

Now in saddle training at an HSUS-affiliated sanctuary, Flicka was saved from slaughter, an outcome The HSUS is seeking for all American horses.

SERVED WITH A SIDE OF CRUELTY

Horsemeat scandal puts
spotlight on slaughter

The buckskin horse with dark eyes and a black mane was young and healthy, but her owner had abandoned her. So she was set to be sold to a slaughterhouse middleman, known as a “killer buyer,” then hauled to a terrifying end in Mexico.

Instead, a horse lover stepped in and purchased her.

Now, Flicka is getting used to carrying a saddle at the Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center in Texas. “She is a flashy, sweet little girl with loads of potential,” says Ben Callison, director of the HSUS-affiliated Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch.

Flicka narrowly avoided a fate met by 160,000 U.S. horses last year, most of them adoptable like her. They were slaughtered and shipped to Asia and Europe, where a scandal erupted in January when horse DNA showed up in unexpected places: lasagna, spaghetti Bolognese, Ikea Swedish meatballs, and Taco Bell “beef.”

For animal advocates, halting horse slaughter is a matter of sparing sensitive animals who have bonded with humans. That argument doesn’t resonate with European Union officials—“I don’t want a Black Beauty story,” one told HSUS equine protection director Keith Dane. Since they will, however, take note of food safety violations, HSUS staff have seized on the attention generated by the recent scandal to highlight how most U.S. horsemeat comes from animals given drugs that, according to the EU’s own policy,

make them unfit for human consumption.

Unlike horses in Europe, horses in the U.S. are not raised for slaughter. They routinely get drugs such as the anti-inflammatory phenylbutazone (“bute”), which in humans may cause cancer and fatal bone marrow suppression. While Europe’s horses carry “passports” that list all medications they’ve been given, those in the U.S. generally lack records—killer buyers filling out equine information forms cannot possibly know the animals’ histories.

Stressing these concerns, Humane Society International has renewed its call for an EU moratorium on the sale of North American horsemeat. Meanwhile, The HSUS supported the March reintroduction of a federal bill to prohibit the slaughter of U.S. horses here and in other countries. (Currently, horses are shipped to Canada and Mexico for slaughter, but the recent reinstatement of funding for slaughterhouse inspections means U.S. plants could soon reopen.)

The EU has begun testing horsemeat for certain drug residues, with bute found in horsemeat shipped from Canada to Switzerland. But gaps in the testing mean there are no safety guarantees. A moratorium, Dane says, is really the only way to enforce EU law. “They can run through every test they want. There’s no way to bring horses raised in the U.S. into compliance.”

— Karen E. Lange

➤ **FIND OUT** how you can help stop horse slaughter at humanesociety.org/horse_slaughter.



Lisa Kurr (bottom, at left) and Carolyn Howe deliver food, bedding, cleaning supplies, and other donated items to Frederick County Animal Control in Maryland. "As an open-admission [shelter], our back door never stops ringing," says kennel supervisor Linda Shea (at left, sharing donated cat treats). "So, always much appreciated"



SUPER BOWLS

Maryland church embraces Fill the Bowl project

Battling a severe eating disorder as a teenager and adult, Lisa Kurr drew strength and comfort from her pets—from her dogs, and from horses like Harley, a rescue whose long rehabilitation gave her something healthy and fresh to focus on. "I really feel strongly," she says, "that the connection with my animals really helped me out of that."

Now, as she pursues her master's and doctorate in pastoral counseling, Kurr remains passionate about animals and their issues. Last summer, after joining Damascus United Methodist Church, she set out to start the Maryland congregation's first animal ministries program. She searched the HSUS website for tips on where to begin, then got in touch with Victoria Strang, coordinator for The HSUS's Faith Outreach program.

Strang's advice: Start simple by organizing a drive to collect pet food and supplies for rescue groups, shelters, and other pet owners in need.

Beginning in January, Kurr and a small group of volunteers did just that. And each Sunday since then, churchgoers have routinely stuffed the large red tub that sits prominently in the vestibule. "The kids especially ... they're just so excited about it," Kurr says.

Launched by The HSUS in December, the Fill the Bowl project gives churches a familiar starting point for new animal-related ministries—not unlike the food and holiday toy drives many already run for citizens in need. To help, The HSUS provides an instruction letter, bulletin inserts, bin stickers, and posters. "You just need to add a bin, and you're good to go," says Christine Gutleben, senior director of the Faith Outreach program.

"It's a fun way to get others involved in animal ministry activities, and then from there, the group can do any number of things."

At Damascus United Methodist, the new Animals' Angels program is following much that same approach. The group has already launched a Critter Crisis Hotline to help congregation members with pet care during personal emergencies, while future plans include

a Blessing of the Animals service and a low-cost vaccination event.

So far, collected items—from food and treats to towels, bedding, and cleaning supplies—have been donated to a feral cat colony, a rescue group, and two local shelters.

"I think there's a lot to be said for making people more aware of the importance of treating all of God's creatures—whether they're human or animal—with care and compassion," Kurr says. "I think that's the basis of it all. ... And then on top of that is just the whole idea of bringing people together because of animals." — *Michael Sharp*

QUOTED

“The practitioners of capitalism are evolving and so will their treatment of animals, especially with the help of organizations such as The HSUS.”



—Whole Foods Market co-CEO and HSUS board member John Mackey in an interview with HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle. Mackey’s new book, *Conscious Capitalism*, explores the theory that the free market has made the world a better place—with gains in household income, literacy, and lifespans—thanks to conscious businesses that recognize a responsibility to all stakeholders, including customers, workers, and suppliers. Noting that factory farming “recognizes only one value: Make money by increasing production for lower cost,” Mackey says society can create alternatives that are responsible *and* profitable, bringing radically improved conditions for animals—a revolution he likens to the movements to abolish slavery, colonialism, and women’s inequality.

▣ **ON THE IPAD:** Read the full Q&A and an excerpt from *Conscious Capitalism*.

Meat-Free in L.A.



To order or download a free copy of The HSUS’s *Guide to Meat-Free Meals*, visit humane.society.org/meatfree.

650,000+ That’s how many more meat-free meals—from Italian calzones to southwestern rice and bean bowls—will be served each week in the Los Angeles Unified School District, which recently implemented Meatless Monday in its 1,124 schools. The Los Angeles City Council had joined the international campaign in late 2012 by passing a resolution encouraging city residents to participate, and that paved the way for the country’s second-largest school district to follow suit. HSUS staff provided assistance with menu ideas and promotional materials. Says Kristie Middleton, outreach manager for The HSUS’s Farm Animal Protection Campaign: “They’re showing students, the community, and really the world at large that helping animals, being good stewards of the environment, and eating healthier is an easy thing that we can all do.”

— Michael Sharp

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A recent National Academy of Sciences study found that genomic responses to inflammation in mice and humans are so dissimilar that mouse models should no longer be relied upon to research treatment for sepsis, burns, and trauma. The 10-year study focused on inflammation caused by these conditions, which are frequently fatal to humans; 150 drugs that successfully treated inflammation in mice failed in human trials—“a heartbreaking loss of decades of research and billions of dollars,” wrote National Institutes of Health director Dr. Francis Collins in his blog. The NIH is dedicating millions of dollars to developing “tissue chips” that would replace animals in testing drug efficacy.

New York’s top design firms are getting into the feral cat shelter business. A colorful Bauhaus-inspired “Cat Coop” took top honors at the third annual Giving Shelter competition, an Architects for Animals fundraiser benefiting the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals. A five-level “high-rise” boasted a rooftop catnip garden, a “cabin” was constructed of empty cat food cans filled with recycled denim for insulation, and a mod urban design made from found materials featured molded foam walls cut to resemble Swiss cheese. The shelters were donated to local feral colony caregivers.

Responding to pressure from environmental groups, the world’s third-largest paper and pulp company accelerated its pledge to use only plantation-grown wood by 2015. Asia Pulp & Paper, which produces more than 18 million tons of products annually, ceased logging operations in natural Indonesian rain forests on Feb. 1 to help preserve the shrinking habitat of critically endangered orangutans and Sumatran tigers.

WE ARE THE HSUS



Nova, after

Kathy Mahoney

HSUS SUPPORTER; BOARD PRESIDENT, GREYHOUND FRIENDS

A SAFE HOUSE: “I’ve done my best to make [my house] their home,” says Mahoney, who has adopted 10 rescued greyhounds since 1996. Throughout her family’s home in Wellesley, Mass., 11 dog beds offer comfortable spots for current greyhounds Dana, Alayna, and Nova to plop down as they quietly follow Mahoney throughout the day. (That is, of course, when the trio isn’t taking orders from Angie, a feisty 12-year-old Yorkie.) The former high school teacher has made a habit of adopting older dogs: “I’ve thought many times over these years that rescuing these dogs is more

important than teaching math, because without people to rescue them, they would be gone.” Mahoney has also been a regular HSUS donor for several years—drawn to the organization’s work for stronger laws, particularly for farm animals—and is helping to recruit other donors.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: Last June, an officer stumbled upon three seriously neglected dogs in a West Virginia yard. By the time he returned with a warrant, only Nova had survived, living in a kennel without shade, near death, starving, her temperature spiking to 106.7. The community banded together to save her life, led by foster caregiver Heather Carver, who helped nurse her back from malnourishment, open lesions, and oozing skin. After a storm knocked the power out, Carver sat with her for hours in her car, blasting the air conditioning to keep her temperature down. Three months later, with Greyhound Friends helping fund her care, Nova found a loving new home—with the Mahoneys: “She’s a miracle in a lot of ways.”



THE BEST OF FRIENDS: Nova now accompanies Mahoney into schools and retirement homes as Greyhound Friends seeks to educate the public about the breed—their lives as racers, their ability to transition into wonderful, laid-back pets. “As tracks have closed in New England, we want to remind people that there are thousands still needing adoption.” Greyhound Friends rehomes retired racers while also advocating for the breed overseas and expanding to help homeless hounds in the Midwest.

LIKE DAUGHTER, LIKE MOTHER: Mahoney might never have stepped into the world of greyhounds were it not for her oldest daughter, Alana, who as a child read about Greyhound Friends’ remarkable founder, Louise Coleman. Soon after, the family adopted their first greyhound, Pops. “That changed everything, for all of us.” Alana herself once ran a rescue group from the family’s garage, adopting out 200 former shelter dogs over two-plus years. She now works for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. “Many people say, ‘Oh, she takes right after you,’” Mahoney says, “and I say, ‘Oh no, I take after her.’” — *Michael Sharp*



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