Investigating and Uncovering Cruelty

INVESTIGATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PRIORITY FOR THE HSUS, HELPING EXPOSE CRUELTY, EDUCATE PEOPLE AND DOCUMENT THE NEED FOR CHANGE.

• Once again we exposed a prominent Tennessee walking horse industry figure at the center of rampant abuse, documenting staff applying caustic chemicals to the legs of more than 20 horses at ThorSport Farm in Tennessee to force an artificially high-stepping gait in competition.

• Our investigation of a Hillandale Farms egg production facility revealed food safety concerns and horrific cruelty. The exposé bolstered our corporate outreach campaign, which in 2015 persuaded more than 50 food industry companies to move away from battery cages.

• An investigation in Minnesota showed the inhumane slaughter of “spent” hens, formerly egg-laying birds who are no longer commercially profitable. This was the first investigation of a spent-hen slaughterhouse in the country.

• We released a new exposé on the American Kennel Club’s connection to puppy mills, conducted a national investigation into flea market sales of mill dogs and investigated puppy sales in Georgia.

• At Tiger Safari in Oklahoma and Natural Bridge Zoo in Virginia, we exposed indiscriminate breeding of tigers, cruel treatment of cubs exploited for photo ops, rampant trade in cubs for public handling and cubs dumped when they stopped being profitable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture cited both facilities for Animal Welfare Act violations, and the state of Virginia suspended Natural Bridge Zoo’s exhibition permit, delaying its spring opening.

• HUMANE HEROES: Undercover investigators gather evidence of animal cruelty at great personal risk. We can’t tell you their names, but please join us in saluting them for working to make the world more humane.

More than 236,000 people viewed our troubling tiger-cub-handling video, which generated 47,539 online actions from our supporters, such as calling for a ban on public contact with big cats, bears and primates.