

HSUS Grant Aids LSU Spay/Neuter Efforts

A recent HSUS-conducted telephone survey of Louisiana pet owners revealed that there are nearly 1.8 million dogs and cats in homes across the state. Approximately 700,000 (40 percent) of those are not spayed or neutered. Respondents reported that nearly two in 10 dogs and nearly three out of every 10 cats have not visited a veterinarian in the past year.

Such findings underscore why The HSUS contributed \$800,000 to the Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Veterinary Medicine to launch a community companion animal health program, including an active spay/neuter component, that will give LSU veterinary students valuable medical and surgical experience, while providing assistance for animals in underserved communities in southern Louisiana.

"This grant is funded by donations specifically intended to help communities affected by Hurricane Katrina," said SWRO Director Lou Guyton. "The program provides real-world training for students as well as an opportunity to *continued on page 3*

The HSUS presents LSU's School of Veterinary Medicine an \$800,000 check for its spay/neuter program.



OK Ranch a Scene of Horror for Thousands of Animals

It was too late for more than 700 of the sheep, goats, cattle, and horses found starving and freezing on a ranch near Vinita, Oklahoma, but the HSUS Disaster Animal Response Team that arrived on Jan. 19 was able to help the Craig County Sheriff's Office save nearly 1,600 animals from a similar, terrible fate.

As he arrived on the scene of one of the largest animal cruelty cases known in the United States, HSUS Director of Field Rescue Response Jeff Eyre described what he and the rest of the team found. "I saw no animals until we came to the house," he said. "Then we saw bodies of animals lying on the porch and scattered around the house and yard. A closer look and it became clear this was a serious animal welfare issue. The sheep had huddled against the house as though looking for warmth, and that is where they died." One sheep even became lodged in an all-terrain vehicle attempting to find shelter.

In the freezing weather, the animals, already weakened from an apparent lack of food, appeared not to be able to generate enough body heat to survive. Dale Fullerton of the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners was part of the investigation. What he and other investigators found was that most of the water available to the animals was frozen, as was the pasture. With no hay or grain, the animals were slowly starving. HSUS's Cynthia Armstrong described a scene that will continue to haunt her. "There was a sheep that died against a fence. He just collapsed from inability to go



KATHY MILANI/THE HSUS

HSUS's Jeff Eyre finds a dead lamb among many other dead sheep on a porch in Craig County, Okla. The animals had huddled together to try and keep warm.

on. It just really breaks my heart to think of the hours and days that these animals must have suffered prior to their deaths."

Over the course of the next three days, the team helped the Sheriff's Office remove the surviving animals. Ranch owner David B. Bell has been charged with animal cruelty, a felony in Oklahoma, and other charges are pending. This case may be the first in the state to which a bond law enacted last November will apply. Under the law, animal owners may be liable for the cost of animal care during a case's adjudication unless they forfeit the animals.

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AZ Voters Protect Farm Animals



Not long after Arizona voters banned the use of gestation crates like these, Smithfield Foods and Canada's Maple Leaf Foods announced the phase-out of such crates in their operations.

opposing. The measure bans the intensive confinement of breeding pigs and veal calves in tiny crates on corporate factory farms, where the animals cannot turn around or

stretch their limbs. It will provide more humane treatment of farm animals and will stop the spread of corporate factory farms in Arizona. The estimated 16,000 breeding pigs now housed on factory farms in Arizona are kept in gestation crates that prevent them from engaging in natural behaviors.

The HSUS, Arizona Humane Society, Animal Defense League of Arizona, and Farm

Sanctuary led the effort to pass Proposition 204. The measure was endorsed by the "Arizona Republic," "East Valley Tribune," "Arizona Daily Star," and other major papers, and was supported by Sheriff Joe Arpaio, radio commentator Paul Harvey, and many others. The Arizona Farm Bureau, Center for Consumer Freedom, and other groups pumped \$2.5 million into a deceptive campaign to fool voters into thinking Proposition 204 was backed by "extremist" groups, but Arizona voters clearly rebuked this blatantly dishonest campaign. Twelve of Arizona's 15 counties voted "yes" on Proposition 204, and the "yes" campaign eclipsed the "no" campaign by more than 350,000 votes.

"Kindness to animals is a value shared by Americans of all political stripes, and the landslide vote in Arizona proves that rule once again," said Wayne Pacelle, HSUS president and CEO. "Animals need protection from cruelty and abuse, and this ballot measure provides critical protections for animals on modern factory farms."

The HSUS, which led efforts to combat abusive factory farming practices in Arizona, praised last November's overwhelming vote as an unmistakable signal that Americans want public policies that provide for the humane treatment of animals.

Arizona voters approved Proposition 204 in a lopsided vote, giving the measure 62 percent approval with only 38 percent

Push to Upgrade TX, AR Cruelty Laws

The HSUS supports the efforts of two states that geared up to strengthen their animal cruelty laws and send a message that animal cruelty is not to be tolerated. Arkansas-based Humane Society of the Ozarks spearheaded a felony animal cruelty bill that would instate felony charges for aggravated counts of animal cruelty. The bill failed despite public support. "The public is clearly behind stronger laws and sentencing for those who are cruel to animals. Additionally, law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors need better tools to enforce the message," says SWRO Director Lou Guyton.

In Texas, the Texas Humane Legislative Network continues to work for legislation that will repair loopholes in the current statute, which exempts animals such as feral cats. Please check www.hsus.org/legislation for updates on proposed legislation affecting animals in your state, and join the Humane Action Network at www.humanesociety.org.

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A nearby rancher agreed to take care of the remaining animals until the case is resolved. In addition to deploying our Disaster Animal Response Team, The HSUS has helped provide feed, equipment, and veterinary services to assist with the care of the animals.

Amid such suffering, though, was one little miracle. While examining the dead animals on the porch, Eyre found a small puppy, hungry and

dehydrated, but otherwise okay. He became a source of inspiration for the team as they continued their grisly task. "I didn't realize how important he would become," Eyre said. "It's very rewarding to save an animal amidst such carnage." Dale Fullerton took the puppy, now named Lucky, under his wing and reports that he is doing fine.

The HSUS team commends the Craig County Sheriff's Office, the local community, and the state of Oklahoma for their tremendous efforts in responding to this crisis.

A preliminary hearing on the matter of the criminal charges in this case was scheduled for May 24.



This pup survived the terrible conditions found at the ranch and helped inspire rescuers to persevere in their sad task.

Texas-Based Continental Airlines Has Much To Crow About

Many U.S. airlines fly into Guam, but Texas-based Continental is the only one that ships live animals as cargo. It is estimated that between late 2003 and late 2005, Continental unwittingly shipped 6,000 fighting roosters to Guam, where cockfighting is rampant and claims the lives of hundreds of thousands of birds in bloody death matches. After HSUS investigators revealed that cockfighters were using specious claims for shipping the birds overseas, the airline promptly severed its ties to fighting bird breeders.



Continental Airlines' new policy prohibiting shipments of adult poultry overseas has dealt a blow to cockfighters who sold birds in Guam.

Federal law bans foreign export of animals for fighting, but gamecock breeders in the United States have regularly shipped their birds out of the country. They have done it with the unwitting help of airlines such as Continental, unaware that their planes were being used to transport animals for fighting.

When shipping birds to cockfighting hotbeds such as Guam, the unscrupulous breeders often claim the fowl are for "show" or for pets. HSUS investigators debunked the cockfighters' claims by showing, through public records from the Guam Department of Agriculture, that the people shipping fighting birds from the United States were cockfighters—individuals who run ads in U.S. cockfighting magazines for "the gamest cocks alive" and birds who "demand respect in the ring."

By refusing to ship adult poultry overseas anymore, Continental Airlines is helping enforce the Animal Welfare Act and stop the illegal flow of fighting birds. More importantly, the airline has helped deliver another blow to the already dwindling cockfighting industry.

The U.S. Congress also can help ground this cruel and illegal industry by passing the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, which would increase penalties for interstate or foreign transport of fighting animals from a misdemeanor to a felony.

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make a lasting, positive impact on the future of animals and the communities they will help."

Students will gain surgical and medical experience by serving the needs of spay/neuter clinics, animal shelters, the sheltering operation at the Dixon Correctional Institute, and low-income communities in southern Louisiana with a focus on the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. The curriculum will also include training in animal wellness, pet population dynamics, disaster medicine, and animal behavior issues.

In addition to the programs that will be developed as a result of the \$800,000 grant, local groups in the Gulf Coast area are already working hard to address the issue of pet overpopulation.

The Southern Animal Foundation continues to work on this problem, and surgeries have increased dramatically since the addition of a surgical annex that was added to accommodate more animals. The HSUS contributed \$575,000 to add the annex and to help subsidize spay/neuter costs.

Additionally the Humane Alliance's Big Fix Rig, a mobile spay/neuter surgical unit, returned to Lafayette Parish in March 2007. The Rig is designed to accommodate cats and has the potential to play an instrumental role in sterilizing cats in several parishes impacted by Katrina.

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**

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
6815 Manhattan Blvd., Ste. 102
Fort Worth, TX 76120

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) _____

New Mexico Bans Cockfighting



New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson has signed legislation banning cockfighting in the state. Now this bloodsport remains legal only in Louisiana.

homes. New Mexico's shelters would receive \$2 million to improve their infrastructure and services, and the state's spay/neuter program would receive \$500,000. Additionally, \$100,000 in grants would be available to organizations that provide foster homes for pets.

Grants totaling \$500,000 would be offered to sanctuaries that care for aged and neglected horses, with a specific emphasis on sanctuaries that care for wild horses and horses no longer wanted by farms, ranches, or sports facilities. The state's livestock board would be allotted \$150,000 to help efforts in caring for abused and neglected horses.

Perhaps the broadest of the proposals is the creation of an Animal Welfare Oversight Board. The board, created with \$150,000 in recurring funding, would be in charge of addressing state-level animal welfare issues and would fall under New Mexico's Regulation and Licensing Department.

Looking to the next generation, Richardson included \$100,000 to set up a pilot program to teach schoolchildren about the humane care and treatment of animals.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson ended legalized cockfighting in his state with a stroke of a pen on March 12, when he signed into law a ban on the bloodsport. Richardson said, "I am proud that New Mexico will now soon move beyond cockfighting and join the 48 states that have already banned this outdated practice."

The HSUS, which partnered with Animal Protection of New Mexico to push the ban, thanked New Mexico lawmakers and Gov. Richardson for their support and immediately called on Louisiana lawmakers and on Gov. Kathleen Blanco to pass anti-cockfighting legislation and rid itself of this stigma. Louisiana's legislation session starts April 30.

"This is a major moment in our march to rid our nation of this barbaric and reprehensible practice," Wayne Pacelle, HSUS president and CEO, said. "Gov. Richardson got the job done, as he promised, and did so with help from lawmakers up and down the state."

His support of the cockfighting ban was unveiled along with a package of 10 animal-friendly proposals on Dec. 27, 2006. The \$3.6 million plan covers pets, horses, and wildlife. It is the first time a state's chief executive has offered such a broad-ranging animal welfare agenda.

About two-thirds of the proposed funding is targeted at improving the welfare of pets awaiting adoption in shelters and foster

Take Action to Oppose Texas Horse Slaughter

In March, a federal court agreed that two slaughter plants in Texas are violating state law by slaughtering horses for human consumption. This effectively makes horse slaughter for human consumption illegal in the state. However, the state Legislature has just introduced legislation (H.B. 2476/S.B. 1742) that would legalize horse slaughter for human consumption. We need you to contact your state representative and senator and urge them to oppose H.B. 2476/S.B. 1742 and any efforts to legalize horse slaughter for human consumption.

Each year nearly 100,000 horses are slaughtered in the United States and processed for human consumption. Once these horses are killed, their flesh is shipped abroad, as there is no market for it in the U.S. Their owners are often totally unaware of the pain, fear, and suffering their horses endure before being slaughtered. There are only three slaughter plants that do this, and two of them are in Texas.

Additionally, horse slaughter promotes horse theft. The slaughter plants are a perfect outlet for horse thieves to dispose of their stolen horses. The slaughter plants brag that a horse "goes from the stable to the table in 48 hours." After California banned horse slaughter in 1998, reported horse thefts fell by more than 34 percent.

We are asking Texas residents to please contact your state representative and senator today and urge them to oppose H.B. 2476/S.B. 1742, which would legalize horse slaughter for human consumption. Be sure to tell them you are a constituent.

After you make your calls to your state legislators, also contact Gov. Rick Perry and let him know you oppose the legalization of horse slaughter in Texas. The main switchboard number to Gov. Perry's office is 512-463-2000. For updates on the fight to protect America's horses in Texas, or assistance locating your legislative representatives, please contact our office.

LA Last Holdout for Cockfighting

In Louisiana's last legislative session, Sen. Lentini introduced S.B. 652, which would have criminalized cockfighting. For the first time in history, the proposed bill passed in the Senate. Unfortunately, it failed in the House. The 2007 session will bring a renewed push to outlaw this barbaric practice. Louisiana is now the last state where cockfighting remains legal. A March 2004 poll by Hill Research Consultants found that 82 percent of Louisiana voters favor a statewide ban on cockfighting, with 71 percent strongly in favor of it. A mere 12 percent want cockfighting to remain legal.

Legislators Praised for Positive Record on Animals

On February 28, 2007, The HSUS and Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF) presented awards to 134 members of the 109th Congress for their legislative efforts to protect animals during the past year. U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), who is co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, received the top honor for his leadership on three animal protection bills in 2006, one of which was enacted into law. Three senators and about three dozen representatives found time to stop by an evening reception in the U.S. Capitol building to accept their awards and visit with HSUS and HSLF staff.

From the Southwest region, Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) was honored for her leadership in sponsoring the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, which seeks to stop the slaughter of horses for food exports to other countries. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) introduced the Captive Primate Safety Act to stop the sale of primates for the exotic pet trade, and Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) was acknowledged for helping to pass that same legislation in the U.S. Senate in 2006. Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) introduced legislation to require the addition of a bittering agent in sweet-tasting engine coolant and antifreeze to prevent children and animals from being poisoned, and Rep. Jim McCrery (R-La.) introduced legislation to amend the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection (CHIMP) Act of 2000 to prohibit any chimpanzee in the national sanctuary system from being returned to research use. Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Rep. Dennis Moore (D-Kan.) were both honored for scoring a perfect 100 percent on the 2006 “Humane Scorecard,” which tracks key votes as well as co-sponsorship of important pro-animal bills. It is designed to help animal advocates assess the performance of their U.S. senators and U.S. representatives.

In addition to Shays, The HSUS and HSLF honored 21 Humane Champions who sponsored pro-animal legislation in 2006 and scored a perfect 100 percent on the “Humane Scorecard,” 39 Legislative Leaders who sponsored pro-animal legislation in 2006, and 73 Humane Advocates who scored a



Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) receives her award as a Legislative Leader from HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle.

perfect 100 percent on the “Humane Scorecard.” For more information, visit www.humanescorecard.org.

The HSUS and HSLF are working in the 110th Congress to enact legislation on which the 109th Congress did not complete action, such as bills to stop horse slaughter, animal fighting, slaughter of “downer” livestock, “puppy mills,” the use in research of dogs and cats obtained from random sources, canned and Internet hunting, and interstate commerce in captive primates. They also hope to require labeling of all fur-trimmed garments and help enforce the ban on dog and cat fur, among other new initiatives.

Southwest States Honorees

SWRO is proud to have several legislators among the honorees, including Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Rep. Jim McCrery (R-La.), Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), and Rep. Dennis Moore (D-Kan.).

How Humane Is Your City?

With pets residing in 63 percent of American households, most Americans are engaging with an animal (or animals) every day. At The HSUS, we know there is tremendous public interest in and support for protecting animals at higher levels—as evidenced by the scores of laws that pass each year in city councils, state legislatures, and in Congress, as well as by the growing markets for humane products, among other signs.

But what does it mean to live in a humane society? How can we judge our community?

Our new project, the Humane Index, offers residents in the largest 25 U.S. metro areas an opportunity to evaluate how humane their community is. The Index—and the dozen criteria upon which the rankings are based—provides new insights into what it means to be a humane society, but also establishes a benchmark for future measurement. What percent of local pet stores showcase puppies in windows? How much “fur shame” is in your town? Are you represented by congressional compassion?

At www.humaneindex.org, you can compare major U.S. cities and find things you can do to make your city more humane. This highly interactive site provides details about the rankings, lists recent highs and lows in your community, points you to videos and other resources, and gives you one-click ways to take more action!

The San Francisco metro area earned the honor of being America’s most humane city, according to the Humane Index. Here in the southwest region the following cities and their environs ranked 17, 22, and 23, respectively: Phoenix, Houston, and Dallas. But humaneness is an evolving process, and no metro area is perfect. In fact, every Humane Index city is in the bottom five on at least one measure. The good news, however, is that we all do something well. Every Humane Index city has at least one top 10 ranking. That’s reason enough to believe that with a little more work—on each of our parts—we can all live in a humane society.

Check out www.humaneindex.org today!

Director's Report



S. K. GRAMBOFF/HSUS

By Lou Guyton
*Director of the Southwest
Regional Office*

Thanks to Our Partners

The year is well underway and our office has been busy with a flurry of activities affecting thousands of animals. Each involves our ability to work with people from different fields of work and all walks of life; all are professionals who recognize the significance of protecting animals. The unique relationship these partners have with their own communities can oftentimes mean the difference between life or death for thousands of animals. Without their help, we cannot make a difference.

Jay Sabatucci, Cynthia Armstrong, and members of an HSUS disaster strike team recently returned from Vinita, Oklahoma, where 600 sheep and other animals were found dead and nearly 1,600 more starving. Many of the dead were found lying in stacks of three or more where they sought warmth and refuge from the bodies of their dying pasture mates. Working with the Oklahoma Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, local law enforcement, ranchers, and the community, we are proud that we were able to assist in relocating and helping the

surviving animals in this most difficult case. In Texas, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals finally ruled that a 1949 Texas law made horse slaughter for human consumption in our state illegal. We have been monitoring the slaughter plants for activity, urging airlines not to ship illegally slaughtered horse meat, and working to negotiate a future for horses who had been slated for slaughter.

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association just held the Texas State Animal Resource Team Summit in Houston, for which The HSUS was a sponsor. This summit brought together members of the Texas Animal Health Commission, agriculture extension agents, agriculture producers, veterinarians, disaster responders, and the animal welfare community to plan how to assist Texas animals in times of disaster.

In Kansas, The HSUS has joined the fight to stop the eradication of prairie dogs on privately owned Logan County ranch. And on the heels of Proposition 204 in Arizona, after voters strongly supported the ban of gestation crates, Smithfield Foods, Inc., the largest pig producer in America has announced that it will phase out the use of this inhumane factory farming practice even though it has no pig-producing operations in Arizona. Canadian-based Maple Leaf Foods followed suit.

HSUS activities continue on the Gulf Coast and in Louisiana. We are contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to spay/neuter programs that will help stem the terrible pet overpopulation problem in the area, brought to light after Hurricane Katrina. These efforts involve participation from universities, government agencies, and correctional facilities, among others.

These are just some examples of our working partnerships that are achieving greater victories for the animals. Not only do we need your continued support and action,

we need to grow that support with others. Thank you for your help.

Courtroom Victory for Horses

On March 28, 2007, a court decision effectively shut down the last operation slaughtering horses for human consumption in Dekalb, Ill. This took place as we were fighting bills in Texas that would legalize this practice.

The ruling temporarily halted U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections, effectively shutting down the operations. The HSUS helped to provide a safe haven for horses who had been destined for slaughter. *Now we need to pass federal legislation that would end horse slaughter for human consumption once and for all!*

To check to see if your U.S. representative is already a co-sponsor of H.R. 503, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. If he or she is a co-sponsor, please thank him or her. If not, please make a short, polite phone call to your U.S. representative and your two U.S. senators today. Ask that they please protect our horses from slaughter by supporting H.R. 503 or S. 311, the companion Senate bill. If you need assistance or more information, please contact our office.

Contacting HSUS

Write:

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Celebrating Animals, Confronting Cruelty

The *SWRO Regional News* is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Southwest Regional Office, 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Ste. 102, Fort Worth, TX 76120; 817-492-8000. Lou Guyton, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays.

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