

HUMANE ACTIVIST

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Change Agent

Charla Nash meets with lawmakers on captive primate reform

Triple Threat

Maine campaign confronts three cruelties to bears

Prime Candidates

HSLF endorses lawmakers for the 2014 election cycle

KEEPING ON

ADVOCATES PERSIST IN THE FIGHT FOR
WOLVES IN MICHIGAN AND BEARS IN MAINE



HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

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.

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; Administrative Assistant, Megan Holland. HSUS Publications: Operations Manager, Elizabeth McNulty; Managing Editor, Michael Sharp; Contributing Editor, Heidi Colonna; Art Director: Shaina Lieberman; Design Consultant: Kalico Design.

Humane Activist (ISSN 1524-5233) is published five times a year by the Humane Society Legislative Fund. To subscribe to Humane Activist and to receive our annual Humane Scorecard, send a donation of \$10 or more to the Humane Society Legislative Fund at 2100 L St., NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20037, or contact us at 202-676-2314 or humaneactivist@hslf.org.

No permission is required for the reproduction of text from Humane Activist, provided that 1) it is not altered, 2) the context does not contradict its spirit and intent, and 3) credit is given as follows: Reprinted from Humane Activist/Humane Society Legislative Fund. For information on the reproduction of photographs or other graphics, email humaneactivist@hslf.org.

Printed on recycled paper, elemental chlorine-free, with soy-based ink.

©2014 Humane Society Legislative Fund. All rights reserved.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER //



Dear Friends,

Every day, every minute, animals are at risk somewhere, whether they're languishing in abusive puppy mills, confined in metal cages on industrial factory farms or caught up in some other enterprise that puts profit over animal welfare.

And as much as we've gained ground in our efforts to help those animals, there are still wealthy special interests and hard-hearted individuals trying to keep them in those crates and mills.

They work every day to perpetuate the status quo and even to deregulate animal-use industries so that they have nothing to fear and no accountability. They want just the appearance of legal protections for animals, or no laws at all.

Michael Beckel of the Center for Public Integrity has reported that millionaire businessman Forrest Lucas, founder of Lucas Oil Products, has formed a new Super PAC to oppose animal welfare. Lucas is perhaps the biggest pro-animal abuse money man in America. With his personal net worth of \$300 million and his company's annual revenue of \$150 million, Lucas can fund a huge war chest, and his new Super PAC can spend unlimited amounts on political ads in elections.

Lucas spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2010 to bankroll the opposition to Proposition B in Missouri, which set common-sense standards for the care of dogs in large-scale puppy mills. Lucas then supported an effort in the Missouri legislature to weaken and repeal parts of the voter-approved measure before it even had a chance to take effect. In 2012, Lucas and his group Protect the Harvest spent more than a quarter-million dollars opposing Measure 5 in North Dakota, which sought to establish felony-level penalties for malicious cruelty to dogs, cats and horses. In 2013, Protect the Harvest even lobbied against a local ordinance in Crawford County, Indiana, to require proper shelter of dogs and cats and another proposal in nearby Harrison County to promote the spaying and neutering of pets to help reduce pet overpopulation.

This summer, Protect the Harvest fought against family farmers by pushing a new measure on the August ballot in Missouri. Amendment 1 will prioritize the interests of foreign corporations and industrial factory farms over humane and sustainable agriculture and prevent any future standards for the care of animals in agriculture, even for the "farming" of dogs in puppy mills.

With the new Super PAC, we can expect more well-funded attacks from Lucas on animal protection efforts across the country. That's why it's more important than ever that HSLF strengthens its own hand and expands its efforts to fortify the nation's laws to protect animals from cruelty and abuse. With your help, we can continue our work to pass animal protection laws, educate the public and elect humane candidates to office.

Please join us in fighting back against the anti-animal forces by making a donation to HSLF today. Together, we can stand up and overcome one millionaire's attack on the animal welfare movement, the proper care of animals, and decency and mercy in society.

Sincerely,

Michael Markarian

President

Humane Society Legislative Fund

Chimpanzee mothers and their young form close bonds.



A PLEA FOR PROGRESS

VICTIM OF CHIMPANZEE ATTACK VISITS CAPITOL HILL TO URGE ACTION

CHARLA NASH ARRIVED with a strong spirit, ready to tell her story.

This July, for the first time on Capitol Hill, the survivor of one of the most notorious animal attacks in U.S. history spoke out at a press conference with HSLF executive vice president Wayne Pacelle and sponsors of a proposed law to crack down on the keeping of primates as pets.

"I don't want what happened to me ever to happen to anyone else..." said Nash, who appeared in support of the Captive Primate Safety Act, which seeks to ban the interstate trade in primates as pets.

In February of 2009, Nash was attacked by her boss's pet chimpanzee Travis, who tore off her hands, nose and lips. She also contracted a zoonotic disease that resulted in her eyes being removed, leaving her blind. In 2011 she underwent a full face transplant.

After being stabbed multiple times by his owner and then shot by a police officer after the attack, Travis staggered into his home to find his bed and die.

"Although Nash's situation was especially horrific because of the incredible strength of a chimp," notes Lisa Wathne, an HSUS captive wildlife protection manager, "attacks involving primates happen much more frequently than people realize."

As many as 15,000 primates of all sizes—from capuchins to lemurs to marmosets—live in U.S. households, and they're capable of inflicting serious injuries. According to Wathne, scores of children are among the nearly 300 people who've been injured by captive primates in 43 states since 1990 and new incidents are frequently reported: a monkey on the loose, a bite, a confiscation. It's not uncommon for the primates involved to be killed in order to be tested for rabies.

Along with public safety concerns, captive primates—who are pulled from their mothers shortly after birth for the pet trade—suffer greatly themselves. "Primate mothers are fiercely protective and it's traumatic for both the mother and the infant to be separated prematurely," says

Debbie Leahy, who also manages captive wild-life protection for The HSUS. "The infant often suffers nutritional deficiencies and long-term psychological scars from not being cared for by their moms."

In addition, primates in home environments typically lack the companionship with others of their species, space, and enrichments that facilities like accredited zoos and sanctuaries can provide. Nash observed firsthand the behavioral problems that often result. "I've seen with my own eyes—when I could see," she said. "Travis used to sit on the floor in a corner and rock."

It's when the animals grow up that they become problematic for people. "Inevitably, when primates reach sexual maturity they become aggressive and unpredictable, ripping apart the house and attacking people. Unfortunately, there are not many options for placing them," says Leahy.

During her visit, Nash spoke with U.S. Reps. Michael G. Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) who introduced the House bill last summer, as well as Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, and Sens. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), a former Attorney General in Nash's home state of Connecticut who helped win enactment of stronger laws against owning exotic animals there after the mauling.

About half of all states already outlaw possession of some or all primates as pets, but they're easily obtained via the Internet and through dealers and auctions in states where it's still legal. Asked about Congressional action on the issue, Wathne said, "It's long overdue."



Nash speaks with Pacelle before a press conference on Capitol Hill.

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 hsf.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.

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.

Humane Care for Primates Act

H.R. 3556

To allow importation of primates for placement in certified sanctuaries, as is now allowed only for purposes of research, exhibition or education. Sponsor: Rep. Ellmers, R-N.C.

Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act

H.R. 4525

To restrict the use of elephants and other exotic animals in traveling circuses and exhibitions. Sponsor: Rep. Moran, D-Va.

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



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.

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



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



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.

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.

Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act
H.R. 5267

To protect domestic violence victims and their pets by expanding federal law to include pets and helping victims find safe shelter for their pets. Sponsors: Reps. Clark, D-Mass.; Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.

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.



ROTTEN DEAL

CALLING OFF DOGS, GARBAGE AND CRUEL TRAPS IS JOB ONE IN MAINE

WITH ANOTHER bear baiting season underway, hunters and guides arrived to dump stale donuts and pizza and rotting meat across Maine's pristine wilderness—an estimated 7 million pounds of it before it's all over.

The buffet attracts bears to specific sites for the fall hunt, which begins in August. Baiting—which attracts animals to be killed with traps and dogs—is unsporting and puts people at risk for increased bear interactions. It also presents a disease risk, as many different animals are attracted to one location.

The Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting campaign's initiative—which will appear as Question 1 on the November ballot—will ask voters to prohibit the use of bait, dogs and traps in bear hunting.

And while the opposition is in the minority, it's a vocal one. Media outlets are largely leaving coverage to their outdoors writers who have close ties to those engaged in the three practices. But a large number of fair chase hunters are solidly in the coalition's court, and there's been tremendous encouragement throughout the summer at numerous educational forums to rally supporters and inform voters.

"People are very, very enthusiastic," says campaign manager Stephanie Harris. "We've been seeing a huge outpouring of support... in particular in letters to the editor across the state. Baiting, hounding and trapping fly in the face of fair chase—what Mainers value about their hunting heritage. We're very much looking forward to November and to doing away with these cruel and unsporting practices."

KEEPING THE FAITH

HSLF WORKS TO SAFEGUARD REFERENDUM PROCESS, PROTECT WOLVES IN MICHIGAN

EVEN AFTER COLLECTING nearly 500,000 signatures to put two referendums on the November ballot, the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected coalition is still fighting for a voter's right to be heard.

Michigan citizens will get the chance to vote on whether wolves should be hunted in their state, as well as whether the public should continue to have a say in what animals are listed as game species. The second measure came in response to efforts by trophy hunting lobby groups and the state legislature to circumvent the popular vote by allowing Michigan's unelected Natural Resources Commission to designate game species.

But a pro-wolf-hunt ballot committee called "Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management" has once again attempted to thwart a vote of the people. The group collected signatures for the misleadingly named "Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act" initiative, which rehashes the legislative language allowing the Natural Resources Commission to designate game species. But this time, because the language includes an appropriation—under the guise of helping to eradicate Asian carp and other invasive species—it cannot go straight to the ballot

for a third referendum effort. When the signatures for that initiative were qualified in July, a 40-day window began for the legislators to decide a course of action.

The legislature could approve the Act (reaffirming the ability of the NRC to designate a game species, as it did last year when it allowed the state's first official hunt), propose an alternative or take no action and allow it to appear as a third ballot measure on the issue in November. The Keep Michigan Wolves Protected coalition is calling on the legislature to allow the issue to go to the ballot and not to undermine a fair election and a vote of the people.

Meanwhile, coalition volunteers are persistently knocking on doors, making calls and meeting with constituents and their lawmakers. The campaign also joined the Let Michigan Vote coalition to raise awareness and put pressure on lawmakers to represent their constituents. "We have been battling an utter disregard for the voters," says campaign manager Ellie Hayes. "People value the wildlife here and the ecological benefits they bring—and they've shown time and again that they value the ability to weigh in on these issues."



Fewer than 650 wolves live in the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

SNEAK PEEK

HSLF GEARS UP FOR ANOTHER ELECTION SEASON

Voters will be heading to the polls in just a couple short months, and HSLF is organizing support behind candidates who've demonstrated long-term, effective leadership and an impact on animal protection policies. Below are three of the many candidates that HSLF has endorsed so far for the 2014 election cycle.



REP. GARY PETERS D-Michigan

Why his election matters: Peters scored 100 on HSLF's 2013 *Humane Scorecard* and took the lead on a letter to the House Agriculture Committee urging members to reject a provision to the Farm Bill by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, which could have negated state laws against shark finning, the intensive confinement of farm animals and many other concerns. He's led several other successful efforts for animals, including cracking down on crush videos.

Background: HSLF mounted a campaign in 2008 to elect Peters to his current House seat and repeated that support in 2010 and 2012. He is one of just 10 House Democrats selected to serve on the Wall Street Reform Conference Committee and also serves on the House Financial Services Committee.

Quoted: "Gary Peters has been a leading champion for animal protection since his time in the Michigan state legislature," says HSLF president Michael Markarian. "He has worked to protect polar bears from trophy hunting, to end the use of live monkeys in chemical warfare training, to stop the obscene torture of animals for 'crush' videos, to defeat the dangerous and overreaching King amendment which threatened state animal welfare laws, and so much more."



REP. JEFF DENHAM R-California

Why his election matters: Denham was a prime sponsor of last year's Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments and worked tirelessly to keep the King Amendment out of the final Farm Bill package. He is the prime sponsor of the Pets on Trains bill and also supported a measure to close a loophole in the federal animal fighting law.

Background: Denham's career has spanned the U.S. Air Force, almond ranching and the California State Senate, where he focused on balancing state spending. In Congress, he's a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Quoted: "Congressman Denham is a bridge-builder and is focused on getting results," notes Markarian, "whether that's bringing together animal welfare groups and the egg industry to advocate for a national policy on the housing and treatment of laying hens, or working with Amtrak on a pilot project to allow passengers to travel with their beloved pets on trains. ... And as a friend of both agriculture and animal welfare, he is in a unique position to influence policies that impact animals, farmers and consumers."



SEN. MARY LANDRIEU D-Louisiana

Why her election matters: Landrieu scored 100+ on HSLF's 2013 *Humane Scorecard*. She is a prime sponsor of the Safeguard American Food Exports Act, which would ban horse slaughter. She helped hold off slaughter plants from opening this year by successfully amending the legislation funding the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and she helped secure funds to crack down on the soring of Tennessee walking horses.

Background: After serving in the Louisiana state legislature since age 23—eight years as a state representative and two terms as state treasurer—In 1996, Landrieu became the first woman from Louisiana elected to a full term in the U.S. Senate. This year, she became the first woman to chair the powerful Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Quoted: "Senator Landrieu has been a fierce leader in the fight to prevent American horses from being slaughtered for human consumption overseas," says HSLF executive director Sara Amundson, "and a powerful advocate for the soring bill in the U.S. Senate, too."





HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND

2100 L Street, NW
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20037
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE EYES HAVE IT //



➡ **NEW YORK** and **NEW JERSEY** passed landmark legislation to help stop the states' roles in the international trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn. Gov. Chris Christie signed a bill making New Jersey the first state to completely prohibit the import and intrastate sale of such items, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo followed suit shortly after, signing a bill to ban the sale and purchase of the products in New York. In a letter to Christie, actress Meryl Streep wrote that ivory is "a product of horrific cruelty to elephants and rhinos, who could very well become extinct within decades if we don't act now."

➡ **NORTH CAROLINA** banned the use of gill nets within 100 yards offshore after a federal advisory task force recommended the move following several drowning deaths of bottlenose dolphins. Anchored to the seafloor and standing up like fences, the nets' nearly invisible mesh entangles birds, fish and marine mammals who encounter them.

➡ The **U.S. SENATE** shot down a motion to move forward on S. 2363, the dangerous "Sportsmen's Act," which would have opened public lands to hunting and fur trapping as a default rule. The act would have also stopped the Environmental Protection Agency from restricting the use of lead ammunition, a known toxin that kills millions of wild animals from more than 130 species each year, including bald eagles and other threatened and endangered species. As HSLF president Michael Markarian wrote recently in his blog: "Wild animals and the environment have dodged a bullet now that this terrible package of anti-conservation policies has stalled in the Senate."

➡ **MASSACHUSETTS** banned the possession and sale of shark fins, the product of a cruel and ecologically harmful practice known as shark finning, which is driven by the demand for shark fin soup. Sharks are often alive when their fins are cut off; unable to swim when they're thrown back into the water, they can suffer slow deaths. In a statement reported by *The Boston Globe*, Governor Deval Patrick said, "With the passing of this law, Massachusetts builds upon its long history of animal protection and environmental stewardship."

