

THE SACRAMENTO BEE [sacbee.com](http://sacbee.com)



DISCUSSIONS   PET CONNECTION   EVENTS   CLASSIFIEDS   RESOURCES   FACEBOOK

Sign up for The SacPaws Newsletter   Enter your e-mail address

Sign up

## Our ties with



**Paul Turner / Humane Society of the United States**

Wayne Pacelle and one of his many critter friends.

### More Information

- **WAYNE PACELLE PRESENTATION**  
The author and Humane Society chief will speak and sign copies of his new book, "The Bond," at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Borders, 2339 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento; (916) 564-0168.

More on [sacbee.com](http://sacbee.com)

powered by [Lingospot](http://Lingospot)

**The Swarm opinion blog:  
Fish and Game Commission  
head says defiantly he won't  
resign**

3 weeks, 1 day ago



**Editorial: Self-inflicted wound  
for chief of wildlife board**

3 weeks, 2 days ago





**Dan Walters: Both left and right in California want automatons in office**  
3 weeks, 3 days ago

# animals - sometimes heartwarming, other times horrific

By Allen Pierleoni

apierleoni@sacbee.com

Published: Monday, Jun. 20, 2011 - 12:00 am | Page 1D

Last Modified: Sunday, Jun. 26, 2011 - 11:54 am

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, contends that a bond exists between mankind and other animals – one that we have broken by betraying and exploiting animals in cruel and careless ways.

He details this position (and others) in the very readable "The Bond: Our Kinship With Animals, Our Call To Defend Them" (William Morrow, \$26.99, 448 pages).

Since assuming the helm of the Humane Society in 2004, Pacelle, 45, has taken it to record membership (11 million) and made it a major political force.

Pacelle lives in Washington, D.C., but ceaselessly travels on business. I caught up with him in Las Vegas.

**Las Vegas is hardly known for its progressive stance on animal rights.**

That's slowly changing. (Billionaire real estate developer) Steve Wynn has become deeply interested in animal issues, for instance. He had vegan menus added to all of the restaurants in his hotels, an amazing thing.

**What about your own diet?**

I have been a vegan for 26 years, but the Humane Society is broad-minded when it comes to food. About 95 percent of our members are not vegetarian.

But I believe eating is a moral act, and we can make choices to minimize the suffering of (food) animals. We can buy cage-free eggs, buy pork that doesn't come from factory farms, and avoid eating veal and foie gras.

**Your book is about the bond between people and animals.**

There is a bond built into every one of us that gives us a head start in doing the right thing for animals, which is more fully expressed in some of us than in others. For myself, the bond was just part of my emotional outlook; I didn't have one special moment that was a wake-up call.

Beginning as a child, I had a deep connection with animals, and more than just the love of my dogs. I drew pictures of animals, read books about them, and all the encyclopedias in our home were dog-eared to the animal entries. "Wild Kingdom" was my favorite TV show.

In our society, the mistreatment of animals has become "normalized," but I've never accepted that.

**Do you have pets now?**

I've had pets throughout my life. One of my cats just passed away. She was 16. Her sister is still with me, though. I really want to get dogs, but I travel so much it would be a permanent dog-sitting situation.

**Where does the Humane Society stand on hunting?**

Our program is about responsible hunting and curbing the worst excesses and the most inhumane and unsporting practices.

Sportfishing is not an issue, unless someone did something horrible, like dynamiting fish. Most of the work we've done in the marine realm has been protecting marine mammals and seabirds.

**What's the most pressing issue right now?**

Factory farming, because of the number of animals caught up in the system. About 10 billion animals are killed for food in America

every year, and 65 billion globally, and a large share are raised on factory farms. It's not just an issue of slaughter, but one of lifelong confinement and misery.

### Because of your efforts, California voters passed the Prevention of Farm Cruelty Act in 2008, which becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2015.

Proposition 2 will stop the confinement of veal calves, breeding sows and 20 million laying hens, and was a defining moment for us and the nation. It got more votes than any citizen ballot initiative in California history, which validated the principle that, while people accept the idea of eating animals for food, they don't want them mistreated.

It was a wake-up moment for so many industries (nationwide) that deal with animals.

### Does the Humane Society have a relationship with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals?

We're on a different scale. PETA tries to be provocative and influence the culture, while we deliberately try to be mainstream in view, but not in action.

We take a different tactical approach. For instance, we don't say you must be vegan and we must stop all hunting. We're working to curb the worst abuses and we're very involved in the political realm.

Recommend

Be the first  
of your

© Copyright The Sacramento Bee. All rights reserved.

Call The Bee's Allen Pierleoni, (916) 321-1128.

- Read more articles by Allen Pierleoni

### About Comments

Reader comments on Sacbee.com are the opinions of the writer, not The Sacramento Bee. If you see an objectionable comment, click the "Report Abuse" link below it. We will delete comments containing inappropriate links, obscenities, hate speech, and personal attacks. Flagrant or repeat violators will be banned. See more about comments here.

Like

Comments for this page are closed.

### Showing 7 comments

Sort by newest first



**Kimber Kneeland**

Wayne Pacelle is a murdered.

06/23/2011 09:59 AM Report Abuse

Like



**LocalGirl1976**

If cannot bond with an animal you have something wrong with you. All the people that I know who dont have a close tie to an animal have tendancies to be a cruel self obsorbed cold human beings.

06/22/2011 03:51 PM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like



**fearnot**

It is so confusing..write a book called The Bond .. when you have said this:

"I don't have a hands-on fondness for animals...To this day I don't feel bonded to any non-human animal. I like them and I pet them and I'm kind to them, but there's no special bond between me and other animals." Wayne Pacelle quoted in *Bloodties: Nature, Culture and the Hunt* by Ted Kerasote, 1993, p. 251.

06/20/2011 04:43 PM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like



**fearnot**

If we could shut down all sport hunting in a moment, we would." Wayne Pacelle, Senior VP Humane Society of the US (HSUS), formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Associated Press, Dec 30, 1991

I assume that includes sport fishing or maybe this is what he meant:

"We are going to use the ballot box and the democratic process to stop all hunting in the United States ... We will take it species by species until all hunting is stopped in California. Then we will take it state by state. Wayne Pacelle, Senior VP Humane Society of the US (HSUS), formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Full Cry Magazine, October 1, 1990.

06/20/2011 04:42 PM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like



**eggindustryreporter**

I would like to respond to Daniel K. Wilson's comment. Not because I hold any ill feelings for him, but because he is like a lot of people who, unfortunately, just don't know. He said, "So the worst abuses (meaning those rare, hideous cases of unthinkably severe abuse by one or more deranged psychopaths that pop up in the news every once in a while) are worth fighting against, ----" The truth is, Daniel, that abuses to laying hens for example is happening in all complex egg production operations all over the world if we think about the word, abuse, and the context in which it is used today. I was in the egg industry for 40 years primarily in sales management and management consulting. I traveled to all regions of the U.S., and I had direct experience with large egg production complexes ("factory farms"). They all crowd laying hens in cages. They all have their share of hens being caught in conveyor belts and then causing egg jams, hens living in cages with dead birds that were not removed before becoming "crispies," hens being handled rough when being removed at the end of lay, hens being subjected to very cold temperatures in winter if they happen to be caged at the end of the house, hens jumping on each other when scared by a varmint or a person doing something mechanical and making loud noises, etc. And then there are the many cases when thousands of hens are burned alive when the house catches on fire and the birds are trapped. Several this year already. The latest one in Canada. No, Daniel, it is not just deranged psychopaths, and the egg producers are not purposely trying to hurt their chickens in most cases. They just have a system which many people today are calling abuse. Their system is what it is. Most people live in cities today and do not know where their food comes from or how it is produced. But that is changing. More and more people are wanting to know more about their food, especially after food-borne illness episodes which seem to be happening more and more frequently. It is going to be very interesting to watch the egg industry and others to see how they change over the next 10 or 20 years.

06/20/2011 02:51 PM 3 Likes Report Abuse

Like



**Daniel K. Wilson**

You're kidding, right Wayne? Sportfishing and most hunting are not issues with you? I'm pretty sure that to be vegan is to be against the unnecessary exploitation, suffering and slaughter of ALL animals, not just some of them. So the worst abuses (meaning those rare, hideous cases of unthinkably severe abuse by one or more deranged psychopaths that pop up in the news every once in a while) are worth fighting against, but the everyday, normal, socially acceptable abuses (like killing animals for fun or food) are not (unless they're in factory farms). Nice. And why do you campaign to protect veal calves and geese, but draw the line at non-factory farmed chickens and pigs? Oh yeah, because 95% of your members - the ones who eat animals - are paying your salary! Of course, it all makes sense now.

06/20/2011 01:45 PM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like



**fearnot**

My dead mother must be one of the 11 million "members" that Wayne speaks of. She STILL gets all of junk that HSUS sends to clog up the mailboxes. sadly the junk goes straight to the trash where it in turn clogs up the dump..and she was not a vegetarian .. although I am sure she was never polled on the issue by HSUS so i am not sure how Pacelle knows what percentage of his "members" ( anyone who ever gets sucked in it seems) are not vegans.. perhaps he has special powers.

i also travel a great deal.. i know airline pilots and train engineers who travel.. all mangle to have dogs.. many of them rescues. is there something wrong with a dog stiiing situation as opposed to death in a "shelter".. my friends dogs don;t think so .. in fact they don't seem to mind at all.

Wayne is a charlatan.. and a slick salesman you have to give him that.. but HSUS helping animals.. not if you think they are giving money to help puppies

3/26/12

Our ties with animals - sometimes heartwarming, other times horrific - Sac Paws - The Sacramento Bee



and kitties.. they don't..

[www.humanewatch.org](http://www.humanewatch.org).

PS is there anyone who DID NOT draw pictures of animals as a young child.. oh .. hmm thought not..

06/20/2011 11:36 AM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like

 [Subscribe by email](#)  [RSS](#)

Real-time updating is **enabled**.

**[Need an IRS Tax Attorney?](#)**

Resolve your IRS back tax debt now! No upfront fees.

[IRSBackTaxDebt.com/IRSTaxAttorney](http://IRSBackTaxDebt.com/IRSTaxAttorney)

**[Find Apartments Online](#)**

Get free access to apartments. Find apartments & rent

[www.MyNewPlace.com](http://www.MyNewPlace.com)

**[Bee Control](#)**

Looking For Bee Control? Find It Nearby With Local.com!

[Local.com](http://Local.com)

Ads by Yahoo!