A New President at the Helm

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nty-two years ago I was provided the opportunity to become president of The Humane Society of the United States, then headquartered at 1459 19th St. in Washington, D.C., in a small rented suite of offices. This opportunity came at a time when I was considering an alternative voca-
tion to the one in which I was then engaged—clergyman in the United Presbyterian Church. I was an opportu-
nity and challenge I accepted most enthusiastically.

I have frequently been asked why I decided to “leave the ministry” to become associated with an animal-protection organization. In most cases, the questioner was hinting that I had chosen perhaps a lesser calling; or that I may have fallen into disfavor within my previous profession! Never did it oc-
tur to such people that, in choosing to become associated with the animal-protection movement, I was, in fact, extending my ministry and enlarging my congregation to include animals as well as human beings. I was accepting the challenge to apply the same ethical and moral principles that undergirded my experi-
ement and consideration for animals. It is a challenge that continues to frame and focus my work and efforts in this movement.

It was a similar orientation and background that prompted Paul G. Irwin, my longtime associate and now successor, to become identified with The HSUS approximately seventeen years ago. During that time, he has served The HSUS as both executive vice president and treasurer. It will be our vehicle to assist those countries, organizations, and individuals who so greatly need our support in advancing the cause of animal protection across the face of the Earth. Through HSI we will be represented in the international bodies that frequently determine the fate of animals in ways not always available to a national organization.

As president of HSI, I shall spend considerable time and effort in enlarging further and extending the international role of The HSUS on behalf of animals, while Paul Irwin and Patricia Finch guide and direct the programs and activities of The HSUS within the United States.

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To both Paul and Patricia I extend, on your behalf, a warm welcome to their new posi-
tion at the helm of The HSUS.

Paul Irwin brings to this position a leadership commitment and dedication that has helped to inform and guide the work and programs of The HSUS for almost two decades. But he also brings management and financial skills that are in large measure responsible for the extraordinary growth and development real-
ized by The HSUS during the years of our shared leadership. I know of no one, either within or outside this movement, more able or more prepared to accept this new and ex-
citing challenge.

Paul will not be without excellent help and support in this new undertaking. Standing with him at the helm of The HSUS and shar-
ing the leadership of its many programs and activities will be Patricia Forkan, newly elected executive vice president of The HSUS and, like Paul Irwin, someone whose leadership skills and personal dedication have been indispens-
able to the successes and advances of The HSUS during the last seventeen years.

A woman of great talent and ability, Patricia Forkan has, as senior vice president and, prior to that, vice president, pro-
gram and communications, skillfully and enthusiastically directed the many campaigns and activities of The HSUS that have helped to bring about a better day for animals.

In my new role as chief executive and CEO I shall con-
tinue to guide and direct the entire family of HSUS organiza-
tions, including the National Association for Humane and En-
vironmental Education (NAHEE); the Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLA), which seeks to enlarge the par-
ticipation of academic and religious communities, as well as various other professional organizations, in a concern for the Earth and its inhabitants; EarthKind, our newly formed environmental organization, which seeks to address environmental issues from the perspective of their impact on animal suffering and sur-
vival; and Humane Society International (HSI), the organiza-
tion through which we shall extend the activities and leader-
ship of The HSUS more fully into the international arena. HSI

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To both Paul and Patricia I extend, on your behalf, a warm welcome to their new positions and sincere congratulations on having been elected to these leadership roles by the HSUS board of directors. I am confident that in both of these persons you will discover deep personal commitments and leadership skills unparalleled in the animal-protection movement.