



We change the laws to change their lives.

All animals deserve protection from cruelty, neglect, and exploitation. But real, lasting, systemic change for animals is only possible with strong laws on the books. And enacting these laws is not easy—it takes the tireless work of compassionate, determined, politically savvy, and well-organized advocates who will be the voice for animals in our government.

That's where Animal Protection Voters comes in.

For decades, Animal Protection Voters has been on the frontlines of changing laws to improve animals' lives—making New Mexico's communities more humane, safe, and compassionate for everyone.



Since our inception, we have:

- ✓ Made cockfighting illegal
- ✓ Designated extreme animal cruelty a felony crime
- ✓ Banned the cruel sport of horse tripping
- ✓ Made dog fighting a fourth-degree felony
- ✓ Created an option for requiring defendants charged with animal cruelty to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the cost of care of seized animals
- ✓ Required bittering agents to be added to antifreeze sold in the state, to protect animals and children from accidental and intentional poisoning
- ✓ Created a state board to oversee animal shelter and euthanasia standards
- ✓ Secured millions of dollars in state funding for animal-related capital projects and programs (for example, shelters and spay-neuter clinics)
- ✓ Secured \$50,000 in recurring state funding for emergency housing for animals of domestic violence victims
- ✓ Banned grotesque coyote killing contests statewide. ← **NEW! Passed in 2019**

Animal Protection Voters is the only organization of its kind in New Mexico, dedicated solely to protecting all animals in our state through critical legislative and political action.

2020-2021 Animal Protection Legislative Priorities



Expand Statewide Spay/Neuter Services Funding

This legislation would enact a \$100 fee (phased in over three years) paid by pet food manufacturing corporations per dog/cat food or treat product sold in the state, to fund statewide low-cost spay/neuter services. More than 100,000 cats and dogs enter our state's animal shelters annually, and over 20,000 are euthanized. This funding mechanism, recommended by a Senate-requested study, would raise an estimated \$1.2 million each year.



Restrict Cruel Traps and Poisons on Public Lands

This measure would restrict the unfettered use of traps, snares, and lethal poisons on public lands that results in risk to public safety, inflicts cruelty, and causes ecological destruction. Because these devices are indiscriminate, endangered species and companion animals often fall victim, resulting in horrific injuries and deaths—and many states and countries have already enacted bans.



Keep Rescued Horses Out of the Slaughterhouse

The outcome of work with state agencies and equine rescue professionals, this legislation aims to ensure that homeless equines in the custody of the state are less vulnerable to kill-buyers from the horse slaughter industry. This bill would give NM's state-registered equine shelters first right of refusal, before auction, to take in homeless horses and other equines to be rehabilitated and adopted into loving homes or humanely euthanized.



Protect Companion Animals Threatened by Domestic Violence

We will continue to support legislation to make harm to companion animals a type of domestic abuse, and to ensure animals can be included in protective orders. We will also defend recurring state funding for the *Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE)*, Animal Protection of New Mexico's partnership with the NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence that provides lifesaving services for domestic violence victims and their beloved animals.



Protect Wild Horses on New Mexico's Landscapes

More resources and collaboration to protect and compassionately manage wild horse populations will continue to be pursued legislatively, as we promote humane fertility control and discourage the harmful cycle of roundups and removals. Wild free-roaming horses deserve to live safely on natural range or an appropriate sanctuary, and wild habitats must also be preserved for all wildlife.



Overhaul the State Agencies that Manage Wildlife

We have worked and continue to work toward reforming the appointment qualifications and process for the State Game Commission, updating the mission and scope of the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish to reflect modern values and understanding of ecosystems, and identify adequate and equitable funding sources for non-game and endangered species protection.



Fight Against Anti-Animal Measures

Animal Protection Voters continuously lobbies against measures that will harm animals or undo progress made to improve the lives of animals and the people who care about them. We have successfully defeated bills that effectively sweep animal abuse under the rug or suppress whistleblowing ("ag-gag" bills) and have thwarted efforts to create a constitutional right and preference to hunt and trap.



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