



SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS!

Visit our Website!

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

• November 2024 Newsletter •

MEET CVA'S BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT



Colette Griffin

Colette Griffin is the President and Treasurer of the CVA Board of Directors. She graduated from the University of Bridgeport (now Quinnipiac University) Law School and has since accrued almost 40 years of experience working, volunteering, and advocating for humans and non-human animals in Connecticut. Colette is very passionate about caring for non-human animals. She fosters old, handicapped, and scheduled to be euthanized animals. As a practicing lawyer, she volunteers her time as an Animal Advocate in animal cruelty cases.

[Read More About Colette's Story Here](#)

MEET CVA'S POLICY & LEGISLATIVE INTERN

Joshua Levin

Joshua Levin is a second-year Master of Social Work (MSW) student who is passionate about the intersection of human and animal rights. His work in legislative advocacy has focused on affordable prescription access, alternatives to Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs), and juvenile justice.

Upon completing his MSW, Joshua plans to pursue veterinary school. He aims to apply his social work background to veterinary practice, providing care for both his animal patients and their human guardians.

Keep an eye out for more information on the *Advocacy 101* event where Joshua will be the guest presenter for all things legislative in CT!



Community Shoutout



We at CVA would like to sincerely thank **Britt Bosse**, a local fine art animal photographer, for donating part of her proceeds to CVA from Compassionfest 2024, which took place on October 12, 2024.

Britt Bosse is an animal rights activist, and long time CVA supporter, who uses photography to not only highlight the beauty and uniqueness of her subjects, but to also showcase the negative impact humans have on animals and wildlife.

[View Past Collections](#)

[2025 Wildlife Calendar](#)

Targeted Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session

SGARs



Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are harmful poisons designed to reduce rodent populations. These poisons, which are eaten by small rodents, are then ingested by other animals higher up in the food chain such as birds of prey, foxes, and even cats and dogs. SGARs are anticoagulants, meaning any animal that ingests this poison bleeds out from the inside, resulting in a slow and painful death.

[Learn More](#)

Black Bear Hunting



Black Bear Hunting is seen as the solution to the growing number of bear sightings in the state. However, as stated by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), "the primary contributing factor to bear problems is the presence of easily accessible food sources near homes and businesses." It is counterproductive to kill bears within their natural habitat that are teaching their cubs these same normal behaviors.

[Learn More](#)

Rabbit Farming



In recent years, CVA has been successful in stopping legislation that would allow for industrial rabbit meat processing in the state. Similar legislation is expected to appear again in 2025. Rabbits are not included in the USDAs definition of livestock and are therefore not protected by the Humane Methods of Slaughter act. There is no evidence to suggest that the current supply of rabbit meat in CT does not meet demand.

[Learn More](#)

Neonicotinoids



Neonics are systemic pesticides which result in the pollen, fruit, and even dew on the leaves of treated plants containing the poison which is toxic to bees and other insects. We are currently in the midst of a bee and insect population crisis, and we have also seen a loss of roughly 3 billion birds in the last 30 years. Studies have shown that 95% of pregnant women in the US have neonics in their bodies and 50% of the population does as well, with children representing the highest concentration.

[Learn More](#)

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 ANIMALS
Education Fund 501(c)(3)

Our partner organization, CFA, 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.

Don't forget to check out CFA's 2024-2025 Resource Guide!

[Resource Guide](#)

When it comes to navigating the intricacies and nuances of animal-related topics like owning a pet, spotting wildlife, or looking for a veterinarian, Connecticut has resources available for you.

Educational Opportunities and Information from CFA

Think Outside the Bait Box

CONNECTICUT ANIMALS
Education Fund 501(c)(3)

THINK OUTSIDE THE BAIT BOX
The harmful effects of SGARs

LIVE WEBINAR
ATTEND VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON!

3:00 - 4:30 PM NOVEMBER 7TH

FEATURING A LIVE RAPTOR DEMONSTRATION!

[Register Here](#)

Join us in learning more about SGARs and their harmful impacts on Connecticut's wildlife and communities by attending the *Think Outside the Bait Box* event coming up on **November 7th, 2024, at 3PM**. The event is being hosted by Our Companions Animal Rescue and Sanctuary which is located at 34 Sanrico Drive, Manchester, CT.

Guest speakers for the event include **Christine Cummings**, Director of A Place Called Hope and **Nicole Rivard**, Media/Government Relations Manager for Friends of Animals. In addition to discussing ways we as a community can come together and ban these harmful poisons, there will also be a live raptor demonstration!

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to do right by our animals and safeguard our communities.

Advocacy 101

ADVOCACY 101
LEARN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN CT

CONNECTICUT ANIMALS December 12th at 6:00PM

LIVE WEBINAR

CT VOTES FOR ANIMALS

Learn how you can make a difference!

[Register Here](#)

Be on the lookout for information about our upcoming *Advocacy 101 presentation* which will take place on **December 12, 2024, at 6PM!**

Join CFA's President, **Dr. Jim Lombella** for an Educational Webinar on Advocacy 101. Learn how you can advocate for legislative change and help animals here in CT! Guest Presenter will be **CT Votes for Animals (CVA) Policy and Legislative Intern, Joshua Levin**, a social work graduate student from UConn.

Join us as we provide a full outline on CT's legislative process including information on how to register to vote, find your legislator, advocate at the capitol, navigate the General Assembly website, and more!

Our presentation with help to familiarize you with Connecticut's legislative processes and prepare you to be an effective animal advocate!

New Animal-Related Laws that Began October 1st

Beginning October 1, 2024, new laws took effect that enhanced protections for Connecticut's animals.



Ban on Dog Racing

Dog racing is now illegal in the state of Connecticut, joining most other states in the country. More work is still to be done to ban dog race betting in the state.

[Learn More](#)

Goldfish and Reptile Carnival Ban

Carnivals are no longer able to offer Goldfish and small reptiles as prizes and is now a misdemeanor offense for doing so. (Reference Sec. 90, on page 140 in link below)

[Learn More](#)



Broko's Bill

Named in honor of police K-9 Broko, this new law requires anyone who intentionally harms or kills a police dog to pay restitution to the departments and agencies who care for the dog.

[Learn More](#)

Vegan Recipe



Biscuits & Gravy

Just in time for the fall season, these biscuits and gravy are just what you need for a cozy meal in! With warm, flaky biscuits smothered in savory gravy, this dish is perfect for a relaxing morning or to enjoy with friends and family. Comforting and delicious, it's bound to be a favorite on your breakfast table!

Remember to share your favorite vegan recipe at info@ctvotesforanimals.org

[Get Recipe](#)

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 force 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

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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.