



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
AUSTRALIA

HSI AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

STANDING **for** **ANIMALS**

MARCH 2022

Our fight against battery cages

Bringing the
cruelty to light

INSIDE: New habitat protections for cassowaries and other animals | Feature: Ending one of Australia's worst cruelties: the battery cage | An elephant update from India | Our new partnerships for lambs | Good news in the campaign against shark culling | Lessons from a six-year-old animal champion



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AUSTRALIA

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107

Phone: 1800 333 737

Email: supporter@hsi.org.au

www.hsi.org.au

Follow HSI Australia on



Share your stories of creating a more humane world by using the hashtag **#standingforanimals** on social media.

Front cover

Battery cages cause immense suffering to hens and must be abolished.

Image: The Farm Transparency Project

Back cover

At our partner project in India, Wildlife SOS, elephants receive care and compassion.

Image: Wildlife SOS

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Susanne Geppert

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CEO Message

As we enter the third year of the pandemic, I want to thank you so much for your continued support which has helped make sure that we can continue our critical animal protection work.

I know that many of you have endured your own hardships and I am so grateful for your generosity and compassion for all animals.

In these pages you can learn more about the positive impact you have made for so many different species.

Your support for HSI has allowed us to successfully nominate almost half of the total Threatened Ecological Communities protected under national law.

You've helped us move ever closer to seeing an end to shark nets and the dreadful toll they take on marine animals.

Farm animals are living better lives thanks to you, and we hope we can make a final push together that will put battery cages behind us forever.

I also really hope you will enjoy the update on Emma the elephant who continues to thrive in her new home under the loving care of her handlers. I truly hope the day will come soon when we can once again travel and possibly have the opportunity to meet this beautiful elephant in person.

In this issue you will meet some fellow animal advocates, Harry and staff member Julieri, who are doing all they can to save animals from extinction and suffering.

I never stop being amazed at how deeply people can care about animals, myself included, and will forever be grateful that together we can do so much to look after them.

I hope you are all safe and well and thank you once again for all you make possible for the animals.

Erica Martin

Chief Executive Officer



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

New habitat protections will offer animals like cassowaries an improved chance of recovery.

At last! Protection for critical habitat

We closed out 2021 with some good news for critical habitats in need of protection. Our nominations for four Threatened Ecological Communities were approved for listing by the Environment Minister, Sussan Ley.

This result provides these habitats and the animals that live in them with increased legal protection against further decline and an improved chance of recovery.

1 The Lowland Tropical Rainforests of the Wet Tropics: **Endangered**

These tropical rainforests are important habitat for cassowaries and tree-kangaroos in Far North Queensland and have suffered severe impacts of historical clearing and threats from weed invasion and cyclone damage.

2 Mallee bird community of the Murray Darling: **Endangered**

Malleefowl, mallee emu-wrens, regent parrots and red-lored whistlers, all of which are considered threatened, are among the 20 mallee-dependent species that will benefit from the increased protection and recovery prioritisation now afforded to this community.

3 Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of NSW and SE Queensland: **Endangered**

These forests occur within a narrow strip along the east coast between southern New South Wales through to Gladstone in Queensland. They provide habitat for numerous threatened species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, southern brown bandicoot, long-footed potoroo, swift parrot, orange-bellied parrot and koala.

4 Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub of the Sydney Region: **Critically Endangered**

This iconic coastal habitat in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is home to wildlife species including eastern pygmy possums, green and golden bell frogs and bandicoots. It was up-listed from Endangered to Critically Endangered, providing it with additional legal protection against further decline and an improved chance at recovery.

Thanks to your support, HSI is now responsible for nominations leading to 43 of the 96 total listings of Threatened Ecological Communities under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT HABITAT

If you have a property of more than one acre and you care about wildlife consider joining our Wildlife Land Trust.

For more information visit
www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au
or contact Helen on 1800 333 737
or at wlt@hsi.org.au



Battery cages are no way to live

Ending one of the worst cruelties

A staggering 7.6 billion hens are used in egg production around the world, with most kept in small, barren, over-crowded battery cages. In Australia more than 10 million hens suffer in battery cages in about 88 farms around the country, with most in NSW.



A battery cage is a barren wire cage which confines a hen to less room than an A4 sheet of paper. Can you imagine spending your life in a room where you can't even stretch out your arms? Caged layer hens are among the most intensively confined animals in agribusiness.

As well as the cruelty of the confinement itself, the overcrowding often makes the hens prone to more virulent diseases when so many are packed together. The unnatural conditions also routinely lead to foot and feather damage from the wire cages.

These hens are denied basic amounts of exercise and producing so many eggs also makes them prone to osteoporosis leading to painful broken bones.

No animal should live like this.

Australia is lagging behind

Battery cages have been phased out or are in the process of being phased out in the UK, New Zealand, Canada, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and several states in the USA.

And yet Australia is still dragging its feet.

The Australian Standards and Guidelines for Poultry have undergone a seemingly never-ending review, which kicked off back in 2015 managed by Animal Health Australia. By 2017, the review was mired in controversy when scientists stepped forward to say their research was being distorted in favour of caged egg production.



Australia lags behind the world with millions of hens still confined in cramped, dark cages.

DID YOU KNOW...

Even free-range doesn't always mean free-range

- Australian standards for free-range hens are shamefully low with 10,000 hens per hectare officially considered free-range.
- If you choose to buy free-range eggs please look for the stocking density which must be listed on the packaging and only purchase eggs which have 1,500 hens or less per hectare.



IMAGE: JOSH'S RAINBOW EGGS, THE FARM TRANSPARENCY PROJECT

But animal advocates like you stepped up to make their voices heard. An astonishing 167,000 public submissions calling for an end to battery cages were submitted to Animal Health Australia which led to the establishment of an independent scientific panel to take over the review process and hopefully remove the politics from any recommendations.

Last year the Federal Government was forced to reveal the draft standards prepared by the panel which recommended a phase-out of traditional battery cages between 2032 and 2036. Yet even that was too much for the NSW Government—the only state to block the phase-out.

Documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws late last year show the then NSW Agriculture Minister, Nationals MP Adam Marshall, going against the advice of his department and opposing plans to phase out wire cages at all.

Change is happening

Hens are suffering in battery cages. The science is crystal clear on that. But business interests are dictating the future of these poor animals.

We know that speaking up against battery cages works. The number of countries that have already banned battery cages and companies like McDonald's

that have committed to only using cage-free eggs shows that the voices calling for the end of this cruelty are being heard elsewhere. It's time the Australian government listened. While we want to see an end to all cages for Australian laying hens, ridding our country of the cruellest form of confinement in battery cages is a good place to start.



Program Manager for Animal Welfare, Georgie Dolphin, is leading our campaign for hens.

We need you more than ever to speak up for hens. If you haven't already please go to our website and take action. Let's make sure the new Minister for Agriculture in New South Wales, Nationals MP Dugald Saunders, hears loud and clear that battery cages have to go.



Take action at hsi.org.au/banbattery cages

IMAGE: WILDLIFE SOS



Update on Emma

It is hard to believe but Emma, the elephant that you have helped provide urgent care for last year, has celebrated her first anniversary at the Wildlife SOS sanctuary.

After a lifetime of brutal hard work, Emma has settled in and is truly enjoying her retirement. Treatment continues on her badly injured feet which involves cleaning in a saline solution and medicated foot baths of Epsom salts and turmeric.

She goes for leisurely walks twice a day, enjoys bathing in the river and has made some new friends at the sanctuary as well. Maya and Phoolkali often join her and the team is watching Emma slowly become social after years of solitary confinement.

Emma was badly emaciated when she arrived at the sanctuary, but we are happy to report that she has gained a whopping 600kgs and her favourite foods are sugarcane, cucumbers and pumpkins.

Thank you for helping Emma on her journey to recovery and for making sure we can continue to help so many more like her at Wildlife SOS.

THANK YOU FROM INDIA

Dear Erica and the wonderful team and supporters of HSI Australia,

Geeta and I as founders of Wildlife SOS convey our heartfelt gratitude to you for your kind and generous support for the elephant program of Wildlife SOS that helps support some of the rescued elephants in our care at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre, in India.

Our close association and partnership with Humane Society International, Australia dates back to the rescue of "Champa" our very first rescued elephant. Her soul rests in peace knowing she has inspired us to help many more elephants in India.

With support from HSI Australia, we've been able to help elephants in distress while providing critical medical care and treatment. Our outreach efforts helps spread awareness about elephant protection and conservation.

On behalf of everyone at Wildlife SOS, and the elephants, we invite you to please plan a visit to India to see the success you have helped us achieve once international travel resumes.

Kartick and Geeta



Progress for marine animals

We are very pleased to see the Queensland Government make significant progress in embracing non-lethal shark protection measures in their recently released 2021-2025 Shark Management Plan.

The plan commits to non-lethal shark control in the Great Barrier Reef and lays the groundwork to phase out shark nets and drumlines across the state.

While the plan doesn't yet eliminate lethal shark control, it is encouraging that the plan emphasises trialling new modern technologies and strategies to protect ocean swimmers from shark bite without the horrific toll on marine wildlife currently caused by shark nets and drumlines.

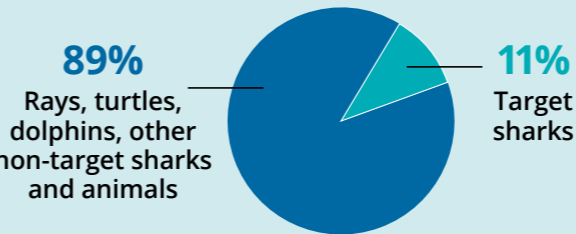
The introduction of modern technologies including drones, personal deterrent devices and education programs will see vast improvements to swimmer safety and end the devastation to Queensland's marine life.

Closer to #NetsOut

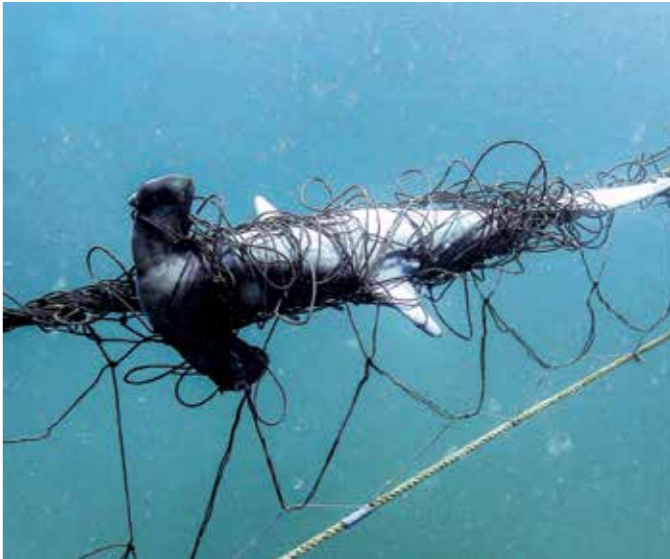
New South Wales has also significantly boosted their investment in non-lethal technology in a sign that they may be moving towards removing shark nets for good.

Data released in August last year from the NSW Department of Primary Industries showed a staggering 89% of marine animals caught in NSW shark nets during the 20-21 season were non-target species such as dolphins, turtles and whales. More than half the animals caught were threatened or protected species.

ANIMALS KILLED IN NSW'S SHARK NETS



► You can learn more about shark control and join the #NetsOutNow campaign to protect marine life at hsi.org.au/marine-wildlife/sharks



Hammerhead tangled and killed in a shark net.



EVERY SIX DAYS Last year alone, Queensland's shark nets and lethal drumlines caught a threatened turtle every six days. Nearly one in three of those died, along with almost 600 other animals who needlessly lost their lives.

Thanks to you, we have been changing attitudes towards sharks and making steady progress in helping to improve knowledge of the important role they play in healthy marine ecosystems.



INSIDE STORY

Julieri De Florio

Fundraising Coordinator

As HSI's Fundraising Coordinator, Julieri's focus is on HSI's Animal Defender program to provide opportunities for people to support HSI's work through monthly donations. Julieri is available and ready to speak with anyone wishing to give regularly or to respond to any enquiries from current Animal Defenders.

Why did you join HSI?

I am passionate about giving animals a voice and caring for them and the environment. I have known HSI for many years and I did not hesitate to join their efforts to protect animals and create a better world for them. I was extremely impressed by HSI's breadth of work in critical areas such as animal conservation and welfare.

What is it that motivates you each day?

Knowing that, every day, I have an opportunity to dedicate my energy and voice to an exceptionally worthy cause. Knowing that I'm not alone in my endeavours as I count on our generous supporters and the wonderful HSI team.

What is special about HSI's fundraising?

Speaking with our donors and supporters and being inspired by their generosity and loyalty to HSI. It fills me with hope and empowers me to continue to work hard to raise funds for critical campaigns and programs that will allow us to build a humane and ecologically sustainable world for all animals.

Do you have a favourite animal?

Dogs! A dog is your unconditional friend, full of love and faithfulness to give you every single day.



IMAGE: JEAN CHUNG/HSI

HSI's work includes rescuing dogs from dog meat farms overseas and improving domestic animal welfare laws.

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: animaldefender@hsi.org.au

Website: hsi.org.au/animaldefender



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Giving back: lessons from a six-year-old

Harry Beattie lives in western Sydney with his two older brothers and baby sister. He loves computing, building and fixing things, and using his vivid imagination! He wants to be a programmer or engineer when he grows up. But he also has another passion. He really wants to be a 'koala hero' and make sure that koalas are kept safe.

When Harry turned six and his mum asked him what he wanted to do with his birthday money, his immediate answer was that he wanted to help HSI save koalas.

You see Harry's uncle is our very own Head of Programs, Evan Quartermain, and his introduction to koalas was tragically watching his uncle's rescue efforts during the Black Summer bushfires while Harry was living in England.

So Harry decided to send Evan a video to ask if he might be willing to accept his birthday money as a donation to protect one of his favourite animals.

Of course, Evan was happy to oblige his wonderful nephew and now keeps Harry updated on our work to make sure this Aussie icon will be safe from all the threats they face.

Harry has learned all about how HSI is helping to rescue and rehabilitate koalas when they are in crisis to ensuring that their precious habitat is protected from developers.

Whether our team is up at Parliament House making the case for additional protection for koalas under federal law or out in the field working with koala carers—they know they are also speaking up for Harry.

After all, we want Harry to be able to introduce his own kids to healthy koalas in the wild in a few decades time. Some koala heroes start young!

Thank you Harry!



If you are interested in holding a fundraiser for HSI you can contact Caroline Pattison on 1800 333 737 or at supporter@hsi.org.au for more information.



An exposé has revealed terrible cruelty to saltwater crocodiles on Australian farms.

Reptiles need protection too

No one can accuse HSI of only working to protect the cute cuddlies. Lately HSI has been very busy trying to create a better world for reptiles, large and small, working with Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley, the Queensland government and scientists at James Cook University.

Minister Ley took up our suggestion to nominate over 126 species of gecko, skinks and dragons to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to help protect them from poaching for the pet trade.

And we were also chosen by the Queensland government to oversee scientific nominations to secure vital legal protection for highly endangered geckoes and sliders.

We were pleased to have support from Minister Ley to overhaul the Code of Practice for saltwater crocodiles after horrendous cruelty was revealed at Australian crocodile farms on Channel 10's The Project.

A voice for albatross

At the end of last year, HSI was a virtual participant in meetings of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)—the international agreement that seeks to address the threats faced by this most imperilled group of birds on the planet.

ACAP encourages countries to reduce deaths of these birds in fisheries through the adoption of best practice seabird bycatch measures.

However, there is currently no clear reporting by ACAP countries on whether these best practice measures are being implemented.

HSI focussed our interventions at the meeting on getting parties to recognise the need to have a clear reporting mechanism as to how mitigation measures are being implemented.

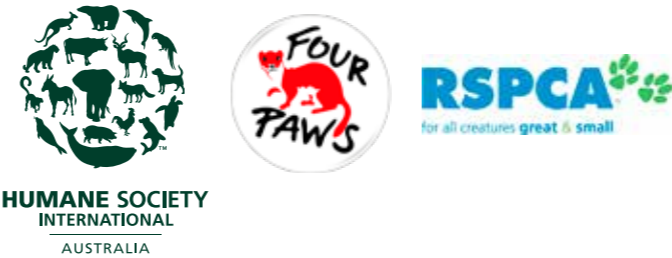
There must be a reporting requirement if we are to have any hope of tackling the conservation crisis facing seabirds and, with HSI's persistence, parties agreed to address the issue before the next meeting.



Albatross can remain in flight for years at time, but are threatened by fishing on the high seas.

Strength in numbers

A new partnership has been formed with HSI, FOUR PAWS and RSPCA Australia uniting to bring an end to the painful practice of mulesing lambs.



Mulesing is where the rear end of a lamb is sliced off, often without pain relief, in an effort to prevent flystrike.

We have been advocating for a genetic solution to instead breed flystrike resistant sheep which would eliminate any need for mulesing, producing non-mulesed wool. We are hopeful that joining forces with FOUR PAWS and RSPCA Australia will help to hasten an end to this cruel practice.

The partnership will include regular contact with major international brands as well as numerous wool growers across Australia, in response to demand for non-mulesed wool that is stronger than ever.

Australia far behind in animal welfare

In a first for Australia, the free trade agreement signed late last year with the UK Government includes a chapter on animal welfare.

The chapter sees the Australian government formally recognise the sentience of animals and signs Australia up to a clear instruction to improve our animal welfare standards.

There remains strong concern from UK industry and consumers over Australia's lower standards and we will continue to advocate for improvements across the board for all our farm animals.

Australia lags behind the UK in banning battery cages, sow stalls, hot branding and mulesing. We will continue to push hard for welfare improvements for our farm animals.



Mulesing is performed on more than 10 million Australian lambs every year.



Pigs, hens, sheep and other animals in Australia have fewer protections than in other places including the UK.



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*Thank you for
your support*

