



SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS ON MARCH 10TH

Please Join Us!

COALITION LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST FOR THE ANIMALS

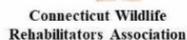
Tuesday, March 10 - 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

at the 2nd Floor Atrium - Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

*Join together in a show of strength for all animals
~they are counting on us.*

- ★ Talk with legislators about bills being considered this session that protect the interests of animals.
- ★ Meet the great people who work to protect animals and stay afterwards to visit with your legislators.

Now is the time to Speak Up for Animals



Lexi's Angels Rescue



Join us and help demonstrate to legislators that there is a broad and strong contingent of voices for animals in Connecticut. Stay afterwards and visit with your State legislator to support animal bills this session. More details at https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/2020_coalition_legislative_breakfast

2020 Legislative Session

Opening day February 5 kicked off the beginning of the 2020 legislative session. The chamber was filled with legislators, lobbyists and friends as the Governor gave his vision for Connecticut in his "State of the State" address. CVA, Desmond's Army, Furr FreeCT and HSUS were all at the Capitol for a good showing of animal advocates. An afternoon rally sponsored by Furr FreeCT drew a crowd as FurFree continues to educate the public.



It's a short session -- lasting only 3 months -- so our priority list has been modified to reflect what is realistically possible within that timeframe. Most issues below have no bill number because the Committees have not determined if they will move forward; we'll do an update when their status has been confirmed. Be sure to keep an eye out for **CVA's Action Alerts** – a call for CVA advocates to contact their representatives when needed to support a legislative

effort. You can follow a bill's progress and CVA testimony on the 2020 bills at: https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/cva_bill_tracking_and_testimony

CVA Priorities:

Local Control Over Pet Shops: CVA supports legislation championed by Representatives Allie-Brennan, Michel and Doucette which makes clear that local communities have the authority to issue rules governing pet shops in their own town or city. Hundreds of communities throughout the country currently regulate and prohibit the sale of inhumanely bred dogs, cats and rabbits in their local pet stores. CVA wants to be certain that CT towns can do the same if they chose to regulate regulate pet shop sales in their community.

Reforms to CT's Animal Cruelty Statutes: CVA is calling for a study to modernize CT's animal cruelty statutes. The proposal will bring together experts and scholars in animal law along with practitioners – prosecutors, defendants counsel -- and interested parties to review and make recommendations for changes to the cruelty laws. Proposed changes to the statutes will be considered in the 2021 session. The Department of Agriculture recognizes the need and supports this effort.

Expand the Application of Desmond's Law to give judges the explicit flexibility to appoint advocates in non-dog and cat animal cruelty cases. Because there have been several high-profile animal cruelty cases involving other companion animals such as rabbits, horses and goats, it seems appropriate to expand the applicability of advocates to other animals. While not a mandate, the proposal allows the judge the flexibility to "appoint an advocate for any animal at the judge's discretion."

Co-existing with Wildlife: CVA continues to oppose a bear hunt and supports increased educational efforts so the public has better information on effective ways to co-exist with wildlife.

CVA also supports legislative proposals to:

- Prohibit the import and trade of any big six African species - Big 6 Trophy Hunting (HB5104)
- Institute a program of veterinary telemedicine for certain medical conditions in animals
- Prohibit the use of wild animals in entertainment and traveling shows
- Prohibit the sale of new fur products in CT
- Prohibit the sale or possession of shark fins
- Ban the sale and trade of Cetacians
- Prohibit the sale of animal fighting paraphernalia

A Friend to Animals in New London: The Community Foundation of Eastern CT

Let us introduce you to a regional foundation with a unique mandate: The Community Foundation of



Eastern CT. The Foundation serves a large geographic area in the eastern part of the state bringing philanthropic giving to 42 communities including New London, Groton, stretching out to the Rhode Island border and hugging the shoreline down to Old Lyme. Their priority is to serve the people in those communities through a variety of grant-making programs, community collaborations, and opportunities for civic engagement. Thanks to some visionary donors, CFECT also has a mandate to

advance animal welfare by supporting projects that ensure adequate protection, care and humane treatment of animals and wildlife. Annually, the Foundation gives out grants in excess of \$200,000 to fund projects for veterinary procedures, animal rescue and habitat preservation. In 2019, CT Votes for Animals was the fortunate recipient of one of those grants. The Foundation believes that in order to have long lasting impact on animal welfare, you need to change the laws --- something both the Foundation and CVA completely agree on. Just this past January, CVA's *New London Advocacy 101 Workshop: Speak Up for Animals* was held in partnership with the Foundation. We couldn't have done it without them and we thank the Foundation for their forward thinking and humane approach to policies affecting all CT's animals.



Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut

2020 EVENTS

2020 CT Vegan Festival

April 4, 2020, 1:00-6:00PM

St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church 480 Racebrook Road Orange, CT

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vegan-festival-ct-2020-tickets-88258143483>

Westport Dog Festival

Sunday, May 31, 2020, 10:00AM-4:00PM

Winslow Park, 25 CT-136, Westport, CT

<http://www.westportwestonchamber.com/dogs>

Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation's 5th Annual Catherine's Butterfly Party

June 6, 2020, 12:00-4:00PM

3 Primrose Street, Fairfield Hills Campus, Newtown, CT (on the green)

<https://cvhfoundation.org/5th-annual-catherines-butterfly-party/>

Compassion Fest

July 25, 2020, 10:00AM-5:00PM

1253 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT

<http://www.compassionfest.net/>

CT Folk Festival and Green Expo

September 12, 2020, 1:00-6:00PM

Edgerton Park, New Haven, CT

<https://ctfolk.com/event/2019ctfolkfest/>

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