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HSUS’s Ongoing Katrina Response

More than a year after Hurricane Katrina's ruinous landfall, the disaster's impact upon animals remains one of its most compelling elements. Tens of thousands of domestic and wild animals perished from drowning, starvation, disease, and other misfortune. Katrina was a signal episode in the history of animal protection, and a transformative moment for The HSUS. Our ability to deploy personnel, expertise, and supplies; to dispense emergency funds; to draw public attention to the plight of animals; and to secure legislation to guarantee their safety in future disasters placed The HSUS at the center of the humane movement’s response.

A year later, the hurricane continues to generate substantial challenges for The HSUS. Unprecedented new HSUS-sponsored programs will help deal with pet overpopulation problems Katrina left behind in the Gulf states.

HSUS Goes to Court to Protect Sea Lions, Cougars

Sea Lions under Siege on the West Coast

May 26, 2006, was a landmark day in the protection of Steller sea lions. A judge from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled in favor of a lawsuit filed last year by The HSUS. The judge found that the National Marine Fisheries Service violated federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act, when it issued permits to researchers that allowed them to capture, invasively sample, and hot brand 3,000 Steller sea lions from endangered and threatened populations from California to Alaska. The government was forced to revoke research permits and conduct an environmental impact review.

Sea lions in Washington and Oregon are still far from safe. Both Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife have requested authority to pursue lethal methods of controlling seals and sea lions at the Bonneville Dam in Oregon. The controversy continues to surround the issue of the sea lions feeding upon endangered salmon as they try to pass narrow fish ladders at dams and locks. Salmon have declined as a result of dams that block their passage, siltation of spawning streams, competition from hatchery-raised fish, and poorly managed commercial fisheries. Predation by sea lions is the least of their problems. The health of the populations of both the salmon and the sea lions are important. “Killing one threatened species in order to save another is short-sighted and ineffective” said Jennifer Hillman, HSUS's deputy director of ballot initiatives. For more information, visit www.hsus.org/wildlife.

Stopping Cougar Killing In Oregon

There are only an estimated 5,100 cougars living in Oregon. Federal and state agencies want to kill approximately 4,000 of them over a five-year period. To stop this horrific plan, The HSUS, other humane organizations, and a number of conservation groups filed suit in June to stop the killing. The groups bringing suit charge that the decision by officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to kill the cougars on behalf of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife without first examining the potentially adverse environmental effects violates the National Environmental Policy Act.

“Indiscriminately reducing the cougar population is a biologically reckless and scientifically flawed approach for reducing conflicts, yet this is the sole focus of the continued on page 2
### SF Supports Seafood Boycott

The momentum of support for Canadian seals continues to grow with 35 more restaurants in San Francisco signing the HSUS's Pledge to boycott Canadian snow crab and other seafood until Canada stops its yearly slaughter of hundreds of thousands of baby seals. Moreover, in a major development, the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, consisting of 800 restaurants in the San Francisco area, has voted overwhelmingly to support the Canadian seafood boycott. "We are extremely pleased to welcome such famous San Francisco restaurants as Cafe de la Paz and Market Bar to the growing list of supporters for the boy­cott," said Patricia Ragan, director of the Protect Seals campaign. "All across the country, consumers, restaurants, and chefs are helping seal lovers by signing on to this campaign. This is illustrated by the commendable action of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association." Sealing is an off-season activity of commercial fishermen from Canada's East Coast. More than two-thirds of Canadian seafood is exported to the United States, producing $2.8 billion annually for the seafood is exported to the United States, Canadian commercial fishermen from the East Coast.

### Freeing Hens from Battery Cages

In the United States, nearly 300 hens are confined in barren battery cages so small the birds can't spread their wings or engage in many other natural behaviors, such as nesting, foraging, preening, and dust bathing. The cages are stacked one on top of another inside huge warehouses on factory farms. Each bird is allowed less space than a single sheet of paper on which to live, leading to extremely high levels of stress, injury, and frustration. The good news is that the HSUS is campaigning to improve the plight of these animals. Across the country, businesses and schools are joining a growing trend away from the use of eggs from caged hens. National retailers such as Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace—as well as California retailers Jimbo's Naturally and Lassen Natural Foods—have eliminated the sale of cage eggs, and Trader Joe's has converted all of its brand eggs to cage-free. Food service provider Sodexo is phasing out the use of cage eggs in all of its 400 cafés nationwide. Even companies such as AOL and Google have ended the use of eggs from caged birds in their employee cafeterias.

### RAVS: More Than Just Spay/Neuter

Each year, HSUS's Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) provides spay and neuter and vaccination services for thousands of underserved pets and their families throughout the United States and the world. But sometimes, the volunteer veterinary teams come across a case requiring much, much more. In May 2000, HSUS's Paul Bruce joined RAVS on a visit to the Hoopa tribe in California. They met Buddy, a young shepherd mix who had been hit by a car several months earlier. Buddy was a gentle, happy soul who had mostly recovered from his injuries, but had severe nerve damage to his left front leg, which caused it to hang limp and useless from his large frame. Now mostly active, Buddy was beginning to damage the mangled leg, and it was only a matter of time until it would begin to cause him serious problems. It needed to be removed. Buddy's family could not afford such a surgery, so the RAVS doctors, led by Director Etc. Davis, agreed to do the job. Buddy's surgery was long and difficult, but he came through it beautifully. Over the next 48 hours, the RAVS staff came to know and love Buddy and his family. By the time the surgery was done, Buddy was the star of the clinic and everyone associated with his case was sad to see him go, but happy to have been able to help such a sweet, loving boy.

The RAVS staff at the Hoopa clinic performed 130 spay/neuter surgeries over the four-day event and provided vaccinations exams for more than 300 others. The Hoopa tribe has been more and more active with each year's RAVS visit, and is currently seeking to start its own SPVA and shelter—the ultimate RAVS success story.

### The PETS Act: Preparedness on the Law Books

For the greatest outcome of The HSUS's year-long response has been the virtually certain enactment of federal legislation that guarantees the incorporation of animals into disaster planning efforts, and lays the groundwork for a transformation of public policy approaches to the handling of animals in emergency situations. The HSUS devoted a great deal of effort and resources to secure passage of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act. As a direct result of this leadership, the Act is on the verge of final passage and approval by President George W. Bush.

\[ \text{continued from } "\text{Sea Lions, Cougars,}" \text{ page 1} \]

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\[ \text{today, the HSUS has given away or committed } 38.35 \text{ million to more than } 45 \text{ animal welfare organizations directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. The funds will provide for local groups' ongoing operations and building restoration. The grants include a } 4.5 \text{ million package to the Louisiana SPCA and } 895,000 \text{ to the Humane Society of South Mississippi—two major organizations whose facilities were destroyed or severely damaged. Another } 2.3 \text{ million has been distributed to more than } 130 \text{ humane societies, animal control agencies, and rescue groups from 29 states that sent staff members to the stricken zones, accepting and caring for Katrina animals. These groups were the backbone of on-the-ground rescue and relief operations. The HSUS has invested more than } 3.8 \text{ million on spaying and neutering campaigns in Louisiana and Mississippi to address the increasing active, Buddy was beginning to damage the mangled leg, and it was only a matter of time until it would begin to cause him serious problems. It needed to be removed. Buddy's family could not afford such a surgery, so the RAVS doctors, led by Director Etc. Davis, agreed to do the job. Buddy's surgery was long and difficult, but he came through it beautifully. Over the next 48 hours, the RAVS staff came to know and love Buddy and his family. By the time the surgery was done, Buddy was the star of the clinic and everyone associated with his case was sad to see him go, but happy to have been able to help such a sweet, loving boy.

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**Legislative Update**

- **California**
  - Felony animal fighting penalties. Introduced by Sen. Nell Soto, S.B. 1349 is the third attempt to provide the option of a felony penalty for second or subsequent violations of the animal and gamecock fighting statutes. The bill passed the Senate and the Assembly, and at this printing it is before the governor. "California will continue to be a safe haven for cockfighters until a felony threat is in place," says WCRO Director Eric Salach. "They are flocking here from other states that have felonies. We are confident Gov. Schwarzenegger will sign this important bill."

- **Disaster planning for animals.** Introduced by Leland Yee, A.B. 450 requires the Office of Emergency Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding with California Department of Food and Agriculture to incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System program into their emergency planning. Since Hurricane Katrina and Rita, many states are passing legislation to ensure safe evacuation for people and their animals. A.B. 450 passed the Assembly and is before Gov. Schwarzenegger.

- **Field coursing with live animals.** A.B. 2110 provides that any person who knowingly engages in a competition in which dogs hunt live rabbits, hares, or foxes is guilty of a misdemeanor. After a television news story in San Francisco exposed the horrors of this type of event, Assembly Member Loni Hancock introduced A.B. 2110, which would put an end to these unnecessary events in which jackrabbits are chased and killed by sight hounds such as greyhounds, salukis, and Afghan hounds. A.B. 2110 passed one committee and then failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee because of concerns about perceived costs and hunting interests.

**Cockfighting in Santa Barbara?**

You wouldn’t think of Santa Barbara County as a haven for cockfighting. But on June 25, 2006, HSUS’s Curt Ransom, Paul Bruce, and Chris Sanford joined with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department, which served a search warrant at a dilapidated cockfighting and training facility in Lompoc, California. Just a month prior, another raid in nearby Gonzalez involved several hundred gamecocks. The Lompoc facility is a 12- to 13-year-old makeshift maze of low-ceilinged, cobweb-infested corridors and passageways housing 1,000 gamefowl. Animal control and humane officers from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties photographed, banded, and inventoried hundreds of gamecocks found in various stages of neglect. There were dead and dying birds and others with feathers missing and comb and spurs cut to make them ready for their next scheduled death bout. Also found on the property were sharp knifes that are tied to birds’ legs for combat, and metal boxes to confine the birds for the fights. “This is one of the most pitiful places I have ever seen,” said Sanford. “These animals suffer intentional cruelty and can pose a risk to birds and other wild animals. We hope that council members will consider their public safety and the extreme perils their cats face out­doors,” said Bruce. “Besides traffic, preda­tors, and disease, cats can fall victim to intentional cruelty and can pose a risk to birds and other wild animals. We hope that once people know the facts, they will be more inclined to keep their kitty safe at home.”

**No Roos in Shoes!**

Here’s a fact guaranteed to take the spring out of your step: Many makers of athletic shoes use kangaroo skin in their products. To stop this, The HSUS filed an amicus brief in June with the California Supreme Court in support of a lawsuit challenging several athletic retailers’ sale of kangaroo skin shoes in direct violation of state law. The case was filed in 2003 by a Los Angeles resident and Viv’s International Voice for Animals, an animal protection organization.

In 1970, the California Legislature passed a law prohibiting the import and sale of certain wildlife parts and products, including kangaroo. The purpose was to protect animals from becoming endangered or threatened, to assist law enforcement by prohibiting trade in species identical in appearance to a protected species, and to protect species from cruel and unnecessary killing.

Nevertheless, athletic and other retailers continue to sell shoes made of kangaroo skin in California based on the contention that the state statute is preempted by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), even though kangaroos are not subject to federal regulatory control. Last year, the court of appeal sided with Adidas, finding that although the federal government is no longer regulating kangaroos at all, the state law is preempted by “general federal objectives of encouraging Australia to maintain effective kangaroo management. With the support of both the California Attorney General’s Office and The HSUS, plaintiffs sought and obtained review in the California Supreme Court on March 1, 2006.

The HSUS has asked the California Supreme Court to reverse the court of appeal’s decision because it conflicts with decades of well-established case law concerning the relationship between federal and state wildlife management. And because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the Australian red, eastern gray, and western gray kangaroos from the ESA and rescinded the special rule permitting their importation into the United States in 1995, there is no current, explicit federal oversight of the kangaroo that would otherwise prohibit California from protecting these species.

The court of appeals decision not only allows these defendants to flout California law, but also strips the state of all authority over species no longer receiving federal protection," said Jonathan R. Lovorn, HSUS vice president of animal protection litigation. "The decision is patently flawed and will frustrate both state and federal conservation efforts."

**I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).**

- **Making a memorial donation to honor the life of an animal or relative.**
- **Providing for pets in my will and in case of emergency.**
- **Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.**

**Send me the information about: **

- Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS. Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.
- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of an animal or relative. Providing for pets in my will and in case of emergency. Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

**I need help with:**

- Checking a list of animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offices
- Finding a chapter or affiliate in my area.

**Please send the information about:**

- Checking a list of animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offices
- Finding a chapter or affiliate in my area.

**ADDRESS:**

**STATE:**

**ZIP**

**E-MAIL (OPTIONAL):**

**CITY (OPTIONAL):**

**PHONE (OPTIONAL):**

**FAX (OPTIONAL):**

**SIGNATURE:**

**I agree to:**

- Use my contact information to contact me about my request.
- Share my contact information with other HSUS entities.

**I will:**

- Use my contact information to contact me about my request.
- Share my contact information with other HSUS entities.
In addition to seeking legislative improvements, The HSUS has increased disaster-response training opportunities for our staff and volunteers as well as for local agencies across the country. Several HSUS emergency animal sheltering courses are scheduled for California and Washington this fall, and California will host the National Conference on Animals in Disasters in 2008.

I suppose I should be feeling a little less nervous about potential disasters with all the attention finally being paid to this issue by our elected officials. With future disasters a certainty, passage of state and federal legislation could help save thousands of people and pets from anguish—even loss of life.

Still, we must remember that the inclusion of animals in emergency planning is just one facet of a multifaceted issue. Even more important is the recognition that responsibility for planning for disasters starts with each of us as pet owners.

For more information about HSUS disaster services and what you can do plan for pets in disasters, please visit www.hsus.org/disaster.

A disaster kit for pets should be part of every animal owner’s household. The kit should contain essentials your pet will need for at least five days away from home. Remember, during a disaster, take your pets with you.

CA: Vote “No” on Prop. 90

Proponents are trying to sell Prop. 90 as eminent domain reform, but hidden in the measure are extreme provisions that would erode our ability to pass laws that protect natural resources, wildlife, and habitat; ensure water quality and adequate water supplies; and regulate growth and development. Prop. 90’s far-reaching provisions allow virtually anyone to sue claiming a new law or regulation has impacted the value of property or business—no matter how far-fetched the claim. The HSUS urges California voters to protect wildlife and the environment by saying “no” to Prop. 90.

Portland: Vote “Yes” on Measure 26-80

Little can be done in the Portland metropolitan region over the next decade to protect wildlife that will rival the positive impact of the bond measure to protect natural areas, parks, and streams.

Bond Measure 26-80 will protect wildlife and preserve open space, making the city’s metropolitan area a true haven for Portland’s wildlife. The HSUS considers this measure to be one that will set up shelters without walls. We urge all voters in the Portland metropolitan area (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties) to vote “yes” on Bond Measure 26-80 this November 7. To find out more, please visit: www.savenaturalareas.org.

The WCREO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, West Coast Regional Office, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220; 916-344-1710. Eric Sakach, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays. © 2006 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. A COPY OF THE LATEST REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FILED BY THE HSUS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE HSUS, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, 2100 L ST., NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037, 202-452-1100. IN WASHINGTON, INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR WASHINGTON RESIDENTS IS 1-800-332-4483. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. Printed on recycled paper.