

**I**n 2007, an HSUS undercover investigator got a job inside a primate laboratory and documented mistreatment and long-term isolation and emotional deprivation of chimpanzees. Many of the chimps had been languishing in the lab for decades, including one old girl who had been held there since the time that Dwight Eisenhower served as president of the United States.

That investigation helped trigger a series of government actions to upgrade protections and to start the process of retiring nearly all government-owned chimps to sanctuaries.

Progress for chimps, including a proposed endangered listing for all captive and wild individuals, is just one of dozens of indicators that change for animals is upon us—with gains being made by The HSUS in relation to not just animal experiments but also animal fighting, factory farming, puppy mills, seal killing, threats to wildlife, and so many other systemic abuses of animals.

These gains derive from the intense concentration on reform by our superb staff and dedicated supporters. But they also build on landmark legal protections established decades ago. One such statute is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and starting on p. 16 in this issue of *All Animals*, you'll see how many current HSUS campaigns rely on the terms and appeal of this law, and what the Act has meant for the recovery of many wild animal species.

The Act enshrined the notion espoused by legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold that the first rule of intelligent tinkering is to keep all the parts. It required the government to check the actions of private citizens and corporate leaders who for selfish aims would rob posterity of these unique and irreplaceable forms of life on our planet.

The Act was instrumental in preventing California condors from vanishing, and today, our campaign to outlaw the use of lead ammunition in sport hunting draws strength from the public's deep concern about protecting these rare, prehistoric-looking birds.

The Act has also been a particularly important tool in allowing us to reexamine our relationship with predators. Throughout our nation's history, wolves, bears, and other keystone species have faced ruthless eradication campaigns, reduced in number and in range to a fraction of what once was.

As some predator populations have rebounded—in part due to the protections of the Act—we've witnessed their positive impact. In Yellowstone, wolves have checked the growth of elk and bison populations, and the resulting benefits have been evident throughout the animal and plant communities of this and other ecosystems.

Wolves have also drawn in tens of thousands of tourists, driving economic development and demonstrating that there are many more people interested in appreciating wildlife than exploiting it. In short, wolves have proven to be not just an ecological benefit but also an economic one.

This year, we've mounted a campaign in Michigan to block sport hunting and commercial trapping of wolves, who were prematurely removed from the list of federally protected species. And in Maine, we've launched a campaign to protect black bears, who, while not endangered, are nevertheless subjected to cruel, unsporting, and ruthless hunting methods (see story, p. 8). In fact, Maine is the only state in the nation to allow baiting, hounding, and trapping of bears for sport—a holdover of our predator-loathing past that is overdue for a correction.

Throughout American history, we've seen an expansion of moral concern reflected in our laws and in social attitudes—from the abolition of slavery and child labor, to women's suffrage, to workplace safety, to civil rights for minorities and gays, to progress for chimps, wolves, and other animals and all of nature today. This progress has often been too slow, halting, and uneven, but it's also been unyielding. We are becoming, step by step and species by species, a more civil, inclusive, and compassionate society. To the extent we get there sooner than later, and show mercy toward all creatures great and small, we will then see the fullest expression of our humanity.



**CHANGE FOR ANIMALS:** In August, 367 dogs were rescued and 10 suspects arrested in an operation spanning four states—the second largest dog-fighting bust in U.S. history (see story, p. 6). At this southern Alabama property, emaciated and scarred animals welcomed food, water, and attention from rescuers, including HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle.

*Wayne Pacelle*

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