



The Humane Society



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Introduction

The Humane Society of the United States, founded in 1954, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to animal rights advocacy, the push for animal welfare, and ending speciesism. The Humane Society has been called the world's most influential animal rights organization. The organization is funded almost entirely by bequests, contributions, foundation grants, and membership dues, along with a small amount of funding from the federal government to support specific programs. The Humane Society's work is extremely important and relevant right now due to veganism becoming increasingly popular in pop culture, and the strong and persistent push to put an end to speciesism.

Historical Background

The Humane Society of the United States was founded on November 22, 1954 by Fred Myers, Larry Andrews, Marcia Glaser, and Helen Jones. Immediately after the organization was formed, they saw humane slaughter as an immediate priority. The nonprofit charity also made the fight against the utilization of animals in research, testing, and education an early priority, and sought to keep all animals out of labs. Myers drafted the society's first legislative initiatives in the early 1960s. They worked their way up, gained much support and many donations, and had greater success with each year. After serving for nearly ten years as the organization's chief lobbyist and spokesperson, Wayne Pacelle became the HSUS CEO on June 1, 2004. In 2000 the Humane Society of the United States launched the Humane Society Press, which publishes professional and scholarly books on animal-welfare topics. The society also produces several magazines and newsletters on a wide range of issues.

News Articles

Article 1: Proposed Onondaga County law would punish people for leaving animals out too long in cold

Date: January 29, 2018

Summary: A proposed law by the name of Adrian's Law is getting positive attention from many people in Onondaga County, New York. The Humane Society of the United States is pushing for this law to be passed, especially in light of a pitbull, Adrian, who died by freezing to death overnight in Syracuse. The measure would punish pet-owners if a dog should be left outside for more than thirty minutes in temperatures below thirty-two degrees, even if the animal has an outside shelter, food, and water.

Relation to Project: A law prohibiting the rejection or mistreatment of one animal (dogs) by another animal (humans) is essential in the greater push for the end of speciesism. It is also a reminder that by choosing to have other animals in the house as pets and companions, you are taking on a big

responsibility to not only keep that animal alive, but to keep that animal happy, healthy, and loved.

I Learned: I learned that this happens many times every winter; pets are constantly dying from being left in cold temperatures. I also learned that if Adrian's Law passes, punishment for the owner could range from taking the animal away or simply imposing a fine on the pet-owner.

Further Questions: Is the punishment worse depending on how long the animal has been left in cold weather or how cold it was? Does this measure have a decent chance of passing? When will the proposal be taken up?

Personal Response: I agree with this law fully, and hope very much that it is implemented soon. I also hope that similar laws will be passed in other states and cities where temperatures tend to drop very low or get extremely high, since animals are also frequently dying from being overheated.

The Article:

Article 2: How the Humane Society's CEO connects empathy and economics

Date: May 15, 2017

Summary: CEO of the Humane Society Wayne Pacelle joined the organization roughly fourteen years ago, and since he joined, many improvements have been made to the society, and he has helped implement many strategies for greater outreach and an increased number of victories in the animal rights field.

Relation to Project: This article is about the CEO of the charity on which this project is focused.

I Learned: I learned that Wayne Pacelle took over as the CEO of the Humane Society about fourteen years ago. I also learned that he became a vegetarian at the age of nineteen, and became fully vegan about one month later.

Further Questions: Was he raised with a passion for animal rights? What motivated him to pursue the career that he did? How do his coworkers feel about him? What motivated him to choose veganism?

Personal Response: I was impressed by his path to animal rights and the Humane Society of the United States. The article was very well written and did a good job of covering all aspects of his life.

The Article:

Article 3: High-Impact HSUS Victories for Wildlife on Land and at Sea in 2014

Date: December 31, 2014

Summary: 2014 proved to be a very positive and productive year for the animal welfare movement, and a year filled with success and major victories for the Humane Society of the United States.

Relation to Project: This article is in my project because I feel that it is an excellent example of the good work that the Humane Society is doing, and how much they are able to accomplish every year.

I Learned: I learned that the Humane Society has fought long and hard for the end of the commercial seal slaughter, and that while it is still an issue, they (HSUS) have made progress. I also learned that it is because of the Humane Society that the shark fin trade is banned in Massachusetts.

Further Questions: What successes did they achieve in 2017? Have all of their victories from 2014 stuck or have some of them backfired? Has the amount of yearly victories for HSUS increased or decreased?

Personal Response: I am highly impressed and very inspired by all of the good work that the Humane Society of the United States does for animals, and am astonished by how much they were able to do in just one year.

The Article:

Article 4: Humane Society Of The United States Considers Horse-Related Issues A Top 10 Victory

Date: December 28, 2015

Summary: The Humane Society of the United States CEO Wayne Pacelle considered the prevention of horse slaughter plants from reopening a top ten victory from 2015, calling 2015 the highest-impact year for the HSUS ever due to the anti-horse slaughter victory and other successes.

Relation to Project: Like the article regarding Humane Society victories surrounding wildlife in 2014, I feel that this article is an excellent representation of the number of victories they can have in a single year, and the magnitude/impact of those victories.

I Learned: I learned that in 2015 the Humane Society of the United States closed the door on invasive experiments on chimpanzees once and for all. I also learned that 2015 was the highest-impact year for the HSUS up to that time.

Further Questions: Was the victory surrounding horse slaughterhouses only good in (a) certain state(s) or nationwide?

How do they plan to continue their success with the prevention of farm animal abuse and cruelty? What exactly does the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act do and what does it mean for animals?

Personal Response: I am happy with the victories described in this article that the Humane Society achieved, but would have liked more details.

The Article:

Article 5: After SeaWorld whale victory, CEO of Humane Society of U.S. to speak at New Canaan Nature Center

Date: April 8, 2016

Summary: The Humane Society of the United States was able to come to an agreement with Seaworld that forced the entertainment company to stop breeding its killer whales and prevented the amusement park business from acquiring any more orcas for any of its locations.

Relation to Project: As a very major and popular victory for the Humane Society of the United States, and an issue that multiple animal rights groups have fought against and continue to fight, I felt that this was an extremely important article to include.

I Learned: I learned that it was because of the Humane Society that SeaWorld no longer had the power to breed orcas. I also learned that this victory was largely thanks to the fact that attendance at SeaWorld was down and the company's stock plummeted as word got out that their animals were being so badly mistreated.

Further Questions: Where would the dolphins go if they were to be released? Did their customer rate increase after they came to these agreements with the Humane Society?

Personal Response: I believe that this fight is a very important one and it warms my heart to see the Humane Society having such success in shutting down the worst abuse at SeaWorld, and seeing that they will not continue breeding and captivating orcas.

The Article:

Illustrations





Political Cartoons



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