



RIGHT TO FARM “AMENDMENT 1” BARELY PASSES



ARE ALL ANIMALS AT RISK?

Sadly, the Right to Farm Amendment to our state constitution passed at the ballot box on Tuesday. While we are sorely disappointed with the results, we wish to thank everyone that worked so hard in their efforts to defeat this ballot initiative. Your hard work did make a difference and dramatically closed the gap in the results. Originally, political pundits predicted that the initiative would pass by an overwhelming majority, instead it squeaked by with such a small margin that there will, in all probability, be a recount. Your efforts, without a doubt, significantly altered the final vote. **More importantly, your work in spreading the news and getting the word out helped to educate the public on the issue of puppy mills and factory farms and the terrible abuses prevalent in these industries in the state.** We believe this public awareness will make a difference for animal welfare in the long run.

What had to be the most disappointing development in this campaign was the last minute efforts by Mayor Francis Slay of St. Louis to help pass this Amendment. In fact, Mayor Slay is taking credit for holding down the opposing vote in the City of St. Louis which was an area of the state that was expected to overwhelmingly oppose Right to Farm. One political reporter claims that Slay's efforts only occurred after making a deal with the rural state senator who sponsored the

Right to Farm Amendment. Others wonder if this was pay back for the state forcing the City of St. Louis to close down its inhumane animal shelter on Gasconade Street for numerous and chronic violations of the Animal Care Facilities Act. This is one of the laws that also regulates puppy mills and will be facing legal challenges as a result of the passage of the Right to Farm Amendment.



Mayor Slay takes credit for passing Right to Farm.

Despite this setback, we remain confident that our current laws and regulations on puppy mills will be preserved. While this newly created constitutional right will no doubt result in a slew of lawsuits to amend ACFA as well as legal challenges in an attempt to overturn the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act (CCPA), we are confident that such lawsuits will not prevail. The CCPA still allows individuals to breed and sell dogs, it merely requires that they raise them in a humane manner. No right is absolute and dog breeding can still be regulated for the public good and the humane treatment of animals.

A group of 84 puppy millers filed a lawsuit previously claiming the new puppy mill law caused them "irreparable harm" as it helped put over 1,200 puppy mills out of business. The court dismissed that lawsuit over the fact that simply requiring veterinary care, access to fresh air, a modicum of living space, and a prohibition on wire flooring, did not cause harm to their business of breeding dogs. These are standards of care that any responsible breeder would provide for their animals.

Likewise, we anticipate that the courts will also protect our current laws and ordinances on factory farms. While farmers now have the right to farm and raise animals enshrined in the Constitution, again, such a right is not absolute and we foresee the courts upholding the rights of the state and counties to continue to regulate such production methods to ensure public safety and the welfare of the animals.



The battle has just begun to preserve our laws on puppy mills and farm animals.

You can be assured that the Alliance will be closely monitoring any potential assaults to our animal welfare laws. We will most assuredly hold our state and local governmental officials accountable to ensure a vigorous defense to any legal challenges endangering the welfare of animals in the state. We will keep you apprised of any threatening or impending lawsuits on the horizon.

Unfortunately, in Missouri, animal welfare endeavors consist of a good offense and a good defense if we wish to ensure the humane treatment of animals. With your help we will provide both.

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