



HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA

HSI AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

# STANDING **for** **ANIMALS**

MARCH 2024

## **Victory!**

South Korea  
bans dog meat

**INSIDE:** Tigers rescued | Feature: Millions of dogs saved as South Korea bans dog meat | Relief for flying-foxes | Meet a star supporter | Saving the skate | and more





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INTERNATIONAL**  
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 and present.*

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

**Front cover**

*Former HSI South Korea campaigner, Nara Kim, rescues a dog from a dog meat farm.*  
Image: HSI Global

**Back cover**

*Rescued tiger now living the good life thanks to Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand and supporters like you.*  
Image: WFFT

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# CEO Message

Thank you! It seems highly appropriate to start my message with those two simple words. Because none of what you read about in these pages would be possible without you.

The start of 2024 has delivered a massive victory with the Government of South Korea voting overwhelmingly in support of legislation to ban the trade in dog meat. You have supported this campaign for a decade: helping to close dog meat farms and re-home dogs; educate the public; and persuade politicians that it was time to relegate this trade to the history books. Millions of dogs will now be spared a life of suffering to end up on a dinner plate.

You also helped us support a massive operation to rescue tigers from abysmal conditions at an illegal tiger farm in Thailand and take them to a sanctuary where they have room to roam outside for the first time in their lives. This rescue affected me deeply and I was so proud that your generosity meant we could step in to help make it possible.

With a new year, we all have renewed energy to keep fighting for progress across all the animal issues we engage in: improving conditions for farm animals; law reform to improve outcomes for endangered species and prevent habitat destruction; rescuing animals from disasters and providing sanctuary to animals that need a permanent home.

We all hope that we will see progress on bringing a rapid end to the live export of sheep; much needed improvements to animal welfare legislation; and the delivery of a new federal Environment Act that will be strong enough to stop, and reverse, our current extinction crisis.

With your support I know that we will be able to advance all areas of our animal protection work, and I thank you as always for standing with us for animals.

**Erica Martin**  
Chief Executive Officer



IMAGES: CLEAR LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



IMAGE: HSI/L-DECICCA

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

## Tiger rescue: from hell to heaven

**Rescuing a tiger is not a job for the faint hearted! But thanks to you, 12 tigers are living a whole new life at the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand sanctuary.**

When I saw the original photograph of Salamas in her cell at the tiger farm, it just broke my heart. Her body was skin and bones with her head appearing too large for such a frail body. And her eyes... her eyes showed not just her misery and despair, but her utter lack of hope. But thanks to you, there is a light back in her eyes!

She may still be terribly underweight, but to see her lying on the grass with sunshine on her back is one of the greatest images I have seen.

Because of your generosity 12 tigers and three leopards, have had their lives changed forever.

The team at WFFT took the oldest and sickest individuals in their initial rescue and they continue to work to secure the futures of the remaining animals. The animals were sedated and transported in cages loaded onto wildlife ambulances for their long journey. All arrived safely, and these animals are feeling earth beneath their feet for the very first time!

We are waiting with anticipation to see them realise they have their very own pool in their enclosure and take that first dip, and I cannot wait to share those images with you.

Thank you so very much for giving these animals a life worth living for the rest of their days. We will keep you updated on the full rescue of all the animals from the hell-hole of the farm on which they were living and share with you their journey of healing.

**You have truly given these tigers a new life. Thank you!**



IMAGES: WFFT (FIRST, SECOND AND FOURTH), HSI/L-DECICCA (THIRD)

*From a concrete cell, rescued tigers were transported to the WFFT sanctuary with plenty of room to explore and even swim.*



# At last! South Korea bans dog meat.

## A decade of campaigning results in the greatest of victories for dogs.

**It is hard to describe the total joy we shared with our supporters and colleagues around the world when the government of South Korea passed legislation in January that makes the slaughter of dogs and the sale of dog meat for human consumption illegal.**

HSI Korea has been leading the fight against this cruel trade and has been working to help close farms and remove dogs from dog meat farms for almost ten years. Over the years, they have been responsible for closing 18 farms and relocating thousands of dogs to loving homes in South Korea, Canada, the UK and the USA.

They worked to identify farmers that wanted to find more humane livelihoods and helped them transition to cruelty free opportunities such as growing chilis and parsley. The work was difficult and slow, but every farm that closed was a step closer to ending the industry for good.

JungAh Chae, the Executive Director of HSI Korea, felt great pride at the announcement from her government:

*"I am overjoyed that South Korea can now close this miserable chapter in our history and embrace a dog-friendly future".*

HSI Global CEO, Kitty Block, has spent many grueling hours on the ground with the teams on several farm closures and said the sheer scale of animal suffering was hard to fathom.

She described the rows and rows of rusty cages with dogs peering out in desperation—some still strong enough to stand up and wag their tails, others too weak to move huddled in the corners of their cages, skeletal and starving.

**As many as one million dogs were farmed and killed for human consumption every year. This ban will permanently end the suffering of all these animals.**

Within South Korea, the tide has been turning against the dog meat industry in recent years.

Close to six million South Koreans own pet dogs and President Yoon Suk-yeol and his wife South Korean First Lady Kim Keon-hee are animal lovers with six dogs and five cats in their household. Important work by HSI Korea

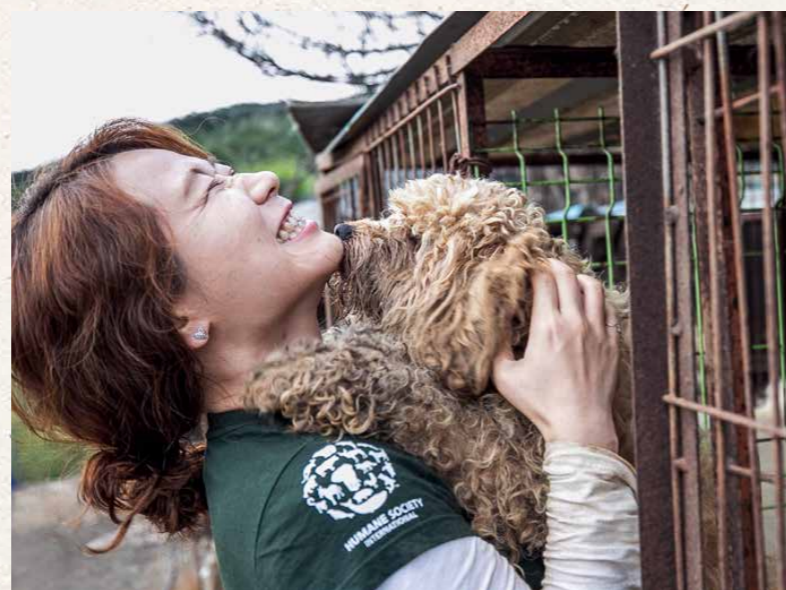
has helped many more South Koreans understand there is little difference between their pet dogs and the dogs bred for food in abysmal conditions.

A survey conducted by local group, Aware, in December 2023 in South Korea, showed that 93% of respondents said they had no intention of eating dog meat, with no significant difference in responses between those who own pets and those who did not.

The ban allows for a three-year phase out during which dog farmers, slaughterers and restaurant owners can apply for government compensation and assistance to transition to new livelihoods.

South Korea now joins a growing list of countries and territories across Asia that have banned the dog meat trade (with varying degrees of enforcement) including Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, India, Thailand and Singapore, as well as the cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai in mainland China, Siem Reap province in Cambodia, and 45 cities, regencies and provinces in Indonesia.

***Every breed of dog imaginable could be found on dog meat farms, each one deserving of love and affection.***



**This ban would not have been possible without you. I hope that you feel as proud as we do of this hard-fought victory that will spare the lives of millions of dogs.**



# Wild and free again

**As you know the goal of every wildlife rescue is the rehabilitation of the animal and release back into the wild. That is something that our partners at the Zambia Primate Project have perfected.**

Late last year the team released a group of 27 vervet monkeys, named the Nkonde troop, back into Kafue National Park.

Each of these 27 individuals had been seized from terrible conditions. Most have been taken as young animals to be kept as pets (despite this being illegal) and were kept tethered and confined, and sadly often tormented to perform tricks.

The monkeys need a lot of care before they can be released and they must be integrated with other individuals as they only have a chance of survival if released as a troop. This whole process can take one to three years.

For this release, the location was selected to ensure the safety and well-being of the troop and a temporary enclosure was constructed to give them time to acclimatise to the sights and smells of the area. After ten days, the doors were opened and the monkeys took their first steps, then leaps, to freedom.

The very aptly named, Big Boy, has asserted himself as leader of the troop and will take care of his precious new family as they experience both the joys and dangers of living back in the wild. The troop will be monitored closely for the next year to ensure that they thrive in their new found freedom.

Sadly, there are still many more vervet monkeys living in deplorable conditions that need help. The team has already rescued several more this year who are now being rehabilitated and prepared to return to the wild like the Nkonde troop.



IMAGE: ZPP/GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL

There is nothing better than seeing the monkeys returned to the wild and living as nature intended.

# To the rescue: saving flying foxes



IMAGE: DAVE PINSON

**Flying-foxes are Australia's unsung (and sometimes maligned) heroes. They play a vital role in keeping our forests healthy by pollinating native trees and dispersing the seeds of the fruit they eat.**

Sadly, at the start of this year flying-fox populations across New South Wales and Victoria were in crisis.

A starvation event combined with severe heat waves hit flying-foxes right at their critical breeding season. Lactating females were succumbing to heat stress, while their pups were either orphaned, abandoned or were unable to be fed.

Once again wildlife carers have rushed in to help and are rescuing abandoned pups and working to provide the fruit and protein powder needed to help the animals regain their strength.

Thanks to you we have been able to provide critical help to keep carers from being overwhelmed. We have provided telescopic poles for safe, easy rescues, humidicribs to keep pups warm and stable and an industrial fruit-chopping machine to help carers prepare the kilos of fresh fruit needed every day.

We have also been able to support five major flying-fox camps in Queensland by providing sprinkler systems to help prevent heat stress, keeping bats cool and hydrated during heatwaves. These sprinklers could help to save more than 20,000 flying-foxes.

## Supporter survey update and thank you

We are so very grateful to all of you who completed our first supporter survey in many years. We received over 1300 responses (with some still coming in)! Thank you for your feedback.

The survey has helped us understand you as supporters including what you are interested in, and how you like to help us stand up for animals. One of the most interesting insights from the survey was that dogs were by far the favourite animal amongst responders, by a factor of 2:1 compared to the cats who came in second. Stay tuned for more dog related stories on social media!

Your responses to the survey also helps inform what areas of work we prioritise. Animal welfare as well as Australian wildlife were the two key areas of work you highlighted as being critically important and we look forward to continuing our efforts in these areas.

*Once again, thank you for your feedback.*







## Georgie Dolphin

Animal Welfare Campaigner

**Georgie has been part of the HSI team since 2012. She grew up on a farm in the UK and gained an honours degree in Animal Science at Leeds University. Georgie leads HSI's campaigns on farm animal welfare, the dog meat trade, animals in entertainment, and the fur trade. She has written several animal welfare research papers and reports.**

### Why did you join HSI?

I've been passionate about animals from an early age, having grown up on a farm in the English countryside where cats, dogs, ponies, lambs, calves, and my rescued goose ignited my love for animals. Since then, I completed an Animal Science degree at Leeds University but never imagined I could work in a role helping animals every day. It literally felt like all my Christmases had come at once when I secured a position with the team at HSI back in 2012, following my dream.

### What is special about HSI's campaigning?

The broad range of campaigns HSI champions continues to amaze me, and I'm always learning and feeling inspired by our team's work and achievements. My role as Animal Welfare Campaigner covers a wide range of issues, and I'm grateful for the variety and incredible opportunities that presents. From meetings with

Ministers in Parliament and lobbying efforts to have outdated policies updated, through to our rescue efforts on the ground, saving koala's following Kangaroo Island's Black Summer fires in 2020, and last year searching through the rubble after Türkiye's earthquakes to reunite people with their pets. Not many jobs open the door to so many prospects to help animals.

### What is it that motivates you each day?

We're exposed to so much that's awful which can certainly take a toll, but it only drives us all to do even more to help make a difference. When we achieve good outcomes it's so rewarding, and being part of such a dedicated and professional team, there's nowhere else I'd rather be each day.

### Do you have a favourite animal?

I have two firm favourites. Admittedly I was quickly converted into a 'cat' person having shared my home with rescues Libby and Smudge for more than 15 years, my first very own furry companions. Last year I adopted Snoopy as we were both in need of each other, and he's now clearly the boss of me. My other animal obsession is of course with dolphins. I do all I can to bring an end to the capture and confinement of dolphins and whales including writing my children's book *Freedom for Wally and Molly*.



IMAGE: LARRY CHLEBECK



## Meet Martell: a true champion for animals

**Martell loves animals! She first became a supporter of HSI more than 20 years ago and has steadily increased her support the more she learned about our campaigns to protect animals. We asked her to share her thoughts on why our work matters so much to her.**

### Where do you think your love for animals comes from?

I was brought up in Europe and came to Australia as an adult. From a young age my parents instilled in me to respect and nurture animals and trees. The many books my parents gave me as gifts always centred on the natural world and its fauna and flora. There was never a shortage of rescued birds or cats in our family and my husband and I have continued this tradition. All of our pets in the last 25 years have been rescued. We currently have a 17 year old ginger Tabby cat named "Norman", a Green-cheeked Conure Parrot named "Frankie" and a Zebra Finch called "Sunnie".

I first became aware of HSI when I saw their advertisement on SBS television in 1994 and it was accompanied by the song "I'll stand by you". It had a profound effect on me. Even now 30 years later, the song and the message touches me deeply.

### Why is HSI's work important?

Without HSI the extinction list will get longer and future generations will only know certain species from photographs.

We can only make a difference if we all work as a team and since HSI have already provided the structure and know-how, we as individual potential supporters should join in. For those potential supporters who can make a monthly contribution, it is well worthwhile, knowing that your money goes to help animals including some kept illegally as pets or hunted.

In this day and age, it is totally unacceptable that innocent animals are killed for parts of their bodies as trophies or the illegal medicinal markets in Asia. There is no end to the suffering of animals who are subjected to this torture and it must be stopped.

### Do you have a favourite campaign?

There are a number of favourite campaigns from helping Donkeys in Chad, Africa to Bushfire rescues on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. But HSI's campaign on the ground in Türkiye saving animals after the devastating earthquake stands out. The campaign was called "Hope from the rubble" and it was wonderful to know that the Humane Society helped as many animals as possible.

### What does giving to HSI mean to you?

I would like everyone to know how this charity can only continue its vital work and achievements through the support of their individual members and others. We should all strive to live in a world where animals and nature are treated with compassion and respect.

Therefore, I am pleased to say that my husband and I have decided to leave a gift for animal protection in our Will so that HSI work will continue to be funded.



*Thank you Martell and William from all of us at HSI*

**To learn more about leaving a gift for animal protection in your Will or becoming an Animal Defender, please call Caroline Pattison on 02 9973 1728.**





Intensive aquaculture can severely deplete oxygen levels in water critical for the survival of species like the Maugean skate.

## Can we save the Maugean skate?

This is a critical year for a little-known skate that lives in only one place on earth— in the waters of Tasmania’s Macquarie Harbour.

The Maugean skate’s estimated population has dwindled to less than 1000 individuals. Nearly half the population has been lost since 2014 because of the impacts of salmon farming which depletes the harbour’s oxygen.

The Government has announced funding for a captive breeding program as an emergency measure but the only real way to save the skate is to stop or significantly reduce salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour.

We will be working to persuade the federal government to use every power at their disposal to honour their commitment to “no new extinctions” by saving the skate from salmon farming and urgently working to restore oxygen levels needed for its survival.

## Where is our new Environment Act?

As you know, Australia is in the midst of an extinction crisis, with thousands of native animals, plants and ecological communities at risk, but our aging national environmental laws are failing to halt the decline.

Right now, we have a once-in-a-decade opportunity to rewrite these laws to ensure they halt and reverse the extinction crisis.



IMAGES: ISTOCK/PERSNIPER (LEFT), NEVILLE BARRETT (RIGHT)

The federal Government has committed to introducing new nature laws to parliament in 2024. We’ve been heavily engaged in the stakeholder consultation to date, and we’ve seen both promise and problems in the draft new laws.

This year, we’ll be continuing our detailed engagement with the Government to ensure that the new laws deliver for nature, as well as identifying opportunities for you to have your say. To learn more or to sign up and join us as an Extinction Fighter visit:

[hsi.org.au/extinctionfighter](https://hsi.org.au/extinctionfighter)



IMAGE: DAVID CLODE VIA UNSPLASH

## Saving lamb bottoms

We continue to make progress in our campaign to bring an end to the practice of mulesing—the slicing off of the rear end of lambs often without any pain relief—in Australia.

Sadly, about 10 million Australian lambs are subjected to this painful procedure every year to prevent flystrike. We are encouraging farmers to make the change to breed sheep that have smooth bodies without the skinfolds that make them prone to fly strike, which eliminates the need for mulesing.

The demand for non-mulesed wool is growing and we have been successfully persuading retailers and brands to commit to phase out mulesed wool from their supply chains.

Last year we saw 75 new retailers sign up including iconic Australian brands Koala, Afends and Spell.

You can download our Better Wool Guide from our website:

[hsi.org.au/mulesing](https://hsi.org.au/mulesing)



IMAGE: ISTOCK/KAMISOKA

## License to kill report: your sneak preview

You gave generously when we asked for help last year to produce a new report into the licensed killing of our precious wildlife.

We are in the final stages of editing the report and plan to release it in the coming months, and I can tell you that the figures will shock you.

It is hard to conceive that we permit the killing of hundreds of thousands of native animals each and every year across the country, with little to no oversight.

From wombats to cockatoos, possums to emus—the report lays bare the extent of the killing and makes clear recommendations for changes to the regimes that allow reckless destruction of our wildlife.

With our wildlife facing increasing threats from habitat destruction and a rapidly changing climate with ever-increasing disasters, we must improve our efforts to co-exist with wildlife rather than eradicating it.

**Thank you for helping us find solutions to problems that work to benefit people as well as animals.**



*Thank you  
for your  
support*

