



VOTE BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

Labor Day has passed, signaling the end of summer and the official countdown to Election Day on Nov. 3, 2020. This is a critical election; in addition to the Presidential race, every elected seat for state senator and every state representative will be on the ballot.

These State elected officials are responsible for making laws that impact all of Connecticut's animals. They will decide whether CT will allow bear hunting, the future of selling puppy mill dogs, cats, and rabbits, and improvements to the State's animal protection laws. Now more than ever it's important to vote to ensure that animal-friendly legislators are at the Capitol making good laws for Connecticut's animals.



One major change in CT's election practice is the wide availability of voting by mail. This is being done so people don't have to make a choice between their health during the COVID-19 pandemic and their constitutional right to vote. Of course, if you prefer to vote in person, the polls will be open on Nov. 3.

Here are some things you should know if you are voting by mail.

- Applications for a mail-in ballot are being sent to every registered voter in CT regardless of party affiliation; the Secretary of State's Office sent these out Sept. 8 – 11.
- You **must fill out an application** to vote in the General Election even if you voted by mail in the primary.
- If you don't receive your application by Sept. 18, you can download one from the [CT Secretary of the State's](#) website and get your other voting questions answered.
- Fill out the application and return it quickly. You can mail it or it can be dropped in the official ballot drop box in your town. Check with your town but the ballot boxes are usually located in front of town hall.
- Your town clerk will begin sending the official absentee ballot on Oct. 2.
- Fill it out as soon as possible; don't wait until Election Day. Again, you can mail it or drop it in the official ballot drop box in your town.

No matter if you vote by mail or vote in person, just please vote. The future of Connecticut's animals depends on you!

CVA EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS COMING YOUR WAY

Taking yet one more step into the digital age, CVA is presenting a series of educational webinars and videos this fall focusing on issues of concern to CT's animal advocacy community and how to be an effective voice for animals at the state capital.

The policy-oriented videos were created in advance of the January opening of the 2021 CT General Assembly to provide updates on our issues and



prepare animal rights advocates for the session ahead. They will be made available to CVA members and the general public sequentially over the next few months by email distribution and social media channels.

The videos feature interviews with experts from throughout CT on the following topics:

- **September:** *Don't Kill the Bears: Co-existing with CT's Wildlife*
- **November:** *Pet Shops and Puppy Mills*
- **October:** *How a Bill Becomes Law in CT*
- **December:** *How to Find Your Legislator and Track Bills: Introduction to the CT General Assembly Website*
- **January:** *CVA's New Website: Valuable Tools and Resources for Advocates*

Some video sessions may be held in a live, interactive format; notification of dates and times will be provided in advance. All videos will be recorded and housed on www.ctvotesforanimals.org for viewing at any time.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

There is no better time than now to find out how legislative candidates stand on humane animal issues.

First, learn who is running for State Senate and State Representative in your district. If you don't know, then check out "Candidates List November 2020 Election" on the [CT Secretary of the State's website](#).

Then, follow the candidates on their Facebook page or in your local paper. You can also attend candidates' meetings and ask the important questions. If meetings are virtual, be sure to sign up in advance.

Here are a few questions to pose to candidates:

- There's been a lot of media coverage this year about bear sightings in Connecticut towns. How would you vote on a measure to allow bear hunting in CT? Would you support a hunt if it is restricted to only a certain geographic area of the State or percent of the bear population?
- Dogs, cats and rabbits sold in CT's pet stores all come from out-of-state commercial breeding facilities (commonly referred to as puppy mills) that place profit over the humane treatment of animals. Would you support an effort to stop the sale of these animals in CT pet shops by enacting a state-wide ban (as was done in California, Maryland and recently passed in the New York State Senate)? At a minimum, would you vote for a law that allows local jurisdictions to decide how to handle these sales in their town?
- In 2016, CT enacted Desmond's Law, the first of its kind in the country, to provide pro-bono attorney help in legal cases involving dog and cat animal cruelty. There is a well-documented link between animal cruelty and domestic violence, and there have been several high profile cases involving animal cruelty to other animals like rabbits, horses and goats. Would you support expanding Desmond's Law to permit, at the judge's discretion, other animals to be covered by the law?

If you like what you hear from the candidates, consider volunteering for the campaign. Remember, all campaigns run on the work of dedicated volunteers and you can be part of the process by making phone calls, putting up lawn signs, writing postcards or volunteering on Election Day. It's a fun and easy way to get involved in the political process. As a bonus, you might meet others who share your wishes for better animal protection!

**SPEAK UP
FOR
ANIMALS**

A NEW AND IMPROVED CVA WEBSITE

CVA's online presence is getting a make-over! In the works is a comprehensive redesign and content update for the site. Not only will it be more visually appealing, but also easier to navigate. A more user-friendly web-hosting platform will enable us to better maintain and update the portal and house additional content such as the videos mentioned above and archives of e-newsletters and Action Alerts.



Members of CVA's communications committee are working with [Civic Design](#), a student visual communication program at the University of Hartford that provides strategic, innovative and effective marketing solutions to the non-profit community. Check them out.

Not only do we greatly appreciate their assistance, but we are also excited about the opportunity to interact with a group of bright, young people to gain insight and perspective on this demographic. The team is also on board to help enhance our social media presence through our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels!

QUICK LINKS

[Donate Today!](#)

[Visit our website](#)

[Contact Your Legislator](#)

[Learn More About CT
Animal Laws](#)

2020 CVA EVENTS*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have no events scheduled at this time. We'll keep you posted with any updates as they occur.

Please note that unsubscribing from CVA's Constant Contact will only unsubscribe you from the e-newsletter, not the legislative alerts, etc.

If you wish to be unsubscribed from emails sent outside of Constant Contact, please email info@ctvotesforanimals.org.