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THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW — ABOUT — HSUS (THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES)

- 1 HSUS scams Americans out of millions of dollars through manipulative and deceptive advertising.** An analysis of HSUS's TV fundraising appeals that ran between January 2009 and September 2011 determined that more than 85 percent of the animals shown were cats and dogs. However, HSUS doesn't run a single pet shelter and only gives 1 percent of the money it raises to pet shelters, and it has spent millions on anti-farming and anti-hunting political campaigns.
- 2 HSUS receives poor charity-evaluation marks.** CharityWatch (formerly the American Institute of Philanthropy) reissued HSUS's "D" rating in December 2011, finding that HSUS spends as little as 49 percent of its budget on its programs. Additionally, the 2011 Animal People News Watchdog Report discovered that HSUS spends about 43 percent of its budget on overhead costs.
- 3 Six Members of Congress have called for a federal investigation of HSUS.** In April 2011, six Congressmen wrote the IRS Inspector General showing concerns over HSUS's attempts to influence public policy, which they believe has "brought into question [HSUS's] tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status."
- 4 HSUS regularly contributes more to its own pension plan than it does to pet shelters.** An analysis of HSUS's tax returns determined that HSUS funneled \$16.3 million to its executive pension plan between 1998 and 2009—over \$1 million more than HSUS gave to pet shelters during that period.

5 **The pet sheltering community believes HSUS misleads Americans.** According to a nationally representative poll of 400 animal shelters, rescues, and animal control agencies, **71 percent agree that** “HSUS misleads people into thinking it is associated with local animal shelters.” Additionally, 79 percent agree that HSUS is “a good source of confusion for a lot of our donors.”

6 **While it raises money with pictures of cats and dogs, HSUS has an anti-meat vegan agenda.** Speaking to an animal rights conference in 2006, HSUS’s then vice president for farm animal issues stated that HSUS’s goal is to “get rid of the entire [animal agriculture] industry” and that “we don’t want any of these animals to be raised and killed.”

7 **Given the massive size of its budget, HSUS does relatively little hands-on care for animals.** While HSUS claims it provides direct care to more animals than any other animal protection group in the US, most of the “care” HSUS provides is in the form of spay-neuter assistance. In fact, local groups that operate on considerably slimmer budgets, such as the Houston SPCA, provide direct care to just as many or more animals than HSUS does.

8 **HSUS’s CEO has said that convicted dogfighting kingpin Michael Vick “would do a good job as a pet owner.”** Following Vick’s release from prison, HSUS has helped “rehabilitate” Michael Vick’s public image. Of course, a \$50,000 “grant” from the Philadelphia Eagles didn’t hurt.

9 **HSUS’s senior management includes a former spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), a criminal group designated as “terrorists” by the FBI.** HSUS president Wayne Pacelle hired John “J.P.” Goodwin in 1997, the same year Goodwin described himself as “spokesperson for the ALF” while he fielded media calls in the wake of an ALF arson attack at a California meat processing plant. In 1997, when asked by reporters for a reaction to an ALF arson fire at a farmer’s feed co-op in Utah (which nearly killed a family sleeping on the premises), Goodwin replied, “We’re ecstatic.”

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