

Fact Sheet: HSUS' Dishonest "Animal Survivors Fund" Campaign

1. A December 2009 fundraising campaign by HSUS featured "Faye," a pit bull formerly used for fighting that suffered terrible disfigurement. HSUS claimed to have rescued Faye during a raid of a Missouri dog fighting ring. HSUS used Faye as a key part of their "Animal Survivors Fund" campaign to raise \$1 million online by 12/31/09. Supporters were told: "Your gift of \$20.10 a month for 2010 -- just 66 cents a day -- can help thousands of animals like Faye not just survive, but thrive in the New Year. "



(Fay in HSUS fundraising materials)

From HSUS fundraising newsletter:

*"Faye's a lucky survivor: She now sleeps in a warm bed in a safe place. To help save thousands of animals just like her in the new year, we're doing something we've never done before, and it's BIG: **We're hoping to raise a million dollars online by December 31 for our 2010 Animal Survivors Fund.***

It's ambitious -- but so are our plans for saving animals next year. We'll not only continue to help bust dogfighting rings, but we'll also take on the individuals and industries that profit from animal suffering -- from people who club baby seals to death, to those who confine animals in factory farms, to those who abuse dogs in puppy mills."

http://action.humanesociety.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=6805.0&dlv_id=0&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=s hare&utm_campaign=6805

2. After receiving the fundraising e-mail on 12/03/09, an animal welfare blogger posted a response, stating that HSUS had never cared for the dogs and that the real credit for saving the dogs from the dog fighting ring belonged to the Humane Society of Missouri- which is not affiliated with HSUS.

From the blog:

"They're not caring for the vast majority (or any?) of the dogs that were rescued from the dog fighting ring bust from this summer. The people actually CARING for the dogs -- at least the majority of them - are the folks at the Humane Society of Missouri (who is not affiliated with HSUS). And look, Faye is the cover girl on the Humane Society of Missouri's website.

It appears as if HSUS is trying to use the publicity from the Time Magazine article which refereed[sic] to HSMO as "the Humane Society" to raise money for dogs that aren't even in their care. This would not be the first time HSUS has pulled shenanigans in such a regard. Just two years ago, HSUS asked for money to care for the dogs rescued from Mike Vick's Bad Newz Kennels -- when they as an organization were lobbying TO HAVE ALL THE DOGS KILLED. "

<http://btoellner.typepad.com/kcdogblog/2009/12/is-hsus-trying-to-take-creditdonations-for-the-work-of-others.html>

3. The “Best Friends Animal Network” confirmed that it was the Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) that led the efforts to rescue the dogs, including “Faye,” and provided for their care.

From the article:

“The Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) organized and led the rescue efforts, rescuing more than 400 dogs at 22 sites across two states in 24 hours. The animals were taken to an emergency temporary shelter in St. Louis set up and operated by HSMO. With the birth of more than 100 puppies, HSMO and its volunteer partners ended up caring for more than 500 animals that are being kept at an undisclosed location.”

<http://network.bestfriends.org/campaigns/pitbulls/news.aspx?pid=13350>

4. The Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) Web site featured a photo of “Faye” and information about the rescue. HSMO acknowledged that the USDA, ASPCA, and HSUS helped coordinate efforts to remove and transport the dogs- and also indicated the services that each organization provided. HSUS volunteers worked in the emergency shelter but did not provide support in rehabilitating and housing the animals after the rescue. HSMO indicates that the dogs had been cared for by local organizations since being rescued.



(Fay featured on HSMO homepage)

From the Web site:

*“Under contract with the USDA’s Office of the Inspector General, the Humane Society of Missouri Animal Cruelty Task Force, working with partners from the ASPCA and Humane Society of the United States, is coordinating the multi-location effort to safely remove, transport and shelter the dogs. All pit bulls seized in Missouri and Illinois will be taken to a secure facility where the Humane Society of Missouri will conduct triage of each animal, document any evidence of dog fighting and oversee care for and shelter of the animals. All animals will receive a complete veterinary examination and necessary on-going veterinary care. **The dogs will be cared for by the Humane Society of Missouri and its partners until final disposition by the United States District Court.**”*

http://member.hsno.org/site/PageNavigator/Federal_Dog_Fighting_Landing_Page

From HSMO “Tails Magazine”:

“The expertise and manpower of other animal welfare groups have been crucial factors in the success of the largest dog fighting rescue, documentation, sheltering and placement operation in U.S. history.

*Humane Society of the United States (v)
(v) — groups that provided volunteers to work in the emergency shelter”*

http://www.hsno.org/m_aboutus/documents/Fall2009TailsMagazine.pdf

The HSMO posted a video about Faye’s rescue on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz9haUUpxyU>

5. A second animal welfare/pet blogger wrote a response to HSUS' campaign, sharing more details about HSUS' fundraising.

From the blog:

"Having thrown themselves into this situation, the HSUS should use the money it already has to pick up every penny of the cost of Fay's medical and mental rehabilitation. That's right, every damn penny. And every penny of the cost of the other dogs seized with her.

Going forward, HSUS leadership — hello Mr. Pacelle — needs to shake up the fund-raising staff, and stop misleading people.

Until both of those things happen — and happen publicly, with a statement of wrong-doing and a pledge to animal-lovers going forward, I would encourage animal-lovers to give to the HSUS not one thin dime. Which is exactly the amount they have given to help Fay, their fund-raising poster dog."

<http://www.petconnection.com/blog/2009/12/04/hsus-fund-raising-pitch-raises-hackles/>

6. A commenter on the blog- who was providing Fay's foster home- revealed that HSUS had nothing to do with the dog's rehabilitation (and that HSUS did not even spell the dog's name right!)

Comment:

*"I am rather sad that HSUS has chosen to use Fay (not Faye) in their fund drive. Fay has never received a dime from HSUS. How do I know? **Because I am the one that is fostering Fay.** Fay is currently going through expensive surgeries to recreate medically need lips so her teeth do not fall out, her jaw bone stops deteriorating, and she can live a normal life. HSUS never contacted us regarding Fay. In the video John states she is in a loving home...really...thanks for the compliment but Fay is LOOKING for her forever home."*

If you really want to help Fay, please go to our website, <http://www.muttsandstuff.com> and click on the donate now button. If you want to help the other 35 dogs we took with their own health issues....please donate. We are a small group that can use the help.

Comment by [Gale](#) — December 3, 2009 @ [9:13 pm](#)

<http://www.petconnection.com/blog/2009/12/02/sick-vick-wants-dogs-again-more-than-anything/#comment-479594>

7. Mutts-n-Stuff, a MO pit bull rescue, featured Fay on the group's Web site as a dog ready for adoption in January 2010. Pictures showed that it was the same dog. HSMO confirmed that Mutts-n-Stuff was involved with rescue of the dogs.



(Fay on Mutts-n-Stuff Web site)

From Web site:

"Fay had her first surgery to correct the damage Fay sustained as a victim of a very cruel "sport", dogfighting. We are guessing she will need one or two more surgeries to give back what man took away.

Fay is a very sweet girl that deserves a second chance at life. Can you help her? We are guessing the surgical costs will be around \$4,000.

UPDATE: Fay had her first surgery performed by Dr. Marcy Hammerle with the Pet Doctor in O'Fallon, MO. Fay's little face was swollen but you could already see the improvement. Fay will need at least one more surgery to give her back her medically needed lips.

Fay will be up for adoption in January."

<http://www.muttsandstuff.com/detail.php?aid=620>

From HSMO "Tails Magazine":

"The expertise and manpower of other animal welfare groups have been crucial factors in the success of the largest dog fighting rescue, documentation, sheltering and placement operation in U.S. history.

Mutts n Stuff (v, r)

(v) — groups that provided volunteers to work in the emergency shelter

(r) — groups that offered to rehabilitate and find homes for one or more of the dogs from this rescue"

http://www.hsmo.org/m_aboutus/documents/Fall2009TailsMagazine.pdf

8. **Meanwhile, on 12/03/09, HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle blogged about "Faye," failing to give direct credit to the HSMO for participating/coordinating the dog fighting raid or for fostering the dog. Instead, Pacelle encouraged people to donate to HSUS, what he referred to as the "most hard-hitting, highly effective organization in the nation for animal protection. With your help, we'll save thousands of animals like Faye from lifetimes of misery."**

<http://hsus.typepad.com/wayne/2009/12/survivors-fund.html>

From "Pet Connection" blog:

"Having thrown themselves into this situation, the HSUS should use the money it already has to pick up every penny of the cost of Fay's medical and mental rehabilitation. That's right, every damn penny. And every penny of the cost of the other dogs seized with her. Going forward, HSUS leadership — hello Mr. Pacelle — needs to shake up the fund-raising staff, and stop misleading people.

Until both of those things happen — and happen publicly, with a statement of wrong-doing and a pledge to animal-lovers going forward, I would encourage animal-lovers to give to the HSUS not one thin dime. Which is exactly the amount they have given to help Fay, their fund-raising poster dog."

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9. The December 7 edition of TIME Magazine featured a story about the HSMO dog fighting raid titled "Can Attack Dogs be Rehabilitated?" Although not a cover story- the article featured photos of injured dogs- including Fay- and refers to the HSMO as simply the "Humane Society" after first reference. Did HSUS plan on sharing the money from the "Animal Survivors" campaign with HSMO and Mutts-n-Stuff?



(Fay in TIME Magazine)

From TIME:

"Indeed, this raid could not have happened without the extraordinary cooperation of the Humane Society of Missouri. Supported by animal-protection agencies and volunteers from across the country, the society equipped an empty warehouse with hundreds of wire pens to hold the victims, recruited veterinarians and secured tons of food. (...)

*"Pit bulls have gotten this bad reputation because of the type of people who own them," says **Humane Society investigator Tim Rickey**,* who led the July rescue. If these muscular terriers have a flaw, their defenders maintain, it is an excess of devotion. "Their love for humans is why this breed is in trouble," says McBee. "They will take the abuse." Placed with the right companion, their devotion becomes a virtue — as Helen Keller knew. One of her pets was a pit bull."*

(*For clarification: Rickey is the HSMO's director of rescues and investigations- not affiliated with HSUS)

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1942950-2,00.html>

From Youtube:

HSUS uploaded a video (featuring J.P. Goodwin) about Fay on Dec 3. The video does acknowledge that the HSMO played a role in the rescue: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N-3yDjRUzc>

10. HSUS announced- only after beginning the “Animal Survivors” campaign- that it would donate \$5,000 towards Fay’s rehabilitation surgeries- a small percentage of the \$1 million that the group hoped to fundraise by using Fay’s image. Mutts-n-Stuff noted that the money for the surgeries had been received from HSUS on 12/08/09.



(Fay, after first surgery, on Mutts-n-Stuff Web site)

From Mutts-n-Stuff Web site:

“DISCLOSURE: HSUS has sent Mutts \$5,000 towards Fay's care. We appreciate the much needed funds to endure our girl needs are met.

PBRC donated directly to our vet \$400 for Fay's surgery. We greatly appreciate the work of PBRC and their assistance with funding the medical care of the MO Bust Dogs. Please donate to PBRC to help other bust dogs with wonderful groups across [sic] the America.

If Fay's surgery is overfunded, the donations will be used to help other dogs from the dog fighting bust. We rescued several babesia positive dogs that will be costly to treat.”

<http://www.muttsandstuff.com/detail.php?aid=620>

11. Conclusion:

HSUS reported that it raised \$1.2 million from the “Animal Survivors Fund” campaign.

http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=264312588661&comments#/humanesociety?v=feed&story_fbid=262196180118

Fay passed away on 12/28/09 after completing one of her needed surgeries. HSUS continued to feature images of the dog on its Web site and fundraising materials through January 2010.

http://www.humanesociety.org/news/news/2009/12/farewell_fay.html

Will the \$1.2 million raised by HSUS go towards supporting animal shelters? Or will it be used to further the group’s other campaigns, such as its intensive “End Factory Farming” campaign?

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/factory_farming