With more than 16,000 rehabilitating and permanent residents under their care, staff at The HSUS’s five animal care centers contended with the added challenges of impending hurricanes, floods, and wildfires in 2011. They weathered the storms and went on to expand their programs so that even more animals will have a second chance.

1 The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center
Ramona, California
Melvin and Lenny were two of four orphaned bobcats rescued, raised, and released in 2011. The dynamic duo, fitted with radio collars before their release, are reported to be doing well. They are among the nearly 500 animals who received care at the center throughout the year.

2 South Florida Wildlife Center
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
The warm Florida climate means it’s nearly always baby season. Of the nearly 13,000 animals cared for in 2011, 1,438 were orphans raised and released back into the wild. While growing and rehabbing, raccoons now have the run of a new habitat designed just for them.

3 Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch
Murchison, Texas
RooRoo is one of the most popular of the nearly 1,100 animals who share the sanctuary’s 1,250 acres. Once forced to box in a circus, the gentle gray kangaroo lost an arm and was surrendered to Black Beauty, where he now hangs out with an elderly blind goat named Kingston.

4 Cape Wildlife Center
Barnstable, Massachusetts
Of the 1,700+ animals cared for in 2011, hundreds of birds, reptiles, and small mammals were treated and released. All raptor chicks received were successfully renested or adopted by others of their species, while 22 raccoons, four foxes, and a coyote were reunited with their families.

5 Duchess Sanctuary
Douglas County, Oregon
Where’s Waldo? He’s roaming the 1,120-acre Duchess Sanctuary with nearly 200 other horses rescued from abuse and neglect. Staff spent nearly three years nursing him back to health and earning his trust. Finally, in 2011, he was able to join the herd. “When I see Waldo nose-to-nose with another horse, I know our patience has paid off,” says ranch manager Jennifer Kunz.