

July, 2010 | There are four animal welfare bills open where people are being asked to call their Senators and members of Congress for support. HSFC volunteers may be interested in participating in this campaign – the bills are very quickly summarized below. If you go to HSUS.org and in the search box enter "fact sheets" you can scroll through the (long) list of fact sheets for a lot of bills and find detailed fact sheets on these four.

1. The prevention of Interstate Commerce in Animal Crush Videos Act of 2010 (HR 5566, no Senate # yet but will be soon). The bill would make it illegal to sell crush videos over the internet. Crush videos made the news a couple months ago when the Supreme Court struck down the previous law banning them because they said it was worded too vaguely and might be interpreted as forbidding the sale of hunting or rodeo videos. Crush videos are a type of pornography involving women wearing stiletto heels impaling and crushing to death kittens, puppies, and other baby animals. This one already passed in the House (416 to 3), so the only people to call are your senators.

2. The Puppy Uniform Protection Statute (HR 5434, S 3424). Currently puppy breeders that sell 50 or more dogs per year to pet stores are required to be licensed by USDA and are subject to inspection, but only if they sell to pet stores. If they sell directly to the public they don't need to be licensed. When the current law was written, the people who sold directly to the public were pet stores, and the opinion was that laws were not needed to regulate pet stores. The public could see conditions in a pet store and if the place was filthy and the dogs looked sick, people would not buy a dog there. The current law ceased to make sense when the internet came along, because now it is easy for unscrupulous puppy mills to sell directly to the public over the internet. This bill would close that loophole.

3. The Truth in Fur Labeling Act (S 1076, HR 2480). Currently garments can contain up to \$150 dollars of real fur and not be labeled as containing fur. They can even be labeled as containing faux fur. This is a problem for people with allergies. In addition most of the mislabeled fur comes from raccoon dogs which are skinned alive in Chinese markets.

4. The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (HR 503, S 727). Horses in this country are being sold at horse auctions, bought by killer buyers, and transported to Mexico and Canada to be slaughtered by highly inhumane methods. Also the transportation is inhumane -- no food, water, or climate control over long distances. Also there are legitimate buyers, individuals and horse rescue operations that would buy the horses but are being outbid by the killer buyers.

For people who live in Jim Moran's district, there is no real need to call except to say thank you, as he is strongly pro animal welfare and already supports these bills.

Senator Warner's number is 202-224-2023. He is already on record for cosponsoring (publicly indicating he will vote for the bill if given the chance) the Truth in Fur Labeling Act. Senator Webb's number is 202-224-4024. People can Google to find your Congressional representative's number or email. Congressman Wolfe is already cosponsoring the Truth in Fur Labeling Act. Gerry Connolly is cosponsoring both the Truth in Fur Labeling Act and the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act.

Submitted by volunteer Margaret Graichen (thank you, Margaret!)