

# Protecting Our Animal Companions



## Overpopulation of Dogs and Cats

Consumer demand for ever-more popular and exotic breeds of dogs continued to increase last year with U.S. and foreign puppy mills churning out as many as 4 million animals for the burgeoning market. We conducted undercover investigations of puppy mills, public auctions, pet stores, and Internet sellers and joined with law enforcement to conduct major raids on both licensed and illegal mass-breeding facilities from Maine to California. Thousands of adult dogs and their offspring were rescued from horrendous, production-line conditions typical of these canine factory farms: barren cages, flimsy shelter, inadequate food, and minimal or no veterinary care.

\* [humanesociety.org/stopppupmills](http://humanesociety.org/stopppupmills)

## Swift Help for Animals Who Are in Dire Need

HSUS disaster response teams rescued victims of hoarders, animal fighters, and puppy mill operators around the country. We traveled to Mexico to assist in relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Dean, and helped save more than 1,000 animals affected by Southern California's massive wildfires.

Working close to the fire lines, we established and operated emergency shelters, conducted search and rescue missions to find animals left behind, and reunited lost and rescued

animals with their owners. During operations near San Diego, HSUS personnel discovered a huge cockfighting operation with 5,000 roosters, several animal hoarding situations, and a large-scale puppy mill. Authorities investigated each of these cases.

\* [humanesociety.org/emergency](http://humanesociety.org/emergency)

### We also...

- Documented close to 1,000 commercial dog breeding operations in Virginia, many of them unlicensed, unregulated, and in violation of state and federal laws. More than 900 adult dogs and puppies were rescued from one mill alone and placed in East Coast animal shelters.
- Revealed that a Beverly Hills-area pet boutique catering to Hollywood stars and selling puppies for more than \$2,000 each obtained many of its dogs from puppy mills in the Midwest.



Dogs after rescue from a puppy mill

- Led a groundbreaking class-action lawsuit against a notorious Florida based pet store and online seller of mass produced puppies.
- Filed a lawsuit that forced the Florida Department of Agriculture to adopt new rules requiring veterinary inspections of puppy mill dogs before they can be sold.
- Conducted a four-state undercover investigation of puppy mill public auctions that documented hundreds of dogs suffering in deplorable conditions and selling for anywhere from \$1 to more than \$1,000.
- Secured passage of a provision in the U.S. Senate's version of the Farm Bill to ban the import of tens of thousands of puppies from foreign breeders.
- Established an online resource center enabling caregivers and communities to find humane methods of controlling feral cat populations.

- Initiated a regional feral cat training series to teach communitywide spay/neuter and vaccination programs.
- Persuaded Congress to direct the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to stop requiring federal housing residents to declaw their cats.
- Gave help and advice to more than 6,000 callers to our safety information hotline established in response to the nationwide crisis caused by poisoned pet food imports from China. Helped pass legislation in Congress setting higher standards for pet food safety.
- Prompted the spaying and neutering of 20,541 cats and dogs during our annual Spay Day USA event. In addition to support for 53 local spay/neuter organizations nationwide, our donations also included \$100,000 for a mobile operating clinic in North Carolina and \$50,000 to help fund a clinic at the Washington Humane Society in the nation's capital.

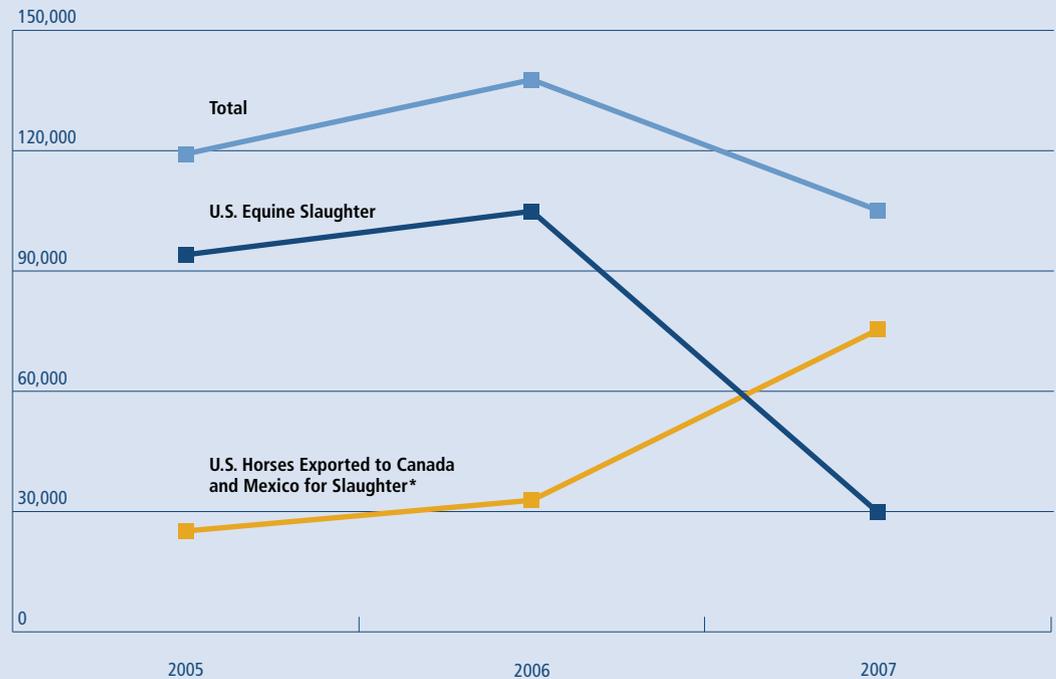
\* [humanesociety.org/feralcats](http://humanesociety.org/feralcats)

## Last Gasp for a Loathsome Industry

An end is in sight for the repugnant slaughter of American horses to satisfy foreign demand for horsemeat. We lobbied for the successful passage of legislation in Illinois to prohibit the practice and later won two federal court decisions upholding the state's new ban. Another legal ruling confirmed a similar law



Equine Slaughter: U.S. and U.S. Exports (2005–2007)



\*Data for equines shipped to Canada for slaughter is available only through November 2007.

Sources: USDA APHIS, 2007(a). Canadian Live Animal Imports into the U.S. by Destination. USDA APHIS, 2007(b). U.S. to Mexico Weekly Livestock Export Summary. USDA NASS, 2007. Equine Slaughter data series. Statistics Canada, 2007, Horse slaughter import/trade data.



Hoarded cats before removal to shelter

already on the books in Texas, thus shutting down the nation's three remaining equine abattoirs. We conducted a major investigation of horse slaughter plants in Mexico where long distance transport and killing methods are particularly crude and cruel, and continued our push in Congress for legislation prohibiting the export of live horses for slaughter.

A first-ever equine rescue summit cosponsored by The HSUS led to the creation of a "Homes for Horses" coalition of 20 animal welfare, horse rescue, and veterinary organizations, and we also launched a Pets911 online horse adoption program. With the help of a \$1.7 million Annenberg Foundation grant, we began working with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on a five-year contraception project that seeks to replace costly and cruel roundups of western wild horses with humane population control methods.

\* [humanesociety.org/horses](http://humanesociety.org/horses)

## The Miracle Horses

The only horses in America to see the inside of a slaughter plant and live to graze in the lush green pastures of an animal sanctuary landed in their new homes after a successful HSUS lawsuit shut down the country's last active horsemeat plant in DeKalb, Ill. The 30 animals had reached the killing floor and were minutes away from death when word of the court decision forced the U.S. Department of Agriculture to pull its inspectors from the plant, halting operations.

Other horses waiting in pens and trucks were shipped to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada. The owner of the lucky 30, however, contacted The HSUS after learning of the court decision and granted us possession of the horses in exchange for paying his expenses.

After being packed into trailers, trucked for days, prodded to the brink of death, and then rescued at the last moment, the animals were quickly dubbed the "Miracle Horses." Following treatment, assessment, and recovery, they were adopted by new owners or retired to our Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas and to other sanctuaries.

\* [fundforanimals.org/ranch](http://fundforanimals.org/ranch)

Miracle Horses at our Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch

