

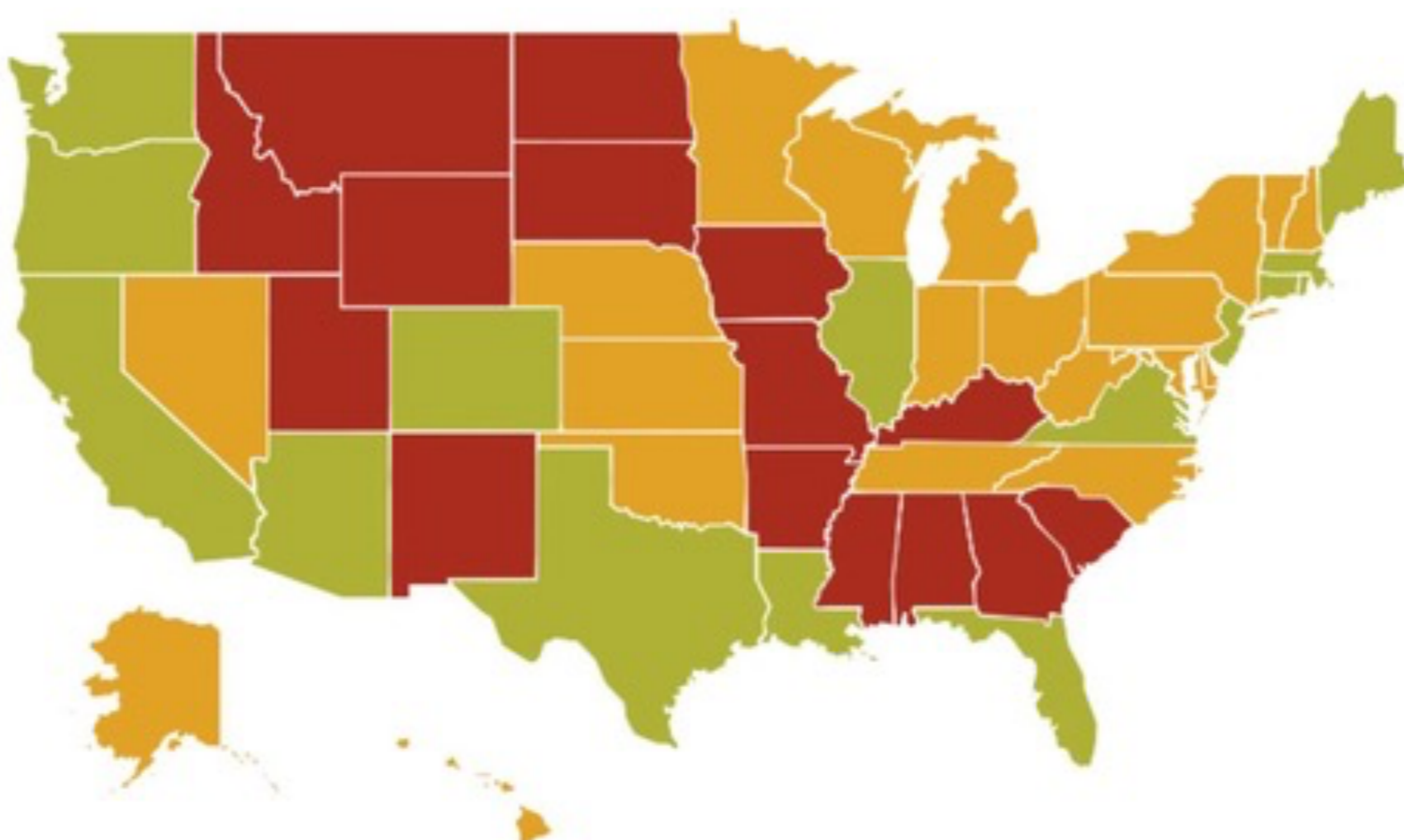


ctvotesforanimals.org

SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS!

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

March 2024 Newsletter



Top Tier

Middle Tier

Bottom Tier

CT Rated 'Most Improved' in 2023 National Animal Protection Laws!

CT animal advocates got a pleasant surprise last month when the state was recognized by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) for achieving the greatest improvement of all states in animal protection laws in 2023, putting us in the top tier of states' animal protection laws in 2023. CT jumped from number 31 to number 11 -- a leap over 20 states!

ALDF is a respected national nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. Its *U.S. Animal Laws Ranking Report* compares the overall strength and comprehensiveness of each state's animal protection laws based on 20 different categories of animal protection. Read more about CT's progress and see the [ALDF report](#).

[Read more](#)

[ALDF report](#)

Key Animal Protection Bills Gain Traction in 2024 Session

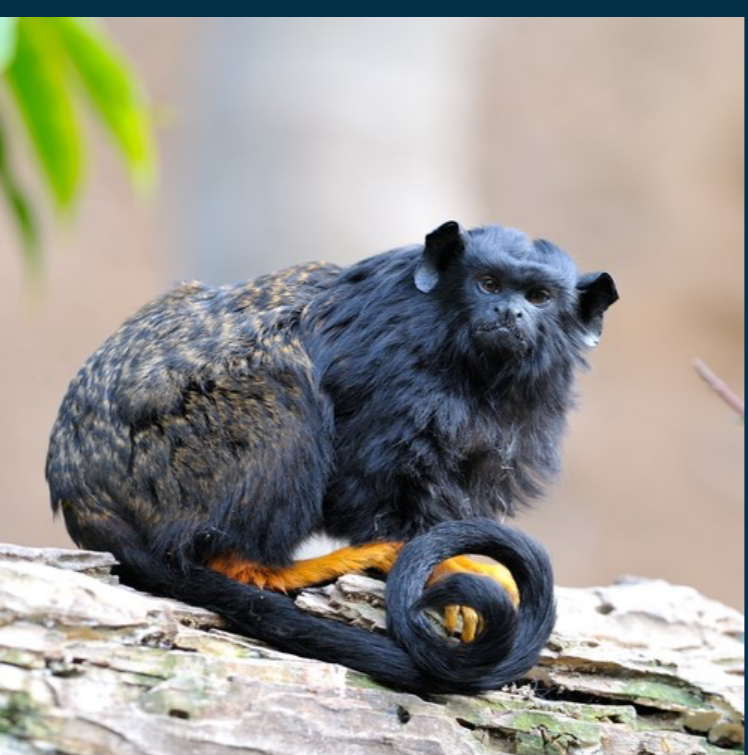
With the 2024 session of the CT General Assembly off and running, CVA supporters have been very active in letting legislators know how various bills will impact CT's wildlife and companion animals. Our supporters testified, orally or in writing, on many significant proposals, including some CVA priorities. And committee action last week was great validation that legislators are listening!



In the Environment Committee, advocates voiced concerns about bills that were deficient and needed to be fixed. Committee members demonstrated their understanding by amending the bills before voting them out of committee. One of them was a CVA priority calling for a ban on the sale and use of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). Learn about the status of other [priority animal bills](#) here.

[See bill status](#)

Pest Control Poisons a Key Factor in Death of Beardsley Zoo Monkeys



Rodenticides -- and a delay in providing veterinary care -- contributed to the death of two exotic monkeys at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport last summer, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The federal agency confirmed the Goeldi's monkeys died suddenly after partially consuming a mouse that had ingested the pesticide, believed to be a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGARs).

SCARs are powerful poisons that stay in tissues and organs of rodents for months, making it easy for predators that naturally eat rodents -- such as owls, eagles, and hawks -- to get a lethal dose of toxins. They are also the target of the CVA-supported bill before lawmakers against their sale and use in CT: HB 5217 AAC: The Use of Certain Rodenticides.

[Read more](#)

Want to learn more about the impact of SGARs on animals in CT? [Watch the recording](#) featuring Christine Cummings, director of *A Place Called Hope*.

All Rise for Desmond's Army and Linda Pleva!

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

This quote from Margaret Mead holds a special place in the hearts of both Connecticut Votes for Animals and for the nonprofit organization, **Desmond's Army**. Next month, the Connecticut Bar Association will be celebrating and honoring the executive board of Desmond's Army with the "Citizen for the Law Award." The honor is presented to those who are "not employed in the legal area but have made a significant contribution to the institution of justice and the law on a voluntary basis." The board includes VP and Treasurer **Linda Pleva**, who is also a member of the CVA staff, President **Robin "Zilla" Cannamela**, and VP and **Secretary Candace Bouchard**. All have been fighting for the innocent victims of animal abuse for several decades.

Disheartened by the lack of legal action by the CT courts against animal abusers, a small group of animal advocates banded together to fight as a unit and bring these abusers to justice. The group was named after an innocent victim, a dog named Desmond, who succumbed to horrific injuries inflicted by his owner who ultimately received minimal legal repercussions for his heinous acts.



[Read more](#)



Roasted Vegetable Puff Pastry Tart

Transition into Spring with this truly versatile, roasted vegetable tart to your weekly recipe rotation. It's easy to make and can be served hot or cold. You can also substitute any vegetable, even leftover veggies from last night's dinner!

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

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