



Protestors march on Georgia Regents University in December after an HSUS video revealed dental experiments on dogs.

“FOR SHY GUY”

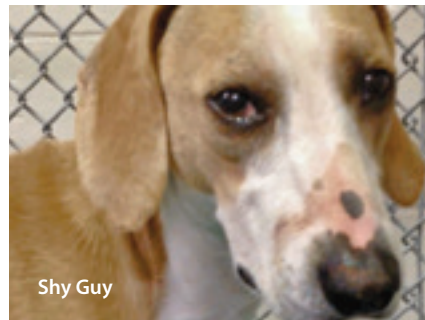
UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR RECOUNTS TIME IN A GEORGIA LAB // BY KAREN E. LANGE

EVERY ONE OF THE SIX DOGS in the Georgia lab reminded her of her own, and the undercover investigator made sure she hugged each as they went into the operating room for the last time.

There was one dog, though, she found especially hard to say goodbye to. While the other dogs jumped against the fronts of their cages, clamoring for attention whenever lab technicians passed by, this skinny hound mix shrank back into a far corner. They called him “Shy Guy.”

The investigator didn’t know where the dog had originally come from. Hired to do research by a dental implant company, the lab at Georgia Regents University in

Augusta bought animals cheap from Kenneth Schroeder, a dealer in Minnesota with a “Class B” license that allowed him to collect dogs from sources such as shelters and flea markets. Shy Guy thus became one



Shy Guy

of 65,000-some dogs who are experimented on annually in United States labs. These dogs, usually raised for research, endure lives in cages, often suffer painful medical or dental procedures, and frequently are killed, even when the research could be done without loss of life.

When he arrived at the lab, Shy Guy was afraid of men and so anxious he barely ate. Six pounds or more underweight, he rated a two on a body condition scale of five. Out of fear or boredom, he chewed his paws. He had a rash on his stomach that was getting worse as he lay on the cold steel bars of the cage floor.

The investigator treated him for tape-

worms. She got him a surgical sheet to use as a blanket. She gave him belly rubs whenever she could and sat with him until he ate his food. He began to gain weight. “He was adorable,” she says. “He was my buddy.”

But one day, Shy Guy’s teeth were pulled and replaced with dental implants. He spent eight weeks recovering. And then, like the other dogs, he was taken for surgery a second time. Researchers extracted two small fragments of bone—one from either side of his jaw—then euthanized him, dumping his body in the garbage.

In November, The HSUS released an undercover video of the experiment, calling on Georgia Regents to join other institutions and stop buying from Class B dealers, who have been known to resell people’s pets, and also to cease doing unnecessary invasive experiments on animals. Schroeder, the dealer who sold the university Shy Guy, has since had his license revoked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after violations that included keeping dogs in filthy conditions and getting dogs from illegal sources.

In January, Georgia Regents announced that it would no longer purchase dogs from any Class B dealer, a move HSUS vice president of animal research issues Kathleen Conlee applauded as “a significant step in the right direction.” But The HSUS continues to call on the university to end dental experiments on all dogs, regardless of their source.

For weeks before the release of the video, Georgia Regents would not reveal the purpose of the research, despite repeated public records requests from The HSUS. Now, the university says the dogs were used to test whether an antimicrobial coating on the implants can prevent infections.

Local activists held two protests at Georgia Regents late last year and were planning a third at press time. More than 100 demonstrated in December. The words on one of the signs: “I’m marching for Shy Guy.”

ON THE iPad: Watch the video from the investigation.

CLOSE TO HOME

MINNESOTA NEIGHBORS FIGHT BACK AGAINST A NEW FACTORY FARM // BY KAREN E. LANGE

AIMEE GOODWIN was two years into treatment for chronic Lyme disease, trying to get her health back while raising four sons, when the letter arrived from the county: A factory farm was about to open next door.

Iowa-based Gourley Brothers LLC had chosen to build a floodlit department-store-sized 3,900-pig facility in her Todd County, Minn., neighborhood. The property line for the operation, which would confine pregnant sows in crates so small they can’t turn around, lay just 2,500 feet from Goodwin’s front door and even closer to three of her neighbors. A cement holding area for manure would collect millions of gallons of liquefied manure; any leak could be disastrous to residents’ water quality.

The Goodwins and several neighbors hired an attorney and tried to block the proposal, but they couldn’t stop the facility from opening last summer. In the fall, with the assistance of the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, they joined The HSUS in a petition seeking to force the state Department of Natural Resources to reconsider letting Gourley Brothers draw up to 8 million gallons of water a year from the ground and operate a farm that could contaminate wells, creeks, rivers, and nearby Lake Osakis.

Peter Brandt, HSUS senior attorney for farm animals, says the state didn’t have the information it needed to be sure the farm wouldn’t hurt the water supply, so it shouldn’t have issued a permit.

Meanwhile, the Goodwins are trapped inside a home no one will buy. Aimee and two of her sons have asthma, and around the farm, the stench is overwhelming, she says. “We were outside flying [a] kite and we were gagging; our eyes were watering.”

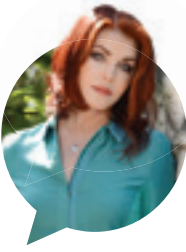
Goodwin and her neighbors are testing their drinking water and hoping the state reverses its decision. “This is happening to people everywhere,” she says. “[So] get in line and fight like hell.”



Gourley Brothers feed silos loom large, just a short distance from private homes.

QUOTED

"OVER THE YEARS, ELVIS AND I OWNED SEVERAL TENNESSEE WALKING HORSES, AND I KNOW THEM TO BE GENTLE, GRACEFUL CREATURES," says Priscilla Presley, in support of federal legislation against soring, the practice of injuring horses to produce an unnatural high-stepping gait for competitions. Along with a notable cast of horse industry professionals and fellow horse-loving celebrities like Alyssa Milano, Presley joins The HSUS in urging Congress to pass the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act "to finally end this torture."



BY THE NUMBERS

\$155,684,827 That's the largest monetary judgment ever entered for animal cruelty in the United States—a settlement against Westland Meat Packing Company. An HSUS undercover investigation cast a spotlight on the horrific abuse of downed dairy cows at the Chino, Calif., slaughterhouse in 2008, setting off riots in South Korea and the largest meat recall in American history.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

A LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS list of musicians and bands has cancelled performances at SeaWorld's 2014 Bands, Brew, and BBQ Fest, including Heart, REO Speedwagon, Willie Nelson, Trisha Yearwood, Martina McBride, Cheap Trick, Barenaked Ladies, and 38 Special. Their protest comes on the heels of *Blackfish*, a heart-wrenching documentary examining the misery of whale capture and captivity. In addition, Joan Jett and Edgar Winter have reportedly asked SeaWorld not to use their music in shows.

ROADSIDE MISERY

HSUS REPORT DETAILS SAFETY, CARE CONCERNS AT THREE MARYLAND ZOOS
// BY KAREN E. LANGE

FOR RICHARD FARINATO, it was what he saw in the faces of the sun bears at Catoctin Zoo in Thurmont, Md., that stayed with him. Kept in barren cement enclosures, they had "nothing to do, nothing to satisfy the need to dig and climb. And that look that you see in an animal's eyes, that he's no longer there—he's mind-dead."

Hired by The HSUS to visit three Maryland roadside zoos with a high number of Animal Welfare Act violations since 2006, Farinato and fellow captive animal care expert Mel Richardson, DVM, produced a December report documenting inadequate care at Catoctin, Tri-State Zoo in Cumberland, and Plumpton Park in Rising Sun (including uncleaned cages and empty or filthy water dishes). Unsafe conditions were also found: Tigers at Tri-State, for example, were kept in a crumbling, empty swimming pool that was not only inhumane but may not have safely contained them had they been motivated to escape.

The HSUS is encouraging state legislators to close a loophole that allows unqualified and poorly run roadside zoos to own big cats, bears, and primates—species that private individuals are otherwise barred from possessing.

Outlawing these outdated facilities from owning especially dangerous and challenging-to-care-for species might allow them to do a better job with other animals, says Debbie Leahy, HSUS manager of captive wildlife protection. Animals like the "rescued" macaws Richardson discovered at Tri-State, packed away in cages suitable for birds half their size. "Those poor birds. To see them sitting in that shed, with more than one in each cage, [was] pathetic."



A bored macaque at Catoctin plays with gravel. Below, a tiger at Tri-State sleeps in a crumbling swimming pool.

