The Numbers Behind Canada’s Commercial SEAL SLAUGHTER

SENSELESS CRUELTY:
In Canada’s commercial seal hunt, pups as young as 12 days old are shot or clubbed to death for their fur. Studies show that 82 percent of seals aren’t killed with the first shot, and as many as two-thirds may still be conscious when skinned.

NO ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION:
Sealing revenues are a small fraction of the millions of taxpayer funds the Canadian government spends to prop up the industry. For the few thousand fishermen who participate in the hunt, an average of less than 5 percent of their incomes comes from killing seals.

A DYING INDUSTRY:
Since The HSUS and Humane Society International renewed the Protect Seals campaign in 2004, global demand for sealskins has plummeted and kills have dropped to a fraction of government quotas. We’re now pushing for a government buyout of the industry. Learn how you can help end the hunt for good at hsi.org/protectseals.
CRATE EXPECTATIONS
Food companies heed call to buck confinement

Burger King. Safeway, Denny’s. In the space of a few weeks this spring, three giants of the U.S. food industry said they would phase out their purchases of gestation-crate pork. The announcements followed a similar succession earlier this year by McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Hormel Foods, and mega food service providers Compass Group and Bon Appétit.

“The writing is on the wall,” says HSUS food policy director Matt Prescott: The crates—metal enclosures too small for sows to turn around—are on the way out.

Prescott has spent the last decade building relationships within the food industry, advising companies on how to improve animal welfare in their supply chains. The HSUS has also pushed for industry change through undercover videos such as one released in May that exposed Tyson supplier Wyoming Premium Farms; footage showed mother pigs being beaten and piglets tossed through the air. An earlier video released in late 2010 focused on the misery of gestation crates at a factory farm owned by Smithfield Foods, ultimately pressuring the world’s largest pork producer to renew its crate-free pledge.

The market shares of the recent crate-free converts could drive major reform in the supply chain. Burger King purchases tens of millions of pounds of pork each year, Safeway is the nation’s second largest grocery chain, and the Denny’s chain encompasses more than 1,600 restaurants.

Still to come: an announcement from Canadian-based Tim Hortons; this spring, the popular café and bakery chain called on pork producers to have clear plans, by year’s end, for ending their use of crates. “This is a step in the right direction,” says Prescott. “We are now urging Tim Hortons to create plans for its own supply chain.”

— Karen E. Lange

Burger King rocked the food industry with a second major policy change in late April. The HSUS’s Facebook post about the decision was the most popular in the page’s history, with more than 18,000 likes.

BREAKING NEWS: Burger King has committed to use ONLY cage-free eggs at all their US locations. ‘Like’ if you are happy about this great news for animals!

Deborah Robbins Millman I just watched Wayne make the announcement on Morning Joe—great news!

Emily Harrington I was happy to wake up to this and reposted on my wall so others can support BK’s decision! Well done HSUS!

Claire Anzalone Hip Hip Hurray, Thumbs Up, High Five to The HSUS and the Burger King Corporation. Let’s just hope this announcement encourages all fast food chains to follow suit by supporting and demanding humane farming practices.

Lisa Aiello Kadlec Can I like this more than once?!
Go with the Flow
HSUS experts solve camp's dam problem

It was 2011 when the real trouble started. A family of beavers had dammed a creek running through Camp Selah Ministries’ 37-acre retreat in Sutherlin, Va. Whenever it rained, the beaver pond overflowed into a nearby culvert and over a newly installed bridge, washing away the camp’s only access road. The stagnant water became a mosquito breeding ground, says the Rev. Sallye Hardy, camp board chairman.

People offered advice: Destroy the dam. Trap and relocate the beavers. Or worse yet, kill them. “But everyone said no matter what you do, they are going to come back.” And none of the propositions stayed true to the camp’s humane stewardship ideals.

In early 2012, Hardy was put in touch with The HSUS’s Stephanie Boyles Griffin, who has helped install humane water control devices at 26 sites in Virginia’s coastal plains. Within two months, she and other HSUS experts were on their way to Sutherlin.

The installation worked perfectly, even after it rained heavily. Camp volunteers have since built an observation deck at the pond’s edge. “It’s a place where children can sit and watch the beaver lodge,” says Hardy, who admires the animals’ dedication to their families. “They are just amazing creatures.” — Ruthanne Johnson
An unusual store popped up at New Jersey’s Freehold Raceway Mall in April. The “goods” are puppies and kittens, but this is no pet shop: It’s the Homeward Bound Adoption Center, a satellite of the Monmouth County SPCA in Eatontown, N.J. The space was formerly occupied by a pet store that sold puppies, but mall owner Macerich Company struck a blow against puppy mills last October by banning the sale of live animals at its 70-plus malls nationwide. The company is offering the valuable retail spaces to animal shelters to help boost adoptions and reduce euthanasia.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management agreed to evaluate a proposal by philanthropist and wild horse advocate Madeleine Pickens to establish an eco-sanctuary for 900 mustangs in Nevada. If approved, the sanctuary would serve as one alternative to the agency’s current management program of roundups and long-term holding facilities. The plan calls for combining 530,000 acres of public-use land with 14,000 acres owned by Pickens’ nonprofit organization, Saving America’s Mustangs, to create a nonreproductive refuge. Pickens says the plan will save taxpayers money, as the sanctuary will be cheaper to run than the holding facilities.

The L’Oreal Group is providing $1.2 million for the Environmental Protection Agency to test the effectiveness of its nonanimal chemical evaluation tool, Toxicity Forecaster (ToxCast), on substances used in cosmetics. The tool could ultimately save time and taxpayer money; the EPA says that from 2007 to 2009, 500 different rapid, automated tests screened 300-plus industrial chemicals; it took 30 years and $2 billion to screen the same number of chemicals using traditional animal toxicity tests.

A hawk was left to die in a dumpster. A horse was shot five times in the face before finally dying. Bears suffered in extreme temperatures without water, and days-old tiger cubs screamed in distress as they were passed around to public patrons.

These ugly moments and many more came to light during The HSUS’s undercover investigation into the G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Park in Wynnewood, Okla. Harboring hundreds of animals, the roadside zoo deliberately breeds tiger clubs to interact with customers in “play cages” and settings such as shopping malls.

The investigation revealed the deaths of five adult tigers, plus repeated punching and whipping of cubs as part of their “training.” (The USDA is looking into the deaths of 23 cubs during a 13-month span in 2009–2010.) Glaring public safety concerns were also uncovered; a young child was attacked and other customers were injured while interacting with cubs. “This investigation proves that unqualified people and facilities should not be breeding and harboring these very deadly predators,” says Mary Beth Sweetland, HSUS senior director of investigations.

HSUS attorneys have filed legal complaints with state and federal authorities and are asking the USDA to ban public contact with tiger cubs.

—a humane retirement plan

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