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Advocacy 101 Workshop
Speak Up for Animals

January 2020

In partnership with Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

What we will cover today

- Welcome: CT Votes for Animals: Who we are & what we do
- Legislators' Panel: Communicating with State Legislators
- The legislative process in the Connecticut General Assembly
- Issues Panel: Puppy Mills, Desmond's Law, Bears/Wildlife, Animal Cruelty
- Lobby 101: How to use your constituent power & make a difference for animals

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CT Votes for Animals (CVA) champions humane legislation for all of Connecticut's animals www.ctvotesforanimals.org

- Grassroots advocacy (non-profit 501(c)4) organization that aims to create a more peaceful future for animals by lobbying for stronger protections
- CVA's principle focus is at the state legislature and with state agencies
- Founded in 2008, CVA now has over 5,000 members across CT

Together we:

- **Advocate** pro-animal policies
- **Educate** the public about animal protection issues
- **Rally** supporters to drive passage of animal friendly laws & defeat harmful proposals
- **Safeguard** animal interests by making their well-being a priority for elected leaders

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LEGISLATORS' PANEL
NEW LONDON WORKSHOP

State Representative Holly Cheeseman ((R-37) East Lyme and Salem

State Representative Joe de la Cruz ((D-41) New London & Groton

CT Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt

Former State Representative Diana Urban

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LEGISLATORS' PANEL
DANBURY WORKSHOP

State Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan (D-2) Bethal, Danbury, Newtown, Redding

State Representative Stephen Harding (R-107) Brookfield, Bethal, Danbury

State Representative Anne Hughes (D-135) Easton, Redding, Weston

State Representative David Michel (D-146) Stamford

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Connecticut General Assembly: The Legislative Process

Joe Grabarz
Lobbyist Gallo & Robinson
CVA Advisory Board

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The CT Legislature is comprised of 2 chambers. You have 1 elected representative from each chamber!

• Senate

- 36 members - 22 Democrats, 14 Republicans
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate: Martin **Looney** (D) New Haven
- Majority Leader: Bob **Duff** (D)Norwalk
- Republican President Pro Tempore: Leonard **Fasano** of North Haven
- Deputy Senate R President Pro Tempore: Kevin **Witkos** (R) Canton

• House

- 151 members - 91 Democrats, 60 Republicans
- Speaker of the House: Joe **Aresimowicz** (D) Berlin
- Majority Leader of the House: Matt **Ritter**(D) Hartford
- House Republican Leader: Themis **Klarides** (R) Derby
- House Republican Deputy Leader Vincent Candelora (R) No.Branford

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Do you know your State legislators? Let's take action right now, & identify YOUR state representatives

The CT Votes for Animals website provides a path to the CGA site too!

1. Pick up your phone & open your web browser
2. Type https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/contact_your_legislator
3. Type the town you live in
4. Type your street name
5. Type your house number
6. Click 'find'
7. Top 2 rows are your **state** Legislators (1 Senator, 1 Rep) Write these down!

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Slide 8

2 do we want to bring them through the CVA portal instead?
Jo-Anne Basile, 10/6/2019

2 I envision this being an activity early on (typically more interaction is better, keeps people awake). You could mention this is also available through our website but ultimately our website connects to the actual source - CGA website - so for a live activity is doesn't make sense to go through CVA as much to me
Jennifer Wynn, 10/6/2019

1 I understand that cga site is quicker but I want to drive traffic to our site so let's use our address as the portal.
Jo-Anne Basile, 10/7/2019

Legislative sessions run ‘long’ (6 months) or ‘short’ (3 months) every other year

2019: First year of a legislator’s term takes place in an odd-numbered year, and is called the long session. It runs from January 9 - June 5

- Bills may address policy & budget. A 2 year budget is adopted
- Individual legislators can propose bills

2020: Second year of a term takes place in an even-numbered year, and is called the short session. It runs from February 6 - May 8

- When the short session was established, it was envisioned that it would only address amendments to the budget. In reality, it’s like the long session but shorter: Many bills are still considered and passed. Major difference is that in the short session only the Committee can intro bills.

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Connecticut General Assembly
2020 Legislative Session -- Deadlines in Joint Rules

	Committee	1 Proposed Bill Deadline *JR 8(a)* *(Absolute)*	2 Committee Bill Deadline *(if no Subj. Matter PH)* *JR 9(a)(2)(A)* *(Absolute)*	3 Petition Committee to Draft PB into CB *(if no Subject Matter PH)* *JR 11* *(Col. 2 + 7 days)*	4 Raised Bill Deadline *JR 9(b)(2)(A)* *(Absolute)*	5 Subject Matter Public Hearing on PB *JR 6(a)(1)* *(Col. 8 - 14 days)*	6 * Committee Bill Deadline *(Subject Matter PH held on PB) (But see Col. 6a)* *JR 9(a)(2)(B)* *(Col. 8 - 10 days)*	6a * Column 6 Adjusted for "A" & "B" Committee Dates	7 Petition Committee to Draft PB into CB *(Subj. Matter PH held on PB)* *JR 11* *(Col. 8 - 7 days)*	8 JF Deadline *JR 15(a)* *(Absolute)*	9 Petition Committee to Report Out Bill *JR 19, par.1* *(Col. B + 7 days)*
A B											
B	Aging	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	03/02/20	02/27/20	03/05/20	**03/12/20**	03/19/20
A	Appropriations	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/20/20	03/24/20	03/24/20	03/27/20	**04/03/20**	04/10/20
B	Banking	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/05/20	03/09/20	03/05/20	03/12/20	**03/19/20**	03/26/20
B	Children	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	03/02/20	02/27/20	03/05/20	**03/12/20**	03/19/20
B	Commerce	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/05/20	03/09/20	03/05/20	03/12/20	**03/19/20**	03/26/20
A	Education	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/09/20	03/13/20	03/13/20	03/16/20	**03/23/20**	03/30/20
B	Energy & Tech.	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/10/20	03/14/20	03/12/20	03/17/20	**03/24/20**	03/31/20
A	Environment	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/11/20	03/15/20	03/13/20	03/18/20	**03/25/20**	04/01/20
A	Finance, Rev. & Bond.	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/19/20	**03/23/20**	03/23/20	03/26/20	**04/02/20**	04/09/20
A	Govt. Admin. & Elect.	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/11/20	03/15/20	03/13/20	03/18/20	**03/25/20**	04/01/20
B	General Law	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/03/20	03/07/20	03/05/20	03/10/20	**03/17/20**	03/24/20
B	Higher Educ. & E. A.	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/03/20	03/07/20	03/05/20	03/10/20	**03/17/20**	03/24/20
B	Housing	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	03/02/20	02/27/20	03/05/20	**03/12/20**	03/19/20
B	Human Services	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/12/20	03/16/20	03/12/20	03/19/20	**03/26/20**	04/02/20
B	Insurance & R. E.	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/05/20	03/09/20	03/05/20	03/12/20	**03/19/20**	03/26/20
A	Judiciary	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/16/20	03/20/20	03/20/20	03/23/20	**03/30/20**	04/06/20
B	Labor & Public Emp.	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/10/20	03/14/20	03/12/20	03/17/20	**03/24/20**	03/31/20
	Legis. Management**	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/02/20	03/06/20	03/06/20	03/09/20	**03/16/20**	03/23/20
A	Planning & Dev.	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/09/20	03/13/20	03/13/20	03/16/20	**03/23/20**	03/30/20
A	Public Health	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/13/20	03/17/20	03/16/20	03/20/20	**03/27/20**	04/03/20
B	Public Safety & Sec.	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	03/03/20	03/07/20	03/05/20	03/10/20	**03/17/20**	03/24/20
A	Transportation	02/07/20	02/21/20	02/28/20	02/21/20	03/06/20	03/10/20	03/09/20	03/13/20	**03/20/20**	03/27/20
B	Veterans' Affairs	02/07/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	02/20/20	02/27/20	03/02/20	02/27/20	03/05/20	**03/12/20**	03/19/20

* Columns 6 and 6a: Joint Rule 9(a)(2)(B) provides that the Committee Bill Deadline is the JF deadline minus 10 days. As a result, Column 6 needs to be adjusted to reflect that "A" Committees may typically meet only on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, and "B" Committees on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Column 6a makes this adjustment and has the correct dates. See JR 5(a) and (b).

** Legislative Management is a statutory committee which may meet on any day, see JR 3(c)(1) and JR5(a)(3).

How a bill becomes a law: the MYTH

IDEA

Brilliant Idea

PERFECT

Committee flawlessly drafts into bill

100 %

Unanimous passage in House

100 %

Unanimous passage in Senate

EASY!

Governor happily signs bill into law

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How a bill becomes a law: reality

IDE
A

Brilliant idea

Committee chair strips half of it out

Nail biting

Testify at public hearing at 10:30PM on Friday night

Bill limps out of committee with numerous typos

[tearshed]

er committee

ssive grassroots campaign

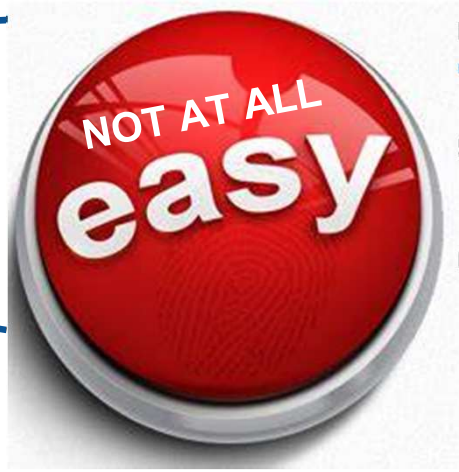
ond to last day of session

M on last day of session

Bill goes to House

Sweet talk pro-animal legislator into sponsoring floor amendment

HUGE CELEBRATION !!!



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Slide 12

1 Some of the items are being blocked by the image of the not at all easy button

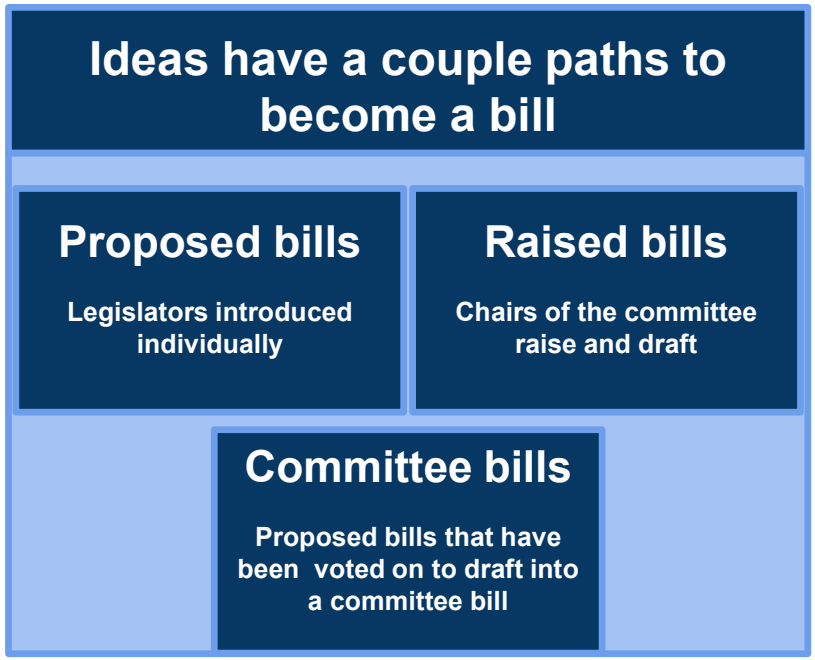
Andrea Dobras, 10/10/2019

Legislative ideas come from a multitude of origins

But great ideas require more than their own merit... they MUST have legislative champions in the House and/ or Senate to get a conversation started

Idea generators

- Unfinished business (prior years)
- Political ecosphere or trends: what has momentum
- Legislators, state agencies (Dept of Ag)
- CVA & other advocacy organizations
- YOU



Tip: you can tell which chamber a bill belongs to by its #:
1-4,999 is a Senate bill (S.B. 123) | 5000+ is a House bill (H.B. 6789)

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Once an idea becomes a bill, typically the next big hurdle is the Joint Committee

- Each bill must have a **public hearing** before being considered for a Committee Vote
- The public (including **YOU**!), legislators, & state agency commissioners usually **testify or submit written testimony** at public hearings. It's your right to attend!
- After the bill has a hearing, **Chairs of a committee decide** which bills are placed on an agenda for voting. Co-chairs have influence over bills in early stages
- Finally, committee takes action (or not). A majority vote is needed to pass out of committee

Most animal bills go through the Joint Committee on the **Environment or Judiciary**

- Voters in the districts of co-chairs have a lot of power & change each election

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Slide 14

3 I want to flush out more process, i.e. schedule for committee action; composition of committee, note both judiciary and environment committers

Jo-Anne Basile, 10/7/2019

RELEVANT JOINT COMMITTEES

Joint Committee on the Environment: The Environment Committee has cognizance of those matters relating to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that include conservation, recreation, pollution control, fisheries and game, state parks and forests, water resources and flood and erosion control; and all matters relating to the Department of Agriculture, including farming, dairy products and domestic animals. www.cga.ct.gov/env/

Joint Committee on Judiciary:The Joint Committee on Judiciary has cognizance of all matters relating to courts, judicial procedures, criminal law, probate courts, probation, parole, wills, estates, adoption, divorce, bankruptcy, escheat, law libraries, deeds, mortgages, conveyancing, preservation of land records and other public documents, the law of business organizations, uniform laws, validations, authorizations to sue and to appeal, claims against the state, all judicial nominations, all nominations of workers' compensation commissioners, all nominations of members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and all matters relating to the Judicial Department, the Department of Correction and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities; www.cga.ct.gov/jud/

It's passed Committee: now what?

- Bills from Committee not ready for a vote until much later (often not until the last 3 weeks of the session!)
- Must be reviewed first by OLR, OFA
- Negotiation is the name of the game! Decisions to bring a bill to the floor are decided by: Democratic & Republican Caucuses; Screening Committee (selected by leadership); Negotiations between political parties; Negotiation between House and Senate Chambers
- Competition is intense; contacting legislators helps success

Thousands of bills reported from Committee but less than 300 get called for a vote

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The final step is the Governor's desk

- A bill must pass both chambers in identical language. It then goes to the Governor for signature or veto
- During session, the governor has 5 days to sign after it arrives on their desk. After session adjourns, the Governor has 15 days. If there is no action during this timeframe, it automatically becomes law
- If the bill is vetoed, it returns with the Governor's objections to the chamber of origin. It takes a two-thirds vote by the members of both chambers to override a veto

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QUESTIONS ?

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ISSUES PANEL

Prohibiting the sale of inhumanely bred dogs, cats and rabbits in CT Pet Stores – Debora Bresch, Senior State Director, ASPCA

Co-existing with bears and other wildlife – Annie Hornish, CT State Director, HSUS

Desmond's Law and Army - Robin (Z) Cannamela, President Desmond's Army

Animal Cruelty and other issues: Jessica Rubin, UCONN School of Law, Board President, CVA

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Toward a Retail Pet Shop Sales Ban

Debora M. Bresch
Senior State Legislative Director
ASPCA

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ASPCA®
WE ARE THEIR VOICE.®

Stop the retail sale of cruelly bred puppy mill dogs, cats, and rabbits in CT pet stores

Please cosponsor the Allie-Brennan/Doucette Amendment to HB 5386

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Stop the retail sale of cruelly bred puppy mill dogs, cats, and rabbits in CT pet stores

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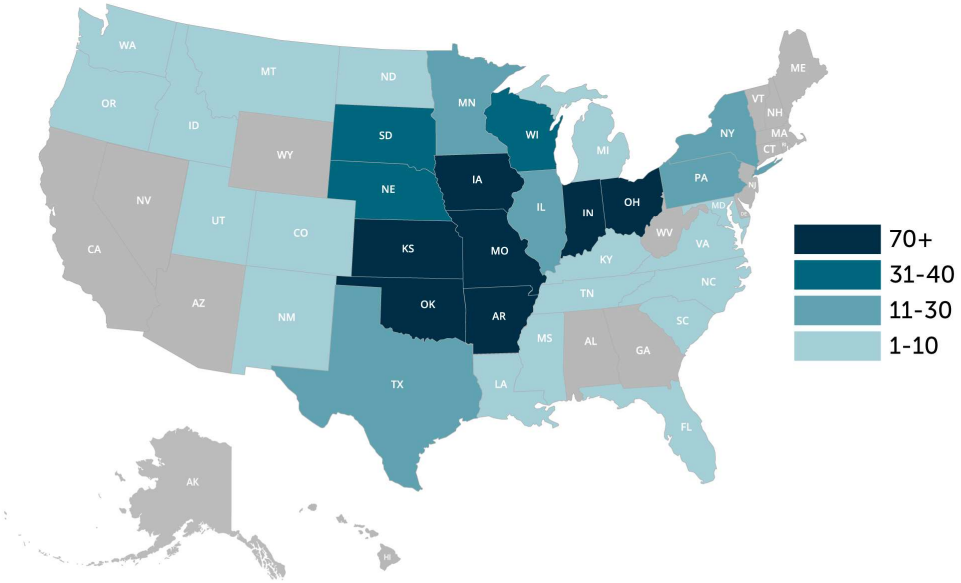
Commercial Dog Breeding Operations



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Source: List of Active Licensed Dog Breeders, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2018

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“Inspectors will never write a citation for ‘improper socialization’….Improper socialization and prolonged confinement may lead to stereotypic behaviors, which are seen as constant and repetitive actions such as: spinning, pacing, excessive licking of paws or legs, excessive barking, fearfulness/aggression.”

Introductory Course for USDA Licensed Dog Breeders
Part 6: Socialization for Healthy Dogs

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Retail Pet Sales Timeline

- **2009 – ASPCA obtained CT law requiring pet shops to submit certificates of origin to Dept. of Agriculture**
- **2010 – USDA Inspector Gen. report criticizing re: USDA breeder/broker inspections**
- **2013-14 – CT task force on inhumane origins of pet shop cats/dogs (included ASPCA, CVA, and HSUS); passage of current sourcing and disclosure law**
- **2017- USDA removed almost all identifying information from online breeder/broker inspection reports**
- **2007-present – Hundreds of local retail sales bans enacted throughout country (and upheld in federal court)**
- **2017-18 – CA retail sales ban, eff. 1/19; MD retail sales ban, eff. 1/20**
- **2019 – First effort to enact a CT statewide ban; Stamford advocates sought local ban**

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CT Legislative Session 2020

Stop the retail sale of cruelly bred puppy mill dogs, cats, and rabbits in CT pet stores

Please cosponsor the Allie-Brennan/Doucette Amendment to HB 5386

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Coexisting with bears & other wildlife

Annie Hornish, Connecticut State Director
The Humane Society of the United States

[Wild Neighbors]

The science is with us.

This is a POLITICAL issue, thus our leverage =

SIZE OF VOTING BLOC

“Regulatory capture”

Form of government failure, whereby the regulator advances the special interests of those they regulate

DEEP's fear-promoting propaganda

- Fear-promoting rhetoric
- Improper application of aversive conditioning
- Knee-jerk, lethal responses to desensitize, normalize killing
- Focus on sightings, which do not equal population (one habituated bear can be reported disproportionately)
- DEEP was after a bear hunt since at least 2013, prior to even knowing bear population!

Perspective on safety…

- No black bear-related fatalities in the history of Connecticut
- Since 1982, 10 hunting related fatalities and 118 injuries in CT since 1982

MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES
HORSE RIDING ON YELLOW TRAIL ONLY
Be Bear Aware
Black bears are increasing in numbers and being seen more frequently in Connecticut. They are rarely aggressive towards humans but can create a variety of problems. In particular, bears that are fed by humans can become habituated and may need to be euthanized. Connecticut residents must learn how to reduce the likelihood of bears becoming a problem. Birdfeeders, garbage, pet food, and compost attract bears close to houses and people, and should be made unavailable to bears.
Black Bear
Do's and Don'ts
Bears Near Your Home
Bears When Hiking or Camping
Report
bear sightings to the DEEP at 860-675-8130 or online at www.ct.gov/deep/blackbear
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division

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urces
Report
bear sightings to the DEEP at 860-675-8130 or online at www.ct.gov/deep/blackbear

The people of Connecticut do not support trophy hunting of our state's small bear population.

American Wildlife Values (2018)

- Public desires peaceful coexistence
- CT DEEP's values not aligned with values of CT public

American Wildlife Values (2018)

- Recommended governance styles were polar opposite to that of CT DEEP
- CT DEEP's culture survey found agency priorities misaligned with that of CT public
- Yet 57% CT public feel they share same values as DEEP, even though DEEP employees recognize that they are misaligned with values of CT residents

Legislative shenanigans

- Senate Bill 586 (2019)
  - Name of bill whitewashed from “An Act Concerning Bear Hunting” to “AAC the Control of Nuisance Wildlife”
  - “For farmers” but farmers already have laws on the books
  - Included loophole for trophy hunting
  - Promotes lethal responses to conflicts with ALL wildlife; no focus on prevention

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

[Wild Neighbors]

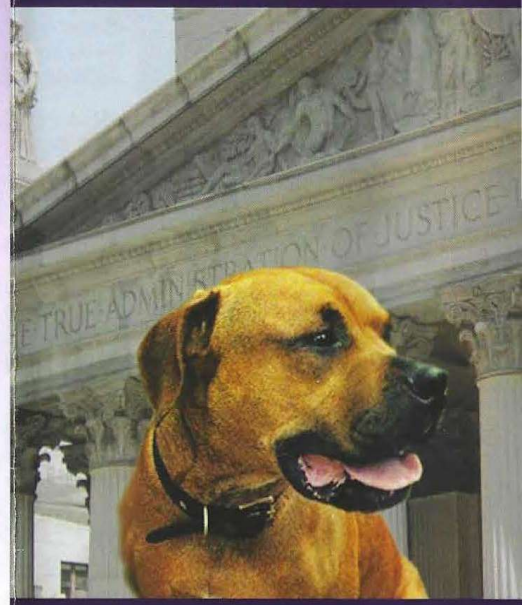
“I care about animals and I vote!”

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

[Wild Neighbors]

DESMOND'S ARMY

Animal Law Advocates



Speaking For The Voiceless Since 2011

www.DesmondsArmy.org
desmondsarmy.ct@gmail.com

ANIMAL CRUELTY REFORM & OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE BILLS

Jessica Rubin, UCONN School of Law, Board President, CVA

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ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS - ADDITIONS

Amend the CT's domestic violence statute to include animal cruelty in the definition of family violence

- The link between domestic violence, interpersonal abuse and animal abuse are well known and documented in scientific literature
- Abusers use the threat or actual harm to animals as power over their victims. Studies document over 65% of abused women in shelters report animal violence by their abusers.
- Adding animal abuse to the family violence definition will aid in the protection of abused family members, expand family violence reporting statistics and be an additional tool in the work of addressing domestic and family violence protection programs.

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ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS - ADDITIONS

Expand the application of Desmond's Law to give judges the explicit flexibility to appoint advocates in non-dog and cat animal cruelty cases.

- Current law (PA 16-30) allows a judge to appoint a volunteer lawyer or supervised law student to advocate for the interest of justice in certain proceedings involving animals. Prior to final passage the bill was amended to restrict advocates to cases involving cats and dogs.
- Since enactment, several high-profile animal cruelty cases have involved other companion animals such as rabbits, horses and goats. In a recent case the court appointed an advocate in a case involving 17 non dog or cat animals - mostly rabbits.
- While not a mandate, the proposal grants the judge the flexibility to "appoint an advocate for any animal at the judge's discretion."
- UConn is collecting data to study/analyze the effect of DL on case outcomes since passage

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OTHER **ANIMAL** WELFARE INITIATIVES

- Legislation may be introduced for the 2020 session which will:
  - **Ban the use of animals in traveling shows and circuses**:
    - Bridgeport and Stamford already ban the use of wild and exotic animals in circuses
    - One CT traveling show has major and long-standing USDA violations
    - Wild animals can be dangerous and unpredictable and their use in circuses and traveling shows puts the public at risk
    - Alternatives exist that are more humane and in keeping with 21 Century family values
  - **Prohibit the sale, donation or manufacturing of new fur products in the State**
    - California first State to enact a ban, October 2019; NYC actively working on a ban
    - Grass roots group: Fur Free CT #furfreect
- CVA supports these initiatives

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How to Use Your Constituent Power to Help Animals

Jo-Anne Basile, Ex Director, CVA

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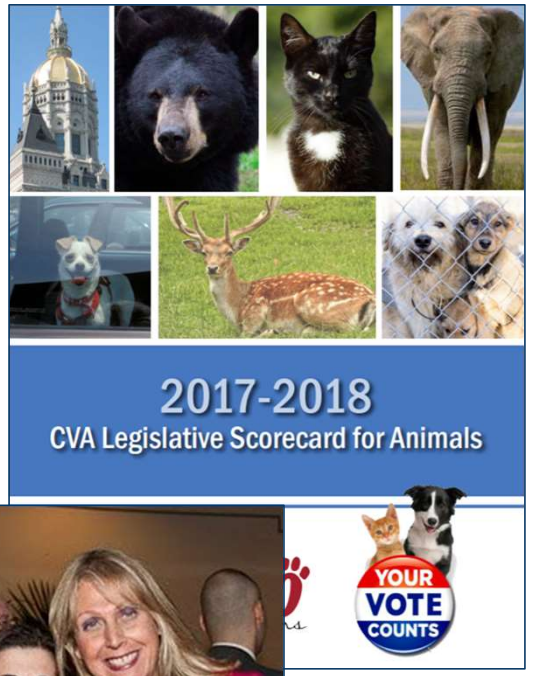
The most effective thing you can do is get to know your legislators...

- Learn which Committees they serve on and if they're in a leadership role; their official page (cga.ct.gov) denotes this info
  - Look for Committees that address animal issues:
    - Joint Committee on the Environment
    - Joint Committee on the Judiciary
- Sign up for their email list; follow their Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Check out their voting record on animal issues!
  - If they served in 2017-2018, you can see how they voted on key animal bills through CVA's Legislative Scorecard https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/2017_2018_legislative_scorecard
  - A new scorecard will be released before the 2020 election



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… and contact them early and often!

Why?

Sometimes just to introduce yourself but more often **let them know how you feel about a specific bill** or if you need their vote

Look out for **CVA Action Alerts** throughout the session. Needed to rally constituent support for a bill or to oppose action that will negatively impact animals

How?

Call or **write** or **visit** during "district office hours"

- Learn about their position on issues
- Let them know **animal issues are important** to you & you hope to count on their support as certain bills come up

CVA makes it easy for you by providing background on the issue and offering a suggested message

We depend on voters like you to let legislators know that animals matter

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What else can I do?

Testify at Committee hearings CVA will send talking points, info on timing and where to send your statement

- See CVA's Guide to Testifying: https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/guide_to_testifying

If you can't testify in person you can still email a statement.

- You can see CVA's testimony for bills considered during the 2019 session here: - https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/cva_bill_tracking_and_testimony

Organize/attend an in-district meeting of like-minded advocates and your state representative

- Legislators want to hear from their voting constituents and an in-district meeting is a good way to talk to them about bills or issues that are important to you and others.

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Write Letters to the Editor in your local paper

- This is a sure way to get the attention of your legislators
- Your letter should be relevant and polite. Civil discourse gets support; negative firebrand rhetoric works against you and the issue.

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Here are some important considerations for effective lobbying

Do

- Establish your agenda & goals
- Be prepared, but don't feel that you need to be an expert
- Listen well – take notes
- Be concise, patient, & respect their time
- Remember you're building a relationship
- Be honest and personable
- Make a specific & reasonable ask
- Follow-up is important
- Tell CVA how it went

Don't

- Lie, mislead, or exaggerate
- Show excessive graphic footage
- Contact other council members
- Inundate staffers council members
- Be overly negative • Forget to follow-up
- Overload a visit with too many issues
- Confront, threaten, pressure, or beg
- Expect them to be specialists

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Constituents (YOU) are powerful. You can influence laws throughout the session & beyond

Watch out for CVA Action Alerts! We will tell you exactly when to reach out to whom

Pre-Session: Prepare	Committee: Contact Members	House & Senate: Contact Your Reps	Governor's Desk: Contact Ned Lamont
Meet with your legislators and tell them what is important to you, especially if you are in a district of the Committee Chairs	Make phone calls, send emails & letters, attend lobby days, testify at hearings, stop by office hours, hold house gathering for legislator to attend	All out push with calls & emails urging your rep to take up the bill ASAP	Convince to sign or veto bills
• If you know what bills may come up, tell them • Arrange meetings	• Take EVERY opportunity to talk about your bill and why it should be passed	• Focus on legislators flagged by CVA • Repeat for both Chambers (House & Senate)	• Don't take for granted the bill will pass or fail

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Slide 49

5 _Marked as resolved_
Jennifer Wynn, 10/6/2019

4 replace with new slides
Jo-Anne Basile, 10/7/2019

5 _Re-opened_
Jo-Anne Basile, 10/7/2019