Hundreds of large-scale breeders in Missouri have "It's a song about The HSUS helped secure a nearly 40 percent In a change pressed for by HSUS staff, the The rescue from neglect from Maryland.

KATHRYN MCGRIFF Taking a Stand

Seven years ago, when Clumber spaniel breeder Kathryn McGriff discovered the breed she loved was being trafficked by puppy mills, she investigated the industry for ABC7 in Washington, D.C., where she was a producer. Continuing her fight, in 2011 McGriff joined The HSUS's new Breeders Advisory and Resource Council. "Reputable breeders are perhaps the best advocates for animal welfare," she says. "We are committed to the breeds we raise. We want to see them placed in loving homes. ... We can’t allow ourselves to be affiliated ... with people who create dogs like they’re on an assembly line."

Through investigations, consumer education, legislative campaigns, and breeder outreach, we’re shuttering the mass commercial facilities that raise puppies in cruel conditions.

TURNING THE TIDE: Hundreds of large-scale breeders in Missouri have dropped their commercial licenses since the 2010 passage of Proposition B, an HSUS-led ballot initiative cracking down on puppy mills. While Missouri lawmakers weakened some portions of the new law, they later strengthened important standards and provided $1.1 million for enforcement. The HSUS also helped enact laws against puppy mills in six other states in 2011.

SUPPLY CHAIN EXPOSED: The Today show aired an HSUS investigation connecting what may be the nation’s largest online puppy broker to puppy mills; our attorneys and a Florida law firm filed a consumer protection suit against Purebred Breeders. A second investigation linked more than 100 New York pet stores to puppy mills.

REACHING CONSUMERS: “It’s a song about loving and caring for something or someone so much that your heart just goes out to them. It’s how I feel about the poor dogs in the puppy mills,” says two-time Grammy winner Colbie Caillat of her song “Make It Rain,” used in The HSUS’s PSA for Puppy Mill Action Week in May. More than 33,000 people pledged to not buy animals from pet stores or online (bringing total pledgers to 300,000).

FEDERAL ARENA: More than 32,000 people signed a petition submitted by The HSUS and other groups asking President Obama to require licensing and inspections for commercial breeders who sell directly to the public. Seeking the same federal oversight, the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act gained 200+ cosponsors.

1,600+ pet stores signed, by year’s end, an HSUS pledge to support adoption programs instead of selling puppies.

We are... shutting down puppy mills

By rescuing and rehoming animals in need, and campaigning against cruelties such as soring and horse slaughter, we’re securing better futures for our equine companions.

EQUINE BOOT CAMP: Fabio (shown at left) once spent his days harassing picnickers at Maryland’s Assateague Island National Seashore. Sent to The HSUS’s Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center in Texas, the stallion was trained to get along with people and other horses. “We figured we couldn’t go wrong with The Humane Society of the United States as long as they could take him,” says the National Park Service’s Allison Turner. “We knew he would get the care and respect he needs.” The center, which opened in May at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, cared for 41 horses in 2011.

RINGING OUT THE OLD: The HSUS helped secure a nearly 40 percent increase in funding (to $696,000) for the USDA to attend Tennessee walking horse competitions and enforce the Horse Protection Act. The law bans soring, whereby trainers cause intense pain to a horse’s legs or hooves in order to exaggerate his high-stepping gait and gain a competitive edge in shows.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: In a change pressed for by HSUS staff, the USDA closed a loophole that had allowed the horse slaughter industry to transport horses in dangerous double-decker trucks. Designed for short-necked animals, the vehicles forced horses to ride for long distances in an unnatural position, increasing chances of injuries and deaths.

We are... helping equines

In April, we helped horse groups rescue 133 Polish Arabian horses from neglect in Maryland.

KATHRYN MCGRIFF

BRADY BERGIN

Donkey Defender

The donkeys were in trouble. Descended from working animals set loose on Hawaii’s Big Island, they were straying onto roads and helping themselves to livestock feed. Assisted by veterinarian Brady Bergin and local advocates, a yearlong HSUS trap-neuter effort rehomed more than 200 on the island, while 119 were flown to mainland sanctuaries. “I feel we kind of owed the donkeys for what they did for us as ‘beasts of burden’ for so many years,” says Bergin.

The HSUS and its affiliated organizations rescued 45,000+ dogs from puppy mills, including Brownie (at right), discovered up and rehomed after his rescue from a squalid Tennessee facility.

In a change pressed for by HSUS staff, the Brownie (at right), discovered up and rehomed after his rescue from a squalid Tennessee facility.