

## **Animal Welfare-Related Web Sites**

### **American Humane**

[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

Founded in 1877, the American Humane Association is dedicated to protecting both children and animals. A nonprofit membership organization, American Humane is headquartered in Denver.

Through a network of child and animal protection agencies and individuals, American Humane provides national leadership in developing policies, legislation, curricula and training programs -- and taking actions -- to protect children and animals from cruelty, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

On its Web site you will find welfare position statements, plus sections on:

- Protecting animals: investigations and rescues, disaster preparedness, shelter guidelines
- Human-animal bond: humane education

### **Animal Legal Defense Fund**

[www.aldf.org](http://www.aldf.org)

The national organization was founded in 1979 by attorneys active in shaping the emerging field of animal law. ALDF's headquarters is in San Francisco and it has an office in Portland, Oregon. ALDF focuses on criminal justice, litigation and animal law.

Following are areas of activity:

- Filing lawsuits to stop animal abuse and expand the boundaries of animal law.
- Providing free legal assistance to prosecutors handling cruelty cases. Working to strengthen state anti-cruelty statutes.
- Encouraging the federal government to enforce existing animal protection laws.
- Nurturing the future of animal law through student chapters.
- Providing public education through seminars, workshops and other outreach efforts.

### **Animal Welfare Information Center**

[www.awic.nal.usda.gov/](http://www.awic.nal.usda.gov/)

A component of the USDA, the AWIC is mandated by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to provide information for improved animal care and use in research, testing, teaching, and exhibition.

The Web site provides valuable resources and its searchable database covers the following areas:

- Alternatives to research
- Companion animals
- Farm animals
- Government and professional resources
- Humane endpoints and euthanasia
- Literature searching and databases
- Pain and distress
- Zoo, circus and marine animals

## **ASPCA**

[www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)

The ASPCA was founded by Henry Bergh in 1866 “to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States.” It is the first recognized humane organization in the western hemisphere.

The ASPCA Web site includes a variety of policy and position statements on the welfare of animals and also highlights its principal programs:

- Community outreach
- Animal health services: includes the Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital
- Anti-cruelty initiatives: includes investigations and consultations

The ASPCA also owns the national Animal Poison Control Center.

## **American Veterinary Medical Association**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare>

Established in 1863, the AVMA is a not-for-profit association representing more than 100,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, and uniformed services. The AVMA acts as a collective voice for its membership and for the profession.

The Animal Health and Welfare heading on the Web site contains a comprehensive variety of policy statements, backgrounders, publications and reports, and euthanasia guidelines.

## **Humane Society of the United States**

[www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

HSUS is the nation's largest animal protection organization in the U.S.. Established in 1954, the organization's Web site says it is “America's mainstream force against cruelty, exploitation and neglect, as well as the most trusted voice extolling the human-animal bond.”

HSUS is active with campaigns and issues, including:

- Animal experimentation: biomedical research, medical training using animals, cosmetic and product testing
- Animal fighting: dog fighting and cockfighting
- Equine protection: horse slaughter, homeless horses, wild horses, Tennessee Walking Horse
- Factory farming: gestation crates for sows, battery cages for laying hens, tail docking of cattle
- Pet protection: animal neglect & abuse, chaining and tethering, puppy mills, overpopulation

## **Humane Watch**

[www.humanewatch.org](http://www.humanewatch.org)

Developed for the Center for Consumer Freedom, Humane Watch's primary focus is that of a “watchdog” of the Humane Society of the United States. It has placed advertisements in the New York Times and other publication, criticizing HSUS for spending 1% of its budget on shelter programs, while instead, as it contends, allocating the majority of its time and resources on fundraising, lobbying and marketing.

The Web site is a compilation of articles, blogs, etc. that takes a look at – and challenges – HSUS.

### **International Institute for Animal Law**

[www.animallaw.com](http://www.animallaw.com)

The Web site is supported entirely by funding from the National Anti-Vivisection Society and has sections on “Model Laws,” “Case Laws” and “Current Events.” The searchable database also links with laws and legislation from around the world.

### **National Animal Interest Alliance**

[www.naiaonline.org](http://www.naiaonline.org)

The National Animal Interest Alliance is an association of business, agricultural, scientific, and recreational interests dedicated to promoting animal welfare, supporting responsible animal use and strengthening the bond between humans and animals. Its members are pet owners, dog and cat clubs, obedience clubs and rescue groups as well as breeders, trainers, veterinarians, research scientists, farmers, fishermen, hunters and wildlife biologists.

NAIA’s headquarters is in Portland, Oregon.

In many ways, it is a counter to organizations such as ALDF and HSUS. Issues of importance to NAIA include:

- Restrictive breeding of purebred dogs
- Mandatory spay/neuter legislation
- Livestock production
- Humane investigations of animal neglect/cruelty

### **Oregon Veterinary Medical Association**

[www.oregonvma.org](http://www.oregonvma.org)

Under the general heading, “Resources,” you will find extensive information on Oregon’s laws on animal neglect and abuse. The section also contains links to articles on recognizing and documenting (includes forms for documenting) neglect and abuse, as well as veterinary professional’s professional responsibility to such harmful actions against animals.

### **Unwanted Horse Coalition**

[www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org)

Based in Washington, DC, the Unwanted Horse Coalition was initiated in 2005, in part, in response to the horse slaughter issue.

The Coalition is a broad alliance of equine organizations that joined under the American Horse Council to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the

efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care and disposition of these horses.

The Web site contains a wide variety of articles, position statements, and brochures that address, among other topics: adoption, euthanasia, and responsible ownership of the equine.

#### **USDA APHIS Animal Care & Welfare**

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>

Congress has entrusted APHIS with the stewardship of animals covered under the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts. APHIS continues to uphold that trust, giving protection to millions of animals each year, nationwide.

APHIS provides leadership for determining standards of humane care and treatment of animals. APHIS implements those standards and achieves compliance through inspection, education, cooperative efforts, and enforcement.

The Web site includes:

- Animal Welfare Act
- Horse Protection Act
- Animal Care's Emergency Program (disasters & rescues)
- Publications, reports, updates