



Stopping animal crimes, fighting and cruelty

Cruelty to animals comes in many forms—neglect, abuse and forced fighting, to name just a few—and we’ve seen them all.

Decades of experience confronting animal cruelty have made the Humane Society of the United States the most effective force for animal protection around. Your support enables us to bring all our strengths to this fight: We conduct undercover investigations to expose institutionalized cruelty, train thousands of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges how to recognize, react to and litigate cases of neglect and abuse; strengthen protections for animals and punishments for perpetrators; and campaign to end entertainment spectacles that create animal suffering. We also have the resources to take on complex and large-scale cases: a skilled legal team, professionally trained animal rescuers, seasoned cruelty investigators, legislative experts and media-savvy public relations pros. In 2018, our animal crimes team fielded an average of 400 reports a month about cases involving cruelty, fighting, puppy mills and more.

- We helped pass 204 new state and local laws to protect animals and strengthen punishment for cruelty, including in Mississippi, which now has stronger penalties for dogfighters; Louisiana, where bestiality is now illegal; and Massachusetts, where a “next generation” comprehensive animal cruelty law gives law enforcement agencies the tools to investigate and prosecute animal abuse and prevents the automatic euthanasia of animals confiscated from animal fighting operations.



grievously injured were found on an 80-acre site used in a massive cockfighting operation.

- Los Angeles and Ventura counties in California passed ordinances aimed at preventing cockfighting and the criminal activities that typically accompany it. The new measures limit the number of roosters permitted on private property and were prompted by one of the worst cruelty cases we have ever assisted with: In 2017, 8,000 birds who were caged, tied up, dead or
- An Alabama court found a defendant guilty on six counts of felony animal cruelty and one misdemeanor charge in a 2016 case in which we were involved. Our Animal Rescue Team worked with local law enforcement to remove some 65 dogs in need of urgent care from the defendant’s property, our companion animals department ensured the dogs found safe haven with our Shelter and Rescue Partners, and our animal crimes department assisted with the subsequent investigation and prosecution.