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Mar 03 2011 \$19 a Month—For Lobbyists?

If you've seen the Humane Society of the United States' new TV ads, you already know they're bursting at the seams with pictures of dogs and cats. That's the image HSUS wants to present of itself, because cute candids of Fido and Fluffy are the best way to get pet lovers to donate money.



The result, as we've shown time and again, is that most HSUS donors are misinformed about what the organization they support actually does. Too many Americans—donors and non-donors alike-mistakenly think HSUS is a

pet-shelter umbrella group, when it's actually an animal rights organization akin to the better-known PETA.

Here's something else HSUS's ads don't tell would-be supporters: A large chunk of the \$19-per-month pledge pays for lobbyists instead of pet shelters. HSUS spent, according to its own tax returns, \$17.3 million lobbying governments between 2005 and 2009. Though that averages out to only around 3.5 percent of HSUS's budget, it's far more than the group shared with hands-on pet shelters.

It's perfectly legal for nonprofit groups to engage in some lobbying, as long as it's faithfully self-reported and within strictly prescribed limits. (Note: Some observers believe HSUS drastically under-reports its lobbying expenditures.)

A 501(c)(3) organization like HSUS should be in the clear if it spends an average of less than 5 percent of its budget directly lobbying lawmakers, and no more than another 15 percent on "indirect" lobbying. (The classic example of "indirect" lobbying is an ad that asks voters to call their members of Congress.)

But no lobbyists at all are mentioned in HSUS's TV ads-and hardly a whisper of its lobbyists' objectives is heard. In addition to its direct lobbying expenditures, HSUS spent \$6 million between 2005 and 2009 on political front groups designed to attack livestock farmers at the ballot box. HSUS's ultimate goal for animal agriculture, in one former VP's





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HSUS is crying crocodile tears over some tough rhetoric from Nebraska's governor, (This from the group that launches ad hominem attacks at the drop of a hat...)



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spending some gigantic companies. In 2006, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that HSUS and its affiliates "spent \$3.4 million on congressional elections and ballot initiatives" that year, "more than Exxon Mobil Corp. They have contributed \$150,000 to candidates for Congress, which is more than Halliburton Co. has contributed."

Again, as far as we know, all of this is legal. But we have to wonder just how many people watching those ubiquitous TV ads realize what a political animal HSUS has become.

Posted on 03/03/2011 at 02:43 PM by the HumaneWatch Team Fundraising & Money • Gov't, Lobbying, Politics • (15) Comments

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COMMENTS

These folks, and the folks at PETA make me sick.

Local shelter I am involved with had a "strep zoo" outbreak and is struggling for help. A shelter down by a friend of mine near Columbus got flooded out and volunteers, shelter workers, and good Samaritans helped get the dogs out of the shelter.

Most of the "Farm Laws" being passed (last one here in Ohio is a prime example) of pushing out family farms. A small family farm is a lot more apt to treat their live stock better than a huge mega-farm. When an animal is your dinner you are not going to abuse it. when you are just an employee at a mega farm you care less about the animals, they are just a pay check to you.

Posted by Joe on 03/03 at 04:25 PM

So exactly how much are they giving to shelters in need? Shelters are struggling EVERYWHERE!

Posted by AnitaPit4Ever on 03/03 at 06:32 PM

too much politics!!! they don't care if they spent millions of dollars because the money came from the hardworking americans that donate thinking that it is really for a good cause of the organization. Americans....WAKE UP!!!

Posted by vince on 03/03 at 06:34 PM

You really think people do not know what the HSUS is and does? If they don't they must live under a rock because it is common knowledge and they are not hiding the fact. The are for the most part lobbyist

Posted by Jan Myers on 03/03 at 07:15 PM

Dear Joe.

While I applaud you for understanding the deceptive ruses of HSUS and defending agriculture, I think your comments regarding large vs. small is inaccurate and unfair. Whether you make a living raising livestock through private ownership or a steady paycheck, doesn't make you more or less capable of feeling compassion for the animals you care for every day. I have ties with both large and small scale agriculture. Its true that many farmers make their profession a lifestyle as well as a livelyhood, but I personally know many employees who'd passionately object to your statement, "when you are just an employee at a mega farm, you care less about animals, they are just a pay check to you."

Animal abuse doesn't choose a production style, payment method or farm size. Its a faulty logic inherent in an individual that's in the wrong line of work!

Secondly, in response to your comment "When an animal is your dinner you are not going to abuse it...." Let me remind you that WE ALL eat! Regardless of how you contribute to the livestock industry, it doesn't earn you any special privilages as a consumer. Whether you are a private owner, contract producer, employee or just the average consumer, you still appreciate a healthy, well-cared for animal that will contribute to a safe, wholesome product on the other end of the food chain, because inevitably we all end up rubbing shoulders looking over the same meat case at our local grocer.

Lastly, if you having problems conceptualizing the American family farm, let me remind you that 98% of farms in nationwide are 'family-owned.' Is the operation any less family if one producer owns 30 cows and the next one down the road owns 500? Because the one with 500 employs labors is he automatically excluded from being 'family-owned?' If you'd like some insight on the issue, might I recommend the following are article by PORK magazine titled What Defines A Family Farm?

http://www.porknetwork.com/pork/what-defines-a-family-farm-114024354.html

Posted by Metalhorses on 03/03 at 07:32 PM

Metalhorse - Bravo! Brainwashing naive dupes like Joe into believing that any operation with more than N animals, (50 seems to be their favorite number, for some reason), is a "factory" operation, and therefore "by definition" abusive, is one of the AR movement's baseline tactics.

Posted by BADKarma on 03/04 at 03:52 AM

h

Here's another thing about small farmers vs. big farms, I live in the middle

of the corn belt and know big farmers and small. The days of the small farmer is over; times have changed, the old McDonald-type farmer can't make a living. It's more of a hobby, they all have jobs in town to make ends meet. So those people who think small farms is the way it should be, don't know a thing about what they're talking about. This is 2011 not 1900 it takes big ag. to feed this country and the world, Old McDonald doesn't cut it anymore. But the stupid antis just don't get it. So to all you antis out there, you can't change the times.

Posted by Regan H on 03/09 at 01:12 PM

Jan for years I was an HSUS donor who sent my monthly donations in to allegedly help fund my local shelter. That is what I was sold by HSUS, that is what I thought I was buying. No one at HSUS made ANY attempt to set me straight.

It was not until I began to wonder why I was getting a bunch of cheaply made crap for my donations that I began to question what in the world HSUS was actually doing with my money. It was clear that most of my money was not going to help animals. It was going to some factory in China to produce cheap tote bags.

That was over a decade ago, long before | became aware of HSUS's antianimal, radical vegan stance. I only wish there was some way I could get back all the money I sent to their executive-class pension plan.

Posted by Therese on 05/02 at 05:27 PM

After all I have seen and heard and read...The HSUS says help us we help the ANIMALS (wrong). Help them...You are helping them to kill the animals—dogs, cats, horses, chickens, pigs, goats. They have not kill, PUT TO SLEEP, and they still stand there and say, you ranch/farmers/chicken people, are just... they need to stop and look at what they are doing.

Support HSUS, you are SUPPORTING ANIMAL CRUELTY!

Posted by Hello, wake up on 06/17 at 12:54 PM

Is all of this true?

Posted by faith on 11/23 at 11:06 AM

@Faith—Unfortunately, it is. If you're skeptical, feel free to read through HSUS's tax returns, which are available at Guidestar.org, and see for yourself. That's where we got the information from.

Posted by Humane Watch on 11/23 at 03:08 PM

Thank you very much for enlightening me on an issue that I hold very close to my heart!! I was more than willing to donate \$19 a month for the care of abused and needy animals. I will not donate anymore to someones pension fund and further the political goals of some group I don't believe in. I am going to send my \$19 to the WoundedWarriors Organization and make personal donations to my local pet shelter.

Posted by Dave Northrup on 12/15 at 01:09 AM

Ok, figures. Now. how do I go about stopping my donation? Call the bank or the humane society? I have been picking up and vetting and getting to rescues abandoned animals (at my apartment complex) for 5 years. I could

have used the money for the animals I am trying to save. So, what do I do to stop it? I am really ticked. Thanks.

Posted by Gail on 12/16 at 11:39 AM

I thought that commercial with the \$19 per month was made by the ASPCA?

A few years ago, I saw their commercial and figured, "I can afford \$19 a month". It was a really sad commercial and I wanted to help. I looked up my old bank statements and they were made out to the ASPCA.

Are the HSUS and ASPCA affiliated?

Posted by Teri on 12/16 at 04:31 PM

@Gail,

When I was doing the \$19 a month with the ASPCA, there came a time when I could not afford it. My bank said to send a brief certified letter explaining that I want to stop my auto-drafts. Additionally, they said to include the bank on the CC portion of the letter.

I was told that it may take 30 days, but they (ASPCA) contacted me when they received my letter. It was very simple and immediate.

But my bank said to put it in writing in case I needed to dispute further debits.

Posted by Teri on 12/16 at 11:28 PM

Comments are moderated, and generally will be posted if they are on-topic and not abusive. Extremely lengthy comments and those that contain obscenities may be edited before they are posted.

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HumaneWatch (just like every pet shelter in America) is not affiliated with the

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HBO Cancels 'Luck' After Third Horse Death

by Jack Shinar

Date Posted: 3/14/2012 8:49:55 PM Last Updated: 3/14/2012 10:34:00 PM



Nick Nolte in a scene from "Luck." Photo: AP Photo

HBO issued a statement March 14 saying it has decided to cancel production of the horse racing drama "Luck" after a horse that was part of the series died the preceding day at Santa Anita Park.

Meanwhile, the California Horse Racing Board said it is investigating the latest incident.

The accident, in which the horse reportedly reared while being walked to her barn and fell and struck her head, led to the decision to euthanize. It was the third equine death associated with production of the program. "Luck" was filming its second season when the latest equine fatality occurred.

"It is with heartbreak that executive producers David Milch and Michael Mann together with HBO have decided to cease all future production on the series Luck," the HBO statement read.

"Safety is always of paramount concern. We maintained the highest safety standards throughout production, higher in fact than any protocols existing in horse racing anywhere with many fewer incidents than occur in racing or than befall horses normally in barns at night or pastures. While we maintained the highest safety standards possible, accidents unfortunately happen and it is impossible to guarantee they won't in the future. Accordingly, we have reached this difficult decision.

"We are immensely proud of this series, the writing, the acting, the filmmaking, the celebration of the culture of horses, and everyone involved in its creation."

Milch and Mann were quoted as saying, "The two of us loved this series, loved the cast, crew and writers. This has been a tremendous collaboration and one that we plan to continue in the future."

HBO renewed the series, starring Dustin Hoffman, in January for a second season only a few days after the show's premiere.

The show faced intense criticism from animal rights activists after the first two horses died as the result of accidents during filming of racing sequences for the opening season.

The CHRB is following up on the latest fatality, according to a statement from the agency.

"Even though HBO announced the cancellation of the Luck series Wednesday, the CHRB will conduct a thorough investigation, which will include a postmortem examination and toxicology testing," the statement said.

"The CHRB is assured by those onsite at Santa Anita who are responsible for equine health and safety that every precaution was being taken to protect the horses appearing in the HBO program," it continued. "In fact, because the filming was taking place in an enclosure within the CHRB's jurisdiction, the level of care for these animals exceeded the level of care for animals on other filming locations. Everyone involved in the handling of the horses that appeared on Luck is licensed by the CHRB and qualified to do so."

Dr. Rick Arthur, the CHRB's equine medical director, said in a preliminary report that the horse slipped on a hind leg when she reared, going over backward and striking her head on the ground.

"Three equine veterinarians were on the scene and did everything possible on behalf of the horse," Arthur reported.

"They were Dr. Heidi Agnic, HBO's attending veterinarian and licensed by the CHRB as a racetrack practitioner; Dr. Gary Beck, who normally works as the CHRB official veterinarian at Los Alamitos Race Course, and Dr. Scott Meyer."

The horse reportedly had just passed a physical inspection done by Beck and was being led back to her barn when she was injured.

Despite its strong creative team and cast, the show has reportedly performed poorly. The premiere, according to press reports, attracted just 1.1 million viewers and later episodes have struggled to hit the 500,000 mark.

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Rep. Young Refuses Humane Society Award

Washington, Mar 30, 2011 - Rep. Young Refuses Humane Society Award

Alaskan Congressman Don Young refused an award this evening from The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the Humane Society Legislative Fund that would have honored his work for animals in 2010. While capitalizing on the good work of local humane societies that shelter, spay, and neuter animals, the HSUS does not own, operate, or directly control a single animal shelter in our country, despite a budget of well over \$100 million.

"HSUS are hypocrites, plain and simple, and I will not join them by accepting this award," said Rep. Young. "Local animal shelters and humane societies do excellent work by caring for neglected and homeless animals, and through their spaying and neutering programs. This organization, however, has absolutely nothing to do with animal welfare. Instead they prey on the emotions of big-hearted

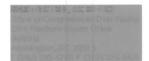


Americans. They flash images of abused animals on our television screens to raise money that will eventually go to pay their salaries and pensions, not to helping better the lives of these animals. They run anti-hunting and anti-trapping campaigns and are of the same cloth as PETA and other extremist organizations. I can only guess that I was to receive this award due to my support of the Wildlife Without Borders program, which develops wildlife management and conservation efforts to maintain global species diversity. That program is true conservation; what this group wants is preservation. To accept this award would be supporting their manipulative ways and misguided agenda, and I want no part of that."

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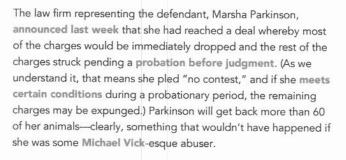


Mar 06 2012 Equine Expert on HSUS Raid: Lots of Horsing Around

Amidst all of the chatter about our Academy Awards commercial, some important news came forward last week concerning an alleged case of horse cruelty at a Maryland farm.

Last April, the Queen Anne's County Animal Control and HSUS conducted an allegedly warrantless seizure of 133 horses from Canterbury Farm. We heard a lot at the time to have us

skeptical, but we wanted to see how it all played out. And now we have more information.



But even more interesting is that the defense recruited equine scientist Dr. Don Henneke to offer his opinion of the evidence collected during the seizure. "At the time of the seizure," Henneke stated, "the horses in question were not being neglected and should not have been removed from the care of Ms. Parkinson."

That's in stark contrast to **HSUS's claim** at the time of the seizure that "every horse on that property is suffering from some level of lack of care." So what gives him the authority to make that conclusion?

Henneke developed the internationally used "Henneke Scale," or Body Conditioning Scale (BCS), for horses. In contrast to HSUS's claim that the horses were "neglected, starving" and that rescuers arrived "just in time," Henneke determined that "the overall health of the horses appeared to be adequate."

Henneke further determined that the horses were "exposed to unnecessary stress due to poor horsemanship on the part of the people conducting the seizure" and that the "evaluators appear to



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HSUS is crying crocodile tears over some tough rhetoric from Nebraska's governor. (This from the group that launches ad hominem attacks at the drop of a hat...)



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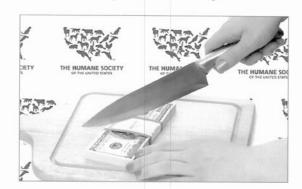






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Sep 22 2010 Secret HSUS History: The 60/40 Split





history—including a financial arrangement that used to help *real* humane societies quite a bit.

In **Protecting All Animals**: A Fifty-Year History of the Humane Society of the United States, HSUS's own partisan in-house historian **Bernard Unti** writes [p. 5] that the organization was

"determined to raise the quality and extent of humane work at the local level" during its early years. And in listing "the principal activities of The HSUS during the 1950s," Until specifically includes "support for local [humane] societies and individuals trying to form them."

He also tells the story [p. 6] of Patrick Parkes, a new HSUS employee in 1961 (seven years into HSUS's existence) who would later become the group's "director of services":

After hiring Parkes [HSUS founding President Fred]
Myers sent him out for training at a small shelter in
Lucerne County, Pennsylvania, that The HSUS had
helped to establish. There Parkes euthanized animals,
cleaned kennels, and studied the typical methods in
the field at that time.

Why would HSUS do this? Wasn't it always a national "policy" and lobbying group? Hillary Twining seems to think so. She's wrong.

Unti continues [page 6, emphasis added]:

The original bylaws of The HSUS provided for its ownership and operation of shelter facilities through established branches conceived as integral units of the parent organization. Such ownership proved to be impractical on several grounds, but it did not prevent The HSUS from becoming deeply involved with local animal shelters and their problems. Ultimately, it did so by establishing an affiliates program to forge closer ties to local societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Provided **Unti's account** is accurate, HSUS clearly desired from its very beginnings to be "deeply involved" with pet sheltering and aimed to be a true "national" humane society—the sort of umbrella group that **71 percent of Americans mistakenly think it** is today.

Unti's book contains one other fascinating admission. Until the early 1970s when John Hoyt became HSUS's president, HSUS's policy was to share *most of its revenue* with the state-level HSUS affiliates that worked on direct animal care [page 14, emphasis added]:

One of Hoyt's priorities was the abolition of the organization's five state branches. Under long-standing arrangements, *The HSUS designated 60* percent of all funds raised from members within the branch states for use by the chapters, with the national organization taking the rest. The state chapters were essentially independent entities using the same name and determining their own program and were in effect friendly competitors with the national organization. Hoyt strongly believed that The HSUS had to be just one entity.

John Hoyt did, in fact, collapse HSUS's affiliate program, replacing it with the "regional office" model that HSUS still uses today. In contrast with the "independent" HSUS affiliates of the 1960s and '70s, HSUS Regional Offices are wholly-owned subsidiaries of the mother ship.

In his "1991 Report of the President," Hoyt would later brag about demolishing HSUS's relationship with local humane societies, in favor of a more centralized power structure that left all the money in Washington, DC:

I recall with great satisfaction my determination to establish the regional office concept in the early 1970s in the face of skepticism and outright opposition. But with the support of a board of directors who shared my vision of the importance and validity of this concept, the regional office structure became a reality. And it seems quite clear that these offices have proven to be one of the great success stories of The HSUS.

Success, we suppose, would be defined here in terms of financial might and political power. But it's hard to tell.

Here's the bottom line: Hillary Twining's PR spin notwithstanding, there's gobs of evidence—much of it provided by HSUS's own paid historian—to contradict the idea that HSUS has never been in the business of getting its hands dirty helping local pet shelters.

And lest you think Twining is a rogue HSUS employee who's buzzing from a few too many soy lattes, HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle consistently backs her up. Here's what he said in one March 2010 interview:

We were founded in 1954 specifically to tackle the national problems facing animals, such as puppy mills, inhumane slaughter, animal fighting, and animal trafficking, through education, public policy, investigation, and other conventional means suited to a civil society ... that has been the purpose of HSUS for more than 50 years

Again, this isn't true. Pacelle ignores the 60%/40% financial split with animal welfare groups in five states, which used to be the norm in his organization. (That "split" is now effectively 0%/100%.)

The more we compare HSUS's early intentions with its present reality, the more clearly a picture of "mission creep" comes into focus. Consolidating power may be good for HSUS's bank accounts, **pension plans**, and lobbying muscle, but it hasn't done much for pet shelters in American communities.

Got a comment? Be sure to leave your thoughts below. From August 23 to October 29, 2010 we will be choosing the two best comments each week of 25 words or more, and awarding \$100 (each) to the local pet shelters of the commenters' choice. Click here for more information and the official rules.

Posted on 09/22/2010 at 08:00 AM by the HumaneWatch Team
The Best of HumaneWatch • Document Analysis • Fundraising & Money •
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COMMENTS

It seems that even before the days of that pesky internet, records were kept, and you just can't get away from them sometimes no matter how much you'd like to rewrite history.

How annoying for HSUS, Hillary, Sarah, et al.

Posted by Tricia Jumonville on 09/22 at 02:08 PM

It is a shame they do not uphold the 60/40 split. Think of how many animals would not be suffering. Shelters would be able to support more animals and less would have to be euthanized.

Maybe I missed it somewhere along the way. What was/is the HSUS's mission statement then and now?

Posted by Caroline on 09/22 at 04:16 PM

Wow, what a shocker... H\$U\$ employees either ignorant or outright lying about their organization...

Caroline - The H\$U\$'s PUBLIC mission statement involves pretty nonsense about bettering the lives of animals by promoting education and working to end cruelty.

Their PRIVATE mission statement; the true, accurate one they only admit to fellow travelers; is the total abolition of all animal agriculture, complete criminalization of all human contact with animals, and utter extinction through extermination of all domestic animal species.

Posted by Ann (BADKarma) on 09/22 at 05:39 PM

All this is very nice, but the proof is in the pudding, and this pudding, whatever its origins or the intentions of it's early founders, has become a truly toxic one.

It has convinced the public that all pet breeders are abusers.

It has convinced the public that all meat animals are abused.

It has convinced people that all traditional methods of training animals are abusive.

It has convinced people that large dogs are dangerous.

It has convinced people that dog fighting is a popular and pervasive sport, found in all the neighborhoods all over the country.

Worse, it has spread these egregious lies and fantasies all over the world.

Perhaps worst of all, it has convinced people that where animals are concerned, vigilante action is acceptable, indeed, desirable, and that "rescue" operations are above the law.

It has convinced many animal professionals that far from being a desirable individual who loves his animals and wants what is best for them, the animal owner - whether the animal is pet or livestock - is an ignorant obstruction to its best care.

It has convinced people in North America (and probably other places, but the situation here is the one I am familiar with) to pass a HUGE body of law making it daily more expensive and difficult to own, breed or use animals in any useful way, while making things harder and worse, not better, for the animals involved.

However it began, HSUS is now an extremist animal rights organization, hostile to animals and animal lovers.

I hope all this lovely nostalgia isn't by way of apology for the operation. However it began, it has become the most destructive influence in the animal world today, and it's had the last thirty years to get there. It didn't begin yesterday.

Posted by Lynn on 09/22 at 07:40 PM

It would sure be a drab life without without hands on contact with animals, I can't imagine live without them. My dogs are my life.

Posted by Regan H on 03/21 at 02:08 AM

I have read their financial statement, they gave a retiring secretary almost a million dollar bonus when she retired, they pay their lobbyist \$92,000 a year, most of their higher echelon employees make close to \$150,000 per year plus their benefits plus an expense account plus a bonus every year of close to a Million dollars.

Posted by Ron on 04/04 at 01:12 PM

@ Ron - I agree that that is a problem, but much worse is the way they spend their 'disposable' income. Most of that goes to lobby for more antiownership laws, and laws to cripple agriculture.

Neat, eh? All in one fell swoop they limit the amount of money that goes to the animals, because they are getting it, and they are getting the animal loving public to finance their 'animal free life' agenda!

Despicable is too nice a word to describe them ..

Posted by Lynn on 04/04 at 04:36 PM

So what can we really do about this! It makes me so angry that animals suffer so much and all they want is a loving home. I really feel sorry for people who don't know the love of a pet!!

Posted by Linda kimbrell on 04/12 at 02:44 PM

I found this site in my search to find out how much of a salary the president and chief executive of the humane society of America makes, so I know how much is actually being spent on the animals Bill Buck

Posted by william Buck on 07/26 at 04:26 PM

If I didn't like animals, I would love to work for the HSUS.

Posted by Yrni Hazama on 03/07 at 05:28 PM

If I didn't like animals, I would love to work for the HSUS.

Posted by Yrni Hazama on 03/07 at 05:28 PM

Linda, we can give money to our local shelters, or blankets, or supplies,

etc, and we can EDUCATE others about HSUS. IF they stop getting funded, it COULD help push them in the right direction. At any rate, more money will be donated to local shelters than to a fake charity anyways. Posted by ally on 03/07 at 05:31 PM Comments are moderated, and generally will be posted if they are on-topic and not abusive. Extremely lengthy comments and those that contain obscenities may be edited before they are posted. Add a comment: Name: Email: (will not be displayed) Remember my personal information ☐ Notify me of follow-up comments? Submit Next entry: Humane Bites #149: HSUS Protects its BFF Previous entry: Pet Shelter Winners for Week #4 « Back to blog homepage All content © 2012 Center for Consumer Freedom HumaneWatch (just like every pet shelter in America) is not affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States. Any confusion related to perceived About HumaneWatch | Privacy | Dropbox similarities is unintentional.

"They were Dr. Heidi Agnic, HBO's attending veterinarian and licensed by the CHRB as a racetrack practitioner; Dr. Gary Beck, who normally works as the CHRB official veterinarian at Los Alamitos Race Course, and Dr. Scott Meyer."

The horse reportedly had just passed a physical inspection done by Beck and was being led back to her barn when she was injured.

Despite its strong creative team and cast, the show has reportedly performed poorly. The premiere, according to press reports, attracted just 1.1 million viewers and later episodes have struggled to hit the 500,000 mark.

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