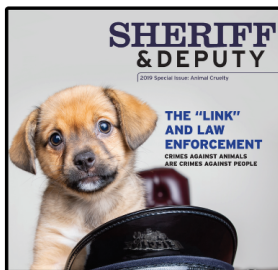


# ADVOCATING FOR ANIMALS

2023 LOBBY DAYS AT THE CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
May 25, May 30, May 31

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS/Contacts

- CT Votes for Animals – Jo-Anne Basile info@ctvotesforanimals.org
- Desmond's Army – Linda Pleva desmondsarmy.ct@gmail.com
- Friends of Animals – Nicole Rivard nrivard@friendsofanimals.org
- GREY2K USA Worldwide – Christine Dorchak christine@grey2kusa.org
- House Rabbit Connection – Marlene Wilhelm marlene@hopline.org
- The Humane Society of the United States–Annie Hornish ahornish@humanesociety.org



## ANIMAL ADVOCATES SUPPORT SENATE PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING BILLS PASSED IN THE HOUSE

**HB 5575** – Municipal Animal Shelter Regulations  
Needed updates to 1964 law making it safer for animals in municipal shelters. The bill establishes humane temperature requirements for both heat and cold consistent with CT private shelters, requires minimum health and safety regulations and requires notification to heads of municipalities in cases of shelter violations.

**HB 6615** – Dog Racing (Greyhounds)  
Closing a loophole to make cruel and inhumane dog racing illegal in CT. Although greyhound racing stopped in 2005, owning and operating dog racing tracks is permitted and legal in the state. This bill closes that loophole and allows CT to join the 42 other states where live dog racing is illegal.

**HB 6714** – Cruelty to Animals  
Protecting animals by strengthening CT's animal sexual abuse laws, allowing courts to impose a possession ban on those convicted of animal cruelty,

and requiring veterinarians to report cases of suspected dog fighting. If enacted, HB 6714 will be the first animal anti-cruelty bill to pass in almost ten years.

**HB 6481** – Ban the Release Outdoors of Helium Balloons  
Ban the release outdoors of any helium balloons. The outdoor release of balloons creates an environmental crisis when their hazardous remnants litter Long Island Sound and kill sea turtles, shore birds, whales and other animals who mistake them as food.

**HB 6484** – Ban the Killing of Horseshoe Crabs  
Bans the senseless killing of horseshoe crabs for bait in CT. Dwindling numbers of horseshoe crabs along CT and NY shorelines have led to their functional extinction in Long Island Sound, which means they have become too rare to fulfill their crucial, interconnected role in the ecosystem.

## NEED FOR STRENGTHENING AMENDMENTS

### **SB 962** – An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Rodenticides

As reported out of Committee the bill does not address the crisis and impact of second-generation rodenticides on non-target wildlife and animals. A strengthening amendment would place a 2- year moratorium on the use, application, sale or distribution of second-generation anticoagulants. There would be exceptions for health and safety. In 2025 DEEP will submit a report to the legislature concerning the effectiveness of the moratorium and recommendations for ongoing regulations.



## STRONGLY OPPOSE

### **Section 27, HB 6726** Concerning Large Scale Rabbit Farming/Slaughter for Meat

Section 27 of the bill allows farms to engage in large scale slaughter of rabbits for meat by allowing them to raise and slaughter up to 1,000 rabbits per farm. Rabbits are the third most popular pet after dogs and cats.



Yet in the United States, rabbits, are exempt from the Humane Slaughter Act which means that rabbits do not need to be stunned before slaughter and an inspector is not required to be present, leaving them vulnerable to the worst kind of abuse. There is no data to support an increased desire for rabbit meat in the U.S. and profit margins are negligible. Connecticut voters for the past two years have expressed their overwhelming opposition to large scale rabbit farming for meat. Passage of this bill would result in the state of Connecticut sanctioning and legalizing the cruelty of factory farming to companion animals.

### **SB 1148** - The Bear Bill

As passed by the Senate SB 1148 doesn't protect people or bears. It allows unregulated shooting in the name of self-defense and creates a loophole that will permit trophy hunting. By expanding this function beyond DEEP and first responders it creates a public safety risk. In a floor amendment, the unintentional feeding provision - which includes bird feeders - was removed. Bird feeders and garbage cans represent almost 80% of all complaints concerning bears to DEEP. Further without explanation, the bill only applies to feeding restrictions on private and not public lands – a distinction not apparent to a bear. These unexplained provisions gut the feeding ban and sabotage the success of any humane efforts to address bear interactions. We are asking the House to support an amendment (LCO 8244) that will apply an effective feeding ban program, establish a grant program for municipalities and farmers to promote community-based solutions and an initiative concerning the humane management of bear cubs. If the amendment fails, we strongly urge members to vote no on SB 1148.

