



Rescuing animals in crisis

Of the nearly 3,000 animals in crisis we saved in 2018, a few faces stayed in our minds long after we rescued them.



One was Ben, who we found along with nearly 90 other dogs and cats in a large-scale cruelty situation. Ben was literally starving—his body condition score was a 1, the lowest possible for an animal still alive. When our rescuers took this

sweet, frightened dog into their arms and carried him to safety, he radiated gentleness and gratitude despite his situation. Ben's rescue was just one of many we carried out in 2018 to save suffering and imperiled animals, each of which was made possible by the support of compassionate people like you.

- When two major Atlantic hurricanes landed a one-two punch to the Southeast U.S., the Animal Rescue Team was at work, saving animals before, during and after Hurricanes Florence and Michael. We coordinated and funded transports of hundreds of animals from area shelters and deployed to some of the hardest-hit areas to help stranded and abandoned animals, organize food deliveries, carry out field rescues and help storm-damaged shelters recover. All told, we directly helped more than 650 animals and transported more than 1,000 to safety.
- We won a major legal victory in a case involving the discovery in 2017 of dozens of Great Danes being bred for sale and living in horrific conditions in a derelict mansion in New Hampshire. While the unlicensed breeder's legal case proceeded through the courts, HSUS staff and volunteers cared for the 84 dogs in a purpose-built emergency shelter for more than a year, providing medical care for chronic and critical conditions, socialization, exercise and lots of love. In March, the breeder was convicted of cruelty by a jury and the judge ordered that the dogs could finally be rehomed.
- The Animal Rescue Team deployed to northern California to set up and run a shelter for displaced animals even as the Camp Fire wildfire was still burning.
- The Animal Rescue Team was called to help local authorities with a large-scale cruelty case on a private property, where we found dozens of dogs and cats, some emaciated or suffering from medical conditions. In total, we helped save nearly 90 animals; our partner shelters took them in to find them loving homes.
- Staff members and volunteers at HSI/India worked ceaselessly over several weeks in August and September, battling treacherous conditions, to save animals caught in the worst monsoon flooding in almost a century. They were able to rescue and shelter some 200 animals and help coordinate the rescue of more than 1,000 others.