST** of the political discourse in recent months has centered around Trump vs. Clinton, with some discussion of key Senate and House races, the outcomes of state elections play a large, some might even say *huuuuuge*, role in shaping our country's future. That's particularly true when it comes to animal welfare issues.

Indeed, more than 1,200 state animal protection laws have been passed over the last decade, says Andi Bernat, legislation and public policy director for The HSUS. And there are more than 7,300 state legislators, with the vast majority seeking re-election this year.

That's why HSLF recently launched an initiative to be a more aggressive player in state elections. "It's obvious we've got to have a footprint in all 50 states in order to positively impact the overall animal protection agenda," says Sara Amundson, executive director of HSLF.

"We're really proud of the work that we've done on the federal level," she adds. "I see the difference HSLF and its federal-affiliated political action committee make every day to further our federal agenda. Now, it's really time to expand that political activity in the states to support our friends and punish our enemies for being on the wrong side of animal protection issues."

To help lay the groundwork for this state push, HSLF hired Joe Maxwell as senior political director early in 2015. Maxwell had a storied career in the Missouri Legislature before serving as lieutenant governor of the Show Me State from 2000-2005.

Joining forces with Maxwell is David Balmer, a former state senator in Colorado who now works as HSLF's political director of state campaigns.

HSLF "asked me to help build out the strategy," Maxwell explains. "David is delivering the strategy."

A key part of this game plan involves forming HSLF-affiliated state political councils comprised of animal welfare advocates trained by Balmer to work political systems within their states. "They become our volunteer infrastructure," Maxwell explains. "They become our go-to advocates in the field."

HSLF has already invested more money in state campaigns in 2016. In Oregon, we mounted an independent campaign, including TV ads, opposing Val Hoyle for Oregon secretary of state. As House majority leader, Hoyle, a Democrat, blocked legislation that would have banned the trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn, and she supported weakening the state's protections for bears, cougars and wolves. Brad Avakian, an HSLF-supported candidate, beat Hoyle and won the May Democratic primary.

"You have to get politically engaged to ensure candidates know that there's a value to the animal protection agenda," Amundson says, "and, in some cases, those who are so vitriolic in their opposition to animal protection issues must recognize there is a price to be paid for opposing our agenda. That's why HSLF is here."

**+ TO LEARN MORE**, visit [hslf.org](http://hslf.org).

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.  
**#GIVINGTUESDAY™**  
November 29, 2016

### PLEASE REMEMBER HSLF ON GIVING TUESDAY!

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season.

Join the #GivingTuesday movement by supporting HSLF's work to pass humane laws and elect humane legislators. Give online at [hslf.org](http://hslf.org).



## An impossible choice

CONGRESS SEEKS TO PROTECT CATS IN  
LOW-INCOME FEDERAL HOUSING

**CORY SMITH** has heard the heartbreaking stories many times.

Residents in low-income public housing are told that they are in violation of a policy requiring all cats be declawed—a cruel and, for most residents, cost-prohibitive surgery.

“You’ll have someone who has had a cat for seven years in that public housing unit,” says Smith, HSUS director of companion animal public policy. “Somebody comes in to fix a lightbulb and then says, ‘Oh, you have a cat.’ Well, now you have to get your pet declawed.”

This surgical mutilation of animals traditionally involves a veterinarian amputating the last bone of each toe—comparable to amputating a human finger at the last knuckle. In addition to causing acute, potentially chronic, pain for the cat, the surgery can cost upwards of a thousand dollars or more, a price tag out of reach for most low-income people. They’re left with the heartbreaking task of finding their cat a new home.

HSLF president Michael Markarian also points out that declawing is not an effective method for protecting property. Declawed cats may “develop other destructive behavior issues, such as biting or urinating outside the litter box,” he says.

Making this scenario all the more maddening: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) does not have a mandatory declawing policy. Rather, individual public housing authorities (PHAs) have taken it upon themselves to adopt this requirement.

Fortunately, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, is leading an effort to make sure pet owners living in public housing never again have to face such a choice. “Not only is declawing inhumane, forcing people to choose between a beloved pet and affordable housing is also inhumane,” she says.

In 2007, The HSUS worked closely with Kaptur to insert report language in legislation asking HUD to notify all PHAs that federal housing policy does not require declawing.

However, animal advocates continued to hear from people who had been told to declaw their cats or find a new place to live. HSUS returned to Kaptur for help. “We circled back to the issue,” Smith explains. “I’m hoping that the folks in the congressional office would be a little bit irritated with HUD that they didn’t listen last time.”

In February, Kaptur penned, and got a bipartisan group of 51 members of Congress to cosign, a letter to HUD Secretary Julián Castro, urging him to add a clause to HUD regulations that would prohibit PHAs from mandating declawing.

Then in June, Kaptur worked to see that the House Appropriations Committee included report language urging HUD to notify all PHAs that declawing is not a HUD requirement. She also reached out to key senators asking them to help sustain the provision in the final Senate-House appropriations legislation.

HSLF and The HSUS will continue working with Kaptur to jointly press HUD to follow through.

“We are grateful to Congresswoman Kaptur and her colleagues who are standing up for cats and the families who love them,” says Markarian. “We urge HUD to adopt this policy swiftly. Without any legitimate property protection purpose, a formal notice to PHAs that they cannot force residents to put their pets through an inhumane, painful and expensive procedure should be an easy call for HUD.”



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## THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ In August, **PRESIDENT OBAMA** created the largest protected marine area in the world when he significantly expanded the size of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The conservation area is home to more than 7,000 marine species, including sharks, whales, turtles, dolphins, monk seals, seabirds and many animals who are found nowhere else in the world. Banning commercial fishing in this vast area will have tremendous regenerative potential for our oceans and for marine life.

➡ Both chambers of the **CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE** overwhelmingly approved a measure to protect captive elephants in the state. Authored by **SEN. RICARDO LARA**, D-Bell Gardens, S.B. 1062 prohibits the use of bullhooks on elephants. Resembling a fireplace poker, bullhooks cause trauma and injury to elephants when used by handlers to control the animals. **GOV. JERRY BROWN** signed S.B. 1062 into law in August, making California the second state, after Rhode Island, to protect elephants from bullhook abuse.

➡ Online travel company **TRIPADVISOR** recently launched a “no touching of wild animals” policy, whereby it will no longer sell tickets to attractions where travelers come into physical contact with captive wild or endangered animals. This includes swim-with-the-dolphin operators, elephant rides, zoos that feature public handling and photo ops with big cats and bears, and other practices.

➡ Insurance giant **METLIFE** announced it will no longer support the New York Blood Center (NYBC) until the company resolves its dispute with The HSUS and other groups over the medical charity’s abandonment of more than 60 chimpanzees in Liberia. The nonprofit NYBC used chimps in experiments for more than 30 years to develop vaccines and blood cleansing agents. After making millions off the animals, NYBC abruptly cut off funding for care of the retired chimps and effectively left the animals to starve and die of dehydration. **CITIBANK** also disassociated itself from NYBC after learning the facts in the case and contributed \$50,000 toward the care of the chimpanzees.

