the HSUS and its affiliates,” she says. “Raising awareness and improving lives for animals is my passion, and the HSUS is best positioned to continue to move the animal welfare movement forward.

“Every action on behalf of animals that we take—whether it be a phone call to state and federal representatives, a letter to the editor, speaking up for animals in our communities or including a gift of any amount to the HSUS in your will—has ripple effects far beyond what we can see.”

The HSUS is grateful for Karen and many others like her who support the organization through their estate plans.

→ LEARN MORE: To create your own legacy for animals, contact the HSUS Planned Giving team, smbaughan@humanesociety.org or 1-800-808-7858, or visit humanesociety.org/legacy.

Humane Legacy

AS A CITIZEN LOBBYIST and monthly donor to the Humane Society of the United States for more than a decade, there’s much that Floridian Karen Greb has done to advance animal welfare. She gathered signatures and called voters for landmark farm animal legislation in California and Massachusetts. As a two-time participant in Florida’s Lobby Day and the national Taking Action for Animals conference, she sharpened her skills and deployed them in state and federal legislators’ offices. She capped it all off in 2018 by serving on the core committee that successfully led the charge to ban greyhound racing in Florida—a probable tipping point for ending the practice in the U.S., if not the world.

Recently, Karen added another role to her advocate resume: Humane Legacy Society member. “My two beloved and very spoiled cats are my only children, and I plan to leave the bulk of my estate to the HSUS and its affiliates,” she says. “Raising awareness and improving lives for animals is my passion, and the HSUS is best positioned to continue to move the animal welfare movement forward.

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Gaining traction in the fight against puppy mills

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES fights the biggest fights for all animals, including those raised in puppy mills—inhumane, large-scale breeding facilities where profit takes precedence over health and welfare. Minimum standards of care are woefully low, and facilities are rarely inspected. As a result, the puppies (sold at premium prices) are often sick and unsocialized, and their parents are abandoned or killed when their breeding days end.

An estimated 10,000 puppy mills exist in the U.S., resulting in two million dogs sold from puppy mills each year. Puppy mills persist because they are, for the most part, legal. Additionally, many shoppers aren’t aware that most puppies sold in stores and online come from such deplorable conditions.

The HSUS is making significant progress to end this shameful practice, as evidenced by recently passed legislation at state and local levels.

In Ohio, home to some of the most notorious puppy mills, a tough new law that took effect in the fall of 2018 requires daily exercise, larger living spaces, annual vet exams, temperature-regulated kennels and a phase-out of wire flooring. Such improvements could have meant a better start in life for Floof, a Pomeranian-Chihuahua mix who was rescued from a repeat offender in the HSUS’s yearly “Horrible Hundred” report. Floof now spends his days happily in the company of HSUS senior editorial director Carrie Allan.

Reducing the availability of retail outlets for these pets also provides a critical weapon in the fight. On January 1, 2019, California became the first state in the nation to require that all dogs, cats and rabbits offered for sale in pet stores must come from animal shelters or nonprofit rescue organizations; Maryland will enact a similar law in 2020.

On the local level, our work has led to 290 ordinances banning or imposing restrictions on the sale of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. In Florida, Georgia and Michigan, we defeated multiple attempts by the retail pet industry to ban these ordinances. Such laws will dramatically reduce the trafficking of mill-bred animals into pet stores—and pave the way to the day when puppy mills are a thing of the past.

LEARN MORE: Find out how to join the fight against puppy mills at humanesociety.org/puppymills.

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.

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Rates effective 7/1/2018; subject to change. Please note that the HSUS does not offer gift annuities for residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii or North Dakota.