



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

AUSTRALIA

HSI AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 2024

A large photograph of an elephant in a lush green field. The elephant is facing left, with its trunk curled and holding a piece of green grass. The elephant's skin is dark grey with some lighter, mottled patches on its face and ears. The background is filled with green foliage and trees under a bright sky.

**Lives  
worth  
living**

**From torment  
to contentment**

**INSIDE:** Dingoes protected | Feature: Sheep finally spared from live export by sea |  
Elephant anniversary | Leaving a lasting legacy for animals | An Australian EPA and more ...



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*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**

*Kalpana is living her best life thanks to your generosity.*

Image: Wildlife SOS

**Back cover**

*With your support we will continue to fight for greater protections for dingoes.*

Image: Kerrie Goodchild

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Susanne Geppert

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# CEO Message

Wins in our line of work don't come along all that often. It takes time, tenacity and dedication to forge ahead and keep applying pressure for positive change in animal welfare and conservation. Which is why I am always encouraged by your constant and unwavering support across our campaigns. It helps us keep going, especially on the dark days.

And it makes it even more wonderful when I get to tell you about the wins that you make happen. Thanks to you, this edition brings you the long-awaited news that we will see an end to live sheep exports by 1 May 2028! This campaign has taken decades but has the support of the overwhelming majority of Australians and at last the end is in sight. Thank you for staying the course with us and for making the Government live up to their election promise.

You will also read about a big victory for dingoes in Victoria in this issue—also made possible thanks to your support.

And while we celebrate these important successes, we remain laser-focused on the work that remains to be done.

The shark nets were removed from New South Wales beaches at the end of April for the winter and we are increasing the pressure on the Government to make this the last season they are deployed. We have the latest technology in use already which is much more effective at keeping swimmers safe and doesn't kill marine life including endangered species. We are increasing support across all political parties to end the outdated shark net program.

I hope you enjoy learning about our *Disentangling from the past* parliament event in this issue as well as all the other activities that we are progressing to protect animals and the places they call home.

You will also meet one of our newest campaigners, Meg Lamb, as well as Gabbie, one of our most passionate supporters who left a lasting legacy to build a better world for animals.

Thank you so much.

**Erica Martin**

Chief Executive Officer



IMAGES: CLEAR LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



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

## A reprieve for dingoes

**For years now, supporters like you have been calling on Victoria to stop the senseless killing of dingoes on private land—at last we have some exciting news to share with you.**

On 14 March the Victorian Government announced they would end the dingo “unprotection order” in the north-west of Victoria which is home to the state’s most vulnerable dingo population. This means these precious animals can no longer be shot, trapped or poisoned on private land.

Dingoes are an important apex predator in the landscape and are of high conservation value. Data shows that the dingo population in the north-west is at risk of extinction, with as few as 40 dingoes left. You have helped to give this important population a chance to come back from the brink.

The Victorian Government has also ceased their cruel bounty scheme which paid \$120 for every dead dingo. Plus, the government has committed to fund the adoption of non-lethal methods to help farmers protect their animals from dingoes. Now landholders in this region will need to apply for a permit if they wish to kill dingoes and they will not be rewarded for it.

You helped us keep up the pressure, so this series of wins would not have happened without you stepping up time and time again for dingoes. On behalf of these intelligent, native animals, thank you.

We have long called for an end to the cruel dingo “unprotection order” and the bounty scheme, so we are thrilled these callous and outdated dingo measures are coming to an end in the north-west of Victoria.

There is still more we need to do, as the “unprotection order” remains in place in other parts of Victoria. By 1 October this year, the government is going to decide whether to protect dingoes in other areas of Victoria.

**Thanks to your ongoing support, we will keep the pressure up until every dingo is safe from shooting, trapping and poisoning on private land.**



IMAGE: ANDY FITZSIMON/WIKIPEDIA

*Another aspect of our dingo protection work is helping farmers co-exist with dingoes by using guardian dogs or donkeys.*

# The final voyage is in sight



## Live export of sheep by sea will end by 2028.

**The Federal Government has finally announced an end date for Australia's live sheep export trade. This is truly a historic political decision that will spare tens of thousands of sheep from suffering.**

On 11 May, the Albanese Government stood true to their election promise and announced their phase out plan for the cruel trade, which is set to end on 1 May 2028. We know many of our supporters are extremely

passionate about sheep welfare and will join millions of Australians in applauding this decision.

For decades our team has campaigned for an end to live sheep exports, by lobbying the government, submitting to parliamentary inquiries, joining forces with other animal welfare organisations, and amplifying the calls of the majority of Australians.

What's more is the Government committed to legislating this end date within the current term of parliament, just



IMAGES: WE ANIMALS MEDIA

*Images show the horrific suffering endured by sheep during live export journeys.*

as we called for. Without this, the phase out deadline would not have been truly locked in, so we are thrilled to be given this certainty. It is rare to see such bold political moves that end widespread suffering.

**Australia has sent more than 170 million sheep overseas since the live export trade began 60 years ago, equating to nearly 8,000 sheep a day.**

For far too long, this unfixable trade has jeopardized the welfare of a huge number of animals. There is undisputable scientific evidence that shows transporting sheep by sea does not align with even the most basic principles of animal welfare, as they are constantly exposed to unnecessary risks and suffering.

Every year the trade continues, thousands more sheep will suffer. We would have liked to see this trade wrap up sooner, but overall the government have delivered on their election promises, and importantly, they will lock it in during this term of Parliament (before the next Government is elected).

We will continue to call on the Australian Government to end live exports sooner and improve the welfare for any animals exported from our shores. This phase out announcement would not have been possible without supportive people like you speaking out on behalf of sheep. Thank you for being their voice.

**Our advocacy efforts were made so much stronger with your voice—thank you for stepping up for sheep when they really needed you.**



## HOPE FOR BETTER SHEEP STANDARDS

As part of the announcement, a generous \$107 million funding package was allocated to support the industry to transition toward a more secure and sustainable sheep industry. This was a key recommendation of the Independent Panel who advised on the phase out.

We were excited to hear that \$2.6 million of this funding will go toward a review of Australia's Sheep Standards, helping our calls to phase out live lamb cutting (a practice also known as 'mulesing').

This painful practice involves slicing skin from lamb's rears in an attempt to combat blowfly disease – but there are already solutions that mean this doesn't have to happen.

We urgently need to update the national sheep welfare standards to require a phase out of live lamb cutting by 2030. So this funding is an exciting step in our campaign to reach that goal.

## Happy anniversary Kalpana

**You might remember Kalpana—I am happy to report that this year she celebrates her fifth rescue anniversary at Wildlife SOS. Formerly exploited and abused as a 'begging' elephant in Uttar Pradesh, Kalpana was rescued in 2019 and brought to the Wildlife SOS Elephant Hospital Campus (EHC) in Mathura for comprehensive care and treatment.**

Five years ago Kalpana was ravaged by the physical and emotional scars from her traumatic past. Her sunken temples indicated dehydration and malnourishment, her gut was infested with worms, and her gait was severely affected due to the heavy 400 kg iron carrier strapped to her back during her begging days.

Further examinations revealed more challenges for Kalpana, including blindness in her right eye, an ankylosed forelimb, and overgrown toenails with abscesses. The Wildlife SOS team of veterinarians immediately commenced a comprehensive range

of treatments including laser therapy and foot baths, to alleviate her suffering and facilitate her recovery.

Today, Kalpana enjoys her days indulging in her favourite treats like sweet potatoes and watermelons. She has also formed a lifelong bond with Holly, a blind elephant at the sanctuary, who has played a significant role in supporting Kalpana's mental wellbeing. The two have become inseparable companions, sharing daily walks and hydrotherapy sessions in the pool. Thank you for changing Kalpana's life!

*"Kalpana's journey symbolises the indomitable spirit of survival. Her resilience and determination inspires us all to continue our efforts in rescuing and rehabilitating elephants in distress."*

Kartick Satyanarayan,  
Co-founder and CEO of Wildlife SOS



IMAGES: WILDLIFE SOS

From an horrific life as a 'begging' elephant, Kalpana is pictured receiving medical care and with Holly, her lifelong companion.

## Helping hands for wildlife

**The generosity of HSI supporters continues to make an enormous difference for wildlife carers taking on the task of rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned animals. Which of course means better outcomes for the many animals they care for!**

Grant funding provided to LAOKO Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue to help address a sarcoptic mange outbreak in the area has greatly reduced the suffering of dozens of wombats, with the story of little joey Birrani taking a special place in our hearts.

Birrani came into care with a terrible case of mange, which had caused his fur to fall out and skin to become itchy, scabby, and painful. If the infection was left untreated, it would likely eventually have resulted in his blindness before becoming fatal. Thankfully LAOKO were on the case, and Birrani was quickly treated to kill the mites before spending nearly a year recovering in the wildlife rescue group's close care.

After six months Birrani had gained weight, his skin had healed, and his coat was well on the way to growing back. He was buddied up with other young wombats to prepare for his soft release back into the wild, and after proving his independence and resilience set off into the bush to re-start his life as a wild and free wombat.

We hope you're thriving out there Birrani!

By helping the people on the front lines caring for wildlife in need, HSI is leveraging your support to deliver better outcomes for imperilled native animals that desperately need a helping hand.

**These innocent animals are in a precarious situation, but thanks to you and dedicated wildlife carers, we're giving them a second chance at the life they were meant to live.**



IMAGES: HSI/R COWAN

Images show Birrani's journey to health and friendship before his release back into the wild.



## Meg Lamb

Animal Protection Campaigner, Law & Policy

Before joining us in 2023, Meg worked in the Environmental Defenders Office's biodiversity team. She currently leads HSI's Wildlife Coexistence campaign, and also provides legal advice and support to HSI's other campaigns. Meg loves every kind of animal and is passionate about using the law to protect them!

### Why did you join HSI?

I have a deep love for animals and nature, and I've always admired HSI's work. When the opportunity came up to combine my passion for animal and environmental protection with HSI's mission, it was a no-brainer!

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

The animals! We're very privileged to be able to use our knowledge and skills to try to make the world a better place for animals and the environment. Knowing that,

and that there are other people who care so much about our work, motivates me to keep trying. On especially hard days, the photograph of a dingo on my desk helps, too!

### What do you think is the most impactful thing about HSI campaigns?

The fact that they lead to real, meaningful change. HSI has such an amazing track record of achieving positive outcomes for animals and their habitats. I think this success stems from our ability to tell compelling stories, our consistency and persistence, and the high-quality, evidence-based approach to everything we do.

### Do you have a favourite animal?

I'm really bad at picking favourites! I think dogs are so special, but I also love big cats and polar bears! If I must choose one, it'd be polar bears - they're so resilient and majestic.



IMAGE: UCUMARI PHOTOGRAPHY VIA FLICKR



## Leaving a lasting legacy for animals

Gabbie was an extraordinary individual whose compassion and generosity profoundly impacted many lives. She cared deeply about those less fortunate and throughout her life she quietly resolved to provide physical and emotional support to many individuals by volunteering her time and supporting organisations that spoke up for those who could not speak up for themselves.

Gabbie's love for animals was boundless. During her lifetime, she had many varied pets, including her most cherished companions, her beloved keeshonds. She never hesitated to rescue any animal in distress.

Her dedication to animal welfare extended globally, as she meticulously planned trips to include exploration of wildlife and support local conservation and rehabilitation efforts for threatened and abused animals. She truly was an animal lover.

Gabbie's life was a testament to her unwavering compassion for both humans and animals. She found joy in the thought that her support might become even more substantial after her death when she made the important and heartfelt decision to include a charitable gift in her Will to Humane Society International along with four other charities close to her heart.

Gabbie's generosity has genuinely made a difference: her legacy will help defend magnificent animals and support efforts to build an ecologically sustainable and humane future for all animals. We can only imagine how moved and gratified she would be to see the positive impact her generosity has had, and we are truly grateful.



As a volunteer Gabbie was able to provide care for sanctuary elephants under the guidance of a veterinarian.

*You too may be considering including a gift in your Will to HSI, which could be the greatest commitment you can make to the animals we share our world with. Your legacy could help shape a truly humane world. We truly appreciate your consideration.*

To learn more about leaving a gift for animal protection in your Will, please call Caroline Pattison on 02 9973 1728.



IMAGE: DAVID CLODE VIA UNSPLASH

Working on environmental law reform to provide greater protections for threatened species like spotted-tailed quolls and koalas.

## Potential progress in the fight against extinctions

The Albanese Government came to power promising to tackle Australia's extinction crisis. Their "Nature Positive Plan" committed to strengthening our federal environment law and establishing new fit for purpose agencies. HSI's policy experts have expended considerable energy over the past 18 months providing recommendations for a new legal regime to arrest the declines in our wonderful wildlife and their habitats.

So far, the Government has announced two new agencies—a new regulator called Environment Protection Australia and a new data agency called Environment Information Australia. However, plans to strengthen the law to prevent extinctions no longer have a deadline nor sufficient budget allocation. The Albanese Government must come good on its full Nature Positive Plan and we will not rest until they do.

## Politicians turn up for sharks

We believe that we are so close to seeing an end to destructive shark nets at NSW beaches, but we know we need to demonstrate political support to make it happen. Our event at the Parliament of NSW this month saw many politicians from a range of parties including the Minister for the Environment of New South Wales attend to share their support of this campaign.

Through compelling speeches, presentations and a panel discussion, we showcased the failings of the state's shark net program.

At the event, our speakers discussed how non-target marine life, like turtles and dolphins, are dying in horrifying numbers after becoming trapped in shark nets. We also highlighted how modern, non-lethal mitigation measures such as drone surveillance and alert systems, are much more effective at keeping people safe without the cost to wildlife.

We were thrilled at the positive feedback from our event from NSW politicians. In fact, that night we witnessed a significant step forward when a motion supported by the NSW Government in Parliament, expressing a goal of phasing out the nets was passed. You are helping us inch closer and closer to making netfree beaches a reality.



HSI Australia CEO, Erica Martin makes opening remarks at the 'Disentangling from the past' shark net event at NSW Parliament.

## More big cats saved

Thanks to your support, in late March the wonderful team of Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand was able to rescue three more tigers and two more leopards from the hell-hole tiger farm that had been shut down.

The rescue took place over three very intense days as the tigers—11 year-old Na-ja, 6 year-old Palm and 5 year-old A-ngun—and leopards—21 year-old Coco and 4 year-old Dao-rueng—were health checked, loaded onto trucks and transported.

They joined the animals you helped rescue at the end of last year in the sanctuary where they are also now able to enjoy sunlight on their fur and grass beneath their paws for the first time in their lives.

All the animals were cautious at first but are slowly starting to display their unique personalities and learning to exhibit natural behaviours that their barren concrete cages made impossible.

Big cat rescues are very difficult and thanks to you and the incredible team at WFFT every one of these animals is thriving now.

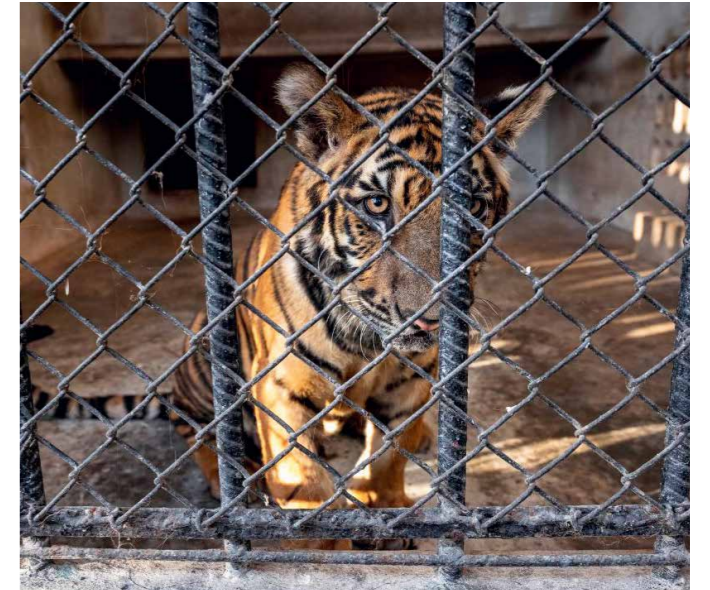
## Cruel experiments banned in NSW in world first

New South Wales recently outlawed horrendous forced swim and smoking experiments, setting a precedent that could help bring an end to these experiments around the world.

Mice are made to inhale cigarette smoke in Forced Inhalation Tests, and in Forced Swim Tests the mice ultimately drown. HSI Australia submitted to the NSW Parliamentary inquiry in 2022 opposing these tests and our Global Head of Research and Toxicology, Troy Seidle, gave evidence at the hearings.

Nearly 95% of drugs entering human trials fail, largely due to the lack of effectiveness and poor safety profiles that were not predicted in animal tests. Modern human biology-based approaches have a greater likelihood of success. We extend our thanks to all the MPs who voted in support of this historic outcome.

**Thank you for helping to make such a tremendous difference for animals.**



IMAGES: WFFT (TOP AND MIDDLE), HSI/L.DECICCA (BOTTOM)

Images show the complexity of a big cat rescue and the magnificence of a rescued tiger in their natural habitat.



*Thank you  
for your  
support*