



2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND SCORECARD



Desert Nesting Bald Eagle photo by Robin Silver



ARIZONA 2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Karen Michael

Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) and other animal advocates experienced a number of ups and downs during the 2016 state legislative session. In a monumental victory for animals, lawmakers passed legislation (HB 2127 and HB 2387) that ends live greyhound racing statewide and finally cuts off millions of dollars in tax breaks awarded to dog tracks since 1995. Animal protection groups worked for decades first to reform, and when that was not effective, to stop this cruel sport responsible for killing and injuring so many dogs throughout the years.

Lawmakers also passed a measure to protect the Salt River Wild Horses (HB 2340). In 2015, the Tonto National Forest Service published a public notice of roundup and removal, allowing the horse herd to be rounded up and potentially sold for slaughter. The Forest Service later rescinded the notice, but the herd remained unprotected. Thanks to horse advocacy groups, the Legislature passed a bill that protects the horses from roundup and requires the Arizona Department of Agriculture to reach an agreement with the Forest Service on managing the herd by the end of 2017.



Although the Legislature passed unprecedented animal protection measures in 2016, one cannot assume that all lawmakers supported these bills strictly from an animal welfare perspective. This especially applies to legislators with poor voting records on animal protection. Positive votes were likely driven by a mix of animal welfare interests and some were likely purely fiscal. Many of votes supporting the greyhound protection bills were likely driven by a fiscal perspective and many of the wild horse protection bill votes could have been motivated by an interest in state involvement vs federal government control, as opposed to any sensitivity to horses. One of the lessons of this session is that, given the texture of the Legislature, a fiscal approach that yields animal protection is an important and viable strategy.

In other victories, HVA and a coalition of diverse groups were able to stop two damaging measures aimed at voter initiative rights. HCR 2023 and HCR 2043 would have made it much easier for the Legislature to overturn Arizona's citizens' initiative process, which is our single best tool for protecting animals. In fact, HCR 2023 would have enabled legislators to overturn animal protection initiatives passed by voters years ago, including bans on leghold traps, cockfighting, and the cruel confinement of farm animals.

HVA also helped stop yet another attempt by agribusiness to remove farm animals from protection under Arizona's animal cruelty laws. Industry-sponsored HB 2330 was the same deceptive and horrific legislation that Governor Ducey vetoed in 2015, in a clear rebuke to agribusiness special-interests.

Unfortunately, the Legislature continued its trend of weakening protection for wildlife. Lawmakers passed SB 1243, which attempts to hinder recovery of endangered Mexican gray wolves, and SB 1344 which authorizes Arizona counties to kill "reintroduced predatory wildlife," including endangered wolves. Lawmakers continue to pass bills targeting endangered wildlife even though Arizona has no authority to kill endangered species, which are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. As this report goes to press efforts continue at the federal level to delist Mexican wolves. Delisting would allow the state to immediately allow hunting, predator control and other killing of Mexican wolves. Without delisting, Should Arizona officials sanction the killing of federally protected wildlife under these laws; it would almost certainly result in costly lawsuits at taxpayer expense.

Legislators stepped up their assault on local government by passing SB 1248, which overrides the Phoenix and Tempe city ordinances that prohibit pet stores from selling pets from commercial breeders. HVA and other groups strongly opposed the bill as introduced, but bill sponsors appeared to have secured votes necessary to succeed without our input. Through a stakeholder meeting we were able to add language to the bill to increase transparency of commercial breeder operations. We did not support the bill, but we are now focused on launching

a campaign to educate animal advocates, law enforcement and prospective consumers about animal suffering caused by puppy mills.

The Good Bills

The End of Live Greyhound Racing in Arizona



"Jett" photo by Karyn Zoldan

The most important victory of the 2016 legislative session was the bill that brought an end to the cruel sport of greyhound racing in Arizona. [HB 2127, NOW: prohibition; live dog racing](#), sponsored by Senator Steve Yarbrough and Representative J.D. Mesnard, ends live dog racing in Arizona by the end of 2016. Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) is the last remaining dog racing track in Arizona and is considered one of the worst tracks in the country. TGP received approval by the Arizona Racing Commission to stop live racing as of June 30, 2016. The last day of racing at TGP was on June 25, 2016. Arizona Greyhound Rescue, Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption, and other rescue groups are expending great efforts to ensure that greyhounds get adopted into loving homes.

The strike-everything measure passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 54-0-6 and in the Senate 28-0-2, and was signed by Governor Ducey. Thanks to Sen.

Yarbrough and Rep. Mesnard and other bill sponsors, Christine Dorchak with Grey2K USA, Michael Preston Green, Caryn Wood, greyhound rescue groups, and greyhound protection advocates for their efforts on this important legislation. Special thanks go to Joan Eidinger, publisher of Greyhound Network News (GNN), which exposed the plight of racing dogs in Arizona, the United States and throughout the world. Eidinger launched GNN in 1992 after the decomposing bodies of 143 racing greyhounds were discovered in an abandoned orchard in Chandler Heights. An investigation by the state led to the killer, Glen McGaughey, who was later prosecuted. In 1994 Eidinger and Stephanie Nichols-Young with Animal Defense League of Arizona rescued thirteen racing greyhounds that were illegally sold for research to the University of Arizona without the permission of their owners. Also thanks to Susan Netboy, founder of Greyhound Protection League for her decades of efforts to rescue and protect dogs at TGP and other tracks.

The Legislature also passed a bill that eliminates the state tax break that TGP has received since 1995. [HB 2387, racing; hardship tax credit; elimination](#), sponsored by Representative Eddie Farnsworth, repeals the hardship tax credit granted to dog tracks. Although HB 2127 ends dog racing completely, the passage of HB 2387 is nevertheless a significant victory – one that animal advocates have been attempting to achieve for decades. Dog racing in Arizona has been subsidized by the state government and its taxpayers since the passage of a mega-tax break bill for the failing dog tracks in 1994. Over the years there have been many allegations of animal cruelty at TGP, yet until now it has continued to enjoy millions of dollars in tax credits.

Due to a potential increase in state revenue, HB 2387 required the affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the members of each house of the Legislature for passage. That did not present a problem as the measure passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed by Governor Ducey. Thanks to Rep. Farnsworth, Brian Tassinari, Richard Frederickson, Sr., and other greyhound advocates for their efforts on this bill. Also thanks to legislators that sponsored similar measures to HB 2387. Sen. Kavanagh introduced SB 1448 and Reps. Wheeler, Andrade, Benally, Cardenas, Espinoza, and Mendez introduced HB 2660. Their efforts have closed a chapter in the cruel history of dog racing in Arizona.

Protection for Salt River Wild Horses

The Legislature passed a bill to protect the iconic Salt River Wild Horses. [HB 2340, wild horses; management; prohibition](#). Sponsored by Representative Kelly Townsend, the law prohibits the harassment, capture, or slaughter of Salt River Wild Horses and requires the state to enter into an agreement with the US Forest Service to address any issue involving the Salt River Wild Horse Herd. Although the horses are safe for now, the new law does not guarantee permanent protection for the herd.

The bill passed the Senate by a 27-2-1 and the House 53-3-4 and was signed by the governor. Thanks to Rep. Townsend, American Wild Horse Preservation Council, and Simone Netherlands and the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group for their efforts on the passage of this bill.



Photo by Robert Rinsem

Therapy Dogs for Juvenile Crime Victims

[HB 2375](#), [crime victims' rights; facility dog](#), sponsored by Representative Eddie Farnsworth, requires courts to allow crime victims under 18 years of age to have a facility dog accompany them while testifying in court. The bill was supported by Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery, who implemented the K9 Victim Support Program to help children overcome their fear while testifying in difficult criminal cases. Montgomery's office has used a therapy-dog program for more than five years, and has seen the comfort that such dogs provide to victims testifying in court. This law will expand the program statewide. More information is in this [MCAO newsletter](#). The bill passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed by the governor.

Humane Legislative Coalition of Arizona Bill to Improve Animal Cruelty Law

HVA is a member of the Humane Legislative Coalition of Arizona (HLCA), an alliance of local animal advocacy organizations. Other member groups include HVA, Animal Defense League of Arizona, Arizona Humane Society, and Humane Society of Southern Arizona. The coalition's political consultant is Brian Tassinari, whose guidance and legislative efforts on behalf of animal protection advocates have been invaluable.

The Humane Legislative Coalition of Arizona sponsored a measure that would sharpen our state animal-cruelty law and correct longstanding loopholes that have made prosecution of animal neglect unnecessarily difficult. [SB 1227](#), [animal cruelty; sentencing; bond](#), was sponsored by Senator John Kavanagh and numerous other legislators on a bipartisan basis. The bill would have raised penalties to a felony for 'second-strike' abusers; defined the "reasonable" amount and type of food, water and shelter required for proper care of an animal; and raised the required bond amount in animal seizure hearings to \$250.



Photo by Arizona Humane Society

As introduced, SB1227 added hoarding to the list of animal cruelty offenses with a class 1 misdemeanor penalty. However, legislators could not agree on language so the bill was amended on the Senate floor to remove the hoarding provision. In an unexpected twist, a second amendment, hostile to the interests of animals, was slipped into the bill. The amendment would have removed farm animals from protection under Arizona's animal cruelty laws. If that sounds familiar, it was the same anti-farm animal provision that we have been fighting for years that was vetoed by Governor Ducey in 2015. Worse yet, the amendment repealed *all* protection from cruelty for farm animals, including horses. Although Sen. Kavanagh withdrew the amendment, the confusion it created placed the bill in jeopardy, and the decision was made to hold it before reaching a floor vote. We are hopeful that the bill can be reintroduced in the 2017 legislative session.

Other Pro-Animal Legislation

HVA supported the following bills, which failed to pass.

[HB 2176](#), [ivory; rhinoceros horn; sales; prohibition](#) (Andrade, Benally, Cardenas, Hale, et al.), would have prohibited importing, buying, or selling ivory and rhinoceros horns. The bill died without being assigned to committee.

[HB 2280](#), [G&F; appointment recommendation board; repeal](#) (Mendez, Larkin), would have repealed the industry-controlled board that recommends candidates to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFC) that is charged with managing and protecting wildlife. Arizona had an appointment process through which applicants would apply directly to the governor's office until 2009, when the Legislature passed a [measure](#) that created a recommendation board controlled by ranchers and elite hunting clubs to appoint candidates to the AZGFC. The governor is limited to selecting only "board-endorsed" candidates. Since then, the AZGFC has become increasingly more industry-friendly, catering to ranchers and trophy hunting groups that it considers primary stakeholders. AZGFC appears to view predators as competition rather than crucial components of healthy ecosystems, which has led to detrimental rulemaking and policies based on politics rather than the best science. Hopefully the efforts of the bill sponsors will help to increase public awareness of the commission's mismanagement of Arizona's wildlife. This is the first step to repeal the recommendation board process.

[SB 1281, animal cruelty; classification](#) (Kavanagh), would have increased the charge for specific acts of animal cruelty from a class 6 to a more serious class 5 felony. Those acts include subjecting an animal to cruel neglect or abandonment, cruel mistreatment, and harming or killing a working or service animal. Class 6 felonies are the least serious category of felonies under Arizona law, and are often reduced to misdemeanor charges. This legislation would have made it more difficult for a person charged with egregious acts of animal cruelty to have his or her penalty reduced. The bill passed Kavanagh's Senate Government Committee but died after it was not allowed a hearing in the Senate Judiciary committee.

[SB 1011, animal abuser registration; registry](#) (Sherwood, Farley), would have created a registry of convicted animal abusers that would be posted on a website where the public could search for animal abusers by name or location, similar to Arizona's sex-offender registry. This would help shelters and rescue groups to ensure that their animals are not adopted to prior offenders, and allow pet owners to know if their neighbors have been convicted of animal abuse. Senators Farley and Sherwood have repeatedly sponsored this legislation but it has always died without being granted a committee hearing.

[SB 1022, racketeering; animal fighting; cockfighting](#) (Farley, Sherwood), would have included animal fighting and cockfighting under Arizona's racketeering crimes definition. The bill died without receiving a hearing in committees. The same measure failed in the 2014 and 2015 legislative session.

The Bad Bills

The Anti-Initiative Bills

During every legislative session lawmakers run bills intended to weaken Arizona's citizens' initiative process. These measures are especially damaging because they have the potential to harm animals on a large scale. Our state's citizens' initiative process is the single most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals.



Arizona's public initiative process is a constitutional right which was enacted at statehood in 1912. Thanks to grassroots citizens' ballot measures, leghold traps, snares, and poisons were banned on public lands in 1994. Cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters prohibited the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal in industrial agriculture operations. All of these measures failed in the Legislature, yet were passed by Arizona voters, most by large margins.

In 1998 voters passed [Proposition 105, the Voter Protection Act](#), to prevent the Legislature from undermining citizen initiatives and to protect measures passed by voters.

This session two bills were introduced that would have eviscerated citizens' initiatives and the voter protection provisions of the Arizona Constitution. A coalition of diverse groups strongly opposed HCR 2023 and HCR 2043. Fortunately both bills died without receiving a floor vote in the Senate.

[HCR 2023, proposition 105; legislative authority](#), sponsored by Representative Bob Thorpe, would have referred to the ballot a measure to allow the Legislature to repeal citizen initiatives with a 60% vote and would have removed the Prop 105 requirement that amending voter approved initiatives must further the purpose of the measure. If passed, HCR 2023 could have enabled legislators to overturn important animal protection laws already passed by voters including bans on leghold traps, cockfighting, and cruel confinement of farm animals.

The bill passed the House 32-25-3 but was held in the Senate where it died.

[HCR 2043, initiative, referendum; vote percentage requirements](#), sponsored by Representative J.D. Mesnard, would have allowed the Legislature to revise a ballot initiative approved in 2016 or later if the Legislature approves the revision by a greater percentage than the percentage of voters that approved the initiative.

The measure passed the House 32-25-3 but was held in the Senate where it died.

Thanks to the coalition of diverse groups and concerned citizens that called on the Legislature to oppose the two bills that, if passed, would eviscerate the voter protection provisions of the Arizona Constitution.

It's Back and It's Bad! Revival of the Farm Animal Cruelty Bill

As in 2014 and 2015, this session legislators revived the detrimental farm animal cruelty bill, which would have severely damaged Arizona's animal cruelty law. HLCA, along with many other animal protection groups, have

universally and unconditionally opposed this legislation aimed at weakening Arizona's animal cruelty laws that have been working effectively for decades.

Representatives Brenda Barton and David Gowan sponsored the same damaging legislation that Governor Ducey vetoed in 2015. In his veto letter he stated that "We must ensure that all animals are protected, and mindful that increasing protections for one class of animals does not inadvertently undercut protections for another." According to the Arizona Republic, the governor's office received 19,248 calls/emails opposing the bill, and three in support.

This disingenuously titled [HB 2330, crimes against livestock; poultry; animals](#), would have eliminated the current felony level crime of "abandonment" of farm animals from our criminal code. The bill also would have decriminalized the obligation to "provide medical attention necessary to prevent protracted suffering" to farm animals. Theoretically, under this legislation, a person could have abandoned an injured horse in the desert, leaving the animal to suffer to death, without any penalty under Arizona state law.



The measure also would have prevented any city or county for enacting laws tougher than the watered-down language in HB 2330. For example, the City of Phoenix enacted an ordinance that banned home slaughter of livestock, following an investigation of people slaughtering goats and other animals in apartment complexes. If HB 2330 had passed, local governments would be powerless to address issues facing their own communities.

Following strong opposition from HLCA, other animal groups and advocates, bill sponsor Rep Barton held HB 2330 in her House Agriculture, Water, and Land Committee, where it died.

Thanks to the efforts of HLCA, The Humane Society of the United States and other animal protection groups, concerned citizens, and Governor Ducey's strong stance on the issue, we were able to stop this legislation. However, we anticipate that the agriculture industry will continue their attempts to weaken penalties for abuse to farm animals in upcoming sessions.

The Pet Store Bill

"One step forward, two steps back" is the best way to describe the 'pet store' bill 'puppy mill' bill. [SB 1248, NOW: pet store operators; dealers; regulations](#), sponsored by Senator Don Shooter, pre-empts Phoenix and Tempe city ordinances banning sales of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. HLCA and other groups, local government leaders, and animal advocates strongly opposed the bill as introduced. Through a stakeholder meeting amendments were added which restrict pet stores from selling animals from breeders that violate federal laws including the Animal Welfare Act. Although the amended bill was an improvement over the original version introduced, the final legislation is a setback for animal advocates, shelters, and local government control.



Photo by Karen Anderson

This measure was sponsored on behalf of a local pet store owner who lost a lawsuit to overturn the Phoenix city ordinance banning retail pet sales. The legislation appeared twice as a strike-everything amendment to unrelated bills. It was first amended to HB 2113 in the Senate Natural Resources Committee, but was held after Senator David Farnsworth refused to support it. Bill proponents then introduced another striker to SB 1248, where it would be heard in Rep. Barton's House Agriculture, Water, and Lands Committee. At that point HLCA, Humane Society of the US, other animal groups and local government representatives agreed to a stakeholder meeting facilitated by Senator Kavanagh to improve the bill. Despite strong opposition from HLCA, local governments, and thousands of animal advocates, bill proponents had likely already secured the votes necessary to pass the measure without our input. Given the Legislature's history of overturning local ordinances (including Tempe's ban on plastic bags), our best option was to add beneficial language through the stakeholder meeting process. Bill proponents eventually agreed to our proposed amendments.

SB 1248 as amended, passed the House 36-23-1 and the Senate 18-9-3, and was signed by the governor.

The amended bill as passed requires that all Arizona pet stores to disclose the source of the animals on all in-store and online marketing materials. This gives animal welfare advocates and consumers information about the source of an animal and, ideally, draws attention to those that are breeding animals in the most deplorable conditions. The bill also includes a three-strike penalty for stores that continue to buy puppies and kittens from breeders that violate federal animal welfare laws. These concessions were negotiated by stakeholders including the Humane Legislative Coalition of Arizona, Humane Society of the United States, Best Friends, the cities of Phoenix and

Tucson, as well as bill supporters. Animal protection groups did not support this measure, but we were forced to take a neutral position to prevent the bill from passing without any beneficial amendments.

We are now focusing efforts on asking animal advocates to join us in helping to educate consumers on the need to conduct proper research in advance of purchasing a pet from a commercial pet store. This strategy will be coupled with an “adopt, don’t shop” campaign illustrating the many benefits of adopting a pet from a shelter. Thanks to Arizona Humane Society for leading this important educational campaign.

Bills Targeting Wildlife and Endangered Species

In addition to horses and farm animals, the Arizona Legislature launched its annual attack on wildlife, especially the endangered Mexican gray wolf. Lawmakers continue to run bills aimed at endangered wolves despite the fact that only 97 Mexican gray wolves remain in the wild (the population has decreased from 109 in 2015). These animals are native to Arizona, are an important part of our natural heritage and play an important role in healthy ecosystems. These measures demonstrate that Arizona legislators are largely out of step with the public they represent. Polling shows that 77% of Arizona voters support the Mexican wolf reintroduction.

[SB 1243](#), [Mexican wolf](#); [G&F approval](#); [reporting](#), sponsored by Senators Gail Griffin, Susan Donahue, and Bob Worsley, requires the AZ Game and Fish Commission to attempt to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Fish and Wildlife Service that stipulates the release, translocation or cross-fostering of Mexican gray wolves may not occur within three miles of state trust or private land or without a DNA profile on each wolf. The goal of this bill is to create even more roadblocks for the recovery of endangered Mexican gray wolves. The last thing the AZ Game and Fish Commission needs are more excuses to derail the wolf recovery program, which they have been undermining for years. Their efforts are detailed in this [report](#), “Whose Side Are They On? Seven Ways Arizona Game and Fish Sabotages Wolf Recovery”.



SB 1243 passed the House 40-18-2 and the Senate 20-8-2, and was signed by the governor.

[SB 1344](#), [agriculture omnibus](#), sponsored by Senators Steve Pierce, Gail Griffin, and Representative Frank Pratt, requires the Director of AZ Department of Agriculture to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies to control and destroy “reintroduced predatory wildlife”, (a term not defined in the bill or under AZ Game and Fish statutes). It also allows a county board of supervisors to control and destroy reintroduced predatory wildlife. “Introduced predatory wildlife” likely includes endangered Mexican gray wolves and other introduced predators such as black-footed ferrets. The bill appears to be a blatant attempt to allow USDA Wildlife Services to kill endangered wolves. USDA Wildlife Services is a taxpayer-funded government agency that uses aerial gunning, traps, and poisons to kill millions of animals each year, including non-target animals and family pets. Wildlife Services kills wildlife on behalf of agribusiness and hunting lobbies, and has demonstrated a total lack of transparency. You can watch Predator Defense’s film “Exposed: USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife” [here](#) or read reporter Tom Knudson’s investigation of the agency [here](#). As damaging as this legislation appears, in reality the state does not have authority to kill endangered species, which are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. However, if the Mexican gray wolf becomes delisted, under SB 1344, Arizona government agencies and counties would be free to kill wolves in large numbers, potentially leading to their extirpation.

The bill passed the House 45-13-2 and the Senate 23-5-2, and was signed by the governor.

[SB 1361](#), [G&F](#); [heritage fund](#); [expenditures](#), sponsored by Senators Gail Griffin and Representatives Mark Cardenas and Frank Pratt, transfers half of the state’s Heritage Fund money used for endangered and threatened species habitat, and directs it to be used for AZ Game and Fish maintenance and operations. The Heritage Fund was a ballot initiative passed by voters in 1990 which uses Arizona lottery proceeds to fund the AZ Game and Fish Department for the conservation and protection of the state’s wildlife and habitat. This bill exemplifies the Legislature’s disregard for wildlife protection and the will of voters.

SB 1361 passed the Senate 21-8-9 and the House 36-17-7, and was signed by the governor.

Thanks to Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club Grand Canyon Director, who spends countless hours throughout the legislative session and the year to fight bills aimed at wildlife including endangered Mexican gray wolves.

Superstar Legislators

HVA wishes to thank those special legislators that expended efforts to protect animals and our public initiative process. Thanks to these Superstar Lawmakers who voted to protect animals and voters' rights and were present for *all* key bill votes:

Representatives Lela Alston, Richard Andrade, Ken Clark, Charlene Fernandez, Randall Friese, Rosanna Gabaldon, Sally Ann Gonzales, Matthew Kopek, Stefanie Mach, Debbie McCune Davis, Eric Meyer, Celeste Plumlee, Rebecca Rios, Macario Saldate, Ceci Velasquez, and Bruce Wheeler

Senators David Bradley, Lupe Contreras, Andrea Dalessandro, Steve Farley, Katie Hobbs, Robert Meza, Martin Quezada, and Andrew Sherwood

Legislators who helped on specific animal related measures

HVA greatly appreciates the efforts of the following legislators who sponsored animal protection measures:

Senator John Kavanagh was the primary sponsor of SB 1227, HLCA's measure to strengthen animal cruelty laws. He was also the primary sponsor of SB 1281, to raise penalties for specific acts of animal cruelty. Although Senator Kavanagh's voting record on wildlife and initiative bills could be improved, he has proven himself to be a champion in fighting animal cruelty, and has been an accessible resource for animal protection groups.

Senator Steve Farley again voted consistently to protect animals and citizens' voting rights. He was the primary sponsor of SB 1022 to include animal fighting and cockfighting under the RICO definition, and SB 1011, the animal abuser registry bill. Throughout every legislative session, Senator Farley has fought to protect all animals and citizens' voting rights. He frequently has spoken out on animal-related bills in committees, on the floor, and in public, and has been an important resource for animal advocates.

Senator Andrew Sherwood not only earned a perfect voting record, he was the primary sponsor of several pro-animal bills including SB 1022 and SB 1011. As always, he spoke out in support of beneficial bills and against damaging measures.

Representative Richard Andrade earned a perfect voting score, and frequently spoke out on legislation affecting animals and voting rights. Rep. Andrade's door is always open to help animal and initiative rights advocates, not only during the legislative session but throughout the year.

Representative J.D. Mesnard and Senator Steve Yarbrough sponsored HB 2127, which ended live dog racing in Arizona.

Representative Kelly Townsend sponsored HB 2340, which protects the Salt River Wild Horses.

The Most Improved Legislator Award goes to Representative Eddie Farnworth, who has not had a favorable voting record on animal protection throughout his long term in office. However, this year he was the primary sponsor of two important pro-animal measures. Rep. Farnsworth sponsored HB 2387, which eliminated the tax break that Tucson Greyhound Park received since 1995. He also sponsored HB 2375, which requires courts to allow juvenile crime victims to have a therapy dog with them while testifying. Both of these bills passed the House and Senate unanimously and were signed by Governor Ducey.

Advocates

HVA thanks the following representatives of the Humane Legislative Coalition of Arizona: Stephanie Nichols-Young: Animal Defense League of Arizona, Kelsea Patton and Dr. Steve Hansen: Arizona Humane Society, Martha German and Scott Bonsall-Cargill: Humane Voters of Arizona, Pat Hubbard and Mike Duffy: Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Stacy Mann Pearson: Strategies 360, and Brian Tassinari: Willetta Partners, whose efforts helped defeat damaging farm animal measures and helped pass the bill to end tax breaks for dog tracks.

HVA appreciates the efforts of Sierra Club Director Sandy Bahr for her ongoing efforts to protect wildlife and citizens' voting rights.

HVA thanks Arizona Humane Society Cruelty Investigators Chris West and Tamie Murillo, Kellye Pinkleton, Arizona Director of the Humane Society of the United States, Samantha Pstross, Director of Arizona Advocacy Network, Tempe Councilmember Lauren Kuby, Nancy Young-Wright, and Nicole Rose Galvan for their efforts.

HVA greatly appreciates the efforts of the many volunteers who testified in committees and contacted their lawmakers and the governor's office.

Finally, thanks to Scott Bonsall-Cargill, Martha German, Tom Krepitch, and Stephanie Nichols-Young for their valuable input on this report.

For more information on legislation visit the HVA [website](#). Thanks to Salvatore Prano for designing and hosting the website.

Legislative Scorecard

Voting records are provided on key bills affecting animals, including citizen initiative measures. There are no actual points or grades assigned.

A checkmark indicates a pro-animal/initiative vote, while an "x" represents an anti-animal/initiative vote.

NV indicates that the legislator did not vote on a bill.

A blank column under a bill indicates that the legislator did not have the opportunity to vote on that measure. This applies to legislators who replaced another one who left office during the session. In that case the new legislator is included in the scorecard but will have a blank column for bills voted on prior to the replacement.

Bill voting records represent one public aspect of the legislative process. However, many factors that affect measures are not subject to public scrutiny. The efforts of lawmakers, lobbyists, and others to influence legislation largely take place within the "hidden" political process. That is why additional actions by lawmakers were also taken into consideration, such as sponsoring bills or influencing the passage or defeat of animal-related measures.

Those actions are represented in the OTHER column by positive icon 😊 or negative icon ☹️. In the COMMENTS column, PS means that the legislator was the primary sponsor of the bill. **PS** in bold type indicates that the legislator was the original primary sponsor who introduced the bill. Cosponsors are not included in the scorecard.

Please click on the bill number in the main legislative report for all information including status, primary and co-sponsors, language versions, committee votes, and videos.

Although animal protection and initiative bills provide a gauge for reviewing lawmakers, other bills that impact animals are those that affect wildlife habitat. For legislative information on conservation measures, including voting records and scorecards visit the Arizona Sierra Club's [legislative](#) page.

For more information on this legislative report please email humanevotersarizona@cox.net

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2016 SCORECARD

NAME	LD	Party	HB 2127	HB 2340	HB 2387	HCR 2023	HCR 2043	SB 1243	SB 1248	OTHER	COMMENTS
Noel W. Campbell	1	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Karen Fann	1	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗		
John Christopher Ackerley	2	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Rosanna Gabaldón	2	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sally Ann Gonzales	3	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Macario Saldate	3	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Charlene R. Fernandez	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lisa A. Otondo	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Sonny Borrelli	5	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Regina Cobb	5	R	✓	NV	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Brenda Barton	6	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	☹	PS: HB 2330 (weakens protection for farm animals)
Bob Thorpe	6	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	☹	PS: HCR 2023
Jennifer D. Benally	7	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Albert Hale	7	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Franklin M. Pratt	8	R	✓	NV	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Thomas "T.J." Shope	8	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Randall Friese	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Matthew Kopek	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Stefanie Mach	10	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Bruce Wheeler	10	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Mark Finchem	11	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Vince Leach	11	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Edwin W. Farnsworth	12	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	😊😊	PS: HB 2387; PS: HB 2375 (crime victim therapy dogs)
Warren H. Petersen	12	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	NV		
Darin Mitchell	13	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Steve Montenegro	13	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
David M. Gowan Sr.	14	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	☹	PS: HB 2330 (weakens protection for farm animals)
David W. Stevens	14	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
John M. Allen	15	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Heather Carter	15	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗		
Doug Coleman	16	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Kelly Townsend	16	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	😊	PS: HB 2340

NAME	LD	Party	HB 2127	HB 2340	HB 2387	HCR 2023	HCR 2043	SB 1243	SB 1248	OTHER	COMMENTS
J.D.Mesnard	17	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	☺☹	PS: HB 2127; PS: HCR 2043
Jeff Weninger	17	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Jill Norgaard	18	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Bob Robson	18	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	NV	✗		
Mark A. Cardenas	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	☺☹	PS: HB 2340; PS: 1361
Diego Espinoza	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		
Paul Boyer	20	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Anthony Kern	20	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Rick Gray	21	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Tony Rivero	21	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
David Livingston	22	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Phil Lovas	22	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Jay Lawrence	23	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	☺	PS: SB 1227
Michelle Ugenti-Rita	23	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Lela Alston	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ken Clark	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Russell "Rusty" Bowers	25	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Justin Olson	25	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Juan Jose Mendez	26	D	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✓	✓	☺	PS: HB 2280
Celeste Plumlee	26	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Reginald Bolding	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗		
Rebecca Rios	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kate Brophy McGee	28	R	✓	✓	NV	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Eric Meyer	28	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS: SB 1227
Richard C. Andrade	29	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS: HB 2176
Ceci Velasquez	29	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jonathan R. Larkin	30	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	☺	PS: HB 2280
Debbie McCune Davis	30	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Bills

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 HCR 2023: makes it easier for legislature to overturn citizen initiative process
 HCR 2043: makes it easier for legislature to overturn citizen initiative process
 SB 1243: damaging to endangered Mexican gray wolf recovery program
 SB 1248: overturns local pet sale bans; final bill improved by animal groups

Vote Symbols

Vote supporting animal protection or initiative rights ✓
 Vote opposing animal protection or initiative rights ✗

Other

Action taken supporting animal protection or initiative rights ☺
 Action taken opposing animal protection or initiative rights ☹

Comments

PS: Primary sponsors of a bill (cosponsors are not included in this list)
 Original primary sponsor is listed in bold type

ARIZONA SENATE 2016 SCORECARD

NAME	LD	Party	HB 2127	HB 2340	HB 2387	SB 1243	SB 1248	OTHER	COMMENTS
Steve Pierce	1	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	☹	PS: SB 1344
Andrea Dalessandro	2	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Olivia Cajero Bedford	3	D	✓	✓	NV	NV	NV		
Lynne Pancrazi	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Sue Donahue	5	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	☹	PS: SB 1243
Sylvia Allen	6	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Carlyle Begay	7	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Barbara McGuire	8	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Steve Farley	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊😊	PS: SB 1227, PS: SB 1011, PS: SB 1022
David Bradley	10	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Steve Smith	11	R	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	😊	PS: SB 1227
Andy Biggs	12	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Don Shooter	13	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	☹	PS: SB 1248
Gail Griffin	14	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	☹☹☹	PS: SB 1243; PS: SB 1344; PS: SB 1361
Nancy Barto	15	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
David Farnsworth	16	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	😊	Refused to support original version of SB 1248 in committee
Steve Yarbrough	17	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	😊	PS: HB 2127
Jeff Dial	18	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Lupe Contreras	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kimberly Yee	20	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Debbie Lesko	21	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Judy Burges	22	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
John Kavanagh	23	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	😊😊	PS: SB 1227 and SB 1281 aimed at strengthening animal cruelty laws
Katie Hobbs	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊	PS: SB 1227
Bob Worsley	25	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	☹	PS: SB 1243
Andrew Sherwood	26	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊😊	PS: SB 1011, PS: SB 1022
Catherine Miranda	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Adam Driggs	28	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Martin Quezada	29	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Robert Meza	30	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

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