



CT VOTES
FOR
ANIMALS

SPEAK

UP FOR ANIMALS

CVA envisions a future where all animals live in peace under the protection of strong laws

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Send in testimony for March 14 Environment Committee Hearing to Oppose Expanded Killing of Wildlife and to Support Prohibiting Wild Animals in Traveling Shows

On Monday March 14, the Environment Committee will hear two bills of interest to CVA supporters. We need you to send a statement so the Environment Committee knows you want to protect animals. ***Speak Up for Animals – they need you.***



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Background

Oppose SB 244, An Act Concerning Wildlife that Causes Damage to Livestock, Poultry or Bees.

This bill allows anyone with agricultural crops, livestock, chickens or beehives on their property to claim wildlife damage to justify killing wildlife, including bears, 365 days/year. The bill does not define “damage”, doesn’t require protective measures or humane methods be employed before the use of lethal action and fails to consider educational efforts for landowners as a line of first defense. DEEP already has the statutory authority to take wildlife it deems a threat to crops and livestock.

Support HB 5293 with an Amendment An Act Prohibiting the Use of Wild or Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts

The bill prohibits the use of wild animals in traveling animal acts. This bill was raised in 2020 but was interrupted because of the pandemic. We support the bill but are requesting to amend the bill on line 33 by removing “includes any animal that is not domesticated”. Some exhibitors will use that language as a loophole to exclude from the bill’s scope wild animals bred, born or raised in captivity.



Please send a written statement to the Environment Committee: envtestimony@cga.ct.gov Be sure to add your name and address to the statement. Here’s a sample email; modify it for your purposes.

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

I am a resident of Connecticut, and I am urgently asking the Committee to oppose SB244 and support HB 5293, with an amendment.

SB 244 as written will promote a dangerous expansion to killing wildlife under the guise of protecting crops. The bill opens the door to killing any species twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year creating a public safety hazard and turning CT into a wildlife shooting range. What is needed is a comprehensive and consistent public education program that teaches how to effectively protect agricultural crops, livestock and personal property. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection already has the authority to remove and kill wildlife that damages property. This authority coupled with a comprehensive education program is what is needed.

I want to thank the Committee for raising HB 5293, Prohibiting the Use of Wild and Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts. This bill provides needed protection for certain animals such as camels, elephants and tigers, by removing them from traveling entertainment shows such as circuses. It has been well documented those animals are trained using inhumane practices, forced to perform tricks and acts not natural to them and have little or no protection in existing laws. Also please support an amendment on line 33 to remove "includes any animal that is not domesticated". Some exhibitors will use that language as a loophole to exclude from the bill's scope wild animals bred, born or raised in captivity.

I urge the Committee to please oppose SB 244 and support HB 5293 with an amendment.
Thank you,

Name and Address