Litigating and Campaigning
From Congress to Courthouse to Statehouse, the Victories Mount

Our litigation team continued filing and winning precedent-setting cases. With an expanded staff of 13 attorneys and a major new partnership with Georgetown University Law Center, we won legal victories to protect three critically endangered whale species from fishing gear entanglement deaths, dolphins from capture in tuna nets, Canada lynx from commercial trapping, and mountain lions from hunting. Other successes included bans on horse slaughter, cockfighting, and captive hunting; mandatory inspections for dogs raised in Florida puppy mills; and thousands of dollars in pollution fines for a New York foie gras producer.

More than a dozen new lawsuits were filed, and we helped prosecutors bring scores of animal abusers and animal fighters to justice. Hundreds of lawyers from the country’s top legal firms donated some $2.3 million in pro bono legal work to help our HSUS legal team confront offenders in courts from California to New York.

HSUS lobbyists helped to gain passage of a record 86 new animal protection laws in state legislatures. They mandated disaster planning for pets, allowed companion animals to be part of domestic violence protective orders, cracked down on animal cruelty and fighting, prohibited the private ownership of exotic pets, and banned cockfighting, horse slaughter, and Internet hunting.

We also helped to launch ballot initiative campaigns that would ban greyhound racing in Massachusetts and prohibit the cruel confinement of animals on industrial factory farms in California and Colorado. The farm animal measures have the potential to mitigate the suffering of 24 million animals. Initiatives were also supported to prohibit aerial wolf hunting in Alaska and captive hunts in North Dakota.

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