



Candidate: Sue Dolphin

State or County Office: State Legislature

Legislative Office: District: 4 House of Representatives X Senate_____

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Citizens look to the government to protect animals from inhumane treatment.

Humane-minded citizens care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona appreciates your input on this 2008 State Candidate Questionnaire. HVA will be endorsing candidates for the upcoming election based upon voting records and response to this questionnaire.

For more information on any of the issues, please visit the following websites:

Animal Defense League of Arizona www.adlaz.org
Greyhound Network News www.greyhoundnetworknews.org
Arizona Humane Society www.azhumane.org

Humane Voters of Arizona partners with Humane USA, which determines endorsements for federal candidates. Visit www.humaneusa.org

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues? If so, please name issues and any actions taken.

I am a strong supporter of rescuing animals. Almost every pet my family has ever had were adopted. Currently I have six dogs, three horses, and a cat and they were all rescued.

Are there any animal protection programs or issues of interest that you plan to address while in office?

I strongly support harsher penalties for animal cruelty. Animals do not have a voice to be heard so legislators with a strong belief in protecting them must be their voice. I also support mandatory micro-chipping and sterilization for pets that are adopted as a pre-requisite before they go to their new home.

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

Over the years I have had more pets than I can count. I currently have six dogs, three horses, and one cat that were all adopted. Every pet I have ever had becomes an immediate part of my family. One of my dogs, Darcy, is experiencing some health issues and old age but she continues to go about her life as if nothing is wrong with her. When someone comes to my front gate, five of the dogs go running to it and Darcy continues her duties as protector and slowly makes her way out to investigate. Through it all, she displays incredible resiliency and that is one of the major impacts she has had on me.

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

I philosophically support organizations that place a large humane importance on animals and pet adoption. I specifically support no-kill shelters, greyhound rescue groups, The Humane Society, and the SPCA. These groups do great work on behalf of the animals and their efforts to find a loving home for these animals is admirable.

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.

Do you believe that laws against animal cruelty should be strongly enforced?

The current laws against animal cruelty should not only be enforced to the letter of the law, but they should be made stricter with harsher penalties.

FARM ANIMALS

In 2006 Arizona voters overwhelmingly passed Prop 204 which prohibits the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal. California residents will vote on a similar citizens' initiative this November, which would also ban the confinement of egg-laying hens in cages so small that they have less space than a letter size sheet of paper.

Last session the Arizona Legislature passed a bill that authorizes the State Dept. of Agriculture to set standards for poultry husbandry practices. The public rulemaking process will begin this month.

Do you believe that egg-laying hens should be provided enough space to turn around and spread their wings?

Yes, they should be treated humanely and given more space.

GREYHOUND RACING

An initiative will appear on the November ballot that would improve conditions for racing greyhounds in South Tucson. Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) which is located within the city has a long history of greyhound injuries and deaths. Despite efforts by animal advocates, rescue groups, and the Arizona Department of Racing there has been little progress in the care of greyhounds at TGP.

The Tucson Dog Protection Act (Prop 400) prohibits feeding dogs 4D meat, which is meat from dead, diseased, dying, and disabled animals. This substance is often contaminated with E. coli bacteria, yet is fed raw to racing dogs throughout the country. Veterinary studies confirm that 4D meat can cause "Alabama Rot", the kidney failure syndrome unique to greyhounds. *Source: Kansas State University*

Muzzled racing greyhounds at TGP are routinely locked in small cages in a windowless room for up to 23 hours each day. Prop 400 would require that dogs spend no more than 18 hours in a cage.

Prop 400 also bans the use of anabolic steroids, which are given to female greyhounds to prevent heat cycles. Veterinarians warn that regularly dosing dogs with anabolic steroids can result in serious physical disorders including deformities, infections, and liver problems

Prop 400 has been endorsed by 100 Tucson veterinarians, rescue groups, community leaders, and bipartisan lawmakers.

Do you support Prop 400 which provides protection for racing greyhounds in South Tucson?

Yes, I strongly support Prop 400 and believe that it is morally wrong to treat dogs in such a manner. What the owners of racing greyhounds do to

their animals is sickening and must be stopped. My best friend in Michigan has rescued two greyhounds and they were a great addition to her family. After elected, I will work tirelessly with other legislators of all political ideology to put an immediate stop to practices that place greed above the welfare of animals.

Dog racing in Arizona has been subsidized by the state and the taxpayers for the last fourteen years, since the passage of a mega-tax break bill for the failing dog tracks in 1994. Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP), the first track to benefit from the bill, has not paid any pari-mutuel taxes to the state since 1996. The Tucson track's out-of-state-owners have reaped nearly \$50 million in gross profits in the last ten years. Phoenix Greyhound Park, which paid \$5.8 million in pari-mutuel taxes in 1995, saw its tax reduced to zero by 2005. Because the tax credits are carried over from year to year, under current law it is likely that neither track will ever pay pari-mutuel taxes again.

Would you support reinstating legislation requiring that dog tracks pay pari-mutuel taxes to the state?

I think it is terrible that these organizations receive tax credits to begin with but having a tax loophole that will prevent them from paying pari-mutuel taxes is just inexcusable. I strongly support reinstating legislation requiring dog track owners to pay these taxes. The owners have "earned" tens of millions of dollars on the backs of these animals and the much needed tax revenue should be appropriately paid.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is charged with managing our state's wildlife.

Do you believe that wildlife should be managed not for the benefit of special interest groups but to produce balanced ecosystems in which all, native species may thrive?

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission's mission is: "To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs..." I do believe that the commission's job is to produce a balanced ecosystem and its mission statement explains it. Unfortunately, it is starting to stray towards benefiting special interest groups and I will act with other legislators to ensure that the commission gets back on track and works to accomplish its original function.

Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17-201 requires that members of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission must be “well informed on the subject of wildlife and its conservation.” Some people believe that holding a hunting or fishing license should be an additional defacto requirement for Arizona Game & Fish Commissioners. Three years ago a well-qualified nominee for the Commission came under criticism because she was not a hunter. The candidate is a wildlife biologist and former employee of the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and yet was denied a vote by the full Senate. This year another nominee who does not hunt or fish, but is well-qualified was again denied a confirmation vote,

Do you believe that candidates for the Arizona Game & Fish Commission should be based upon their qualifications irrespective of whether they hunt or fish?

Any nominee for the Game and Fish Commission must be well-qualified. However, I do not believe that the nominee must take part in the sport. A well-qualified individual should be given the opportunity to serve the commission as long as they match the requirements for the position. I do believe that a background in hunting and/or fishing could be beneficial to augment the individual’s qualifications if they lack extensive experience in biology or the related field of work.

Enacted in 1973, the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been responsible for saving imperiled wildlife including the Bald Eagle, the Grizzly Bear, and Gray Whale.

On August 11, the Bush Administration has proposed a sweeping overhaul of the ESA which would eliminate independent scientific reviews of decisions made by federal agencies, enabling agencies to decide for themselves whether construction projects pose a threat to endangered species.

Arizona is home to 56 endangered species, many of which could be threatened by this proposal to weaken the ESA.

Would you support legislation establishing an Arizona Endangered Species Act?

I fully support creating a statewide law to protect endangered species. Arizona must have the ability to protect certain types of species from damaging behavior with independent state-specific research.

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.

And yet citizen initiatives are under continual attack from legislative bills aimed at eroding public voting rights.

This November Arizonans will vote on a measure which carries the misleading title of "Majority Rules". However, it in fact would deprive the majority of voters participating in an election of the right to decide ballot initiatives. It would virtually eliminate citizens' initiatives in Arizona.

Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?

I support the public initiative process because it gives the residents of Arizona the ability to be a part of the law-making process.

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

I will not support any legislation that weakens voting rights.

Do you oppose the "Majority Rules" ballot measure?

I strongly oppose it because passing an initiative should only require a majority of people that actually voted, not a majority of registered voters. The only outcome if Majority Rules passes would be a disappearance of citizen initiatives on the ballot due to the overwhelming support it must have in order to pass.

ANIMAL CONTROL

PET OVERPOPULATION

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.

In Arizona, Animal Control agencies fall under different departments in various jurisdictions. Sometimes they fall under health departments and other times under police or sheriff's departments. The lack of uniform regulatory structure has resulted in animal control procedures that do not conform to conventional protocol. Over the past decade some small counties in Arizona have hired a federal agency to shoot stray dogs.

Would you support a more uniform regulatory structure and procedures for Animal Control agencies in Arizona?

Yes, there needs to be uniformity in the way Arizona handles pet overpopulation.

Would you support an amendment to tighten [A.R.S. 11-1022](#) to require all impounded animals to be sterilized and micro-chipped?

I believe that sterilizing and micro-chipping impounded animals should be done as a requirement for a new home adoption.

ANIMAL TESTING LABORATORY IN CHANDLER

Covance Laboratories is building a large animal testing facility in Chandler, a move that has raised concerns among citizens and animal advocates. The Chandler Covance facility will be located just two miles from schools and neighborhoods.

Covance has been scrutinized for alleged animal abuse throughout the world. In addition to testing drugs, food additives, and cosmetics ingredients on animals, the company is the largest importer of primates into the U.S. In 2006 Covance was cited and fined by the USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

In 1989 and 1990, Covance—then known as Hazleton—imported three shipments of Ebola-infected monkeys into the United States. Moreover, infections have been identified in monkeys that Covance shipped from its quarantine facilities to laboratories.

Between 1999 and 2000, fifteen primates imported by Covance were discovered to harbor the parasite *Cryptosporidium*, a frequent cause of gastroenteritis outbreaks among humans. This parasite can get into the water system and lead to infectious outbreaks among humans.

In 2001, a primate imported and sold by Covance tested positive for the bacteria *Bartonella quintana*, the cause of trench fever, cardiac, bone, and neurological disease in humans.

An outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) occurred among primates in Covance's Madison, Wis., facility in June 2006. In handling this outbreak, Covance apparently failed to follow regulatory procedures designed to protect employees and the public, by not immediately notifying the proper authorities and apparently failing to have a TB specialist oversee the necropsies of infected monkeys.

Based upon Covance's record of animal abuse and importation of infected primates as well as the potential for health hazards to citizens, would you support an ordinance that prohibits the importation of primates within Chandler?

Covance's record of animal abuse, faulty screening, and failing to abide by rules set forth by regulatory agencies is enough evidence to support an ordinance to prevent Covance from importing primates to their proposed facility.

OTHER ISSUES

Do you have further comments, questions, or concerns related to animals in Arizona?

I have had many pets over the years and most of them were strays, and they not only became our family's protectors but they became members of our family. That is why I commend the effort of groups that try to secure a safe and humane life for animals. If given the honor of serving the residents of the 4th Legislative District, I will work to ensure that wildlife will have a voice in legislature.

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

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