



**Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2010**

Candidate Angela Cotera Phone 623-877-267

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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 2010 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes  No   
Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes  No  Comments I have supported the local Humane Society \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

### **ANIMAL ABUSE LAWS**

The link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans is well documented. People who have committed acts of violence on animals are more likely to act out violently towards people in a number of scenarios and psychological profiles. Communities have good reason to be concerned about the whereabouts of animal abusers. An Animal Abuser Registry could prevent acts of violence against animals and people. It could also save thousands of tax-payer dollars by tracking repeat hoarding offenders who move from community to community, often violating terms of probation and plea agreements.

**Would you support legislation that requires animal abusers to register in their communities, if it could be funded without general fund or tax-payer dollars?**

Yes \_\_\_ No X Comments While I find cruelty to animals criminal and believe in appropriate punishment, I do not support an Animal Abuser Registry. I do not believe we have sufficient resources, at this time, to support such an approach.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

### **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 X No \_\_\_ Comments With the recent increase in vacant homes in the West Valley, many animals have been abandoned and in some areas we have an increasing feral cat problem. We need to have effective and humane ways to deal with these homeless pets.

## **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, last session the 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 would be 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 X Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Do you believe that SB 1200 should be repealed?**

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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### Constitutional Right to Hunt Amendment

The legislature referred a measure to the November ballot which, if passed by voters, will place the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife in the Declaration of Rights of the Arizona Constitution. Proposition 109 declares "hunting, fishing and the harvesting of wildlife" as the preferred means of managing wildlife

This proposed amendment to our Constitution would make hunting a fundamental right, equal to existing rights of free speech, the right to vote, the right to bear arms and other core rights. Proposition 109 declares hunting and fishing to be a "preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife." That means the right to hunt could trump the use of sound science to develop wildlife management policies., and could limit the use of other management tools and important, innovative programs that do not involve hunting.

**Do you support Proposition 109?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Comments \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to call attention to the fact that this amendment, was written and the primary sponsor was by my opponent, Jerry Weiers. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **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:** The public initiative process does need to be amended, however, to ensure we have the ability to deal with unintended consequences of poorly written laws, and to keep the process from being abused by rich special interests .

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

Yes  No  **Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **GREYHOUND RACING**

Over the past two sessions greyhound racetrack lobbyists have been attempting to gain support for a proposal to allow slot machines at racetracks (racinos).

In 2002, Arizona voters defeated a referendum to allow slots at dog tracks by an 80% - 20% margin. That fact hasn't deterred track lobbyists, who are promising legislators high revenue returns to appease the budget deficit. However, the tracks' revenue numbers have not been verified and a preliminary review by the Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee called their projections "highly unlikely." Moreover racinos would jeopardize tribal gaming, which has contributed over \$500 million to Arizona since 2004. In contrast, dog tracks have paid no pari-mutuel taxes since being granted large tax breaks in 1995.

Aside from the economic argument, state law would require racinos to include live racing, which would perpetuate the needless over-breeding of racing animals. Despite rescue efforts, thousands of greyhounds are still being killed each year on a nationwide basis, further contributing to Arizona's and America's homeless dog

**Do you support legislation granting slot machines to Arizona dog tracks?**

Yes  No  Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Humane Voters of Arizona**  
Email to: [HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net](mailto:HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net)