

**I**n so many ways, the cause of animal protection is more about our species than any other. Yes, we at The HSUS do highlight the personalities, the physicality, the smarts, and even the heroism of animals. These attributes make it all the more difficult for any thinking person to treat animals with callousness or disregard. But we should not need to prove that animals are smart or athletic or even beautiful to spare them from cruelty or abuse. Their ability to suffer and desire to live are evidence enough that we ought to be decent and good to them.

In that sense, this cause is primarily about human behavior, not animal behavior. The word “humane” contains the root word “human,” and to me, that signals our work is more than anything about examining our own conduct. The HSUS is here in part to remind the members of a civil society that it’s not proper to suspend the core values of compassion and mercy in dealing with other creatures.

As a species, we are endowed with remarkable brainpower. That cognitive ability is not a license to do as we please, but a capacity enabling us to act with care and forethought and restraint. It is our intelligence that gives us the ability to act as moral agents but also the ingenuity to find ways to live without causing harm to others. Why kill an animal for her fur when a cloth coat will do just fine? Why drop chemicals into the naked eye of a rabbit when alternatives to animal testing are available?

This issue of *All Animals* catalogs the incredible efforts of this organization and so many individuals to move our society in a more humane direction, by replacing cruel practices and old habits with behaviors that advance our quality of life and leave no trail of victims along the way. As with any worthy cause, this requires that good people not be bystanders, calling out cruelty when they see it and demanding needed reforms.

At The HSUS, we don’t shrink from the toughest problems, like the industrial production of animals on factory farms. In Ohio, we recently negotiated a landmark agreement to begin a phaseout of extreme confinement practices in the veal and pig industries, as well as a series of other reforms. In Missouri, we have worked to qualify a ballot initiative to crack down on puppy mills. With 3,000 mills in this state—accounting for nearly 40 percent of dogs produced for the pet trade—it’s a game-changing campaign to stop the abuse of man’s best friend.

We also report in this issue on our efforts to expose horrible and archaic acts of cruelty, like bear baiting or fox penning, and demand that these spectacles be stopped. In Florida, we’ve put a stop to penning, in which dogs are unleashed to chase and tear apart foxes and coyotes in fenced enclosures. And we are committed to stopping the cruelty we discovered in South Carolina, where packs of dogs are set upon a tethered, defanged, and declawed bear as a spectator sport.

As you can see in this magazine, the people working in defense of animals are remarkable. One need only know a little about Jane Goodall—and you’ll find out a lot about her in these pages—to know she’s a hero for animals. But there are so many others, also so steadfast and determined, whose names you do not know but who are just as worthy of our recognition and gratitude.

I think of the determination of HSUS staffers like Chris Broughton, who deployed to Haiti in the days after the catastrophic earthquake. When he returned for a break, we talked to him about what we needed to help build a humane infrastructure in the country. Chris heard the calling and decided to leave the comforts of his Florida home and move indefinitely to Haiti.

Not all of us can go to Tanzania to devote our lives to chimps like Jane Goodall or relocate to Haiti to help the animals there. But we can all do what we can. We can stretch ourselves. We can dig deeper. We can give more generously. Every act of kindness—small or large—makes us a more humane society. And when we act collectively in pursuit of this goal, we can transform the world.



MICHELLE RILEY/THE HSUS

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➤ FOR REGULAR UPDATES, check out Wayne’s blog at [humanesociety.org/wayne](http://humanesociety.org/wayne).

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