



HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE: NORTH CAROLINA

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Americans. Countless citizens look to their state government to protect animals from cruel treatment and exploitation. Humane-minded individuals care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues.

For information on the range and details of our issue areas, please visit the websites of the Humane Society Legislative Fund (hslf.org) or the Humane Society of the United States (humanesociety.org).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

What actions have you taken to promote the welfare of animals in the past? (Please include any action taken in an official or unofficial context.)

I have long advocated for animal rights. Growing up in rural NC where hunting is prevalent I was taught the importance of conservation by my father who is an avid hunter. He now owns a hunting outfitters group that prohibits "canned hunts", and even limits not just the number that can be taken per law but also the size with penalties for those who don't follow. I now live on 18 acres that act as a wildlife refuge where all hunting is prohibited. I work with countless local rescues and shelters and advocate for trap neuter & release of feral cat colonies as well as unjust breed ~~res~~^{specific} restriction. We have 6 Furbabies 5 are rescues and 1 is a rehomed. I work daily to help shape local laws for animals as well as advocate not just for education but better funding.

Are there any animal welfare programs or issues of importance to you that you would take the initiative on after you are elected?

- We need a registry for animal abusers the same as we have for sexual offenders to stop actions from being repeated.
- State funds allocated to assist any shelter that wants to become a no kill shelter.
- More grant money for spay/neuter programs
- Strengthen penalties for animal fighting
- Stricter regulation on farms to address humane conditions

Will you post information in your campaign materials stating your positions on animal protection issues?

Yes, I'm the full transparency candidate so all is made public, including replies to any questionnaire I answer from organizations.

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any pets that have made an impact on you personally?

Every pet if you are an animal lover leaves some impact. The one who left the biggest however was my 8 yr old lab/mix Buddy who passed earlier this year. A breeder was selling outside Wal-Mart he was the last and not in good shape so I purchased as I couldn't leave him there. He became my shadow and truly my best friend. With every move he was a long for the ride and who I chose over a toxic relationship that was jealous. He was my rock and I keep a shadow box with his collar and photos on my desk so he continues to stay with me.

STATE ISSUES:

Members of state legislatures influence animal protection policy by sponsoring or cosponsoring humane legislation, opposing government programs that use taxpayer funds to harm animals, supporting funding for government programs to protect animals and for adequate enforcement of animal welfare laws, and opposing inhumane laws or those which weaken current protections. We would like to know your position on the following important animal welfare issues, which are subject to debate in your state.

PETS AND CRUELTY

Puppy Mills: Internet sales, flea markets, face-to-face sales and the majority of pet stores that sell puppies are getting those dogs from puppy mills. A puppy mill is an inhumane, high-volume dog breeding facility that churns out puppies for profit, ignoring the needs of the pups and their mothers. Dogs from puppy mills are often sick and unsocialized. Pet retailers often falsely assure consumers that the puppies they offer for sale are raised in reputable or humane breeding facilities, even when they come from inhumane facilities like mass production puppy mills. The Humane Society of the United States hears from thousands of devastated consumers every year who bring home a dog only to have the animal fall sick and, in some cases, even die.

Will you support efforts to end the sale of puppies sourced from puppy mills in pet stores?

Yes No Not Sure

Cockfighting: Cockfighting is a centuries-old blood sport in which two or more specially bred birds, known as gamecocks, are placed in an enclosed pit to fight, for the primary purposes of gambling and entertainment. A typical cockfight can last anywhere from several minutes to more than half an hour and usually results in the death of one or both birds. Even birds who aren't killed during cockfights suffer terribly. Regardless of how exhausted or injured they become (common injuries include punctured lungs, broken bones, and pierced eyes), the birds cannot escape from the fighting pit. The razor-sharp steel blades or "gaffs" (which resemble 3-inch-long, curved ice picks) tied to the birds' legs are so dangerous that cockfighters themselves have been killed when accidentally slashed by their own birds.

Will you support efforts to strengthen penalties for possession of cockfighting paraphernalia and the possession of birds with the intent of fighting?

Yes No Not Sure

Cat Declawing: Medical drawbacks to declawing include pain in the paw, infection, tissue necrosis (tissue death), lameness, and back pain. Removing claws changes the way a cat's foot meets the ground and can cause pain similar to wearing an uncomfortable pair of shoes. There can also be a regrowth of improperly removed claws, nerve damage, and bone spurs. Many countries have banned declawing. The Humane Society Legislative Fund opposes declawing except for the rare cases when it is necessary for medical purposes, such as the removal of cancerous nail bed tumors.

Will you support legislation to prohibit the surgical declawing of cats?

Yes No Not Sure

License Plates: North Carolina offers drivers the opportunity to purchase the Animal Lovers "I Care" license plate when registering their vehicle. The program reimburses counties and municipalities (or contracted entities) for direct costs of spay/neuter procedures performed on dogs/cats owned by low-income individuals.

Will you support efforts to strengthen North Carolina's spay/neuter license plate program?

Yes No Not Sure

FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION AND FOOD SAFETY

Factory Farming: On factory farms, egg-laying hens are packed into battery cages where they can't even spread their wings. Baby calves are taken from their mothers and confined in pens so small they can barely move, and pigs are locked in gestation crates the width and length of their bodies, unable to even turn around.

Will you support efforts to protect North Carolina's family farmers by prohibiting cruel industry practices on factory farms?

Yes No Not Sure

Fashion: Animals need their fur coats more than we do. But on fur factory farms around the world, millions of rabbits, foxes, mink and other wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors—only to be crudely gassed or electrocuted at the end. In the wild, animals are caught in crippling leghold traps for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like threatened species and even pets—all this in the name of fashion.

Will you support efforts to prohibit the sale of new products containing fur from animals?

Yes No Not Sure

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Cosmetics Testing: Humane and safe cosmetics can be made using the thousands of existing ingredients that have already been approved, and several non-animal safety tests are already available for new ingredients. These non-animal alternatives not only save countless animals, but can be cheaper, faster, and more relevant to human biology, and therefore more reliable at predicting safety. Countries with a collective 1.7 billion consumers, including India and those in the European Union, already prohibit the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, and global companies are meeting this demand with cruelty-free products. California, Illinois and Nevada prohibit new animal testing for cosmetics safety substantiation and it's expected more states will consider legislation.

Will you support legislation which would prohibit the manufacture and sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics?

Yes No Not Sure

Retirement: It is a bleak life for the approximately 60,000 dogs and 20,000 cats used in testing and research in U.S. laboratories each year. These animals spend almost every hour of their short lives behind bars in cold steel cages, never knowing what it is like to play fetch, lie in the sun, or roll over happily for a belly rub. Those who have adopted former research dogs and cats can attest to the resilience and affection of these animals once they are given the chance to flourish in a home environment.

Will you support legislation to require institutions of higher education, and related research facilities, to offer cats and dogs no longer used for educational, research, or scientific purposes to animal rescue organizations for adoption prior to euthanizing the animals?

Yes No Not Sure

WILDLIFE

Ivory: The United States is among the world's largest markets for illegal wildlife goods, including elephant ivory and rhino horn. The illegal wildlife trade is a lucrative, multi-billion-dollar enterprise, fueling transnational crime and incentivizing the cruel killing of animals for their parts. Legal ivory marketplaces provide an opportunity for illegal ivory to flourish because of the ease of mixing the two. Enforcement efforts are often hampered by a lack of resources or the difficulty of visually distinguishing illegal ivory from legally-acquired ivory.

Will you support efforts to end the sale of ivory?

Yes No Not Sure

Exotic Pets: With few exceptions, North Carolina currently lacks statewide restrictions on the ownership of dangerous wild animals. Despite the risk of zoonotic disease and threats to public health and safety, it is legal to own lions, tigers, primates, alligators, and crocodiles across the state.

Will you support legislation to prohibit the private ownership of certain dangerous wild animals as pets?

Yes No Not Sure

Killing Contests: Wildlife killing contests are organized events in which participants compete for prizes to see who can kill the most or the largest animals within a certain time period. Most Americans are shocked to learn that thousands of animals – including coyotes, foxes, bobcats, prairie dogs, rabbits and squirrels – are killed in these events every year across the United States.

Will you support legislation to address killing contests by making it unlawful for any person to organize, sponsor, promote, conduct, or participate in a competitive event at which the participants harass or take covered wildlife?

Yes No Not Sure

Wild Animal Acts: Decades of documented animal mistreatment and public health risks have greatly reduced the popularity of exhibitions that display or allow public contact with wild animals. The abuse of wildlife for entertainment is a major problem the world over. Animals like elephants, whales and dolphins continue to be taken from the wild and coerced into cruel captivity in order to entertain tourists, and the Humane Society Legislative Fund has been involved for a long time in efforts at the global level to stop such exploitation.

Will you support legislation to end wild animal acts?

Yes No Not Sure

Thank you for your time! Please return the completed questionnaire to:

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