



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

McMaster Named Humane Society National Law Enforcement Official Of The Year

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 13, 2006) -The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) today is honoring South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster for his efforts to combat illegal animal fighting in his state. The Attorney General will receive the inaugural Humane Law Enforcement Official of the Year Award for 2005 at the City of Columbia Animal Shelter at 11 a.m.

"Attorney General Henry McMaster is setting a standard for all other attorneys general across the country to attain when it comes to aggressive enforcement of animal fighting laws, and pushing for more stringent penalties," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States.

Presenting the plaque on behalf of Mr. Pacelle will be Ann Chynoweth, director of The HSUS Animal Cruelty and Fighting Campaign. "Attorney General McMaster has treated animal cruelty with the gravity that it deserves and sent a signal to those who engage in barbaric practices like cockfighting, dog fighting and hog-dog fighting that they will be held accountable," said Chynoweth. "The HSUS is proud to be able to present this award to the Attorney General for tackling this often neglected area of law enforcement," she added.

Highlights of Attorney General McMaster's actions against animal fighting during his tenure:

- Creation of a statewide task force to combat animal fighting and criminal activity that accompanies these cruel practices such as drug and weapon trafficking, illegal gambling, and violence, and dedicated a SLED (State Law Enforcement Department) agent, an assistant attorney general and an investigator to animal fighting cases.
- In November 2004, a Charleston County Circuit Court judge sentenced David Tant, one of the nation's largest breeders of fighting dogs, to 40 years in prison-10 years for creating a booby trap on his property that led to a surveyor being shot and wounded, and 30 years in prison on six counts of criminal animal fighting.
- Oversaw the prosecution of Art Parker, a national organizer of hog dogfights. Parker was eventually acquitted, but McMaster's efforts in bringing the case to trial inspired the introduction of legislation that would close the loopholes defense lawyers have used to protect hog dog fighters. Demonstrating the

tenacity that has made him an effective public figure, Henry McMaster declared that this trial was an aberration and other animal fighters could expect to be prosecuted.

"Laws are only valuable if they are adequately and meaningfully enforced," Pacelle said. "Attorney General McMaster has set an example for his colleagues across the country by demonstrating zero tolerance for vicious acts of animal cruelty."

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization with 9.5 million members and constituents. The HSUS is a mainstream voice for animals, with active programs in companion animals and equine protection, disaster preparedness and response, wildlife and habitat protection, animals in research and farm animal welfare. The HSUS protects all animals through education, investigation, litigation, legislation, advocacy, and field work. The non-profit organization is based in Washington and has field representatives and offices across the country. On the web at: www.hsus.org