



Greetings Ohio animal advocates!

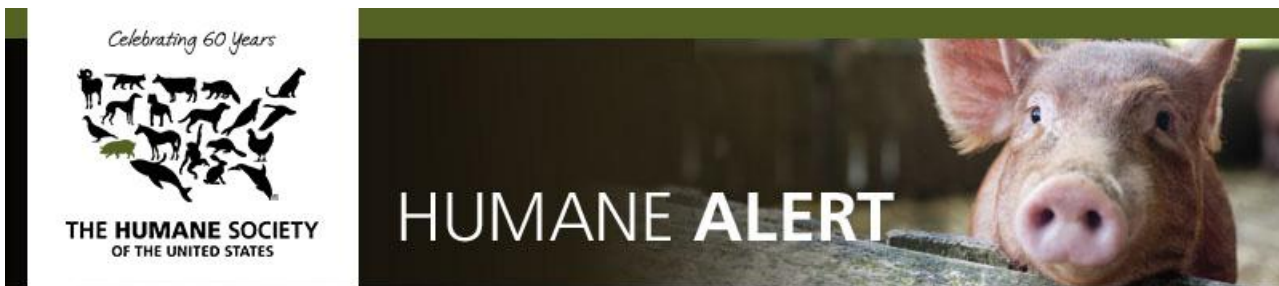
I hope this update finds you all well. Below is a brief update on all that's happening in the animal world. ***Be sure to view this e-mail in HTML format to utilize interactive content.** If you have any questions about the stories below, or anything else animal related, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pictured at the left is Tyra, one of my many fosters. Do you have a little space in your home and heart for a foster cat or dog? This winter many shelters have found themselves in dire need of extra room to shelter animals from the extreme cold. Please consider being a hero to your local shelter or rescue and become a foster "parent" today.

-Karen

INSIDE THIS UPDATE:

- HUMAN ALERT: Two major wins on animal welfare issues, but we still need your help!
- Well we're movin' on up: Ohio rises to 30th in the nation in the national Humane State Ranking
- Legislation: what's pending, what's passed, what you can do to help pass bill to protect animals
- HUMAN ALERT: Help sick calves sent to slaughter
- Protecting Pets from Severe Weather
- SAVE THE DATE! 2014 Humane Lobby Day



Two major wins on animal welfare issues!

The Farm Bill conference report released this week by the House-Senate conference committee includes two major wins on animal welfare issues! The compromise bill includes a provision making it a federal crime to attend or bring a child under the age of 16 to an animal fighting event, based on the Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act, which will fortify the federal law against organized and barbaric dogfighting and cockfighting rings. The Farm Bill also jettisons the dangerous and overreaching "King amendment," which sought to nullify state laws setting standards for agricultural production and threatened so many laws on animal welfare around the country.

Defeating the King amendment and enacting the animal fighting spectator legislation are top priorities for HSUS. **Thank you so much to all who took action and helped to achieve positive outcomes on these two critical issues for animal welfare.**

Now we must finish the job! With the animal fighting provision in the Farm Bill package, and the King amendment out, we must urge lawmakers to pass it. The House and Senate may vote soon, so please contact your congressional representative as well as Senators Portman and Brown and ask for their swift passage of the Farm Bill conference report. [*Look up your legislator's phone number here.](#)

Follow-up with an email [here](#). Be sure to also share on Facebook and Twitter!

 Share on Facebook  Share on Twitter



Moving up! Ohio ranks 30th in the national Humane State Ranking

The [Humane State Ranking](#) is out, and Ohio has once again continues to rise to the top! Ohio now ranks 30th in the country, up from a dismal 45th just a few years ago.

The comprehensive analysis of animal protection laws in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. grades states on the strength of a wide range of animal protection laws, including policies dealing with animal cruelty and fighting, pets, wildlife, equines, animals in research and farm animals.

Ohio has improved in its ranking over the last four years going from 45th in the nation in 2009 to 30th in 2013. The state has seen advances in farm animal protection, laws passed to regulate the ownership of wild and dangerous animals, safeguards and regulations for dogs confined in puppy mills, and upgrades to the state's cruelty law. One of Ohio's major accomplishments was the passage of a series of reforms by the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, banning veal crates for calves and phasing out the use of gestation crates for breeding sows and barren battery cages for egg-laying hens. SB 310, passed in the last General Assembly, banned the private ownership of dangerous exotic animals as pets, while SB 130 passed in the last session to regulate puppy mills. Other gaps in the law exist, such as Ohio's weak penalties for illegal cockfighting—one of only ten states that does not have felony-level penalties.

[Use our interactive map to see the complete state ranking.](#)

Cathy Cowan, member of The HSUS' Ohio State Council said: "I joined the Ohio State Council because I have seen firsthand how The HSUS has helped animals in our state. In the last four years we have passed important regulations and legislation regarding farm animals, exotic animals and puppy mills. As a result, Ohio has climbed in the humane state

rankings but we need to do more, particularly with felony penalties for animal cruelty and cockfighting. I look forward to working with a powerhouse group of council members to continue improving the lives of Ohio animals in 2014.”

In 2013, The HSUS helped pass 109 new laws and regulations to protect animals and helped to defeat a number of harmful measures such as “ag-gag” laws that would suppress whistleblowers at industrial factory farms.



Did you know?

Did you know that The Humane Society of the United States is the only animal welfare organization to employ a full-time person dedicated to public policy and animal issues on the ground in nearly every state? No other organization dedicates the resources we do to make certain the animals have a person getting deep into the “political weeds” to protect animals. Thank you for your support and for helping to ensure the animals have a strong voice at the Ohio Statehouse!

Currently Pending Animal Legislation

There are hyper-links provided to each bill below. Having trouble viewing the bills? Go directly to www.legislature.state.oh.us. For updates and calls to action, please visit The Humane Society of the United States-OHIO [Facebook](#) page. Additional information about these bills is included in the “A Closer Look” section below.

- [House Bill 57](#) **Rep. Gerberry:** Humane Agent Training **SUPPORT**
Status: PASSED Ohio House. Currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee (Sen. Cliff Hite, Chair)
- [House Bill 116](#) **Rep. Pelanda:** Permits Chemical Capture by Dog Wardens **INTERESTED PARTY**
Status: PASSED Ohio House. Currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee (Sen. Cliff Hite, Chair)
- [House Bill 226](#) **Rep. Grossman:** Creates State Standards for Pet Retail Establishments **OPPOSE (UNLESS AMENDED)**
Status: Referred to House Agriculture Committee (Rep. Dave Hall, Chair)
- [House Bill 243](#) **Reps. Slaby, Stinziano:** Pet Protective Orders **SUPPORT**
Status: Currently in the House Judiciary Committee (Rep. Butler, Chair)
- [Senate Bill 170](#) **Senator Skindell:** Pet Protective Orders (*Companion Bill to HB 234) **SUPPORT**
Status: Currently in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee (Senator John Ecklund, Chair)
- [House Bill 274](#) **Reps. Pattmon, Sears:** Creates Felony Penalty for Animal Cruelty **SUPPORT**
Status: PASSED Ohio House. Currently Awaiting committee referral in Ohio Senate.
- [House Bill 310](#) **Rep. Ruhl:** Refines eligibility for assistance dogs by including those diagnosed with PTSD **SUPPORT**
Status: PASSED Ohio House. Currently in Senate State Govt. Oversight & Reform Committee (Senator Dave Burke, Chair)

- [Senate Bill 150](#) **Senator Hite**: Operation and management plans addressing agricultural pollution **INTERESTED PARTY**
Status: PASSED Ohio Senate. Currently in House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Dave Hall, Chair)
- [Senate Bill 217](#) **Senator Kearney**: Requires State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to perform inspections **SUPPORT**
Status: Currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee (Sen. Cliff Hite)

Legislation Passed:

- [House Bill 90](#) **Reps. Gerberry, Grossman**: “Nitro’s Law” Creates felony level animal cruelty for kennel operators/owners
Passed as part of the biennial budget (House Bill 95). Congrats and thank you to all that helped make this happen!



A Closer Look at Pending Legislation

We wanted to provide you with additional information on a few of the bills pending in the Ohio legislature, and more importantly, why we’re taking the positions that we are. You can’t always take legislation at face-value: that is why we have boots (or heels, in this case) on the ground, dedicated to staying connected and on top of all that’s happening at the Ohio Statehouse. If you have any additional questions, please don’t ever hesitate to email and ask us at Ohio@humanesociety.org. We’re here to help!

Senate Bill 150 (Senator Hite)

If you’ve spent a single summer in Ohio, you’ve seen or heard talk about the toxic algae blooms in our waters- from Lake Erie to devastated lakes like Grand Lake St. Mary’s- due to nutrient runoff. Senate Bill 150 is designed to address these sources of pollution and creates incentives for crop farmers to voluntarily develop nutrient-management plans and sets up a certification process for synthetic fertilizer applications. That’s a great first step, but the bill essentially ignores the leading cause of these blooms: livestock manure from concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs. The state put together a phosphorus task force, which issued a report outlining the impact manure from CAFOs had on the environment. For example, the report noted multiple sources of phosphorus but said *farm runoff is most prominent* because agriculture uses more than 80 percent of land in the Maumee River basin. Farmers use a combination of manure and synthetic products to fertilize their land. Our **Ohio Agriculture Advisory Council** feels strongly that Ohio can and should do better. Follow the lead of these responsible farmers that practice not only good stewardship to the animals, but the land. We strongly encourage the Ohio House to include regulations on manure and close this enormous loophole.

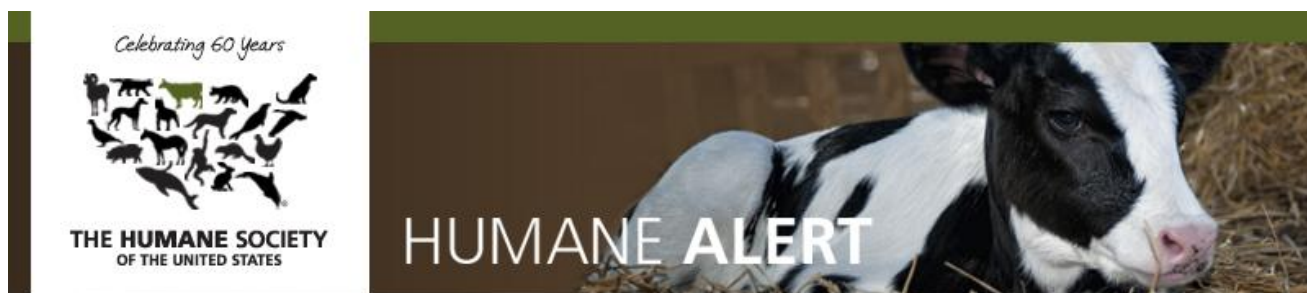
House Bill 274 (Reps. Pattmon, Sears) Felony Cruelty for Animal Abuse “Goddard’s Law”

Some had to check if you-know-what had frozen over, but it is true! HB 271 passed the Ohio House with a vote of 84-8. Those members voting “no” included: Representatives J. Adams, Becker, Blair, Boose, Hood, Maag, Roegner and Watchmann. Did your representative vote no? Write or all him/her and share your disappointment! Nothing speaks louder than the voice of a voter in the district. Be sure to call your Senator and urge a YES vote on HB 274. House Bill 274 addresses an area where Ohio has continually lag behind. Ohio is one of a handful of states with no ability to charge an individual (other than a kennel owner or operator) with a felony, even in cases including egregious and particularly heinous acts involving multiple animals if it was that individual’s first offense. It is time to bring Ohio into line with the rest of the country and create a first-time felony level offense as means of recognizing brutal acts against those who cannot possibly defend themselves.

House Bill 226 (Rep. Grossman) Standards for Pet Retail Establishments

We can all agree that uniform standards of care for pet stores could be a wonderful thing; but unfortunately, HB 226 as introduced was more a wolf in sheep’s clothing. First, the standards of care were incredibly weak and should at the very least reflect the standards of care recently adopted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for commercial high volume breeders. Second, a provision within the legislation prohibits local governments from enacting any standards stronger than those proposed in the legislation – standards proposed solely by the pet industry! *This is something we very strongly oppose.* States that passed

similar legislation found the provision so problematic that the law was overturned in subsequent legislative sessions. We fully support the concept of standards for pet retailers, but cannot support binding the hands of local government, leaving them unable to address bad actors within their own community. The good news is because of your strong advocacy, this potentially dangerous legislation is no longer moving forward!



Help Sick Calves Sent to Slaughter

An HSUS undercover investigation at Catelli Bros. -- a calf slaughter plant in Shrewsbury, New Jersey -- found downed calves enduring horrible mistreatment and others inhumanely slaughtered. Downed calves -- those too injured, sick, or weak to rise to their feet -- were shocked, kicked, lifted by their tails and ears, and dragged by chains. Our documentation points to serious violations of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The USDA needs to strengthen regulations to specify that downed calves must be immediately euthanized rather than suffer abuses to force them to rise and walk to their slaughter.

When we presented our complaint and video to the USDA, the agency acted swiftly to suspend operations at the plant.

TAKE ACTION!

Please [send a message](#) to Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Services, thanking him for the agency's swift action and asking the USDA to set standards for downed calves. Ask your friends to do the same, and as always don't forget to share on Facebook and Twitter!

 Share on Facebook  Share on Twitter

Protecting Pets from Severe Weather

We've received a number of inquiries from advocates wanting to know what, exactly, the law says when it comes to pets being left outdoors in these extremely cold temperatures. To help us answer this question, we'll turn to our friend Mr. Jeffrey Holland, whom we've had the honor of working in some of our most challenging cruelty cases. Mr. Holland serves as a special prosecutor for national organizations and local humane societies statewide.

We have been asked many times in recent days about the ability of humane agents to seize animals left in rickety dog houses, chained outside, etc. in this unusually cold weather. Here is our analysis of the law.

Ohio Revised Code § 959.131(B)(5) provides that no person who is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall negligently do the following: "impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain snow, or excessive direct sunlight, if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation, confinement, or impoundment or confinement in any of those specified manners." There is qualifying language to the shelter requirement -- "if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way... due to the deprivation, confinement, or impoundment."

*This is a *proactive* statute that can be used in situations where the companion animal is provided with shelter, but that shelter is inadequate considering the extreme temperatures and due to that lack or inadequacy of shelter, the animal could reasonably be expected to suffer. Evidence of suffering is **not a necessary element** of this crime. The statute provides humane agents (or other law enforcement) with the proactive ability to seize an animal so that the animal does not have to suffer.*

Some considerations for humane agents include the adequacy of the shelter in current winter conditions, any visible signs of suffering (such as "flipper walking" or shivering), the breed of dog or type of animal, and how long the animal has been confined outside. Since R.C. § 959.131(B)(5) defines cruelty as the negligent confinement of a companion animal to a shelter in a manner in which it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer, and R.C. § 959.132 provides the authority for a humane agent to take possession of an animal cruelly treated, those two statutes authorize a humane officer to rescue animals from such conditions. Moreover, some municipalities have ordinances prohibiting chaining or tethering that apply in these circumstances. Of course, every shelter situation is different and humane agents should consult with legal counsel and/or veterinary staff as needed.

What to Do If You See a Pet Left Out in the Cold

It can be a crime to leave pets outside in extreme temperatures without food and shelter

Cold weather can be deadly for pets. As the temperature plummets in many parts of the country, HSUS sees a marked increase in the number of complaints about dogs and cats who have been left outside with no food or shelter. We encourage you to contact local law enforcement agencies, because pets left outside in extreme temperatures, especially without food and shelter, are at risk of hypothermia, frostbite, and even death. Their owners are at risk of facing criminal charges.

The act of leaving a pet outside without food or adequate shelter often receives less attention than a violent attack against an animal, but neglect is a crime.

[If you see a pet left out in the cold, speak out!](#) Animal neglect is one of the most common forms of animal cruelty, and is investigated more by police and animal control agencies than any other form of animal abuse. Our most constant companions—dogs and cats—feel the effects of winter weather as much as we do, only they are often cast outside to weather the cold or a storm owing to a misconception that the fur on their backs will insulate them from suffering. Without proper shelter, food, and water, these domesticated animals' chances of survival in frigid temperatures is greatly decreased. Pet owners who aren't sure what protections their pets need during cold weather, can read The HSUS's [cold-weather advice](#) for keeping pets safe.

While views on animal welfare vary from region to region, there are laws in place in every state to prevent needless suffering. Callers to The HSUS report numerous cases across the country of animals left out in the cold, but the organization is also working with an increasing number of law enforcement agencies that recognize the importance of intervention in these cases.

How you can help

- [Report what you see](#): Take note of the date, time, exact location, and the type of animal(s) involved and write down as many details as possible about the situation. Video and photographic documentation of the animal, the location, the surrounding area, etc. (even a cell phone photo) will help bolster your case.
 - [Contact your local animal control agency or county sheriff's office](#) and present your complaint and evidence. Take detailed notes regarding who you speak with and when. Respectfully follow up in a few days if the situation has not been remedied.
 - If you need advice, feel free to call or e-mail us. Because we aren't a law-enforcement agency, we cannot take legal action, but we can provide expert counsel.
 - If you have pets, [follow our advice for keeping them safe in cold weather](#).
-



SAVE THE DATE!

**2014 Humane Lobby Day
Wednesday, April 2nd 2014
Ohio Statehouse**

Ohio's animals need a voice: YOURS! Mark your calendars for an exciting day of advocating for Ohio's animals. Once again The Humane Society of the United States will be partnering with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to bring you a wonderful day of education and advocacy. From wildlife to companion animals, we'll be hosting seminars on what you can do as an Ohio citizen to advocate and protect animals. More information will be coming soon. We hope to see you there!