



Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2012

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Humane-minded citizens of all political stripes care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) appreciates your input on this 2012 State Candidate Questionnaire. HVA will be endorsing candidates for the upcoming primary and general elections based upon voting records and response to this questionnaire. HVA may also share questionnaire responses with other organizations that track and make endorsements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?

Yes No _____ Comments: During the 2011 Legislative session, I sponsored HB2137 which allows for sterilization of dogs and cats by other than surgical means such as medicinal sterilization. With the signing of the bill, Dr. Loretta Meyer, Assistant Research Professor at NAU, started clinical trials for FDA approval of a product that is being used in other parts of the world. The bill, referred to as "Fabian's Law" was amended to include an ordinance to hold dog owners responsible for a "dog-on-dog" attack.

During the past Legislative session, I voted "nay" on HB2780. The bill exempted ranch dogs from animal cruelty laws. Unfortunately, it passed the House 42 – 15.

In 2011, I was honored to be named "Legislator of the Year" by the Arizona Humane Society. As a state Representative in 2008, 2009 and 2010, I received a 100% rating by the Humane Voters of Arizona for my positions on animal protection.

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you?

Yes No _____ Comments: I have had numerous pets over my lifetime. Each had a unique personality. While work is always involved in the responsibility of caring for a companion animal, the reward is worth the effort.

Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones?

Yes No Comments: I philosophically support the goals and objectives of the Arizona Humane Society, Coconino Humane Society and Second Chance Center for Animals in Flagstaff. Second Chance was started by local philanthropists Dick and Jean Wilson. Their initial goal was to assist animals on the Navajo reservation by deploying the Plateauland mobile unit to provide immunizations, micro-chipping, surgical procedures and other types of animal care. Their dream blossomed and resulted in a full-service facility which has provided clinical services, education, animal rescue, and companion animal adoptions.

ANIMAL CONTROL

ROADSIDE ANIMAL SALES

In 2008 the Arizona Legislature passed a bill prohibiting the public sale of animals, but the law applies only to counties with a population of more than 800,000. Yet animal control agencies and shelters in smaller counties report that unregulated public sale of animals is a significant burden for shelters, animals, and communities. Many animals sold on public streets are bred and raised in poor conditions. And since the animals are typically not spayed, neutered or vaccinated, they contribute to overpopulation, the euthanasia of thousands of homeless animals each year in Arizona shelters and the spread of disease. Roadside animal sales also increase costs of animal control, which places a financial burden on taxpayers.

Would you support legislation to expand the ban the roadside sale of animals statewide?

Yes No Comments: Roadside sale of animals is not in the best interest of either the animals or those who purchase them. However, a distinction needs to be made between a family attempting to find homes for a litter and people who sell animals as an enterprise. Proposed legislation would need to be closely examined to ensure that selling animals by the side of the road as an enterprise would be banned.

HOMELESS ANIMALS

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals. The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities.

Would you be willing to work with animal control agencies and/or shelters in your district to address problems related to the homeless animal crisis?

Yes No Comments: Euthanasia is not the solution to pet overpopulation. Education of pet owners and potential pet owners starting at a young age will assist in reducing the number of innocent animals who are

ethanized. My legislative record, especially the introduction of HB2137, reflects my concern and desire to work with groups who are striving to assist in reducing pet overpopulation.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFC) is charged with managing and protecting Arizona's wildlife. It has five members who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Arizona Senate. Each serves a five-year term, no two may be from the same county and only three may be members of the same political party. Each candidate must be well-informed on the subject of wildlife.

For decades, Arizona has had an appointment process through which applicants would apply directly to the governor's office. However, in 2009 the Arizona Legislature passed SB 1200, a measure that creates a recommendation board controlled by ranchers and clubs who represent less than 1% of Arizona hunters and anglers to appoint candidates to the AZGFC. The governor is required to select only board-endorsed candidates.

SB 1200 was opposed by the AZGFC and many diverse hunting, conservation, and animal protection organizations.

Do you support a process that includes less than 1% of hunters & anglers and limits the voice of a majority of Arizonans to control of the Arizona Game & Fish Commission appointment process?

Yes___ No___ Comments: The 2009 SB1200 bill addressed common school districts. To be able to answer this question, I've reviewed the bills involving the Game and Fish Commission and cannot find a bill that was considered and passed as described in this question. I am open to discussion on the issue.

Do you believe that SB 1200 should be repealed?

Yes___ No___ Comments: See comments to the above question. Again, I am open to discussion, but I would need to examine the bill to which this question refers. It does not appear to be SB1200 from the 2009 session of the State Legislature.

EXOTIC ANIMALS

Although the Arizona Game and Fish Department requires a license to possess great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans), there are no restrictions for owning the majority of dangerous primates. Monkeys, baboons, and other primates kept as pets can inflict serious injuries or even kill their owners or neighbors, and can transmit deadly diseases to people, such as hepatitis A, tuberculosis and the often fatal Herpes B virus.

Would you support legislation that would ban the private possession of all primates in Arizona?

Yes ___ No ___ Comments: I am not fully familiar with the ramifications of this issue. I would need to research it further with the help of your organization and other interested groups who could provide education on the issue. Obviously, more regulations need to be in place.

CITIZENS' VOTING RIGHTS

Arizona's public initiative process is a constitutional right which was enacted at statehood in 1912. The first initiative was for women's suffrage, and it passed by a margin of greater than two to one that same year.

Arguably the most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals is the public initiative process. Thanks to grassroots citizens' ballot measures, cruel leg-hold traps were banned on public lands in 1994 and cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters overwhelmingly approved an initiative that banned the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal.

In 2000 voters rejected a proposal that would have required a 2/3 majority to pass any initiative affecting wildlife. And in a landslide election in 2008, voters defeated a measure that would have deprived the majority of voters participating in an election of the right to decide ballot initiatives, virtually eliminating the citizen initiative process.

Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?

Yes No ___ Comments: I fully support the constitutional right of voters to propose initiatives. The process has worked well over the past 100 years and has led to many important laws which probably would not have been enacted without the participation of voters in the initiative process.

Do you believe that the Legislature should NOT attempt to dismantle the constitutional voting rights of Arizona citizens?

Yes No ___ Comments: Absolutely. The state Constitution protects the rights of Arizonans and has served us well for 100 years.

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Humane Voters of Arizona
Email to: HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net