

"It's amazing to rescue all these animals who otherwise would have suffered a horrible fate," says The HSUS's Patrick Kwan of a New York cockfighting raid in September.

# We are... ending animal fighting



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.

**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 the shadows," says John Goodwin, HSUS director of animal cruelty policy. "Most people there abhor cockfighting, and we saw an outpouring of support for this legislation when we put a spotlight on the issue." Elsewhere, The HSUS

helped pass stronger animal fighting laws in Hawaii and New York, and we successfully campaigned to strengthen Mississippi's weak anti-cruelty penalties.

67

monthly tips  
on average  
were received  
at 877-TIP-HSUS  
in 2011

**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 confidential 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."



## DAISY BALAWEJDER Bully Pulpit

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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 70 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.