

## COMPASSION WITHOUT BORDERS

HSI combats factory farming in Mexico

**What awakens** Fausto Limón in the middle of the night isn't a sound but a smell. Since 1994, the Perote Valley, Mexico, resident's closest neighbor has been a massive pig farm co-owned by U.S.-based Smithfield Foods. When the stench is unbearable, Limón and his family get out of bed and drive in search of cleaner air. On those nights, the rural farmer, his wife, and their three teenagers sleep in the car.

Mexico has no laws limiting factory farms' size, location, or proximity to human populations, so people like Limón have little recourse when industrial-size pig or chicken operations move in. "It's land that his family has had for several generations," says Humane Society International's Sergio Moncada. "He plants crops and sells dairy products from the two cows that he has. He knows no other way of life, so leaving the valley, leaving what he has, is nearly impossible."

Limón's is one of many stories Moncada has uncovered since he began documenting how industrial pig factories affect communities in the Perote Valley, where factory-raised pigs outnumber human residents by more than 5 to 1. Along with noxious air pollution, residents are contending with contaminated groundwater, depleted aquifers, and even the loss of their livelihoods, as small- and medium-size pork producers are forced out of business.

Moncada's work is "critical to fighting



Amidst the natural beauty of the Perote Valley lie manure lagoons from factory farms (1 & 4); Smithfield Foods and Granjas Carroll, Mexico's largest pig producer, operate 16 factory farms throughout the valley, housing more than 1 million pigs a year (2).

**5:1**  
Ratio of factory-raised pigs to people in Mexico's Perote Valley



Fausto Limón and his family (3) live less than half a mile from a massive manure lagoon; HSI's Sergio Moncada greets a young calf on Limón's small family farm (5).

the misperception that factory farming provides economic opportunities for poor communities," says HSI director of farm animal issues Chetana Mirle.

At the heart of HSI's campaign are gestation crates that allow each factory farm to confine thousands of breeding pigs, and that are so small the animals can't even turn around. HSI is pressuring Smithfield to phase out the crates in its Mexican facilities, as it has pledged to do in the U.S. Campaigners are also enlisting support from environmental and social justice advocates and encouraging retailers to

require higher welfare standards from their suppliers.

The Mexico campaign is still young, but Moncada is optimistic that it will have an impact for animals and for people like the Limóns. "They're facing a government that's not listening. And an industry that does not want any reforms," he says. "They are very, very thankful to have the presence of international organizations here."

— Julie Falconer

➔ **READ MORE** about HSI's factory farming campaign at [hsi.org](http://hsi.org).

# HUMANE COUTURE

*Los Angeles event spotlights the future of fashion*

“We’re able to ... show our creativity, but also show our thought and our compassion,” says designer John Bartlett of The HSUS’s H-Couture fur-free fashion show, debuting Sept. 22 in Los Angeles. Kimberly Ovitz, another featured designer, welcomes the opportunity to “spread awareness that people can look amazing and chic without having to wear fur.” In the following edited interviews, three other participating designers explain why fur is never a fashionable choice.



**CHARLOTTE RONSON**  
*Learned by Heart*

The moment I chose to go fur-free was once I was educated and learned about how animals are actually treated and how unethical it is. Making the consumer aware of the practices that go into it is crucial. In some ways it might be a good idea as in cigarettes when they do the packaging of how bad it is and you see [pictures of] the lungs—an image is always so much stronger and speaks for itself.

I believe that both the consumer and the designer have the most power in getting people to stop using fur because I think as long as there’s a demand for it, there will always be someone supplying it.

My message to designers who continue to use fur would be to do some research and see what goes on. Hopefully they’ll go with the same decision I did.



**VICTORIA BARTLETT**  
*Inherent Compassion*

I have photos of me when I was about 9 with goats I rescued. I’ve always been involved in all of the [animal] charities and I think because of that The Humane Society came to me. They knew that I was proactive in not using fur, so I think it was a natural marriage. It’s something my whole team, my whole staff, they know, and I speak about it with interns and when people come on board. When I was a stylist, it was something that my agency had to put forward, that I did not work with fur. I had to [walk off] jobs when there was [fur].

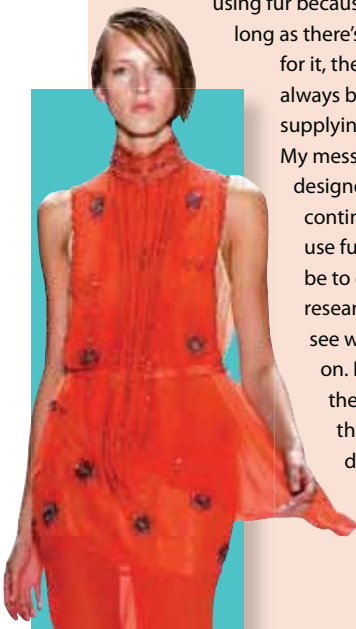
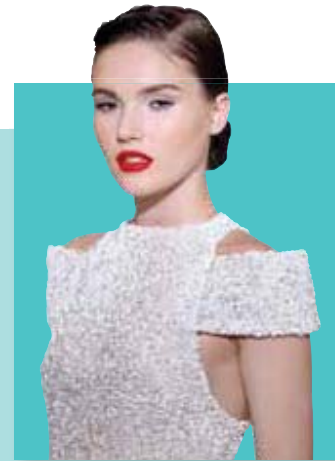
It’s a very sad thing that people still see such a value in money-making from something that’s about carnage. I can’t find the justification in that. There’s not a necessity to wear a dead animal; there just isn’t. There’s actually faux fur that looks so great. There’s so many alternatives; we’re in the modern world.



**MARC BOUWER**  
*Sending a Message*

I have persuaded several clients of mine not to wear fur or [offered] them an alternative. When Mariah Carey became aware of the process, she did not want to wear fur anymore. But she liked the look and feel of fur, so I showed her my faux fur collection and she loved it. And we also went through her closet, and she was quite horrified that some of the fur in her closet was real. So she got rid of it.

I think fashion has a major part in shaping societal values. What you put on your body sends a very strong message, and if you’re going to wear any kind of fur, it’s sending a message that you don’t care. By showing it on the runway, you are saying that fur on the human body is fabulous and gorgeous. I’d much rather see fur on an animal where it belongs.



▶ **TO WATCH THE SHOW LIVE** and sign the fur-free pledge, go to [humanesociety.org/hcouture](http://humanesociety.org/hcouture).

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DAN AND CORINA LECCA/DANICA WIRE IMAGE; JOE KOHEN/STRINGER/GETTY IMAGES ENTERTAINMENT/GETTY IMAGES; TOM CONCORDIA (2). OPPOSITE PAGE: MEREDITH LEE/FOR THE HSUS; FOLLOWING PAGE: DEB MCCUIRE PHOTOGRAPHY



"We can't allow ourselves to be affiliated ... with people who create dogs like they're on an assembly line," says Clumber spaniel breeder Kathryn McGriff.


## TAKING A STAND

Conscientious breeders join The HSUS in combating puppy mills

**Secretary of the Boxer Club of Hawaii**, Theresa Donnelly protests in front of stores that sell puppy mill dogs and advises people to go to responsible breeders, not pet shops, for puppies. A Clumber spaniel breeder in the D.C. metro area, Kathryn McGriff investigated the puppy mill industry when she worked as a producer at an ABC affiliate. As the public face of The HSUS's new Breeders Advisory and Resource Council, Donnelly and McGriff provide input on public policy and help The HSUS raise awareness about the

difference between responsible breeders—who breed happy, healthy dogs in clean, humane conditions—and puppy mills, factory-style facilities that focus on profit at the expense of animal welfare.

Already, McGriff has helped refine an HSUS checklist of what to look for in a responsible breeder, and she provided a breeder's perspective on a USDA proposal to close a loophole allowing online dog sellers to operate without a license. "Reputable breeders are perhaps the best advocates for animal welfare," she says. "We

 **THE FUR FLIES:** "Dog fur." That was how a New York business brazenly promoted its apparel and other products to the American public. Advertised and sold in violation of the Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000, the items—including a blanket, a vest, a pair of gloves, and a belt—were removed from Unique Product Enterprises' website by U.S. Customs and Border Protection based on the results of an HSUS investigation that started with a tip from a supporter.

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are committed to the breeds we raise. We want to see them placed in loving homes. ... We can't allow ourselves to be affiliated ... with people who create dogs like they're on an assembly line."

For her part, Donnelly—a U.S. Navy lieutenant and founder of Hawaii Military Pets—has actively supported a number of ongoing HSUS-led animal welfare bills in Hawaii, including pet store reforms and commonsense care standards for breeders. "She's the voice of reason on very emotional and oftentimes contentious issues," says HSUS state director Inga Gibson.

To those who see any regulation of the industry as an assault on their liberties and profits, The HSUS's new partnership with responsible breeders hasn't gone unnoticed. After Donnelly's and McGriff's identities were posted on The HSUS's website in

January, a breeder posted a diatribe against them. Its title: "Sleeping with the Enemy."

Such attacks can be traced to the attitudes of dog registries and professional breeder organizations, including the American Kennel Club, that lobby intensively against even modest improvements to the welfare of puppy mill dogs. As documented in a recent HSUS report, the AKC panders to the interests of large commercial breeders—who supply the bulk of its registry revenue—even though smaller-scale, high-quality breeders make up most of the organization's membership. The report also reveals that numerous puppy mill operators who have been charged with animal cruelty have been selling AKC-registered puppies; some of their facilities even passed AKC inspections.

Most of BARC's members have asked that their names not be released, fearing publicity could cost them their positions as show judges or damage their relationships with breed groups. But McGriff says someone has to come forward, and it might as well be her; she isn't currently showing animals or judging.

Donnelly decided to collaborate with The HSUS after concluding that attacks on the organization came mainly from commercial interests that stand to lose money if reforms are enacted. She says she's willing to put up with opposition if that's what it takes to get a dialogue going. "I'm hoping ... all parties come to the table and work together. ... If [responsible breeders] can sit down face-to-face with HSUS and have the conversation I did ... I just like to think they'll have a different position when they walk away."  
— *Karen E. Lange*



Theresa Donnelly encourages fellow breeders to come to the table with The HSUS.

➔ READ THE HSUS REPORT on the AKC at [humansociety.org/allanimals](http://humansociety.org/allanimals)

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Conservationists applauded China's July announcement that it will discontinue serving shark fin soup at government functions within one to three years. While one third of the world's open ocean sharks face possible extinction, each year tens of millions are fished—often while still alive—to feed the appetite for this status-symbol dish. China is the largest market for fins; its decision marks a milestone in the campaign to end this cruel and wasteful practice.



The U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed new reporting regulations for airlines that transport pets, with the hopes of prompting greater transparency and accountability. The new rule would require 36 airlines—an increase from 15—to file annual reports of the total number of animals flown as well as the number of losses, injuries, and deaths. Currently, incident reports are required only for the months in which they happen. Reports would also expand to include not just pets flown by owners, but cats and dogs transported for commercial sale, potentially improving their onboard handling and welfare.



Poppet didn't know she was a celebrity. But on June 7, the striped Siamese mix cat turned out to be the 10,000th pet sterilized by WeSNIP, a Bellingham, Wash., nonprofit organization that provides no-cost or low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to pet owners in need. Founded in August 2008, Whatcom Education Spay & Neuter Impact Program ensures that cats and dogs make it to their appointments, offering owners gas money or transportation when necessary. WeSNIP has saved thousands of lives by preventing unwanted litters.