



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:

- ✓ Passed a law making cockfighting illegal
- ✓ Passed a law making extreme animal cruelty a felony crime
- ✓ Passed a law banning the cruel sport of horse tripping
- ✓ Passed a law making dog fighting a fourth-degree felony
- ✓ Passed a law giving law enforcement agencies the option of getting reimbursed by those charged with animal cruelty for the cost of care of seized animals
- ✓ Passed a law to require the sale of only bitter antifreeze to protect animals and children from accidental and intentional poisoning
- ✓ Passed a law creating and funding 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.

2019 Animal Protection Legislative Priorities

Expand Statewide Spay/Neuter Services Funding



This legislation would establish a \$100 fee to be paid by pet food manufacturing corporations per label sold in the state, to fund the statewide low-cost spay/neuter program. More than 135,000 cats and dogs enter our state's animal shelters annually, and almost half are euthanized simply for lack of adoptive homes. This new funding mechanism, recommended in a study requested by the legislature, could bring in an estimated \$1,200,000 each year.

Keep Rescued Horses Out of the Slaughterhouse



This legislation is the outcome of work with state agencies and advocates 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 nine state-registered equine shelters first right of refusal, before auction, to take in homeless horses to be rehabilitated and adopted into loving homes or humanely euthanized.

End Horrific Coyote Killing Contests



This bill would enact a ban on the senseless, repulsive practice of competitions to kill coyotes for prizes or entertainment—seen by residents and tourists alike as a black eye to the state. Killing contests cause ecological damage, fail to protect livestock, and violate the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that guides most hunters. The bill would not prohibit killing a coyote to protect life, property, or livestock.

Defend Against Anti-Animal Measures



APV 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. One example of anti-animal legislation is any bill that effectively sweeps animal abuse under the rug, or prevents information gathering and sharing regarding cruelty and other violations on farms, via anti-whistleblower type "ag-gag" bills.

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 family pets often fall victim, resulting in horrific injuries and deaths—and many states and countries have already enacted bans.



Another example is the need to defend the recurring state funding secured in 2015, to support 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 companion animals.



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