We provide care for animals in need: rehabilitating wildlife trade victims, preserving habitat, helping shelters and underserved communities care for pets, and intervening in human-animal conflicts.

Road to Freedom
The animals’ journey ends in May 2012 by a wetland drained for cattle pasture in northwest Nicaragua. It’s midday and hot, but a patch of forest across a drainage ditch offers shade and relative cool. After months of preparation, animals seized by police from the illegal wildlife trade, then rehabilitated at a center that Humane Society International helped expand, are released in rapid succession: Parakeets burst from their cages, winging their way into the trees, where they perch in a noisy group, already at home in the wild. White-faced capuchin monkeys rush out of their crate, like athletes taking the field. Yellow-naped parrots and toucans, owls and foxes, caracaras and kinkajous follow.

Serving Shelters
Tucked away in an industrial part of a southern Mississippi town, Brookhaven Animal Rescue League runs on a shoestring budget funded solely by donations, barely covering the bills and salaries for two employees. What it lacks in money and staff, though, it makes up for in the dedication of 90 volunteers who keep the shelter open seven days a week and rehome almost all of the pets they care for.

During Sarah Matisak’s visit to the small, limited-intake facility, the HSUS Shelter Services coordinator was struck by the emphasis placed on enrichment for the animals. Cats mingle in community living rooms and dogs romp in large fenced yards. Matisak arranged a gift of Kong toys to enhance the dogs’ play.

Helping Animals in Crisis

AROUND THE GLOBE, STREET BY STREET
Humane Society International is making a difference for the world’s street dogs. Among the 2012 accomplishments:

Haiti: Rabies vaccinations for 250,000 dogs, in partnership with government; more than 1,000 sterilized

Bhutan: 10,000+ street dogs sterilized and vaccinated

Cebu City, Philippines: 11,000+ dogs sterilized and vaccinated; dramatically decreased euthanasia and dog bite numbers

India: Nearly 6,000 street dogs sterilized and vaccinated; vet training and high-volume spay/neuter center opened in Jaipur

Weixian County, China: Country’s first humane animal control program launched

Costa Rica: 3,300+ dogs sterilized and vaccinated

We’re There

Vet tech Erin Spencer checks a patient during a Rural Area Veterinary Services clinic at North Dakota’s Standing Rock Reservation. RAVS—a program of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association—provided free spay/neuter and treatment to nearly 7,000 animals in 2012, training 309 veterinary students along the way.

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WILD LANDS
helped authorities catch resident Megan Carman, owner of energetic King and Queen. “The dogs are a big help,” says Carman, whose son suffers from ADHD. “Sometimes when he has his rough days, he’ll go out and sit with the dogs. So it’s almost like the dogs are helping me keep him OK.”

Pet owners line up for a Pets for Life outreach event in Chicago. Among other free services, the program provides dog training for clients like Philadelphia

SAVING WILD LANDS
While expanding its portfolio of protected U.S. properties to 17,000+ acres in 2012, the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust helped authorities catch and prosecute poachers through wildlife and robotic decoys. The HSUS’s Oregon sanctuary for endangered species was renamed the Fournier Wildlife Sanctuary after the retreat’s founder, long-time friend of the HSUS Claire Fournier, who passed away this year. Though not the first time Fournier had interceded to save coyotes, geese, beavers, and other wild animals, the Fournier Sanctuary represents the culmination of a life-long commitment to conservation that is something she shares with her husband, Alan, and seeks to instill in her four children. Longtime supporters of local rescue shelters and the Fourniers became HSUS donors after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. “I saw all the good work [the HSUS was] doing and wanted to help,” she says. In 2012, they donated to The HSUS’s campaigns against gatoins, and puppy mills. The couple’s children have also gotten involved, collecting towels to pad the cages of dogs rescued from a puppy mill, volunteering at shelters, and asking for donations for animals in place of birthday gifts.

Taking It to the Streets
In the Chicago community of North Lawndale, where 45 percent of residents live below the poverty line, The HSUS’s Laurie Maxwell had been keeping an eye on a boarded-up house. As a manager for the Pets for Life program, her job involves helping pets in underserved neighborhoods by building relationships with their owners. She would often see two dogs in front of the house, but she could never get their owner, Del Smith, to come out and talk.

One night, Maxwell finally spotted Smith next to an ice cream truck. She bought her a chocolate ice cream cone, and the two finally chatted there under the train tracks—Smith telling her she could opt for public housing but didn’t want to give up her dogs, Momma and Rocky. Instead, she would continue slipping in and out through a basement opening in that boarded-up building.

Maxwell arranged to spay Momma and the puppies from her final accidental litter, while Smith in turn introduced her to most everyone on the block. “We talk all the time,” Maxwell says. “She’s a beautiful woman who loves her dogs so much that she’s going to stay in this situation in order to keep them.”

Similar stories—a selfless dedication to pets, clients becoming key advocates—have emerged from Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Los Angeles as well, where Pets for Life also operates. In Philly, Betty Hills’s Pomeranian Brandt had fathered at least a dozen litters with her female Chihuahua. Pets for Life funded spay/neuter surgeries for all seven dogs and one cat. Now on a mission, “Miss Betty” has helped sign up additional clients for spay/neuter appointments, including a dizzying 40 in one afternoon. Also in Philly, Pets for Life helped spay and neuter Victoria Santiago’s six shih tzu-Chihuahua mixes. Staff have also assisted her with vet bills, donated crates, and even dropped by for some in-home training. Now Santiago is a dedicated volunteer. “Anything I can help for HSUS, I’ll be there,” she says. In 2012 alone, the program aided more than 11,000 animals with free services like spay/neuter, rabies vaccinations, dog-training classes, flea and tick medication, new collars, and food. A grant from PetSmart Charities has also enabled The HSUS to mentor groups looking to establish similar programs in 10 additional cities, from Phoenix to Milwaukee to Camden, N.J.

Raising Kindness
NAME: The Fournier family
WHY THEY’RE HSUS SUPERSTARS: Have donated to disaster responses, rescues and shelters, and other initiatives As a child, Jennifer Fournier (pictured above) offered her brother $10 to release the fish he’d caught. Today, that compassion is something she shares with her husband, Alan, and seeks to instill in her four children. Longtime supporters of local rescue shelters and the Fourniers became HSUS donors after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. “I saw all the good work [The HSUS was] doing and wanted to help,” she says. In 2012, they donated to The HSUS’s campaigns against gatoins, and puppy mills. The couple’s children have also gotten involved, collecting towels to pad the cages of dogs rescued from a puppy mill, volunteering at shelters, and asking for donations for animals in place of birthday gifts.

Neighboring Solutions
For every wildlife conflict, there’s a humane solution. That’s what the Rev. Sallye Hardy learned when she contacted The HSUS in 2012 for help with a beaver dam causing periodic flooding at Camp Selah in Sutherlin, Va. Whenever it rained, the beaver pond overflowed into a nearby culvert and over a newly installed bridge, washing away the camp’s only access road. The stagnant water became a mosquito breeding ground.

People offered advice: Destroy the dam. Trap and relocate the beavers. Or worse yet, kill them. “But everyone said no matter what you do, they are going to come back,” says Hardy. And none of the propositions stayed true to the camp’s humane stewardship ideals.

A water control device installed by HSUS specialists worked perfectly for the ministry’s 37-acre retreat, even in heavy rains. Camp volunteers have since built an observation deck at the pond’s edge where children can sit and watch the beaver lodge.

HSUS experts fostered humane alternatives to lethal wildlife management in several states in 2012, halting coyote and goose culling programs through community engagement and educational outreach. Nearly a dozen coyote-hazing workshops helped communities resolve conflicts with prevention techniques.

Emphasizing techniques for coexistence, HSUS experts intervene to save coyotes, geese, beavers, and other wild animals from lethal management programs.