

# ABOUT THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

For nearly forty years, The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animalprotection organization, has worked to improve the lives of animals, both wild and domestic.

From its founding in 1954 by a small group of dedicated activists who believed that cruelty to animals must be attacked vigorously and aggressively, The HSUS has grown to a full-time staff of 123 individuals and an active constituency of more than 1.4 million persons.

A private, nonprofit, charitable organization, The HSUS is funded by membership dues, contributions, and bequests. The society receives no state or federal monies.

Programs of The Humane Society of the United States include:

# **Companion Animals**

Foremost among the programs and activities of The HSUS are its continuing efforts to eliminate the tragic surplus of homeless cats and dogs and the attendant suffering these animals experience. Through legislation, education, and aggressive support for effective sterilization programs throughout the country, The HSUS is the nation's leader in turning the tide on what once appeared to be an insurmountable problem.

Working in close association with the hundreds of local animal-protection organizations and animal control agencies throughout the country, The HSUS offers workshops to ensure quality sheltering and care for companion animals. The Animal Control Academy provides a two-week training program for animal shelter and animal control personnel. All of the Companion Animal programs and workshops are conducted periodically throughout the country.

# **Laboratory Animals**

The HSUS has been in the forefront of efforts to end the suffering of animals in research by vigorously promoting nonexploitative alternative methods. Under the leadership of Ph.D. scientists, we are also working actively on behalf of those animals protection programs; testifies before legislators; provides expert advice to elected officials and their staffs; and promotes legislation to benefit animals. Legislative priorities include: marine mammal protection, banning wild bird importation, genetic engineering, protecting animals on wildlife refuges, alternatives to the use of laboratory animals, protection for endangered species, fur bearing animals and wild horses.

Through our state legislative program, The HSUS has supported state and local efforts to pass mandatory spay/neuter laws, strengthen anti-cruelty statutes, ban the leghold trap and the practice of pound seizure; fought against efforts to legalize dog and horse racing; and fought for an increase in penalties for those promoting and participating in animal-fighting events as well as the total abolishment of cockfighting.

Our Action Alert Team of dedicated HSUS members has become the model of an effective legislative network.

#### **Humane Education**

The HSUS is the nation's leader in the effort to educate children about animal-protection issues and to actively involve young people in the humane cause. The National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE), The HSUS's Youth Education division, serves as a resource for classroom teachers and other educators nationwide. Through its Adopt-A-Teacher program, NAHEE has brought its two quality publications, KIND News and KIND Teacher magazine, to thousands of elementary classrooms. NAHEE's Kids In Nature's Defense Club has over a quarter-million members, making it one of the largest children's proanimal organizations.

NAHEE also promotes alternatives to dissection and the formation of secondary level animal-protection clubs. In addition, NAHEE offers assistance to individuals and organizations interested in conducting in-service workshops for elementary and secondary teachers, librarians, and humane society educators; and provides sample curricula for teacher-education courses at the university level. NAHEE has also published *The HSUS Student Action Guide*, a newspaper for junior and senior high school students.

For other university departments, The HSUS's Center for the

continue to participate in the decade-long struggle to ban whaling in international waters. And our battle to save dolphins from being killed in the nets of tuna fishermen resulted in a commitment from the largest tuna producers in the U.S. to stop selling tuna caught at the expense of dolphins' lives. (Look for cans marked "Dolphin Safe.")

We are working through both legal and legislative channels to eliminate hunting and trapping on national wildlife refuges; to stop various inhumane methods of predator control; to outlaw the steel jaw leghold trap; and to prevent the abuse and suffering of animals exhibited in zoos, circuses, and various roadside attractions.

We are also winning the fight to make fur unfashionable.

#### **Farm Animals**

The HSUS has worked to improve conditions for food animals, beginning with the passage of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act in the 1950's and its successor in 1978. We continue to address problems associated with intensive-confinement systems for raising livestock and poultry, and to monitor the harmful consequences of such systems for the animals, the environment, and all of us. We are developing humane guidelines for the raising of farm animals, and working with those who strive for humane and sustainable agriculture systems.

Through a widely publicized national campaign, we have sensitized a large segment of the public to the suffering associated with the raising of veal calves. And we have documented abuses in the transport and slaughter of farm animals, as well as horses.

### **Regional Offices**

The HSUS's network of ten regional offices provides support to local humane organizations, animal-control agencies, officials, educators, media, and the general public through legislative, investigative, educational, and legal activities on behalf of animals. The Great Lakes office is in Bowling Green, Ohio; the Gulf States office is in Corpus Christi, Texas; the Mid-Atlantic office is in Flanders, New Jersey; the Midwest office is in Kansas City, Missouri; the New England office is in East Haddam, Connecticut; the North Central office is in Lansing, Illinois; the Southeast

that continue to be used in various research projects.

Strong support by The HSUS brought about passage of the Animal Welfare Act. The HSUS has been a leader in eliminating the use of shelter animals in research and in discontinuing the Draize Acute Eye-Irritancy Test and the LD50 product-safety test.

## Legislation

The HSUS is a voice for animals in the nation's capital, as well as at state and local levels. Our legislative staff monitors pending legislation and efforts to obtain funding for existing animalRespect of Life and the Environment provides assistance to faculty and students in such areas as animal-protection course development, the initiation of animal-protection clubs and student groups, and the promotion of alternatives to the invasive use of animals in college-level biology and psychology courses.

#### Wildlife and Marine Animals

The HSUS is actively involved in protecting marine mammals. An early milestone in that effort was passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. We also successfully fought to stop the wholesale slaughter of seals on Alaska's Pribilof Islands. We

office is in Tallahassee, Florida; the South Central office is in Knoxville, Tennessee; the Northern Rockies office is in Billings, Montana; and the West Coast office is in Sacramento, California. These offices serve forty-three states.

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THE HELPING MANDS FOR ANIMALS