



LOOKING OUT FOR HORSES

ROUNDED UP IN A HERD the Bureau of Land Management claimed was trespassing on federal property, Sebastian might have been sent to slaughter. Fortunately, he was rescued and now lives at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, operated by HSUS affiliate The Fund for Animals. In 2013, opposition by The HSUS prevented U.S. horse slaughter plants from reopening, keeping many other horses alive. Just as several plants were on the verge of resuming operations, we filed a lawsuit that temporarily blocked USDA inspections, meaning plants couldn't operate. Congress later restored a provision to prohibit spending by the USDA on inspections of horse slaughter plants in fiscal 2014.

The HSUS also won victories in its battle to protect Tennessee

walking horses from the practice of soring, or using caustic chemicals, chains, tall platform shoes and other cruel techniques to induce pain and force animals to lift their legs high in a gait that wins competitions. A bill to strengthen current federal law against soring gathered more than 300 co-sponsors in the House and Senate, and HSUS attorneys convinced a court in Texas to uphold mandatory minimum penalties for such abuses.

Until recently, violators have been largely unpunished. That's changing since an HSUS undercover investigation led to the conviction of famed trainer Jackie McConnell for conspiring to show and transport sored horses. "That case was the first domino," says Keith Dane, HSUS vice president of equine protection, "and it will set in motion a cascade of reforms."