



## 2017 MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE SESSION COMES TO A CLOSE



### ANIMALS UNSCATHED

Despite an onslaught of harmful bills this year in the state legislature, the animals have escaped unscathed. There were dozens of bills introduced this session that sought to repeal or seriously weaken our existing state laws protecting animals. What was most disconcerting was the fact that some of these harmful bills passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support, and came very close to passing into law.

It is with a great sigh of relief that we can proclaim **Victory for the Animals!!!**

**The Alliance is especially pleased that we were able to preserve the full operating budget for the enforcement of our laws regulating puppy mills. This was a significant accomplishment considering the current budget crisis in the state.** While many programs in the state have had their budgets slashed, we are happy to report that the Alliance was able to maintain the current budget for protecting the welfare of animals in 2018. In fact, the Department of Agriculture recently added two full-time investigators to investigate substandard breeding facilities and to seek out unlicensed breeders.

There were numerous bills intended to weaken regulations on cruel factory farms. Corporate agriculture was determined to eliminate the oversight of industrial farms and add Missouri to their list of states with no local regulations to protect the public health,

the environment, and the welfare of animals confined in factory farms.

Fortunately, with *your support*, we were able to protect all of our animal laws. We **refused to back down**, and we remained relentless in our commitment to protect the animals - and we were able to defeat all of these bills - **many going down to defeat in the last few days - even hours - of the session.**

*Every one of your letters, emails, and phone calls to your state legislators has paid off.* All of you who reached out to your state senator and/or state representative 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 most definitely have passed into law and the animals would have paid an horrendous price.*

Below are some of the bills that you helped to defeat to ensure the welfare of animals in Missouri. You can view the entire list on our website by clicking [here](#).

### **SB 331 & HB 384 - Eliminate Disposition Hearings    **DEFEATED****

This legislation would have severely weakened Missouri's anti-cruelty statutes by eliminating disposition hearings for animals that have been abused and/or neglected. This would have allowed the animals to be left in the hands of their abusers until the conclusion of a criminal trial. The Missouri Cattlemen's Association made this bill their Number One priority to pass in 2017.



*Efforts to Eliminate Protections for Farm Animals Were Defeated*

### **HB 113 - Eliminates Regulations on Factory Farms    **DEFEATED****

This legislation was aimed at abolishing animal health and environmental regulations on factory farms. This legislation would have eliminated the authority of county health boards to regulate factory farms and was intended to open up many more factory farms in the state. Not surprisingly, this bill was initiated and supported by the largest operators of factory farms in the country.

### **HB 114 - Suppress Free Speech on Farm Animal Issues    **DEFEATED****

This bill would hold a person liable for speaking out and voicing concerns about conditions at factory farms. This legislation stands in stark contrast to a recent Missouri Supreme Court ruling protecting free speech and encouraging a "competition of ideas" as compared to using the courts to silence free speech.

### **SB 76 - Protects Factory Farms from Lawsuits    **DEFEATED****

This bill would prohibit lawsuits against factory farms for air, water, and waste pollution.

### **SB 156 - Restricts Animal Care Training and Investigations of Animal Cruelty    **DEFEATED****

This bill would have placed the Department of Agriculture in charge of all animal care training in the state, and would have severely restricted such training. It would also mandate that the Department of Agriculture regulate how law enforcement agencies in the state train their officers to investigate animal cruelty cases. Such a mandate ignores the fact that the Department of Agriculture has no authority, purview, expertise or experience

with the state anti-cruelty statutes. This bill would have diminished the investigation of animal cruelty cases in the state.



*Despite making it their #1 priority, Mo Cattlemen's Association failed to eliminate Disposition Hearings for abused animals*

**HB 71 - Eliminates Authority of Clean Water Commission to Regulate Factory Farms DEFEATED**

This bill was intended to allow shell corporations to operate factory farms in the state and to bypass the authority of the Clean Water Commission. This bill would have prevented factory farms from being liable for any resulting environmental disasters, and open up Missouri to *more* factory farms.

**SB 77 & HB 175 - Prohibits Counties from Regulating Waste from Factory Farms**

**DEFEATED**

These bills prohibit counties from regulating the disposal of waste from factory farms so as to prevent the pollution of streams, waterways, as well as neighboring public and private property. It also prevents counties from establishing any regulations pertaining to GMOs.

**SB 372 - Disbands Committee to Disburse Grants for Spay/Neuter Services**

**DEFEATED**

This bill would have eliminated the Board for the "Missouri Pet Pay/Neuter Fund" which awards grants to animal shelters and other non-profit organizations who provide low cost spay/neuter services.

**Your Efforts Are Truly Making A Difference for the Animals!**

We thank you again for your support of the Alliance and especially for 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!

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

**Thank  
You.**



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 the animals with your donation of ANY size today!

As the only organization whose sole purpose is to lobby full-time on behalf of the animals in Jefferson City, we NEED your support!

*Make a Difference!*  
**DONATE**