

## **Californians Deliver Decisive Victory to Prevent Factory Farm Cruelty by Passing Proposition 2**

The Humane Society of the United States

November 5, 2008

SACRAMENTO – Yesterday, Californians voted YES! on Prop 2 — securing the single most important piece of legislation for farm animals in U.S. history. Proposition 2 will mandate a higher standard for the treatment of animals raised for food, a measure that is sure to lead to similar reforms nationwide.

With over 95 percent of precincts reporting, and Prop 2 passing by a 27-point margin (63.3 YES to 36.7 NO), Californians overwhelmingly rejected the cruel treatment of farm animals occurring today on factory farms.

"How animals are treated is so important to all of us -- and even more important to the animals suffering every day in factory farms," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States. "Together, we fought for the humane treatment of animals, and we won. We are changing the lives of so many animals, and we have made history."

"Proposition 2 will improve the lives of 20 million farm animals," said Jennifer Fearing, campaign manager for the YES! on Prop 2 campaign. "The people of California acted with compassion and decency and will help propel our fight here and across the country to protect farm animals from unacceptable cruelty."

Prop 2 is supported by The Humane Society of the United States, the California Veterinary Medical Association, the Center for Food Safety, the ASPCA, the Consumer Federation of America, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the United Farm Workers, Farm Sanctuary, the Sierra Club, Cesar Chavez Foundation, the State Humane Association of California, Republican and Democratic elected officials, hundreds of California veterinarians, family farmers, religious leaders, and an overwhelming majority of California voters.

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### **CVMA Position Statement**

The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), guided by The CVMA's Eight Principles of Animal Care and Use, has thoughtfully considered Proposition 2, The Standards for Confining Farm Animals.

As experts in animal health and welfare, California veterinarians must balance scientific knowledge with ethical, philosophical, and moral considerations. While the CVMA supports the concept that animals should be allowed to turn around, lie down, stand up and fully extend their limbs when confined, we also believe that issues such as public health, biosecurity and good farming practices must be considered.

The CVMA firmly believes that any modifications of the current system should be made in consultation with California's food animal veterinarians, the leading authorities on the health and well being of production animals.