

PROPOSITION B: DECEIVING THE PUBLIC

By Karen Strange

Proposition B that faces Missouri voters in November is not about dog breeders as the Humane Society of the United States would have us believe, but rather an attack against all agriculture and our freedoms of personal property rights. Never before has Missouri been in the crosshairs of such a viral organization bent on destroying our food sources and the enjoyment of animals in our daily lives.

Parading as an animal protection organization, HSUS is anything but a protector of animals. Instead, their radical agenda threatens our way of life, including the eating of meat, wearing of leather, wildlife management by hunting, fishing and trapping, benefits of medical research, and the enjoyment of family pets.

During the 1990's, the group completed its transformation from an animal welfare organization to embracing animal rights, changing its personnel in the process to include dozens of staffers from PETA and other animal rights organizations, including John "J.P." Goodwin, a convicted felon and former member and spokesman of the Animal Liberation Front. In 2004, HSUS promoted vice-president Wayne Pacelle to the position of President, gaining its first strictly vegan leader who immediately assembled an array of meat and dairy abolitionists to focus on farm animals and the destruction of agriculture. Among those was Paul Shapiro, co-founder of *Compassion Over Killing*, who became the manager of the new "Factory Farming Campaign". Just prior to joining HSUS, Shapiro stated at the 2004 National Student Animal Rights Conference that "nothing is more important than promoting veganism".

HSUS is a master at deceiving the public into thinking that their \$19 per month donations actually helps animals. Nothing could be further from the truth. Buried deep within its website, HSUS has a disclaimer that it "is not affiliated with, nor is it a parent organization for, local humane societies, animal shelters, or animal care and control agencies. These are independent organizations. HSUS does not operate or have direct control over any animal shelter."

Why then is HSUS targeting Missouri's dog industry for the 2010 November election? Wayne Pacelle has profoundly stated that ballot initiatives "pay dividends and serve as a training ground for activists" and "that ballot initiatives would be used for all manners of legislation in the future".

Since its inception, HSUS has worked to limit the choices of American consumers by reducing their consumption of meat and egg products, opposing dog breeding, restricting livestock and poultry production, preventing their enjoyment of animals in circuses, zoos, aquariums, and eliminating hunting, fishing and trapping.

HSUS ignores the fact that Missouri enacted the Animal Care Facilities Act in 1992, and that a full 88% of all licensed breeders are in compliance with state laws. They ignore the fact that Missouri has some of the most regulated dog breeders in the nation, and that there is a huge demand for puppies raised in clean, healthy environments by breeders who receive continuing education hours in kennel management, nutrition, pre- and post-natal care, ventilation, the latest in medical care and treatment, socialization, proper structure, sanitation and a myriad of additional information in order to raise the best possible healthy and happy puppies for the consumer.

Instead, **Proposition B** is solely aimed at eliminating a viable industry in the state of Missouri in order to fulfill the animal rights agenda of prohibiting dog breeding. **Prop B** has

nothing to do with animals and everything to do with limiting the number of breeding dogs one may own regardless of the excellent care they receive along with requiring such stringent space requirements that, according to the Missouri Department of Agriculture ACFA Program Coordinator, Matt Rold, “no legal, licensed breeder currently operating in the state of Missouri can comply.”

Prop B does nothing to address those who collect dogs but do not breed them, nor does it address those who are operating illegally and do not follow current laws. Thousands of dogs can continue to live in horrible conditions in unlicensed facilities but **Prop B** will not affect them. Stacked enclosures commonly used by professional breeders to aid in cleanliness and sanitation will be prohibited while shelters, rescues and humane societies will be allowed to continue usage. The Agriculture Department rather than licensed veterinarians will be charged with limiting the breeding frequency of dogs, and licensed veterinarians will be required to treat any illness or injury, no matter how minor. It will be a misdemeanor crime for each and every violation incurred, including something as minor as a drop of food in a water bowl or a cobweb in the corner of a kennel building.

The full intent of **Prop B** is to eliminate the legal, licensed professional pet breeder industry and to limit free enterprise. If enacted, the ballot initiative will eliminate over 1460 licensed, professional agriculture operations in our state. The costs will be enormous as feed stores, supply companies, veterinarians, groomers, and all businesses related to pet ownership will see a strong decrease in business. As professional breeders are forced out of business due to unattainable requirements in **Prop B**, many will lose their family farms and employment, resulting in decreased property values and lost taxes for local communities.

HSUS and their allies in the animal rights movement do not have the best interest of animals in mind with their propaganda and misconceptions about **Prop B**. Instead, they fully intend to use donations from the sympathetic public to pass the ballot initiative against Missouri’s dog breeding industry and to move to the next goal of eliminating agriculture as we know it.