

FACES

OF THE ANIMAL PROTECTION



MOVEMENT

“BY THE MILLIONS, MEN AND WOMEN IN AMERICA and beyond have set their hearts and minds to the work of preventing cruelty and alleviating the suffering of animals,” writes HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle in *The Bond*. “...In the animal welfare movement no creature is quite forgotten, and there is no animal whose troubles do not matter to someone.”

In the following pages, we profile a few of these ordinary people with extraordinary commitment to helping a range of species—from sharks and street dogs to geese and llamas and animals raised for food. Whether they are rescuing animals in need, persuading government officials to institute reforms, or helping colleagues adopt animal-friendly policies, their efforts complement The HSUS’s broadscale work—a partnership that will keep our movement going strong in the decades to come.



SOUTHEAST LLAMA RESCUE

ADOPTION COORDINATORS FOR 19 STATES

**HELPS RESCUE ABOUT
100 LLAMAS EACH YEAR**

ADVICE FOR ADVOCATES:

“Don’t judge. I have seen so much of that, with people like, ‘We’re here to save this animal, and these owners are just bad people.’ ... Your job is to improve the welfare of that animal, and judging people and making them feel bad really doesn’t ever work out to improve the situation of the animal in a smooth way.”—cofounder Alvin Bean

Alvin Bean was up early on a Friday morning, ready to dig potatoes to sell at the local farmers market, when she saw the email: An overwhelmed owner was seeking help for her ill llama.

Promptly changing her plans, Bean drove 45 minutes to help Santiago, who was badly in need of shearing, suffering from a 104-degree temperature, and unable to stand. He hadn’t been dewormed. His long toenails were curling under.

Bean is no stranger to such situations. In the late 1990s, she cofounded Southeast Llama Rescue, which has since grown to encompass a network of adoption coordinators, foster homes, and fast-acting volunteer responders from Alabama to Ohio and beyond. “I remember ... one of the board members saying, ‘How come we’re up in Wisconsin? We’re supposed to be *Southeast Llama Rescue*,’” says Bean, before adding with a laugh: “I said, ‘Well, it’s southeast of Manitoba. I checked. So it’s OK.’”

The group annually helps rescue about 100 llamas, though that number can rise significantly, as it did two years ago when Southeast, Southwest, and Northeast llama rescues teamed to help relocate 590 llamas from a now defunct Montana sanctuary.

After adoptions, Southeast Llama Rescue’s mentor program—established owners educating new ones—can help prevent situations like Santiago’s. Rescued llamas

“They not only showed up ready to transport the animals, they were obviously very knowledgeable about the species. And I couldn’t be more pleased with what they offered to us.”

— HSUS NEBRASKA STATE DIRECTOR JOCELYN NICKERSON,
WHO WORKED WITH SOUTHEAST (AND SOUTHWEST)
LLAMA RESCUES IN AUGUST 2011



have found new homes as pets, guard animals for sheep, and pack animals for hikers and campers. A few have even been placed with the Fork Mountain Fire Department and Rescue Squad in western North Carolina, where they've carried supplies for remote rescues.

As for Santiago, a week after being surrendered, he was recovering nicely on Bean's farm. "Kudos to these organizations that are doing this on all volunteer [effort], no paid salaries, nothing," says Bean, who fell in love with llamas while working at a summer camp. "Most of us don't even get our gas reimbursed. But that's what we

have to do because there really isn't anything for the llamas."

— *Michael Sharp*



REBECCA STRITT

DELAVAN, WISCONSIN

STARTED A BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM FOR GEESE AT A LOCAL LAKE

ADVICE FOR ADVOCATES:

"Reach out to local organizations that can help you spread the word. In addition to using Facebook, I contacted an animal shelter and a wildlife

veterinary clinic that had large databases of animal people. Nobody knew the goose roundup was happening."

The Canada geese stood accused of multiple crimes: pooping in the grass, fouling the beach, and harassing visitors to the lakeside municipal park in Delavan, Wis. The verdict: guilty as charged. The town board's sentence: roundup and elimination, to be conducted for \$4,000 by the USDA's Wildlife Services killing program.

Rebecca Stritt heard about the proposal at a May 2010 board meeting of the Lakeland Animal Welfare Society. "It sounded like it was a done deal. ... I thought, 'The geese aren't dead yet; this isn't a done deal.'" With just weeks to stop the slaughter, Stritt quickly started her own roundup of animal advocates in protest.

A Facebook page and local media reports generated calls, letters, and emails from around the world to the town board. Stritt also proposed humane alternatives: 105 volunteers would re-

move goose waste and trash from the park three times a day through Labor Day, set up an addling program (oiling eggs to prevent hatching), and raise money to pay for nonlethal deterrents. "I've never seen such a comprehensive and wonderful proposal by volunteers," says Lynsey White Dasher, an HSUS urban wildlife specialist Stritt approached for assistance.

White Dasher spoke with the board chairwoman several times, explaining that killing would just make room for more birds. But Stritt's group was able to win over only one board member, and the roundup went forward.

And sure enough, the following spring, other geese took their place. Nothing had changed. Except that the chairwoman was defeated in her reelection bid by the councilman who had stuck up for the geese. Heavy campaigning by some members of Stritt's group carried him to a three-vote victory, and he's adamant that roundups will not take place while he's in office.

In spring 2011, HSUS experts traveled to Delavan to train Stritt and other volunteers in addling. Today the goose population has stabilized. The town board hasn't accepted Stritt's offer to clean the park or install deterrents, but for now the addling seems to be enough.

— *Arna Cohen*

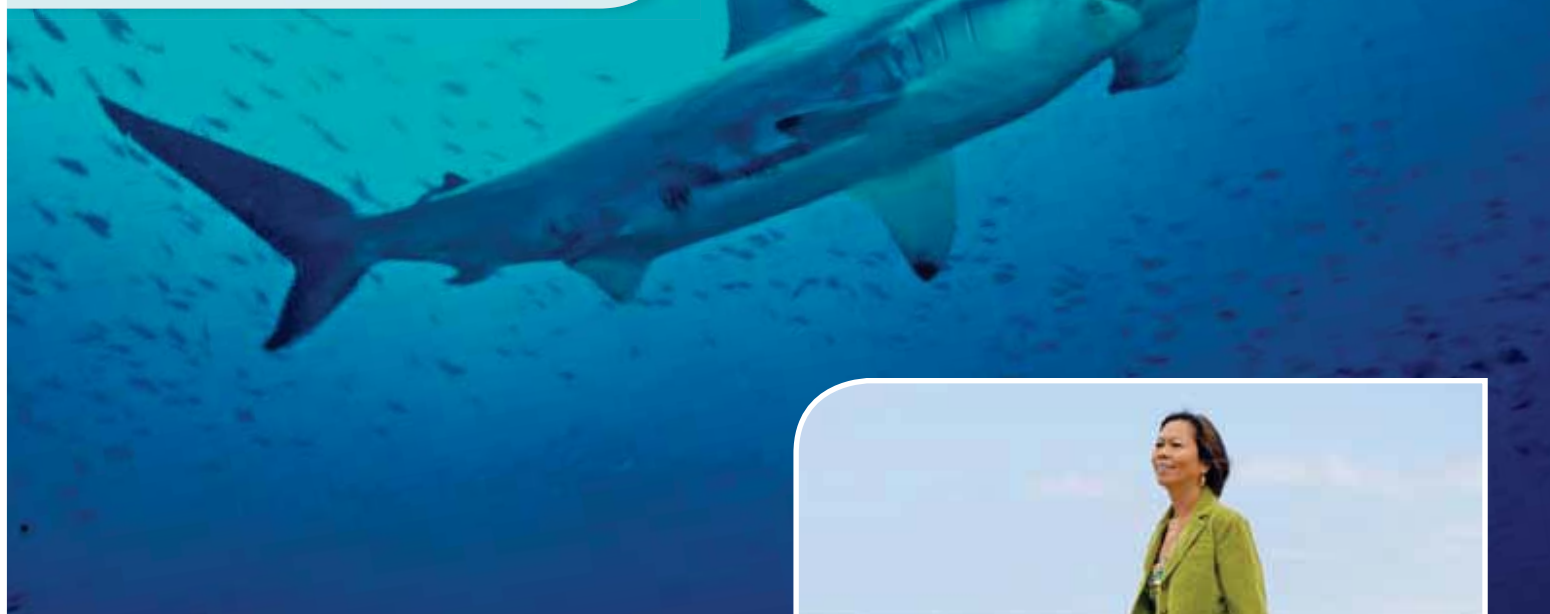
Often when we lose a battle, our local advocates become defeated and withdrawn from the issue. But Rebecca's persistence, knowledge of the issue, and, most importantly, her upbeat attitude were instrumental in establishing a humane program for Canada geese. With more advocates like her, we could accomplish so much!

— HSUS URBAN WILDLIFE SPECIALIST LYNSEY WHITE DASHER



Judy is constantly forwarding and pushing out our information to her networks. She feels passionate about many causes, but she always reminds me that her support for and engagement with The HSUS is the most important hat she wears, which is a great honor for us. 🎩

— HSUS CALIFORNIA SENIOR STATE DIRECTOR JENNIFER FEARING



 **JUDY KI**

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

COLLECTED 1,000+ SIGNATURES FOR THE HSUS'S PROPOSITION 2 BALLOT CAMPAIGN; HELPED LOBBY FOR A CALIFORNIA BAN ON THE SALE OF SHARK FINS

ADVICE FOR ADVOCATES:

“Work hard to build positive relationships with the staffers at all your local, state, and federal legislators’ offices. You’ll earn their respect and name recognition, and they will listen to you.”

Longtime HSUS supporter Judy Ki always wanted to do more to help animals, but the busy middle-school science teacher just didn’t have time. That changed when she retired in 2007; within a month, Ki was on her way to

The HSUS’s Taking Action for Animals conference in Washington, D.C. She hasn’t slowed down since.

At a TAFE workshop on factory farming, Ki was inspired to help The HSUS gather signatures to place Proposition 2, a ban on extreme confinement, on the ballot in her home state of California. Back in San Diego, she mastered the art of identifying potential signers: “You see a person walking a dog, and you want to pull over ... and say, ‘You love animals?’” Ultimately, she gathered 1,337 signatures, a proud accomplishment for someone who found approaching strangers out of her comfort zone.

Ki then joined HSUS California senior state director Jennifer Fearing on a whirlwind weekend seeking endorsement from the California Democratic Party, where she served on the executive board. “She was fearless in

walking up to everyone, and she got members of Congress endorsing Prop 2 that weekend,” says Fearing.

After the initiative passed overwhelmingly, Ki’s work for animals wasn’t over. Fearing asked her to help lobby for a state ban on the sale, possession, and distribution of shark fins. Cut from sharks who are thrown back into the ocean to die, the fins are used in a soup considered a delicacy in some Asian cultures. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ki translated campaign messages for Chinese media; she also flew

to Sacramento and San Francisco multiple times at her own expense. Her dedication was rewarded in October when the ban was signed into law. “I’m just one of the luckiest people on earth,” she says. “How many people, in a couple of years’ time, get to do back-to-back historical [campaigns] for animals?”

As for what’s next on her agenda? Ki stays busy with her political activism and work on Asian-American affairs, but she notes, “if [The HSUS needs] me, I’m there.”

— Cathy Vincenti

PREVIOUS SPREAD AND OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: JIMMY WILLIAMS/FOR THE HSUS; BOTTOM LEFT: SARAH NADER/FOR THE HSUS; BOTTOM RIGHT: DONALD M. JONES/MINDEN PICTURES; THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: CHRIS NEWBERT/MINDEN PICTURES; KATHY MILAN/THE HSUS

Jason Lee
and Melissa Li



She seized the idea, found the right people, and made the connections to make it all happen. Making changes like this is doable—you just need to find the right people and make introductions sometimes and be a cheerleader.

— HSUS FOOD POLICY MANAGER KRISTIE MIDDLETON

Melissa Li spends much of her workday at the autopsy table. As a gastrointestinal pathologist at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, Ore., Li sees first-hand the sickness and disease caused by unhealthy diets. “I believe it is the responsibility of all medical professionals to promote health and prevent disease, not just to treat the symptoms,” she says. And part

of that responsibility is advocating a healthy diet, which for Li means one free of animal products and the cruelty inherent to factory farming.

So last year, when she read a web article about a Colorado hospital that had adopted a Meatless Monday program, she forwarded it to Jason Lee, St. Vincent’s retail restaurant manager. Lee replied that while he liked the idea (multiple meat-free options were already on the menu), the Portland hos-

pital eatery—which serves 2,000 meals a day—was a long way off from that kind of change.

Li was initially inclined to drop the matter, but she found new inspiration after meeting HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle and joining The HSUS’s new Oregon State Council. She began by forwarding Lee The HSUS’s award-winning Meatless Monday video. Then, after learning on a council conference call of another hospital that had easily implemented the program, she connected him with HSUS food policy manager Kristie Middleton, who provided free menus, recipes, and promotional posters and table tents. Just three weeks later, St. Vincent launched its first Meatless Monday, offer-

ing meat-free lasagna and stir-fry veggie dishes to appreciative customers.

While Li hopes more facilities within the Providence Health & Services network go meatless on Mondays, she’s content to feast on the meals served up by St. Vincent’s kitchen each week, such as rich Indian dishes with curry and coconut milk, and tacos with cilantro, lime, sautéed veggies, and black-eyed peas.

Li says her favorite aspect of Meatless Monday is its potential to reduce the number of animals suffering on factory farms and how it encourages people to become healthier. Her least favorite? “That Meatless Monday is not every day!”

— Ruthanne Johnson



MELISSA LI

PORTLAND, OREGON

PERSUADED ONE OF HER STATE’S LARGEST HOSPITALS TO ADOPT MEATLESS MONDAY EFFORT

ADVICE FOR ADVOCATES:

“Try everything. See what works. And be optimistically persistent. There are many avenues towards the same goal.”

THIS PAGE FROM TOP: SHAWN LINEHAN/FOR THE HSUS; KATHY MILANI/THE HSUS. OPPOSITE PAGE: AP IMAGES/FOR THE HSUS



ALICE UTLANG

CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

OVERHAULED STREET DOG CONTROL PROGRAM INTO A NATIONAL MODEL FOR HUMANE PRACTICES

ADVICE FOR ADVOCATES:

“Never stop doing what you have started; even when others don’t agree or join your cause, just go on. Share your success with the people who believed in your advocacy.”

Attending a 2008 Humane Society International workshop was like “a slap in the face,” says Alice Utlang, lead government veterinarian in Cebu City, Philippines. Realizing that everything about her department’s street dog control program was inhumane, she invited HSI’s Rahul Sehgal to the island. Sehgal, who led high-volume spay/neuter programs for street dogs in India and Bhutan, didn’t sugarcoat his criticisms, denouncing practices such as housing 10 dogs or more in a cage. “Rahul at first really challenged us,” Utlang says.

With ongoing HSI training and funding, and support from the city’s mayor, Utlang revamped the department, switching to kinder methods of capture and euthanasia and embracing spay/neuter for population control. As a result, euthanasia numbers have dropped from 8,800 dogs in 2007 to 311 in 2011. Last year, two HSI-funded low-cost clinics sterilized 3,000 dogs; this year’s goal is 14,000, which Utlang hopes to achieve with a mobile spay/neuter unit that Sehgal helped pick out.

A new dog adoption campaign is also saving lives; the shelter holds events outside City Hall

every Friday afternoon to catch the attention of people attending the church next door.

Utlang’s work has had far-reaching effects. “Veterinarians, especially the local government unit, are really following us. ... We train, then they go back home and start it.” Cebu City now funds two permanent public spay/neuter clinics, and Filipino veterinarians are learning advanced sterilization techniques through a partnership between Southwestern University and HSI. “They didn’t know how to do anything except a killing campaign to deal with the overpopulation problem,” says Kelly O’Meara, HSI director of companion animals and engagement. “Many of them are very emotional about the fact that they have to kill animals when they’ve gotten into the veterinary field to help animals. Now they have a humane alternative.”

In recognition of her commitment, Utlang received an Outstanding Animal Protection Award at The HSUS’s Animal Care Expo in May. “[Being] supported by HSI is already a big accomplishment for us,” she says. “To be awarded makes me proud. [I realize] that I really make a difference.”

— Arna Cohen

Her hard work and dedication to making this happen, and convincing her local mayor to follow suit, have jump-started a movement towards furthering animal welfare.

— HSI DIRECTOR OF COMPANION ANIMALS AND ENGAGEMENT KELLY O’MEARA

