A deepened connection

A LIFELONG LOUISIANAN, Ray de Gravelle grew up surrounded by animals—from dogs to ducks and cats to cattle. When it came time to select a college major, forestry and wildlife was a logical choice, and Ray subsequently spent five years running a state park.

He traded careers for one in the office and school supply business, but his concern for the well-being of animals continued to deepen. The hunting he once enjoyed lost its appeal after so much on-the-job exposure to wildlife, and today Ray cringes at the thought of any animal suffering or exploitation. “I feel that man can coexist with animals, but much, much more awareness and respect for those animals must take place,” he says. “Otherwise, more and more species will become extinct.”

Ray and wife Claudia, a retired schoolteacher, support several animal-related causes, but the Humane Society of the United States was first. “When I read its mission statement,” Ray says, “I realized that the goals were aligned almost exactly with my own.” The de Gravelles share the HSUS’s commitment to eliminating the largest, most egregious forms of animal cruelty, including puppy mills, elephant and seal slaughter, extreme confinement of farm animals and the raising of companion animals for their meat and fur.

The couple eventually decided to include a gift to the HSUS in their will. “What better way could we put a stamp on our final wishes,” Ray reflects, “than by donating a part of our estate to such a worthwhile cause?”

→ LEARN MORE: It’s easy to create your own legacy for animals. Contact the Planned Giving team at 800-808-7858 or humanelegacy@humanesociety.org, or visit humanesociety.org/legacy.
my rounds of cleaning and feeding, I made sure to spend time with each animal,” she says, “to give them the love and affection I’d want for my own pets if I were in the place of their owners.

Those affected by the Camp Fire will deal its aftermath for years to come. Although animal care was just one need among many, ensuring a pet’s safety amid their owner’s trauma is a service the HSUS was glad to provide. It makes me proud to work for such an organization.”

→ LEARN MORE: Read about the work of the Animal Rescue Team at humanesociety.org/animal-rescue.

The HSUS to the rescue

WHEN CALIFORNIA’S DEADLY CAMP FIRE erupted in late 2018, the Humane Society of the United States’ Animal Rescue Team was called to action. Animal Rescue Team responders consolidated four temporary shelters into one semi-permanent facility, where they worked with local agencies to provide food, shelter and veterinary care for more than 1,900 displaced animals. Most animals were owned pets being temporarily sheltered so their owners could focus on immediate needs, such as finding housing.

Sara Exler, a member of the HSUS Planned Giving team, took leave from her regular duties to deploy to Butte County, California, with rescue team members. “As I did

A gift that pays you back

CREATING A MORE HUMANE WORLD can benefit you, too. Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) offer a way to create a legacy for animals now and receive payments for life, in exchange for a gift of at least $10,000 in cash or appreciated securities to the Humane Society of the United States.

The rate of the payments is determined by age. Part of the donation is tax-deductible, and part of the payments could be tax-free. Rates are set by the American Council on Gift Annuities and are subject to change.

→ LEARN MORE: To receive a customized illustration to review with your financial adviser, please contact your regional planned giving representative, listed on the other side, or you can explore humanesociety.org/giftannuities.