

HSUS's Ongoing Katrina Response

More than a year after Hurricane Katrina's ruinous landfall, the disaster's impact upon animals remains one of its most compelling elements. Tens of thousands of domestic and wild animals perished from drowning, starvation, disease, and other misfortune. Katrina was a signal episode in the history of animal protection, and a transformative moment for The HSUS. Our ability to deploy personnel, expertise, and supplies; to dispense emergency funds; to draw public attention to the plight of animals; and to secure legislation to guarantee their safety in future disasters placed The HSUS at the center of the humane movement's response.

A year later, the hurricane continues to generate substantial challenges for The *continued on page 5*

Unprecedented new HSUS-sponsored programs will help deal with pet overpopulation problems Katrina left behind in the Gulf states.



LAURA BEVAN/THE HSUS

Fending for Fido in Flood's Fury

Everywhere you looked there were flooded streets, homes, and businesses. Bridges were washed out, and pets were being evacuated to safety. Sounds like a description from last fall's devastating hurricanes. Only this wasn't New Orleans; it was New Hampshire.

Residents of the Granite State experienced their own taste of natural disaster this past spring with record-breaking torrential rains and flooding. Although the event was small by comparison to Hurricane Katrina, those affected experienced the same trauma that goes hand-in-hand with any disaster. For pet owners, this trauma increases significantly when personal and community disaster plans aren't in place for their cherished companions.

News reports mentioned residents who wouldn't evacuate because of their animals, or who were worried sick because they were forced to leave a pet behind since animals weren't allowed in the human shelters. In addition, the Salem Animal Rescue League and the Concord/Merrimack County SPCA both had to evacuate their facilities in the face of rising waters.

The HSUS began an animal damage assessment early on, contacting the state's animal shelters to see if their communities had any unmet animal needs. The Salem Animal Rescue League suffered the most severe damage when four feet of water overcame their facility. They lost major electrical appliances and most of their operational supplies. The HSUS has given



LORI BERTRAND/SALEM ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

Salem Animal Control Officer Kelly Demers wades out of the flooded Salem Animal Rescue League shelter with a rescued animal.

financial assistance to help replace these items. We also arranged for the transfer of animal supplies to a pet-friendly human shelter in Manchester, on behalf of the Southern New Hampshire Disaster Animal Response Team.

"This flood served as a wake-up call to the entire New England region," said NERO Director Joanne Bourbeau. "It's one thing to see these images on television, but when disaster affects you and your family personally, it brings your awareness to a whole new level."

Shortly before this event, the governors of New Hampshire and Vermont both signed into law provisions to include pets in their state's disaster planning. HSUS staff will serve on committees in both states to ensure that the needs of animals and animal owners are both addressed during evacuations and within emergency shelters. It's not a matter of putting animals before people. It's a matter of ensuring that people who consider their pets to be family members are afforded the same protections we'd offer any family in the face of disaster.



HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle joins HSUS's Joanne Bourbeau (left) and Linda Huebner at a conference held in New Haven, CT.

HSUS President Returns to Alma Mater

Contrary to popular belief, you can go home again, and that's precisely what HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle did recently when he spoke at the annual training conference of the New England Federation of Humane Societies in New Haven, Connecticut. A graduate of Yale University, Pacelle spoke to the largest gathering of animal care and control professionals in the region about his vision for the future of animal welfare.

Pacelle believes that only when a critical mass of citizens embraces reform and actively assists in promoting it will we see tangible progress to end animal exploitation. As the closing speaker, he inspired attendees to take what they learned at this valuable event and implement it in their daily lives. At least one attendee did just that—by changing the menu for her organization's fundraising dinner, and all future events—to all-vegetarian fare. The impetus for her decision was simply the tent cards that the Federation board had placed on each table during meals, explaining (without judging) why we don't serve meat at our functions. We're eager to hear how other attendees were inspired to promote an end to animal exploitation in their daily lives.

RI Law Aimed at Feline Overpopulation

On June 9, 2006, Rhode Island's governor signed the first state law to mandate the sterilization of cats. This measure would require owners to spay or neuter cats older than six months, unless they purchase a \$100 yearly breeders license. There is a monthly fine of \$75 for those who don't comply.

On its surface, the legislation would seem to address an issue that is vitally important—pet overpopulation. The HSUS certainly supports any measure that would mean an increase in sterilization, and

ultimately a decrease in the number of unwanted animals born. However, some critics wonder if mandating spaying and neutering of pets is the most effective way to deal with the issue. Since this legislation didn't receive broad-based support from key Rhode Island stakeholders such as animal control officers and feral cat caregivers, questions remain about how well the new law can and will be enforced.

According to a report presented to the Rhode Island Foundation's spay/neuter advisory committee, on which HSUS staff serve, the most effective pet overpopulation programs are not punitive in nature, but rather remove the obstacles that prohibit most pet owners from spaying and neutering their companion animals in the first place. Start with a coalition working together on the issue; provide reduced fees for services, including necessary shots (a precursor for spay/neuter procedures); offer assistance with transportation; and most importantly, implement broad-based education and outreach efforts translated into different languages that address issues such as when to spay or neuter your pet.

The HSUS will be working hard with both the Rhode Island Foundation and the Rhode Island Animal Welfare Coalition to form a team that can work to eliminate homeless pets in the Ocean State. Given Rhode Island's small size, the strong support for the issue of reducing pet overpopulation, and the availability of grant money to execute a statewide program, there is much room for success.

Dog Protection Act Struck from 2006 Ballot

Despite successful efforts by more than 2,000 committed volunteers during both rounds of signature-gathering and successful completion of the other tasks required to get the Dog Protection Act on the Massachusetts ballot, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ordered the secretary of state not to place the Act on the November 2006 ballot. This Act would have strengthened the state laws against illegal dogfighting, strengthened the penalties for cruelty to working dogs, and phased out dog racing.

Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park owner George Carney filed suit. Unfortunately, the court ruled in his favor. While disappointed, The HSUS will not be deterred. The incredible support we've received means we'll be back to ensure that Massachusetts' dogs finally have their day.



MORGUE COM/MARRY K. BAIRD

Will Rhode Island's new law mandating cat sterilization accomplish what is intended? The HSUS will work to ensure a good outcome.

Legislative Update

Connecticut

- A bill to allow Sunday archery hunting on private property died thanks to the efforts of The HSUS to defeat this dangerous legislation.
- The agriculture commissioner will be required to investigate the expansion of the Animal Population Control Program to include feral cats and animals owned by low-income residents with the passage of a bill creating a study committee that includes HSUS staff.
- Bills on humane education, animal control officer training, pet trusts, monk parakeets, dangerous dogs, and captive elephant inspections died in committee.

Maine

- The passage of a law allowing judges to write protection from abuse orders to protect companion animals in domestic violence situations, as well as encourage human victims to leave safely with their pets, is a first in the United States.

Massachusetts

- Legislation to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses made significant progress. Sponsoring Sen. Robert Hedlund offered an amendment that will make it illegal to use any implement—such as a bullhook or ankus—to train, punish, or control captive elephants. This amended version passed the Senate.
- Sunday hunting was defeated.

New Hampshire

- The HSUS was appointed to a state study commission with the passage of a disaster bill that requires the development of a comprehensive plan for the evacuation and housing of pets in cases of emergency.
- A ban on Internet hunting was successful, and the expansion of canned hunting of red deer and elk defeated.
- A yearly subsidy of \$325,000 from state lottery profits that was going to New Hampshire dog and horse racetracks was eliminated.

Rhode Island

- A law that bans the breeding of cats over six months of age without a permit passed, making Rhode Island the first state to legislatively mandate sterilization (see “RI Law Aimed at Feline Overpopulation,” page 2).
- A bill to ban Internet hunting became law.

Vermont

- A law to allow judges to include pets in protection from abuse orders in domestic violence situations followed on the heels of Maine’s law.
- An emergency planning bill passed with several provisions for animals, including liability protection for building owners who allow pets in their facilities during disasters and emergency drills, and the inclusion of The HSUS in a state emergency response commission.

Lobby 101 Takes a Road Trip

Want to know why animal advocates should work on legislation? Need to know who represents you at various levels of government and what influences them? Want tips on lobbying your elected officials about animal issues? Then attend an HSUS Lobby 101 training!

All of these topics, and more, were addressed at several activist training sessions hosted by The HSUS in Vermont and Connecticut this past spring. Active legislative battles provided a relevant backdrop for the trainings in both states. In Vermont, it was a push to pass a bill addressing disaster planning for pets, and in Connecticut, it was a fight against Sunday hunting (both of which subsequently turned into wins for animals!).

The Lobby 101 workshops provide a valuable opportunity for HSUS government affairs and regional staff to work side-by-side with animal advocates. We help de-mystify the legislative process and give you the tools you need to make changes for animals on the law books of your state and community. Please join us at a future training session or contact us to learn more about how you can get involved.

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

- Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.



*Celebrating Animals,
Confronting Cruelty*

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New Englanders Beg Canada to Stop Seal Hunt



THE HSUS

Braving high winds and light snow, about 100 people gathered in Boston's Copley Square, near the Canadian Consulate, to rally in opposition to the seal hunt sanctioned by Canada. The crowd chanted, "End the seal hunt," and held placards with slogans from HSUS's Protect Seals campaign. Despite this protest and others like it across the country, the hunt

went on this year. More than 320,000 baby seals died horrible and needless deaths.

Every year, fishermen club and shoot harp seal pups to death for their fur. During the last three years, the Canadian government has allowed 3 million seals to be killed in this senseless hunt. A veterinary report stated that more than 40 percent of the seals examined were skinned while alive and conscious.

In Boston, HSUS staff and other speakers encouraged the crowd to join the HSUS's boycott of Canadian seafood to offset Canada's subsidy of the fishermen who engage in the hunt.

You can take a few simple steps to help end the hunt for good.

- Write a polite letter to Canada's prime minister opposing the hunt: Right Honorable Stephen Harper; Office of the Prime Minister; 80 Wellington St., Ottawa; Ontario, Canada K1A 0A2; 1-613-992-4211; Fax: 613-941-6900; e-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca.
- Join the Canadian seafood boycott. Visit www.protectseals.org to sign the pledge and learn which caring restaurants and supermarkets have joined. Do not eat or buy Canadian seafood. If you can't be sure, at least do not eat snow crabs from Canada.
- Contact your senators and ask them to co-sponsor Sen. Carl Levin's (D-MI) Senate Resolution 33 condemning Canada's seal hunt. You can find your senators' contact information by using our legislator lookup tool online at www.hsus.org or by calling The HSUS at 202-955-3668. Join us today in protecting baby seals from this senseless hunt.

Joyous!

That's how The HSUS felt when we received a letter from the girls at Kurn Hattin's Hubbard Cottage (right). They included a sample of their homemade hand, face, and body cream, called Joyous, with their donation of \$510. The 11 six- to nine-year-old girls made the cream, which they sold for \$8.50, as a fundraiser for the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The girls gathered and mixed ingredients, labeled and filled jars, and learned about inventory, marketing, sales, presentation, and finances. They had a big sale on Kurn Hattin Day, May 20th, 2006, for which their theme was a tribute to New Orleans.

Kurn Hattin is a non-profit organization that provides a year-round home and school in Westminster, Vermont, for children during troubled periods in their families' lives. The school is located on 280 acres of farmland, which includes a working, teaching farm.

The animals of Katrina thank Christina, Courtney, Savannah, Raven, Scarlett, Maggie, Anastasia, Ashley, Karligash, Jasmine, Alexis, and housemother Miss Sue.



KURN HATTIN



RI Teen Receives Scholarship

Alison Hansen-Decelles (above) was named recipient of the 41st annual Shaw-Worth Memorial Scholarship. The college scholarship, this year awarded at \$2,500, is presented to a New England high school senior in recognition of significant work in the field of animal protection.

As a former student at Rhode Island's Cumberland High School, Alison was instrumental in launching a humane alternatives campaign, sparking a school-wide forum and resulting in a reduction of animal dissections. Through an animal advocates club at school, Alison and other members successfully persuaded cafeteria staff to offer vegetarian and vegan options to students. The club is planning volunteering and fundraising projects to benefit various animal shelters.

Alison will be attending Williams College next fall and is planning to major in secular moral philosophy. After college she foresees earning a Ph.D. to become a professor and philosopher.

"Alison's advocacy work has truly exhibited how one person can make a difference for so many animals," said NERO Director Joanne Bourbeau. "She has used science and determination to challenge the status quo and to make real and significant changes for animals."

For more information about the Shaw-Worth Memorial Scholarship, contact The HSUS New England Regional Office at (802) 368-2790 or via e-mail at nero@hsus.org.

Freeing Hens from Battery Cages



This hen enjoys freedom of movement and the comfort of a nest in which to lay her eggs. Retailers and schools in the New England Region are doing their part to free hens from battery cages.

single sheet of paper on which to live, leading to extremely high levels of stress, injury, and frustration.

The good news is that The HSUS is campaigning

In the United States, nearly 300 million hens are confined in barren battery cages so small the birds can't spread their wings or engage in many other natural behaviors, such as nesting, foraging, perching, and dust bathing. The cages are stacked one on top of another inside huge warehouses on factory farms. Each bird is afforded less space than a

to improve the plight of these animals. Across the country, businesses and schools are joining a growing trend away from the use of eggs from caged hens. National retailers such as Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace have eliminated the sale of cage eggs, and Trader Joe's has converted all of its brand eggs to

continued from "Katrina," page 1

HSUS and its partners. As a result of our efforts, however, the conditions of tragedy that epitomized Katrina have given way to triumphs—triumphs of law, policy, and practice that will have lasting impact within and beyond the Gulf Coast states.

To date, The HSUS has given away or committed \$8.35 million to more than 45 Gulf Coast animal welfare organizations directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. The funds will provide for local groups' ongoing operations and building restoration. The grants include a \$4.5 million package to the Louisiana SPCA and \$965,000 to the Humane Society of South Mississippi—two major organizations whose facilities were destroyed or severely damaged. Another \$2.3 million has been distributed to more than 130 humane societies, animal control agencies, and rescue groups from 29 states that sent staff members to the stricken zones, accepting and caring for Katrina animals. These groups were the backbone of on-the-ground rescue and relief operations.

The HSUS has invested more than \$2.8 million on spaying and neutering campaigns in Louisiana and Mississippi to address the

Gulf Coast region's intractable animal overpopulation problem, exacerbated by the disaster and its aftermath. The HSUS approach includes support for aggressive spay/neuter initiatives in the short term and a long-term follow-up effort. The latter will combine programs to strengthen institutional capacity for spaying and neutering in the region with a public education initiative that targets misconceptions, lack of awareness, and reservations concerning the costs and benefits of spaying and neutering animals.

As an added benefit, this spaying and neutering program ensures that there will be fewer homeless animals on the streets, minimizing the potential for animal suffering when another disaster strikes.

And in that same spirit of preparedness, The HSUS has spent or committed more than \$500,000 on the disbursement of disaster preparedness grants to animal care institutions in the Gulf Coast region, so that they will be better equipped to address their most immediate needs when the next emergency hits. The HSUS has also moved to enhance its own Disaster Services division. We are committed to developing

cage-free. Food service provider Bon Appétit is phasing out the use of cage eggs in all of its 400 cafés nationwide. Even companies such as AOL and Google have ended the use of eggs from caged birds in their employee cafeterias.

More than 90 schools have enacted policies to eliminate or greatly reduce the use of cage eggs. In the New England Region, 13 schools—including Yale University, Tufts University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, and University of New Hampshire—have joined the trend away from abusive cages.

These schools' and companies' cage-free egg policies demonstrate just how quickly battery cage confinement is becoming a thing of the past, and The HSUS encourages other institutions to follow their positive example. For more information about the campaign to free laying hens from the confines of battery cages, visit HumaneEating.com.

the humane movement's most comprehensive disaster response team, with experts in rescue, sheltering, logistics, technology, and veterinary services.

The PETS Act: Preparedness on the Law Books

By far the greatest outcome of The HSUS's year-long response has been the virtually certain enactment of federal legislation that guarantees the incorporation of animals into disaster planning efforts, and lays the groundwork for a transformation of public policy approaches to the handling of animals in emergency situations. The HSUS devoted a great deal of effort and resources to secure passage of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act. As a direct result of this leadership, the Act is on the verge of final passage and approval by President George W. Bush.

Director's Report



By Joanne Bourbeau
*Director of the New England
Regional Office*

New England Legislation Gains

Many of this year's legislative victories for animals in our region were "firsts," thrusting New England into the national spotlight on issues ranging from domestic violence protection for both humans and animals, to the mandatory sterilization of cats, to disaster planning for pets.

Maine's law allowing judges to include pets in protection from abuse orders gained national press coverage. The bill was the brainchild of an attendee at a First Strike presentation by HSUS staff at a state prosecutor's association conference. Its success inspired other states to follow suit, including Vermont. Sen. Vince Illuzzi offered an amendment providing a similar measure to an existing stalking bill. Working in partnership with the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, The HSUS activated our humane action network and lobbied hard for the bill's passage, making Vermont the second state in the nation with a domestic violence bill that protects pets.

The link between animal cruelty and human violence was a convincing argument

with legislators in both states. National studies and first-hand accounts by the victims of abuse clearly show that violence to pets is often a tactic used by batterers to instill fear and hold control over their victims. A 1997 survey of 50 of the largest shelters for battered women in the United States found that 85 percent of women and 63 percent of children entering shelters discussed incidents of pet abuse in the family. Victims of domestic violence may be reluctant to leave an abusive relationship for fear of retaliation upon their pets.

Vermont resident and domestic violence survivor Amy Messina applauded the passage of the law in a statement to the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She recounted her experience of having her dog, Max, taken by her abusive, estranged husband. "I had no idea where Max was for nearly two months. I was devastated," she stated. Law enforcement could not assist her in retrieving her dog, and even though he was eventually returned, he had clearly been abused during his absence, she said. Messina stated that she hopes the new law will afford protection to other victims who may find themselves in similar situations, fearing for the safety of their animals. And so do we.

A Rhode Island bill mandating the sterilization of cats also gained notoriety. While similar measures have passed locally, this is the first state law of its kind. The law also mandates the creation of a local funding mechanism for low-cost spay/neuter services. According to the state Department of Environmental Management, the 39 municipal pounds and eight private shelters in the state euthanized nearly 7,000 cats between 2002 and 2004. One of the bill's staunch supporters, Rep. Peter Lewiss, argued on the House floor that three cats are euthanized for every dog in Rhode Island shelters. Cat overpopulation is a crisis facing



The HSUS is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephanie Hagopian as our new state program manager for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Stephanie is no stranger to the New England office. She has worked closely with our staff over the past 12 years during her tenure with The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA). Welcome aboard, Stephanie!

every community in this country, and we hope this legislation will receive the broad-based support and funding it needs to be successful.

One federal and 10 state disaster bills for animals were pending in 2006 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and the two introduced here in New England were both successful. Legislators in New Hampshire and Vermont passed measures that put the safety of animals in emergencies on the radar screen.

New England will continue to be a leader in the legislative front thanks to our forward-thinking citizen lobbyists and legislators. To learn more about our Humane Action Network and join us for future legislative fights for animals, go to www.hsus.org/joinactionnetwork.

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