



## AT THE CAPITOL: KEY ANIMAL BILLS RAISED

As we reach mid-February, the picture for animal-related bills is coming into focus. As you have heard before, legislating during COVID is making for interesting times. One impact is that leadership has asked committees to limit the number of bills going to the floor. This means some of our bills got dropped.



So far, the line-up for animal bills moving to the hearing process looks like this: in the Environment Committee, HB 5806 (SB66) on import of **trophy hunting** of the “big six”; in the Planning and Development Committee, HB 5974 allowing for local control of **pet shops**; in Judiciary, SB 521 calling for a review of **animal cruelty** laws by the State Sentencing Commission. The biggest news so far— **no hunting bills** have been raised! If this holds, it means there will be no bill allowing a bear hunt or any of the other 20-plus bills introduced to expand hunting opportunities in the state. We are keeping a watchful eye, however, to ensure some form of expanded hunting doesn't slip into an unsuspecting bill.

Getting any of these bills over the finish line is another process altogether. This is the time when your involvement – either testifying at a public hearing or reaching out to your legislators asking for their vote on a specific bill – is crucial. Watch for our **Legislative Alerts** in the coming weeks asking for your help. Remember to SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS because if you don't, who will?

## 2021 CVA Advocacy Workshop: Conversations with Legislators and Experts

Animal advocates were engaged, enlightened, and energized for the 2021 legislative session during CVA's virtual Advocacy Workshop last month. More than 200 advocates signed up and more than 130 joined the opening Zoom session. The workshop brought together six state lawmakers, experts, and advocates to discuss CVA's priority issues and share tips for lobbying during a pandemic. A special thank you to the Community Foundation for Eastern Connecticut for their partnership in presenting this workshop.

Lobbyist Joe Grabarz of Gallo Robinson, and a CVA Advisory Committee member, indicated that this year's virtual legislative session is forcing lawmakers to be more transparent. "They are home and are frustrated they can't interact with their constituents," he said. **"They want to hear from you!"**



of the Environment Committee, Rep. Dorinda Borer discussed the assessment of the many humane animal bills

**"Advocate to the undecided middle -- not those who are firmly for or against a bill." --Rep. Dorinda Borer**

If you missed the Workshop, you can [watch the videos](#) on CVA's website. You can choose from the general session with Rep Borer and lobbying tips from Joe Grabarz. Also available are the individual breakout sessions with Sen. Will Haskell and Rep. Anne Hughes discussing SB 66, the circus bill; Rep. Jason Doucette and Rep. Raghiv Allie Brennan on HB 5974, local pet shop regulation; Rep. David Michel on HB 5013 banning the sale or trade of new fur (See Fur Free CT column below); and Nicole Rivard of Friends of Animals, and Laura Simon of the CT Wildlife Rehabilitators Assoc. on bears and other wildlife.

### [WATCH 2021 CVA WORKSHOP](#)

## **Lawmakers Who Love Animals**

During the first meeting of the General Assembly's bipartisan Animal Advocacy Caucus earlier this month, nearly all of the 19 legislators introducing themselves said they were there because they love animals. Our kind of people!



The Animal Advocacy Caucus is co-Chaired by Representative David Michel and Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria. Members and stakeholders briefly reviewed the more than 30 bills relating to animal and environmental protection that had been introduced so far, and shared some thoughts on the merits, support and

opposition for each. If your lawmakers are on the list of Animal Advocacy Caucus members consider taking a moment to thank them and ask for their continued support.

*Oscar lives with Co-chair Ditria (above). Co-chair Michel and friend (below).*



SEE ANIMAL CAUCUS



THE

## BIG PICTURE



## Join the Fur Free CT Crusade

By Amy Millardi and Liz Garrett

Fur Free Connecticut was founded in 2019, on the heels of the state of California successfully enacting AB 44 and becoming the first state in the Nation to ban the sale of new fur products. Fur Free Connecticut was born out of a desire of local activists to become more effective in our efforts to end the cruel fur

trade. We are an organization made up of dedicated animal advocates guided by the mission of working towards a more compassionate and ethical future for Connecticut.

House Bill 5031 to ban the sale and trade of new fur in Connecticut has been introduced by Representative David Michel of the 146th House District (South End, Shippan and Downtown Stamford) this legislative session. This is a groundbreaking bill for Connecticut, as this is the very first-time legislation to ban new fur products has ever been introduced in the state. We are grateful to have three co-sponsors of the bill: Representative Michael A. Winkler of the 56th District; Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo of the 111th District; Representative John "Jack" F. Hennessy of the 127th District; and Senator Rick Lopes of the 6th District. [READ MORE>>](#)

## ANIMAL-FRIENDLY FARE

### February's Vegan Recipe

While much of the country is caught up in the pandemic induced obsession with sourdough bread, CVA's Board President Jessica Rubin is sticking with her tried and true recipe for vegan challah. Traditionally known as an "egg bread," this



delicious challah uses aquafaba, or the liquid from a can of chickpeas, instead of the eggs. [READ MORE](#)

Don't forget to send us your favorite vegan recipe to share with fellow animal lovers! Email [info@ctvotesforanimals.org](mailto:info@ctvotesforanimals.org).