BETRAYAL OF TRUST

Humane Society International combats Asian dog meat trade

The mixed-breed dog was on his way, with scores of others picked up from the streets, to being slaughtered and eaten.

Crammed into an unventilated truck, he was headed from the southern Philippines to the north, where some Filipinos still consume dog meat. Inside the truck, the temperature rose above 100 degrees. Animals couldn't pant to cool down because their mouths were tied shut with nylon; it didn't matter to traders if they suffocated—dead dogs could still be sold as fresh meat.

Those who survived the 10-hour trip faced cruel slaughter: They would likely be hung upside down and beaten to death.

But police and animal welfare groups, including Humane Society International, stopped the truck north of Manila, enforcing a 2007 law that imposes jail time and heavy fines on dog transporters to prevent the spread of rabies. Kelly O'Meara, HSI director of companion animals and engagement, watched as the back of the truck was opened. "There were about 200 eyes staring back at us." Many of the dogs in the truck acted like pets, because in fact they were—they wore collars; they'd been stolen. The mixed-breed dog was particularly friendly. "He was very sweet," says O'Meara. "Licking my hand, wagging his tail, after ... this horrific ordeal."

Rescuers named the mixed breed "Brown Brown." After he was adopted from the shelter that took him in, he became a therapy dog. And an inspiration.

During the last year, HSI has expanded its efforts to halt the trade across Asia, where a cultural tradition of occasional dog meat consumption has morphed into a commercial industry with cross-country and cross-border transport of dogs: Tens of thousands smuggled out of Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia to Vietnam; 500,000 illegally traded in the Philippines; and millions legally sold in China.

HSI is working with country-based nonprofits, governments, and, in some cases, police. To fight the Thailand-Vietnam trade, HSI has joined the Asia Canine Protection Alliance, which seizes dogs from collectors, trucks, and slaughterhouses in partnership with local law enforcement. In August, HSI will host a conference for government agencies in the region.

In the Philippines, HSI is training police, educating the public, and helping its partner, The Network for Animals, care and find homes for animals the group rescues in raids. In China, HSI is encouraging governments and citizens to ban the dog meat trade—last year rural Weixian County became the first to do this—and is supporting activists as they intercept trucks loaded with dogs on the highway. Since 2010, six trucks have been stopped and 1,500 dogs rescued. HSI has joined other international groups to provide food, as well as vaccination and sterilization funds.

The last time HSI consultant Peter Li visited his hometown in southern China, he went to the market and found dogs, even puppies, being sold for meat. He saw blood on the ground where some had been killed for buyers. What struck him most was the expression in the eyes of the caged dogs, who must have watched the slaughter: "They're telling you, 'I love you.' They just want to be touched. … How can we do this to them?"

— Karen E. Lange

ON THE iPAD and at *hsi.org/dogmeat:* See a video about the campaign.

Rescued from a crowded truck like the one above, Brown Brown was taken to a Manila shelter by HSI staffer Kelly O'Meara.

WE ARE THE HSUS


Sophia


Shira

Sophia Lin, Shira Zeiberg

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

PARTY PLANNING: Many of us have fond memories of childhood birthday parties—family and friends gathered to help celebrate our special day, a cake alight with candles, and the promise of the latest and greatest toys wrapped and waiting to be unveiled. Yet, in looking back, it's likely that few of those gifts are remembered. That won't be the case for 8-year-old Sophia Lin of Maryland or 9-year-old Shira Zeiberg of Connecticut. Even though they've never met, the two shared a common goal this year: To celebrate their birthdays by celebrating animals.

SOPHIA'S STORY: "I care about animals very much," says Sophia. "When my mom asked me what I wanted for my birthday, I realized that I just didn't want regular gifts. I have plenty … already. I wanted [to do] something more special that would help animals." Sophia's party invitations asked family and friends to donate to The HSUS instead of buying a gift. "I picked HSUS because I did a little research with my mom ... and found out that The HSUS works really hard to protect the rights of animals," says Sophia. "[My friends] probably thought it was a little strange," she admits. "But they all respected my wishes and made a donation."

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETING: Even though Sophia didn't receive gifts for herself, she did get a surprise in the form of a birthday email from HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle, thanking her for her generosity. "We are lucky to have so many kids like you ... who share our view that all animals deserve respect and compassion," wrote Pacelle. Not one to miss an opportunity, the young animal lover replied with a little plug for her future. "When I grow up, maybe I can work for you," she told Pacelle. "Until then, I will not give up working for this cause."

CONNECTICUT CONNECTION: Shira Zeiberg's guests didn't think her request for donations to The HSUS in lieu of gifts was strange. After all, this is the third birthday she's celebrated by helping animals. "A lot of [my friends] are animal lovers and the majority of them have pets," says Shira. Even though her party was postponed due to a blizzard that dumped 2 feet of snow on the festivities, the rescheduled event was a great success. Special guests Annie Hornish, HSUS Connecticut senior state director, and Deborah Galle, a local wildlife rehabilitator, enthralled partygoers with animal rescue stories and tips on being responsible pet owners and friends of wildlife.

Together, the birthday girls raised more than $1,500 to help animals—gifts that won't soon be forgotten.

— Catherine Vincenti

OPPOSITE PAGE: CHAD SISNEROS/THE HSUS. THIS PAGE, SOPHIA: KATHY MILANI/THE HSUS; SHIRA: DAVID SOKOL/FOR THE HSUS; SAWYER: SHANNON VANDIVIER

QUOTED

> They're not understood creatures. A lot of people think of [sharks] as killing machines, but people know more about outer space than the ocean, so they're almost like aliens. … If people did learn about them, like I have, they would probably think very differently about them,

says Sawyer Chandler, an 11-year-old shark advocate and daughter of Emmy award-winning actor Kyle Chandler. Sawyer's already launched a website (*stopsharkfinningtoday.weebly.com*), and in March she attended The HSUS's Texas Humane Lobby Day, speaking with state legislators about a proposed bill to ban the trade in shark fins. Tens of millions of sharks are killed each

year for shark fin soup; Sawyer learned of their plight while watching the film *Sharkwater*. "It would resonate with anyone watching it," says Kyle Chandler. "You're getting the actual vision of a shark, on a boat, having its fins lopped off and then dumped into the ocean. You don't need much more than that to be viscerally affected—let alone a young child who happens to love sharks like someone would love puppies."

TO WHAT END?

Tail docking cattle causes unnecessary suffering

The discomfort and distress don't end after the rubber band is wrapped tightly around a young cow's tail. They don't end as the blood flow cuts off, or weeks later when the lower portion of the tail—anywhere from a third to two-thirds of it—becomes necrotic and falls off.

Other times, a dairy producer might just opt for pruning shears or a cauterizing iron to get the job done. But when it comes to the practice known as tail docking, the cruelty extends beyond the procedure itself: A shortened tail can impair a cow's ability to communicate, it may cause phantom limb pains, not unlike what some humans suffer after an amputation, and it can leave the animals unable to ward off flies.

"On factory farms, which have a lot of manure, especially in the warmer summer months there can be real fly problems," says Paul Shapiro, HSUS vice president of farm animal protection. For those cows unable to swat the insects away, he adds, "that can cause a constant source of stress and discomfort."

A tail-docked cow (as shown in lower photo) may suffer from phantom limb pains and an inability to ward off flies.

The American Veterinary Medical Association and National Milk Producers Federation both oppose the practice, which began in New Zealand in the 1900s. It was believed then that shortening a cow's tail would help keep it clean of urine and thus prevent the spread of leptospirosis (caused by bacteria from a mammal's kidneys) to workers milking the animal. A subsequent study, however, found no connection between leptospirosis infections and tail docking.

The practice has continued anyway, amidst additional claims about the need to prevent a cow's tail from becoming soiled. But once again, extensive research has shown that docking doesn't improve the health and cleanliness of cows' udders or the quality of their milk. "The science is clearly non-supportive, [and] demonstrates there is no benefit to anything by cutting off the tail," says Jim Reynolds, a longtime bovine veterinarian and now professor of large animal medicine and welfare at Western University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

When it comes to a procedure that will inflict pain on an animal, Reynolds turns to two basic tenets. First: "Do we need to do it?" And second: "If there is a really good reason, then we have to do everything that we can to mitigate the pain."

Of tail docking dairy cows, he says: "This one doesn't even get past that [first question]. No, we don't need to do it."

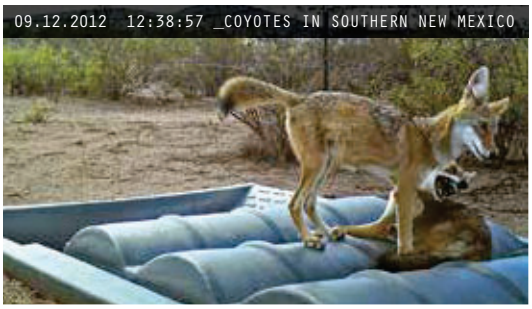
If farmers are concerned about hygiene, Reynolds says, they should trim the switch hair at the end of the tail and do a better job cleaning the animals' housing. "Cattle and manure are not supposed to be together. … This was a species that's not designed to lie in its own feces."

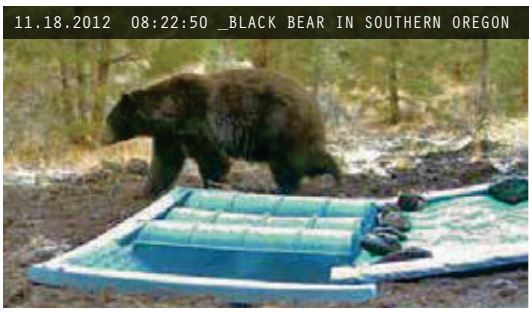
The HSUS has successfully pushed for tail docking bans in Rhode Island, California, and New Jersey. Ohio will phase it out by 2017, and a rule has been drafted in Kentucky to potentially do the same. Still, it remains a controversial issue, as a recent attempt to ban the practice in Colorado was met by resistance from the state's dairy industry.

The HSUS, Shapiro says, will continue lobbying to criminalize the practice. "The dairy industry needs to start taking animal welfare more seriously," he says. "And to continue defending a practice that's inhumane and has no scientific justification whatsoever sends a signal to the public that this is an industry that just doesn't care about animal welfare."

— Michael Sharp

TOP: LISA-BLUE/ISTOCK PHOTO





BIG GULPS

Water guzzlers help wildlife thrive on protected properties

In the early evening darkness, a hulking form approaches a fresh water pool recently installed on a Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust property in southern Oregon. The bear's eyes glow an iridescent green as he looks toward a trail camera before lumbering down a textured ramp for a refreshing sip.

Animals have an uncanny knack for finding water, especially in dry regions of the western United States, so it comes as no surprise that wildlife flock to these man-made water sources—"everything from small birds, lizards, and rabbits to mountain lions and black bear," says Jim Reed, director of stewardship for the land trust.

Known as "water guzzlers," they work by funneling rainwater from a shed-type roof into a covered tank that protects it from evaporating. A side reservoir allows animals sipping opportunities while a ramp provides an escape route for critters who unwittingly take a plunge.

Last October, the land trust placed two 500-gallon guzzlers on the Greenwood Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in Lakeview, Ore., improving habitat for sage grouse, pronghorns, elk, badgers, and other animals. Since April of last year, another 500-gallon guzzler on the remote Allranch Wildlife Sanctuary in Hidalgo County, N.M., has whetted the whistles of everything from quail and porcupines to bobcats and spadefoot toads. Since recreational and commercial hunting and trapping are banned on all land trust sanctuaries, the animals can enjoy their new watering holes in peace.

Over the winter, three guzzlers were also installed in Waikoloa, Hawaii, to help quench the thirst of free-roaming donkeys once used by farmers on the island's pineapple and coffee plantations. Next on deck is a 500-gallon guzzler for the arid Roller Wildlife Sanctuary in Ardmore, S.D.—an important pronghorn calving ground and home to the swift fox, another species of concern.

— Ruthanne Johnson

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The four latest graduates of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service training program don't demand large salaries: They work for treats. Selected from animal shelters, canines Viper, Butter, Lancer, and Locket completed a 13-week course in detecting hidden wildlife products—such as dried seahorses, tortoiseshell, elephant ivory, and rhinoceros horn—at U.S. ports of entry. Rhino poaching, in particular, is on the rise. The dogs need just five minutes to search what it takes five hours for a human officer to cover.

In May, Sonora became the first Mexican state to ban bullfighting when its legislature unanimously passed a law that also provides unprecedented protections for other domestic species. Sonoran citizens began speaking out against the "sport" in 2011, when 18,200 people protested a bullfight. The feeling is shared in Spain, where Catalonia has banned bullfighting, attendance elsewhere is dropping, and a recent HSI survey found that 76 percent of respondents opposed the use of public funds to support the bullfighting industry. Advocates hope public opposition will persuade the Spanish parliament to drop a proposal that would declare bullfighting a cultural heritage and allocate taxpayer funds to support it.

A new animal welfare rule in Florida should benefit thousands of racing greyhounds. Filed by the state's Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, the new requirements include detailed rosters of dogs kept by trainers, weekly documented walk-throughs of kennels by track officials, immediate notification to the state of any dog's death, and a ban against keeping multiple dogs in one cage.

HUMANE SOCIETY WILDLIFE LAND TRUST

LIFE-SAVING INNOVATIONS

HSUS award honors corporate pioneer in toxicity testing

Before a new skin care product is rubbed onto human skin, it has historically been applied to an animal.

Take a rabbit, for example. Toxicologists shave a patch of skin, then apply the product or a particular ingredient. They then observe: Does the skin blister? Does it swell? Is there irritation? Corrosion?

In March, the European Union took a landmark stand against such testing, officially banning the import and sale of any cosmetic with an animal-tested ingredient. As companies looked for ways to adjust, Kalamazoo, Mich.-based CeeTox, Inc., stepped up with an answer.

CeeTox's SenCeeTox test uses a three-dimensional human skin model, grown from cells in a laboratory plate, to test everything from skin creams and lipsticks to hair gels. "We've essentially replaced a rabbit," says CeeTox president Tim Mitchell, "with a patch of human skin that's been grown in a laboratory."

2012 Henry Spira Humane Corporate Progress Awardees

- ARAMARK
- Burger King
- CeeTox
- Consumer Specialty Products Association
- Sodexo

Exploring alternatives to animal testing has been a cornerstone for CeeTox, which uses in vitro methods to test the toxicity of drugs, pesticides, and personal care products. In recognition of that work, The HSUS honored the company with its new Henry Spira Humane Corporate Progress Award—named in memory of the pioneering animal advocate, who was instrumental in working with corporations to institute humane policies.

"They don't use any animals at all," says Kate Willett, HSUS director of regulatory toxicology, risk assessment and alternatives, who describes CeeTox as a front-runner in that field: "They've been, for years, developing incredibly solid methods based on the latest science that are highly reliable."

The contract research organization now grows about 60 different cell lines, including human heart cells and human cancer cells. "The truth is, human beings are not 60-kilogram rats," Mitchell says. "We have unique physiology. We have unique biochemistry."

Mitchell believes these advances will lead to a deeper scientific understanding of why certain products produce adverse reactions. "Today, if you do a test on an animal, oftentimes you'll see that it causes a tumor, for example," he says. "… You can see the tumor, and you can see where it is, but you can't see the underlying biochemical pathway that caused that tumor to [develop]."

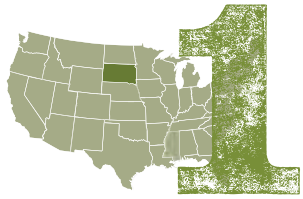
In vitro testing has the potential to offer such a look, Mitchell says, and could open additional doors—like the ability to prescreen individuals for certain drug side effects. "I see, in the future, a world in which the use of animals is drastically or completely reduced." — *Michael Sharp*

$5.6 MILLION

That's how much the Newfoundland government has handed the sealing industry in low-interest loans over the past two years, with no public timetable for repayment.

SEAL: ROLF HICKER

Meanwhile, more than 400,000 seal skins were already stockpiled on the global market at the start of 2012. Even though trade in seal products is now banned in more than 30 countries and participating fishermen earn, on average, less than 5 percent of their annual incomes from killing seals, the federal and provincial governments continue to prop up the industry in a variety of ways. Nearly 90,000 seals were killed this year.



That's how many U.S. states still lack a felony animal cruelty measure.

South Dakota became the lone holdout this April, after North Dakota passed felony-level penalties for malicious animal cruelty. A 2012 ballot campaign, supported by The HSUS, helped generate momentum for the new law, which continues a remarkable run of progress in the area: Before 1986, only Massachusetts, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island had felony measures on their books. "The reason that South Dakota does not yet have a stronger animal cruelty law is because of resistance from certain agricultural groups," says John Goodwin, HSUS director of animal cruelty policy. "Clearly, though, South Dakotans want strong animal cruelty laws, and the citizens and animals of that state did not deserve to be the last ones without them."