



ABOVE: Wayne Pacelle with his adopted dog, Lily.

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Read his blog,  
A Humane Nation, at  
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“  
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# From the president

**At The HSUS**, we fight to protect animals. But in a broader sense, we’re working to build and uphold the principles of a civil society. We honor the well-being of others, seek to diminish violence in the world and work to teach the values of kindness and goodness. And thanks to your support, 2016 was an extraordinary year for that work.

I’ve never believed that human misery and violence are severable from the cruelty and suffering that afflict animals worldwide. Our fates have always been entwined. In domestic violence cases, one day the victim is a dog and later it’s a child or a spouse. The same factory farmers who intensively confine animals and deal them never-ending privation also release massive volumes of untreated animal waste, making life miserable for people and animals.

In all arenas of life, in the everyday choices consumers make, The HSUS makes the case: Animals matter. And we work in practical ways to change the way our society thinks about and treats them.

Here are just some of the gains we secured in 2016.

## **We made headway in attacking the exploitation of animals used for entertainment.**

The HSUS reached a landmark agreement with SeaWorld to end the company’s orca breeding program and move it away from theatrical performances involving orcas. This year, Ringling Brothers ended the use of elephants in its shows, a long overdue outcome for which we and other groups worked hard.

## **We set the nation, and other parts of the world, on a trajectory to end the era of extreme confinement of animals on factory farms.**

We engaged with more than 250 food companies at home and abroad—including Walmart, Kroger, Aramark and Denny’s—to stop cage confinement of laying hens and pigs. We gained ground in our national cage-free campaign by winning a Massachusetts ballot measure banning the sale and production of eggs, veal and pork from animals confined in cages, and by crushing a deceptive “right to farm” constitutional amendment in Oklahoma. For the first time in our movement’s history, we also achieved important corporate policy wins for broiler chickens (the largest number of animals used in factory farms), with Perdue, Aramark, Compass Group, Sodexo and others committing to major reforms.

## **We strengthened the global legal framework against cruelty.**

President Obama signed an executive order establishing a new provision under the Uniform Code of Military Justice applying animal cruelty standards to military bases. Humane Society International (HSI) helped enact animal cruelty legislation in El Salvador, while Honduras enacted a dogfighting ban and protection for all species of all animals, including wildlife and farm animals.

## **We raided puppy mills around the country, saving dogs and exposing this dirty**

**underside of the pet trade.** Boston, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, Sarasota, St. Petersburg and dozens of other localities enacted ordinances to ban or restrict the sale of puppy mill dogs. Through our Puppy Friendly Pet Stores program—where we work with pet stores

to reject puppy mill sales and instead partner with shelters and rescues on in-store adoptions—we've helped adopt out more than 9,000 dogs.

**We took on trophy hunting full-throttle at the state and federal levels.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a rule prohibiting cruel hunting methods targeting wolves, grizzly bears and other predators on more than 76 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands in Alaska, on the heels of similar action on 20 million acres of lands managed by the National Park Service. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted to forego its controversial black bear trophy hunt for 2016. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission voted to withdraw a proposal to initiate a bobcat hunting, hounding and trapping season. We've all but stopped the import of lion trophies to the United States after the federal government listed African lions as threatened or endangered across their range.

**We made national and global progress against animal testing.** Congress approved landmark provisions to reduce—and ultimately replace—the use of live animals for testing tens of thousands of chemicals. Following negotiations with The HSUS and other stakeholders, the Environmental Protection Agency announced a plan to phase out at least some obsolete animal testing practices. In October, Taiwan became the second major market in Southeast Asia to take a stand against cosmetics cruelty with a vote to ban animal testing in the beauty industry.

**We battled wildlife trafficking throughout the world.** Congress passed the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act to support global anti-poaching efforts. This complemented an Obama administration rulemaking action that restricted imports and interstate trade in ivory. In addition, The HSUS and HSI helped pass a ballot measure in Oregon and a bill in Hawaii to crack down on the trade in products from elephants, rhinos and other species threatened with extinction.

The HSUS and our affiliates are the world's number one animal care organization and the number one advocacy organization for animals—striking at the root causes of cruelty while also coming to the aid of animals in crisis. The HSUS, HSI and other affiliates provided direct care and services to nearly 300,000 animals in 2016—the most we've ever helped by far. We're able to do this work because you support us and help spread our values. It's no time to relent, and we hope you'll stand with us in 2017 and beyond as we take on the biggest, most difficult problems for animals in society.



Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO  
The Humane Society of the United States

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