

**animal
wellness
action**

Animal Wellness Action

2018 Annual Report

5.1.19

animal wellness action

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is deeply appreciative for the support of thousands of people, in one form or another, during its first eight months of operations as it launched political and public policy advocacy work at the national level.

This report provides an overview of our accomplishments and key activities from our establishment in May 2018 through year end.

Animal Wellness Action was able to drive substantial reforms outcomes even as a startup by successfully recruiting top talent and drawing on years of experience from its leadership:

- pushing to pass a series of very consequential national gains for animal protection on the Farm Bill in the 115th Congress;
- helping thwart a number of dangerous attacks in the Congress on animal protection and environmental laws;
- developing and launching the innovative Congressional Accountability Tool (CAT) to allow citizens to gauge the performance of lawmakers and set a new standard for transparency and real-time evaluation of lawmakers;
- directing efforts to oust two extreme anti-animal Congressmen and helping elect pro-animal candidates in their place;
- working with key partners helping shepherd to passage two transformational ballot measures to ban greyhound racing in Florida and an anti-factory farming ballot measure in California;
- readying a broad anti-cruelty agenda for the 116th Congress that includes driving unfinished business from the 115th Congress forward, revving up original legislation, and taking specific steps to compel enforcement of existing laws; and
- enlisting and assembling coalitions of experienced prosecutors and other law enforcement leaders, veterinarians, and farmers and ranchers to drive our broad set of goals.

Action's sister organization, Animal Wellness Foundation, conducts life-saving animal rescue and veterinary work and also conducts campaigns against animal fighting, horse slaughter, and other cruel practices as a complement to its work in the public policy sphere. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, and Action is organized as a 501(c)(4) organization.

Bringing key reforms into law through the Farm Bill

[The Farm Bill was the key legislative vehicle in the 115th Congress](#), allowing animal advocates to append three very important gains for animals to a key authorizing bill that lawmakers take up only once every five years.

animal wellness action

Stopping animal fighting in the U.S. territories: The Parity in Animal Cruelty Enforcement (PACE) Act, led by Peter Roskam, (R-IL) and Earl Blumenauer, (D-OR) in the House and Cory Booker, (D-NJ), Susan Collins, (R-ME), and Richard Blumenthal, (D-CT) in the Senate, was written to ensure that long-standing federal restrictions on dogfighting and cockfighting apply to U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These are the last bastions in the United States where animal fights are openly and brazenly staged, with Puerto Rico alone having more than 100 cockfighting arenas. With the help of Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, (R-TX), Roskam engineered the key vote on the issue as an amendment to the Farm Bill and that resounding result proved pivotal to securing this provision in the end. (Wayne Pacelle conceived of this reform concept two years ago as the latest upgrade to the federal law against animal fighting.)

Cracking down on pet abuse in domestic violence situations: The PAWS Act, led by Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Jeff Denham (R-CA) in the House and Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dean Heller (R-NV) in the Senate, authorizes a grant program to allow domestic violence shelters to accommodate pets and sets up legal protections for pets and people in domestic violence circumstances. Abusers often harm or threaten to harm a pet to maintain control over a victim. Senator Pat Roberts, (R-KS), and Debbie Stabenow, (D-MI), the leaders of the Senate Agriculture Committee, were key in advocating for this provision as an amendment to the Farm Bill. Currently, only three percent of shelters nationwide have the capacity to accept pets, preventing victims from fleeing an abuser.

Banning the sale of dog and cat meat in the U.S.: The Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act bans the slaughter, interstate transport, or import or export of dogs and cats for slaughter. The measure was led by Jeff Denham, Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Alcee Hastings (D-FL) in the House and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) in the Senate. Passing the legislation sends a message to the global community that the trade in the meat of pets is no longer acceptable, creating legal strictures to prevent the trade from getting a stronger foothold in the U.S. (Wayne Pacelle led the introduction and development of this concept and strategy in Congress.)

Blocking anti-animal and -environmental riders in the 115th Congress

Nixing Rep. Steve King's (R-IA) egregious Protect Interstate Commerce Act (PICA) amendment to the Farm Bill: Conferees to the Agricultural Improvement Act jettisoned a provision contained in the House version of the Farm Bill that would have gutted state and local laws designed to regulate agriculture. The so-called King amendment, according to 32 Democrat Senators who signed a letter urging its omission from the final conference report, “would undermine numerous state laws and infringe on the fundamental rights of states to establish regulations within their own borders.” The Senators, including Patrick Leahy, (D-VT), Robert Casey, (D-PA), Tina Smith, (D-MN), and Kirsten Gillibrand, from the Agriculture Committee, noted that the King amendment is “drafted in an expansive manner” and could nullify state laws dealing with “invasive pests, infectious disease regulations, health and safety standards, consumer information safeguards, food quality and safety regulations, animal welfare standards, narcotics laws, and fishing regulations.”

animal wellness action

There is a careful balance between federal and state authority at play in agriculture policy, but the King amendment would have upended that balance and usurped state authority in a dramatic way without putting any new protective standards at the federal level.

(In addition to the rejection of this amendment, the movement to stymie state authority on agriculture issues took an additional body blow when the Trump Administration's top lawyer, Solicitor General Noel Francisco, filed a series of pleading with the U.S. Supreme Court and urged the justices not to take up challenges to three state laws that imposed in-state sales restrictions on foie gras, pork, and eggs when they are produced in ways that are inimical to the proper treatment of animals. The Supreme Court declined to hear the cases after plaintiffs petitioned the justices.)

Staving off gray wolf delisting: House and Senate negotiators dropped House-approved provisions to remove federal Endangered Species Act protections for wolves across their range throughout the lower 48 states. Gray wolves, virtually eradicated between 1850 and 1920 during our westward expansion, have had a slow walk back from the precipice of extinction. Their inch-by-inch reclaiming of a fraction of their native habitats has been hindered more than helped by human hands. For decades, federal and state governments executed ruthless and effective predator control programs – a slaughter that stands alongside the massacre of bison as the most wanton chapters in the history of American wildlife management.

Action worked with Senator Cory Booker on a letter with more than 30 signers opposing the inclusion of the anti-wolf rider in the FY 2019 spending bill, which was signed into law by President Trump in February.

Wolves now occupy habitat in about 10 states. Add up all the surviving wolves, though, and only 5,000 remain in the lower 48 states – fewer wolves ambling over millions of square miles than there are people in the 12-square-mile small town of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

Wolf predation helps maintain healthy deer populations, lowering the frequency of deer-auto collisions and prevalence of crop losses. They mitigate impacts on vegetation and bring vitality to entire ecosystems. This saves private citizens and governments tens of millions of dollars a year. And although some wolves do occasionally prey on livestock, it's minimal. Wolf kills account for between 0.1 percent and 0.6 percent of all livestock deaths. Of all the world's top predators, they are among the least threatening to human beings – with no documented attacks by healthy wolves on people in the lower 48 states in the last century.

Wolves also generate jobs and commerce. The International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn. contributes \$3 million to the local economy annually, and annual visitor spending has increased by \$35.5 million since the reintroduction of wolves in the states surrounding Yellowstone National Park.

In early 2019, the Trump Administration announced a proposed rulemaking to remove federal protections for gray wolves across the lower 48 states. Action is opposing this latest administrative attack on wolves.

Maintaining the ban on slaughtering American horses in the U.S: Despite efforts by Congressman Steve King, Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Adrian Smith (R-NE), and others to re-open horse slaughter plants on

animal wellness action

U.S. soil, Congress is poised to continue the ban. If the 11-year-old ban had been lifted, then just a single businessman would have been able to open a plant in Missouri or Nebraska or New Mexico — all states where “businesses” have already shown off their sketches and construction plans and promised to put workers on the kill floor.

This outcome is a good one, but keeping the ban in the U.S. is not enough. We must also ban the slaughter of U.S.-born horses shipped live to Canada or Mexico, and that remains an objective for Action in the 116th Congress.

Creating and launching a state-of-the-art tool to track and measure performance of federal lawmakers

Action completed work on a sophisticated online tool to gauge the performance of federal lawmakers on animal issues called the [Congressional Accountability Tool \(CAT\)](#). By using this mobile-friendly tool, any citizen can investigate who the greatest champions of animal protection are and who poses the greatest threats.

The tool builds a record of key actions on animal welfare, from resolutions seeking to open national wildlife refuges and national preserves in Alaska to denning or aerial hunting of bears and wolves to passing bills to crack down on staged animal fights in U.S. territories and enacting the nation’s first-ever anti-cruelty statute.

The CAT is a voter-centric tool that allows a user to input a zip code or search for the name of a lawmaker to reveal their detailed records for the 115th Congress or prior sessions. The CAT tracks key votes as far back as 2002.

The CAT benchmarks how lawmakers compare to other lawmakers in their states and to all Democrats and to all Republicans, revealing their comparative performance.

Animal concerns often get lost in the stew of issues that lawmakers examine – from defense to health care to taxes to energy to judicial nominations. The CAT is a tool that allows people who care about this set of issues to access clear, understandable information that looks at the breadth of their animal welfare records. This tool will also provide a mechanism to extend thanks to lawmakers who vote with their hearts or to criticize them if they are upside down on the issues.

Action is a non-partisan organization, because we know that fighting against cruelty is a universal value of the American electorate. Yet the information collected by the CAT reveals that Democrats have performed better than Republicans in 2019. In both the House and Senate, there were approximately 130 Democrats with perfect scores, while only two Republicans – Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, (R-PA-8), and Rep. Peter King, (R-NY-2). Despite this indicator, the CAT also determined that each successful major effort for animals had bipartisan support, affirming our commitment to bipartisan approaches in our political advocacy.

The CAT is all about transparency and accountability and creating a two-way dialogue for people of

animal wellness action

conscience to respond to the decisions of legislators as they wish. We promoted the CAT in op-eds around the country, especially in drawing contracts between candidates in the fall 2018 elections. Celebrities including pop icon [Taylor Swift shared the Animal Wellness Action op-ed with her 112 Million followers on Instagram](#), generating its own raft of media attention for this tool.



[TSwift Shares Op-Ed on Blackburn's Animal Wellness Record:](#)

Taylor Swift shared an [op-ed](#) about Republican Marsha Blackburn's record on animal wellness Wednesday in her Instagram story, adding "The more you know...". The pieces published last week in the Knoxville News Sentinel and written by Marty Irby, the executive director of the group Animal Wellness Action.

Irby told Cover/Line in an interview his op-ed "doesn't touch the tip of the iceberg" when it comes to Blackburn's record. His group ranked her among the eight worst lawmakers when it comes to animal protections.

"I am a lifelong Republican who's never voted for a Democrat in my life," he said, but after Blackburn opposed legislation that would have protected horses from soring, or inflicting pain on their front legs to give them an exaggerated, man-made gait and a high step, prized by walking horse judges, he's fought to share her record.

Irby found out about Swift sharing his op-ed through friends. "I have a lot of friends who are 25 years old," he said, adding that he's "grateful" Swift posted his piece.

Following the Swift action, Animal Wellness Action supporter, and close ally, Priscilla Presley, actress, producer, and wife of the late Elvis Presley, went to Twitter to speak out against Marsha Blackburn, who represents the state in which the Presley's famed Graceland resides, and to give a shout out to Animal Wellness Action's work [@AWAction_News](#).

animal wellness action



Priscilla Presley ✓

@Cilla_Presley

Following



Attention Tennesseans: [@MarshaBlackburn](#) has perpetuated the cruelty of soring TN Walking Horses by doing the bidding of violators of the Horse Protection Act. Please vote for [@PhilBredesen](#) for Senate, to help save the breed Elvis so dearly loved from this abuse. [@AWAction_News](#)

6:53 PM - 4 Nov 2018

303 Retweets 628 Likes



49 303 628

Electing pro-animal candidates to federal office and ousting anti-animal lawmakers

Action helped defeat two virulently anti-animal lawmakers in Texas and California. In a north Dallas area district, challenger Colin Allred defeated House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions, ending a 20-year career for a lawmaker who blocked countless animal welfare reforms from advancing. Congressman-elect Allred is a staunch animal advocate who broadcast his views about animal welfare on his website and in other communications. Action targeted 40,000 swing voters with a mix of mail, phone, digital ads, and grassroots activism, reminding voters about a feature of Sessions' record that had been under the radar.

We made similar investments in a California Congressional district where Harley Rouda ousted 30-year incumbent Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California in a wealthy swath of Orange County. As with the Sessions race, we targeted 40,000 key voters, and made a difference in exposing Rohrabacher's unconscionable record of supporting the dog meat trade, animal fighting in U.S. territories, and horse slaughter.

The Animal Wellness Action PAC and some of our top supporters provided financial support to a number of pro-animal newcomers who prevailed in their races – Cindy Axne (Iowa-3), Ben McAdams (Utah-4), Kim Schrier, (Washington-8), Susie Lee (Nevada-3), and Steve Horsford (Nevada-4). McAdams ousted Congresswoman Mia Love, who had a zero score on our Congressional Accountability Tool, and Horsford

Helping animals helps us all.

defeated Crescent Hardy, who in a prior House term aligned himself with the NRA and agribusiness interests.

We also backed outstanding pro-animal Republicans, including Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-1-PA), who prevailed in tight races. Each of them has carried far-reaching and critical animal protection legislation, and their active work on our issues is crucial to our future success.

Winning key ballot measures in the November elections

Animals, not just candidates, were on the ballot in two states in November. As in the previous election cycle, animal advocates dominated at the ballot box, and Action was a big part of it, with Action founder Wayne Pacelle conceiving of Prop 12 in California and helping to place Amendment 13 on the ballot and with Action helping set the strategy for both measures and being one of the top three funders for Amendment 13.

Florida voters ban greyhound racing: Voters approved [Amendment 13](#) in Florida to phase out greyhound racing with 69 percent favoring it, and that's especially significant because Florida is the only state where greyhound racing is a big business.

The Florida measure all but dooms the national greyhound racing industry. Just a few years ago, there were 50 tracks operating, and with the voters' decision to close all 11 tracks in Florida within a couple of years, just six other tracks will remain elsewhere. It's hard to imagine that such a withering industry, with such a small fan base and an increasingly negligible handle, can hang on for long. Trowned in Florida, the greyhound racing industry now confronts a confident and emboldened animal protection movement with more momentum and more resources for the skirmishes to come. Action was proud to play a major role in the campaign, donating nearly a quarter of a million dollars to the Amendment 13 committee and working with colleagues in the movement to set and execute the winning strategy that produced the landslide vote.

California voters deliver second, stronger blow against extreme farm animal confinement: Voters also approved Proposition 12 in California to establish a cage-free future there with 62.5 percent in support. It was the second time in 10 years that California voters said it's time to stop confining animals in enclosures so small they can barely move.

The vote in favor of Prop 12 in California is a major stroke against key sectors of animal agriculture that have long relied on extreme confinement of animals as a core production strategy. The measure approved by voters not only requires more space for farm animals in the state, but it also stipulates that veal, pork, and eggs sold in California must come from farms that don't rely on extreme confinement, no matter where the farms operate. This new policy will push farmers to relinquish or repurpose their extreme confinement facilities and begin anew in a way that aligns their conduct with the values of their customers. Caring people don't have any appetite for factory farms that immobilize animals, and the voters of California sent that unmistakable message once again.

Putting legislation into play in the 116th Congress

We expect Democrats in the House to advance a series of broadly supported bills that stalled under Republican leadership. These bills should command supermajority votes, backed by a united Democratic caucus and dozens of rank-and-file Republicans. Action worked to secure hundreds of cosponsors for these bills and several of them had more than 218 House cosponsors, including the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act (PACT), the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST), the Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act, and the Safeguard American Food Exports Act (SAFE). These bills are part of the agenda of “unfinished” business items for the 116th Congress. The Senate will now emerge as the chamber where outcomes are more uncertain. It’s our hope that leaders there look to animal issues as a way to show that lawmakers of both parties can work together on issues of shared values.

One effect of the Democrats taking charge in the House is to see Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) take charge of the House Natural Resources Committee and Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) take over the Judiciary Committee. Their predecessors, Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), blocked broadly supported, pro-animal measures in their committees at every turn. The battle over wolves may now shift to the Interior Department, where the agency proposed in March 2019 to de-list wolves across their range in the lower 48 states. Given that the federal courts have blocked de-listing because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not taken a broad enough look at wolf recovery, it’s expected that the agency may have a difficult time cobbling together a de-listing plan that can satisfy the rigorous standards that the courts have articulated in their past rulings.

We also have readied a series of new policy initiatives for the Congress and are building support for each.

Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) Act: Codifying the USDA’s “Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule”

This is new legislation to codify the terms of the final rule USDA promulgated in 2017 and that attracted enormous input from a wide range of stakeholders. USDA published [a final rule in January 2017](#) to strengthen and clarify animal welfare standards to protect the integrity of the organic label, but the Trump Administration withdrew it just months later -- on May 13th. The USDA rule encompassed an array of housing, husbandry, and management standards, including the prohibition of certain cruel practices like tail docking of cattle; the transportation of sick, injured, or lame animals; or mulesing of sheep (cutting the skin from the back legs and rump). It clarified the requirement that animals cannot be tightly confined and sets minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for egg-laying chickens. The rule required that producers provide a sufficient number of exits and design outdoor areas to promote and encourage birds to go outside on a daily basis. Every measure of public sentiment has favored overwhelming support for the OLPP rule, which was decades in the making. The rule’s effect would be to keep thousands of farmers on the land and give them a value-added opportunity to connect to consumers who are willing to pay more for organic products but expect them to be consistent with higher animal welfare standards. Participation in the program by farmers is voluntary, and consumer support for organic products is voluntary.

animal wellness action

Bear Protection Act: Ending the trade in bear gall bladders and bile

This bill prohibits the import or export of bear viscera and prohibits selling bear viscera, bartering it, offering it for sale or barter, or purchasing, possessing, transporting, delivering, or receiving it in interstate or foreign commerce. It addresses two problems: 1) thousands of bears in Asia are cruelly confined in small cages while bile is extracted from their gallbladders for use in global trade, and 2) the poaching of American bears for their viscera, also for a global trade that is putting species at risk and causing inhumane treatment to supply this illicit market. Of the eight bear species in the world, many are in peril, and the presence of any legal trade puts them all at risk because bladders are indistinguishable by species. The enactment of this legislation will help ensure that the U.S. does not contribute to this inhumane practice. We should not kill sharks for their fins, elephants for their tusks, rhinos for their horns, or bears for their gall bladders.

Lead Endangers Animals Directly (LEAD) Act: Ending the use of lead ammunition on refuges and parks

This bill would phase out the use of lead ammunition on national wildlife refuges and National Park Service (NPS) lands, putting an end to the needless incidental poisoning of millions of wild animals by spent lead that's left behind in fields, forests, and wetlands and also in the remains of animal carcasses. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NPS have a statutory duty to act to protect and conserve wildlife on these lands, and in 2017, consistent with that responsibility, the USFWS issued a [Director's Order](#) to phase out the use of lead on these federal lands by 2022. However, the order was undone by the new Administration immediately. [Lead alternatives](#) are readily available, and comparably priced copper and steel ammunition outperform lead and do not keep killing days, weeks, and months after leaving the gun. In 1991, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banned the use of lead ammunition in waterfowl hunting, and waterfowl hunting has continued uninterrupted, reducing lead poisoning and protecting the species for a variety of wildlife uses, including hunting. The NPS and the USFWS are the two primary wildlife managers on their lands, and it's up to them to conserve and protect wildlife from needless threats. The nation has taken steps to reduce human exposure to lead by phasing its use out in gasoline, plumbing, paint, and toys. It's time to take this action in sport hunting.

The Greyhound Protection Act: Banning greyhound racing

Commercial dog racing is illegal in 41 states, with [Florida voters recently adopting a ban](#) by an overwhelming margin that will take full effect by the end of 2020. After the closure of all 12 tracks in Florida, only six more will remain operational in a handful of states, and dogs will continue to be subjected to unnecessary risks and long-term confinement. Dogs spend up to 23 hours a day [in extreme confinement](#) where they can barely turn around, according to GREY2K USA Worldwide, Action's partner in this endeavor. On the track, trainers administer drugs and other stimulants to dogs, and the dogs sometimes [suffer serious injuries](#), including broken legs and backs. Most tracks don't make money, and the state is subsidizing the operations or even requiring that the tracks run dogs; [this is not a lucrative business](#) in any respect, and fans long ago fled this spectator sport. At the few tracks that remain, the dogs perform in front of nearly empty bleachers. With just six tracks remaining, animal welfare concerns will become even more pressing because of threadbare operations that will be forced to cut corners in animal care to survive. The

animal wellness action

federal government has authority on this subject because dogs are bred and transported across state lines for racing and races are broadcast to numerous states for simulcast gambling.

Pigs Inside Gestation Stalls (PIGS) Act: Banning the use of extreme confinement crates for breeding pigs

There are 10 states, including Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, and Oregon, that have banned or are phasing out the use of gestation crates. By wide margins, voters have approved five of five statewide ballot measures to forbid their use. [California](#) and [Massachusetts](#) – together with 45 million consumers – will forbid the sale of pork that comes from farms where the pigs are confined in gestation crates. Almost [every major food retailer](#) in the United States – from McDonald’s to Costco to Walmart – has agreed to phase out all purchasing of pork from farms that confine sows in gestation crates. Smithfield Foods, the nation’s largest pig producer, has phased out gestation crate confinement in its company-owned operations, and Hormel, Cargill, and other big producers have made similar commitments. That said, some major pig producers continue to defy popular opinion and use these crates as a routine confinement method. This legislation will level the playing field for all producers, create a minimum standard that will give consumers more confidence in the animal welfare operations in the industry, and allow the food retail industry to fulfill its pledges to disassociate their sales operations from such a cruel confinement system.

Working to enforce key federal laws to help animals

Action and its sister organization, the Animal Wellness Foundation, have brought on [seven-term former county district attorney Josh Marquis](#) and four-term former Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmonson to lead an effort to enforce our key federal laws against animal cruelty. They’ll be creating a Animal Wellness National Law Enforcement Action Council to help deliver on that goal. The Council will focus on elevating the prominence of animal issues within the law enforcement community, sharing information on the correlations between animal cruelty and human violence, and amping up enforcement of our federal laws against animal fighting, horse soring, and delinquent puppy mills.

We’ll be pressing the case that cruelty to animals is not some isolated, easily compartmentalized act of aggression. It is a vivid indicator of a loss of empathy, an ability to misuse power, and a disrespect for the rule of law. When we stamp out animal cruelty and apprehend people who have lost empathy for the suffering of others, we make our communities safer for everyone.

If you’ve found our work in this report for 2018 to be worthy, and we believe it speaks for itself, then we hope you’ll contribute toward our cause today by [clicking here](#). Please give \$5, \$10, \$50, or whatever you can contribute to help us keep working in the realm of politics and public policy to help animals.

Financial overview

In 2018, on a cash basis, Action had revenues of \$1.207 million, and expenses of \$843 thousand, leaving a net balance of \$364 thousand at year end. A substantial number of “staff” for the organization took no pay or minimal pay, allowing the organization to spend nearly all of its money on programs. One board member

animal wellness action

handled nearly all of the financial work of the organization at no charge to the organization. The organization had no personal assistants or other secretarial support. The organization spent approximately 95 percent of its resources on programs and only about 5 percent on administration and fundraising.

Action PAC spending

In addition to creating Action in 2018, we created Animal Wellness Action PAC, which is a separate entity registered with the Federal Election Commission. It separately took in \$72,000, and donated to a range of animal-friendly lawmakers. In particular, the PAC supported Collin Allred of Texas, Cindy Axne of Iowa, Steve Horsford and Susie Lee of Nevada, Ben McAdams of Utah, and Kim Schrier of Washington, as part of a new pro-animal class of freshmen lawmakers. Several of these members defeated anti-animal incumbents. Action PAC also supported solid Republican supporters in tough races, including Reps. Very Buchanan (R-FL) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). In addition to direct giving, our supporters also gave tens of thousands of dollars to pro-animal candidates, compounding our impact. Action PAC remains a vital part of our network of organizations.

animal wellness action

Board of Directors

Deborah Wilson, MD., Chair of the Board, Phoenix, Arizona
Sherry Kellett, Treasurer, Clyde, North Carolina
Annie Harvilicz, D.V.M., Secretary, Santa Monica, California

Founder

Wayne Pacelle, Bethesda, Maryland

Staff

Marty Irby, Executive Director
Jenny Alberty, Director of Internal Communications
Emily Ayhou, Oregon State Director
Carol Butler, Political Director
Penny Eastman, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs
Drew Edmondson, Co-Chair, National Law Enforcement Council
Holly Gann, Director of Federal Affairs
James Grant, Director of Operations
Dave Harvilicz, General Counsel
Laurie Hood, Florida State Director
Lain Kahlstrom, Director of State Affairs
Josh Marquis, Director of Legal Affairs and Enforcement
Tina Meredith, Arizona State Director
Jennifer Skiff, Director of International Programs

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

Our Vision

We see a time when animal cruelty is no longer common or accepted. Where people use a combination of moral sensibility and problem solving to shed archaic practices and forge a relationship with animals grounded on respect and appreciation. We believe that helping animals helps us all by creating a more civil society where people, animals and nature are living in balance.

Helping animals helps us all.

**animal
wellness
action**

Helping animals helps us all.