Protecting Animals Worldwide

25 Years of Celebrating Animals

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
President’s Perspective

Humane Society International is one of the only international animal protection organizations in the world working to protect all animals—including animals in laboratories, farm animals, companion animals and wildlife—and our record of achievement demonstrates our dedication and effectiveness.

Not only does HSI provide care for animals in need, but we are also a leader in enacting legislative and corporate policy changes that can prevent cruelty, end suffering and save animals’ lives. HSI works through long-established connections at the highest levels of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and through national governments and businesses to help draft legislation, regulations, policy statements and resolutions that affect animals globally.

Global animal protection challenges are daunting, and our resources are limited. However, we are steadily enlisting compassionate people around the world to support and sustain a truly international movement. We are forever grateful to our friends who have joined together to protect all animals.

Sincerely,

Andrew N. Rowan
President & CEO
Humane Society International

Dr. Andrew Rowan and his dog Charles
Mission

Humane Society International seeks to create a humane and sustainable world for all animals. Through education, advocacy, direct care and individual empowerment, we seek to forge a lasting and comprehensive change in human consciousness and behavior involving animals. Such a change would include relief of animal suffering; prevention of animal cruelty, abuse, neglect and exploitation; and the protection of wild animals and their habitat.

Humane Society International believes that compassion for animals is a natural human condition, regardless of economic circumstance or political system. By recognizing the bond between animals and people throughout the world, we can create a new global culture of compassion for all animals.

HSI’s Vision

Humane Society International envisions a world in which people meet the physical and emotional needs of domestic animals; protect wild animals and their environments; and change their interaction with other animals and their environments from exploitation and harm to respect and compassion.
Global Animal Welfare Policy

When the support of advocates and donors is joined with our wealth of technical and scientific expertise, HSI is a powerful force for animals. We’ve built greater awareness about animal welfare, improved animal care and enacted strong legislation and policy to protect wildlife, companion animals, farm animals and lab animals throughout the world.

HSI works with partners to implement on-the-ground programs and empower local organizations. As the global arm of The Humane Society of the United States, we are deeply committed to extending our international reach.

Headquartered in the United States, HSI’s global programs are active in more than 50 countries on nearly every continent.
Animals possess intelligence, experience emotions and feel pain. The suffering of animals from neglect and abuse knows no geographical boundaries. In towns and cities around the globe, street dogs and cats struggle to survive, leading difficult, painful lives without proper care, shelter or regular food. Wild animals everywhere are at risk from a lucrative legal and illegal trade that kills millions each year, and destroys whole animal populations and, quite often, critical habitat too. Animal fighting (dogs, bulls, roosters and cockerels) is extremely cruel and violent and is spreading throughout much of the world. More than one hundred million animals globally suffer and die in laboratories where they endure painful and invasive experiments, often with questionable value or relevance to people. Billions of animals destined for the meat market suffer profoundly during their lives in extreme confinement and during transport to slaughter. HSI is a powerful advocate for these animals, working across the globe to build greater awareness of their plight, to improve their lives and to help enact strong legislation and policy to protect all animals throughout the world.
Improving Street Animal Welfare and Ending Cruelty

Millions of dogs and cats roam the world’s streets, risking injury, illness, exposure and starvation. Governments often lack resources and programs for a proper humane response, and instead resort to cruel and ineffective means of population control such as culling by poisoning, electrocution and shooting. HSI works in a number of countries to extend a philosophy of humane animal management with spay/neuter, vaccination and humane education programs.

• HSI supports animal advocates and organizations worldwide, providing education and training.
• HSI provides direct, hands-on veterinary care, such as vaccinations and spay/neuter services, to thousands of animals in need every year.
• HSI strikes at the root of community problems by providing solutions, including programs, training and resources to prevent animal suffering both now and in the future.
Through fieldwork, policy formation, humane education, direct care services and the funding of in-country partners, HSI helps advance the cause of animal welfare. HSI partners with law enforcement, government agencies and local NGOs in several countries to increase and support the enforcement of animal cruelty and fighting laws by providing training, equipment and resources to enable successful seizures and prosecutions. In countries with outdated or inadequate laws, HSI works to pass legislation that expands the protection provided to animals.

Much of the world views dogs as trusted companions or protectors, but in some parts of Asia they suffer terribly as victims of the trade in dog meat for human consumption. HSI shines a light on this cruel industry, and by drawing the attention of governments and the public, we are determined to stop the misery these dogs endure.

HSI is working in countries across Asia to end the grisly dog meat trade. In China, we participate in raids on trucks crammed with dogs headed for slaughter, rescuing and working with partners to eventually rehome them. We offer training to better equip law enforcement to handle situations humanely, and we support local shelters so they can care for confiscated animals. In South Korea, we’re helping dog meat farmers leave this cruel industry and transition to more humane ways of making a living. HSI also helped form the Asia Canine Protection Alliance to end the illegal trade of dogs from Thailand and Laos into Vietnam.
Protecting Wildlife

Billions of wild animals are captured or killed each year to supply human demand for unnecessary products. These include exotic pets, exotic leathers such as crocodile, unproven folk remedies like those made with rhino horn, exotic furs such as polar bear skin rugs, hunting trophies like lion heads, ivory jewelry made from elephant tusks and cruel culinary options such as shark fin soup.

HSI protects wildlife through a variety of innovative programs. Our efforts on the treaties and agreements that govern international wildlife trade, such as CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), have resulted in increased international protection for hundreds of animals, from Central American tree frogs threatened by the exotic pet trade to hammerhead sharks imperiled by the shark fin trade. Our work at the International Whaling Commission has helped maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling while addressing other threats, including marine debris, entanglement and strandings. We have worked with governments of Central American countries to train customs officers on how to best handle seized wildlife and with the government of Viet Nam to protect rhinos.

Working alongside partner organizations, HSI has eliminated key markets for seal products, cutting the Canadian seal slaughter; achieved shark fin sales bans in 10 US states and 18 Canadian cities; stopped the import of polar bear trophies to the US; stopped the sale of elephant ivory and rhino horn in three US states; achieved a ban on the transport of shark fins by India’s largest international carrier, Jet Airways; and achieved a ban on the transport of hunting trophies by more than 40 airlines.
Wherever wild animals are threatened by trade, HSI is there. Alongside other groups, we come up with a plan, and then, provide the leadership and experience needed to see the plan through. We are working to strengthen federal and state laws to combat wildlife trafficking in the US, to reduce demand for elephant ivory and pangolin scales in China, to shut down illegal bird markets in India, to ban the import of lion and elephant trophies to the US and to stop the collection of coral reef fish in Hawaii for the international aquarium trade.

HSI also develops and implements humane wildlife solutions. In South Africa, the government once killed elephants to control the growth of elephant populations in parks and conservancies. Now, thanks in part to HSI, elephant “culling” in South Africa is a thing of the past. HSI supports the contraception of more than 500 female elephants annually with a safe and effective vaccine that prevents them from becoming pregnant.

Each year, millions of mice and rats are cruelly killed as ‘pests.’ In the UK, our Unstuck campaign aims to reform laws which exempt...
small mammals from protection and encourage people to stop using grossly inhumane glue traps to control rodent populations; more than 200 stores have stopped selling them already. We have also campaigned against the UK government’s badger cull, sponsored research on compassionate conservation at Oxford University and supported a project in Scotland that safeguards the endangered Scottish wildcat by sterilizing outdoor cats to stop interbreeding.

We are a powerful voice for wildlife in international trade negotiations, such as the Central American Free Trade Agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, ensuring that compliance with wildlife protection laws is part of these agreements. Our Don’t Buy Wild campaign asks people to pledge not to buy wildlife products. Our Make it Fake for the Animals’ Sake campaign in the UK asks people to forgo buying real fur products. And our Keep Wild Animals in the Wild campaign in Central America convinces people not to keep wild animals as pets.

HSI Wildlife is changing the way wildlife is protected and treated across the globe!
HSI's Don't Buy Wild campaign asks shoppers to avoid purchasing items like trinkets made from ivory.
Protecting Farm Animals

More than 77 billion land animals were raised for food in 2013 alone, along with trillions of aquatic animals, and those numbers are projected to rise significantly in the coming years. HSI is one of the few international animal NGOs working to assist and protect not just companion and wild animals but farm animals too.

We engage stakeholders at every stage in the supply chain for eggs, milk and meat—including farmers, agribusiness companies, governments, food retailers, financial institutions and consumers—to improve farm animal welfare and reduce the consumption of factory-farmed animal products. We maximize our impact by focusing on countries in Asia and Latin America that account for both the largest population of farm animals and the most rapid growth in intensive confinement agriculture and meat, egg and milk consumption. We focus on three key issues to improve the living conditions of farm animals: ending the confinement of egg laying hens in battery cages, ending the confinement of breeding sows in gestation crates and reducing the number of animals raised for food in intensive confinement systems.
**Intensive Confinement**

The majority of breeding sows and egg laying hens spend their entire lives on factory farms, often in cages or crates so small and restrictive that the animals are unable to fully stretch their limbs, let alone walk or experience other important natural behaviors. Extensive scientific evidence shows that intensively confined farm animals are frustrated, distressed and suffering.

As a result of our efforts:

- Some of the largest food producers in Brazil are phasing out gestation crates.
- Grupo Bimbo, the largest baking company in the world, has pledged to eliminate battery cage eggs from its global supply chain.
- Arcos Dorados, the world’s largest McDonald’s franchisee, is eliminating gestation crate pork from its supply chain.
- Mexican companies like Eurest have committed to eliminating eggs and pork from severe confinement from its supply chain.
- Many governments are working to improve conditions for egg-laying hens and breeding sows.
- Most states in India agree that battery cage confinement violates existing animal cruelty laws, and they’re working to phase out these systems.
- In South Africa, HSI is helping to promote more humane, sustainable and equitable egg and meat production systems through partnerships with small farmers, local governments and major retailers.
On a global level, HSI works with both public and private financial institutions to end their support of agribusiness companies that persist in using extreme confinement systems. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) updated its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) to ensure that agribusiness clients move away from the continual confinement of animals in gestation crates and battery cages, and we are encouraging other development and financial institutions to follow suit. We also work with a number of international standard-setting organizations to improve farm animal welfare in the food and fashion industries.

**Meat Reduction and Meatless Monday**

Our work in the corporate and government sectors is not limited to ending extreme confinement. We are asking major food retailers to offer more plant-based foods, and we encourage investing in plant-based meat alternatives. We also work with government agencies, universities, religious institutions, public health groups, environmental organizations and other influential leaders in the EU and in emerging economies throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America to promote Meatless Monday and similar meat reduction programs. Through these and other measures, we can dramatically reduce the number of animals suffering on factory farms around the world.

The animal agriculture sector is the largest contributor to pressing environmental problems like climate change, water pollution and biodiversity loss. By reducing the consumption of meat, egg and milk products, we are helping all animals: wildlife, farm animals and humans.
Advancing Science Without Suffering

Each year, more than 115 million dogs, mice, rabbits, cats, rats, primates, fish and other animals suffer and die in laboratory research and testing. They can be restrained while chemicals are dripped in their eyes, have substances force-fed to them, undergo surgeries that leave them brain damaged or physically injured or endure a range of debilitating disease symptoms artificially created in their bodies. Their suffering can last for days, months or years, and all too often results from procedures that will prove to be of limited relevance to humans.

HSI’s dedicated team of science and policy experts spans the globe, advocating on behalf of animals in laboratories and advancing the development and acceptance of state-of-the-art human-relevant research tools. HSI is the leading international NGO working to advance non-animal safety testing and health research worldwide through an ambitious and multi-faceted scientific, corporate, legislative and educational program with real-world results.

Here are a few of the ways we’re making life-saving changes for animals.

#BeCrueltyFree. HSI’s global campaign helped encourage 29 European countries to ban cosmetics animal testing and trade. It’s the driving force behind similar laws in India and New Zealand and ongoing efforts in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Latin America, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States and beyond. With each country that heeds our call to
#BeCrueltyFree, we’re one step closer to a world where no animal is ever again made to suffer and die in the name of vanity.

**Regulatory Testing.** In most countries, animal testing is a legal requirement for new chemicals, drugs and other products. Dogs, guinea pigs, mice and other animals suffer without pain relief in these horrific chemical-poisoning experiments, the results of which often fail to correctly predict how human beings will respond to the same product or chemical in the real world. HSI’s experts are working hand in hand with scientists, corporations and governments around the world to fundamentally change safety testing procedures to better protect human health and the environment without harming animals—a win-win for everyone.

**Bioscience Research.** For decades, the standard approach to modeling human diseases was to artificially create symptoms in other animal species. But this approach just doesn’t work. Out of every 10 new drugs that appear safe and effective based on animal studies, nine turn out to be unsafe or ineffective in humans. HSI is working with university scientists and funding agencies to make better use of cutting-edge technologies like human-organs-on-a-chip and computational biology. Our goal is to shift resources from unsuccessful animal experiments to promising approaches that are more relevant to our species.
When natural disasters strike, both people and animals suffer the devastating consequences. HSI’s highly experienced disaster response teams go to every corner of the world when they’re needed. HSI has been at the forefront of international response and recovery on behalf of animals. We collaborate with partners worldwide to introduce solutions that protect both animals and people.

Global Network, Training and Resources

In response to requests for assistance, HSI provides training and resources to enable and empower local entities to perform human-wildlife management effectively and humanely. HSI also partners with local shelters to address animal issues.

HSI actively supports the education and development of animal protection organizations through a variety of educational hands-on programs. Each year, The Humane Society of the United States presents Animal Care Expo, a world-class educational conference and trade show that draws thousands of animal care professionals for three days of training workshops. HSI organizes an international track as part of the conference, aimed specifically at attendees from overseas organizations. We facilitate the involvement of many participants through scholarships and offer internship opportunities for international veterinarians at partnering U.S. animal shelters.
Global Victories for Animals

HSI has a strong record of achievements. We serve a critical and expanding role in global initiatives and efforts to reduce animal suffering through global campaigns.

Through our work with member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), we help protect millions of wild animals from commercial exploitation, including elephants, sea turtles, sharks, whales, rhinos and pangolins.

HSI’s street dog project in Bhutan serves as a model humane solution for population management and disease control for other areas of the world.

In one country after another, HSI and our partners are systematically banning cosmetics animal testing and trade worldwide, and spearheading a wholesale move away from animal use in toxicity testing and bioscience research.

Let Them Move! ¡Déjalas Mover! This celebrity-supported campaign promotes a marketplace for cage-free egg and meat products. HSI seeks to eliminate the lifelong confinement of egg-laying hens in battery cages and sows in gestation crates in North and South America, along with other countries in Central America.

By cooperating with government agencies, HSI offices in Canada and Costa Rica have helped rescue thousands of animals from puppy mills, cruelty cases and dogfighting.
ABOUT HSI

Humane Society International and its partner organizations together constitute one of the world’s largest animal protection organizations. For more than 25 years, HSI has been working for the protection of all animals through the use of science, advocacy, education and hands-on programs.