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March 23, 2010

The Honorable Douglas Shulman  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
10<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

I write concerning the tax-exempt status of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) definition of a tax-exempt 501(c)(3), a qualifying organization “must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3), and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. In addition, it may not be an action organization, i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.”

Many of my constituents have expressed concerns regarding HSUS’s blatant and unapologetic involvement in politics. It appears that this organization invests a considerable amount of time and money attempting to influence legislation through the promotion of federal legislation and state ballot initiatives. This begs the question as to whether or not HSUS has violated their tax-exempt status in an effort to promote their agenda. I have enclosed materials provided by these concerned constituents for your review.

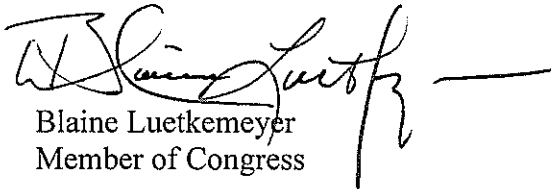
I request that you review this issue and provide a written response on the following items:

1. Please provide additional information or the formula used to demonstrate how the IRS determines whether or not a tax-exempt entity has spent a “substantial part” of its resources influencing legislation (Appendix A).
2. I have concerns over potential conflicts of interest that could develop when a single employee simultaneously serves as an executive staff member of a 501(c)(3) and as president of an affiliated 501(c)(4). HSUS and the Humane Society Legislative Fund work very closely together on a variety of political issues. Is there any prohibition or restriction placed on an organization that has an employee serving Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President while also serving as the president of an associated organization that is self-described as working to “pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office” (Appendix B)?

3. By their own admission, HSUS has “helped to pass 86 new laws...a total of 470 new state laws in the last 7 years” and that HSUS has “also focused tremendous energy on Congress...[passing] well more than 25 new federal statutes for animals.” On July 16, 2009, an email from HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle urges supporters to “make an urgent phone call on Friday morning to your U.S. Representative to urge a ‘Yes’ vote on H.R. 1018.” Please provide an explanation as to whether or not this violates the IRS code that reads “an organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation” (Appendix C).

If I can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Chris Brown in my office at (202) 225-2956 or [chrisbrown@mail.house.gov](mailto:chrisbrown@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Enclosure

# Appendix A



## Lobbying

In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as *lobbying*). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.

*Legislation* includes action by Congress, any state legislature, any local council, or similar governing body, with respect to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (such as legislative confirmation of appointive office), or by the public in referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment, or similar procedure. It does not include actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies.

An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

### Additional information:

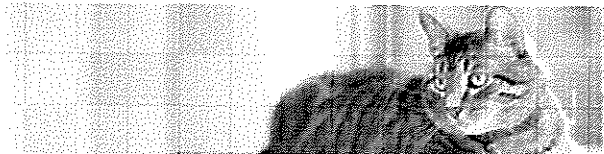
- [Measuring lobbying activity: substantial part test](#)
- [Measuring lobbying activity: expenditure test](#)

*Page Last Reviewed or Updated: May 08, 2009*

# **Appendix B**



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES



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2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
202-452-1100



## Executive Staff

000

**MICHAEL MARKARIAN**  
**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
**PRESIDENT, THE FUND FOR ANIMALS**  
**PRESIDENT, HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND**

Michael Markarian is executive vice president and chief operating officer of The HSUS. He also serves as president of The Fund for Animals, an affiliate of The HSUS providing direct care, food and medical treatment to thousands of animals each year at its wildlife rehabilitation centers and sanctuaries. Additionally, as president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund, he oversees the lobbying and political activity of that affiliate.

Markarian began working at The Fund for Animals in 1993, and tutored under the group's founder and president, famed author and animal advocate Cleveland Amory. Markarian became executive vice president of the organization after Amory's death in 1998, and later was elected president of the organization in 2002. He helped grow The Fund for Animals' staff to 50 employees, revenues to more than \$7 million annually, and assets to \$22 million. The Fund operates the world-famous Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas, which is home to more than 1,200 animals rescued from abuse or abandonment, as well as a network of wildlife rehabilitation centers and veterinary clinics.

In 2004, Markarian and Wayne Pacelle (president and CEO of The HSUS) helped engineer a merger of The HSUS and The Fund for Animals, creating the nation's largest animal protection organization. The HSUS and its family of organizations now has more than 11 million members and constituents, annual revenues of \$130 million, and assets of \$200 million. The union of two of the movement's leading organizations has set the precedent for mergers with other major American animal protection organizations, including the Doris Day Animal League in 2006.

The combination of The HSUS and The Fund for Animals allowed the groups to put greater resources into new programs, and enabled the creation of two departments. The Campaigns section is a group of professional campaigners who focus on major issues for the organization: (1) the animal cruelty and fighting campaign works with law enforcement agencies to root out dogfighting, cockfighting, and extreme acts of cruelty, and works to strengthen the nation's cruelty laws; (2) the factory farming campaign seeks to end cruel confinement of animals in industrial factory farms, and has been responsible for hundreds of companies phasing out eggs from caged hens, veal from crated calves, and pork from crated pigs; (3) the fur-free campaign encourages consumers, designers, and corporate leaders to stop using fur from skinned animals, and has exposed cruelties in the industry such as dog fur from China being sold as "fake fur" in American stores; (4) the wildlife abuse campaign works to stop unsporting and inhumane hunting practices, such as contest killing events and "canned hunts" of fenced, exotic animals; (5) the puppy mills campaign seeks to end the abuse of dogs at high-volume puppy production facilities; (6) the animals and religion campaign seeks to engage faith communities in efforts to protect animals.



A second new unit is the Animal Protection Litigation section, a team of attorneys and law students who develop precedent-setting legal action for animals in the courts. The group has won legal victories to stop the slaughter of American horses for human consumption, to limit the long-distance transport of livestock without food, water, and rest, to uphold laws banning cockfighting, to stop unlawful sport hunting programs in national parks and national wildlife refuges, to end live pigeon shooting contests, and to protect species including right whales, steller sea lions, dolphins, manatees, wolves, lynx, and others.

The union of The HSUS and The Fund for Animals also launched the Humane Society Legislative Fund, a new lobbying and political affiliate of the organizations.

Since the early 1990s, Pacelle and Markarian have directed more than 15 successful statewide ballot measure campaigns. Those successes include initiatives to ban the use of bait and dogs in hunting bears, cougars, and bobcats in Colorado (Amendment 10 in 1992), Massachusetts (Question One in 1996), Oregon (Measure 18 in 1994), and Washington (Initiative 655 in 1996); to ban the use of cruel traps in California (Proposition 4 in 1998), Colorado (Amendment 14 in 1996), Massachusetts (Question One in 1996), and Washington (Initiative 713 in 2000); to outlaw cockfighting in Arizona (Proposition 201 in 1998), Missouri (Proposition A in 1998), and Oklahoma (State Question 698 in 2002); to ban mourning dove hunting in Michigan (Proposal 3 in 2006); and to outlaw the use of gestation crates for housing breeding sows in Florida (Amendment 10 in 2002), gestation and veal crates in Arizona (Proposition 204 in 2006), and gestation and veal crates as well as battery cages to house egg laying hens in California (Proposition 2 in 2008).

Markarian has worked for the passage of countless state laws to protect animals and has helped to pass several federal statutes to protect animals—including laws to protect great apes in their native habitats (2000), to halt commerce in big cats for the pet trade (2003), to establish federal standards to include pets in disaster planning and response (2006), to close a tax loophole that allowed trophy hunters to kill rare animals around the world for free (2006), and to make interstate dogfighting and cockfighting activities a felony offense (2007). He is currently working in Congress to stop the slaughter of American horses for human consumption, to require labeling of fur-trimmed apparel and stop dog fur from being falsely sold as "fake," to stop "random source" dealers from selling pets to research laboratories, and to halt the trade in primates as exotic pets.

Markarian's work on animal issues has been featured in newspapers and magazines across the country, and he has appeared on major television networks such as CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, and NBC's "Today Show." In addition, Markarian is an experienced writer with numerous pieces published in a variety of newspapers, journals and magazines including *The Animals' Agenda*, *A Dog's Life*, *Bird Talk*, *University of Baltimore Journal of Environmental Law*, and *Campaigns & Elections*. He has had Op-Ed pieces published in dozens of major dailies, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Houston Chronicle*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Arizona Republic*, *Seattle Times*, *Des Moines Register*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. In 2007, he began writing the "Animals & Politics" blog for the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

Markarian is currently the chairman of Humane USA, a non-partisan and unaffiliated Political Action Committee of the animal protection movement, and he is the president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund, a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization that lobbies for animal welfare legislation and works to elect humane-minded candidates to public office. Working with both organizations, Markarian has helped to defeat some of the strongest anti-animal welfare politicians in the United States, including Rep. Richard Pombo of California (2006) and Rep. Chris John of Louisiana (2004). In 2007, he co-founded the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, a new trade association principally representing animal sanctuaries across the nation and the world. He serves on the board of the federation.


In 2007, *Campaigns & Elections* magazine named Markarian one of its "Rising Star in Politics," largely for his work on animal protection legislation and political campaigns. One of the most prestigious honors in politics, the award goes to people 35 or under who have already made a significant mark in political consulting or advocacy. Past Rising Stars have included Paul Begala, Ed Gillespie, Alexis Herman, Karen Hughes, Laura Ingraham, Jim Pinkerton, Ralph Reed and George Stephanopoulos, to name just a few.

Markarian has a master's degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Maryland, and he is a graduate of the University of Missouri's National Animal Cruelty Investigations School.

Journalists seeking interviews with HSUS experts should click here to be directed to a list of media contacts.

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Off site 

 Minneapolis Star Tribune: "Harmless and hunted"

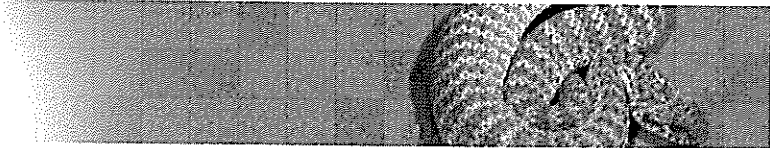
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# Appendix C



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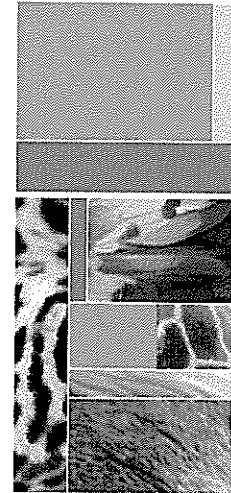
HSUS >> Legislation and Laws >> Citizen Lobbyist Center >> Lobbying 101

## Lobbying 101



An animal's strongest advocate may be you. That's because you, as a citizen, have the power to influence your legislators. The Government Affairs staff would like to see every person who cares about animals take part in lobbying. With this in

mind, we have created training documents to enhance your lobbying techniques. You do not need any prior experience to help pass pro-animal legislation; all you need is the determination to communicate with those who represent you in your local, state, and federal governments.



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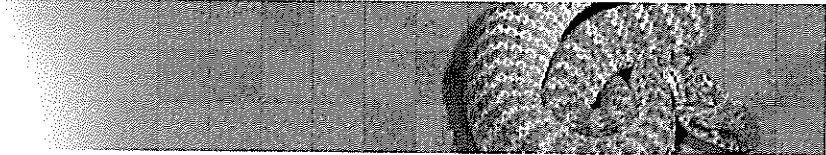
- "But We Aren't Allowed to Lobby"
- Do's and Don'ts of Lobbying: How to Be an Effective Animal Advocate
- Getting to Know Your Elected Officials
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- Tips for Successful Lobbying
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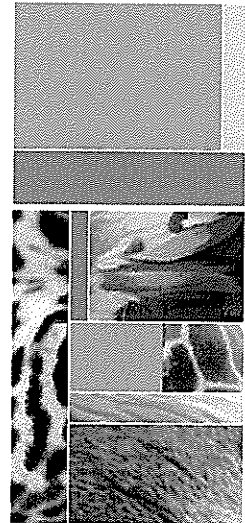
JOIN

## Funds Sought to Enforce Key Animal Protection Laws

With only a few weeks to rally support in time for the Appropriations Committee deadlines, we persuaded a strong bipartisan group of 41 Senators and 135 Representatives to request funds needed to improve enforcement of key animal welfare laws. Click here to see if your federal legislators were among those who lent support to this effort. If they were, please take a moment to call and express thanks for their help on this year's animal welfare enforcement funding requests. It's important to give positive feedback to those who take action on behalf of animals. You can reach your federal legislators through the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or click here to find their names and office phone numbers.

Led by Senators Carl Levin (D-MI) and David Vitter (R-LA) and Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ), the joint requests called for funds to implement and enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, the Animal Welfare Act, the federal animal fighting law, and programs to help prepare for the needs of animals in disasters and to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural and inner-city areas and public health practice. Click here to see the Senate group letter. Click here to see the House group letter.

This is just the latest installment in a multiyear effort. We've been steadily building the enforcement budgets for these laws, recognizing that laws on the books won't do animals much good if they're not enforced. For example, over the past ten years, we've succeeded in boosting the annual funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act by 135% (a cumulative total of \$71 million in new dollars to the program). Today, there are 111 USDA inspectors, compared to about 60 inspectors during the 1990s, to help ensure basic humane treatment at thousands of puppy mills, research laboratories, zoos, circuses, and other facilities.



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December 27, 2007

## Progress in Politics: Laws for Animals

The organized animal protection movement has certainly paid attention to lobbying and lawmaking through the years, but the lion's share of resources have been directed to direct animal care, such as rescue and sheltering. In the modern lobbying era—the last 25 years, where we've witnessed the rise of political action committees and organized grassroots political campaigns by interest groups—the animal protection movement has lagged behind other causes, such as labor, gun rights, and pro-choice or pro-life groups, in making investments in this domain.

When I came to The HSUS 13 years ago and started as vice president of communications and government affairs, I was bound and determined to change that equation. I felt that The HSUS and yet-to-be-formed or -acquired affiliates could become political and legislative powerhouses, and that we were failing the animals by not doing more in those spheres.



© iStockphoto

This year, we helped to pass 86 state laws for animals.

measures have demonstrated to friend and foe alike the political strength and appeal of animal protection issues.

In 1999, I co-founded, in my private capacity, an independent, non-affiliated political action committee, Humane USA, and it has become the first major political action committee with an animal-welfare focus to invest in candidate elections. In 2004, we saw the formation of the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF), now under the direction of [Michael Markarian](#) and Sara Amundson. That group not only does lobbying, but also endorses candidates and conducts grassroots campaigns to help elect humane-minded candidates, and to oust lawmakers with a decided anti-animal bent. (Note: The HSUS is permitted to lobby within limits, but as a 501(c)(3) cannot engage in any candidate electioneering.)

Since these groups have focused on lobbying and political activities, we've seen a wave of positive lawmaking on behalf of animals. The combined power and influence of these affiliated entities in our state and national legislatures has been dramatic. This year, we helped to [pass 86 new laws](#)—shattering last year's record of 68 laws. That's 154 new laws for animals at the state level in just the last two years. And it's a total of 470 new state laws in the last 7 years.

We've also focused tremendous energy on Congress. In the last decade, we've passed well more than 25 new [federal](#) statutes for animals. This year, we've seen some good [progress](#) for animals, even though Congress has been stalemated on so many other policy matters.

This year, we've helped to pass a major upgrade of the [federal animal fighting](#)



### About Wayne

Few are in a position to speak for the animals like Wayne Pacelle. As President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, he leads 11 million members and constituents in the mission of celebrating animals and confronting cruelty. [Read more >>](#)

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The HSUS invites comments—pro and con. Keep them clean. Keep them lively. Adhere to our guiding philosophy of non-violence. And please understand, this is not an open post. We publish samplers of comments to keep the conversation going. We correct misspellings and typos when we find them and may edit comments for space.

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law and a separate bill to bar the National Institutes of Health from re-claiming chimpanzees who had been sent to sanctuaries. The House also passed a resolution condemning Canada's seal slaughter, which The HSUS has been working hard to stop.

But much other work in Congress occurs by amending larger bills, including must-pass spending bills. This year, it was the Food And Drug Administration reauthorization bill that was the vehicle for a provision to set some new standards for pet food products. This came in response to the pet food adulteration crisis that claimed the lives of an untold number of dogs and cats.

The House and Senate passed a provision, as an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act, to create a national War Dog Memorial.

Two weeks ago, I wrote about the Farm bill, and how four different animal protection provisions were attached to that measure, including amendments to strengthen the federal anti-dogfighting law, to ban Class B dealers, to bar the import of puppies from foreign puppy mills, and to slow down the rush toward cloning farm animals. In addition, we succeeded in jettisoning a \$12 million subsidy for the veal industry and a separate provision that would have hurt our efforts to enact farm animal legislation in the states.

But the largest number of provisions was attached to the massive year-end spending bill, referred to as "the Omnibus"—a \$555 billion dollar bill that funds most of the operations of government for 2008. Included in the bill were measures or report language:

- to limit any federal spending to inspect horses for slaughter for human consumption
- to promote the adoption of working horses used by federal agencies
- to prevent federal authorities from suggesting or implying that cats in federally subsidized housing must be declawed
- to instruct the U.S. Agency for International Development not to promote trophy hunting as a rural development or conservation strategy
- to encourage alternatives to animal testing
- to call upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study "Controlled Atmosphere Stunning" as an alternative to the inhumane killing method now used for poultry slaughter

The Senate passed a measure to ban the import of sport-hunted polar bear trophies from Canada, but the House rejected a similar provision, and the Senate language was omitted in the final omnibus legislation.

In short, The HSUS and its affiliates were working hard on all of these measures and others. Many other bills will be ripe for passage when the Congress resumes its work in late January. We'll need your help every step of the way in writing and calling your lawmakers and in lobbying them in other ways, but we hope by the time the November 2008 elections roll around that we will have passed a raft of new animal protection legislation in the 110th Congress.



© The HSUS

Rallying for horses on Capitol Hill.

Posted by Wayne Pacelle on 27 December 2007 at 3:58 PM in [Humane Society at Work](#), [The Movement & Beyond](#)

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### Comments

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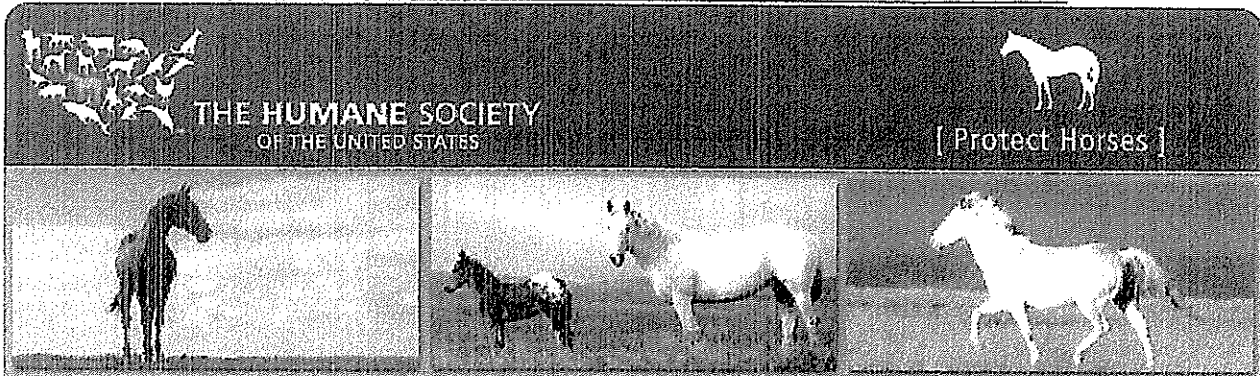
Comments:



Subject Urgent: Call Friday morning to protect wild horses  
From Humane Society of the United States <humanesociety@hsus.org>  
Date Thursday, July 16, 2009 20:42  
To

## Call First Thing Friday Morning to Protect America's Wild Horses and Burros

Trouble with links or images? View this message online:  
[http://community.hsus.org/humane/notice-description.tcl?newsletter\\_id=33264084](http://community.hsus.org/humane/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=33264084)



July 16, 2009

## Call Friday Morning to Protect America's Wild Horses and Burros

Dear Friend;

**The U.S. House of Representatives will vote early Friday, July 17 on the Restoring Our American Mustangs (ROAM) Act (H.R. 1018).** This is a critically important federal animal welfare bill that restores protections for wild horses and burros and prevents commercial sale and wholesale slaughter of these American icons.

**Congress originally passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act in 1971 to protect our wild horses, but in 2004 this protection was gutted in a midnight maneuver by then-Senator Conrad Burns (R-Mont.).** Then the federal Bureau of Land Management said it would consider killing more than 30,000 horses in holding pens.

H.R. 1018 helps to save tax dollars by keeping our mustangs on the range and using innovative and humane management tools, such as fertility control. **We need your help to restore vital protections for the majestic and beautiful symbol of our American West -- our mustangs.**

### TAKE ACTION

**Please make an urgent phone call on Friday morning to your U.S. Representative to urge a 'YES' vote on H.R. 1018 to protect our nation's wild**

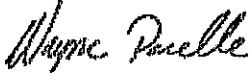
**horses.** [Click here to look up your Representative and the phone number.](#)

When you call, remember to leave your name and address so it is clear that you are a constituent. You can say:

"Hello, my name is [your name] and I live in [your town]. As a constituent, I urge Representative [last name] to VOTE YES on H.R. 1018, to protect our wild horses from slaughter, and set more humane wild horse management policies. This bill will save tax dollars as well as wild horses. I hope I can count on your support."

Time is short, and we need you to call right away. Thank you for your quick response, and for all you do for animals.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle  
President and CEO  
The Humane Society of the United States

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## Join Our Online Community

 Receive action alerts, tips, news, and special offers via email.

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 Email Address

 Zip Code

 Commenting Guidelines

The HSUS invites comments—pro and con. Keep them clean. Keep them lively. Adhere to our guiding philosophy of non-violence. And please understand, this is not an open post. We publish samplers of comments to keep the conversation going. We correct misspellings and typos when we find them and may edit comments for space.

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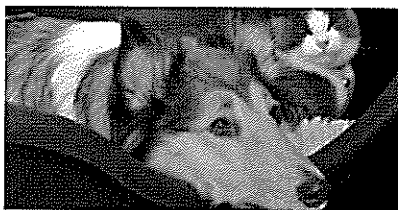
October 22, 2009

## 50 Things You Can Do for Animals and The HSUS

I have been conducting [Town Hall meetings](#) around the nation, and next week, I hit San Francisco and Los Angeles. The week after, I visit Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati.

I truly enjoy meeting our members, giving them the latest updates on our progress, and hearing from them about issues of importance.

One of the most frequently asked questions is, "How can I be involved and what can I do to help The HSUS and animal protection?"



iStockphoto

I tell them that neither The HSUS nor the larger cause of animal protection can succeed without their active involvement in the cause. Each one of us can and must act, often in a variety of ways.

With such people in mind, I am updating and republishing a list

of 50 potential action items for those who want to become more involved in our work—whether or not you come to one of my Town Hall meetings. Please take some time to go through the full roster. Print the list and check off the items over the next few weeks and months, or even over the next year, making your way through as much of it as you can.

We'll [succeed as a movement](#) when we have millions of our supporters who take these and other positive actions for animals. When we act in a collective way, we are a powerful force in our communities, in the political arena, and in the marketplace. And we can all pitch in to raise funds to support the vital work of The HSUS and allow it to grow and be a more powerful and effective force.

### HSUS Engagement Activities

#### In Your Community:

- Write letters to the editor on our issues and encourage radio and television talk shows to present animal issues ([humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org) is a great resource for information).
- Ask your local radio and television stations to air HSUS [public service announcements](#) and our new [Shelter Pet Project](#) PSAs.
- Distribute [HSUS literature](#) at events and stores.
- Work to engage your church or place of worship with animal protection issues. Our [Faith Outreach program website](#) offers many resources.

#### Personal Behavior:

- Follow the [3 Rs of eating](#): reducing your consumption of meat and other animal-based foods, refining your diet by avoiding animal products derived from factory farming, and replacing meat and other animal-based foods with vegetarian foods.
- Purchase [cruelty-free cosmetics](#) and household products.
- [Adopt a friend for life](#) from a local animal shelter or foster an animal waiting for a home.
- Learn about non-lethal methods of [managing urban wildlife](#) around your home.



### About Wayne

Few are in a position to speak for the animals like Wayne Pacelle. As President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, he leads 11 million members and constituents in the mission of celebrating animals and confronting cruelty. [Read more >>](#)

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[Dogs of Valor: Vote for the People's Hero](#)

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[Humane Research Council's Humane Thinking](#)

- I.D. your animals and encourage others to do the same. And keep your [cats safe indoors](#).
- Establish a [pet care trust](#) to ensure your animals' future.
- [Prepare a disaster kit](#) for your animals.
- Sponsor a "[Stop Puppy Mills](#)" billboard in your community.
- Ask your local restaurants and grocery stores to switch to [cage-free eggs](#), and to protect seals by [boycotting Canadian seafood](#).
- Visit our pages on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube and other [online networks](#).
- Add an [HSUS banner](#) or [video](#) to your website, blog or social networking page.
- Sign up to receive [text message alerts](#) from The HSUS on your cell phone.

#### Get Training—Get Activated:

- Participate in [Disaster Animal Response Team training](#) and sign up to be an [NDART responder](#).
- Attend or help organize a [Lobby 101](#) training program in your community.
- Train to [become a humane educator](#), develop outreach programs in your community.
- Attend The HSUS's [Animal Care Expo](#) (location varies), [Taking Action for Animals](#) conference (Washington, D.C.), or the [Genesis Awards](#) (Los Angeles), or volunteer at an [HSUS event](#).
- Take a workshop or online course through [Humane Society University](#).
- Organize a [Spay Day USA](#) event in your community.

#### Volunteer to Help Animals:

- [Volunteer to monitor property](#) with The HSUS's Wildlife Land Trust.
- Volunteer for egg adding or other humane wildlife control programs for Canada geese or other species targeted by wildlife officials.
- Volunteer time and skills with [your local animal shelter](#) or rescue group.
- Explore volunteer opportunities with our [Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association Field Services](#) program.

#### Political Activities:

- Determine [which elected officials represent you](#) at local, state and federal levels.
- [Contact your federal and state legislators](#) about animal protection issues.
- Sign up for [our email alerts](#) to get involved in helping to pass state and federal legislation.
- Study our [legislative priorities](#) and attend lawmakers' town meetings to urge them to support these issues.
- [Register to vote](#).
- Gather signatures for and help pass animal protection [ballot initiatives](#). We may be launching ballot initiatives in Missouri and Ohio in the coming weeks, so please let us know if you live in one of those states and if you'd like to help.

#### Work with Local Schools:

- Work to get The HSUS's [Kind News](#) adopted in local classrooms.
- Sponsor humane education programs through [Humane Society Youth](#) (our humane education division for K-6 students).
- Recruit young people (under 21) to participate in [Mission Humane](#).
- Work to get your local universities or your child's schools to join our "[Cage-Free Campus](#)" campaign or to [add vegetarian options](#) to their menu.
- Book and sponsor [HSUS staff](#) for lectures at schools and universities.

#### Shop with Our Corporate Supporters:

- Obtain an [HSUS credit card](#) through Bank of America (a portion of the

[L.A. Unleashed](#)[Modern Dog Magazine Blogs](#)[Paw Nation](#)[Paw Print Post, USA Today](#)[People Pets](#)[Petfinder Blog](#)[Petplan Pet Insurance Blog](#)[Philly Daws](#)[Ted Williams' Conservation Connection](#)[The Pet Realty Network Blog](#)[Unleashed, The Baltimore Sun](#)[Contact the Blog Editor](#)[Contact The HSUS](#)

proceeds go to The HSUS).

- Order [personal checks](#) through our website and [custom gifts from Zazzle](#), including stamps and cards.
- Purchase magazines from The HSUS [Magazine Store](#).
- Purchase products for pets and the people who love them through [Humane Domain](#).
- Purchase a [pet health insurance](#) plan.
- Join our [Dog Lovers Wine Club](#), or send a gift membership to friends or family members.

#### Fundraising and Networking:

- Make a personal annual gift or sign up for an [automatic monthly pledge](#) on your credit card.
- Make a [memorial gift](#) in honor of a friend or animal companion or give [gift memberships](#) to friends or family members.
- Host a house party through our [Philanthropy](#) department, and have an [HSUS executive or subject expert](#) speak at the event.
- Arrange coffee or lunch dates to introduce [The HSUS](#) and [our programs](#) to people who care about animals.
- Ensure The HSUS is eligible for giving programs [at your workplace](#).
- Sell books from [Humane Society Press](#) to raise funds and spread the message.
- [Donate your used vehicle](#) to benefit The HSUS.

Posted by Wayne Pacelle on 22 October 2009 at 5:56 PM in [Actions to Help Animals](#), [Humane Society at Work](#)

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Listed below are links to weblogs that reference [50 Things You Can Do for Animals and The HSUS](#):

#### Comments

##### Offer a Comment

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If you have a TypeKey or TypePad account, please [Sign In](#)

Name:

Email Address:

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**Subject** Animals need a voice in the White House  
**From** Humane Society of the United States <humanesociety@hsus.org>  
**Date** Thursday, November 5, 2009 6:53  
**To**

**Urge President Obama to appoint an Animal Protection Liaison.**  
 Sign the petition>>

Trouble with links or images? Want to share this email? Use this link.



November 5, 2009

**Help Give Animals a Voice in the White House**

Dear

Protecting dogs from abuse at large-scale puppy mills. Enforcing the federal laws against animal fighting and inhumane slaughter. Defending the international ban on commercial whaling.

These are just some of the critical animal protection issues that depend on the active involvement of federal agencies -- in fact, there are 18 different agencies that oversee animal welfare! That's why The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund are asking the **Obama Administration to appoint an Animal Protection Liaison in the White House.**

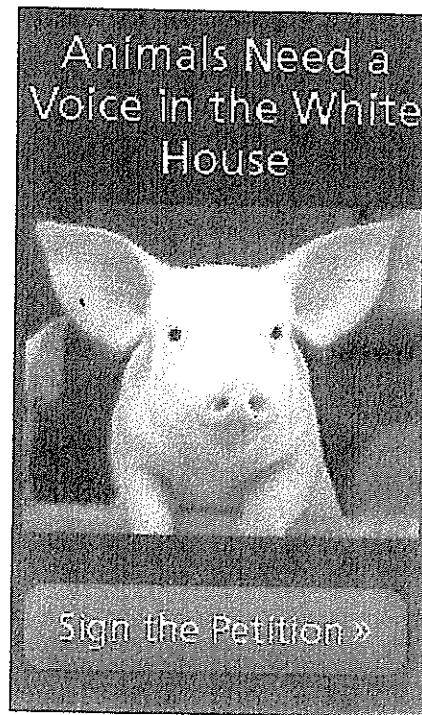
We need your help to urge the White House to appoint a person in the Administration who would work with the executive agencies and Congress to advance animal protection policies. Please sign the petition to urge President Obama to appoint an Animal Protection Liaison.


We have developed a change agenda for animals, which outlines 100 immediate steps the Obama Administration can take to help animals -- including millions of pets, farm animals, laboratory animals, and wildlife. With your help, we can ensure the Administration is addressing these critical animal protection issues in an ongoing and sustained way.

Sign the petition that will be delivered to the Administration to urge for an Animal Protection Liaison in the White House.

Thanks for all you do for animals!

Sincerely,





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



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[Horses](#)

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The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
202-452-1100

HSUS >> Legislation & Laws >> Federal Legislation >> Companion Animals

## Companion Animals

Federal

Bill Status: Pending

### Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act

Bill Number: H.R. 503

HSUS Position: Support

Legislature Status: In Session

To prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

>> Action Alert! Urge the 111th Congress to Protect Horses

Federal

Bill Status: Pending

### Horse Transportation Safety Act

Bill Number: H.R. 305

HSUS Position: Support

Legislature Status: In Session

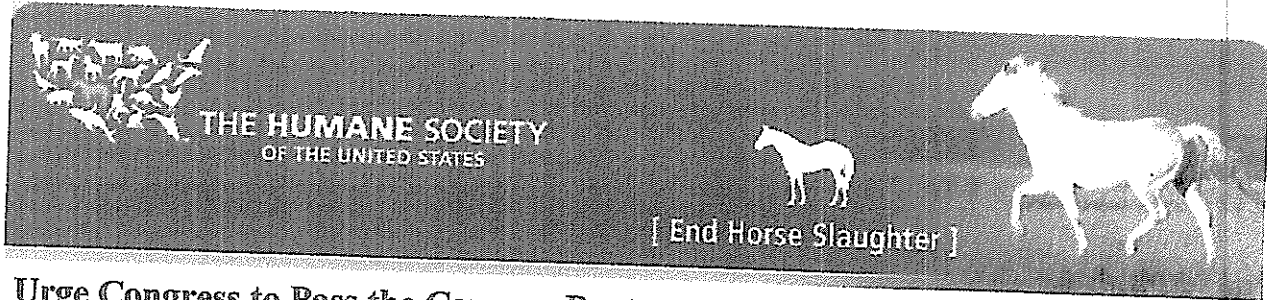
To prohibit the interstate transportation of horses in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

>> Action Alert! Stop Inhumane Horse Transport

search

Search for a Federal or State Bill.





## Urge Congress to Pass the Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act

The Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 503) will prohibit the barbaric slaughter of American horses for human consumption, including the transport of horses to Mexico and Canada for this purpose.

### TAKE ACTION

Click here to see if your U.S. Representative is already a co-sponsor of this legislation. If they are not, please call to urge your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 503, The Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, to end the slaughter of American horses for human consumption and prohibit their export for slaughter in other countries.

You can reach your Representative by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or click here to look up your Representative and Capitol office phone number.

**Let us know you called!** Fill in and submit the form on the right to help us track the calls in to Congress.

### I made the call for horses

I called my U.S. Representative and urged co-sponsorship of H.R. 503, the Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009, to end the slaughter and transport to slaughter of American horses.

Signed by:  
[Your name]  
[Your address]

## Yes, I spoke out for horses!

Email:\*

First Name:\*

Last Name:\*

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

State/ Province:

--Choose One--

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country:

United States

\* Required Field

Sign Now

Maintainer: Humane Society of the United States ([humanesociety@hsus.org](mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org))





As a constituent, I'm writing to urge support for H.R. 305 to ban the transport of horses in double decker trailers. While current federal regulations prohibit the use of double decker trailers when transporting horses to slaughter, the law has a significant loophole which allows horses to be transported in double decker trailers to any destination other than the slaughter plant, including: auctions, feedlots and other holding facilities.

State/ Province:

--Choose One--

ZIP/Postal Code:\*

Country:\*

United States

Phone Number:

(Edit Letter Below)

Double deckers are designed to transport short-necked species such as cattle and hogs, not horses. Since these trailers are not meant to carry the horses, frequently the top deck of the trailer collapse, resulting in horrific injuries and even death.

Please follow the lead of Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and other states that have already banned the use of these trucks to carry horses, and support a nationwide ban on double decker trailers to transport horses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
[Your name]  
[Your address]

Yes, I would like to receive a copy of this letter

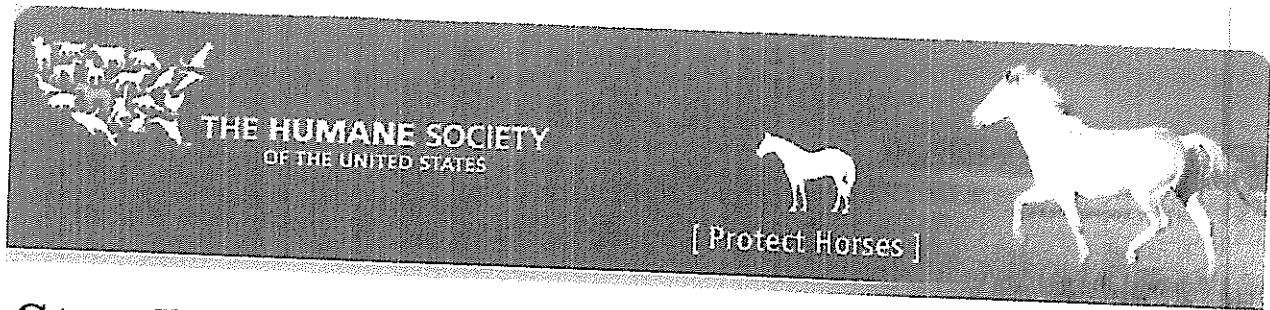
\* Required Field

Providing your phone number is optional. We will contact you by phone only when your action or support is critically needed, and will never rent, sell, or trade your phone number or email address.

Send This Message

Maintainer: Humane Society of the United States (humanesociety@hsus.org)





# Stop Inhumane Horse Transport

Doubler decker trailers are designed for short-necked species, such as cattle and hogs, not horses. However, **current federal law allows horses to be transported in these trailers to any destination other than slaughter plants.**

Since these trailers are not meant to carry horses, frequently the top deck of the trailer will collapse, resulting in horrific injuries and even death. Just last year, a double decker trailer carrying 59 young Belgian horses overturned on an Illinois highway, killing 17 horses and injuring dozens of others.

Fortunately, Representatives Kirk (R-IL) and Cohen (D-TN) have introduced, H.R. 305, the Horse Transportation Safety Act, to ban the use of double decker trailers for all horse transport.

## TAKE ACTION

Please make a brief, polite phone call to your U.S. Representative to urge support for H.R. 305 to prohibit double decker trailers for horse transport. You can reach your Representative through the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or click here to look up your Representative and the phone number.

After making your call, fill in and submit the form on the right to automatically send an email to your U.S. Representative. Remember to **personalize the email message** by expressing your opinion in your own words; it's much more effective.

» Tell a Friend | » Tell Me More



Subject: Please support H.R. 305, the Horse Tra

Dear [ Decision Maker ],

Take Action on this Issue  
Send this message to:

- Your Congressperson

Send This Message

Complete the following to send this message and sign-up to receive periodic updates. If you have participated before, just type in your email address and set your prefix, then submit the form.

Email:\*

Prefix:\*

--Select--

First Name:\*

Last Name:\*

Address Line 1:\*

Address Line 2:

City:\*