Hundreds of large-scale breeders in Missouri have been shut down by the HSUS, as pressed for by HSUS staff. The HSUS helped secure a nearly 40 percent increase in funding (to $696,000) for the USDA to attend Tennessee walking horse competitions and enforce the Horse Protection Act. The law bans soring, whereby trainers cause intense pain to a horse’s legs or hooves in order to exaggerate his high-stepping gait and gain a competitive edge in shows.

TURNING THE TIDE: Hundreds of large-scale breeders in Missouri have dropped their commercial licenses since the 2010 passage of Proposition B, an HSUS-led ballot initiative cracking down on puppy mills. While Missouri lawmakers weakened some portions of the new law, they later strengthened important standards and provided $1.1 million for enforcement. The HSUS also helped enact laws against puppy mills in six other states in 2011.

SUPPLY CHAIN EXPOSED: The Today show aired an HSUS investigation connecting what may be the nation’s largest online puppy broker to puppy mills; our attorneys and a Florida law firm filed a consumer protection suit against Purebred Breeders. A second investigation linked more than 100 New York pet stores to puppy mills.

REACHING CONSUMERS: “It’s a song about loving and caring for something or someone so much that your heart just goes out to them. It’s how I feel about the poor dogs in the puppy mills,” says two-time Grammy winner Colbie Caillat of her song “Make It Rain,” used in The HSUS’s PSA for Puppy Mill Action. “I feel we kind of owed the donkeys for what they did for us as ‘beasts of burden’ for so many years,” says Bergin. We are... shutting down puppy mills

By rescuing and rehoming animals in need, and campaigning against cruelties such as soring and horse slaughter, we’re securing better futures for our equine companions.

EQUINE BOOT CAMP: Fabio (shown at left) once spent his days harassing picnickers at Maryland’s Assateague Island National Seashore. Sent to The HSUS’s Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center in Texas, the stallion was trained to get along with people and other horses. “We figured we couldn’t go wrong with The Humane Society of the United States as long as they could take him,” says the National Park Service’s Allison Turner. “We knew he would get the care and respect he needs.” The center, which opened in May at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, cared for 41 horses in 2011.

RINGING OUT THE OLD: The HSUS helped secure a nearly 40 percent increase in funding (to $696,000) for the USDA to attend Tennessee walking horse competitions and enforce the Horse Protection Act. The law bans soring, whereby trainers cause intense pain to a horse’s legs or hooves in order to exaggerate his high-stepping gait and gain a competitive edge in shows.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: In a change pressed for by HSUS staff, the USDA closed a loophole that had allowed the horse slaughter industry to transport horses in dangerous double-decker trucks. Designed for short-necked animals, the vehicles forced horses to ride for long distances in an unnatural position, increasing chances of injuries and deaths.