Embracing Change

After meeting an HSUS staffer at a food show, Paul Carmine brought cage-free eggs to Philadelphia’s Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, where he is director of hospitality services. Patients and staff have welcomed the change, he says: “Once someone understands what these animals go through, I really do believe that they have it in their heart to do whatever they can to reduce the suffering.” One at a time, The HSUS has persuaded institutions, restaurants, and companies throughout the food industry to implement stronger cage-free policies and other animal welfare improvements.

Burger King*
Carnival Cruise Lines
Compass Group*
(Bon Appétit parent company)
General Mills
Hyatt Hotels
Johnson & Wales University
(home of one of the world’s largest culinary schools)
Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines*
Subway*
Unilever*
(Owner of Hellmann’s mayonnaise brand)

* Recipient of The HSUS’s 2010 Corporate Progress Award, presented in early 2011

Hen Starvation Banned: More than 100 million hens will be spared prolonged fasting thanks to the Animal Welfare Board of India, which banned farmers from withdrawing food or water to force molting and extend the laying cycle. It was the first time the country’s cruelty law was applied to chickens; Humane Society International and allies brought the matter to the board’s attention.

Let It Shine: The HSUS fought bills in New York, Florida, and Minnesota that would have prevented undercover investigations of factory farms; media coverage of the “ag-gag” bills helped even more people see our footage.

Shareholder Advocacy: HSUS staff attended 29 meetings of food sector companies, using our shareholder status to encourage them to move away from extreme confinement systems. In June, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission required Bob Evans to hold a vote on our proposal to phase out purchases of battery eggs. In the ruling, special counsel Raymond Be noted, “In our view, the proposal focuses on the significant policy issue of the humane treatment of animals. Bob Evans Farms’ practices and policies do not compare favorably with the guidelines of the proposal.”

We’re helping usher in a new future for biomedical research and testing that replaces animal use with cutting-edge technology and refines methods to cause less suffering.

A Done Deal: Research facilities won’t be able to use National Institutes of Health funds to acquire cats from Class B dealers as of October 2012; a similar policy for dogs will take effect by 2015. The policies are a capstone on The HSUS’s campaign to end a shady system whereby pets obtained through “free to good home” ads or outright theft are funneled to laboratories. Only seven Class B dealers remain active in the U.S., down from 100+ in the 1990s.

Reversing Course: The U.S. Army committed to replacing its chemical warfare training on monkeys with a combination of trained actors, computer programs, and patient simulators. More than 1,000 HSUS supporters, U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., and many others had urged that the use of monkeys be discontinued.

Advancing Transparency: A new USDA database provides better access to information about research facilities; it will allow HSUS staff to determine the most common Animal Welfare Act violations and the types of studies that cause the most suffering. The project stems from a 2009 agreement with The HSUS following our Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

Pain Relief: The HSUS sent letters from 26,688 members of the public to 388 federally funded colleges and universities, urging them to adopt a formal policy of not causing severe suffering to animals in their care.

We are advancing humane science

I was so grateful for the representation and to have attorneys with integrity. Without that, we would have had nothing. It was just us.”

—Larry Yepez, factory farm neighbor in Lathrop, Calif.

For more than a decade, Yepez (above, third from left) and his family and neighbors endured noxious odors and fly swarms from the nearby Olivera Egg Ranch, a factory farm dumping manure from 600,000+ caged hens into a 19-acre cesspool. In May, a federal jury ruled in favor of a lawsuit filed by residents and The HSUS’s Animal Protection Litigation team, awarding more than $500,000 in damages.

Jerry at Chimp Haven
Retirement at Last

After decades in laboratory cages, five elderly chimpanzees arrived at Louisiana’s Chimp Haven sanctuary. (An $18,000 HSUS grant will help pay for their care.) Surgery brought gentle Jerry relief from the large oral masses that made eating and drinking difficult.

For those working to retire the remaining 950 chimps in U.S. research facilities, 2011 successes brought new hope. The National Institutes of Health announced it won’t fund new studies while it implements an Institute of Medicine report concluding that chimps are unnecessary for current biomedical research. With The HSUS’s encouragement, Abbott Laboratories and Idenix Pharmaceuticals took promising steps. And The HSUS continued building support for a federal bill to phase out invasive experiments on chimps and release government-owned animals to sanctuaries.

Our campaign works to spare chimpanzees: From life in the lab.