

AT THE START OF THIS YEAR, Proposition 2—the landmark California ballot measure to end the extreme confinement of egg-laying hens, pregnant pigs and veal calves—went into effect. Since California voters overwhelmingly approved the ballot measure in 2008, factory farmers and their political allies had been forecasting major disruptions as a pretense to undo the law. Fortunately, their lawsuits were rebuffed each time by California's attorney general, assisted by HSUS attorneys, and the courts.

Yes, there have been consequences, but not the ones our adversaries expected.

Rather than receding, improved farm animal policies are surging. Since December, we've made announcements with many of America's best-known food sellers—including Aramark, Dunkin' Donuts, Compass Group, Hilton Hotels, Sodexo and Starbucks—of their intention to adhere to much stricter animal welfare standards, including shifting to cage-free eggs.

Now, just six months after Prop 2's implementation, Walmart has announced, in cooperation with The HSUS, that it has adopted the "five freedoms" of animal welfare for farm animals, effectively renouncing the use of extreme confinement, tail cutting, inhumane slaughter and other abusive practices in animal agriculture. Precisely because it's Walmart, this is the most important marker yet that the era of keeping farm animals in cages will come to an end.

Walmart is calling on its suppliers, among other actions, to work toward ensuring that animals: 1) are raised in ways that allow them to engage in natural behaviors; 2) be provided more comfortable living conditions; 3) are free from painful mutilations; 4) be spared mental discomfort or distress and 5) be given ready access to water and feed. These simple principles, so grounded in common sense, would herald major improvements over how much of agribusiness currently treats animals.

With the company capturing a staggering 25 percent of the grocery market, there's no greater agent of change within our country's food system. The next step is for the company to implement a timeline for achieving its ambitions.

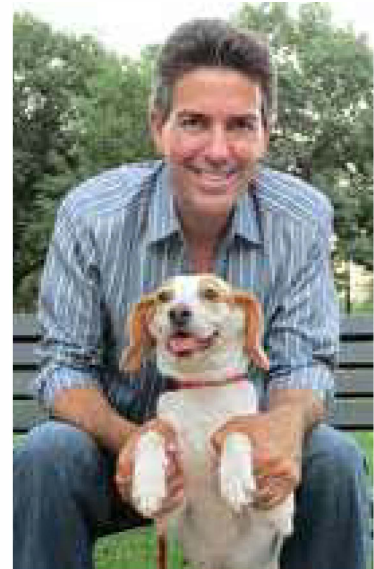
The public and corporate policies we've helped engineer have practical, on-the-ground impacts for animals and farmers. You'll read in this issue of *All Animals* the story of how one California egg farmer embraced that change. Frank Hilliker, whose family has kept hens in cages for more than 70 years, is now ripping them out in favor of cage-free production. And now that his birds can walk, spread their wings, socialize and even sing, Hilliker's rediscovering what it means to be a farmer—transformation for his hens is transforming him, too.

All of these changes would not have happened without Prop 2, and Prop 2 would not have happened without the support of tens of thousands of committed donors and volunteers like you. Change happens through multiple pathways, and it's cumulative. Once momentum starts to build, with a group like The HSUS driving it forward, it can become an unstoppable force.

Yet challenges remain. We are in the throes of a debate over the abusive conduct exposed at a government laboratory in Nebraska called the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center. You'll read in this issue how *The New York Times* exposed appalling abuses of lambs, pigs and cows at this federally funded research center earlier this year.

There are big obstacles ahead, but also fresh tracks of our impact. In March, Ringling Bros., after battling for years with The HSUS, announced it will phase out the use of elephants in circus acts. This year, the total seal kill in Canada—driven down by our efforts to close international markets for seal pelts—was the lowest number in a generation.

In every field of humane work, by so many means, your HSUS is driving transformational change. We count on you to help us continue this lifesaving work—whether we rescue a starving dog from a puppy mill, prevent the funneling of American horses into the slaughter pipeline or change the fundamentals of Walmart's supply chain for animals on the farm.



Wayne Pacelle with his adopted dog, Lily.

Wayne Pacelle

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