



## **Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund Honor U.S. Rep. Smith for Animal Welfare Leadership in 2011**

WASHINGTON (March 7, 2012) — On behalf of its 37,046 supporters in the 4th district of New Jersey, The Humane Society of the United States, together with its affiliate, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, will present an award to U.S. Rep. Christopher H. Smith R-N.J. for his leadership on animal protection legislation in 2011.

Rep. Smith will receive a Humane Champion award for earning a perfect score on the 2011 Humane Scorecard and for his leadership on the animal welfare enforcement funding letter for Agriculture Appropriations, and pet theft/Class B dealers.

“Rep. Smith has been a prominent voice in the U.S. Congress for safeguarding animals against abuse and advancing their protection,” said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. “We are deeply grateful for his being such a stalwart champion and consistent friend in our efforts to create a more humane world.”

Every year, the Humane Society Legislative Fund compiles a federal [Humane Scorecard](#) to provide a snapshot of animal protection issues considered by the U.S. Congress and give animal advocates a tool to assess the performance of their Senators and Representatives. The scorecard tracks key votes as well as co-sponsorship of important pro-animal bills and signing an annual letter seeking funds needed to enforce key animal welfare laws. For 2011, House ratings included votes on agribusiness subsidies, lethal predator control, and the Endangered Species Act, and co-sponsorship of priority bills on puppy mills, horse slaughter, animal fighting, and chimpanzees warehoused in laboratories.

In total, 127 legislators – nearly one-third of the Senate and one-quarter of the House (representing 38 states, 3 U. S. territories, and the District of Columbia) – will receive awards for their work in 2011. To see the complete list of 2011 awardees, please click [here](#).

“It is heartening to see again how animal protection issues bring Members of Congress together across party lines,” said HSLF President Michael Markarian. “We thank Rep. Smith for his outstanding work to ensure that our federal laws reflect the core humane values and attitudes of American society.”

HSUS and HSLF will present the award at a reception on Wednesday, March 7 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm in Room H-137 of the U.S. Capitol.

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*The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization — backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — On the web at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org).*

*The Humane Society Legislative Fund is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States. The HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office. On the web at [hslf.org](http://hslf.org).*