

WINTER 2010



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Dear Friends,

Since ISAR's founding in 1959, our organization has continued its firm commitment to use law and education to further the cause of animal rights. Public education about animal rights, both theoretical and practical, has long been a primary activity of ISAR, and will continue to be an important part of our activities.

Twice annually, in January and July, we pause to reflect on the progress of ISAR's programs and campaigns throughout the year.

In December 2009, ISAR offered our supporters a preview of the latter half of our 2009 activities, promising to elaborate on our campaigns and programs with more information in the beginning of the New Year.

So here's a Report of some of ISAR's major activities from the last six months of 2009.

### **ISAR's Model Statute Regulating Dog Breeding, Facilitation and Sales.**

At this very moment, literally countless numbers of dogs, certainly hundreds of thousands, are held captive around the world in wretched conditions, while being used and abused as living breeding machines by conscienceless breeders, facilitators and commercial retail sales outlets whose only concern is for their own profit. Because much of that abuse occurs in the United States, and because ISAR's self-imposed mandate is the protection of animals, we have prepared a comprehensive Monograph containing ISAR's Model Statute Regulating Dog Breeding, Facilitation and Sales. In effect, our Monograph is a brief in support of our Model Statute.

ISAR's Model Statute's imposition of tough regulations on breeders, facilitators and commercial retail sales outlets is unapologetically draconian. This is our intention and our goal, because only in this manner can the dog-trade's participants' appalling, and often illegal, conduct be regulated out of existence once and for all. ISAR's Monograph and Model Statute can be found on our website at [www.isaronline.org/puppy\\_mill\\_statute\\_monograph.html](http://www.isaronline.org/puppy_mill_statute_monograph.html).

ISAR is working to make our model statute available worldwide.

### **ISAR's Analysis of *United States v. Stevens*.**

As previously reported, supporters of ISAR know that we've filed an *amicus curiae* brief ([www.isaronline.citymax.com/f/brief.pdf](http://www.isaronline.citymax.com/f/brief.pdf)) in the United States Supreme Court in the First Amendment/Animal Rights case of *United States v. Stevens* on behalf of the government. ISAR argued that the statute criminalizing creation, possession or sale of material depicting animal cruelty is constitutional, and that the obscene conduct criminalized by the law is not protected by the First Amendment.

Utilizing the facilities of Skype (a computer software application that allows users to hold voice conferencing over the Internet) ISAR presented an analysis by our Chairman, Professor Henry Mark Holzer, of the possible outcome of the *Stevens* case entitled, *Unpublished Insights into United States v. Stevens*. Professor Holzer focused on what could be expected of each justice in light of Supreme Court precedent, their own philosophies, and the nature of the case. One week later, ISAR conducted another Skype presentation, welcoming back Professor Holzer and interested individuals to participate in a follow-up presentation entitled, *ISAR's Analysis of the Supreme Court Oral Argument in United States v. Stevens*.

ISAR will continue working to uphold the federal statute.

ISAR currently awaits the Supreme Court decision (which can be any time from tomorrow to late June 2010) and will once again present a Skype presentation for interested parties after the decision has been handed down. Any organization or individual wishing to be kept abreast of developments in this case can do so by signing up to receive ISAR's E-Newsletter by visiting our website [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org) and filling out a contact form. Be sure to mark the selection to receive ISAR's Newsletter via email. If you were unable to attend ISAR's previous Skype presentations you can download them from ISAR's website at [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org).

### Half-A-Loaf, Revisited.

A little over one year ago ISAR published a blog titled "Half-A-Loaf." It appears below (in slightly edited form) in Courier font.

The animal rights/welfare movement here and abroad is awash in proposed legislation (see ISAR's Model Mandatory Spay/Neuter statute), much of which will never be enacted or, if enacted, never enforced.

So the question is whether it is cause for rejoicing when pro-animal legislation actually becomes law.

We have seen three examples in as many months.

The Swiss have enacted a sweeping animal protection law. It includes handling guidelines for cats, dogs, sheep, goats and horses. There is a six-hour time limit for the transportation of livestock. Piglets cannot be castrated without anesthesia.

Massachusetts has banned greyhound racing throughout the Commonwealth.

A California ballot initiative has just been approved that seeks to provide more living space to animals raised for human food: "Certain farm animals [shall] be allowed, for the majority of every day, to fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up and turn around."

However, the Swiss law still allows dairy farmers to keep their cattle tied up in stalls for 240 days of the year. Tie-stalls for horses are to be phased out, but over a five year period. Zoo animals, like rhinos, can

be confined in small winter quarters. Wild animals in circuses are still permitted (though banned in neighboring Austria).

The Massachusetts greyhound ban did not become effective until a year after it was enacted.

California's "living space" initiative gives farmers years, until 2015, to shift to more humane animal production systems.

Yet for some in the animal rights/welfare movement these measures are not only not enough (and they aren't!), but the laws are to be disdained because they don't go "far enough."

These folks believe that when laws like this are proposed they should be fought, because passage of these useful but wholly inadequate enactments give opponents the ability to argue that "enough is enough"—that the movement clamored for these laws, they were enacted, and that's all the affected animals are entitled to, at least for years to come.

This absolutist position is defensible, making for a hard choice: wait for perfection, while countless animals continue to suffer, or take what can be had when possible, but continue fighting for perfection?

In other words, is half-a-loaf better than none?

It is better—particularly, if you're a veal calf spending your entire life in a crate.

## *Duplicate Mailings*

As ISAR's mailing list rapidly grows, it has become more difficult for staff to discern duplicate mailings. If any reader is receiving more than one copy of ISAR's mailings, please notify us by sending all mailing labels from envelopes containing the same inserts.

Our blog highlighted the dilemma faced by serious people in the animal protection movement, especially those who recall Voltaire's famous observation that "the perfect is the enemy of the good"—meaning that while one seeks utopia in human affairs, "the perfect," much else, "the good," doesn't get done.

As to animal protection, while we wait (and work) toward much better Swiss, Massachusetts, California and other laws ("the perfect"), the benefits that could have accrued ("the good"), are lost.

We were reminded of this problem recently when asked to support anti-tethering legislation pending in Pennsylvania. (Tethering is the cruel practice of chaining a dog to a stationary object, thus severely restricting its freedom of movement.)

Should we not support the proposed new legislation because in approving it we would be accepting the existence of that cruel, indefensible practice, even though the law would ameliorate some of the more egregious conditions under which tethered dogs live? In other words, do we seek "the perfect," with not even a nod to the "good" reality?

Or do we support the proposed new legislation precisely because of the amelioration, abjuring "the perfect" to gain "the good"? In other words, do we accept the reality that "the good" means reducing suffering, at the expense of "the perfect," which in a utopian world would be an outright prohibition of tethering?

After much soul-searching, we recalled the concluding two sentences of our earlier blog: "In other words, is half-a-loaf better than none? Much better—particularly, if you're a veal calf spending your entire life in a crate."

As to tethering: Is "half-a-loaf better than none"? Much better—if you're a dog chained to a stationary object, whose entire universe consists of several square feet (at best), a primitive shelter (at best), almost no human contact (at best), and little interaction with your own kind (at best).

This said, however, ISAR insists on making unmistakably clear that *we unequivocally oppose the practice of tethering both as a moral and humane imperative*, and that our support of the pending Pennsylvania legislation is not intended, nor should it be construed as, our sanction, approval, or any other kind of endorsement of the cruel practice of tethering.

If ISAR had its way, Pennsylvania and every other state would immediately enact laws making tethering of dogs illegal, with severe penalties. Let there be no mistake about

ISAR's position!

ISAR will continue working to ban tethering.

### **International Homeless Animals' Day® 2009.**

For the 18th consecutive year, ISAR has facilitated animal rights/welfare organizations in 24 states and 6 foreign countries in making their August 15, 2009 International Homeless Animals' Day events a great success.

Once again, ISAR was pleased to offer our 8th Annual Online Candlelight Vigil. Individuals from around the globe, including countries such as Canada, Australia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Iceland and the United States visited our website, [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org), and lit virtual candles in memory of those directly affected by the global tragedy—pet overpopulation.

ISAR is grateful for the support we received from U.S. governors and mayors who acknowledged the companion animal overpopulation crisis by signing ISAR's Proclamation declaring August 15, 2009 as International Homeless Animals' Day.

ISAR is also extremely appreciative to all participating individuals and media, for helping us to promote International Homeless Animals' Day this year. Media coverage included newspaper articles, radio and television interviews, and numerous online resources directing the public to observances in their area. Please visit ISAR's website at [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org) to read more about the observances resulting from ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day 2009.

### **Billboard Campaign.**

Throughout the year 2009, ISAR's brightly colored Spay/Neuter Billboards have been displayed all across the United States including California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

ISAR offers our "Sponsor a Billboard" design that allows its eye-catching graphics and text to identify ISAR

and dramatically display our spay/neuter message, but at the same time prominently displays that the billboard has been sponsored by a member of the local community. Lawyers, accountants, plumbers, electricians, or anyone else wishing to participate in ISAR's "Sponsor a Billboard" program and have a billboard installed in an area of their choice anywhere in the United States should visit ISAR's website at [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org) for more information.

#### For Vick and the Eagles, Profit Trumped Principle.



In August 2009, ISAR promised to keep after criminal dog abuser Michael Vick by continuing to remind the football-going public about the horrendous crimes he committed in abusing pit bulls and other dogs, and about the sell-out by the Philadelphia Eagles in employing him. As close to the Eagles' Football Stadium that we could get, ISAR posted two anti-Vick billboards (in Berks and Montgomery Counties). In addition to ISAR's anti-Vick billboard and petition campaigns, ISAR made available to others our striking poster, displaying our slogan "Profit Trumped Principle." Our supporters printed and distributed them at events, such as NFL games, where Michael Vick and the Philadelphia Eagles were present.

#### ISAR Blog, E-Newsletter and Social Networks.

ISAR continues to utilize the Internet as our information super highway by communicating up-to-date news and latest events to our supporters through our blog, e-newsletter and social networks. Some of the recent topics ISAR has reported include titles such as, "ISAR's Model Statute Regulating Dog Breeding, Facilitation and Sales", "Half a Loaf, Revisited", "The Need for ISAR's Mandatory Spay/Neuter Law", "ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day 2009", "Animal Rights Books For Sale", "Why Animal Suffering Matters, by Andrew Linzey. Reviewed by Professor Henry Mark Holzer", "*United States v. Stevens: Popular Wisdom May Be Wrong*". We encourage everyone who's interested in animal protection to join us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/isaronline](http://www.facebook.com/isaronline)), Myspace ([www.myspace.com/i\\_s\\_a\\_r](http://www.myspace.com/i_s_a_r)) or visit our website, [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org), to subscribe to receive our informative e-newsletters or blogs.

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Everything that ISAR does on behalf of animals we owe to you, our dedicated supporters, and we are truly thankful. Each year, your commitment and financial support to ISAR greatly helps reduce the suffering and untimely deaths of unwanted companion animals. Your gift allows us to become a resource, a teacher, and a voice for companion animals everywhere. We hope you will continue to support ISAR's efforts.

On behalf of all animals and ISAR, I thank you and look forward to a positive and productive year in 2010.

Sincerely,

*Susan Dapsis*

Susan Dapsis

President

### Memorial Contributions and Bequests

Bequests are essential to ensuring that ISAR will continue its pioneering work on behalf of all animals. Individuals wanting to include ISAR in your wills should contact ISAR President Susan Dapsis at P.O. Box F, Clarks Summit, PA 18411; (570) 586-2200.

*All inquiries will be held in strict confidence.*