



Candidate Kent Solberg

State or County Office Representative LD27

Legislative Office: District LD27 House of Representatives yes
Senate

Staff Contact Salle Hunter Phone 882-8712
Email kent4house@juno.com

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. Years ago I volunteered at the Tucson Humane Society. My wife and I have always had dogs and cats as family members. We have pick up many strays and found their owners or adopted them ourselves. We have also done a catch and release with 5 stay cats, 3 of them live outside, sleeping in our shed and fed by us. 1 of them is now an indoor cat.

Are there any animal protection programs or issues of interest that you plan to address while in office? I would like to see a statewide program aimed at encouraging people to fix or spay their dogs and cats. I encourage the county prosecutor's office to follow through with severe penalties for animal abuse and cruelty. The licensing of cats might be a the beginning of a solution, but I would have to research the feasibility and practicality of such legislation.

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you? Our dogs and cats have always been family members. I always take one of our dogs to work with me at my industrial tool and supply business. Many people come into the store just to visit Archamedes. Animals touch our lives every day and we in turn touch theirs.

Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones? We have donated to the Humane Society and the Cat Hermitage in the past. We support any group that stands for animal rights and fights against animal cruelty. Although I am a meat eater, I think it is very important that animals bred for food are treated in the most humane manner we possibly can.

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?

Absolutely, as I stated before they should be prosecuted and severe penalties should be enforced. People should understand that cruelty to animals as well as to

people cannot be tolerated in our society. Unfortunately people who have a propensity for violence get married, have children and own animals.

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? My wife and I only buy cage free organic eggs. As I said before, animals bred for food sources need to be treated in the most humane manner as we possibly can. Compassion for animals is a very important way we teach our children to have compassion for human beings.

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 support Proposition 400 and wish that it did more to reduce the confinement of the grayhounds.

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? Yes!

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? Yes

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? Yes

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? Yes

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 believe that public initiatives are an important format for citizen participation in our government. I am against any legislation that would limit this process. My vote is worth seventeen votes because of the number of qualified citizens who don't vote. If you really wanted the majority to rule then encourage people to register and vote.

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

Do you oppose the “Majority Rules” ballot measure? Yes, I oppose this ballot measure.

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

Would you support an amendment to tighten A.R.S. 11-1022 to require all impounded animals to be sterilized and micro-chipped? Only after adequate effort and or time has elapsed to try to find an animal's owner. All of my dogs and cats have been neutered. And we have participated in catch and release programs for cats. I feel that mandatory sterilization of animals before the owner has a chance to reclaim his/her pet is an infringement of rights. Although personally I would like to see as many dogs and cats neutered and chipped as possible and would encourage all pet owners to do so.

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? This issue is probably the most complicated and highly debated. In the first place, it appears to be a local issue for Chandler or Maricopa County. Secondly in a time of financial crisis the availability of new jobs and industry is always an issue. This being said, I would support such an ordinance if the local governments weren't willing to take the initiative.

OTHER ISSUES

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

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my beliefs.

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

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