

Into the Fray

In January, I joined our Emergency Services unit on a cockfighting raid in Mississippi. While seizing the birds and putting the owner out of this business, we also rescued two Great Pyrenees tethered at the site—sentinels to ward off hawks, foxes, and other predators. The dogs probably never got any loving attention; they were just there to perform a task. Yet the one pictured with me here was not only beautiful, but so friendly, and he couldn't get close enough as I petted him. The highlight of the deployment for me was spending time with him before our team transported him for adoption. I was almost tempted to adopt him myself, but since I live in an apartment in the city, I let my better judgment win the day. Like any guarding dog, he needs room to roam, and he'll make a family living in the country very happy.



PAUL TURNER/THE HSUS

I am so proud of the work of our Emergency Services team. They are almost constantly on the road, breaking up animal fighting operations, puppy mills, and hoarding cases, or responding to natural disasters like hurricanes, forest fires, or tornadoes. They're the nation's leading SWAT team for animals: When animals are in crisis, they are ready to intervene.

And "intervening" is what we are all about. We are not bystanders, sitting on the sidelines as animals face threats. You support The HSUS because you want us to stop abuse, to call individuals and institutions to a better way of dealing with animals, and, on occasion, to shake up the status quo. And that's what we do—every day.

Here in *All Animals*, you'll see the breadth of our work, from saving feral cats to fighting wildlife poachers to implementing innovative programs to reduce euthanasia in the Gulf Coast. There is no group in the world like The HSUS, blending hands-on care and rescue with public policy work, corporate campaigning, and education in the United States and abroad.

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We use our strength and expertise to influence the most powerful decision-makers. That's why when President Obama and his team took office, we provided the White House and its executive agencies with a 100-point "Change Agenda for Animals"—an ambitious set of policy reforms including puppy mills, factory farming, horse slaughter, and even an animal protection foreign policy. You can see it at humanesociety.org/changeagenda.

One plank called on the federal government to halt the use of chimpanzees in invasive biomedical research. But we did not just add that item to the list and leave it at that. In early March, we disclosed the results of a nine-month undercover investigation at one of the nation's largest primate research laboratories, documenting the mistreatment of animals at this sprawling facility that confines more than 300 chimps and 6,000 other primates. Our investigator, hired by the laboratory, wore a hidden camera that recorded the desperate isolation of chimps, the self-mutilating behavior of other primates, and the fear and anguish of animals anticipating more torment in a grim world of metal and concrete cages that the public would not see but for our intervention.

This laboratory investigation should outrage the American public in a different way than last year's Westland/Hallmark slaughter plant investigation. Here, our tax dollars are being used to torment and abuse thousands of chimps and other primates, and again, we found that the government was not living up to its promises and had failed the American public, along with animal victims.

The National Institutes of Health has a written policy that it will no longer breed chimps, yet we found your tax dollars being used to do that very thing. Each chimp costs about \$20,000 a year to house; with a lifespan of 50 to 60 years, that's more than \$1 million for every animal born into that dark world. Our investigator found what we believe to be hundreds of violations of the Animal Welfare Act at the lab and documented its utter failure to comply with a law passed by Congress more than 20 years ago to ensure the psychological well-being of primates.

Animals need an unflinching, relentless, mainstream force to defend them. That's what your HSUS is. We identify human-caused cruelty and abuse and we jump into the fray. The more you invest in us, the more results we'll deliver for the animals every day. That's our pledge to you. And to them.

Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States