

HSUS and HSI wildlife campaigns protect animals from sharks to skunks and help preserve their habitats.

We are... protecting wildlife

Our long-fought battles are having an impact on large-scale cruelties such as shark finning and seal slaughter. We're pushing for tougher laws against captive hunting and the exotic pet trade, protecting wild animals from poaching and habitat loss, and helping people peacefully resolve conflicts with wildlife.

Saying No to Shark Fins

HSUS supporter Judy Ki spent much of 2011 urging anyone who would listen to vote for A.B. 376, a California bill prohibiting the sale, possession, or distribution of shark fins, used in a soup considered a delicacy by some Asian cultures. After their fins are hacked off, the sharks are thrown back into the ocean to drown.

Born and raised in Hong Kong—and the cofounder of the Asian Pacific American Ocean Harmony Alliance—Ki is quick to counter arguments that a ban is culturally discriminatory. “Cultures evolve—extinction is forever,” she says. Her dedication was rewarded when A.B. 376 was signed into law, along with similar bans in Oregon, Washington State, Guam, and Toronto. Meanwhile, Chile and Taiwan adopted strict finning bans in the nations’ waters.

Minding the Wild Kind

To help Maryland’s Greenbelt Homes community keep the peace with its wild neighbors, Lori Thiele with The HSUS’s Humane Wildlife Services squeezes through the

“raccoon highway”: an underground network of steam tunnels and crawl spaces. She installs one-way doors and, once the animals vacate, secures the openings so they can’t return. Community maintenance director Matt Berres says hundreds of animals have been saved since 2007, thanks to Thiele’s dedication on more than 80 on-site jobs.

In Wareham, Mass., HWS and HSUS experts also addressed a skunk problem in 2011, sharing simple solutions such as securing garbage and blocking potential den sites. Says police Lt. John Walcek, “Folks that ... were originally ready to hang the skunks up by their tails ... said, ‘You know what? I guess I understand a little better.’” Altogether, HWS helped more than 2,300 wild animals throughout the year.

Trending Topic

Despite her misgivings, Lizette Avineri found herself incorporating animal fur into her design sketches at Parsons New School for Design in Manhattan. An HSUS

presentation at the top fashion school inspired her to drop the fur—and use her senior thesis to counter Saga Furs’ outreach to Parsons students. Working with materials received through The HSUS’s connections to a Paris-based faux fur company, Avineri earned a coveted spot in the 2011 senior fashion show and a display at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Shaping consciousness in budding designers is just one tool in The HSUS’s arsenal against animal fur in fashion. In 2011, we continued the push for change with shareholder resolutions, consumer alerts, and Federal Trade Commission complaints about animal fur sold as faux.



16,756
total U.S. acres protected from hunting, trapping, and development by the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust

1.8 million
total acres worldwide the trust has helped protect or enhance for wildlife since 1993

“ Thank you all for showing me the video; I’ve not seen such before, and I think people will find it edifying to see what some folks call hunting and sport. ... If congresspeople watch this, I think it’s going to probably bring some people to tears because this is really sick and sad. ”

—Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn.

Cohen shared with HSUS staff his reaction to our captive hunting investigation, which aired on Animal Planet in June. Undercover investigators traveled to captive hunting ranches and wildlife auctions in Texas and New York, finding a kangaroo, an endangered oryx, and other semi-tame exotic animals confined in enclosures to be shot for trophies; one operator even admitted to tranquilizing his animals. With Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., Cohen introduced the Sportsmanship in Hunting Act to crack down on facilities like these.

JENNIFER BRAVO Cyber Sleuth on the Case



For three weeks, HSUS member Jennifer Bravo spent evenings surfing the Internet as part of Operation Cyberwild, an investigation into the illegal wildlife trade by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Using code words provided by federal agents, Bravo and five other HSUS volunteers uncovered sales of items such as sea turtle boots, a leopard fur coat, and an elephant’s foot, plus birds and endangered fish being sold as pets. Acting on the team’s leads, authorities investigated and brought criminal charges against 12 people.

In other 2011 efforts to curb poaching, The HSUS continued donating decoys for authorities to catch poachers in the act, offered \$100,000 in rewards to help crack cases, formed an anti-poaching network in California, and helped pass bills in numerous states.



LITTLE HOUSES ON THE PRAIRIE:

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and other advocacy groups, The HSUS relocated 349 prairie dogs further into Wyoming's Thunder Basin National Grassland, saving them from likely poisoning; more than 1,400 prairie dogs have been moved since the project began in 2010.



Mass relocations have saved prairie dogs from poisoning.

THE LION'S SHARE:

Seeking to prohibit the import of African lion trophies into the U.S., The HSUS, Humane Society International, and other animal protection groups filed a federal petition to classify the species as endangered. In Africa, HSI joined with the Born Free Foundation to build bomas, lion-proof barriers that

protect cattle, sheep, and goats and help save lions from retaliatory killings.

EXOTIC EMERGENCY: Long before police in Zanesville, Ohio, shot nearly 50 exotic animals released from a private menagerie, The HSUS had been calling attention to the problem of captive exotics in the state. We conducted investigations, produced reports, and garnered pledges from state leaders to take action. After the tragedy, we worked with Gov. John Kasich, TV personality Jack Hanna, and state zoos and lawmakers to draft a bill banning private citizens from acquiring exotic animals.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: HSUS wildlife specialists helped nearly 90 communities adopt nonlethal techniques for resolving urban wildlife conflicts. We trained advocates, police officers, park officials, and more to humanely manage resident Canada goose populations and to keep coyotes safely away from people.

Canada's Seal Hunt: A Dying Industry

Since The HSUS began documenting Canada's massive annual seal slaughter in 2005—with video footage shown around the world—opposition to the killing has grown while the global demand for sealskins has plummeted. Total kills have dropped to a fraction of government-set quotas, with hundreds of thousands of young seals spared gruesome deaths at the hands of sealers.

