



HSUS: Keeping Fundraisers Flush

We've written before about some of the questionable fundraising tactics that the Humane Society of the United States employs. It's not just that one firm hired by HSUS has been caught hiring ex-cons with crimes relating to honesty, or that one firm was recently exposed by Bloomberg, or that another firm was exposed by CNN, or that another had entered into settlements with states following allegations of improper actions. It's also that some firms—with HSUS's agreement—apparently have employed deceptive tactics by misleading potential donors about how much of their contribution would go to charity.

In reality, much of the money raised by HSUS telemarketing campaigns has gone to the fundraiser. For years, HSUS used Share Group, which raised over \$12 million on HSUS's behalf—and the fundraiser kept 93 percent of it. Now we have two recent campaign reports to share with you.

According to filings with North Carolina, Donor Services Group raised \$1,392,791 for a year-long HSUS campaign. Only 6 percent—\$88,689—actually went to HSUS. That's probably enough to cover the salary of only one of HSUS's dozens of staff attorneys. Meanwhile, a campaign by PDR II on behalf of HSUS raised \$233,598, with only \$16,911, or 7 percent, going to HSUS.

According to the New York Attorney General, in 2011 telemarketing campaigns in the state resulted in 39 percent of funds raised going to charity. We're fairly confident that figure is similar to the national average—which would place HSUS well below average with its aforementioned campaigns.

HSUS? Bad practices? We can't say we're surprised. But the donors who gave money over the phone thinking they were helping animals, when HSUS knows most of that money will go to telemarketers, surely would be.

Posted on 02/08/2013 at 03:22 PM by the HumaneWatch Team <http://tinyurl.com/b5d3jf9>

Type 1 Diabetes Cured in Dogs for the First Time, Paving the Way for Humans

Researchers from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) have cured type 1 diabetes in dogs for the first time. The finding is significant because it paves the way for a potential and safe treatment to the disease in humans. The cure uses a single session of gene therapy that led to complete remission of type 1 diabetes symptoms that persisted for 4 years in the dogs.

The researchers injected dogs with gene therapy vectors in their hind legs, using simple needles that results in expressing the insulin gene in addition to the enzyme glucokinase that regulates glucose levels in the blood. The injections serve two purposes – one is to ‘sense’ blood sugar levels and the second is to keep blood sugar levels from becoming too high.

The study, led by Fátima Bosch, is the first to use gene therapy to cure type 1 diabetes in large animals that was previously tested in mice.

The results mean help for dogs with diabetes. But it also opens the door for treating patients with the disease.

Dogs treated with the gene therapy maintained glucose control after eating and when fasting. There were no episodes of hypoglycemia, which is better than insulin therapy. Blood sugar levels stayed normal even with exercise.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease that can mean repeated insulin injections, frequent blood sugar testing and interference with activities.

The disease can also lead to complications later in life that are worse for patients diagnosed at the youngest age.

In the study, dogs did not develop any complications of diabetes. The next step will be veterinary testing on companion animals in clinical trials.

Researchers say the therapy is safe and involves the transfer of two genes into the muscles of large animals using new generation adeno-associated vectors. The finding is published in the journal *Diabetes*.

The authors say the finding can be translated to humans once more studies are done on animals. Curing type 1 diabetes in dogs is a major advance that we can hope means a cure for diabetic humans in the not too distant future. *Source: Diabetes journal February 1, 2013*

Butterball Named N.C. Exporter of the Year

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services named Garner-based Butterball as the 2013 N.C. Exporter of the Year. “From 2009 to 2011, we saw turkey exports nearly double in North Carolina,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Butterball makes up a significant percentage of those exports and is deserving of this honor.”

Company representatives were recognized at a presentation during the annual Ag Development Forum at the State Fairgrounds Jan. 31. The Exporter of the Year award acknowledges agribusinesses that have excelled in exporting agricultural products around the world.

Butterball, exports more than 100 million pounds of turkey products to more than 50 countries annually. In addition, the company develops new products that cater to international markets and customs. As a result, Butterball is able to export 15 percent of its annual volume through products the U.S. market cannot absorb. Joel Coleman, general manager of international sales, and Scott Singleton, international sales manager, accepted the award on behalf of Butterball. For more information about N.C. ag exports, go to the website for the NCDA&CS International Trade Office at <http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/international>.

Hemangiosarcoma Study

SRCBST: dose-finding for a ligand targeted toxin to treat hemangiosarcoma

Current Status: Active and enrolling

Principal Investigator: [Jaime Modiano](#), VMD, PhD

Co-Investigators: [Antonella Borgatti](#), DVM, DACVIM; Mike Henson, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

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Hemangiosarcoma (HSA) is a type of sarcoma that is difficult to treat because of its aggressive behavior and rapid progression after diagnosis. We have shown that a bispecific targeted toxin (sarcoma bispecific targeted toxin, or SRCBST) is safe in other species and that it can kill hemangiosarcoma cells in the laboratory. This is a dose-finding trial to determine the safest dose of SRCBST which is still effective. Results of this study will provide information to develop a therapy for both dogs and humans with this incurable disease.

Dogs eligible for the study:

- diagnosed with HSA
- spleen removed by surgery either prior to study or at the Veterinary Medical Center
- no evidence of metastasis (on chest x-ray, ultrasound and/or seen during surgery)
- no concurrent kidney, liver or heart disease, or problems with blood clotting
- no previous chemotherapy (prednisone is ok), cyclophosphamides, or alternative medications*
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The study involves:

- PET-CT prior to start of treatment. This imaging will allow us to look for micro-metastasis but will not exclude dogs if any are found. We will transport the dog to the Mpls campus Center for Clinical Imaging Research (CCIR), perform the PET-CT under general anesthesia, then return the dog to the VMC. CIC staff will remain with the dog throughout this procedure.
- Day 1, 3, 6 visit the VMC for SRCBST administration and follow up blood testing
- Day 8 recheck visit
- Day 21 - chemotherapy begins, continues for total of 5 treatments, 3 weeks apart
- Month 6 follow up
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The study covers the costs of prescreening diagnostics, study visits day 1-8, study drug, PET-CT and blood sampling. The owner is responsible for the initial oncology exam fee. The covered costs are equivalent to approximately \$3800-\$9560 in value. In addition, the study covers up to \$3300 of chemotherapy treatment, which will be most if not all of the cost.

**Herbal medications such as Yunnan Bai Yao will have to be stopped prior to enrollment.*

Actor James Cromwell Arrested

February 8, 2013. Film and television star, James Cromwell, was arrested in Wisconsin after protesting animal testing at a university meeting on Thursday. The 73-year-old actor disrupted a Board of Regents meeting at the University of Wisconsin over claims that the school tortures cats. Cromwell entered the meeting carrying a large poster of a cat with a metal clamp implanted on its head, and shouted, "As many as 30 cats a year at UW have had holes drilled in their skulls ... They are deafened, starved for days at a time and then decapitated. This is not science. This is torture. And it is criminal."

Cromwell and fellow animal rights activist, PETA spokesman Jeremy Beckham, were arrested on a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct, but released from jail by Thursday afternoon, according to The Associated Press.

"Today's events are just another attempt by outside activists to draw attention to the cause," said UW-Madison Research Animal Resources Center in a statement. "They have attacked and distorted this research—which has very real benefits for people who are deaf—from every angle imaginable. Exhaustive independent investigation by the USDA, which regulates the use of animals in research, concluded that PETA's allegations are baseless." The school denies PETA's accusations that dozens of cats a year have been starved, deafened, and decapitated for brain research purposes. *Sources: Christian Post, People Pets, AP*

PETA Seeks NASCAR Sponsorship

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), an animal right group, is seeking to get into NASCAR and to do so in a big way. By having their brand on the car driven by NASCAR's most popular driver, Dale Earnhardt Jr. Earnhardt does not have a sponsor signed for several races on the 2013 schedule, and PETA has taken note of the missing sponsorship and written Earnhardt about those races. Here's a portion of the letter signed by Michelle Cho Associate Director, PETA:

Dear Dale,

I hope this message finds you well. You can count all of us here at PETA—the world's largest animal protection organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters—among your many fans who will be cheering you on this racing season. I'm writing today after reading that sponsorship this season is at a low because I hope that you'll consider using the available space on your beautiful car as an opportunity to spread a lifesaving spay-and-neuter message that would spare countless dogs and cats in your home state tremendous suffering.

In North Carolina, PETA's Community Animal Project rescues local animals directly—crawling through sewers, poking through junkyards, climbing trees, dodging cars, and coaxing terrified strays to safety. We go into the very poorest of neighborhoods to deliver food, doghouses, and straw bedding to neglected animals who have never known a kind word or touch. And we don't give up. Our fieldworkers return to check on the animals and replace old bedding, check the doghouses, and make sure that the animals have food and water....

While we cannot verify PETA's claims of working in NC's neighborhoods, it is well-known that PETA is proficient at filing lawsuits and sending letters to the press to push their twisted agenda.

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.

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