



AT THE CAPITOL: 2021 SESSION UNDERWAY

This year's General Assembly session continues to be a virtual affair, altering the ways in which animal advocates can make our voices heard. The Capitol remains closed to the public and all hearings will be virtual. This is expected to continue at least until April or May, and will depend on how well we are managing COVID in the state.



Amidst the clamor for lawmakers' attention, the need for **you** to speak up on animal issues is more important than ever. Legislators want to be responsive to the concerns of people from their districts, which means they will listen to you. **Be prepared. Attend CVA's Advocacy Workshop on January 30th** for in-depth discussions of CVA's legislative priorities, **reach out to your legislator** and tell him/her that animal issues are important to you, **be on the look out for CVA Legislative Alerts**.

CVA has established four legislative priorities for the 2021 session:

- **Oppose Bear Hunting in CT:** SB 63, which allows a hunt in Litchfield County, is the first bill introduced to allow bear hunting and we expect more.
- **Local Control of Pet Shops:** Legislation to clarify that local jurisdictions have authority over whether local pet shops can sell puppy mill dogs, cats and rabbits in their respective communities.
- **Circus Bill:** SB66 to prohibit the use of exotic and wild animals in circuses and exhibitions.
- **Eliminate the Sale and Trade of New Fur Products in CT:** HB 5031

CVA also supports HB 5029 to stop the trade and sale of shark fins, legislation to prohibit the use of animal fighting paraphernalia, and SB 62 to prohibit the import, sale and possession of African elephants, lions, leopards, black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, and giraffes.

HELP WANTED: Digital media expert to help us SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS with new website upkeep, e-newsletters and email correspondence for the busy six-month legislative session (Jan - June). If you know someone interested in this volunteer position or internship, please email info@ctvotesforanimals.com.

Register Now for CVA's Advocacy Workshop

CVA's Advocacy Workshop is also going online this year, with a focus on making the most impact at the Capitol during a pandemic. Learn firsthand from state legislators how to lobby effectively and be



part of the movement for better laws to protect animals in CT. Legislators speaking at the Advocacy Workshop are: Rep. Dorinda Borer, Rep. Raghiv Allie-Brennan, Rep. Jason Doucette, Rep. Anne Hughes, Senator Will Haskell, & Rep. David Michel.

The workshop will be held via zoom, on **Jan. 30, 2021, 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.** Topics include:

- an in-depth discussion of this session's key legislative issues
- strategies on how to lobby state lawmakers on behalf of animals
- a deep dive into how the CT General Assembly will operate during the pandemic
- breakout sessions on CVA priority legislation

Once again, the workshop is in partnership with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. The program is free but registration is required. If you can't attend, check back on CVA's website for recordings of the entire Workshop.

SIGN UP NOW

MAKING AN IMPACT

Don't Just Feel Bad.. Say Something!

Dropping temperatures and winter weather make life more perilous not only for us humans, but for our four-legged friends as well. Although it's a crime in all 50 states to leave dogs outside in extreme weather without food and shelter, it is still a common occurrence. Instances of animals being left out in dangerous conditions are investigated by police and animal control agencies more than any other form of animal cruelty, according to the U.S. Humane Society.



In CT, it is illegal to tether a dog outdoors for more than 15 minutes in extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, or hail, during severe weather advisories, or when it poses an adverse risk to the health and safety of the dog based on its age, breed, health, etc. Violations of the law, enacted in 2013 with the support of CVA, carry penalties of a 100-dollar fine for the first offense, 200 dollars for the second offense and no less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for a third or subsequent offense. Visit [CVA's website](#) for more information and a poster you can download.

If you see a dog tied up outside during harsh weather, bring it to the attention of local authorities, who can take action to stop the abuse.

- Note down the date, time, location, and the type of dog. Photos and videos serve as great documentation – even those from a cell phone.
- Report what you see to the local law enforcement or animal control agency and present your evidence.
- Follow up if you see the situation has not been addressed within a few days.

There's no need to simply feel sorry for animals you see suffering in silence. Use your voice to **SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS** wherever there is a need.

THE BIG PICTURE



CT Animals Feel the Effects of Climate Change

By Adria Henderson

Will we continue to hear birds chirping and bees buzzing as spring approaches each year? Or, if climate change and other human interventions forge ahead unfettered, will we

eventually just hear the sounds of silence? [**Read more**](#)

Adria Henderson is the chair of the Newtown Animal Control Advisory Board and creator of Animals Matter-News <https://Facebook.com/focusonanimals/>. She is also a writer, editor, and social media marketing specialist.

Biden-Harris Record Shows Support for Animals

President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris bring proven track records of protecting animals to the new administration in Washington. According to the Humane Society Legislative Fund, both have worked to strengthen laws on household pets, wildlife, marine mammals, farm animals, and more.

During his time in the Senate, Biden supported dozens of animal welfare reforms. Harris, too backed humane legislation and pursued animal protection cases as a prosecutor, attorney general, and U.S. Senator from California. [**Read more**](#)



President-Elect Biden's younger German Shepherd, Major, will be the first shelter dog at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Adopted from the Delaware Humane Association three years ago, Major joins 12-year old Champ, another German Shepherd, as the "First Dogs."

NEW: ANIMAL-FRIENDLY FARE

Send Us Your Favorite Vegan Recipes!



As an organization dedicated to the humane treatment of all animals, CVA supports all efforts to encourage their protection. Vegan practices go a long way to reduce the need to use animals for food, so let's share some vegan recipes. We'll start with one from CVA Advisory Council member Amy Millardi for **Impossible Chili**, and ask you to send in some of your

favorites by emailing info@ctvotesforanimals.org.

[GET RECIPE](#)

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