



## 2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND SCORECARD



Desert Nesting Bald Eagle photo by Robin Silver



## ARIZONA 2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Karen Michael

The 2024 session of the Arizona Legislature was an extremely challenging one for animal protection. Legislators introduced 14 animal protection bills, all supported by Humane Voters of AZ (HVA) and Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA). Unfortunately only two passed the legislature. This session was somewhat of an anomaly compared with the success of prior sessions. For example, the legislature passed four HVA-supported bills in 2023 and six in 2022.

Senator John Kavanagh sponsored four animal protection bills, one of which was passed and signed into law. SB1260, supported by Grey2K USA, bans wagering on simulcast dog racing, which uses signals from other countries with poor animal welfare records. His other bills included SB1204, which would have enabled law enforcement and animal control agencies to seize animals in the most extreme and urgent situations where animals are suffering or dying. He also sponsored SB1026, which would have given law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to crack down on organized dogfighting and cockfighting rings where animals are abused and killed for profit and entertainment. Both of these bills failed.



Senator TJ Shope sponsored two important animal protection measures but neither passed the legislature. SB1047 would have clarified standards of care for domestic animals. According to Arizona Humane Society (AHS) which led the campaign to pass the bill, humane organizations, prosecutors, law enforcement, and cruelty investigators have expressed concern for many years about the lack of clarity in the state animal cruelty statute. Sen. Shope also sponsored a bill to repeal the 2016 law that preempted city ordinances banning sales of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. Since that law passed, additional retail stores that sell puppy mill dogs have opened in Arizona.

Representative Julie Willoughby sponsored the only other successful bill (HB2241), which criminalizes possessing or distributing bestiality images.

In addition to working tirelessly to support Sen. Kavanagh's bills, HVA and ADLA volunteers again expended significant efforts to stop the harmful bill that would have weakened cruelty protection for 'working' animals used by dog breeders, rodeos, circuses, and other animal use industries. SB1237 was reintroduced as the same measure that Governor Hobbs vetoed last year. The 2023 version was misrepresented as necessary to protect rodeos and ranching. This year's identical measure was misrepresented as necessary to protect 'exotic animal education programs for children', despite the fact that none of these activities are under threat in Arizona. This legislation, referred to as the Working Animal Protection Act, is part of a national campaign by animal industry lobbyists formed to protect puppy mills in the Midwest. SB1237 passed the Senate but died in the House. Despite identical bills being introduced in very different ways and because these bills have been launched by an out-of-state organization in a variety of states, we expect these could be reintroduced in future sessions.

HVA and ADLA opposed other damaging bills that failed to pass the legislature, including legislation to prohibit public monies spent to promote reducing the consumption or production of meat or dairy products or replacing animal-based protein with insect or synthetic protein. We also opposed two bills aimed at cell-based meat, including one that would have banned sales of cell-based meat, allowing the AZ Dept of Agriculture to fine violators up to \$25,000. The other measure was a revival of previous 'fake meat' bills, which, as introduced, would have banned mislabeling a product that is not derived from a slaughtered animal as meat and allowed DHS to fine violators \$100,000 per violation. The bills were likely a response to the FDA and USDA recently approving sales and consumption of cell-based meat in the US.

As with every session, legislators attempted to weaken or decimate Arizona's citizen initiative process -- our single most important tool for protecting animals. This session legislators referred a measure to the 2024 ballot that, if passed by voters, would allow anyone to file a lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of a citizen initiative while campaigns are still gathering signatures to place a measure on the ballot. If a court finds the measure unconstitutional, it prohibits the Secretary of State from certifying or printing the measure on the ballot. This detrimental legislation would force citizen

initiative campaigns to raise significant amounts of money to fight constitutional challenges from anyone who opposes the initiative. Other anti-initiative bills were introduced but failed to pass the legislature.

## **The Good Bills**

### **Bills Passed by Legislature and Signed into Law**

[SB1260 - dog racing; simulcast wagering; prohibition](#) (Kavanagh), prohibits pari-mutuel wagering on simulcast dog racing statewide. The legislature banned live dog racing in Arizona in 2016 thanks to Senator Kavanagh and other legislators. However, off-track betting (OTB) on simulcast dog races remained legal. According to [Grey2K USA](#) which led the campaign to pass the bill, OTB involves wagering on foreign dog tracks with little or no animal welfare protections. As the group states, “the global greyhound racing industry is responsible for the confinement, injuries and deaths of thousands of young greyhounds each year. Arizona voted to outlaw the cruelty of dog racing and local gamblers should not subsidize this activity elsewhere.”



*Photo courtesy of Grey2K USA*

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1260 passed the House 43-14-3 and passed the Senate for a final vote of 23-5-2 and was signed by Governor Hobbs.*

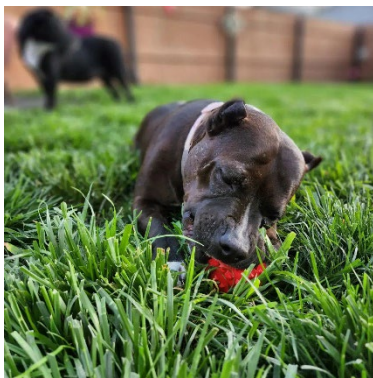
[HB2241 - bestiality; visual depiction; minors](#) (Willoughby), includes a misdemeanor 1 penalty for knowingly possessing, distributing, transporting, exhibiting, selling, purchasing or electronically transmitting any visual depiction of bestiality. HB2241 adds a section to the Arizona law passed in 2006 that banned bestiality as a felony offense. HVA was not involved in the bill's introduction but supported the measure.

*HVA supported this measure.*

*HB2241 passed the Senate 27-0-3 and passed the House for a final vote of 58-0-2 and was signed by Governor Hobbs.*

### **Good Bills that Failed to Pass the Legislature**

[SB1026 - racketeering; cockfighting](#) (Kavanagh), was a top priority for HVA and ADLA. It would have added animal fighting and cockfighting to the list of crimes that constitute racketeering if committed for financial gain under Arizona's racketeering and organized crime (RICO) statute. Sen. Kavanagh reintroduced SB1026 after a similar bill failed in 2023. This measure would have given law enforcement and prosecutors the necessary tools to seek justice for animals that are brutally killed and injured in animal fighting rings.



*Dogfighting rescue 'Stevie Nicks'  
(Photo by Mary Moody)*

Arizona banned dogfighting in 1979 and cockfighting in 1998, but these illegal blood sports are still alive in our state as they are across the country. There have been numerous arrests at dogfighting and cockfighting operations in Arizona, including a 2022 DEA drug bust in Phoenix that uncovered a vertical cockfighting ring with 120 roosters, and a breeding and shipping operation. Over the past two sessions, HVA and ADLA have worked with [Animal Wellness Action](#) (AWA), which is involved in federal bills related to animal fighting. Dr. Thomas Pool with AWA shared his in-depth [investigative report](#) on how organized cockfighting triggers outbreaks of avian flu, which is spreading to other species including dairy cows, cats, and even humans. Read our SB1026 fact sheet [here](#).

SB1026 was supported by the Arizona Attorney General, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO), the Arizona Police Association, veterinarians, AWA and other animal protection organizations. In committee hearings on SB1026, Attorney Rebecca Baker with MCAO testified that the bill's goal was to defeat the financial incentive for criminal organizations to commit the crime. Written testimony from AWA veterinarian Dr. Pool and criminal investigator Eric Sakach, and Arizona veterinarian Dr. Nancy Bradley-Siemens, an expert in forensic medicine.

SB1026 passed the Senate by a 21-5-1 vote but was surprisingly defeated in the House. On the House floor, Rep. Selina Bliss addressed the urgency of passing SB1026 to help stop cockfighting rings based on the avian flu epidemic, which has killed almost 82 million U.S. poultry and aquatic birds since 2022, costing US taxpayers nearly \$1 billion. Despite a

lack of opposition prior to the floor vote, the bill was ambushed with inaccurate comments which caused it to fail. It was a devastating outcome for legislation that was supported by prosecutors, law enforcement groups, veterinarians, and humane groups. While a couple of representatives expressed concern from a criminal justice perspective, no one had publicly opposed SB1026. Rep Biasiucci successfully moved the bill for reconsideration, but the decision was made to revisit this legislation in a future session.

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1026 passed the Senate 21-5-1 but failed in the House 19-40-0-1, so the bill died.*

[SB1204 - animal seizure; notification; bond; offense](#) (Kavanagh: Shah), was a high priority bill for HVA and ADLA. It would have enabled law enforcement and animal control agencies to seize animals in the most extreme and urgent situations

where animals are suffering. Sen. Kavanagh introduced this measure to address the need to rescue animals sooner from dangerous and sometimes life-threatening situations.

Throughout Arizona, there has been an increase in animal seizures from overwhelmingly dire conditions involving animal cruelty, disreputable rescue groups, and animal hoarding situations. In one [high-profile case](#), 55 dogs and five dead puppies were removed from a home in Chandler in September of 2023. Most of the animals needed immediate medical attention and five had to be euthanized. Despite receiving numerous complaints, police had been unable to seize the abused animals. Quite often search warrants are unable to be obtained in a timely manner, which enabled the abuse to continue before authorities were able to intervene. In response to this case, the City of Chandler passed an [ordinance](#) to address the authority of officials to seize animals that are suspected of being abused. Had SB1204 been in effect at the time, it could have prevented animal suffering and possibly deaths in this case.



*Rescued Pups (photo by Karen Anderson)*

SB1204 was a surgical approach to amend an existing statute that would have enabled law enforcement and animal control agencies to seize animals in the most extreme and urgent situations where they are in severe distress. It would allow authorities to seize animals without a search warrant when they have reasonable grounds to believe that animals are suffering. Some cities and counties require search warrants. Others do not. This bill would have provided those smaller jurisdictions with a valuable tool. They would be able to reduce the time that animals are suffering and, in some cases, dying. They would be able to act without losing crucial time waiting for a search warrant. SB1204 also would have eliminated the need for their city or county to enact a new ordinance, as Chandler did.

The bill also would have increased the bond amount for seized animals to help already-struggling animal control and humane organizations with the cost of housing, care, and veterinary treatment. Many seized animals have never received proper care and require expensive medical treatment. In Chandler where the 55 dogs were seized; posting bond for all would have been only \$1375. The shelters that provide housing and care for seized animals in these cases incur significant costs. These expenses should not create a crisis for these organizations. Shifting the responsibility to pay for the cost of caring for seized animals onto their owners would help alleviate the financial burden of housing seized animals and make it possible for more rescues to occur.

SB1204 was supported by many humane organizations, Animal Care and Control Agencies, and law enforcement. However, the bill became a target for animal use industry groups including a national reptile owner and breeder organization, which inundated legislators with calls from its members opposing the measure. As a result the assigned committee chair refused to grant SB1204 a hearing, which killed the bill.

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1204 did not receive a committee hearing, so the bill died.*

[SB1047 - animal cruelty; failure to treat](#) (Shope), would have clarified standards of care for domestic animals. According to Arizona Humane Society (AHS), which led the campaign to pass the bill, humane organizations, law enforcement, and cruelty investigators have expressed concern for many years about the lack of clarity in the animal cruelty statute. In 2023 AHS responded to nearly 15,000 calls for service and investigated close to 10,000 animal abuse cases, a significant surge of 20 percent from 2022. The need to clarify standards of care for animals became more urgent following last year's animal cruelty case in Chandler. Had SB1047 been in place, more dogs could have been saved earlier.

SB1047 would have specifically defined cruelty to companion animals as failure to provide necessary medical attention to prevent unreasonable suffering, defined food and water that are fit for consumption, ensured shelter is safe, and would have provided law enforcement and prosecutors with the tools they need to save the lives of pets throughout Arizona. The bill passed the Senate by a 22-7-1 vote and initially failed in the House due to inaccurate floor comments but passed on reconsideration by a vote of 36-23-0-1. Because SB1047 was amended it had to return to the Senate but was held before reaching the floor for a final vote.



Photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1047 passed the Senate 22-7-1 and passed the House 36-23-0-1 but was not provided its final vote, so the bill died.*

[HB2076 - domestic violence; definition; animal abuse](#) (B. Parker), would have added specified animal cruelty offenses to the list of offenses that may qualify as domestic violence. HVA was not involved in the bill's introduction but supported the measure. The measure passed the House by a large margin but was held in the Senate.

*HVA supported this measure.*

*HB2076 passed the House 55-2-3-1 but was held in the Senate, so the bill died.*

[SB1046 - pet dealers; state preemption; repeal](#) (Shope.), would have repealed the 2016 law that preempted Phoenix and Tempe city ordinances banning sales of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. This legislation was introduced in the 2021, 2022, and 2023 sessions following an investigation by Bailing Out Benji and Animal Wellness Action alleging that Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom pet stores trucked in hundreds of dogs from puppy mill breeders cited for health issues. You can read the investigative report [here](#). In 2022, the pet store chain owner [was fined](#) \$120,000 by Attorney General Mark Brnovich for selling dogs from puppy mills.

The legislature's 2016 preemption law has failed and has been harmful to animals. The provisions of the bill have not been enforced and according to this AZ Daily Star [article](#), have made our state a magnet for pet sellers dealing in puppy mill dogs. Arizona is the last place left in the Southwest where it's still legal statewide to sell puppy mill puppies. Learn more on the preemption pet store law in the [HVA 2016 Legislative Report](#). Rep. Amish Shah sponsored [HB2515](#), the House version of the bill. As with all other attempts to pass this legislation, neither of the bills were even granted committee hearings.

*HVA supported these measures.*

*SB1046 was not granted hearings in committee, so the bill died.*

[HB2516 - prohibition; cat declawing; exceptions](#) (Shah: Bliss, Gress, Martinez, et al.), would have prohibited non-therapeutic declawing of cats. Rep. Amish Shah, an emergency department physician, also sponsored this legislation in sessions from 2020 through 2023. The previous bills all failed due to opposition from the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association and AZPetVet, a large chain of local veterinary clinics.

Declawing is one of the most painful procedures in veterinary medicine, where each toe of the cat is amputated at the first joint. Major health authorities including the Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, and others all agree that declawing cats to protect humans is "not advised." Read the HVA bill alert on the 2022 cat declaw bill [here](#).

*HVA supported this measure.*

*HB2516 was not granted a committee hearing, so the bill died.*

[HB2324 - animal cruelty; classification](#) (Payne: Bolick), would have raised the penalty for intentionally or knowingly killing a police dog in the line of duty. The bill was amended from its original version, which was overly broad. HB2324, as amended, passed the House 34-22-3-1 but was held in the Senate.



Photo by Animal Legal Defense Fund

*HVA supported this measure as amended.*

*HB2324 passed the House 34-22-3-1 but was held in the Senate, so the bill died.*

[SB1203 - cosmetics sales; animal testing; prohibitions](#) (Kavanagh: Shah), would have banned manufacturers from selling or offering for sale cosmetics developed or manufactured using animal testing in Arizona after January 1, 2025, with limited exceptions. Hundreds of thousands of animals are used in painful experiments to test cosmetics, despite the fact that this testing is unnecessary. New technologies are more reliable, effective, and less costly than animal testing. The request for this bill came from Jordan Sucato, a high school student who was concerned about the use of animals for testing cosmetics and reached out to Sen. Kavanagh, who agreed to sponsor a bill. HVA worked with Cruelty Free International, which provided significant research and information on the issue. We also received help from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Unfortunately the bill failed since it was not granted a committee hearing.



*Photo by Cruelty Free International*

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1203 did not receive a committee hearing, so the bill died.*

[SB1439 - rental property; dog breeds](#) (Fernandez: Alston, Diaz, Gabaldon), would have precluded landlords from prohibiting specific breeds or types of dogs. The bill was held in the House before reaching the floor.

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1439 was held in the House, so the bill died.*

[SB1220 - fireworks; sale; use; restrictions](#) (Marsh: Alston, Bravo, Burch, et al.), would have prohibited consumer fireworks all days of the year except July 4 and Dec 31. The bill was held in committees so was unable to progress.

*HVA supported this measure.*

*SB1220 was held in House committees, so the bill died.*

## **The Bad Bills**

[SB1237 - working animals; restrictions; prohibition](#) (Shamp: Carroll, Gowan, Montenegro, et al.), was the session's largest threat to animals and our top priority to stop. SB1237 was reintroduced by Senator Janae Shamp after her same bill was vetoed by Governor Hobbs in 2023. That [version](#) of this year's measure was misrepresented as necessary to protect rodeos and ranching. This year's identical bill was misrepresented as necessary to protect 'exotic animal education programs for children'. In fact, none of these activities are under threat in Arizona.



*Avida and Jewel at Healing Hearts  
Animal Rescue and Sanctuary*

This legislation would have prohibited local governments from enacting any ordinances to address inhumane treatment of animals if the law restricts the use of working animals in animal enterprises. SB1237 was overly broad and could apply to any "working animal" that is used for "animal enterprises", including herding or guard dogs, animal breeders, circuses, fur farms, and other industries.

Like its predecessor, SB1237 was really about protecting puppy mills and other animal use industries. It was one of many state bills authored by [The Cavalry Group](#), an out-of-state lobbying firm that represents guard dogs, puppy mills, fur farms, carriage horse owners, circuses, industrial agricultural operations, dog racing, horse soring, fur farms, exotic animal businesses (including representing Keith Wilson of Tiger King fame), and other animal industries.

Legislation has been promoted by the Cavalry Group in a variety of states as a "[Working Animal Protection](#)" (WAPA) bill, originally driven by Midwestern US Puppy Mill Breeders. The primary goal of WAPA bills is to free businesses that profit from inhumane practices from any restrictions or accountability under local ordinances. The Arizona versions of the WAPA bill have been promoted by a coalition of animal businesses including a pet store chain, exotic animal breeders and sellers, roadside zoos, and others. In 2022, the pet store chain owner was [fined \\$120,000](#) by Attorney General Mark

Brnovich for selling dogs from puppy mills. The [out-of-state zoo](#) member has been cited by the USDA eight times for violating the Animal Welfare Act.

SB1237 would have removed the power from local governments to regulate local animal-related issues through a vague and poorly drafted measure that would have invited litigation and extraordinary legal fees to define the true scope of the legislation. Lawsuits in Texas and Arkansas related to their WAPA laws exemplify the potentially damaging and costly results of passing this overbroad, vague preemption legislation.

ADLA and HVA met with lawmakers in both parties, staff analysts, distributed bill fact sheets and generated constituent calls to legislators requesting 'no' votes on SB1237. The bill narrowly passed the Senate on a party line vote. However, SB1237 was withdrawn from its House committee and failed to progress further.

*HVA opposed this measure.*

*SB1237 passed the Senate 16-12-2 and was withdrawn from a House committee, so the bill died.*



*Photo: Eleanor by Bailing Out Benji*

[HB2108 - technical correction: state highways](#) (Cook), included a proposed strike-everything amendment that would have overturned the Arizona Dept. of Agriculture's rule requiring that eggs produced and sold in Arizona must come from hens free from cage confinement by 2025. The amendment stated that "the director may not prohibit the sale of eggs on the basis of barn or cage size."

The amendment was proposed in the House Transportation & Infrastructure committee, chaired by bill sponsor Rep. David Cook. After a brief discussion, he held the bill.

*The striker amendment to HB2108 was held in committee, so the bill died.*

#### Bills Targeting Cell-Based and Plant-Based Meat

Legislators introduced measures targeting cell-based and plant-based meat in the 2024 session. These bills may have been in response to the fact that within the last two years the FDA and USDA have [approved](#) cell-cultured meat for human consumption in the United States. [The Good Food Institute](#) led the opposition campaign to successfully stop both bills. Mercy for Animals also helped.



[HB2121 - cell-cultured animal product; prohibition](#) (Marshall, Bliss, Cook, Gillette), would have prohibited a person from offering to sell or produce a cell-cultured animal product. It would allow the Arizona Department of Agriculture to impose a civil penalty up to \$25,000 against violators. HB2121 also allows a person or organization whose business is adversely affected by a violation of this legislation to file a lawsuit for damages. If the plaintiff prevails, the court must award attorney and

damage fees. The bill passed the House but was held in the Senate.

*HVA opposed this measure.*

*HB2121 passed the House 31-28-0-1 but was held in the Senate, so the bill died.*

[HB2244 - misrepresenting; food products](#) (Nguyen: Biasiucci, Bliss, Diaz), was a repeat of the 'fake meat' bills that failed in the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. HB2244 would have prohibited a person who places a label on a food product from intentionally misrepresenting a product that is not derived from the slaughter or killing of an animal as meat, fish, poultry or any other animal. The bill would allow the AZ Dept of Health Services to impose a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for each violation. HB2244 passed the House and was amended in the Senate but failed by a final vote of 8-19-3.

*HVA opposed this measure.*

*HB2244 passed the House 35-20-1 but failed in the Senate by a final vote of 8-19-3.*

[HCR2040 - public monies; prohibited expenditures](#) (Smith: Carbone, Biasiucci, Carter, et al.), if passed by voters, would prohibit a public entity from spending public monies to promote, advocate or plan for, or become a member of an

association or organization that promotes, advocates or plans for reducing the consumption or production of meat or dairy products or replacing animal-based protein with insect or synthetic protein. The measure also prohibits funding a number of other issues including producing a climate action plan, and replacing car travel with walking, biking or public transit.

HCR2040 would also grant standing to any Arizona voter to file a lawsuit against any public entity for a violation. Even public schools that have "Meatless Mondays" could be vulnerable. If violations are found to be valid, the court would be required to award attorney fees and costs to the party who brought the action. The bill passed the House on a party line vote but was held in the Senate, so it failed.

Senator Kern also sponsored SB1195, an identical statutory version of HCR2040, which passed the Senate but was held in the House.

*HVA opposed this measure.*

*HCR2040 passed the House 16-12-2 but was held in the Senate, so the bill died.*

### **Attack on Citizen Initiative Rights**

Arizona's [citizen ballot measure process](#) is the single most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals. Our initiative process is a constitutional right enacted at statehood in 1912. One of our founders' biggest concerns was the right to pass laws through citizen initiatives. The first initiative passed in Arizona recognized women's right to vote. Thanks to



grassroots citizen ballot measures, voters banned indiscriminate leghold traps, snares, and poisons on public lands in 1994. Cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters prohibited the inhumane confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal in industrial agriculture operations. All these measures failed in the legislature yet were passed by Arizona voters. In 1998 the Voter Protection Act was passed to prevent the legislature from undermining initiatives passed by voters. The legislature has placed several referenda on the ballot that could have destroyed the public initiative process, but voters overwhelmingly defeated most of the referenda, indicating the strong determination of citizens to defend voting rights.

In 2017, the Arizona Legislature passed two bills that have severely damaged our public initiative process. These laws have driven up the cost of hiring petition circulators and changed the state's standard for initiatives to 'strict compliance', which could result in valid signatures being tossed out for the smallest technical mistakes. The legislature's passage of these two measures has made it even more difficult, time consuming, and expensive for Arizonans to place a measure on the ballot.

As polls consistently indicate, Arizona voters strongly support animal protection and our public initiative process. However, each session legislators continue to run bills to weaken or dismantle this important right. These bills generally, with very few exceptions, are extremely partisan. The issue of citizen initiatives could be related to any number of issues unrelated to animal protection and it is possible that otherwise animal-friendly legislators are considering a bigger picture when supporting these bills. That is why one of HVA's priority goals is to continually educate legislators on the importance of citizen initiatives for protecting large numbers of Arizona's animals.

### **2024 Anti-Initiative Bills**

[SCR1041 - ballot measures; challenges](#) (Mesnard), if passed by voters, would allow anyone to file a lawsuit in court to challenge the constitutionality of citizen initiatives while campaigns are still gathering signatures to place a measure on the ballot. If a court finds the measure unconstitutional, it prohibits the Secretary of State from certifying or printing the measure on the ballot. This damaging legislation would force citizen initiative campaigns to raise large amounts of money to fight constitutional challenges from anyone who opposes the initiative. This would make it virtually impossible for grassroots citizen initiative campaigns to place a measure on the ballot. If SCR1041 had been in place at the time, it could have prevented the initiatives that banned traps and poisons on public lands, cockfighting, and inhumane farm animal confinement from even reaching the ballot for voters to consider. SCR1041 passed the House and Senate by a single vote in each chamber and was transferred to the Secretary of State to be placed on this November's ballot.

*HVA opposed this measure.*

*SCR1041 passed the Senate 16-12-2 and passed the House 31-29 and was transferred to the Secretary of State.*



## **Superstar Legislators**

HVA wishes to thank those special (we call them) “Superstar Legislators”, who expended efforts to protect animals and/or our public initiative process and were present for most or all key bill votes.

Senator Kavanagh is a strong, committed advocate for animals who sponsored four animal protection bills this session, including the newly passed law that bans betting on simulcast dog racing which includes races in other countries with poor records of animal welfare. Previously Kavanagh sponsored and helped pass the 2016 bill that ended inhumane greyhound racing in Arizona. He has passed 17 animal protection bills since 2013, the most of any legislator in state history.



*Senator Kavanagh with 'Lewis' and 'Clark'*

Senator TJ Shope sponsored the bill that would have clarified standards of care for animals, providing law enforcement and prosecutors with much-needed tools to save the lives of pets throughout Arizona. He also sponsored legislation to repeal the law that preempted local bans on pet stores selling puppy mill dogs. We greatly appreciate his efforts for animals.

Representative Amish Shah again sponsored bills to ban inhumane declawing of cats and to repeal the 2016 pet store preemption law. He also cosponsored some of Sen. Kavanagh’s measures. Rep. Shah resigned from the legislature to run for Congress, so was unable to expend further efforts on animal bills. He has been a strong advocate for animal protection and citizen initiative rights and is missed as a state legislator.



*Senator TJ Shope*

The following legislators voted against measures damaging to animals and citizen initiatives and voted for animal protection bills and were present for most or all votes. Some legislators took other actions such as sponsoring pro-animal bills, speaking out against harmful bills and defending beneficial measures in committee, caucuses, and on the floor (see HVA scorecards for details):

Senators Lela Alston, Eva Burch, Mitzi Epstein, Brian Fernandez, Rosanna Gabaldón, Theresa Hatathlie, Christine Marsh, and Priya Sundareshan

Representatives Patricia Contreras, Consuelo Hernandez, Lydia Hernandez, Christopher Mathis, Elda Luna-Nájera, Jennifer Pawlik, Mae Peshlakai, Judy Schwiebert, Laura Terech, and Stacey Travers

## **Legislators who helped on specific animal-related measures**

HVA greatly appreciates the efforts of the following legislators who sponsored or helped with measures affecting animals:

Senator Sundareshan had a perfect voting score and spoke in support of animal protection bills in committees.

Senator Marsh had a perfect voting score and sponsored legislation to restrict fireworks.

Representative Selina Bliss was the only representative to speak in support of SB1026 on the House floor.

Representative Alma Hernandez had a perfect voting score and spoke in support of SB1047 on the House floor.



*Senator Priya Sundareshan*

## **Advocates**

Special thanks to HVA board member and volunteer lobbyist Martha German for her tireless efforts not only during legislative sessions but throughout the entire year.

Thanks to ADLA President and volunteer lobbyist Stephanie Nichols-Young for all her help on legislation and legal issues.

HVA thanks its board and team members: Martha German, Stephanie Nichols-Young, Scott Bonsall-Cargill, Tom Krepitch, Michelle Lukasiewicz, and Heather Moos.

Thanks to Humane Society of the US-AZ (HSUS) Director Gabe Wigtil for his tireless efforts on animal protection legislation.

Thanks to attorney Rebecca Baker with MCAO for her powerful testimony in House and Senate committees in support of SB1204.

Thanks to Kelsea Patton, Steve Hansen, DVM, ED, and Tracey Miiller with Arizona Humane Society and their lobbyists Liz Goodman and Cole Libera for all their efforts on SB1047.



*'Dolly' (photo by Martha German)*

Thanks to Wayne Pacelle, Dr. Thomas Poole, Erik Sakach, and Desiree Bender with Animal Wellness Action, for their significant efforts on the animal fighting bill.

Thanks to Christine Dorchak and Carey Thiel with Grey2K USA and their lobbyist Stuart Goodman for their successful efforts to pass the bill to ban simulcast dog racing.

HVA appreciates all the help from Monica Engebretson with Cruelty Free International on the cosmetic animal testing bill. Also thanks to Vicki Katrinak with HSUS for her help, and to Jordan Sucato for bringing this issue to Sen. Kavanagh.

Thanks to Drake Jamali with Good Food Institute, Noa Dalzell with Food Solutions Action, Alex Cerussi with Mercy for Animals, and lobbyist Sam Richard for their successful efforts to stop the measures targeting cell-based meat.

HVA greatly appreciates the many advocates across Arizona who shared their time and expertise on SB1026 and/or SB1204, including attorneys Elizabeth Maupin with ADLA and MJ Simpson, attorney Nick Debus with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Arizona Police Association, Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, Dena Jones with Animal Welfare Institute, Nancy Bradley-Siemens DVM, Stacy Pearson with Lumen Strategies, Lain Kahlstrom, Nancy Young Wright, and the hundreds of advocates who contacted their legislators regarding animal-related bills.

As always, HVA appreciates the tireless efforts of Sierra Club Arizona Director Sandy Bahr to protect our state's wildlife, habitat, and citizen initiative rights.

Finally, thanks to Martha German, Stephanie Nichols-Young, Tom Krepitch, and Heather Moos for their valuable input on this report.

For more information on legislation visit the HVA [website](#).

### **Legislative Scorecard**

Voting records are provided on key bills affecting animals, including citizen initiative measures. There are no actual points or grades assigned.

#### Animal Bills

A checkmark ✓ indicates a vote in favor of animal protection, while an "x" represents a vote that negatively impacts animals. Votes on the most important bills that HVA supported or opposed are in **bold** type.

#### Voting/Initiative Bills

A checkmark ✓ indicates a vote that supports citizen initiative rights, while an "x" represents a vote that negatively affects the initiative process and in turn voters' ability to protect animals.

#### All Bills

An asterisk \* indicates that the legislator's vote was for the purpose of reconsideration. After a bill vote takes place, a legislator who voted with the prevailing side may move to reconsider it. This tactic is a final attempt to save a bill that

failed the House or Senate but can also be used to kill a bill that passed. The asterisk will follow symbols based on whether HVA supports or opposes the bill: \* or x\*

NV indicates that the legislator did not vote on a bill. This could be because that legislator was absent, or that they refrained from voting to affect the outcome of the bill vote.

A blank column under a bill indicates that the legislator did not have the opportunity to vote on that measure. This applies to legislators who replaced another one who left office during the session. In that case the new legislator is included in the scorecard but will have a blank column for bills voted on prior to the replacement.

Bill voting records represent one public aspect of the legislative process. However, many factors that affect measures are not subject to public scrutiny and are sometimes beyond the scope of this legislative report. The efforts of lawmakers, lobbyists, and others to influence legislation largely take place within the “hidden” political process. That is why some additional actions by lawmakers are also taken into consideration, such as sponsoring bills or influencing the passage or defeat of animal-related measures.

Those actions are represented in the OTHER column by positive icon 😊 or negative icon ☹️. In the COMMENTS column, PS means that the legislator was the primary sponsor of the bill. Cosponsors are not included in the scorecard. Please click on the bill number in the main legislative report for all information including status, primary and co-sponsors, amendments, committee and floor votes, and videos. Bill positions registered by organizations and individuals are listed under RTS Bill Positions.

Although animal protection and initiative bills provide a gauge for reviewing lawmakers, other bills that impact animals are those that affect wildlife habitat in Arizona. For legislative information on conservation measures, including voting records and scorecards visit the Arizona Sierra Club's [legislative](#) page.

For more information on this legislative report please email [info@humanevotersaz.org](mailto:info@humanevotersaz.org)

## ARIZONA STATE SENATE 2024 SCORECARD

### Animal Bills

### Initiative Bills

NAME	LD	PTY	SB 1237	SB 1026	SB 1047	SB 1260	SCR 1041	OTHER	COMMENTS
<a href="#">Ken Bennett</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Shawna Bolick</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
<a href="#">John Kavanagh</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	😊😊😊😊	PS SB1026, SB1260 & other pro-animal bills; helped on other bills
<a href="#">Christine Marsh</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊	PS SB1220 (fireworks restriction)
<a href="#">Lela Alston</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	D	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Theresa Hatathlie</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	D	✓	✓	✘	✘	✓		
<a href="#">Wendy Rogers</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Juan Mendez</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	D	✓	✘	✓	✓	✓	😊	PS 1228 (bans pesticides toxic to bees)
<a href="#">Eva Burch</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	D	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">David C. Farnsworth</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	R	✘	✓	✘	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Catherine Miranda</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓		
<a href="#">Denise "Mitzi" Epstein</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">J.D. Mesnard</a>	<a href="#">13</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	☹️	PS SCR1041 (aimed at weakening citizen initiatives)
<a href="#">Warren Petersen</a>	<a href="#">14</a>	R	✘	✘	✘	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Jake Hoffman</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	R	✘	NV	✘	NV	✘		
<a href="#">Thomas "T.J." Shope</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	😊😊	PS SB1047 & SB1046 (repeals pet store law)
<a href="#">Justine Wadsack</a>	<a href="#">17</a>	R	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘		
<a href="#">Priya Sundareshan</a>	<a href="#">18</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊	Spoke in support of animal protection bills in committees
<a href="#">David Gowan</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	R	✘	✓	✘	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Sally Ann Gonzales</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	D	✓	NV	✓	✘	NV		
<a href="#">Rosanna Gabaldón</a>	<a href="#">21</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Eva Diaz</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	D	NV	✓	NV	✓	NV		
<a href="#">Brian Fernandez</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊	PS1439 (bans breed discrimination by landlords)
<a href="#">Anna Hernandez</a>	<a href="#">24</a>	D	✓	✘	✓	NV	✓		
<a href="#">Sine Kerr</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Flavio Bravo</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Moved from House to fill Senate seat
<a href="#">Raquel Terán</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	D							Resigned 4/13
<a href="#">Anthony Kern</a>	<a href="#">27</a>	R	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	☹️☹️	PS SB1195/ SCR1015 (bans funds to reduce meat consumption)
<a href="#">Frank Carroll</a>	<a href="#">28</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
<a href="#">Janae Shamp</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	☹️	PS1237 (weakens protections for working animals)
<a href="#">Sonny Borrelli</a>	<a href="#">30</a>	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		

#### Animal Bills

SB1237: weakens protection for animals  
 SB1026: adds cockfighting & dogfighting to state RICO statute  
 SB1047: adds definitions for food, water, shelter & failure to treat  
 SB1260: bans simulcast dog racing statewide

#### Vote Symbols

Vote supporting animal protection or initiative rights ✓  
 Vote opposing animal protection or initiative rights ✘  
 Vote changed for purpose of reconsideration of bill ✓\* or ✘\*  
 PS = prime sponsor (cosponsors are not included)

#### Initiative Bills

SCR1041: allows anyone to sue before initiatives are placed on ballot

**ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2024 SCORECARD (Page 1 of 2)**

**Animal Bills**

**Initiative Bills**

NAME	LD	PTY	SB 1026	SB 1047	SB 1260	HB 2076	SCR 1041	OTHER	COMMENTS
<a href="#">Selina Bliss</a>	<u>1</u>	R	✓	✓	NV	✓	x	☺	Spoke in support of SB1026 on floor
<a href="#">Quang H Nguyen</a>	<u>1</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	☹	PS HB2244 (fake meat mislabeling)
<a href="#">Judy Schwiebert</a>	<u>2</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Justin Wilmeth</a>	<u>2</u>	R	x	✓	✓	✓	x		
<a href="#">Joseph Chaplik</a>	<u>3</u>	R	x	x	✓	✓	x		
<a href="#">Alexander Kolodin</a>	<u>3</u>	R	x	x	✓	✓	x	☹☹	Spoke against SB1026 & SB1047 on floor
<a href="#">Laura Terech</a>	<u>4</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Matt Gress</a>	<u>4</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	x		
<a href="#">Sarah Liguori</a>	<u>5</u>	D	x	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Jennifer L Longdon</a>	<u>5</u>	D							Resigned 1/26
<a href="#">Charles W Lucking</a>	<u>5</u>	D	✓	x	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Amish Shah</a>	<u>5</u>	D						☺☺	PS HB2515 (pet stores) & HB2516 (cat declaw)
<a href="#">Mae Peshlakai</a>	<u>6</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Myron Tsosie</a>	<u>6</u>	D	x	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">David L Cook</a>	<u>7</u>	R	x	x	x	✓	x	☹	PS HB2108 (overturns humane egg ruling)
<a href="#">David Marshall, Sr.</a>	<u>7</u>	R	x	x	NV	✓	x	☹	PS HB2121 (bans sale of cell-based meat)
<a href="#">Melody Hernandez</a>	<u>8</u>	D	x	x	NV	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Deborah Nardozzi</a>	<u>8</u>	D	x	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Jevin D Hodge</a>	<u>8</u>	D							Resigned 3/19
<a href="#">Lorena Austin</a>	<u>9</u>	D	x	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Seth Blattman</a>	<u>9</u>	D	x	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Justin Heap</a>	<u>10</u>	R	x	x	x	✓	x		
<a href="#">Barbara Parker</a>	<u>10</u>	R	x	x	x	✓	x	☺	PS HB2076 (animals & domestic violence)
<a href="#">Junelle Caverio</a>	<u>11</u>	D					✓		
<a href="#">Oscar De Los Santos</a>	<u>11</u>	D	x	x	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Marcelino Quiñonez</a>	<u>11</u>	D	x	✓	✓	✓			Resigned 4/4
<a href="#">Patricia Contreras</a>	<u>12</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Stacey Travers</a>	<u>12</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Jennifer Pawlik</a>	<u>13</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Liz Harris</a>	<u>13</u>	R							Expelled from House 4/12
<a href="#">Julie Willoughby</a>	<u>13</u>	R	x	✓	✓	✓	x	☺	PS HB2241 (bans possessing bestiality images)
<a href="#">Travis Grantham</a>	<u>14</u>	R	x	x	✓	✓	x		
<a href="#">Laurin Hendrix</a>	<u>14</u>	R	x	x	x	✓	x		

**Animal Bills**

SB1026: adds cockfighting & dogfighting to state RICO statute  
 SB1047: adds definitions for food, water, shelter & failure to treat  
 SB1260: bans simulcast dog racing statewide  
 HB2076: adds egregious animal cruelty to domestic violence law

**Vote Symbols**

Vote supporting animal protection or initiative rights ✓  
 Vote opposing animal protection or initiative rights x  
 Vote changed for purpose of reconsideration of bill ✓\* or x\*  
 PS = prime sponsor (cosponsors are not included)

**Initiative Bills**

SCR1041: allows anyone to sue before initiatives are placed on ballot

**ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2024 SCORECARD (Page 2 of 2)**

**Animal Bills**

**Initiative Bills**

NAME	LD	PTY	SB 1026	SB 1047	SB 1260	HB 2076	SCR 1041	OTHER	COMMENTS
<a href="#">Neal Carter</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Jacqueline Parker</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Keith Seaman</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	D	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Teresa Martinez</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Rachel Jones</a>	<a href="#">17</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Cory McGarr</a>	<a href="#">17</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Nancy Gutierrez</a>	<a href="#">18</a>	D	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Christopher Mathis</a>	<a href="#">18</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Lupe Diaz</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	R	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖		
<a href="#">Gail Griffin</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Alma Hernandez</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	😊	Spoke in support of SB1047 on floor
<a href="#">Betty J Villegas</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	D	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Consuelo Hernandez</a>	<a href="#">21</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Stephanie Stahl Hamilton</a>	<a href="#">21</a>	D	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	😊😊	PS HB2352 & HB2353 (pro-initiatives)
<a href="#">Lupe Contreras</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	D	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Elda Luna-Nájera</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Leezah Elsa Sun</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	D							Resigned on 1/31
<a href="#">Mariana Sandoval</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	D	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	☹	Spoke against SB1026 in caucus
<a href="#">Michele Peña</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	R	✖	✓	✓	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Lydia Hernandez</a>	<a href="#">24</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Analise Ortiz</a>	<a href="#">24</a>	D	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Michael Carbone</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	R	✖	✓	✓	NV	✖		
<a href="#">Timothy M Dunn</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	R	✖	✓	✓	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Cesar Aguilar</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	D	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Flavio Bravo</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	D							Resigned to fill Senate vacancy
<a href="#">Quantá Crews</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	D	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Kevin Payne</a>	<a href="#">27</a>	R	✓	✖	✓	✓	✖	😊😊	PS HB2324 (police dogs) & HB2549 (pet theft)
<a href="#">Ben Toma</a>	<a href="#">27</a>	R	✖	✖	✓	NV	✖		
<a href="#">David Livingston</a>	<a href="#">28</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Beverly Pingerelli</a>	<a href="#">28</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Steve Montenegro</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	R	✖	✓	✓	✓	✖		
<a href="#">Austin Smith</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	R	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	☹	PS HCR2040 (bans funding meat reduction)
<a href="#">Leo Biasiucci</a>	<a href="#">30</a>	R	✖	✓	✖	✓	✖	😊	Sponsored motion for revote on SB1026
<a href="#">John Gillette</a>	<a href="#">30</a>	R	✖	✓	✓	✓	✖		

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