Rescue Snapshots

From North Dakota floods to California cockfighting pits to a Pennsylvania puppy mill, HSUS staff were in the field nearly every week in 2009. We supplied equipment, expertise, and financial resources to assist investigations, launch raids, collect evidence, and coordinate animal seizure and care. On more than 40 deployments, our state-of-the-art rescue vehicles crisscrossed the U.S. and parts of Canada, saving more than 10,000 animals in distress.

Behind the scenes, our public relations staff made sure these cases caught the media’s attention, while our government affairs specialists helped direct public outrage to passing stronger animal protection laws. In turn, tougher policies and penalties spurred officials to tackle more abuses—and our rescue teams were on the road again.

This multipronged strategy is essential to creating lasting progress for animals—changes with the potential to affect many more lives than direct rescue efforts alone. But while we continue to confront animal suffering on a national and international stage, we never forget that behind every disaster and every headline, individual animals and communities rely on our ability to respond at a moment’s notice.

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### January

**Jan. 28 / San Luis Obispo, Calif.**

Assisted in the raid of an alleged cockfighting operation and the seizure and care of animals.

- **2,000 birds**

### February

**Feb. 6 / Wayne County, N.C.**

Led the raid of a puppy mill and provided transport, sheltering, and care for seized animals.

- **283 dogs**

**Feb. 25 / Lenoir County, N.C.**

Assisted with care, transport, and placement of animals surrendered by puppy mill owners.

- **50 dogs**

### March

**March 1 / Adair County, Ky.**

Helped provide emergency sheltering, transport, and placement for animals seized from a hoarding situation.

- **225 dogs**

**March 9 / Santa Barbara County, Calif.**

Assisted in the raid of an alleged breeding operation for fighting birds and provided care for seized animals.

- **800 birds**

**March 14 / Sulphur, La.**

Assisted in the raid of a cockfighting operation and provided funds for care of the seized animals.

- **635 birds**

### June

**June 2 / Harrison County, Ind.**

Helped remove and care for animals seized from a puppy mill.

- **215 dogs**

**June 6 / Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas**

Provided assistance and animal transport in four states during an eight-state federal dogfighting raid that resulted in 26 arrests.

- **423 dogs**

**June 17 / Eastern Michigan**

Worked with federal and local law enforcement agents to raid three dogfighting properties and provided transport for seized animals.

- **47 dogs**

**June 22 / Lehigh County, Pa.**

Coordinated handling, sheltering, and transport of animals rescued from a puppy mill.

- **216 dogs**

**June 25 / Portland, Tenn.**

Helped remove and place border collies from an alleged puppy mill.

- **214 dogs**

### August

**Aug. 11 / Kaufman County, Texas**

Helped rescue more than 500 dogs and 15 cats from a puppy mill.

- **555 dogs and cats**

**Aug. 21 / Stuarts Draft, Va.**

Helped remove, shelter, and place dogs from a puppy mill.

- **99 dogs**

**Aug. 28 / Wilson County, N.C.**

Assisted in a puppy mill investigation and seizure of animals.

- **214 dogs**

### September

**Sept. 25 / Portland, Tenn.**

Helped remove and place border collies from an alleged puppy mill.

- **108 dogs**

### October

**Oct. 6 / Redgranite, Wis.**

Assisted in the raid of a property where birds were allegedly being bred for fighting and provided money for the care of the seized animals. A week before the raid, an HSUS investigator laid the foundation for the case when the property owner sold him several birds for the purpose of fighting them.

- **157 birds**

**Oct. 6 / Lamar, Ark.**

Assisted in the raid of a puppy mill, saving 105 dogs, 5 cats, and 2 guinea pigs.

- **112 animals**
**Laws and Effect:** The March 14 raid on the Little Bayou Club was Louisiana’s first cockfighting seizure since the state became the 50th to implement a ban on the blood sport in 2008. The ban was the result of a decade-long fight led by The HSUS—one of many we wage on behalf of animals in state legislatures around the nation.

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**April**

- **April 4**
  - Don Ana County, N.M.
  - Assisted with raids on seven alleged cockfighting operations.
  - 618 birds

- **April 21**
  - Alliance, Neb.
  - Helped care for and place neglected horses.
  - 222 horses

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**May**

- **May 16** / Lewis County, Tenn.
  - Supplied the intelligence that led law enforcement to investigate a large-scale cockfighting enterprise; HSUS staff also provided support during the raid.
  - 200 birds

- **May 19** / Cazenovia, Wis.
  - Helped seize dogs, horses, birds, farm animals, and other species from a hoarding situation.
  - 374 animals

- **May 21** / Yukon River area, Alaska
  - Provided emergency shipments of food for sled dogs in flooded Alaskan villages.
  - 771 animals

- **May 26** / Kennewick, Wash.
  - Assisted in the seizure, care, and placement of American Eskimo dogs from a puppy mill.
  - 386 dogs

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**November**

- **Nov. 10** / Baltimore, Md.
  - Helped rescue and relocate neglected cart horses and ponies.
  - 19 horses

- **Nov. 13** / Mountain View, Ark.
  - Worked with local authorities to seize neglected horses.
  - 25 horses

- **Nov. 17** / Douglas County, Kan.
  - Assisted law enforcement in the raid of an alleged cockfighting operation.
  - 169 birds

- **Nov. 17** / Quebec, Canada
  - HSI, The HSUS’s international affiliate, helped rescue neglected sled dogs.
  - 72 dogs

- **Nov. 23** / Cannon County, Tenn.
  - Helped provide emergency shelter and care for 84 horses, 8 dogs, 2 goats, and 14 chickens.
  - 108 animals

- **Nov. 24** / Sherman County, Kan.
  - Assisted local law enforcement in a cockfighting raid.
  - 150 birds

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**December**

- **Dec. 4**
  - Placer County, Calif.
  - Assisted in the raid of an alleged cockfighting operation.
  - 63 birds

- **Dec. 4**
  - Washburn, Tenn.
  - Helped rescue dogs from a suspected hoarding situation.
  - 17 dogs