



SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS!

Visit our Website! CVA envisions a future where all animals live in peace under the protection of strong laws.

January 2024 Newsletter

Time is Running Out! Take This Opportunity to Voice Your Opinion! COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW!

What issues impacting animals do you care about most? About which topics would you like to learn more? Take a few minutes to share your opinion and make your voice heard!

Your responses will be used to *advocate for policies that better protect Connecticut animals* and create additional educational opportunities for State residents.

Survey will be open until 5PM on January 7, 2025. **Make your voice heard TODAY!**

[Take the Survey](#)

SHARE YOUR OPINION



2024 Legislative Scorecard

This scorecard constitutes a record of how CT State Legislators voted on key animal-related bills during the 2024 legislative session. The bills included are those that CVA identified as priority or believed would significantly impact animals in our state.

The Scorecard is comprised of two categories: **2024 Wins for the Animals** – bills with a positive impact on animals that passed and bills that would negatively impact animals that were stopped; **Unfinished Business** – priority bills that CVA championed that were almost passed but for one reason or another did not.

Review how your legislators voted on these important animal-related bills to be in the know for the 2025 legislative session that kicks off on **January 8th, 2025**. The more prepared you are, the better you can use your voice to support animals in CT!

[View the 2024 Scorecard Here](#)



In Case You Missed It

CFA Educational Webinar

Advocacy 101 - Learn the Legislative Process in CT and how you can make a difference!
December 12, 2024

Together for Animals!

Sponsored by: [Logos]

Hosted by Dr. James Lombella, President/CEO of CT for Animals Education Fund (501(c)(3)) (CFA)

Thank you to all those who virtually attended CFA's educational webinar, **Advocacy 101** with CFA's President, **Dr. Jim Lombella**. Jim was joined by guest presenters **CT Votes for Animals (CVA) Policy and Legislative Intern, Joshua Levin**, a social work graduate student from UConn, as well as **FOCUS Government Affairs' Communication Director, Alexis Bourassa**.

This was truly such an informative webinar with helpful information as we are getting ready to start the 2025 CT General Assembly session!

[Watch Recording Here](#)

2025 Legislative Priorities

CVA has identified key legislative priorities for the **2025 Legislative Session starting January 8th**. The priorities below are not exhaustive. When and where animal-related legislation arises, whether it pertains to puppy mills, leg-hold traps, or wildlife trafficking, CVA will develop effective strategies and partner with other advocacy organizations to protect our animals.

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)



Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are harmful poisons intended to reduce rodent populations. Since SGARs are slow to take effect, rodents can consume large quantities before succumbing to the poison, **resulting in other animals like birds of prey, foxes, cats, dogs, and others eating the poisoned rodent and becoming poisoned themselves.**

In 2024, this bill died on the Appropriations Committee calendar. CVA anticipates similar legislation being introduced in 2025 and will advocate to **ban the use and sale of SGARs entirely** in Connecticut.

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Educational Video](#)

Expansion of Desmond's Law

After Desmond, a Pit-Boxer mix who was murdered by his guardian's ex-boyfriend in 2012, was found dead in a garbage bag with a multitude of bruises and broken teeth, **animal advocates began to protest the apathetic approach courts took in animal cruelty cases.** After four years, Desmond's Law was finally enacted in Connecticut in October 2016. It provides animals with their own court-appointed representation in animal cruelty cases, **effectively giving animals a voice to the cruel treatment they endured.**



After 8 years, it's time to expand Desmond's Law. The focus will be on **including a broader range of animals under its protection**, with clear definitions and parameters. Additional inclusion of **constitutional rights for animals**, similar to Maine, is also a priority.

[Educational Video](#)

Neonicotinoids



Neonicotinoids (neonics) are widely used pesticides intended to prevent plants from being affected by bugs and insects. These plants, however, become toxic and **threaten the existence of over 200 endangered species; roughly 11% of the entire endangered species list.**

In 2024, this bill died in the Environment Committee. CVA intends on advocating for this bill in 2025 to **ban the nonagricultural use of neonics**, similar to the language of the bill from the 2023 legislative session.

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Educational Video](#)

Black Bear Hunting

Bear hunting is framed as the solution to stopping the growing number of bear sightings in the state. However, **killing the bears that remain in their natural habitat is counterproductive to solving this issue.** Killing bears in the wild, the very same bears who would teach their cubs the normal behaviors we wish to see, **would only serve to increase the number of bear sightings.**



Instead, **the problem resides with humans providing easily accessible food sources** near homes and businesses by littering and leaving their garbage poorly secured. CVA aims to oppose the expansion of hunting in Connecticut to prevent more unnecessary slaughtering of bears in the state.

[Educational Materials](#)

Rabbit Farming



Rabbit farming expansion has been a recurring piece of legislation in recent years. Advocates of this proposal state the current supply does not meet the demands of the consumer, **without any evidence to support this idea.** Attempts at selling rabbit meat in the State have already been tried, with Whole Foods removing it from their shelves **less than a year after stocking them.** Additionally, these incredibly social creatures are not included in the USDA's definition of livestock, **which would result in horrific forms on cruelty and torture for these animals.**

This bill died on the Senate calendar in 2024. Should this bill be proposed again, CVA will address it with the same level of urgency and dedication it has in previous years.

[Fact Sheet](#)

Don't forget to check out CFA's Resource Guide!

[2024-2025 Resource Guide](#)

Sources & Additional Resources

STRUGGLING WITH YOUR ANIMALS?

211

CAN HELP YOU!

Available 24/7, 211 offers resources for a wide variety of animal related topics such as

- Low-cost veterinarian options
- Animal Assister and Service Animal Information
- Information on Animal Assisted Therapy
- Resources for giving up a pet

CONNECTICUT FOR ANIMALS

Education Fund 501(c)(3)

Connecticut for Animals Education Fund provides comprehensive fact sheets on a wide variety of animal welfare topics

They also provide the advocate's tool kit which houses many useful links to aid you in your animal advocacy efforts.

Our Companions

Animal Rescue & Sanctuary

Our Companions is host to a number of programs and services to help you do right by your animals.

- Helpline Program
- Adoption Program
- Rehoming Program
- Dog Behavior Services
- Community Cat Program
- Veterinary Assistance Program
- Animal Control Resources

DESMOND'S ARMY

Animal Law Advocates

Founded in 2016, is dedicated to advocating for the rights of animals. Their mission involves raising public awareness about the epidemic of animal cruelty in the state, highlighting the connection between animal abuse and social and domestic violence, and seeking justice for abused and neglected animals by ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable.

Consider Giving to CVA

CVA is dedicated to **improving the lives of CT's animals** by championing legislative changes in the CT General Assembly. We are a *grassroots organization* that relies entirely on individual contributions.

Please consider donating today! Our thousands of members across Connecticut act as a powerful voice for **animal welfare at the Capitol**. Your support helps us educate lawmakers, track legislation, produce briefing materials, publish our annual Legislative Scorecard, host events, and so much more.



[Donate](#)

[Advocate](#)



Contact Us

info@ctvotesforanimals.org | CT Votes for Animals
PO Box 1012
Bloomfield, CT 06002
United States

CVA's important political work as a **not-for-profit 501(c)(4)** organization means your donation is not tax deductible under IRS regulation, **but is critical for ensuring** animals have a voice in public policy.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).