DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY, young pigs on a Georgia farm explore the world with their sensitive noses, a freedom they would be denied in factory farms. At breeding age, sows would enter gestation crates where they would be virtually immobilized for most of their lives. In 2013, The HSUS secured pledges to phase out crates from Applebee’s, Giant, Papa John’s and other major food companies. The trend away from intensive confinement also went international as South Africa committed to move away from gestation crates, and we laid the groundwork for Canada to make a similar commitment in early 2014.

An amendment by U.S. Rep. Steve King of Iowa to the federal Farm Bill threatened to reverse gains for farm animals and others by curbing states’ right to enact protective laws. The HSUS built a broad political consensus that helped defeat the proposal. Meanwhile, previous HSUS investigations yielded results: Eight employees who punched and kicked pigs at Wyoming Premium Farms were convicted of cruelty. And an HSUS lawsuit against Westland Meat Packing Co., where employees tormented sick and injured cows, yielded a $155 million+ fine—America’s largest monetary judgment for animal abuse.

After a lonely life on a chain, a dog eagerly soaks up attention from a rescuer. Same-day raids of fighting operations in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia saved her and 366 other dogs from the fighting pit in August. The blitzkrieg yielded firearms, drugs, some $500,000 in gambling proceeds and 14 suspects, who were later indicted on felony dogfighting charges. The HSUS and ASPCA carried the dogs to safety and helped authorities collect forensic evidence.

Based on leads phoned in to our tip line, The HSUS rescued hundreds of animals from fighting and assisted law enforcement officials in cases that led to more than 135 arrests. We also drove the passage of legislation to strengthen the federal animal fighting law; it is now a federal crime to attend a dogfight or cockfight and a felony to bring a child to one.

In Costa Rica, Humane Society International joined law enforcement agencies as they carried out dogfighting raids, shutting down two breeding facilities and saving 147 animals. Many seized dogs were suspected of carrying bloodlines from the United States—Animal fighters are crossing the border as it becomes tougher to operate in the U.S. The Costa Rica raids are the start of HSI moving against dogfighting internationally. “In the U.S., our investigation tools have dogfighters running,” says The HSUS’s Chris Schindler. “Now we have the opportunity to give dogfighters nowhere to run.”

STANDING UP FOR FARM ANIMALS

SENDING ANIMAL FIGHTERS ON THE RUN