Dear Friends and Supporters,

In the first six months of 2018, SHARK has scored a series of great victories for nonhumans! In the first part of this mailer, we’ll focus in on SHARK’s campaign against pigeon shoots, wherein birds are used as living targets and shot for fun. SHARK is the preeminent animal protection organization fighting pigeon shoots, and we have documented and shut down more pigeon shoots than anyone else in the nation.

SHARK puts a major focus on pigeon shoots because they are the worst of the canned hunts, with hundreds of thousands of birds killed annually, with perhaps an equal number of birds injured and abandoned to die slow, painful deaths. We have looked into the eyes of the hundreds of birds we’ve rescued and we know that each and every one of them is a living being who deserves protection. Please also know that we would not have been able to win so many victories without your financial support. If you’ve donated to SHARK, then the victories you are about to read are your victories as well.

**MARYLAND BANS PIGEON SHOOTS!**

We initiated our 2018 campaign against pigeon shoots at the very start of the new year, with an undercover operation at a Maryland pigeon shoot. Last year, we discovered that a hunting business called Schrader’s Outdoors was holding pigeon shoots. At that time, the SHARK team traveled to Schrader’s on the day of a scheduled pigeon shoot. Knowing that SHARK would be there with our drones, Schrader’s cancelled that shoot, which was a victory unto itself and saved untold lives.

Once we were aware of Schrader’s we kept a close watch on them and searched for an opportunity to expose them. That opportunity arrived early this year when we received a tip that Schrader’s had held a pigeon shoot on January 14th. SHARK Investigator Stu Chaifetz traveled from New Jersey to Maryland the following day to gather evidence that a pigeon shoot had taken place. Chaifetz found and filmed a large burn pit filled with not only dead pigeons, but geese and ducks as well.

As he was leaving, Chaifetz saw a Schrader’s worker carrying a shotgun in the parking lot. The worker admitted that Schrader’s had held a pigeon shoot the day before, and then proceeded to shoot at pigeons who had survived that massacre in front of him. All of this was captured on video.

Not only was this a successful operation, with video evidence that SHARK supplied to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, but in the following months a bill to ban pigeon shoots passed both houses of the Maryland legislature and was signed into law. This means that because of SHARK, pigeon shoots are now explicitly illegal in Maryland!
This was an extraordinary turn of events that would not have happened without SHARK’s efforts to expose Schrader’s pigeon shoots. We also note that this is the second law passed in MD to help animals that was based on SHARK’s work. In the previous case, SHARK’s video of brutal cownose ray killing contests was so horrifying that it brought international condemnation upon these sick contests and spurred legislation creating a moratorium.

SHARK EXPOSES SOUTH CAROLINA PIGEON SHOOT

In February, the SHARK team was in South Carolina for a pigeon shoot at the Broxton Bridge Plantation. We were last at Broxton Bridge in 2012, so we took the pigeon shooters by complete surprise. Working with Last Chance for Animals, we filmed the pigeon shooters as they arrived at or left the shoot, while SHARK’s Angel drones filmed the shoot itself.

Our Angel drones documented the heartbreaking images of young girls and boys, used as workers by the plantation, torturing wounded, but still living birds. The child workers regularly threw wounded birds into garbage cans, where they suffocated when other victims were dumped on them. Such a fate is inhuman torture. That these animals are treated literally like garbage shows how barbaric pigeon shooters are.

Angered at our presence, thugs at Broxton Bridge shot three of our Angel drones, causing thousands of dollars in damages. What they didn’t realize was that we were monitoring and recording their walkie-talkie communications, and that recording includes Broxton Bridge owner Jerry Varn coordinating the shoot down efforts. The audio also proved that Varn’s accomplice lied to the police. On top of that, we have video taken by sheriff deputies’ body cameras which recorded Varn admitting to the shoot down efforts.

The Angel drone shootings did not stop SHARK from accumulating extensive evidence of extreme animal abuse, which was conducted by young teens and even pre-teen children. We have already released videos exposing the cruelty and lies and we have more in the works.
On March 1, SHARK documented a pigeon shoot held by the Alabama Forestry Association (AFA) outside of Mobile, AL. Using our Angel drone, we legally filmed the cruelty as hundreds of birds were thrown into the air and shot. It was our first time at this shoot, so AFA wasn’t expecting us.

After the shoot ended and the participants left, SHARK investigators went onto the shoot property. The killers had left the birds in the field, both the dead and living alike. There was no concern whatsoever for the suffering of those still alive. We rescued twenty-six pigeons that were wounded and left to die. Unfortunately, night fell while there were many more to be rescued. We were able to find a rehabilitator to care for the victims. The birds were extremely dehydrated and malnourished, meaning they hadn’t been fed for days before the shoot (above). That is an added factor of cruelty to an already barbaric event. Due to the severity of their wounds, twenty-two birds died or were humanely euthanized, with just four survivors remaining.

While rescuing birds the night before, we also picked up many bodies of the dead. The following day, we travelled to Birmingham, AL, which is where the AFA is headquartered. At the headquarters, and in broad daylight, we dumped the bodies at the entrance to the AFA office, so their victims would not be simply forgotten (left). To our surprise, no one from the AFA did anything. No one called the police. They apparently realized that this was a public relations disaster waiting to happen, so they just took it.

With our work on the ground completed, we formulated a strategy to get the AFA to stop holding pigeon shoots. AFA is an industry group made up of a number of powerful companies. We knew that some of these companies would not want to have their reputation stained with the blood and cruelty of the shoot. We contacted the biggest company, Georgia-Pacific (whose representative is the President of the AFA), and asked that they watch our video of the shoot. To their credit, they did, and sent us the following email:

"We appreciate your recent note about the Alabama event and have looked into it. We have been informed by the Alabama Forestry Association that it does not plan to do these events in the future."

And just like that, the AFA pigeon shoots ended.

The AFA has held pigeon shoots for years, yet no one did anything to stop them. SHARK, on the other hand, found out about the shoots and sent our specially trained team in and got the video evidence that no other group in the world can get. We then followed up with a strategy to make the best use of that video and our campaign was a 100% success.

Untold thousands of lives will be spared from this point forward because of our “boots on the ground” approach. For the life of me, I can’t figure out why other organizations are not using drones to help animals.
Two weeks after our campaign in Alabama, we were in Minnesota for a pigeon shoot fundraiser for Ducks Unlimited held at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club (MHHC). We documented the shoot with our Angel drones and had investigators filming shooters at the entrance.

One of the Ducks Unlimited shooters drove his SUV right at two of our Investigators, nearly hitting them (above). We reported the incident to the Scott County Sheriff’s Department, but the sheriff took no action. We prodded the County Attorney for almost eight weeks before the driver, now identified as Bryan David Zipoy, was charged with reckless driving. We’ll update you as his case progresses.

If the MHHC thought threatening us would scare us off, they couldn’t have been more wrong. In April, we returned to the MHHC for their “2018 U.S. Open Pheasant Championship.” This event was the worst we witnessed at this bloody property to date.

Docile, cage-raised pheasants, many of whom did not fly, were literally planted under brush. So-called hunters then walked right up to the birds, picked them up, tossed them into the air, and shot them at point-blank range. Dogs often tore at the wounded, but still living birds. Live, conscious birds were shoved into the hunter’s jackets. Our video was so strong, and the event so despicable, that we began a major campaign to persuade sponsors to withdraw their support for the MHHC.

We scored an early victory when a luxury car dealership withdrew, then another much larger when Carrier Corporation did the same. As of the time this mailer went out, eight companies have withdrawn their sponsorship, and more to follow. The biggest obstacle to more sponsor withdrawals is simply that we have been so busy, dealing with so many issues all over the country.

On May 9th, we returned to the MHHC to protest and document a dual pigeon and quail shoot for the MN Youth Hunting Club. We will be releasing an exposé on this club, which is run by the MHHC owner and serial animal killer Bill Urseth, in the near future.

The video we captured of both events again proved how nightmarish canned hunting is, as we filmed a worker tearing feathers out of live pigeons before they were thrown into the air. That cruelty makes the birds fly erratically, making shooting them more fun for the psychopaths. The quail were thrown like toys for the dogs, who savaged them.

In the space of just two months, we hit the MHHC three times, and exposed the slaughter of pigeons, pheasants and quail. The exposure of the club has been so negative, the club persuaded the Scott County Sheriff’s Department to supply officers as taxpayer-funded security. Then the Sheriff’s Department induced the state to send more private security - an officer from the Department of Natural Resources to try to get us ensnared in to something. It’s incredible to watch law enforcement trying so hard to find something to charge us with, when the only lawbreaking over the past three years has been at the hands of the club’s thugs and customers.
SHARK STRIKES MAJOR PENNSYLVANIA PIGEON SHOOTS

At the end of 2017, after we targeted two pigeon shoot locations with our newest drone, which is capable of very high magnification, high-definition video footage. Our documentation showed extreme acts of animal cruelty, in horrific detail. The pigeon shooters immediately cancelled their shooting schedule and went into hiding. For the next few months, our efforts to find them failed. They seemed to disappear, but we knew it wouldn’t be that easy. They were down, but not out. It didn’t help that every humane society in Pennsylvania, and all employees of the Humane Society of the United States, have refused to do anything in the field. The shooters probably thought they had escaped our watch, but they were about to find out how mistaken they were.

On June 2, SHARK successfully executed a surprise campaign against a major pigeon shoot held in a remote area of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The shooters, who came from a number of states including New Jersey, New York and Virginia, thought they were free to commit dishonorable acts of animal cruelty with the public never knowing about it. SHARK proved them wrong. While there were some recognizable faces amongst the shooters, there were new faces in there as well. That these people felt so comfortable going to a shoot proves why our being there was so important.

Angered that we found them, one of them shot our Angel drone, causing $15,000 worth of damage. That damage, plus the drones shot in South Carolina brings our damages close to $20,000 for the year. Unhappy about our loss, but undeterred, we put another Angel into the air.

The PA State Police were called to the scene and, to our surprise, did an excellent job securing the evidence (left). One of them even acknowledged that this was a criminal act. That the State Police took this as seriously as they did, left a dire impression with the shooters as they didn’t try to stop our next Angel drone. In the end, we were able to freely record hours of the shooters and the cruel shoot itself.

When we said this was a major pigeon shoot, we are not exaggerating. The slaughter started at 8 AM, and didn’t end until at 7:30 PM that night. There were more than a thousand pigeons and the shooting was almost non-stop. Hundreds of beautiful birds fell to the blood-lust of these filthy people who take such extreme pleasure in killing. If SHARK had not been there, then no one would have known about the horrors that had been committed.
Because saving lives and exposing cruelty is SHARK’s only mission, we did the hard leg work to find the shoot and prepare for it. Our investigators were at the pigeon shoot for an exhausting 12 hours, and that doesn’t include the many hours and thousands of miles accumulated by our investigators to where the shoot was held. The truth is, SHARK has to travel so far because no one else is fighting these shoots. While there are a number of wealthy groups claiming to fight pigeon shoots, not one of them has helped us or done anything on the ground.

The following day SHARK documented a pigeon shoot at the Erdman’s Sportsmen Association, also in PA. After what happened the day before, they expected us to be there and had signs saying, “Drone Flying Prohibited.” It was laughable as putting up such a sign had no legal weight as everything we do with our Angel drones is 100% compliant with the law.

We flew our Angels without reservation, and without incident. The footage we gathered will expose these creeps for years to come.

What that sign did prove was just how frightened the pigeon shooters are of SHARK. The shooters have no fear of HSUS or the other wealthy groups because they know they won’t do anything meaningful about the shoots. But they are so fearful of SHARK’s efforts that they cancelled their entire shooting schedule and went into hiding — and we found them anyway.

This is also the answer as to why we continue to use our Angel drones even though there have been a number of shoot-downs of them; time and time again, our Angels have proven to be the most effective tool in exposing the disgusting animal cruelty committed at pigeon shoots. It cost SHARK a great deal of money, but without question the lives of pigeons (as well as Pheasants, Quail, Cormorants, Cownose Rays, Dogs, Chickens, Lambs, Cows, and other animals we have investigated/document with the Angels) are worth it.

When animal abusers acknowledge SHARK as being the greatest threat to their pleasure killing, you know we are effective and doing the work that needs to be done.

Please understand that it is only by your generous financial support that SHARK was able to pull off this endeavor, and we are counting on that same support to keep us fighting for these animals that so many others have either forgotten about, or simply don’t care enough about to do what is right.

On top of all that you’ve just read, the notorious Philadelphia Gun Club held no Saturday pigeon slaughters during their 2017/2018 season, which has been their normal practice for over 141 years! That they too have gone into hiding shows how effective our efforts have been.
As with pigeon shoots, SHARK is the pre-eminent animal protection organization fighting against rodeos in the world. We document dozens of rodeos every year and have collected almost three decades of shocking video proving that animals are routinely injured and killed in rodeos nationwide. Our rodeo videos have received tens of millions of views on our YouTube channel. In the second section of this mailer, we are going to focus on our efforts against rodeos both in America and internationally.

**SHARK’S VIDEO OF RODEOS IN QUÉBEC DEMONSTRATE CONFLICT WITH QUÉBEC’S NEW HUMANE LAW!**

This past summer, SHARK traveled to Canada to film 20 rodeo events in Montreal and St-Tite. The evidence collected proved the basis for a major 660-page report written by Veterinarian Dr. Jean-Jacques Kona-Boun and Law Professor Alain Roy of the Université de Montréal that concluded that rodeos are now illegal in Québec under the terms of the new Animal Welfare and Safety Act. *(Right: One of the many victims of the CA rodeos).*

In this report, which was released in April, Professor Roy thanks SHARK for our work:

"I also express my deep appreciation to Mr. Steve Hindi and Mr. Michael Koblika of Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK), who volunteered to come from Chicago to observe and film all the rodeo trials in the Montréal and St-Tite... Their expertise allowed us to collect extremely detailed data of undeniable quality."

This was a monumental undertaking that required hundreds of hours from our investigators, and untold more hours for the Canadians who painstakingly reviewed our 125 hours of video and wrote the report on it. We at SHARK believe it is important to use our expertise with filming and technology to help others in the struggle to save animals lives. We are glad to be a part of the effort showing that rodeos are illegal in Québec under the new Animal Welfare and Safety Act.

The aforementioned rodeos are desperately setting up ways to block the video evidence from being exposed to the world, threatening legal action against anyone who releases the video footage (even though the right to make it public was part of the court-certified agreement). Currently, they are demanding that all video footage be blurred so when the video is released, the sponsors of the cruelty and killing are not exposed to the world, nor the contestants perpetrating the cruelty and killing.

Expert analysis of SHARK’s rodeo video footage by the ministerial committee charged with determining whether the rodeo violates the new humane law has been delayed, meanwhile allowing the rodeos to proceed with yet another upcoming rodeo season, but the efforts of the independent committee members selected by Professor Roy are relentless, and continue unabated as they circulate the evidence to experts all over the world to confirm the clinical analyses of Dr. Kona-Boun. They are soon to be presented in three special sessions of a Summer Institute on Animal Sentience at the University of Québec in Montreal, as well as an international applied ethology congress in Prince Edward Island. They are also being presented at veterinary associations and to the legal community while we await the report of the ministerial committee.

We are all hoping that the wealth of telling evidence in the unique 125-hour database gathered by SHARK will not only help put an end to rodeos in Québec, but will also be used by veterinarians, ethologists and animal welfare activists to help put an end to rodeos all over the planet.
On May 26th, the opening day of the season for the NJ based Cowtown Rodeo, a horse named Night Watch was killed during a rodeo performance. A SHARK investigator was on-site and filmed what happened.

Night Watch slammed into a fence after being ridden (right). She then collapsed on the ground and began to convulse. Night Watch was then roughly tied up by rodeo handlers and unceremoniously dumped onto a piece of metal fence. Getting the mortally injured horse out of sight was of paramount importance to the phony cowboys. The suffering of the victim was of no concern whatsoever.

The fence was slotted, not flat, and so small that the entire horse didn’t even fit on it. They then picked up the dying victim using the slotted fence with some guys grabbing Night Watch’s tied legs. The weight of a horse on a slotted fence section unquestionably would be painful. Since the horse was of no further use to the rodeo, the rodeo thugs didn’t care.

There was extensive media coverage of the death because SHARK was there. If we had not been present, the death would have been kept quiet.

This is not the first time SHARK has filmed a horse being killed at Cowtown. In June of 2013, SHARK filmed a horse named Duke who died after being electro-shocked at Cowtown. That video, which went viral and has been seen more than 600,000 times.

Cowtown has a history of electro-shocking horses, even though the electric prod manufacturer has stated that horses are never to be shocked since they are sensitive to electricity, and that no animals should be shocked in a rodeo. SHARK also caught Cowtown sending horses to be slaughtered.

SHARK condemns Cowtown for all the cruelty it has committed, for all the horses not only killed in the arena, but sent to be mercilessly slaughtered. They have disgraced themselves once again and now another innocent horse has paid the price.

A week before SHARK filmed the death of Night Watch, we had an investigator at the CA based Rowell Ranch Rodeo. At that event, a horse named Savina was killed after suffering an injury. Although the attending vet was unclear as what the injury was, it was decided to kill the horse anyway.

Unfortunately, our investigator was unable to videotape this tragedy because the Rowell Ranch Rodeo has banned video cameras from the arena. We are seeing video camera bans at rodeos more and more frequently. Generally it’s the worst of the worst rodeos who feel a need to prevent evidence of their cruelty and killing from reaching the outside world. We were able to, however, take pictures of what happened.

This is not the first time SHARK has investigated the Rowell Ranch Rodeo. In 2008, SHARK investigator Mike Kobliksa documented the same Flying U Rodeo company electroshocking horses during the Rowell Rodeo. The rodeo committee was fined $2500 for animal cruelty based on that videotape.
In 2018, SHARK released more videos exposing Coca-Cola as a continuing major sponsor of rodeo cruelty (Please continue your boycott of Coke Products.), and Colorado State University for partnering with rodeos.

**Beyond the stunning amount of work SHARK did for pigeons and animals abused in rodeos, we have even more campaigns to share with you!**

**SHARK RETURNS TO USMARC**

In November 2015, a SHARK team made its first trip to USMARC, which stands for the US Meat Animal Research Center. USMARC is located a few miles outside a tiny town called Clay Center, Nebraska. USMARC's work - or you might say crimes - were detailed in a New York Times article in early 2015. Specifically, we were taken aback by a program wherein lambs are left to die from abandonment, leading to exposure, starvation, predation, etc. A newborn lamb absolutely must have his/her mother for food, warmth and protection, or it will die, just like a human child.

Our first trip to USMARC involved a brief flight with one of our Angel drones. We didn't see much in the flight. What was far more indicative of USMARC's operation was the arrival of, and subsequent threats, intimidation, and general corruption of the Clay County Sheriff, Jeff Franklin. This involved not just Franklin making illegal traffic stops of SHARK vehicles, but his subsequent destruction of video from his police camera (evidence tampering) that would expose his illegal behavior.

In 2017, we returned during the infamous lambing season, with an improved Angel drone. We found the sheep, but they were so far away, we still couldn't get definitive evidence. We promised to go back the this year, but only if we had the support to further improve our Angel drones.

**Some of you responded. You gave us the support we needed, and this year we did indeed return with our new and improved Angel drones.** What followed were days of bad weather in the form of high winds, storms and fog. It was frustrating, but we waited, and it finally paid off.

USMARC, apparently noting our vow to return, pastured the sheep much farther off the road. Unfortunately for them, our new Angel drone, the same drone that has been doing so much damage to pigeon shoots and other targets, was equal to the task.

The picture you are seeing will haunt me for a long time. It is a combination of nature's beauty and human cruelty. You want to believe that this picture of innocence is just peacefully sleeping, and that she wasn't abandoned to die alone, but like many others, she was also abandoned. This is our government and your tax dollars at work. This is why we fight so hard for animals.
SHARK'S DRONE FILMS POTENTIAL DOG FIGHTING AND COCK FIGHTING OPERATIONS IN IL

SHARK received tips about two locations in our home state of IL. The first was a potential dog fighting operation, and we documented more than 60 pit bull dogs chained there. The second location was a rooster breeding compound where there were concerns it could be a potential cock-fighting operation. We took our video to the authorities and elected officials in Will and Kane Counties, where the activities are occurring. If the authorities cannot or will not take action, we will propose new laws to prohibit the grouping of animals that could be used for fighting.

WISCONSIN PIG WRESTLING AND CHICKEN TOSSTING EVENTS EXPOSED

A few days after our trip to South Carolina, we were in Wisconsin to document a ridiculous chicken toss spectacle in the town of Ridgeland. We filmed chickens being used like balls (above right) and thrown and pigs being treated cruelly. While there, we also hit a donkey basketball game. All of these events were ridiculous and abusive and set a bad precedence for the children participating in them.

SHARK EXPOSES CORRUPTION IN OUR OWN MOVEMENT

On top of all this, SHARK has also exposed what we believe are scams within the animal protection movement. We consider these to be insidious, as they are designed to fool good natured donors into giving their hard earned money to groups that have either engaged in massive deception or unethical activity. In 2018, we've released videos exposing self-described “Investigative Journalist” Will Potter, Animal Charity Evaluators, Animal Equality, HSUS and PETA Co-Founder Alex Pacheco.

Some people have asked why we spend some of our efforts exposing other animal protection organizations. Let’s think of all the groups for a moment as a family. This imaginary family works together for a single purpose, and all is well. But if one or more family members start diverting money for other things, the family suffers. As income applied to the family purpose lags, the family can't pay its expenses. Perhaps the house is lost, the car, and soon the family is no longer a family.

That is happening today. Groups are diverting funds, and are not held accountable. It is the animals who lose, because efforts to help them lag. We believe the amount of money wasted, diverted, and lost to incompetence and outright fraud is in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually in this movement.

Don't you wonder why there are no other groups like SHARK, who go onto the front lines and take the actions we take? There is a reason why a small group like SHARK has bigger victories than groups with hundreds of millions of dollars - literally a thousand times our resources.
SHARK FIGHTS FOR ANIMALS - BUT WE CAN’T DO IT ALONE

In the first six-months of 2018, SHARK ran consecutive major campaigns against pigeon shoots and rodeos, capturing dramatic video and creating major victories for animals. Our investigators have traveled from one side of the country to the other, documenting cruelty and killing in New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina, Alabama, Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Oregon, Virginia, North Carolina, Nevada, New York, California and Ontario, Canada. We've also taken on campaigns that others are ignoring, such as filming dead baby lambs at USMARC and potential dog and cock fighting operations, while also exposing corruption in our own movement.

No other group does more work and creates more victories for animals other than SHARK. No one else has the technological and strategic mindset to both find hiding pigeon shooters and film them. We say this not out of arrogance, but based on the truth of our video, efforts and results. The combined pay of the handful of the entire SHARK team is a fraction of what just what one executive in groups like HSUS makes. That speaks to the efficiency and dedication of the SHARK Team.

As President, I receive no pay what-so-ever and never have in more than a quarter century of work. We’re not doing this for pay - we’re doing it for our nonhuman friends. There is simply no better value you can find for your donation than SHARK.

If you like seeing this strong series of victories and accomplishments for animals, and want to be part of it, then please make a generous donation so that we, united, can make the second half of 2018 ever better than the first. Be the change you want to see.

Sincerely,

Steve Hindi

If you are not already subscribed to our email updates, you can do so on our website, www.SHARKonline.org.

Please share this mailer of SHARK’s good work with others.

You can view all of our videos at www.youtube.com/SHARKonlineorg