LITTLE HOUSES ON THE PRAIRIE: In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and other advocacy groups, The HSUS relocated 349 prairie dogs further into Wyoming’s Thunder Basin National Grassland, saving them from likely poisoning; more than 1,400 prairie dogs have been moved since the project began in 2010.

THE LION’S SHARE: Seeking to prohibit the import of African lion trophies into the U.S., The HSUS, Humane Society International, and other animal protection groups filed a federal petition to classify the species as endangered. In Africa, HSI joined with the Born Free Foundation to build bomas, lion-proof barriers that protect cattle, sheep, and goats and help save lions from retaliatory killings.

EXOTIC EMERGENCY: Long before police in Zanesville, Ohio, shot nearly 50 exotic animals released from a private menagerie, The HSUS had been calling attention to the problem of captive exotics in the state. We conducted investigations, produced reports, and garnered pledges from state leaders to take action. After the tragedy, we worked with Gov. John Kasich, TV’s celebrity Jack Hanna, and state zoos and lawmakers to draft a bill banning private citizens from acquiring exotic animals.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: HSUS wildlife specialists helped nearly 90 communities adopt nonlethal techniques for resolving urban wildlife conflicts. We trained advocates, police officers, park officials, and more to humanely manage resident Canada goose populations and to keep coyotes safely away from people.

We are... ending animal fighting

Canada’s Seal Hunt: A Dying Industry
Since The HSUS began documenting Canada’s massive annual seal slaughter in 2005—with video footage shown around the world—opposition to the killing has grown while the global demand for sealkins has plummeted. Total kills have dropped to a fraction of government-set quotas, with hundreds of thousands of young seals spared gruesome deaths at the hands of sealers.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS: Aired on ESPN, our yearlong undercover investigation exposed 17 illegal cockfighting rings across Texas, documenting severe cruelty and other criminal activity at these events, where children were often present. The footage helped The HSUS pass a statewide ban on attendance at cockfights, possession of birds with intent to fight, and sale or possession of cockfighting weapons; we then helped train authorities in enforcing the new law. “I think that people in Texas were horrified to know that this was happening in their new law. “I think that people in Texas were horrified to know that this was happening in their own backyard,” says The HSUS’s Ann Chynoweth: “We’ve seen dozens of arrests and charges and convictions of people around the country that would not have happened but for this reward and people coming forward.”

TIPPING THE SCALES: The HSUS’s animal fighting tip program celebrated its 100th successful case in 2011, a conviction in a federal dogfighting case in Indiana. The program offers up to $5,000 for information leading to a successful dogfighting or cockfighting case—money that helps gain confiden- tial informants, says The HSUS’s Ann Chynoweth: “We’ve seen dozens of arrests and charges and convictions of people around the country that would not have happened but for this reward and people coming forward.”

We persuade legislators to pass tougher laws against animal fighting, help law enforcement bring criminals to justice, and rescue the animal victims of blood sports.

DAISY BALAWEJDER
Bully Pulpit

For Pittsburgh-based rescue Hello Bully, it can take months to prepare rescued pit bulls for life after dogfighting. Success stories remind founder Daisy Balawejder why the hard work is worth it. Chained to a tree in Florida, perky-eared Linus was rescued in April. Elderly Gia and her 10 puppies were removed from a North Carolina dogfighting operation in August.

In 2011, Balawejder became coordinator of The HSUS’s Dogfighting Rescue Coalition, comprising 50+ shelters and rescues that placed nearly 100 dogs from HSUS-assisted cases throughout the year. Linus’ adoptive family adores his gentle nature. And Gia loves being a couch potato with her new mom and canine siblings.