

Issues Facing Animals in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is a state that is home to an abundance of animal species, both wild and domestic. We are fortunate to have such a wide diversity of wildlife ranging from gray wolves to sandhill cranes. Unfortunately, those beloved species, along with many others, are constantly threatened with being hunted, baited, hounded, or trapped. Wisconsin is also home to thousands of animal agriculture facilities and sadly one of the largest breeding facilities for dogs used in research in the United States.



AB117/SB112.

These bills would allow a recreational hunting season on sandhill cranes in Wisconsin. These cranes are a beloved

species in Wisconsin, mate for life, and use our state as a primary breeding and nesting ground. Animal Wellness Action is against this bill and encourages the state to find alternative non-lethal methods to coexist with cranes. In Wisconsin over 1,000 cranes are already killed each year through so-called “depredation permits” for claimed damage to crops. We view this as a “shadow hunting season” that also needs to stop. We urge residents to speak to their representative and senator and ask them to oppose these bills and to work on funding non-lethal deterrence measures.



Gray Wolves. In 2021 Animal Wellness Action was a litigant in the lawsuit that stopped a second hunting season against Wisconsin wolves in 2021. In February 2021, Wisconsin allowed the reported killing of 218 wolves out of an allowed quota of 119. This carnage occurred in under 72

hours mostly with the use of hounds. While wolves are currently listed under Endangered Species Act protections, the threats of delisting, poaching, and all-around hostility toward the species remain. Animal Wellness Action does not support the hunting of gray wolves, nor do we support the state of Wisconsin’s policy of paying \$2500 to the handler of hunting

hounds that were reportedly killed by wolves. We also oppose the use of hunting hounds against wolves. As with cranes, lawmakers should work to coexist with this species and not resort to immediate and overtly hostile hunting seasons that put recovery of the gray wolf in jeopardy. Wisconsin has approximately 1,000 wolves in our state. We must not let them be pushed back to the brink through reckless hunting seasons and state-sanctioned dog fighting.

Shut Down Massive “Research” Dog Breeding Facility.

Wisconsin is home to one of the largest facilities in the United States that breeds beagles that are sold to institutions to be tested on. The horrific conditions of this facility, Ridgman Farms



in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, are well documented and under investigation by state authorities. Animal Wellness Action is working with other organizations like Dane4Dogs and legislators to shut down this facility along with others like it across the nation. Animal Wellness Action’s work on the FDA Modernization Act 3.0 with Congress is crucial to minimizing and hopefully someday ending the untold cruelty that testing on animals causes. We can start that process by working to shut down the facilities like Ridgman Farms.

In addition to these issues, we will continue to work for a more humane Wisconsin, country, and world. To do that your legislators need to hear from YOU at all levels.

For more information, contact Paul Collins 608-566-9850