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:

- Banned grotesque coyote killing contests statewide. ← NEW! (Passed in 2019)
- Established a new sustainable, robust annual funding source for statewide low-cost spay/neuter services ← NEW! (Passed in 2020)
- Made cockfighting illegal
- Designated extreme animal cruelty a felony crime
- Created an option for law enforcement agencies to require defendants charged with animal cruelty to pay the cost of care of seized animals
- Banned the cruel sport of horse tripping
- Made dog fighting a fourth-degree felony
- Required bittering agents to be added to antifreeze sold in the state, to protect animals and children from 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

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.
2021-22 Animal Protection Legislative Priorities

**Restrict Cruel Traps and Poisons on Public Lands**
This bill 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. Many states and countries have already enacted bans, including our neighbors, Arizona and Colorado, and it’s time that New Mexico step up and make our public lands safe for all.

**Strengthen the Safety Net for Horses**
Through a variety of policies and changes, we will continue to push for more resources, infrastructure, and collaboration to compassionately protect both domestic and wild equines. Outcomes of this work will help ensure that all horses, donkeys, and mules are less vulnerable to kill-buyers from the horse slaughter industry; and that free-roaming populations are managed on their natural ranges or in appropriate sanctuaries as we promote humane fertility control, preserve wild habitats, and discourage the harmful cycle of roundups and removals.

**Protect Companion Animals Threatened by Domestic Violence**
We will continue to support legislation to make harm to companion animals a type of domestic abuse, as well as 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.

**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.

We change the laws to change their lives.
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