

Friends of Animals has been working to free animals from cruelty and institutionalized exploitation around the world since 1957. **Here's everything we did in 2025.**

Spay / Neuter



This year, FoA gifted over \$35,000 worth of free spay/neuter certificates to help combat pet homelessness in Maine, North Carolina, and New York.

Friends of Animals expanded our commitment to relieving the pet homelessness crisis by hosting four spay and neuter certificate giveaways.

In addition to administering the nation's largest lower-cost spay and neuter program, we also gave away over \$35,000 worth of certificates to residents in need.

Across these promotions, nearly 400 households received certificates, ensuring their pets would receive the care they deserve, regardless of financial barriers.

As more veterinary practices are bought up by large corporations and skyrocketing prices are putting breeding control out of reach, our imperative is keeping spay and neuter services accessible ensuring affordable care is always available.



Lawsuits

Silverspot Butterfly

We joined together with WildEarth Guardians and Western Watersheds Projects in filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for its failure to protect the imperiled silverspot butterflies.

Once abundant across wet mountain meadows in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah, silverspots are in jeopardy. Following a legal petition to list the butterflies under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), FWS decided to list them as threatened rather than endangered, meaning they failed to provide the full safeguards the species needs. This weaker protection still leaves butterflies vulnerable to ongoing threats from mowing, sheep and cattle grazing, and development. In doing so, the service refused to designate critical habitat for the butterflies.

Our lawsuit pushes for an endangered listing for silverspot butterflies and stronger habitat protections so that they have a real chance of recovering.

Barred Owls

We've filed a lawsuit against the U.S. FWS to stop the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of barred owls. **We're fighting this misguided government plan not just for the lives of barred owls, but also for a future of wildlife conservation that values the lives of all animals.** Labeling animals who naturally adapt to a changing environment as "invasive" and killing them is dead wrong, especially in a world with a rapidly changing climate!



Lawsuits cont.



Cetaceans

Captivity robs intelligent, social whales, dolphins, and porpoises of the dynamic, complex, and expansive habitat and relationships they experience in the wild. That's why **FoA filed a lawsuit challenging the National Marine Fisheries Service's denial of its legal rulemaking petition to restrict the import, export, and exploitation of cetaceans for public display and entertainment in the U.S.** A change in what people view as family entertainment is long overdue!

Wild Horses

It is a national disgrace that there are now more wild horses in captivity—59,622—than roaming free. There are only 53,797 wild horses left on federal public lands.

When the Bureau of Land Management issued a decision to round up and remove thousands of wild horses in Wyoming's Checkerboard area, Friends of Animals acted quickly and filed a lawsuit challenging that decision. **Following FoA's lawsuit, BLM cancelled the roundup of nearly 2,000 wild horses that was scheduled for this area in 2025.**

In nearby Colorado, FoA wanted Coloradoans to know the truth about the state's wild horses, so we launched an awareness campaign. Our first billboard went up on Highway 36! There are a measly 1,516 wild horses left in Colorado on 365,988 acres of land. The real issue lies with the meat industry's grip on our public lands.

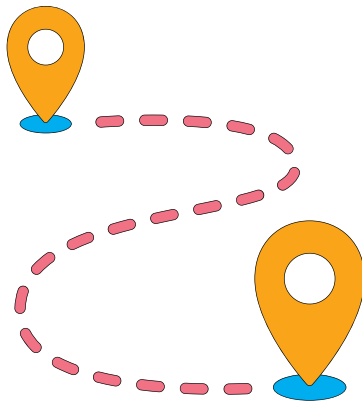
"What the BLM and ranchers are doing to wild horses is criminal"

- Priscilla Feral, FoA President



Making a

Friends of Animals strives to set an example for other states, showing them that legislation which protects animals is not only effective but necessary.



roadmap
for other states

Horseshoe Crabs

Since FoA led the charge to make it illegal to kill horseshoe crabs for bait in Connecticut, other states—including, **New York, Massachusetts and Delaware**—are trying to do the same. We expect to win a ban in NY, which halts their decimation in Long Island Sound. We are assisting legislators and advocates who have sought our help in drafting legislation, lobbying and raising awareness.



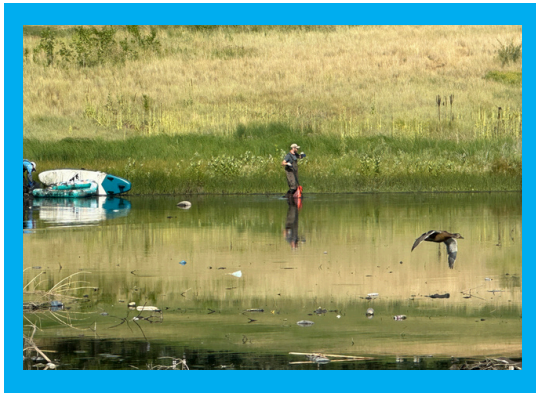
Banning SGAR's

Likewise, our ongoing efforts to ban the use and sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in Connecticut has inspired advocates in Chicago, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Jersey to follow suit. FoA also partnered with Wisdom Good Works and the town of Fairfield, Connecticut to help launch a **rodent birth control pilot program**.

The outdoor setting of the transfer station in Fairfield is similar to the Jamaica Plain neighborhood in Boston, where WGW was able to reduce the population by a sustained 56% within five months and 72% at month 10—all while safeguarding wildlife.

Colorado cleanups

Our Colorado Cleanup Crew brought communities together to protect wildlife and restore local, vital ecosystems. Led by our Wildlife Law Program, volunteers were brought together to remove trash and plastic from parks and waterways across Denver. Volunteers filled buckets and sported waders, braving the polluted rivers. We even set a new personal record, removing over 15,000 pounds of trash at Barnum Park on an especially successful July event.



**7,251
gallons of
debris
removed**

Stopping the hunts

Friends of Animals and our allies are always on the lookout for hunting derbies to garner backlash against. These events aim to turn killing into a jamboree, they invite hunters to carry out mass killings of specified species and award prizes for superlatives. Fortunately, such events are becoming less common as legislation banning them has caught on.

Earlier this year, we sounded off about a “Mid-Winter Squirrel Scramble” put on by the Dansville Fish and Game Club in New York, where killing contests are already banned. Once the club was called out by our members, they were forced to cancel the derby and blamed “anti-hunting groups” and “public pressure” rather than the actual law.

Education Campaigns

In addition to drafting legislation modeled after California's that would ban the sale and use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in Connecticut where we are headquartered, FoA is participating in the "Think Outside the Bait Box" education campaign across the state to help get the bill across the finish line in 2026. CT's native raptors and mammals are dying from internal bleeding after consuming poisoned rodents who've taken the bait from those ubiquitous black boxes you see outside grocery stores, in housing developments and town parks, to mention a few.

As a member of the CT Coalition to Protect Black Bears, FoA was tapped by CT Votes for Animals to speak during its educational webinar: "Protecting Connecticut's Black Bears—Myths, Facts & the Path Forward to Peaceful Co-existence. Learn what's true, what's not, and how to keep bears (and people) safe.



Primarily Primates

The 78-acre primate sanctuary in Texas that Friends of Animals has managed since 2007—Primarily Primates—is a unique sanctuary in that it is an active rescue. In 2025, for example, we took in four chimpanzees, three spider monkeys, and one lemur, who we will provide lifelong care for alongside our 300 plus residents. And we are preparing to rescue several macaques before the end of the year. **We were also recently chosen to be part of the Wildlife Confiscations Network.** It's a first-of-its-kind nationwide program that strives to reduce wildlife trafficking and increases support for law enforcement by providing a coordinated system to ensure the care and welfare of confiscated live wildlife.



Chimps Emma, CJ, Herbie, and Jackson were transferred to PPI in May after their Portland sanctuary closed. We built them a new enclosure and continue to prioritize their enrichment and overall wellbeing!

THANK YOU

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this year.

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