

Down to the Wire

Art project turns former poachers into conservationists



Ngunyo hopes it may one day be completely self-sustaining, plus fund the desnaring teams and wildlife rescues. For now, ANAW is looking for ways to market the wire animals, which sell for \$40 to \$65 on the organization's website and at the Waatha Cultural Center, another income-generating project.

What's important, Ngunyo says, is to give those living around Tsavo a means of surviving. For as much as he remembers the dik-dik's gratitude, Ngunyo

Josphat Ngunyo carries within him a transforming moment: the day the dik-dik looked him in the eye. Ngunyo had just released the little antelope from a snare set by a poacher in Kenya's Tsavo National Park. The dik-dik looked back, and in the animal's big, doe-like eyes Ngunyo sensed the words "thank you."

The memory inspired Ngunyo as he established the Africa Network for Animal Welfare, which among many efforts sends out teams to remove snares from the wild.

(Humane Society International, The HSUS's global arm, advises ANAW and helped it obtain funding for the work.) Ngunyo invites volunteers on the trips because he wants others to have the experience he did: "When you see an animal suffering and relieved from the pain, you're never left the same."

In 2006, he launched a project through which former poachers turn the snares into animal sculptures (pictured above). The work pays three men \$200 a month;

cannot forget the history of his own people: In 1948, the Waatha (commonly spelled Waata), who hunted elephants with poison-tipped arrows, were evicted from Tsavo, told that they could no longer kill wildlife, and settled on land too dry to farm.

Today, desperate people poach dik-diks even though they get just \$2 each for the meat. Until they have a way to support themselves, Ngunyo says, poachers will put up wires as fast as ANAW teams can take them down.

— *Karen E. Lange*

8 million

No. of people who got the pro-adoption message when the Shelter Pet Project (a campaign of The HSUS, Maddie's Fund, and the Ad Council) launched its latest PSAs Nov. 15

88 million

U.S. audience for E! Entertainment, which began airing the spots in January; the campaign will also be featured in Disney's *The Lady and the Tramp* special release

PR for Shelter Pets

650,000 and counting

YouTube views for the most popular spot, "Sand Box"



▶ Start your journey to adoption—on your laptop or smartphone—at theshelterpetproject.org.

TIPOFFS That Pay Off

One tip led to a raid of a dogfighting and cockfighting operation in Union County, Fla.; more than 100 animals were rescued and the alleged operator was arrested on felony animal fighting charges. Thanks to another tip, the sheriff's office in Cook County, Ill., arrived in time to stop a dogfight in progress. Six alleged dogfighters were arrested and six dogs were rescued. And in October, yet another tip helped lead to a conviction in a federal dogfighting arrest in Indiana—the 100th successful case set in motion by The HSUS's animal fighting reward program.

Launched in 2007, the program offers up to \$5,000 for information leading to a successful dogfighting or cockfighting case. Last year, the tip line averaged 67 calls a month.

The money helps law enforcement officials and HSUS staff gain confidential informants, says Ann Chynoweth, senior director of the HSUS Animal Rescue Team. "We've seen dozens of arrests and charges and convictions of people around the country that would not have happened but for this reward and people coming forward." — *Michael Sharp*

► **TO REPORT** information about illegal animal fighting, call 877-TIP-HSUS.



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QUOTED

“Most of us have seen them hiding under parked cars or running out of the way of traffic. Millions of stray dogs roam the streets looking for food, shelter, and a kind hand.”

—Recording artist Ke\$ha, in a video filmed for Humane Society International. “These dogs too often are treated like they are a nuisance, becoming victims to poisoning, electrocution, and shooting,” she adds. Moved by street dogs encountered on her travels—including two who’d been glued together—the “TIK ToK” singer asks viewers to help HSI spay/neuter and vaccinate street dogs around the world.

▶ GET INVOLVED at hsi.org/kesha.



UPDATE: Smithfield Foods has recommitted to phasing out tiny gestation crates by 2017 (“The Fibs Behind the McRib,” January/February 2012). The move came just weeks after The HSUS generated a firestorm of media attention about both the company’s inhumane practices and its misleading claims about that abuse. And Smithfield’s customers were listening; according to the Associated Press, president & CEO C. Larry Pope attributed the move to consumer demand: “We’ve heard them loud and clear. This company is going to do what’s in the best interest of the business and the best interest of our customers.”



Presents
ANIMAL CARE EXPO



After 23 years in a New York City apartment, Mr. Charlie is getting a taste of the outdoors.

Good Times for Charlie

Matt Wildman felt nervous as he approached the New York City apartment one morning in October. A handwritten sign on the door warned, “Don’t Knock Because You’ll Disturb Mr. Charlie.” Inside, down a dimly lit hallway, a capuchin monkey peered out from a large bird cage. Mr. Charlie had lived in this apartment for 23 years, without friends of his own kind. “It was hard to see,” Wildman remembers. “What a lonely existence.”

A case manager for the Pets for Life NYC program, Wildman had taken the call a few days earlier. An elderly woman explained that she and her husband had purchased an infant capuchin in 1988, and with her husband now in an assisted living facility, she was having trouble bathing the animal. While the HSUS program typically works to help families keep their pets, Charlie needed a different solution.

“Knowing there are so many exotics out there living in cages who never have a chance, knowing that this one had a chance to get out” inspired the team to find that solution, Wildman says. First they had to win the trust of the monkey’s owner, who feared what would happen to Charlie. “She asked me about three or four times ... to make sure that I wasn’t going to eat the monkey,” he remembers.

Three weeks later, Charlie was on a plane to the Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation sanctuary in Kendalia, Texas. He lives by himself for now: “Primates who come out of the pet trade are pretty emotionally damaged,” says sanctuary founder Lynn Cuny. But with an oak tree and bushes to explore, dried fruit and seeds to scavenge, corn on the cob to savor, and a heated box with stuffed toys to snuggle, Charlie’s situation has vastly improved, and his frail body is strengthening with exercise.

Cuny’s hope for the little capuchin once stuck in a New York City apartment? That he will reclaim his monkey roots and one day climb high in the oak trees with his friends.

— *Ruthanne Johnson*

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



“I’m always out there for the underdog, and in this case it is the underdog,” said Illinois state

comptroller Judy Baar Topinka in a WGN radio interview about her Comptroller’s Critters program. Since June 2011, Topinka has used her agency’s website to showcase animals available for adoption in Illinois shelters and rescues. The program has **helped find homes for more than 300 pets**, saving the public the cost of sheltering the animals.



The National Institutes of Health has temporarily **halted funding for new chimpanzee studies**

following an Institute of Medicine report concluding that **nearly all such research is scientifically unjustified**. NIH-funded studies that do not meet rules established by the report will be phased out. The news came following the retirement of five elderly chimpanzees to Chimp Haven sanctuary in Louisiana, including Karen, who was removed from the wild as an infant and spent 53 years in a laboratory; The HSUS donated \$18,000 for their care. The animals arrived from New Iberia Research Center, also in Louisiana, where a 2009 HSUS investigation revealed miserable conditions.



Calling Sparboe Farms’ treatment of egg-laying hens unacceptable, **Target and other major food**

distributors and retailers dropped Sparboe as a supplier in November. ABC News had aired a Mercy For Animals undercover video revealing unsanitary conditions and animal abuse at Sparboe facilities where hens are housed in cramped battery cages. In response, **Sparboe promised to support federal legislation, backed by The HSUS and the United Egg Producers, to improve laying hen welfare.**