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## Vote "Yes" to Halt FL Pig Factory Farming

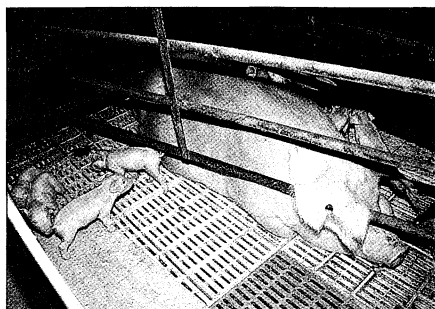
The HSUS strongly supports the November 2002 ballot initiative in Florida to outlaw the cruel and intensive confinement of pigs in gestation crates on factory farms. Please vote "yes" in November to halt this form of cruelty.

Every year, billions of animals are reared and confined on factory farms and then sent to slaughterhouses. Breeding sows are confined in gestation crates—barren metal cages measuring just two feet wide—for almost their entire lives. They cannot exercise or even turn around and are prevented from engaging in natural behaviors or from satisfying basic psychological needs. Pigs in gestation crates suffer from an array of physical ailments such as joint disorders and lameness, and psychological maladies including chronic stress and depression.

Gestation crates are so cruel that they have been outlawed in other countries. You can help end the practice here.

To help with the campaign, please write Floridians for Humane Farms at 1859 South Dixie Hwy., Pompano Beach, FL 33060; call 954-946-1691; or e-mail [info@BanCruelFarms.org](mailto:info@BanCruelFarms.org).

**Vote "yes" this November to outlaw gestation crates like this on Florida's factory farms.**



## Dealing Blows to Greyhound Racing

### Gov. Bush Vetoes Bad Track Bill

Florida's greyhound racing industry was dealt several blows earlier this year that will

hopefully signal its eventual end. The HSUS has long held that greyhound racing is an industry whose time has passed. It is responsible for thousands of surplus animals every year, the majority of which are ultimately killed by various means that are not always humane. The life of a racing greyhound literally hinges on how fast and for how long he or she can run.

Florida has 16 greyhound racing tracks, a third of all such facilities in the country. During the 2002 state legislative session, Sen. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz introduced a bill (SB 160) with the best of intentions—to increase adoptions at greyhound tracks around the state in an effort to reduce the number of dogs killed when their racing days are over. However, as the bill wound its way through the Legislature, it was amended to allow increased gambling that would help the tracks compensate for their declining revenues. This was to be done by expanding the operating hours of the tracks' card rooms and increasing the amount that could be wagered and won in card games. Despite efforts to stop SB 160 during the session, it passed the Florida Legislature and was sent for Gov. Jeb Bush's approval. The HSUS joined others in an intense campaign to urge a veto of the bill. In a



HSUS

**The HSUS maintains that greyhound racing is an inherently cruel industry in which thousands of dogs are killed yearly. It will only stop if people refuse to patronize tracks and citizens call for legislation to outlaw greyhound racing.**

letter to the Governor, SERO Director Laura Bevan wrote, "SB 160 will do greater harm than good to greyhounds because it significantly increases the operation of card rooms at the tracks, both in hours and in wagers. While some greyhounds would benefit from the adoption aspect of the legislation, in the end it would mean suffering and death for a far greater number. The tracks will essentially be required to conduct dog racing in order to offer high stakes poker even if dog racing isn't profitable or the public no longer wagers on the dogs."

Thankfully, Gov. Bush vetoed the legislation and echoed our comments in his veto message. Bush said that the bill "began as a well-intentioned effort to help find homes for rescued and retired greyhounds and provide them with better treatment," but is now "a vehicle for the expansion of gambling" and "bad public policy." We thank Gov. Bush for taking action against this bad legislation.

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### Alabamans Make a Gruesome Discovery

Around the same time Gov. Bush was being urged to veto SB 160, law enforcement officials made a gruesome discovery in Alabama that showed the inherent cruelty of greyhound racing. An investigation began after the Pensacola Greyhound Park racing director reportedly notified authorities about rumors that greyhounds were being killed across the state line in Lillian, Alabama. Under Florida law, greyhounds must be euthanized humanely by lethal injection, and it is illegal to move the dogs out of state to avoid compliance with the law.

After viewing aerial photographs showing bones scattered about the 18-acre property, authorities armed with search warrants found the buried remains of an estimated 3,000 animals, including greyhounds who had been shot and then unceremoniously tossed into makeshift graves. Later, the owner of the property where the dead bodies were found admitted that for years he had shot and killed dogs brought to him by greyhound trainers from the Pensacola Greyhound Park in Florida. He also raised greyhounds himself.

David Whetstone, the district attorney for Baldwin County, Alabama, described the scene soon after the raid on the property as horrific. "These people deem certain dogs unworthy of life just because they are slow or crippled or no longer wanted."

The owner of the property was later charged with three separate felony counts. Each felony conviction carries a possible prison sentence of one to 10 years.

"The greyhound racing industry has vehemently denied its involvement in the disposal of unwanted animals for years," said Brian Sodergren of the HSUS companion animals section. "This case offers the best opportunity yet to investigate potential ties between the industry and the cruel and illegal killing of greyhounds." The HSUS has called for a complete investigation and is offering assistance to the district attorney.

## Greyhound Racing Q & A



PAULA JAWORSKI/HSUS

**A greyhound's normal life expectancy is 13 or more years, but racing dogs' "careers"—and often their lives—are usually over by 3 to 4 years of age.**

### 1. Do problems exist with greyhound racing?

Yes. Greyhound racing constitutes animal abuse because of the industry's excessive surplus breeding practices, the often cruel methods by which unwanted dogs are destroyed, the daily conditions in which many dogs are forced to live, and the killing and maiming of bait animals (such as rabbits) during training exercises. In 2000, an estimated 19,000 greyhounds were killed.

### 2. Where does the greyhound racing industry get dogs?

Every year, the industry breeds tens of thousands of greyhounds, more than it can place at racetracks. This overbreeding is motivated by the desire to produce "winning" dogs. Thousands of greyhounds at each track are disposed of yearly to bring in a "fresh" group of dogs. A dog's racing career is usually over by 3 to 4 years of age, and often the animal's life as well.

### 3. Why would a state legalize greyhound racing?

Lawmakers initially perceived racing as a way to raise needed revenue. Most were, at first, unaware of the inhumane treatment involved. The reality, however, is that state revenue generated by dog tracks amounts, on average, to far less than one percent of a state's annual income, and has been declining markedly in recent years.

### 4. What is the status of greyhound racing?

With attendance at racetracks dwindling nationwide, greyhound racing is on the decline, yet it is still entrenched in a number of states. Forty-six tracks operate in 15 states. Florida has 16 tracks and Alabama has three. However, greyhound farms where the dogs are bred, raised, and trained exist throughout the Southeast.

### 5. How is the greyhound racing industry fighting back?

Because of unavoidable economic trends, many tracks have lost enthusiasm for dog racing and, instead, are concentrating on gaming. Tracks everywhere are pushing state legislatures to add slot machines, video lottery terminals, or other forms of gambling to prop up their failing dog-racing operations.

### 6. Could the greyhound racing industry ever be operated humanely?

No. The racing industry is inherently cruel. Greyhound racing is a form of gaming in which the amount of money a dog generates determines his or her expendability. The answer for greyhounds is neither regulation nor adoption of "retired" dogs, but the elimination of the greyhound racing industry.

### 7. Aren't "retired" greyhounds adopted? What happens to those who aren't adopted?

Although The HSUS applauds the efforts of volunteers who give their time and money to place unwanted greyhounds in loving homes, thousands of these dogs are still destroyed each year because there are not enough homes to accept them.

### 8. What can I do?

- Don't participate in the cruelty of greyhound racing by attending or betting on dog races.
- Tell your friends, family, and coworkers about the tragedy of greyhound racing.
- If your state or neighboring state has a greyhound track, write to state officials to express your opposition to greyhound racing. Tell them that greyhounds belong in loving homes, not on racetracks.

## Georgia Voters to Decide on License Plate

Georgia voters get their chance this November to decide whether the state should have a license plate to help fund the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. After a six-year effort, the bills allowing for the creation of the dog and cat sterilization license plate passed on the last day of the Georgia legislative session.

Basically, the new law puts an amendment on the November 5 general election ballot allowing the license plate language to be added to Georgia's constitution. If approved by voters, the license plates will be produced and available for sale to the public by January 2003.

The goal of the license plate is to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in Georgia. Currently, 106 of Georgia's 159 counties have no animal control. In Metro Atlanta alone, nearly \$7.3 million was spent on animal control in 1999. Across the state, tens of thousands of animals are euthanized in shelters, hit by cars, or die slow deaths from starvation or disease.

As with other specialty license plates, the county tag office will collect funds in addition to the usual tag fee for each license plate purchased. The money generated by sales of the plate will

- help pay for sterilization procedures,
- provide educational materials about the importance of sterilization, and
- promote sales of the plate.

The Department of Agriculture will administer the fund.

In the months before the November election, The HSUS will be joining the Humane Association of Georgia in encouraging the public to vote for the amendment in November and, if approved, purchase dog and cat sterilization license plates in January.

For more information about how you can help promote Georgia's dog and cat sterilization license plate, contact SERO or visit the Humane Association of Georgia's Web site at [www.humassocga.org](http://www.humassocga.org).



**SERO Director Laura Bevan (right front of podium) joins Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes (fourth from right) and other activists at the signing of the bill allowing the dog/cat license plate initiative to be put on November's ballot. Now it's up to you to vote for the initiative.**

## FL Expands Cruelty Law

Florida has taken the next step in reaching the roots of animal cruelty. Bills passed by lawmakers during the 2002 session now require those who are convicted of felony animal cruelty to receive psychological counseling as well as mandatory fines and jail time. State Rep. Jeff Kottkamp, who wrote the original bill, and Sen. Jim King championed the legislation, and SERO supported their efforts.

Over the last 25 years, many studies in psychology, sociology, and criminology have demonstrated that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty. The FBI has recognized this connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had, as children, killed or tortured animals. Far more prevalent, animal cruelty is frequently an indicator in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse.

A case of extreme animal cruelty that illustrated the types of cases to be impacted by the new law played out in the courts of the Tampa Bay area in recent months. A judge sentenced 18-year-old Brandon Eldred to three years in prison for attacking two llamas with a golf club, killing one and gouging out the other's eye. Earlier, a second 18-year-old, Robert

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### I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.
- Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_



Promoting the protection of all animals

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES**  
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE  
1624 Metropolitan Circle, Suite B  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

# Director's Report



**By Laura Bevan**

*Director of the Southeast Regional Office*

## The More Things Change ...

In my last newsletter I took note of the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew and its impact on the people and animals of South Florida. Another important anniversary occurred this year: I have now worked for The HSUS for 15 years. The thought boggles my mind, and the quote "the more things change, the more they stay the same" comes to mind. A lot of changes have taken place in the last 15 years to improve the lives of some animals, but so much that needs to change hasn't happened either.

In my first years with HSUS, I worked extensively on greyhound racing issues, helping with investigations into the use of live animals (usually rabbits) as bait to encourage the dogs to run faster. Then there were the cases in which large numbers of greyhounds were found starving to death or already killed by gunshot. During one raid on a greyhound farm, I asked the owner (as I sat on a freezer full of dead rabbits) why they shot the dogs. "A bullet is cheaper than the vet," was the reply. I hope to work for HSUS long enough to see that industry go extinct. It is

so much cruelty for no reason other than greed and entertainment.

In 1989, I helped pass Florida's felony animal cruelty law, the fourth in the country. The hope was that by making the penalties greater we could discourage abuse of animals. It is hard to know what cruelties haven't taken place that might have otherwise. Certainly, this law helped give law enforcement agents and the courts better tools to deal with cases such as the Eldred/Pettyjohn one described on page 3. In the past, such teenagers who exhibited signs of disturbed minds would have been charged with misdemeanors and put back on the streets to commit more heinous acts of animal cruelty.

Despite the bad, the past 15 years have had an equal measure of good. I have met some of the finest people in the world in my five states—people who get up every day with the goal of making the world a better place, and who set out to do it by all means possible. I try to help them whenever I can. We are a team, and with persistence, we mean to change our corner of the world.

One of the finest people helping animals is also celebrating her 15th anniversary with SERO, Administrative Assistant Andrea West (pictured below). Andrea started work a few months after me. She was six months pregnant at the time with her son Daniel and was skilled well beyond any other candidate. Andrea balances her



work life with a busy home life that includes three children, three dogs, and two cats. She has her hands full at home and work! It has been a wild ride for both of us, but together we have hung in and worked hard for the animals in this region. Here's to another 15 years!

*continued from "Florida Law," page 3*  
Pettyjohn, had received a five-year sentence for his part in the crime. Both had been sentenced previously for attacking and killing two bulls in their pasture with bows and arrows.

Ann Chynoweth, counsel to The HSUS's investigations department, helped SERO track the cases and stayed in contact with law enforcement and prosecutors. Chynoweth wrote to the judge in the Eldred case urging the maximum penalties for the crimes. "What makes Mr. Eldred's crimes so shocking is that they were such calculated and unrestrained acts of cruelty. It would appear as though his actions were motivated by nothing other than a depraved sense of personal enjoyment."

A special "thank you" to Detective Thomas Hoddinott of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and William Burgess, assistant state attorney, for their excellent work and dedication to bringing Eldred and Pettyjohn to justice.

The *SERO Regional News* is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Southeast Regional Office, 1624 Metropolitan Cir., Ste. B, Tallahassee, FL 32308; 850-386-3435. Laura Bevan, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays.

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