



2015 MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS OVER



Animals Escape Unharmmed

Once again, there was an onslaught of bills this legislative session that were intended to undermine our anti-cruelty statutes. In addition, there were serious attempts to eliminate protections for farm animals. The Alliance also fought efforts to keep the public in the dark about how animals are treated at animal operations across the state. Thankfully, the animals escaped unharmed from this blitz of harmful bills. Alarminglly, some of these bills actually passed the House of Representatives and came close to passing into law. It is with great jubilation that we can proclaim **victory for the animals!**

The Alliance is particularly satisfied to have been successful in upholding the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act (CCPA). The commercial dog breeders made numerous attempts to gain the introduction of legislation to roll back the 2016 requirements of the CCPA. These new 2016 requirements will significantly increase living space for dogs confined in puppy mills and will require the elimination of all wire flooring. Despite an all-out effort by the puppy millers to overturn these new standards of care, their efforts failed, and we can expect many more puppy mills to close down their operations in January when these standards take effect. We already have 50,000 fewer breeding dogs confined in puppy mills since the CCPA was passed.

Several legislators, hostile to animal welfare, fought extremely hard to gain passage of bills to weaken our anti-cruelty laws – even up until the last days of the legislative session. Fortunately, with your support, we were able to persevere. We refused to back down and remained relentless in our commitment to protect the animals and were able to defeat all of these bills – many going down to defeat in the last few days of the session.

Every one of your letters, emails, and phone calls to your state senator and representative paid off and truly made a difference for the animals in Missouri.

Without your help, several of these harmful bills would have most certainly passed into law and the animals would have paid a horrendous price.

Here is a list of some of the bills that you helped to successfully defeat that would have significantly endangered the welfare of animals in Missouri.

HB 79 – Eliminate Disposition Hearings DEFEATED

This legislation, if passed, would have eliminated the disposition process for animals that have been cruelly treated and would have resulted in abused and neglected animals being left in the hands of their abusers.

HB 479 & SB 131 – Exempts Animals from Sunshine Law DEFEATED

This legislation would have eliminated the ability to monitor animal welfare issues via the state's "Sunshine Law." Among other things, it would have prevented access to state inspection reports of commercial dog breeders. Supporters of the legislation blamed Missouri's "Sunshine Law" for the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act which closed down many inhumane puppy mills. They argued that public disclosure of the conditions at Missouri's puppy mills led to the intense pressure to enact stricter laws. Additionally, this legislation would have prohibited the disclosure of unhealthy and cruel conditions at factory farms. A key legislator supporting this legislation was quoted in the media as saying, in reference to public information on animals in agriculture, "it's better kept quiet."

HB 999 & SB 553 – Eliminates Regulations on Factory Farms DEFEATED

These bills were aimed at decreasing animal health and environmental regulations on factory farms. This legislation would have eliminated the authority of county commissioners and county health boards to regulate factory farms. These bills were intended to open up many more factory farms in the state and were initiated and supported by China-owned Smithfield Foods, one of the world's largest operators of factory farms.

HB 882 & SB 131 - Punishes Counties that Regulate Factory Farms DEFEATED

These bills would have given preferences for grant monies and other services from state agencies to those counties in the state that do not regulate factory farms. In essence, this legislation would have punished counties for adopting ordinances to protect animal health and the environment. It would also punish all urban counties that have zoning ordinances.

HB 374 – Suppresses Free Speech on Farm Animal Issues DEFEATED

This bill would have held a person liable for voicing concerns about the safety of food from animals raised on factory farms. This bill was intended to quell criticism of unhealthy practices at factory farms such as the excessive and injudicious use of antibiotics on pigs raised for human consumption. Pigs in factory farms often require large doses of antibiotics due to the unsanitary and stressful living conditions.

HB 196 – Denies Authority to Prohibit Horse Slaughter DEFEATED

This bill would have prohibited the Missouri Department of Natural Resources from denying permits to slaughter horses even when there are legitimate environmental concerns.

HB 1264 – Weakens the Large Carnivore Act DEFEATED

This bill would have exempted “mini circuses” from the requirements of the Large Carnivore Act. It would have allowed large cats and bears to be exhibited and used for entertainment at fairs, picnics, rodeos, carnivals, and roadside shows without any regulations on the care of the animals.

HB 866 – Eliminates Regulations on Certain Dog Breeders DEFEATED

This bill would have exempted dog breeders from all state regulations if they sold their puppies directly to the public.

HB 955 & SB 54 – Protects Factory Farms from Lawsuits for Pollution DEFEATED

These bills were intended to protect factory farms from lawsuits resulting from harmful emissions, pollution, and unsafe discharges of waste.

HB 543 & HJR 29 – Removes the Department of Agriculture from Authority of Governor DEFEATED

This bill was in response to increased enforcement efforts against puppy mills by the Department of Agriculture under Governor Nixon.

SB 459 - Threatens All Animal Protection Regulations DEFEATED

This bill sought to eliminate or severely limit all regulations that have an economic impact on businesses and could have nullified many of our animal protection regulations.

We thank you for your support of the Alliance and especially your individual efforts to contact your legislators. All of your efforts have paid off and we can rest assured that our hard fought gains for animal welfare over the past years remain in place. **We have prevailed and the animals have won the day!**

This year has been extremely costly to the Alliance as we fought to preserve our animal welfare laws. PLEASE support the Alliance’s work on behalf of animals with your donation of ANY size today!



**PLEASE ACT NOW AND CONTINUE
YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ANIMALS AND THE ALLIANCE!
DONATE TODAY—THANK YOU!**