

# HSUS Priority Federal Legislation

## 116th Congress

Updated 3.13.2020

This document provides important information for HSUS Volunteer Leaders about the priority animal protection legislation that we are working to advance at the federal level. Note that the accompanying fact sheet for each bill is hyperlinked in the first bullet under the Talking Points heading. Please print the fact sheets for the bills your Congressmembers haven't cosponsored yet, and bring them with you when you meet with their offices to urge their co-sponsorship.

**Important:** Check if your legislators are cosponsors at [congress.gov](https://congress.gov)—simply type the bill number in the search bar at the top (i.e. “H.R. 724”). We look forward to advancing these bills with you in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress!

### **Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act – H.R. 737/S. 877**



**H.R. 737 introduced on 1.23.2019 by:**

Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan [D-MP-At Large] and Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX)

[Cosponsors: 287](#)

**\*Passed the House on 11.20.2019**

**S. 877 introduced on 3.26.2019 by:**

Senator Shelley Capito (R-WV) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)

[Cosponsors: 44](#)

### **Talking points**

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act](#) prohibits the import, export, possession, trade and distribution of shark fins and products containing shark fins.
- Finning is the cruel and wasteful act of cutting off a shark's fins while the shark is alive, then discarding the mutilated animal to die from suffocation, blood loss or predation by other fish.
- While the act of shark finning is illegal in U.S. waters, there is still a market for fins in the U.S. Shark fins sold in the U.S. come from all over the world, including countries that have no bans on finning. It is likely that shark fins in our marketplace come from sharks that have been brutally finned.
- The Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act asserts the U.S. leadership in global shark conservation, fortifies the ban on shark finning in the U.S. and removes our nation from participating in the destructive shark fin trade.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor S. 877 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Senator (1<sup>st</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

Senator (2<sup>nd</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act – H.R. 693/S. 1007



H.R. 693 introduced on 1.22.2019 by:  
Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Representative  
Ted Yoho (R-FL)

Cosponsors: 307

**\*Passed the House on 7.25.2019**

S. 1007 introduced on 4.3.2019 by:  
Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)

Cosponsors: 51

### Talking points

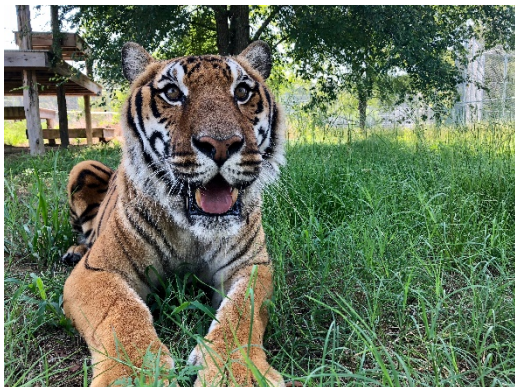
- **What This Bill Does:** The [Prevent All Soring Tactics \(PAST\) Act](#) will fix the weak federal Horse Protection Act (enacted almost 50 years ago), to finally put an end to the extremely inhumane and unethical practice of “soring.” It will end the failed system of industry self-policing, ban the use of devices integral to soring, and strengthen penalties – all without any additional taxpayer burden.
- **What is Soring?** Unscrupulous trainers [deliberately inflict pain on Tennessee Walking Horses](#) and related breeds’ hooves and legs using caustic chemicals, chains, weights, sharp objects, and other gruesome techniques to force the horses to perform an unnaturally high-stepping gait and gain unfair competitive advantage at horse shows.
- **Widespread support:** The PAST Act is endorsed by [hundreds of groups and key individuals](#), including the American Horse Council and more than 60 other national and state horse groups, the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, state veterinary groups in all 50 states, key individuals in the Tennessee Walking Horse show world, National Sheriffs’ Association, and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor S. 1007 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Senator (1<sup>st</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

Senator (2<sup>nd</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Big Cat Public Safety Act – H.R. 1380/S. 2561



**Introduced on 2.26.2019 by:**

Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

Cosponsors: 227

**S. 2561 introduced on 9.26.2019 by:**

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

Cosponsors: 17

### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Big Cat Public Safety Act](#) advances animal welfare and protects public safety by prohibiting the private possession and breeding of big cats such as tigers, lions and leopards by unqualified individuals and exhibitors.
- The Big Cat Public Safety Act strengthens the existing federal law, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, by closing loopholes that allow private possession of big cats.
- Professionally-run zoos and accredited sanctuaries would not be impacted.
- Since 1990, there have been at least 365 dangerous incidents involving captive big cat species in 46 states. 23 people, including 4 children, have lost their lives, and dozens of others have been maimed or suffered other traumatic injuries.
- When captive big cats escape, the burden is placed on law enforcement officials to protect citizens by putting their own lives at risk and is extremely costly to taxpayers.
- Big cats who have outgrown their usefulness and profitability end up discarded at substandard facilities, in private menageries, or on the doorsteps of reputable sanctuaries and animal welfare groups who assume the costly responsibility for the remainder of the animals' long lives.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 1380 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask:** Please cosponsor S. 2561 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Senator (1<sup>st</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

Senator (2<sup>nd</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Humane Cosmetics Act – H.R. 5141/S. 2886



### Introduced on 11.18.2019 by:

Representative Donald Beyer (D-VA), Vern Buchanan (R-FL),  
Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), Representative Ken Calvert (R-CA), Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY),

[Cosponsors: 40](#)

### S. 2886 introduced on 11.18.2019 by:

Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

[Cosponsors: 4](#)

## Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Humane Cosmetics Act](#) makes it unlawful to conduct or contract for cosmetics animal testing in the United States, and prohibits selling, offering for sale or knowingly transporting any cosmetics in interstate commerce if they were developed or manufactured using cosmetics animal testing. The legislation also:
  - Limits a manufacturer’s ability to use information from animal tests carried out to meet safety requirements for ingredients also used in non-cosmetic products.
  - Requires the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create a strategic plan for developing and approving non-animal test methods and strategies.
  - Prohibits the use of cruelty-free labels if new animal test data is used to substantiate the safety of a cosmetic.
- **Innovation:** Companies can create products using thousands of already tested and available ingredients that do not require new testing. Many non-animal methods have been, and continue to be, developed, for new cosmetic ingredients.
- **Cost:** Non-animal methods are typically much more cost-effective than animal tests. Furthermore, companies stand to lose money if they cannot sell their products in countries that have already banned imports of animal-tested cosmetics.
- **Safety:** Animal tests have scientific limitations because different species can respond differently when exposed to the same chemicals, so results from animal tests are often not relevant to humans. In addition, results from animal tests can be quite variable and difficult to interpret. Unreliable and ineffective animal tests mean consumer safety cannot be guaranteed; in contrast, non-animal alternatives can combine human cell-based tests and sophisticated computer models to deliver human-relevant results in hours or days, unlike some animal tests that can take months or years.
- **Widespread Support:** There are over 1,000 cosmetics brands (and growing) in North America that do not test final products, formulations, or ingredients using animals. [Close to 300 stakeholders in the cosmetics industry](#) have endorsed the Humane Cosmetics Act last Congress. In 2018, California became the first state in the country to prohibit the sale of animal-tested cosmetics. Nevada and Illinois followed suit in 2019 and several others have considered similar legislation limiting the sale of animal-tested cosmetics.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 5141 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask:** Please cosponsor S. 2886 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Senator (1<sup>st</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

Senator (2<sup>nd</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act – H.R. 961/S. 2006



**H.R. 961 introduced on 1.30.2019 by:**  
Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL)  
[Cosponsors: 228](#)

**S. 2006 introduced on 6.27.2019 by:**  
Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)  
[Cosponsors: 3](#)

### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Safeguard American Food Exports \(SAFE\) Act](#) prevents horse slaughter plants from opening on U.S. soil and ends the current export of American horses for slaughter abroad.
- **Fiscally Irresponsible:** 80% of the American public opposes horse slaughter. Using millions of taxpayer dollars to open new horse slaughter plants is fiscally irresponsible.
- **Health Concerns:** Consuming U.S. horsemeat can be dangerous. American horses are not raised for human consumption and they are routinely given hundreds of drugs that can be toxic to humans if ingested. Due to serious food safety concerns, the European Union suspended horsemeat imports from Mexico (87% of horses slaughtered in Mexico for exports to the EU are of U.S. origin).
- **Inhumane:** The horse slaughter industry is a predatory and extremely inhumane enterprise and cannot be made humane. “Kill buyers” buy young and healthy horses, often by misrepresenting their intentions. Horses are shipped for more than 24 hours at a time without food, water, or rest in crowded trucks to Mexico and Canada and the methods used to kill horses cause extraordinary distress and suffering. When plants previously operated in the U.S., it proved to be no better. Horses are skittish by nature due to their heightened fight or flight response, which makes accurate stunning difficult and slaughter inherently inhumane.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 961 / Thank you for cosponsoring!  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask:** Please cosponsor S. 2006 / Thank you for cosponsoring!  
Senator (1<sup>st</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_  
Senator (2<sup>nd</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_



## Horseracing Integrity Act – H.R. 1754/S. 1820



**Introduced on 3.14.2019 by:**

Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Representative Andy Barr (R-KY)

Cosponsors: 249

**S. 1820 introduced on 6.12.2019 by:**

Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Cosponsors: 24

### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Horseracing Integrity Act](#) helps ensure equine welfare by banning race -day medication, enacting more stringent and more uniform medication rules, increasing penalties for cheating, and substantially increasing in out-of-competition testing.
- Because racing is not regulated by one entity that can mandate regulations for every state, the only mechanism for facilitating uniform medication regulations is federal legislation. This bill grants independent control over rule-making, testing and enforcement oversight regarding drugs and medication to a new Authority headed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) – the same entity recognized by Congress as the official anti-doping agency for our Olympic, Pan American and Paralympic sports.
- Horse racing is a national industry that demands consistent standards rather than the current patchwork of state-by-state racing regulations. There are 38 racing jurisdictions in the U.S., which contain about 100 racetracks, including Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse and Standardbred racing. Each state’s racing commission sets its own rules with respect to the medication of horses resulting in different regulations, testing programs, and penalties.
- Widespread overuse of painkillers and performance-enhancing substances in racehorses is dangerous to horses, jockeys and the industry. These drugs mask pain and push race horses beyond their limits, enabling an injured horse to race when rest and time off would be more appropriate, leading to regular break downs and all-too frequent severe or fatal consequences for horses and their riders.
- **Widespread Support:** This bill is supported by key industry groups like The Jockey Club, Breeder’s Cup and the Water, Hay, Oats Alliance and the Coalition for Horseracing Integrity.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 1754 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask:** Please cosponsor S. 1820 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Senator (1<sup>st</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

Senator (2<sup>nd</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies (ProTECT) Act – H.R. 4804**



Introduced on 10.23.2019 by:

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Representative Pete King (R-NY) and Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA)

[Cosponsors: 7](#)

### **Talking points**

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies \(ProTECT\) Act](#) prohibits the import of trophies of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Prohibits trophy hunting in the U.S. of species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA.
- Species listed on the ESA have a proven, scientific need for heightened protections and additional management considerations. Trophy hunting by U.S. citizens not only exacerbates pressures on these already imperiled species, but also counteracts the millions of dollars spent on sincere conservation efforts such as stopping illegal poaching, as trophy hunters deliberately remove key animals that impact social structures and their young.
- The United States is the world's largest importer of animal trophies, including federally protected species whose populations are in decline. Despite this, a 2017 poll shows 80% of voters oppose the import of lion and elephant trophies.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 4804 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Welfare of Our Friends (WOOF) Act – H.R. 1002



Introduced on 2.6.2019 by:

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL), Representative Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

[Cosponsors: 216](#)

### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Welfare of Our Friends \(WOOF\) Act](#) will amend the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to prevent breeders whose previous licenses have been revoked or suspended from continuing to operate.
- It will ensure that problem dealers whose licenses have been suspended or revoked will not be allowed to obtain a new license by re-opening under a new business name or family member's name while still owning the same animals on the same property.
- Three different internal Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits have found that there are significant deficiencies in the way the AWA is enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The audits found that the USDA repeatedly relicenses some of the most problematic puppy dealers, even when they have been found with dozens of severe animal care violations.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 1002 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_



## Puppy Protection Act – H.R. 2442



Introduced on 5.1.2019 by:

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Representative Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

[Cosponsors](#): 44

### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Puppy Protection Act](#) will update the outdated and inadequate standards of care used to regulate dog breeders in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).
- It will amend the AWA to:
  - Ban harmful practices such as cage stacking and wire flooring.
  - Require larger enclosures, including spacious outdoor exercise runs for all dogs over 12 weeks.
  - Require that all dogs be fed at least twice a day and have continual access to clean, unfrozen water.
  - Require dogs to be protected from sweltering or frigid temperatures.
  - Require that each animal receive a hands-on veterinary examination each year, as well as routine vaccinations and parasite prevention, and prompt treatment of illness or injury.
  - Require that each dog receive daily socialization with humans and compatible dogs.
  - Prohibit the overbreeding of dogs or the breeding of dogs that have serious health conditions or inheritable diseases that are likely to significantly affect the mother or offspring.
  - Require group housing with other dogs, unless health or behavioral issues threaten safety
  - Require that any canine caesarian section be performed by a licensed veterinarian
  - Require that breeders make every effort to find humane placement for retired breeding dogs rather than destroying them.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 2442 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Providing Emergency Plans for Animals at Risk of Emerging Disasters (PREPARED) Act – H.R. 1042



Introduced on 2.7.2019 by:  
Representative Dina Titus (D-NV) and Representative Peter King  
(R-NY)

Cosponsors: 204

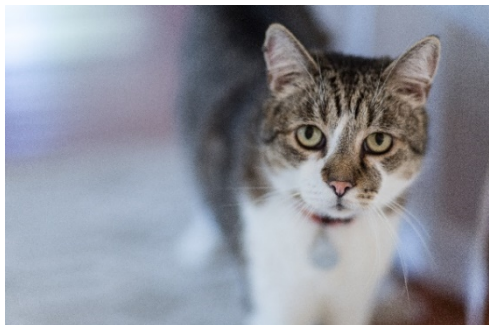
### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Providing Emergency Plans for Animals at Risk of Emerging Disasters \(PREPARED\) Act](#) requires that puppy mills, zoos, laboratories and other facilities subject to the Animal Welfare Act have detailed contingency plans to care for their animals in the event of natural or manmade disasters.

**Ask:** Please cosponsor H.R. 1042 / Thank you for cosponsoring!

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

## Prevent Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act – H.R. 724/S. 479



H.R. 724 introduced on 1.24.2019 by:  
Representative Theodore Deutch (D-FL) and Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

[Cosponsors: 301](#)

**\*Passed the House on 10.22.2019**

S. 479 introduced on 2.13.2019 by:  
Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

[Cosponsors: 41](#)

**\*Passed the Senate on 11.5.2019**

### Talking points

- **What This Bill Does:** The [Prevent Animal Cruelty and Torture \(PACT\) Act](#) creates a federal anti-cruelty statute which prohibits extreme acts of animal cruelty.
- In 2010, Congress passed the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act, which prohibits the creation and trade of obscene video depictions of animals being crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled, or subjected to other forms of heinous cruelty. That law does not prohibit the actual cruelty itself, absent a video. The PACT Act would [strengthen the law by prohibiting the underlying extreme acts of animal cruelty](#) that occur on federal property (i.e. military bases, prisons, national parks, etc.) or affect interstate commerce (i.e. in the puppy mill trade or wildlife trafficking), regardless of whether a video is produced.
- The PACT Act would complement the states' anti-cruelty laws and would be an additional tool for law enforcement to address extreme animal cruelty in cases that may otherwise go unprosecuted.

**\*\*PACT Act signed into law on 11.25.019**