

I N 1954, WHEN THE HSUS FORMED, just 500 or so local humane organizations were scattered across 3,100 counties. Like islands, with scant connection and sense of unity, they lacked the resources and capacity to achieve best practices and were often disassociated from the larger dynamics driving animal homelessness and cruelty.

The HSUS didn't seek to duplicate the work of local groups but to help them run better and to grow the humane movement as a whole. Its founders also wanted to address problems beyond the reach of local groups.

Now 60 years later, there are perhaps 20,000 animal protection groups, advocating for nearly every kind of animal. Thousands of others operate in other nations.

But even as our movement has grown stronger, animal cruelty remains widespread, and there's been a dramatic rise in institutionalized forms: factory farming, wildlife trade, puppy mills, animal testing, and more.

More than ever, the world needs an organization like The HSUS, with the power, pragmatism, and professionalism to take on the biggest, most intractable problems for animals.

In the decade ahead, here are some of our goals:

Reducing euthanasia of pets in the U.S. and protecting street dogs globally: In the U.S., The HSUS will seek to reduce by 1 million the euthanasia of healthy and adoptable pets, by augmenting spay/neuter and adoption promotions and by helping pet owners who lack access to veterinary services (read more about one of our programs, World Spay Day, on p. 30). Overseas, Humane Society International will expand its sterilization and vaccination programs, focusing on Nepal, Bangladesh (starting in Dhaka), Costa Rica, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, which together have an estimated 25 million street dogs.

Reducing suffering for billions of animals on factory farms: We will continue to take this issue head on—seeking the elimination of extreme confinement and promoting the substitution of more humane practices, conducted principally by family farmers. Because it is impossible to raise 9 billion animals humanely and sustainably, we'll encourage consumers to reduce their meat consumption, just a bit, starting in the United States. Making better food choices—say, by skipping meat one day a week—will yield enormous results for human health, the global environment, and animal welfare, with our goal being to spare 2 billion animals the privations of the factory farm.

Securing animal cruelty laws throughout the world: Today, approximately half the nations around the globe have some form of anti-cruelty legislation. We will seek to convince at least 20 additional countries to adopt statutes in the next 10 years, with the ultimate goal of building a comprehensive, global legal framework against cruelty.

Curbing wildlife cruelty and ushering in a new era of humane management: We will target the worst abuses of wildlife and urge a more enlightened paradigm of wildlife management, characterized by greater tolerance, the promotion of nonconsumptive wildlife tourism, and a more active use of fertility control and other technologies to minimize human-wildlife conflicts. We'll push the states to ban the use of highly toxic lead ammunition by sport hunters, outlaw the possession of wild animals as pets, and halt the reckless killing of marine mammals and terrestrial predators.

Replacing animal testing and research with 21st century science: The HSUS and HSI will drive progress toward replacing animal testing with transformative research and technologies. We've been working to end cosmetics testing in Brazil, Russia, India, and China by 2025 (see our cover story on p. 16) and also partner with the leaders of the world's top scientific nations—in the European Union, United States, Canada, and Japan—to fully replace animal tests with a new conceptual framework and advanced, human-biology-based technologies, with the goal of substantially ending toxicity testing on animals by 2025.

Indeed, it's an ambitious, expansive agenda. But that's the sort of leadership that The HSUS must, and will, provide. And, with you infusing the organization with passion and resources, we will drive gains that just a few years ago seemed unimaginable to us all.



Wayne Pacelle with his adopted dog, Lily

Wayne Pacelle

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