



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
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SUMMER 2007

The Alliance Speaks

Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation

The Alliance Successfully Defends Animal Welfare during Contentious Legislative Session!

The 2007 Missouri legislative session ended on May 18, and the Alliance once again stopped many efforts that threatened to harm animal welfare in our state. Each day, Alliance lobbyists and volunteers worked the Capitol Building, tracking and responding to a variety of new and problematic proposals.

Our biggest battle this year was waged over HB 46, a bill that would have made it harder for law enforcement to rescue horses that have been abused or neglected. The House Speaker made this bill an early priority, and it had strong support from the Missouri Farm Bureau and pet breeder organizations. Thankfully, we were able to stop this bill, but only after fierce debate on the floor of the Senate during the final week of the session!

Some bad ideas from past years, such as the "felony photo ban" and other puppy mill protections, were not even introduced this time around, since it was known that the Alliance would have strongly opposed them. However, we had to remain ever vigilant, as several negative proposals rose up in the form of sneaky amendments attached to unrelated legislation. Some of our positive ideas took a step forward, while others faced setbacks.

Listed below is a summary of how animal welfare legislation fared in the 2007 Missouri General Assembly:

HB 46
BARRIERS TO HORSE IMPOUNDMENT FAILED!
This bill would have made it harder for law enforcement to impound abused or neglected horses or other large animals under the anti-cruelty statute (Section 578.018) that was recently upheld by the Missouri Supreme Court. Before abused or neglected horses could be removed from harm's way, a Department of Agriculture veterinarian

would have to approve the action, instead of allowing a sheriff or animal control officer to select a local veterinarian to do the job. The bill would have also imposed an unreasonably high standard for impoundment—"immediate loss of life" (as opposed to simply being necessary to prevent the animal from suffering further). The bill was lobbied hard all year by the sponsor Rep. Viebrock, and it received near unanimous support in both committees that heard these bills. Despite the fact that no evidence was presented of a healthy animal that was mistakenly seized, the proponents continued to raise fears that a healthy horse will somehow be caught up in a future impoundment.



While the Alliance vigorously opposed this measure, the House passed this bill by a 2-1 margin (to see how your representative voted, visit our website). In the Senate, however, MAAL generated significant opposition from over a dozen legislators from both political parties. The bill was ultimately stopped after Sen. Scott Rupp and Sen. Chris Koster spoke strongly in opposition on the Senate floor during the final week of the session.

AMENDMENT TO BAN CERTAIN ANIMAL REGULATIONS FAILED!

This legislation did not arise until early May. It was not a filed bill; instead it was revealed as a proposed amendment to SB 248, an unrelated bill. The amendment would have prevented any state or municipal regulation defining the relationship of humans to "domestic animals" as anything other than "owners" of those animals, and it sounds innocuous. But if the Alliance had not caught this underhanded maneuver, it could have prevented any number of animal protection efforts in the future. **The Alliance vigorously opposed the amendment and it failed in a close voice vote on the House floor.**

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Pool Paws for Humane Laws

Monday, August 6, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. • McNair Park Pool
3200 Droste Road, St. Charles (inclement weather phone number 636-946-1553)
(no rainout day is scheduled)

Thursday, August 9, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. • McNair Park Pool
3200 Droste Road, St. Charles (inclement weather phone number 636-946-1553)
(no rainout day is scheduled)

Monday, September 3, 2007, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. • Kline Pool in Hazelwood
1186 Teson Road, Hazelwood (inclement weather phone number 314-895-4157)
(no rainout day is scheduled)

Tuesday, September 4, 2007, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. • Kirkwood Aquatic Center
111 South Geyer Road, Kirkwood (inclement weather phone number 314-984-6972)
Rainout date: Friday, September 7, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 6:00-8:00 p.m. • Splash at Wabash in Ferguson
501 North Florissant Road, Ferguson (inclement weather phone 314-521-1313)
Rainout date: Thursday, September 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 8, 2007, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • Alligator's Creek Aquatic Center
403 Civic Park Drive, O'Fallon (inclement weather phone number 636-272-1626)
Rainout date: Saturday, September 15, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

These pooch pool party fundraisers offer well-mannered dogs and their families the opportunity to take an end-of-season dip for \$10 per dog and one human companion, and \$3 per additional friend or family member. One half of the entry fees will be contributed to the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation. The Alliance is the only non-profit organization lobbying full time on animal welfare issues in Missouri. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for some good clean fun, while helping the Alliance speak up about puppy mills and other legislative issues involving animals. For more information about the Alliance, please visit our website at: www.maal.org.

Rules:

- No aggressive dogs. No pinch/choke collars.
- Proof of current vaccination records, DHLPP and Rabies, required before entering pool.
- Owners must bring bags or other method to clean up after their dogs.
- Dogs must be leashed unless swimming in the pool and closely supervised by their owners.
- Dogs must be recently bathed.
- All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- All humans must sign a waiver and are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries or damage caused by their dogs.

For more information about attending or sponsoring these events, call Jan at 314-323-5443

Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alliance protects animals from abuse, neglect and exploitation by monitoring and facilitating the passage of animal welfare laws, thereby enhancing the quality of life for people and animals in Missouri.

FUNDING

The Alliance is a 501 (c)(4) nonprofit and receives no United Way, government or corporate funding. The organization depends on donations from concerned and passionate individuals to fund its animal welfare education and legislative efforts. Because we are a lobbying organization, gifts to the Alliance are not tax deductible.

HEADQUARTERS

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Director's Perspective

by Julie Leicht

The Missouri legislative session ended May 18, 2007 with the pound of a gavel and a sigh of relief. The Alliance realized many successes this legislative session with the introduction of several pro-active pieces of legislation such as a dangerous dogs bill and a bill regulating large carnivores. However, our greatest accomplishment was the defeat of HB 46 which would have created barriers to impounding horses and large farm animals.

A special thanks to our dedicated legislative team: John Coffman, legislative director; Greg Johnston, lobbyist; Theresa Williams, chair of the Alliance's legislative committee; and board president Bob Hull. The success we achieved this legislative session would not have been possible without the assistance of the individuals who served on the legislative committee as well as our supporters who traveled to Jefferson City the last two weeks of the session to monitor the proceedings in both Houses.

Perhaps the most critical component of our legislative victory was the dedication of our committed supporters. Alliance friends consistently responded to our e-alerts throughout the session and contacted their elected officials to voice their opinions on bills under consideration by the legislature. We know our voices were heard based on feedback from legislators revealing HB 46 as one of the most controversial issues this session and one that generated the most constituent mail.

Now that the session is behind us, the Alliance will focus its efforts on networking with other humane organizations throughout the state and participating in local outreach events. We are planning legislative workshops to be held throughout the state. Dates and locations will be announced soon. This summer we will once again host the popular "Pool Paws" dog swim parties. In addition, we are planning a fund raiser on October 8, 2007 at Framations Art Gallery in downtown St. Charles. Check our website, www.maal.org, later this summer for additional details.

Thank you for your support this legislative session. Working together, we gave a "voice" to those who cannot speak. Best wishes for a relaxing and fun-filled summer.



Humane Day Participants "Find Their Way" at the Capitol

The Alliance's 14th Annual Humane Day was held on April 10, 2007 at the Capitol. Animal welfare groups from around the state were represented and over 50 legislators held meetings with our attendees.

Participating groups included: Animal Protective Association of Missouri; Callaway County Humane Society; Callaway Hills Animal Shelter; Central Missouri Humane Society; DogGone Safe; Dog Scouts of America; Furry Kids Refuge; Humane Society of Missouri; Kansas City Dog Advocates; Metro Animal Resource Services, Inc.; Midwest Paws and Pals; Missouri Animal Control Association; Missouri Animal Watch; No More Homeless Pets Kansas City; Operation SPOT; Save Our Pets/Save Ourselves; Stray Rescue; TARA Training and Behavior; and Wayside Waifs. A special thank you to Dick and Connie Davie for their informative table on local anti-tethering ordinances.

This year, we drew additional attention to the event through our "Finding Your Way on Humane Day" game. Each legislative office was provided with a "game card" and was asked to visit at least four booths in the Rotunda to have their card validated. Each completed game piece gave them a chance to enter a drawing for a Tour Missouri basket including a Garmin GPS System, as well as some great treats for their dogs or cats.

Throughout the day, participants had a chance to attend a Senate hearing on HB 46, barriers to horse impoundment, watch voting take place in both chambers, visit with legislators, and network with other organizations participating in the event.

Tom Skeen of Gateway Photograph donated his services for the day. Pictures of the event can be viewed at gatewayphoto@photosite.com.

A special thanks to our event sponsors: American Heartland Theater; Brookside Barkery and Bath; DogGone Safe; Dog Scouts of America; Empire Pets; Fasone & Partners; Garmin International; Gateway Photography; No More Homeless Pets Kansas City; Operation SPOT; Target Market Events; and Truman Hotel.

Thank you to our volunteer planning committee including: Janette Boehm; Heddie Leger; Gail Longstaff; Gretchen Shanahan; and Shannon Wells. A special thanks to Amanda Moen for her assistance at the event.

We hope to see you at next year's event. Mark your calendars now – the 15th Annual Humane Day will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS.

Honor Loved Ones by Contributing to the Alliance

Having a difficult time trying to find the perfect gift for a loved one who has everything? Consider making a donation to the Alliance in honor of your special friend, relative or favorite four-legged companion. A letter will be sent to your loved one informing them of your contribution.

A donation to the Alliance is also a perfect way to memorialize a loved one who has passed, whether it be a special person who cared about animals or a furry companion who made a difference in your life. All donations will be recognized in the "Alliance Speaks" newsletter.

New Look for "Laws for Paws" Action Alerts

If you are on the Alliance's e-mail list, you may have noticed a more professional and attractive format to our e-newsletters and e-alerts. In attempt to enhance our image and provide more timely information to our supporters, the Alliance began utilizing a new system to provide monthly updates. The "Alliance Speaks" newsletter has been restyled to match our new look. If you would like to receive our e-alerts to keep apprised of the latest animal welfare news in Missouri, please submit your contact information to mail@maal.org. The information will only be used by the Alliance and will not be distributed to other organizations.

HJR 9 2/3 SUPERMAJORITY FOR WILDLIFE INITIATIVES FAILED!

This resolution would have placed a constitutional amendment on the November 2008 ballot, requiring a 2/3rds (66%) "supermajority" vote to pass any future ballot initiatives dealing with the harvest of wildlife or forestry. For purposes of comparison, the very popular anti-cockfighting initiative received 63% of the vote, and would not have passed a supermajority requirement. **The Alliance opposed this resolution because it would have thwarted the rights of a majority of voters, and violates the concept of majority rule (one person, one vote). HJR 9 passed out of committee and was high on the House agenda, but did not come up for a vote on the floor.**

HJR 4 and 5 BARRIERS TO VOTER-INITIATED PETITIONS FAILED!

These resolutions were among a plethora of legislative efforts attempting to make it harder for citizen groups to place an initiative on a state-wide ballot and get them passed. HJR 5 would have increased to 15% the minimum number of signatures needed to place an initiative petition on the ballot (up from the current 5% for statutes and 8% for constitutional amendments). HJR 4 would have imposed a 60% supermajority requirement on voters to pass any constitutional initiative. Several other bills would have banned certain people from gathering signatures. **The Alliance opposed these measures, arguing that it should not be any harder for citizens to have a voice in statewide policy decisions. Although there appeared to be support for curtailing initiatives early this year, none of this legislation made it out of either chamber.**

SB 206/HB 901 LARGE CARNIVORE (EXOTICS) BILL Did Not Pass

This repeat bill would have provided much-needed regulation of large carnivores (lions, tigers and bears). Missouri is quickly falling behind neighboring states in adopting comprehensive regulation,

making our state a haven for exotic animal trafficking (Kansas passed a relatively good law last year). Unfortunately, this bill did not prohibit breeding and the sale of these dangerous animals; it gave permitting authority to the Department of Agriculture. **The Alliance supported this bill while working to strengthen certain provisions. This year, we received a hearing in the Senate for the first time, but despite our great lineup of witnesses, the bill did not get a hearing in the House.**

SB 73/HB 253 REVISIONS TO ANIMAL NEGLECT LAW Did Not Pass

This bill would have improved the animal neglect statute, giving prosecutors more options. The House version was endorsed by the Missouri Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. The Senate version was somewhat stronger. These common sense bills were again opposed by the pet breeder organizations, who claimed that it could be used to infringe property rights. **The Alliance supported both bills, although we favored the Senate version. Neither bill made it out of its respective committee.**

HB 226 PIT BULL BAN Failed!

This breed specific legislation (BSL) would have allowed third class counties to ban pit bulls. The Alliance generally believes that the best approach to the concerns being raised about dangerous or aggressive dogs is to adopt laws allowing better enforcement over the owners of animals that have been shown to be aggressive and dangerous (see below). **The Alliance opposed this bill, which failed to get out of committee.**

HB 549 CONTROL OF DANGEROUS DOGS Did not pass

Rep. Chappel-Nadal sponsored this Alliance-drafted legislation, which would establish a uniform method of declaring a dog as dangerous or potentially dangerous and provides methods for humanely securing such animals. This is a positive alternative to BSL legislation. **The Alliance supported this bill, but it also failed to get out of committee.**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Dubman Opens Her Heart to the Alliance



Open Your Heart, the Alliance's very successful annual fund raiser, is synonymous with Melissa Dubman. Melissa and her husband, board member Brook Dubman, hosted the first 2003 Open Your Heart event in their home. The event was such a hit that it had to be moved to a larger venue, Harry's Downtown Restaurant and Bar.

"Brook and I were interested in becoming involved with groups, like the Alliance, that were making a difference and were on the forefront of animal welfare issues," stated Melissa.

Ms. Dubman chaired the event the first two years and co-chaired with board member Diann Valenti the past two years. "Diann and I clicked as a team. We each have different perspectives and offer suggestions that the other may not have considered," stated Melissa. With the help of a talented and dedicated planning committee, this dynamic duo effortlessly coordinated the many details of the Alliance's major fundraiser.

Open Your Heart is not Melissa's only labor of love, she is also a proud mother to Garrett, 2 years, and Eliana, 5 months, born several weeks before the 2007 Open Your Heart event.

Plans are already underway for next year's Open Your Heart fund raiser to be held on February 10, 2008 at Harry's Downtown Restaurant and Bar. Knowing Melissa, it will be another affair to remember.

Animal Lovers show Passion for Compassion

Sunday, February 11th, 2007 marked the date for the Alliance's 4th Annual Open Your Heart fund-raising event.

This year's event theme was "Passion for Compassion" and Harry's Downtown Restaurant was a sea of red -- from the decorations to our guests' attire.

Over 150 individuals attended the annual event to support the Alliance's work and were treated to many delectable treats and desserts.

St. Louis' own auctioneer extraordinaire, Brook Dubman of Carol House Furniture, engaged the crowd in a live auction, raising over \$14,000 auctioning items such as a week's stay at an exclusive private residence in Cabo San Lucas. The silent auction, raising over \$10,000, included items to "indulge your passions" such as priceless bottles of wine, designer chocolates, Cuban cigars, and fine desserts.

Co-chairs Melissa Dubman and Diann Valenti, working with an outstanding planning committee, once again did an amazing job coordinating the many details of the event. Plans are already underway for next year's event to be held on **Sunday, February 10, 2008.**



Board Member Nancy Grove with state representative Margaret Donnelly (73)

OYH Volunteers Matt Bell, Linda Sullivan and Jim Shank

Alliance supporters Cheryl Povich and Amanda Moen

Nancy Grove, Grace Korsan recipient Pat Dougherty and Diann Valenti

Melissa Dubman, Brook Dubman, Nancy Grove and board president Bob Hull

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Throughout the year, the Alliance takes part in many community events throughout Missouri. These events help educate the public about our role in the legislative process and the need for sound animal welfare laws. They are also a great way for us to increase our supporter base -- thus increasing the number of calls made to Jefferson City when needed! Our participation is made possible only through generous volunteer support. **Please review the upcoming opportunities below and e-mail us at mail@maal.org or call 1-877-444-6225 to sign up to help. No experience needed!**

Saturday, June 16 -- Dog Days of Summer on Main Street in St. Charles -- Volunteer shifts: 10 AM -- 1:30 PM and 1:15 PM -- 5:15 PM

Saturday, June 16 - Cookies, Candy and CARE for Canines and Cats sponsored by Coalition for Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) -- Queeny Park, St. Louis -- Volunteer shifts: 9AM -- 12:30 PM and 12:15 PM -- 4:15 PM

Saturday, August 25 -- Paws in the Park at Broemmelsiek Park in St. Charles -- Volunteer shift: 10 AM -- 2:15 PM

Volunteers needed each **Thursday in June** from 5:30 -- 8:30 pm to participate in **Twilight Festival** -- Columbia.

And....we need help at our very own **Pool Paws for Humane Laws** events!

Monday, August 6 at McNair Park -- Volunteers needed from 5:30 -- 8:30

Thursday, August 9 at McNair Park -- Volunteers needed from 5:30 -- 8:30

Monday, September 3 at Kline Pool, Hazelwood -- Volunteers needed from 2:30 -- 5:30

Tuesday, September 4 at Kirkwood Aquatic Center -- Volunteers needed from 4:30 -- 7:30

Wednesday, September 5 at Wabash Pool, Hazelwood -- Volunteers needed from 4:30 -- 7:30

Saturday, September 8 at Alligator's Creek Aquatic Center -- Volunteers needed from 10:30 -- 2:30

We Salute Recent Contributors

The following list of donors includes donations received from October 1, 2006 through June 1, 2007. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please call 1-877-444-6225 or 314-994-1000 to make corrections.

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Stephan
"Phoenix" and "Tucson" by
Linda and Bob Waugh
"Spencer" Pankewer by Ginger,
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"Governor" Johnston by Nancy
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"Gracie" Sostman by Nancy
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"Rock" by JoAnn Stephan

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