

On the cover of this issue of *All Animals*, a young man cradles a dog in his arms. In this case, he's there to help a fellow creature in need, and the vulnerable animal seems to trust that the man's intentions are good and right.

The dog is one of thousands being humanely captured, sterilized, and then released back onto the streets, in an innovative program that our global arm, Humane Society International, has launched with the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan. This small Buddhist country in the Himalayas does not have enough shelters to care for its large number of free-roaming dogs, and our capture-and-release program is the best option, providing effective humane population control.

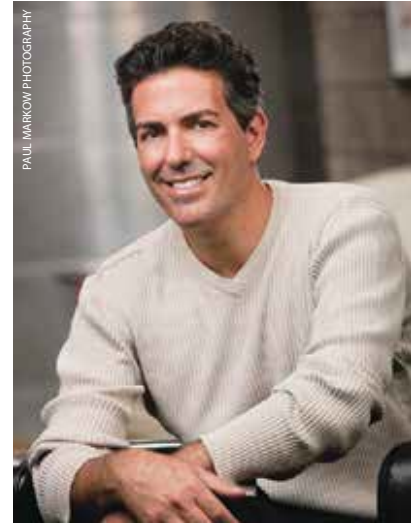
In so many ways, in every community in the world, the fate of countless animals rests in our arms. We hold all the cards in the relationship, since we have godlike powers over the creatures of the Earth. We casually make life-and-death decisions for them that determine not just the fate of individuals, but even of entire species.

We can use this power for good or for evil, or perhaps even use it unintentionally with devastating and harmful effect. Ultimately, that means that the everyday decisions we make in our lives are freighted with serious moral implications, since so many things we do in the course of normal living have downstream effects on other creatures.

In my new book, *The Bond: Our Kinship with Animals, Our Call to Defend Them*, due out in April and excerpted in this issue, I grapple with the immensity of human power and call on every reader to exhibit greater awareness and restraint in our dealings with animals. I argue that there's good news here—that we have a head start in making the right decisions because there's a bond with animals that's built into each one of us. It doesn't dictate our final choices or actions, but it guides us in the right direction. Ultimately, we must choose to act mercifully or selfishly, kindly or callously.

In the book and in this magazine, which reflects the ongoing work of The HSUS, you'll read painful details about what's done to animals, including the grisly facts of the shark fin trade and of the killing of dolphins in a cove in Japan and even of the unintentional consequences of climate change being felt by animals inhabiting the Arctic. At the same time, you'll read that The HSUS, through the collective work of our millions of supporters, is no bystander as all of this unfolds. We are doing something about it, seeking to change old ways and to find solutions that cause humankind little or no inconvenience and also need not result in a trail of animal victims along the way. Here, in *All Animals*, you'll read about the change for the good that's happening every day, and about the people making it happen.

I've been on a journey throughout my entire life to help animals. In some ways, if you're reading this magazine or my book, we've found ourselves together in this great quest. So much of what we want to accomplish can only be realized through the power of collective action. We must walk together in pursuit of this goal, and we must enlist many others to join us. The opportunities for progress are so great, yet the challenges we face so enormous and daunting. For that very reason, there's never been a more important time to be part of The HSUS, to participate together in forging solutions, and to fight for the values we hold so close to our hearts.



Check out an excerpt from *The Bond* on page 26. And don't miss the chance to join Wayne at book events after the April 5 launch. For dates and updates, visit humanesociety.org/thebond.

Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States