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 HSUS. More information is available on www.hsus.org/wildlife.

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

Sea Lions under Siege on the West Coast

May 26, 2006, was a landmark day in the protection of Steller sea lions. A judge from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled in favor of a lawsuit filed last year by The HSUS. The judge found that the National Marine Fisheries Service violated federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act, when it issued permits to researchers that allowed them to capture, invasively sample, and hot brand 3,000 Steller sea lions from endangered and threatened populations from California to Alaska. The government was forced to revoke research permits and conduct an environmental impact review.

Sea lions in Washington and Oregon are still far from safe. Both Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife have requested authority to pursue lethal methods of controlling seals and sea lions at the Bonneville Dam in Oregon. The controversy continues to surround the issue of the sea lions feeding upon endangered salmon as they try to pass narrow fish ladders at dams and locks. Salmon have declined as a result of dams that block their passage, siltation of spawning streams, competition from hatchery-raised fish, and poorly managed commercial fisheries. Predation by sea lions is the least of their problems. The health of the populations of both the salmon and the sea lions are important. “Killing one threatened species in order to save another is short-sighted and ineffective” said Jennifer Hillman, HSUS deputy director of ballot initiatives. For more information, visit www.hsus.org/wildlife.

Stopping Cougar Killing In Oregon

There are only an estimated 5,100 cougars living in Oregon. Federal and state agencies want to kill approximately 4,000 of them over a five-year period. To stop this horrific plan, The HSUS, other humane organizations, and a number of conservation groups filed suit in June to stop the killing. The groups bringing suit charge that the decision by officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to kill the cougars on behalf of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife without first examining the potentially adverse environmental effects violates the National Environmental Policy Act.

“Indiscriminately reducing the cougar population is a biologically reckless and scientifically flawed approach for reducing conflicts, yet this is the sole focus of the continued on page 2.
### RAVS: More Than Just Spay/Neuter

Each year, HSUS's Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) provides spay and neuter and vaccination services for thousands of under­ served pets and their families throughout the United States and the world. But sometimes, the volunteer veterinary teams come across a case requiring much, much more.

In May 2000, HSUS's Paul Bruce joined RAVS on a visit to the Hoopa tribe in California. There they met Buddy, a young sheep herder who had been hit by a car several months earlier. Buddy was a gentle, happy soul who had mostly recovered from his injuries, but had severe nerve damage to his left front leg, which caused it to hang limp and useless from his large frame. Now mostly active, Buddy was beginning to damage the muley's leg, and it was only a matter of time until it would begin to cause him serious problems. It needed to be removed.

Buddy's family could not afford such a surgery, so the RAVS doctors, led by Director Etc. Davis, agreed to do the job. Buddy's surgery was long and difficult, but he came through it beautifully. Over the next 48 hours, the RAVS staff came to know and love Buddy and his family. By the time they left, Buddy was the star of the clinic and everyone associated with his case was sad to see him go, but happy to have been able to help such a sweet, loving boy.

The RAVS staff at the Hoopa clinic performed 130 spay/neuter surgeries over the four-day event and provided vaccinations exams for more than 300 others. The Hoop tribe has been more and more active with each year's RAVS visit, and is currently seeking to start its own SPA and shelter—the ultimate RAVS success story.

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### Freeing Hens from Battery Cages

These hens are in a battery cage in which they can't spread their wings or engage in many other natural behaviors, such as nesting, foraging, preening, 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 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 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—as well as California retailers Jimbo's Naturally and Lassen Natural Foods—have eliminated the sale of cage eggs, and Trader Joe's has converted all of its brand eggs to 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 West Coast Region, 33 schools—including University of San Francisco, Stanford Business School, Lewis and Clark College, and Seattle University—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.

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### SF Supports Seafood Boycott

The momentum of support for Canadian seals continues to grow with 35 more restaurants in San Francisco signing the HSUS's Pledge to boycott Canadian snow crab and other seafood until Canada stops its yearly slaughter of hundreds of thousands of baby seals.

Moreover, in a major development, the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, consisting of 800 restaurants in the San Francisco area, has voted overwhelmingly to support the Canadian seafood boycott.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome such famous San Francisco restaurants as Cafe de la Paz and Market Bar to the growing list of supporters for the boycott,” said Patricia Ragan, director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association. “All across the country, consumers, restaurants, and chefs are helping seals by signing on to this campaign. This is illustrated by the commendable action of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association.”

Sealing is an off-season activity of commercial fishermen from Canada's East Coast. More than two-thirds of Canadian seafood is exported to the United States, producing $2.8 billion annually for the Canadian economy and making the industry a viable target for a boycott.

Since the launch of the seafood boycott by The HSUS in March 2005, the value of Canadian snow crab exports to the United States has dropped by $160 million compared to the same time frame in the previous year, a 34 percent decline.

A list of all companies supporting the Protect Seals boycott of Canadian seafood is at www.restaurantseals.org. For more information and to sign the boycott pledge, please visit www.protectseals.org.

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### The PETS Act: Preparedness on the Law Books

By far the greatest outcome of The HSUS's year-long response to the Gulf Coast region's intractable animal over­ population problem, exacerbated by the disaster and its after­ effects, the PETS Act 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, 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 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 $2.5 million on spaying and neutering campaigns in Louisiana and Mississippi to address the Gulf Coast region's intractable animal over­ population problem, exacerbated by the disaster and its after­ effects, the PETS Act 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, 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.

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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 occurs. The HSUS has also committed to enhance its own Disaster Services division. We are committed to developing the humane movement's most comprehen­ sive disaster response team, with experts in rescue, sheltering, logistics, technology, and veterinary services.
California

Felony animal fighting penalties. introduced by Sen. Nell Soto, S.B. 1349 is the third attempt to provide the option of a felony penalty for second or subsequent violations of the animal and gamecock fighting statutes. The bill passed the Senate and the Assembly, and at this printing it is before the governor. "California will continue to be a safe haven for cockfighters until a felony threat is in place," says WCRO Director Eric Sahlak. "They are flecking here from other states that have felonies. We are confident Gov. Schwarzenegger will sign this important bill." 

Disaster planning for animals. Introduced by Leland Yee, A.B. 450 requires the office of Emergency Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding with California Department of Food and Agriculture to incorporate the California animal Response Emergency System program into their emergency planning. Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many states are passing legislation to ensure safe evacuation for people and their animals. A.B. 450 passed the Assembly and is before Gov. Schwarzenegger.

Field coursing with live animals. A.B. 2110 provides that any person who knowingly engages in a competition in which dogs hunt live rabbits, hares, or foxes is guilty of a misdemeanor. After a television news story in San Francisco exposed the horrors of this type of event, Assembly Member Loni Hancock introduced A.B. 2110, which would put an end to these unnecessary events in which jackrabbits are chased and killed by sight hounds such as greyhounds, salsikis, and Afghan hounds. A.B. 2110 passed one committee and then failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee because of concerns about perceived costs and hunting interests.

Hawaii

Forfeiture and bonding for animals in cruelty cases. One of the most important Hawaiian laws passed on behalf of animal cruelty investigations was signed by Hawaii's governor in June 2006. H.B. 3239 and S.B. 2924 give law enforcement officers authority to enter a residence to seize a pet, even if a warrant is not obtained, when they have probable cause to believe a crime has been committed. The bill also provides an avenue for the court to decide a pet's disposition pending the outcome of proceedings.

Washington

Washington has zero tolerance for animal fighters. Earlier this year, Gov. Christine Gregoire signed a law that makes it a felony to be a spectator at an animal fight. The bill passed the House and the Senate with no nay votes. The HSUS thanks Gov. Gregoire and Washington legislators for sending a clear message that animal fighting is cruel and will not be tolerated.

For more about HSUS efforts to end animal fighting, please visit www.hsus.org.

Cockfighting in Santa Barbara?

You wouldn't think of Santa Barbara County as a haven for cockfighting. But on June 23, 2006, HSUS's Curt Ransom, Paul Bruce, and Chris Sanfo joined with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, which served a search warrant at a dilapidated cockfighting and training facility in Lompoc, California, just a month prior, another raid in nearby Gonzalez involved several hundred gamecocks. The Lompoc facility is a 12- to 15-year-old makeshift maze of low-ceilinged, cobweb-infested corridors and passageways housing 1,000 gamefowl.

Animal control and humane officers from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties photographed, banded, and inventoried hundreds of gamecocks found in various stages of neglect. There were dead and dying birds and others with feathers missing and comb and spurs cut to make them ready for their next scheduled death bout. Also found on the property were sharp knives that are tied to birds' legs for combat and available cage doors used to confine the birds for the fights. "This is one of the most pitiful places I have ever seen," said Sanfo. "These animals suffer incredible cruelty that they make it to the cockfighting ring.

The large complex, made up of wood and wire with many of the birds unable to access adequate food or water, is also a fire hazard, eye sore, and a threat to young children who were present during the raid. Three were arrested on the spot. To 20 gamecock owners were being investigated for possible charges of violating California's animal fighting statutes.

Cockfighting in California is only a misdemeanor, and most cockfighters consider being caught part of the cost of doing business. For the third legislative session in a row, the HSUS has sponsored legislation to put some teeth into the law. Until then, California will remain a cockfighting hazard, as all its neighboring states have felony animal fighting penalties. S.B. 1349 needs your support. Read more about this bill in "Legislative Update."

No Roos in Shoes!

H er's a fact guaranteed to take the spring out of your step: Many makers of athletic shoes use kangaroo skin in their products. To stop this, The HSUS filed an amicus brief in June with the California Supreme Court in support of a lawsuit challenging several athletic retailers' sale of kangaroo skin shoes in direct violation of state law. The case was filed in 2003 by a Los Angeles resident and Vivá International Voice for Animals, an animal protection organization.

In 1970, the California Legislature passed a law prohibiting the import and sale of certain wildlife parts and products, including kangaroo. The purpose was to protect animals from becoming endangered or threatened, to assist law enforcement by prohibiting trade in species identical in appearance to a protected species, and to protect species from cruel and unnecessary killing.

Nevertheless, Adobe and other retailers continue to sell shoes made of kangaroo skin in California based on the contention that the state statute is preempted by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), even though kangaroos are not subject to federal regulatory control. Last year, the court of appeal sided with Adidas, finding that although the federal government is no longer regulating kangaroos at all, the state law is preempted by "general" federal objectives of encouraging Australia to maintain effective kangaroo management. With the support of both the California Attorney General's Office and The HSUS, plaintiffs sought and obtained review in the California Supreme Court on March 1, 2006.

The HSUS has asked the California Supreme Court to reverse the court of appeal's decision because it conflicts with decades of well-established case law concerning the relationship between federal and state wildlife management. And because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the Australian red, eastern gray, and western gray kangaroo from the ESA and rescinded the special regulations maintaining their importance into the United States in 1993, there is no current, explicit federal oversight of the kangaroo that would otherwise prohibit California from protecting these species.

The court of appeals decision not only allows these defendants to flout California law, but also speaks of the state of all authority over species no longer receiving federal protection," said Jonathan R. Lovvorn, HSUS vice president of animal protection litigation. "The decision is patently flawed and will frustrate both state and federal conservation efforts."

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

Please send me the 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.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, OFFICE OF ANIMAL PROTECTION, 2110 K STREET, NW, SUITE 600, WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1205

THE HUMAN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
Confronting Cruelty Celebrating Animals Challenging Cruelty

No Roos in Shoes!

A recent cockfighting case in Lompoc (see story at right) emphasizes the need for California to follow Washington's example and pass felony level penalties for animal fighting.

River Cats Still "Safe at Home"

Cats are America's most popular pets, but an estimated one-third of all cat owners allow their pets to roam outside, needlessly putting their feline family members at risk.

For the fourth year running, The HSUS and the 2003 Pacific Coast League Champion Sacramento River Cats teamed up to host their annual Safe at Home game to raise awareness of the dangers faced by outdoor cats and encourage cat owners to keep their pets safe indoors. This year's event was held on June 17, 2006, and was attended by staff and volunteers of 11 different animal control organizations, shelters, and veterinary hospitals. The first 500 attendees received free T-shirts, and HSUS staff were available throughout the game to hand out free cat-care information, answer questions, and educate baseball fans about the benefits of keeping their furry friends indoors.

During the game, sportscaster Johnny Dokslow of KSTE radio interviewed HSUS's Paul Bruce. "People do not realize the extreme perils their cats face outside," said Bruce. "Besides traffic, predators, and disease, cats can fall victim to mistreatment and can pose a risk to birds and other wild animals. We hope that once people know the facts, they will be more inclined to keep their kitty safe at home."
In addition to seeking legislative improvements, The HSUS has increased disaster-response training opportunities for our staff and volunteers as well as for local agencies across the country. Several HSUS emergency animal sheltering courses are scheduled for California and Washington this fall, and California will host the National Conference on Animals in Disasters in 2008.

I suppose I should be feeling a little less nervous about potential disasters with all the attention finally being paid to this issue by our elected officials. With future disasters a certainty, passage of state and federal legislation could help save thousands of people and pets from anguish—even loss of life.

Still, we must remember that the inclusion of animals in emergency planning is just one facet of a multifaceted issue. Even more important is the recognition that responsibility for planning for disasters starts with each of us as pet owners.

For more information about HSUS disaster services and what you can do plan for pets in disasters, please visit www.hsus.org/disaster.

A disaster kit for pets should be part of every animal owner's household. The kit should contain essentials your pet will need for at least five days away from home. Remember, during a disaster, take your pets with you.

Contacting HSUS

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Celebrating Animals, Confronting Cruelty

By Eric Sakach  
Director of the West Coast Regional Office

Disaster Preparedness Begins at Home

Events such as the hurricanes that ravaged the Gulf Coast last year have brought to the forefront the importance of emergency preparedness for people and animals. As a result of the animal issues that arose during Katrina and Rita, many states have since rushed to make sure that animals are adequately addressed in their emergency planning at the state and local levels.

In California, Assembly Member Leland Yee introduced A.B. 450 to require the Office of Emergency Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to incorporate the California Animal Response in Emergencies System into their emergency planning. At this printing, A.B. 450 is on the governor's desk.

On the federal level, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act requires state and local agencies to include pets and service animals in disaster plans and consider the needs of individuals with pets and service animals in the event of a major disaster. The House has passed its version of the PETS Act (H.R. 3858) by a landslide 349 to 24 vote, and the Senate passed its version unanimously.

CA: Vote “No” on Prop. 90

Proponents are trying to sell Prop. 90 as eminent domain reform, but hidden in the measure are extreme provisions that would erode our ability to pass laws that protect natural resources, wildlife, and habitat; ensure water quality and adequate water supplies; and regulate growth and development. Prop. 90’s far-reaching provisions allow virtually anyone to sue claiming a new law or regulation has impacted the value of property or business—no matter how far-fetched the claim. The HSUS urges California voters to protect wildlife and the environment by saying “no” to Prop. 90.

Portland: Vote “Yes” on Measure 26-80

Little can be done in the Portland metropolitan region over the next decade to protect wildlife that will rival the positive impact of the bond measure to protect natural areas, parks, and streams.

Bond Measure 26-80 will protect wildlife and preserve open space, making the city’s metropolitan area a true haven for Portland’s wildlife. The HSUS considers this measure to be one that will set up shelters without walls. We urge all voters in the Portland metropolitan area (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties) to vote “yes” on Bond Measure 26-80 this November 7. To find out more, please visit: www.savenaturalareas.org.