



Legislation & Litigation

Another Record Year

While California's ringing approval of the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act, or Proposition 2, was the highlight of state legislative and ballot victories, a record 93 animal protection state laws were passed—seven more than the previous record in 2007. Coupled with a raft of victories in Congress, our efforts to shape more humane public policy brought monumental results in 2008.

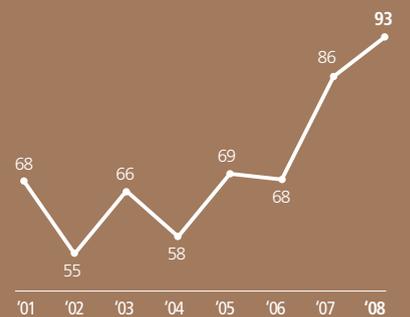
At the same time that Californians endorsed more humane treatment of farm animals in a landslide vote, Massachusetts residents elected to phase out commercial dog racing in the Bay State by 2010. This was welcome news for thousands of gentle greyhounds who spend most of their lives in tiny cages; endure broken bones, cardiac arrest, and other injuries while competing; and are ruthlessly discarded when their racing careers end.

Other major state legislative victories in 2008 included banning veal crates and gestation crates in Colorado; requiring accurate labeling of fur products in Delaware; providing stronger penalties for dogfighting in Georgia, Idaho, Virginia, and Wyoming; cracking down on puppy mills in Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; and classifying certain types of animal cruelty as felony offenses in Alaska and Utah.

We also successfully fought attempts to legalize the barbaric practice of horse slaughter. Both the legislature and the courts upheld the ban in Illinois, and an equine slaughter funding bill was defeated in South Dakota.

On the national front, passage of the Farm Bill in Congress brought three major victories for animals. One Farm Bill provision put serious teeth in the federal animal fighting law by boosting maximum penalties, making it a crime to knowingly possess or train animals for fighting, and classifying any animal fighting activity that affects interstate or foreign commerce as a federal felony.

HSUS State Legislative Successes



State Laws Passed in 2008

Animal Cruelty	18
Animal Fighting	16
Animal Sheltering and Other Companion Animal Issues	37
Disaster Planning	2
Dissection Choice	2
Farm Animal Welfare	7
Horse Protection	4
Wildlife Abuse	7
Total	93

Another part of the Farm Bill quadrupled civil penalties for Animal Welfare Act violations—from \$2,500 to \$10,000—creating a stronger deterrent for abuses at circuses, puppy mills, research laboratories, and other venues where animals are used.

The Farm Bill also halted imports of dogs less than 6 months old for the pet trade—after we urged lawmakers to stop the influx of tens of thousands of barely weaned, often sickly puppies to the U.S. from mass breeders in China, Russia, Mexico, and Hungary. Visit humanesociety.org/legislation to learn more.

Flexing Our Legal Muscle

With 15 lawyers and a network of more than 1,000 pro bono attorneys and law students, The HSUS's Animal Protection Litigation team helped make 2008 a record year for animal advocacy in the courts. In addition to filing 16 new legal actions, our team won 18 cases—roughly one courtroom victory every three weeks. We also helped prosecutors convict scores of animal abusers, assisting with dogfighting, animal hoarding, farm animal cruelty, and puppy mill cases.

We had landmark successes on farm animal issues, with the conviction of two California slaughter plant workers on cruelty charges, the closure of a legal loophole to halt the killing of downed cattle for human consumption, and a string of court victories against opponents of California's Proposition 2 factory farm reforms.

Our litigation team also initiated and won more than two dozen other legal actions. These helped to protect endangered whales from ship strikes and fishing gear, protect sea lions, remove animal-fighting paraphernalia from *Amazon.com*, halt major water pollution caused by an egg factory farm, and block the slaughter of endangered wolves in the Rocky Mountain and Great Lakes regions. Visit humanesociety.org/litigation to learn more.



A chimp languishes at the New Iberia Research Center.

Free the Chimps

Chimpanzees have been used in biomedical experiments since the 1930s, but only the U.S and the tiny West African country of Gabon continue the practice. Some chimps have been confined in U.S. laboratories for more than 50 years, most of them warehoused at taxpayer expense.

Other nations have ended invasive chimp research and retired the animals to sanctuaries because they have proven to be poor research models for humans. Ethical concerns have also intensified after studies demonstrated that a lifetime of lab confinement is traumatic for these highly social and intelligent primates.

This fact was clearly documented in 2008 when an HSUS investigator spent nine months undercover at the federally funded New Iberia Research Center in Louisiana, which holds 325 chimps and some 6,000 monkeys. The investigator documented inhumane treatment and neglect of primates forced to spend decades in abject boredom and psychological stress, punctuated by periods of sheer terror when they are used for experiments. Some of the chimps and monkeys had been driven to self-mutilation and psychotic, repetitive behaviors.

Our complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture alleged more than 300 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. The findings also graphically demonstrated how practices that fully comply with the AWA and with pharmaceutical industry standards still caused primates physical and psychological stress, adding impetus to our Chimps Deserve Better campaign to retire these animals to sanctuaries as the rest of the world has done.

The investigation laid the groundwork for the Great Ape Protection Act—introduced in the 111th Congress—to end invasive research and testing on all chimpanzees, retire all government-owned chimps to sanctuaries, and codify a National Institutes of Health moratorium on breeding these animals for research.



The critically endangered North Atlantic right whale is the rarest of all large whale species.