



**MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
END OF SESSION SUMMARY – MAY 16, 2014**

ALL ANIMALS CAN COME OUT OF HIDING!



Missouri Legislature Now Out of Session

This year, we witnessed another all-out war on animals in Jefferson City with an onslaught of more than 25 destructive bills that attempted to repeal or seriously weaken our state laws mandating the humane treatment of animals. Mercifully, the animals escaped virtually unscathed from this hostile legislative session. What was particularly alarming was the fact that many of these harmful bills passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly and came very close to passing into law. It is, therefore, with a large sigh of relief that we can proclaim **Victory for the Animals!**

Appallingly, numerous state legislators were relentless in their efforts to dismantle Missouri's laws protecting the welfare of animals during this year's session. Unfortunately, several are still bitter over the passage of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act which closed down hundreds of cruel puppy mills. Adding to this animosity was our success last year in severely weakening the Right to Farm initiative so as to preserve our puppy mill law as well as protect the welfare of animals used in agriculture. 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.

All of you who reached out to your legislator can feel very proud because you truly made a difference for every animal in the state.

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 2157 & HB 1937- Eliminate Disposition Hearings DEFEATED

This legislation, if passed, would have severely weakened the state's anti-cruelty statutes and would have effectively eliminated the disposition process for animals that have been abused and/or neglected. Currently, state prosecutors can seek a disposition hearing for animals that have been cruelly treated and subsequently seized by law enforcement officials. At this hearing, a judge can order such animals to be surrendered to a humane society and allow these animals to be placed into loving homes. **If these bills had passed, abused and/or neglected animals would have been forced to remain in the hands of their abusers, often times for many months, until the perpetrators could be tried in a court of a law.** Shockingly, this legislation passed the House of Representatives but was fortunately stopped in the Senate.

HB 2094 & HB 1640 - Exempts Animals from Sunshine Law DEFEATED

These bills were intended to keep the public in the dark on how animals are treated. 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 sponsor of this legislation was quoted in the media as saying that in reference to public information on animals in agriculture, "it's better kept quiet."

HB 1116 & SB 865- Nullifies Protections for Specific Breeds DEFEATED

While the stated intent of this legislation was to overturn bans on the ownership of dogs based on breed, these bills, as written, would have actually eliminated spay/neuter ordinances and other local measures aimed at protecting specific breeds of dogs.

Regrettably, the supporters of this legislation refused to accept any amendments to allow municipalities to adopt ordinances and policies that served to safeguard specific breeds of dogs. It was very telling that the sponsor of this bill also co-sponsored legislation to allow abused animals to remain in the hands of their abusers (see HB 2157 above). This legislation went so far as to attempt to abolish Kansas City's successful spay/neuter ordinance that has reduced shelter population of pit bulls from 40% of all impounded dogs down to just 20% of shelter population. Kansas City officials report that the ordinance has resulted in over 10,000 spay/neuter surgeries of pit bulls. This legislation would have not only repealed Kansas City's spay/neuter ordinance but would have prohibited all other municipalities in Missouri from enacting similar protective measures for dogs in their community.

HB 1728 & SB 506 - Eliminates Regulations on Factory Farms DEFEATED

These bills would have greatly diminished the authority of local officials to regulate factory farms. SB 506 even went so far as to require a county to employ an operator of a factory farm to be in charge of enforcement of any county health or animal welfare regulation involving factory farms - talk about the fox guarding the hen house.

Additional Harmful Bills:

HB 1163, HB 2138 & SB 646 - DEFEATED would have substantially reduced the authority of both the federal government and the state in regulating puppy mills.

HB 1391 - DEFEATED would have legalized horse tripping in the state. We successfully had wording changed to protect horses from this cruel rodeo event.

HB 1727 & HB 1640 - DEFEATED would have significantly decreased the authority of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources from prohibiting the return of horse slaughter to the state.

HB 2185, HB 2210, SB 664, SB 902 & SB 968 - DEFEATED all of these bills were aimed at decreasing animal health and environmental regulations on factory farms.

HB 1326, HB 2031, SB 506, SB 591 & SB 964 - PASSED (GOVERNOR TO VETO) all of these bills attempted to weaken regulations on captive deer raised and housed at "canned hunt" facilities by transferring authority for oversight from the Conservation Department to the Department of Agriculture. The Governor has indicated that he will veto this legislation.

We thank you again for your support of the Alliance and especially your individual efforts to contact your legislators. All of our 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!**

**PLEASE ACT NOW AND CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT
OF THE ANIMALS AND THE ALLIANCE!**



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!

As the only organization lobbying full-time on behalf of animal welfare issues in Jefferson City, we NEED your support!

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