



August 3, 2026

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Debbie Wasserman Schultz for Congress
4479 Foxglove Lane
Weston, FL 33331

Dear Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your campaign for the Democratic nomination in Florida's 20th Congressional District on August 18, 2026. Your voting record demonstrates a strong commitment to animal welfare and humane public policy.

We are grateful for your leadership as a cosponsor of the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#). This important bipartisan legislation strengthens enforcement of federal laws against dogfighting and cockfighting—criminal enterprises that are closely tied to illicit gambling, money laundering, drug trafficking, and the smuggling of fighting animals across our southern border. Cockfighting also poses a significant animal and public health threat by facilitating the spread of virulent Newcastle disease and highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, outbreaks that have cost the nation billions of dollars in indemnification payments and contributed to higher poultry prices. The FIGHT Act has earned the endorsement of more than 1,100 organizations and agencies, including the Florida Sheriffs' Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executive Association,

We thank you for cosponsoring the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, [H.R. 1661](#), bipartisan legislation to end the export of American horses for slaughter for human consumption. Specifically, the SAFE Act would permanently close the pipeline that sends healthy American horses to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico to be butchered for overseas markets.

We particularly appreciate your opposition to [the Farm, Food, and National Security Act, H.R. 7567](#), which included a provision to repeal key state farm animal welfare laws. H.R. 7567 also omitted several bipartisan animal welfare measures, including provisions to end horse slaughter exports (the SAFE Act) and strengthen enforcement against organized animal fighting enterprises (the FIGHT Act).

We also commend your vote against the Riley Moore amendment (([House Roll Call Vote 149](#))) during floor consideration of the Farm Bill. That amendment sought to punch a hole in the Greyhound Protection Act by creating an exemption allowing commercial greyhound racing to continue in West Virginia—the only state with live greyhound racing. Your vote helped preserve federal protections against an industry long associated with careless treatment of dogs.

In addition, AWA is deeply grateful for your votes against Rep. Lauren Boebert's legislative effort, [H.R. 845](#), to strip federal protection for gray wolves from the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA), and [H.R. 556](#), which would restrict federal agencies from addressing the well-documented harms caused by lead ammunition and tackle to wildlife. Those votes demonstrated a commitment to science-based wildlife conservation and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

We hope you'll consider cosponsoring two additional bipartisan measures, the No Flight, No Fight Act, [H.R. 7371](#), and the Animal Cruelty Enforcement Act, [H.R. 1477](#). These bipartisan measures are broadly supported by law enforcement organizations and the animal welfare community.

A profound respect for the humane treatment of animals is a core value shared by Americans across the political spectrum. How we treat animals is a powerful reflection of our character as a society, and evidence consistently shows that acts of animal cruelty are frequently linked with broader patterns of violence and antisocial behavior that threaten public safety. By standing against these abuses, you are helping protect families and communities while upholding fundamental standards of common decency.

For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your campaign for the Democratic nomination in Florida's 20th Congressional District. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance strong, bipartisan animal protection policies in the 120th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Pacelle". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle name.

Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action