



Animals' Angels

Annual Report 2014

Animals' Angels + PO Box 1056 + Westminster, MD 21157
443-821-3343 + www.animalsangels.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

I'm happy to provide our annual report to you, which details our work & accomplishments for 2014. This past year has certainly been a momentous one for our organization, and more importantly, for the animals! We at Animals' Angels are so very happy and proud to announce that because of the support of our donors 2014 was one of our most successful years ever!

Our achievements have come both in the field as well as in the conference room. While investigators were busy in the field nationwide, Animals' Angels Director and head investigator, Sonja Meadows, was working tirelessly to ensure the protection of our beloved horses through AA's EU Campaign which saw amazing success this past year!

In 2014, Animals' Angels conducted 171 investigations throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and Europe. We have committed ourselves to always having boots on the ground and performing as much field work as possible because, as our mission statement reads, "we are there with the animals." We take our responsibility to the animals very seriously. Not only have we exposed the cruel truth behind a myriad of livestock auctions and feedlots, but our documentation has also been instrumental in holding animal abusers accountable for their actions.

It is impossible for us at AA to express the deep gratitude we feel for all of our friends and supporters. Quite frankly we are in awe of the loyalty we continually receive and feel blessed to have you in our corner. The animals are lucky indeed to have people like you fighting for them. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the successes we had in 2014, all thanks to you.

Sincerely,
Sonja



2014 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ***Animals' Angels Meets with European Union Commission***

Animals' Angels had the prestigious honor to be the only US organization called upon to discuss the American horse slaughter trade with the EU's top legislators. Sonja Meadows met with the EU Commission in Brussels on July 4, 2014 to present documentation from our extensive investigations into the predatory industry in Mexico, Argentina, and Canada. The EU Commission members appeared quite receptive to the reports presented at meeting. Animals' Angels called upon the Commission to take the strongest and most efficient measure at hand which is to ban the import of horsemeat completely from both North and South America.

- ***EU Commission Halts Horse Meat Imports from Mexico!***

We applauded this decision and were elated to be a part of this tremendous success that will benefit innumerable US horses. Michael Scannell, Director of the Food and Veterinary Office, admitted that the transport conditions were completely unacceptable and that animal welfare concerns had certainly influenced the Commission's decision. We're gratified that our years of effort and diligence in the field investigating the horse slaughter industry helped the EU Commission to make this ground-breaking decision.

- ***Switzerland's Largest Retailer Cuts Ties with Bouvry Exports***

Animals' Angels is thrilled to announce that Migros, Switzerland's largest retail company & supermarket chain decided to terminate its contract with Bouvry Exports and will no longer buy meat from the Canadian supplier. This is indeed tremendous news as it will have an impact on the lives of innumerable horses. Until this recent decision, Migros was a significant customer of Bouvry holding a considerable contract for horsemeat products. The decision to end their contract was made after Migros was once again confronted with horrific images from the Bouvry feedlots provided by Animals' Angels. This is a major loss for Bouvry.

- ***Ocean Transport Discovery***

Animals' Angels uncovered a startling trend in the export of US horses when our investigative work determined that a US organization has been shipping US Quarter Horses to Russia via ocean transport. The environment on a livestock vessel is inherently inhumane and it is distressing to learn that our horses are being shipped under such conditions. We plan to follow up on this recent discovery.



EXPOSING CRUELTY & PROTECTING ANIMALS

Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated investigators and the continued generosity of our donors, this past year Animals' Angels not only exposed the cruel truth behind livestock auctions and feedlots across the nation, but the documentation and footage from our in-depth investigations were also instrumental in holding animal abusers accountable for their actions by law enforcement.

Over the course of the year, our investigations resulted in more exposure, awareness, and education for a variety of important animal related issues -- and promoted much needed change for the animals we all love.

We conducted a grand total of **171 investigations** throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and Europe. Our organization continues to be a leading force in exposing animal cruelty. We are committed to the cause and we have no intention of slowing down in 2015!



IMPROVING CONDITIONS & ADVOCATING CHANGE

Along with the success of our EU Campaign, our work here at home in the US has been ongoing as well. The footage from our investigations have been used by law enforcement to file charges against violators and to hold those who would abuse innocent animals accountable for their cruel actions.

Equally important, we continued to promote actual, long term change at the auctions themselves through our outreach program for auction management to implement better conditions for the animals sold at auction. The program gives useful guidelines for dealing with key issues such as providing adequate water and food, maintaining clean pens, separating animals prone to fighting, stopping the overcrowding of pens, not accepting sick or injured animals, giving veterinary care to the injured or dying, and training employees on proper ways to handle the animals. A project of this sort naturally remains a work in progress, however, we're happy to say that it has been very well received and many improvements for the animals have been accomplished.



RAISING AWARENESS

Animals' Angels was thrilled to once again be invited to speak at the **Thundering Hooves** event in New Mexico, a family friendly event celebrating America's horses and raising awareness about horse slaughter & the round-ups of our wild horses & burros held in October, 2014. We were very excited to have the opportunity to reach out to a new audience to increase awareness about the cruel and unnecessary round ups of the nation's wild horses. These icons of the west are losing their homes to cattle ranchers who seek to control every inch of land to which they can possibly lay claim. Sadly, this is another topic that rarely makes mainstream media. When it does, the facts and numbers tend to be skewed to favor the ranchers. Thundering Hooves is an ideal venue to put a spotlight on these roundups so that the public can learn what is truly happening to some of our greatest national treasures and we were thankful to be a part of it.

Our investigators attended the **International Rally for Wild Horses and Burros** in Denver, CO in April, 2014. The rally in was well attended and advocates from different organizations and compassionate individuals alike showed a unified front to fight for our Wild Ones. We at Animals' Angels really enjoyed being a part of this event and meeting so many strong, like minded advocates.



INITIATIVES

This past year also saw the start of our Dairy Cow Initiative. Animals' Angels began a series of intensive investigations concentrating on auctions nationwide that deal with "spent" dairy cows who, after a short, yet horrific life at a dairy production farm, face the further tragic fate of being auctioned for meat despite horrendous and debilitating injuries.

The outcome of these investigations is still confidential, but our team documented shocking abuse and inhumane treatment. The initiative will really take off in 2015 when we expose the gross illegalities found by our investigators and hold these vile abusers accountable for their atrocious acts to these helpless animals.

With your support, we will be able to continue this much needed project with additional in-depth investigations into the appalling practices of this predatory business.



GOALS FOR 2015

- We will continue to pressure the EU Commission, now working the Canadian angle, to end all horse meat imports from the Americas.
- We will also be increasing our focus once again on in-depth projects here in the US. Among other things, we will be concentrating on legal avenues, cooperation with some of the best known attorneys in the country, and investigations into the most notorious auctions and kill buyers.
- Other projects for 2015 include the dairy cow initiative and our one-of-a-kind law enforcement training which has garnered a lot of interest from officials nationwide. We're very excited about the prospect of the law enforcement training reaching additional jurisdictions because this means *greater protection for the animals in more locations than ever before*.
- Much more awareness is needed about roadside exotic animal and dog auctions. We plan to devote more manpower to the investigation of conditions for these often overlooked victims of abuse.
- Our commitment to having “boots on the ground” is steadfast and we have always maintained a full schedule of investigations, but we plan to add even more locations to our schedule in 2015. We are determined to bring as many violators to justice as possible and to further raise awareness of the deplorable conditions and inhumane treatment that all too many animals are forced to suffer through.



Financial Report for 2014

Organization Info

Animals' Angels Inc.

PO BOX 1056

Westminster, MD 21158

443-821-3343

www.animalsangels.org

info@animalsangels.org

Board of Directors:

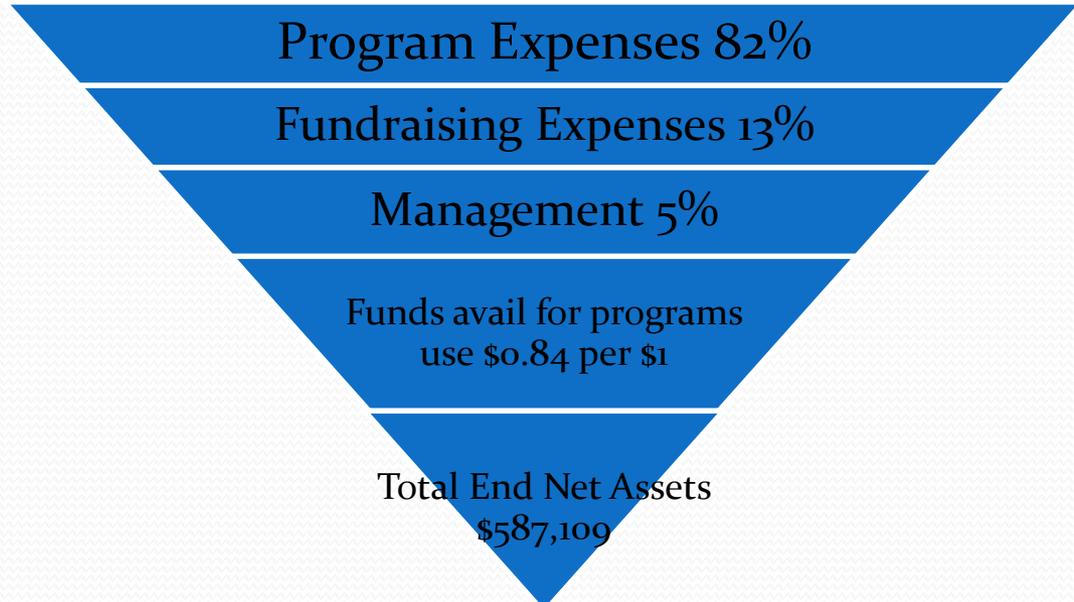
Sonja Meadows – President & CEO

Keith Meadows – Treasurer

Brandi Turner – Board Member

Elizabeth Hopkins – Board Member

Wendy Kowal – Vice President/Secretary



Animal's Angels is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, all donations are tax deductible. All our financial statements are audited by an independent auditor and can be reviewed at www.guidestar.org.

Animals' Angels received the Guidestar Seal of Excellence for our commitment to transparency

