

**HUMANE VOTERS OF ARIZONA  
2006 GENERAL ELECTION  
STATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate \_Lara Wibeto

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State Office \_\_Arizona State Representative

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Legislative Office: District \_19\_\_ 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 2006 State Candidate Questionnaire. HVA will be endorsing candidates for the general election based upon voting records and response to this questionnaire.

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

[www.adlaz.org](http://www.adlaz.org) (Animal Defense League of Arizona)  
[www.greyhoundnetworknews.org](http://www.greyhoundnetworknews.org) (Greyhound Network News)  
[www.azhumane.org](http://www.azhumane.org) (Arizona Humane Society)  
[www.yesonproposition204.com](http://www.yesonproposition204.com) (Humane Farming Initiative)  
[www.protectchandler.org](http://www.protectchandler.org) (Covance information)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues? If so, please name issues and any actions taken. No.**

Are there any animal protection programs or issues of interest that you plan to address while in office? I have spoken to City of Mesa Animal Control Officers who say that more of a focus must be made to ensure that abandoned animals are rescued and placed for adoption in a timely manner, using public outreach. Also, I am aware that there are many programs, such as the one at Channel 3 which shows animals to viewers that are available for adoption. I believe that if private citizens, the animal rescue league centers, and the media build stronger coordinated efforts that many more animals could be placed in good, loving homes. I will support funding of the Arizona Humane Society and will support animal protection legislation in the Arizona House of Representatives as District 19 State Representative to give our voiceless creatures a say in our legislature.

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you? One of my childhood friends became a quadrapalegic at age 18 and had a service dog donated to him through a wonderful Canine Companion Program. Her name was Percy, a yellow lab who could open doors, literally for Jason. She would lead the way through the thickest crowd, could fetch the phone, open the refrigerator, and would wait until it was safe to cross the street. Most of all, she gave Jason constant companionship which helped his overall emotional well-being. I applaud the men and women who volunteer to train service dogs to give to those in need of assistance with daily activities. You can count on my support of these programs statewide.

Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones? I support the Arizona Humane Society and the National Wildlife Federation since I was 18. Part of my military pay went directly to the National Wildlife Federation when I served in the US Army from 1990-1995.

## 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? I think there should be strong penalties for those who intentionally harm animals in their care. There is no excuse for this horrible behavior toward innocent creatures. This is why I support Prop 204. No farm animal should be kept in a confined area that is so small that the animal cannot stand up or turn around in a circle. It is barbaric and should be illegal in all fifty states.**

## FARM ANIMALS

Gestation crates for pregnant pigs and veal crates for calves are among the cruelest confinement techniques used on factory farms—both in terms of the intensity and duration of confinement. Keeping animals so restrictively crated that they cannot even turn around for nearly four months straight is patently inhumane. And, with the industrialization of pork production, gestation crates are becoming more and more prevalent in the United States, although they, like veal crates, have been banned throughout Europe for their inherent cruelty.

Over 1100 Arizona volunteers gathered signatures for a citizens' initiative that will appear on the November ballot. Proposition 204 simply ensures that animals, such as pigs and calves that are raised for food, have enough room to turn around, lie down and extend their limbs in their pens.

**Do you support Proposition 204? As I stated above, I publicly support Prop 204 and hope that it passes this November.**

**Would you be willing to endorse this ballot measure? I welcome my public endorsement of Prop 204. Even Sheriff Joe Arapaio knows this treatment of farm animals is cruel and must stop immediately.**

**If you do not support Proposition 204, please state your reason for opposition.**

## **GREYHOUND RACING**

Dog racing in Arizona has been subsidized by the state and the taxpayers for the last ten years, since the passage of a mega-tax break bill for the failing dog tracks in 1994. Tucson Greyhound Park, 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, neither track will ever pay taxes again.

The Phoenix track financially supports an on-site adoption program; the Tucson track does not provide financial support to any of Tucson's non-profit adoption organizations.

The greyhound racing industry has been in a steep decline since 1991 and is unlikely to recover; 24 tracks across the country have closed, and many of them have been demolished. Eight states have banned greyhound racing because of the inherent cruelty involved in dog racing. Currently the Arizona Department of Racing is investigating Tucson Greyhound Park for the disappearance of 100 to 200 racing dogs.

**Would you be willing to reinstate legislation requiring that dog tracks pay pari-mutuel taxes to the state? Dog tracks should pay their fair share of taxes.**

**What steps would you take to ensure the welfare of racing dogs in Arizona? I would like severe fines and/or closures of any dog track that knowingly allows abuse of the race dogs to be enforced instead of commonly ignored.**

## **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. I have spoken to many Fish and Game rangers who are disgusted with the lack of funding toward conservation of our rivers, streams, and forests. They are also not pleased with the lack of interest in funding for our state park and camping areas to keep them safe and clean for both people and animals. I will bring these issues to the forefront once elected.**

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. Last session a well-qualified candidate 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.

**Do you believe that candidates for the Arizona Game & Fish Commission should be based upon their qualifications irrespective of whether they hunt or fish? I think it is important for any candidate for the Arizona Fish and Game Commission to be advocates for conservation of Arizona's animals and ecosystems because that is or should be the function of this commission. I do not mind if they hunt or fish as long as the individuals are not only concerned with hunters' rights not to be harassed, etc. If hunters follow the law, they will not run the risk of being arrested or sued.**

#### ARIZONA ROADLESS AREAS

According to the Forest Service, roadless areas function as biological strongholds and places of refuge for many animal species—from wide-ranging large mammals, such as grizzly bears, to narrowly distributed bird species, and other small animals. Nationwide, these roadless areas provide habitat for, or affect, more than 220 threatened, endangered, and proposed species, and 1,930 sensitive species. Within Arizona, there are currently 71 species of animals and plants that are listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. For some species with limited populations, the

protection of National Forest roadless areas may represent their final, critical refuge.

Arizona's roadless areas may be threatened by logging, road construction and other forms of development. Just over 10 percent of Arizona's national forests are free of roads, and these lands provide far-reaching values to the wildlife that rely on them and the people who visit them.

The original rule provided roadless areas the protections that so many Americans have sought. This rule was not preserved, but now there is an opportunity to return the protections it once offered to Arizona's remaining roadless lands.

**Do you support full protection of all roadless lands in Arizona's national forests for the benefit of the state's wildlife, habitat, and citizens? Yes. I support Prop 106 which will conserve over 690,000 of State Trust Land and protect many species from human encroachment which could put them on the endangered list.**

#### MEXICAN GRAY WOLF REINTRODUCTION

As a keystone predator, the Mexican Gray wolf is an integral component of the ecosystems. And yet over the past century wolves have been systematically exterminated, primarily as the result of livestock conflicts. By the 1970's the Mexican Gray wolf had been extirpated throughout the U.S. Now protected by the Endangered Species Act, the Mexican Gray wolf is getting a second chance through a recovery program led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies. However, Mexican wolf recovery in the Southwest has been compromised by various factors. The fact that they are captive-bred affects their ability to survive in the wild. Moreover, their designated recovery area is not large enough to accommodate the wolves. Another problem is that some ranchers do not dispose of carcasses. This may result in wolves that feed on livestock.

According to a recent NAU poll, Arizonans overwhelmingly support the recommendation of biologists to let endangered Mexican Gray wolves roam over a wider area of the Southwest and return to northern Arizona forests and mountains.

**Do you support the Mexican Gray wolf Recovery Program? We must protect programs such as the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program to save these wolves from extinction.**

**Would you support the recommendation of biologists to expand the boundaries for Mexican Gray wolf reintroduction to wider areas of suitable habitat in Arizona and New Mexico? I do support such measures as they will become necessary as more humans build developments or homes in their habitat. I will support these measures in the Arizona House of Representatives.**

**Do you support biologists' recommendation to require livestock operators on public land to take some responsibility for carcass disposal to reduce the likelihood that wolves become habituated to feeding on livestock? I think it is crucial that ranchers clean up after their livestock to avoid luring a wolf on their property and running the risk of wolves being killed unnecessarily.**

### **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 leghold 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.

**Do you support Arizona's public initiative process? I do support grass roots efforts such as Prop 204 to protect creatures and the environment because I am aware of the neglect of these issues for many years in the conservative majority legislature. I support citizen initiatives and will fight to keep them on the election ballots.**

**Do you believe that the Legislature should not attempt to dismantle the constitutional voting rights of Arizona citizens? I am running to stop the disenfranchisement of our state's voters. I will also work with the Governor and other voters' rights advocates to make sure that our constitutional rights to vote are not taken away.**

## **PET SAFETY**

Every year numerous pets, wildlife, and even children are poisoned because they are attracted to the sweet taste of antifreeze. These poisonings could be greatly reduced by including an inexpensive bittering agent in engine coolant and antifreeze. Some states have passed legislation requiring bittering agents in antifreeze, and Congress is considering a similar federal law.

**Do you support legislation which would require the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze? I would approve such a measure in our state legislature and should I decide to run for a federal office.**

## **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.

The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities. Consider that in a period of seven years, one cat and her young can produce 420,000 kittens. Only by implementing widespread spay neuter programs will we be able to stop pet overpopulation.

**Would you support better Animal Control laws to help alleviate the pet overpopulation problem? Yes. I think that spaying and neutering our state's animals, especially dogs and cats is crucial to the pet overpopulation problem in our state. I will vote for additional state funding of spaying and neutering of animals at our state's animal rescues and shelters.**

**Would you support a revision of Arizona's Spay Neuter Ordinance ([A.R.S. 11-1022](#)) to address the problem of unaltered animals? Yes, I would support this additional protection of our animals as long as there is a provision for those in poverty to get financial assistance to spay or neuter their animals.**

## ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES

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 government agency to shoot stray dogs.

**Would you support a more uniform regulatory structure and procedures for Animal Control agencies in Arizona? I do not think ANY dog deserves to be shot. I am also disgusted by the other animal shootings to kill of wild animals such as mountain lions and bears. Law enforcement officers need to start using tranquilizer darts to save the lives of these creatures and get them back into the wild. I will support legislation to end the shooting of our state's animals unless for licensed hunting because no animal deserves to be executed in such a violent manner.**

## ANIMAL TESTING LABORATORY IN CHANDLER

Covance Laboratories recently submitted its application to build an almost 600,000 sq. ft. animal testing facility in Chandler, a move that has rased concerns among citizens and animal advocates. Covance was recently fined \$8,720 by the USDA for 16 citations (three of which involved lab monkeys) based upon documented allegations of striking, choking, and tormenting primates at its Virginia facility.

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 one of the world's largest breeder of dogs for use in experiments, and one of the largest importers of primates in the U.S.

In 1989, Covance – known then as Hazleton – imported two shipments of Ebola virus-infected monkeys to its Reston, Virginia facility, just 10 miles from Washington D.C. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) ordered a military tactile unit in full hazmat gear to evacuate the buildings housing the monkeys, kill the animals, and destroy the building. In 1990, more Ebola infected monkeys were shipped to Hazleton facilities in Texas and Virginia. And in 1996, monkeys infected with Ebola virus were again found at the Texas Hazleton facility.

The plan that Covance submitted includes an animal carcass incinerator. The presence of a hazardous waste incinerator could affect the entire community by releasing toxins such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and other dangerous

chemicals. The facility will be located just two miles from schools and neighborhoods.

**Based upon Covance's record of animal abuse and importation of infected primates as well as the potential for health hazards to citizens, do you oppose the presence of this animal testing facility in our community? Covance is a problem waiting to happen. I feel for the majority of Chandler's citizens who have stated publicly and legally that they want no part of this company's poor practices. I will work to ensure that residents living in close proximity to Covance are protected from environmental contaminants and toxins.**

### **OTHER ISSUES**

**Do you have further comments, questions, or concerns related to animals in Arizona? My husband, children, and I have always had at least one dog. We now have a beagle, "Buddy", who is definitely a pampered pooch. From my earliest childhood memories I remember always having at least, if not two dogs, cats, chickens, geese, and we rescued mice, an owl, and a mallard duck as children because our parents believed that every creature is special and deserves a great life. I too believe this and will work to give our state's many creatures a strong voice when elected District 19 State Representative. I appreciate your time and hope to work with you in the future. I am endorsed by the Arizona League of Conservation Voters and am publicly supporting Prop 204 and 106 on the campaign trail. Thank you for all that you do. Feel free to contact me at your convenience.  
Lara Wibeto**

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

**Humane Voters of Arizona**

Email to: [HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net](mailto:HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net)