



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALIA

newsletter

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Don't Cut our Butts

How kinder wool
production is good
for sheep and good
for farmers

INSIDE: Dog rescue in South Korea • Feature: kinder wool production • Bushfire recovery stories: impact of your support for wildlife • Inside story: EPBC Act Review • Updates: how you are helping to protect sharks, flying-foxes, elephants, monkeys and more.

CEO Message

This has been a year unlike any other and as lockdowns around the world start to ease, and we are able to access our national parks once more, we also salute our animal companions who helped so many get through this. Every one of you that I have spoken to in the past few months has expressed such gratitude for your furry friends who have given such comfort and companionship as we were confined to our homes.

While governments now start to focus on the economic recovery needed, we must not let this become an excuse for weakening our environmental laws and protections. If we learned anything from the bushfires, it is just how fragile our natural world is, and we must invest in transformational

change if we want to stop the extinction crisis.

We have been deeply engaged in the review of our federal environment law and are presenting the case for stronger laws at every opportunity. We have a once in a generation chance to use the chaos of 2020 to rebuild in a way that benefits people, animals and the environment.

We also stayed in touch with wildlife carers throughout the pandemic and continue to work with them to build resilience which will allow them to better care for animals when facing future disasters.

I know that their stories have touched your hearts as they have worked around the clock to save animals and I thank you for your generous support

which has enabled us to be there for them in their time of need.

With winter now upon us, I also hope you enjoy reading about how you can make a difference if you are considering a new jumper, by seeking out non-mulesed woollen products. We are making real progress in eradicating this cruel practice.

Thank you so much for staying with us when I know many of you have faced your own very challenging circumstances. Your support lifts us up and makes every victory possible. Thank you.



Erica Martin
Chief Executive Officer



Erica Martin is joined by Jeff Flocken, President of HSI, for a koala rescue on Kangaroo Island with HSI Global's disaster response team members Adam Parascandola and Kelly Donithan.

From a death sentence to a better life for dogs in South Korea

.....
**WITH
YOUR
SUPPORT**
.....

Despite the global pandemic, in May this year Humane Society International managed to save 70 dogs destined for the butcher's block and shut down forever a dog meat farm in South Korea.

When our team first arrived at the farm, the animals were languishing in rows of dilapidated cages, surrounded by animal waste, junk and garbage. But the minute they saw their rescuers, they erupted into a barking chorus, reports Nara Kim, HSI's consultant in South Korea:

"Some of the dogs were desperately jumping for me to notice them and offer some affection, while others hid at the back of their cages in fear. Many dogs are in terrible shape but with time, care, and of course love they all can become great companions."

The owner of this dog meat farm told us he has been breeding the dogs for nearly 40 years, but believes there is now no future in it. He jumped at the chance offered by HSI to leave dog farming behind and begin a new life growing cabbages and other vegetables instead.

With fewer South Koreans eating dog meat than ever before, and with more people seeing dogs as companions rather than food, the demand for dog meat has been dropping. In recent years, there has also been a series of new regulations and court rulings cracking down on the industry.

With help from HSI supporters globally, all 70 dogs are now recuperating in a boarding facility, getting full veterinary check-ups and provided with everything they need to be comfortable for the first time in their lives. The dogs will be cared for in South Korea until the pandemic calms globally and they can be flown to our temporary shelter in Canada and shelter partners in the United States to seek adoptive homes.



Nara Kim (pictured above) braves the squalid conditions on a South Korean dog meat farm to rescue 70 dogs destined for dinner plates.

BECOME AN ANIMAL DEFENDER

By making a monthly donation as an Animal Defender you will enable HSI to plan and respond effectively to the needs of animals and local communities around the globe.

To join, please contact us:

Phone: 1800 333 737

Email: admin@hsi.org.au

Website: hsi.org.au/animaldefender

DON'T PULL THE WOOL OVER KINDNESS

If you find yourself browsing online for a new winter woolly, you have the opportunity to also support kinder farming practices.

Traditionally, Australian Merino sheep have been bred with wrinkled skin and in our fly-ridden climate, this makes them prone to a painful condition known as flystrike. To prevent it, many Australian woolgrowers 'mule' their lambs during their first year of life. Mulesing is a one-off procedure where areas of wrinkled skin are literally sliced off from the rear end of the sheep. It is almost always done without anaesthetic and when pain relief is used it is after the event.

An estimated 13–20 million Merino lambs are mulesed across Australia each year. Luckily both flystrike and mulesing can be avoided.



HSI's Georgie Dolphin (pictured) is determined to make cruel mulesing history.

Woolgrowers can stop mulesing by breeding flystrike resistant sheep without wrinkles. These smooth-skinned, plain-bodied sheep also produce high-quality and highly sought-after wool, so it has been a win-win solution for the farmers that have made the transition.

In collaboration with FOUR PAWS we commissioned BG Economics to do an independent economic study to look at the financial benefits of switching to plain-bodied breeds to avoid the need for mulesing. With positive findings from a survey of nearly 100 non-mulesed woolgrowers and seven case studies, we are hoping more growers will feel confident that they too can leave mulesing behind.

Woolgrower Norm Smith from Central NSW, who stopped mulesing in 2005, says:

"There are so many benefits to getting rid of the wrinkle on their Merino sheep. First, is that a plain-bodied Merino is just more comfortable in any Australian environment without the burden of a heavy or wrinkly skin. They are a more resilient animal which is more fertile especially during dry times and tend to bounce back quicker when it does rain".

We have also been talking to several major Australian retailers including Country Road Group, David Jones, Target and Kmart, and we welcome their recently announced commitments to move away from sourcing wool from sheep that have undergone mulesing. They join many other major international brands and retailers including H&M, Marks & Spencer, Adidas, Next, Hugo Boss and Abercrombie & Fitch.

When announcing their commitment David Jones and County Road Group Head of Sustainability Eloise Bishop said:

"Over the past 12 months, Country Road Group and David Jones have been working closely with industry and key experts in animal welfare to better



Woolgrowers (from left to right) Doug Wright and Norm and Pip Smith breed plain-bodied sheep at their NSW properties.

understand how best to improve standards across the wool supply chain and support the future of responsible farming. Humane Society International has offered ongoing guidance and input throughout this process, and we are proud of this display of cross sector collaboration."

*By Georgie Dolphin
Program Manager, Animal Welfare*

Watch out for our soon-to-be-released shoppers guide so you can find the brands that are choosing to source non-mulesed wool.

WOOLGROWER SURVEY RESULTS

77.5% completed the transition to plain-bodied Merinos within five years.

83.5% say transitioning to plain-bodied Merinos is not costly.

87.6% receive a price premium for their unmulesed wool.

84.1% have experienced an increased return on investment.

86.6% would recommend to other woolgrowers to undertake the transition to plain-bodied Merinos.

98.0% say not mulesing is important for their farm's future profitability.

YOUR SUPPORT has been instrumental in helping retailers take this issue seriously. If you haven't already, you can sign our Don't Cut our Butts petition at hsi.org.au/mulesing. With you demanding kinder fashion alongside us, we hope more producers, brands and retailers will make the switch and mulesing will become a thing of the past.



Quoll Headquarters, New South Wales

Quoll Headquarters, a 400 acre Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary north of Tenterfield, New South Wales, was born more than 20 years ago after a long search for land to protect the spotted-tailed quoll.

In the decades since securing this land, I've not only been managing and maintaining the habitat but making sure it becomes a sanctuary of significance for generations to come.

With the species in decline throughout Australia, it became obvious that more intervention was needed to increase the level of protection of the quoll population within the sanctuary. After seeking much advice and help from leading ecological experts, the consensus was to construct a 'feral-proof' fence around the entire property.

But, just as the fence plan was finalised, the sanctuary was devastated by the fires that tore through northern NSW. The fire was far more intense than has ever been recorded in the area and put the local quoll population at peril.

When I contacted HSI for assistance to fast track the fence project they were swift and generous with their response which has had an immediate positive impact. The project is now underway and the local spotted-tailed quoll population will be secured into the future! **I can't thank HSI's generous supporters enough for making this happen.**

By Stephen Haslam



Artist's impression of the new 'feral-proof' fence.



Stephen conducts surveys to monitor changes in the local quoll population.

SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL

(Dasyurus maculatus means 'hairy tail')

- One of four species of quoll found only in Australia; there are only six quoll species in the world.
- Endemic to eastern Australia from north-eastern Queensland to Tasmania.
- Nocturnal hunters who prey on possums, rabbits, birds and even insects.
- Population has declined between 60–90% since European colonisation.
- Threatened by habitat loss, modification and fragmentation, timber harvesting, poison baiting, competition and predation from introduced carnivores, deliberate killing, road mortality, bushfire and prescribed burning, poisoning by cane toads, and climate change.
- Mainland population listed Endangered and Tasmanian population listed Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Source: National Recovery Plan for the Spotted-tailed Quoll, Victorian Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2016.

Toowoomba Koala and Wildlife Rescue, 'Jarowair', Queensland

Having been volunteer wildlife rehabilitators and rescuers since 2005 and running Toowoomba Koala and Wildlife Rescue, we can say without a doubt that 2019 was the busiest year we've ever had due to drought, poor weather, and then the devastating bushfires that started in November.

Along with many others we dedicated weeks to wildlife search and rescue during the bushfire crisis. We rescued 18 koalas in November, with some found terrified and crying in the tops of trees, singed and suffering from smoke inhalation, dehydration and starvation from not having anything to eat for a very long time.

Sadly, many didn't survive.

As we were already looking after other koalas from the drought, we had to scramble to organise extra housing. When we received a phone call from Evan Quartermain to check on how we were going and see what HSI might be able to do to help, the timing couldn't have been better. In no time we had the materials for new koala enclosures that Brendon had designed. We were blown away—up until the bushfires, our wildlife work had always been completely self-funded.

We're currently caring for six koalas. We look forward to when they can be released, feeling blessed to have been able to not only rescue them from the fires, but to assist with their rehabilitation and eventual return to the wild!

By Judi and Brendon Gray



New enclosures designed and built by Brendon with funding support from HSI.



Mia and joey Kevin, rescued by Judi and Brendon, are getting ready for release.

YOUR SUPPORT HAS SO FAR HELPED:

- 57 wildlife carers and sanctuaries
- More than 1,700 native animals in care
- Provide essential food, water, medicine and care equipment
- Deliver large-scale food drops and create vital water stations
- Build infrastructure for long-term protection including enclosures, fencing, irrigation, and water storage



INSIDE STORY

Alexia Wellbelove

HSI's Senior Campaign Manager

Alexia has spent more than two decades working on environmental policy and legislation and has been a part of our team for more than 11 years. She is our expert on Australian environmental law and leads our advocacy for stronger protection for nature. In March this year, Alexia completed HSI's submission on the 20-year review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), Australia's national legislation for wildlife and habitat protection. Alexia talks about the next step.

Your focus next will be on the draft recommendations on changes to the EPBC Act due in June. What concerns you the most about the review and how will HSI deal with that?

We need to ensure the review recognises the extinction crisis that Australia is currently experiencing and the need for stronger laws to tackle the challenges coming our way. We are well prepared for this having spent the past few years setting out our detailed policy position on what is required to protect our wildlife and their habitats. We regularly meet government ministers and politicians from all parties to ensure they understand the scale of the problem and the need for stronger legislation.

You were instrumental in setting up Places You Love in 2012. How is the alliance important for this review and the new nature laws campaign?

Places You Love is Australia's largest environmental alliance of 58 groups all around Australia. The alliance is an important way for all organisations to amplify our voices within Government and political circles and makes us a force to be reckoned with. It makes us harder to ignore when we are speaking as one, and at the same time easier to consult as we work together.

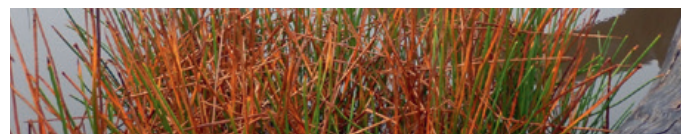
How do you think the bushfires and COVID-19 have impacted the review so far?

The bushfires have brought into sharp focus the need for stronger protection for our wildlife and their habitats. However, there is a risk of losing this momentum with the focus on economic recovery post-COVID-19 risks and the push by some sectors to shortcut essential environmental protections. This poses a significant threat. Our role is to ensure that wildlife and their habitats are kept front of mind and better protected.

What's key to maintaining your hope and resilience in your role?

My innate love of wildlife and particularly animals led me to a career devoted to protecting them through the strongest possible policies and legislation. I feel very privileged to be able to do this on behalf of many other passionate wildlife lovers and use that influence to get real change. Knowing I am a part of this change for my kids and future generations, makes me enjoy local bush walks and swimming in the sea even more!

PLEASE HELP keep the extinction crisis front of mind. Tell your federal MP to stand up for strong legal protection for wildlife and their homes: go to hsi.org.au/newlaws and complete the form and we will send a letter on your behalf.



THANK YOU to the thousands of supporters who backed our campaign calling for stronger protection through transformative new laws and contributed to the more than 30,000 submissions received by the government.



Patricia 'Pat' Farrant (pictured above in 2018 and in her youth) was a passionate advocate for animals throughout her life and leaves a lasting legacy to protect wildlife into the future.

Patrícia Farrant AM

There are some people who are simply compelled to make the world a better place and Pat Farrant was one of those people.

A lifelong humanitarian, Pat was also a fierce advocate for conservation and could not bear to hear or see any instance of animal cruelty. She was deeply devoted to her own dog, Patches, but was just as concerned for the plight of wild animals.

As she lost her sight in her later years she would insist that her dear friend Norma would read to her and keep her informed on a wide range of animal issues and causes that needed help.

She became one of Humane Society International's valued regular givers—appropriately named Animal Defenders. When asked why she chose HSI, she would say, "It is because of the incredible work they do here on the ground in Australia to protect animals as well as their international projects, and they are so approachable and responsive—that is what sets them apart".

Before she passed in 2019, she established a philanthropic fund within the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation in Melbourne to enable

If you would like to receive information about leaving a gift in your will or arrange a confidential conversation about our Gift in Wills program, please contact us:

Phone: 1800 333 737

Email: admin@hsi.org.au

Website: hsi.org.au/page/leave-a-bequest

her to donate to support the causes dear to her heart in perpetuity. As a beneficiary of the fund, HSI has been able to honour her life by supporting wildlife carers with their extraordinary animal rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Pat was recognised for her tremendous contribution to this country with a Member of the Order of Australia in 2018 at 99 years old. The world is a sadder place without Pat, but her memory and her legacy still brings a smile to those who knew her, and will forever change the lives of the animals she continues to help save.

Too cruel to continue: help stop flying-foxes being shot in Queensland

The devastating summer has made life even harder for flying-foxes already under massive pressure. We need to reduce our impacts on these highly important native pollinators, and we need to do it fast.

Queensland is still allowing bats, including threatened species like the grey-headed flying-fox, to be killed for 'crop protection purposes'. Shooting flying-foxes is not only cruel it is also ineffective.

HSI-led action has seen flying-fox shooting phased out in New South Wales, with a state government grant program for wildlife-friendly netting delivering a win-win for orchardists, animal lovers and nature. There's no time to waste for Queensland to respond in the same way.

TAKE ACTION Help us end flying-fox shooting in Queensland by letting Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch and Shadow Environment Minister David Crisafulli know you want Queensland to stop allowing the shooting of flying foxes and to encourage farmers to move to cruelty-free alternatives. Take action at action.hsi.org.au/flying-fox



Grey-headed flying-fox with pup.



IMAGE: NMCLACHLAN/HSI/AMCS

Bull shark caught and killed on a drumline off Magnetic Island, QLD.

Envoy: Cull coming soon

The actions of a good Samaritan to free a baby humpback whale trapped in the shark net at Burleigh Heads has shone a spotlight on the harm they inflict. That spotlight is about to brighten with a high-profile documentary, *Envoy: Cull*, set to stream in coming months. Produced by filmmaker Hype, the documentary features our successful court case against shark culling and our marine biologist Lawrence Chlebeck. If governments truly want to keep people safe they would drop the pretense that outdated culling programs make any difference to public safety and invest in more effective modern technology such as drones and warning systems, without the harm to wildlife. It's only thanks to you that we were able to achieve this important landmark case and victory for shark welfare and protection. We'll email you when the documentary launch date is confirmed so you don't miss it.

Monkey business

Our partners at the Zambia Primate Project (ZPP) are in the process of upgrading their facilities to rescue more monkeys and baboons from lives of cruelty and neglect. With your support, HSI has funded a new bore, which will bring a steady water supply to help them care for all the animals during their rehabilitation.

Since its inception in 2002, ZPP has returned to the wild more than 550 vervet monkeys and baboons

that have been orphaned or injured by the bush meat trade, the illegal pet trade and through road or snare accidents in Zambia.

The new facilities will allow the animals to be rehabilitated away from the contact of humans which will greatly increase their chances of successful reintroduction to the wild in Kafue National Park.

An elephant anniversary

It is hard to believe that it is a year since Kalpana's rescue, after being abandoned by her owner because her severely inflamed joints did not allow her to perform in religious festivals any longer.

Our partners at Wildlife SOS stepped in and vets soon discovered just how sick she was—in addition to being badly dehydrated and malnourished, she was blind in one eye, covered in abscesses and suffering from severe osteoarthritis.

After a full year of loving care, Kalpana is healthier and happier and never far from her best friend Holly.

It is only with your help that we can provide the long-term, loving care needed for Kalpana, Holly and all the elephants at the Wildlife SOS Field of Dreams.



Rescued Mum with baby Ndiase (meaning 'gift') now live wild and free.



Kalpana celebrates a full year of retirement.

TRADING IN CRUELTY AND DISEASE

In the wake of COVID-19 and global attention on the wildlife trade, significant progress is already being made to curb wildlife consumption:

- HSI sent a White Paper detailing the science linking wildlife markets to zoonotic diseases to 188 governments
- The Director General of the World Health Organisation has called for governments to rigorously enforce bans on the sale of wildlife for food
- The Chinese cities of Wuhan, Beijing, Shenzhen and Zhuhai have enacted wildlife food bans, some provinces are transitioning wild animal breeders into alternative

livelihoods and an as-yet temporary China-wide ban is in place

- The Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition is pressuring Indonesia over their wildlife markets with a line-up of international and Indonesian celebrities.

We are not naïve about the scale of the problem, but we will not rest until commercial exploitation of wildlife for all purposes stops imperilling global animal welfare, conservation and public health. If you haven't already, you can take action calling on governments to end the wildlife trade at [hsi.org.au/wildlifetrade](https://www.hsi.org.au/wildlifetrade).

WE NEED A WORLD where people treat animals
and the environment with respect and compassion



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