At the Humane Society of the United States, we fight for all animals, working to achieve the vision behind our name: A humane society. But we can only do that by harnessing the skills and inspiring the support of our staff, our volunteers, our donors and supporters, the enormous team of advocates who give their hearts, time and money to our critical work.

I want to thank you for everything you’ve done to make our work possible. I’m excited about the opportunities in front of us, and am grateful to have you at our side as we move ahead.

In 2017, The HSUS again showed our capacity to take on the biggest fights, working in all 50 states and in more than 50 nations to drive change, and securing more public support than ever. When disaster struck in the form of powerful hurricanes late last summer, hundreds of thousands of people—maybe you were one—donated to help the affected animals, people and communities. That support made it possible for us to save, transport and care for thousands of animals in Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas and Mexico.

Putting humane values over profits, China shut down its ivory carving and trade operations. We made strides toward ending the dog meat trade in Asia; already, we’ve rescued thousands of dogs and shut down dog meat farms throughout South Korea. After a 30-year fight led by The HSUS, and a decisive ruling by the World Trade Organization, commercial tuna fleets won’t be able to flood the U.S. market with fish caught by chasing dolphins and setting nets on these magnificent mammals.

Even as Ringling Bros. moved to close down, we pushed for an end to wild animal acts in circuses throughout the United States and across the world.

You helped us secure many other victories:

**Putting a Stop to Puppy Mills**
Through our Puppy Friendly Pet Stores Conversion Program, we’ve helped 21 pet stores transition to selling homeless, adoptable animals rather than puppy mill dogs. These stores have found homes for more than 12,000 dogs. California became the first state to ban the sale of puppies in pet stores; only shelter and rescue dogs will be available in stores across the state. We drove up the number of local jurisdictions that ban the sale of puppy mill dogs at pet stores to almost 250.

**Winning over Fashion Houses to End Their Use of Fur**
We secured agreements from major brands and retailers—including Gucci, Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo—to commit to a fur-free future. Yoox Net-a-Porter, Stein Mart, Burlington Stores and VF Corporation (the parent company of dozens of popular brands, including The North Face, Timberland and Nautica) all committed to phasing out fur products.
SECURING HELP FOR LIBERIAN CHIMPS
We announced a major, multimillion-dollar agreement with the New York Blood Center (NYBC) to fund the care of more than 60 chimpanzees formerly used in medical experiments.

FIGHTING FACTORY FARMING IN THE U.S. AND GLOBALLY
We secured commitments from more than 70 of the largest food companies to improve the lives of chickens raised for meat—with Burger King, Sonic, Jack in the Box and Subway agreeing to major changes in the methods used to raise and slaughter the birds. Humane Society International obtained cage-free commitments from companies in Asia and Latin America, including JBS, Kraft Heinz, Sapore and Hoteles ESTELAR.

BATTLING CRUELTY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
Our HSI Mexico team won a major victory when that nation banned dogfighting, and Mexico City updated its constitution to recognize animals as sentient beings. Guatemala’s Congress passed sweeping anti-cruelty legislation, including a dogfighting ban, a prohibition on tail and ear docking of farm animals and a ban on cosmetic testing on animals. The Nepalese Supreme Court banned public culls of street dogs using poisons, beating and shooting, and directed the government of Nepal to introduce a humane management plan for homeless animals.

TACKLING TROPHY HUNTING
British Columbia’s government announced a provincial ban on trophy hunting of grizzly bears. Connecticut and Florida blocked bear hunting, and a federal appeals court upheld California’s right to keep mountain lion trophies from coming into the state. The HSUS won a federal court ruling to spare 1,000 wolves from death by trophy hunters and trappers in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Human misery, exploitation and violence are inseparable from cruelty and other threats to animals; the treatment of human beings and that of the animals who share our world is bound together. We’re working to build a kinder and more civil society, one that values freedom and individual rights, but also honors others’ wellbeing, seeks to diminish violence and exploitation, and encourages humane values. We’ll continue to fearlessly and strategically confront cruelty to animals, in every form, wherever it exists. I’m moved and gratified to have so many of you as our partners in that mission, one we carry out with compassion, resolve and a commitment to tangible, lasting change.

Kitty Block, Acting President and CEO
The Humane Society of the United States

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Send a note
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