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2011 - In a December report for the Institute of Medicine, a panel of bioethicists says that scientists should stop conducting medical experiments on chimpanzees, except in cases that would advance public health and in which no other lab animal would be an acceptable substitute.

2011 - The 2012 spending authorization for the Department of Agriculture, passed and signed in December, includes funds for the inspection of horse meat, effectively ending a 2007 ban on slaughtering horses for meat. The action comes in the wake of a Government Accountability Office study that found that an increasing number of horses were being transported out of the country before being processed for meat.

2011 - In November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture fines the parent company of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus a record \$270,000 for alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act between June 2007 and August 2011.

2011 - A study published in the journal *Nature* observes that identification bands attached to penguins' flippers have an effect on penguin mortality. Scientists find that penguins wearing the bands—which have been used for over 50 years to track migration patterns—produced 39% fewer chicks and had a 16% lower survival rate compared with penguins that did not. The study concludes that the bands produce drag as penguins swim, reducing their efficiency in gathering food.

2009 - *The Cove*, a covertly-made U.S. documentary that exposes the massive dolphin hunts committed yearly by fishermen in Taiji, Japan, screens at the Tokyo International Film Festival, provoking a wide range of reaction including protest from international environmental activists and anger from some Japanese who defend the dolphin and whale hunting industry as a part of their culture that should be free from foreign interference.

2008 - In California, voters approve a measure to ban the confinement of veal calves, egg-laying hens, and pregnant pigs in ways that prevent them from lying down, standing up, turning around, or fully extending their limbs.

2008 - The Chicago city council repeals the city's two-year ban on foie gras, or fattened goose liver. Animal rights activists object to the decision, maintaining that the force-feeding methods used to produce the controversial delicacy are cruel and inhumane.

2008 - Filly Eight Belles wins second place in the Kentucky Derby but is euthanized on the race track when she collapses and fractures both front ankles shortly after crossing the finish line. The accident sparks protests by animal rights activists and results in numerous calls for reform to make thoroughbred racing safer for horses.

2007 - The European Union announces in late November that it will issue a ban on animal testing on all cosmetics beginning in March 2009.

2007 - On July 20, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals urges the National Football League to suspend Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick after he is indicted on dogfighting charges.

2007 - In mid-February, Lied Animal Shelter, based in Las Vegas, was forced to euthanize nearly 1,000 cats and dogs after an outbreak of diseases (panleukopenia, distemper, Parvovirus) affected the animals.

2007 - In late January, Smithfield Foods, the largest pork manufacturer in the U.S., announced their discontinuation of cages used for their pregnant pigs. Many animal rights activists have deemed this an important step towards humane animal rights.

1980 - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is formed.

1973 - Congress passes the Endangered Species Act, which is designed to protect at-risk plants and animals from extinction.

1970 - Congress passes the Animal Welfare Act, which provides basic guidelines for animal research.

1965 - American psychologist Harry Harlow shows that there is lifelong emotional damage in monkeys raised in isolation.

1962 - Congress passes the Harris-Kefauver Amendment to the Pure Food and Drug Act, which requires extensive research on drugs before they can be tested on humans.

1954 - The Humane Society of the United States is organized.

1949 - The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science is organized.

1912 - French surgeon Alexis Carrel, taking the first step in organ transplantation, uses dogs to study the rejoining of severed blood vessels.

1881 - Louis Pasteur creates the first artificially produced vaccine by injecting weakened anthrax bacteria into sheep.

1876 - The British Parliament passes the Cruelty to Animals Act, which establishes stricter controls on animal experimentation.

1866 - Henry Bergh establishes the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

1835 - The SPCA becomes the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals when Queen Victoria extends its patronage.

1824 - The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is formed in London.

1822 - The British Parliament passes Martin's Act, which restricts cruelty to farm animals.

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MLA

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