Looking for Common Ground on Farm Animal Welfare

Common Sense Measures to Raise the Bar
WHEN YOU LET YOUR PET
BRING UNWANTED
ANIMALS INTO
THE WORLD...

GUESS WHO PAYS.

Prevent a litter. Spay or neuter your pet.
A Program of The Humane Society of the United States

OUR LATEST FEATURE

Spay Day USA is just around the corner! Now is the time to plan and promote an event so you can be part of this massive effort in February.

> Learn More...

THE MAGAZINE

A new columnist has joined Animal Sheltering. Dr. Lila Miller of the ASPCA introduces herself in her first column.

> Read More...

> Subscribe!

RESOURCES LIBRARY

AnimalSheltering.org provides a complete range of animal care, control, and sheltering information.

- Behavior/Training
- Puppy Mills
- Community Outreach
- Shelter Design
- Disaster Preparedness
- Training, Staff and Vols

Vet Resources
Wildlife

VIEW ALL TOPICS

NEWS

- National Association for Human and Environmental
Students

TRAINING HIGHLIGHT

Keep Pets in Their Homes

> National Association for Human and Environmental
Students

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RURAL AREA VETERINARY SERVICES

Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS), a program of The Humane Society of the United States and The Fund for Animals, is a non-profit program combining community outreach and veterinary education to bring free veterinary services to underserved rural communities where poverty and geographic isolation make regular veterinary care inaccessible.

In 2006, the program’s seven staff members and more than 900 volunteers provided veterinary care for animals in over 50 communities where no other animal services exist, including communities on Native American reservations throughout the United States, in rural Appalachian counties, remote villages in Guatemala, and island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Each year RAVS provides over $1 million in free veterinary services to upwards of 10,000 animals, all at no cost to the clients or communities we serve. In addition the program provides valuable training and experience for hundreds of future veterinary professionals that goes far beyond anything they could learn in a classroom alone.

The success of our program depends on the generosity of volunteers and donors who support this important work. You can help us continue by volunteering your time or making a donation.

This website is primarily intended to provide information to prospective volunteers. If you would like to learn more about the RAVS program or would like to donate to the program please visit us at www.hsus.org/ravs
The HSUS Cape Wildlife Center is a vital resource available to the Cape Cod, Mass., community for the veterinary and rehabilitative care of injured, ill or orphaned wildlife.

Catbird Becomes Victim of Glue Trap

Glu traps often catch more than their intended targets. This catbird was found entangled and brought to the Cape Wildlife Center. Its feathers and feet were mired after the bird struggled desperately to escape. Removing the bird from the trap took experience and patience.
Concern for Animals Raised for Food
Americans Believe Animals Deserve Legal Protection

• 50 state anti-cruelty codes
• 50 states ban dogfighting (All felony)
• 50 states ban cockfighting (38 felony; 12 misd.)
Does That Consideration Extend to Farm Animals?
Where Do Americans Stand?
2007 American Farm Bureau-funded Oklahoma State Univ. Poll

81% agree: Farm animals have roughly the same ability to feel pain and discomfort as humans.

75% agree: Would vote for a law in their state that would require farmers to treat their animals more humanely.

95% agree: It is important to me that animals on farms are well cared for.

68% agree: The government should take an active role in promoting farm animal welfare.

89% agree: Food companies that require farmers to treat their animals better are doing the right thing.

70% agree: Food companies that require farmers to treat their animals better, no matter what it costs farmers, are doing the right thing.
How Much Protection Do Farm Animals Really Have?
Battery Cage Confinement
Afforded Less Space Than a Sheet of Paper Per Hen
An Alternative: Cage-Free Eggs
The LayWel Project

- the most recent comprehensive analysis of the welfare of laying hens in cages and alternative systems
- a collaborative effort among working groups in seven European countries
- data collected from 230 different hen flocks
The LayWel Project

After exhaustive review of the scientific data, the report concluded:

“With the exception of conventional cages, we conclude that all systems have the potential to provide satisfactory welfare for laying hens.”
Gestation Crates & Veal Crates
Gestation crates for pigs are a real problem. Basically, you’re asking a sow to live in an airline seat. I think it’s something that needs to be phased out.

Dr. Temple Grandin
• Funded by Pew Charitable Trusts and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

• 2.5 extensive study

• Chaired by former Gov. of Kansas

• Included scientists, veterinarians, and even the former Secretary of Agriculture
Unanimous Conclusion:

Phase out:

- Battery cages
- Gestation crates
- Veal crates
Banned by the Entire European Union
Pork Industry Giants Now Moving

Cargill

Smithfield

Maple Leaf
Veal Industry Phasing Out Crates

“[Veal crates are] inhumane and archaic practices that do nothing more than subject a calf to stress, fear, physical harm and pain.”

Randy Strauss, CEO of Strauss Veal

“recommends that the entire veal industry convert to the group housing methodology.”

May 2007 Resolution, American Veal Association
• **2002:** Gestation crates banned by FL voters, 55%-45%

• **2006:** Gestation/veal crates banned by AZ voters, 62%-38%

• **2007:** Gestation crates banned in OR

• **2008:** Gestation/veal crates banned in CO

• **2008:** Gestation/veal crates & battery cages banned by CA voters, 63.5%-36.5%
Should Animals Raised for Food Really Be Unprotected?

Criminal

Legal?
The Ag Community Should Lead, Not Hinder, the Effort for Animal Welfare Improvements

Together, we can implement sensible, win-win, humane-minded policies.
Thank you.

HumaneSociety.org