

2017 Legislation

The following Senate and House Bills are currently pending in the state legislature. After the session is over in May, we'll update this page to provide the final outcome of each bill.

CRUELTY & ABUSE



Eliminates Disposition Process for Abused and Neglected Animals

SB 331

Sponsor: Senator Hegeman

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill would effectively eliminate the disposition process for abused and neglected animals and allow the animals to remain in the hands of their abusers until the conclusion of a criminal trial.



Eliminates Disposition Process for Abused and Neglected Animals

HB 384

Sponsor: Representative Anderson

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill would effectively eliminate the disposition process for abused and neglected animals and allow the animals to remain in the hands of their abusers until the conclusion of a criminal trial.



Establish Missouri Animal Abuse Registry

HB 1219 *Sponsor: Representative Hannegan* *Alliance Position: **SUPPORT***

State Highway Patrol shall post a public-accessible list on its website of any person convicted of an animal abuse offense.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS (DOGS/CATS)



Provides Penalties for Failure to Control Dogs

SB 164 *Sponsor: Senator Romine* *Alliance Position: **SUPPORT***

This bill creates penalties for allowing a dog to run at large if such animal injures itself, another animal, a human, or damages property. This is critical for counties without animal control ordinances.



Provides Penalties for Failure to Control Dogs

HB 176 *Sponsor: Representative Reiboldt* *Alliance Position: **SUPPORT***

This bill creates penalties for allowing a dog to run at large if such animal injures itself, another animal, a human, or damages property.



Disbands a Governor-Appointed Committee to Disburse Grants for Spay/Neuter Services

SB 372

Sponsor: Senator Hegeman

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

Currently monies generated from the "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate program are given to animal shelters or other non-profit organizations who provide low cost spay/neuter services. This money is disbursed after approval of an independent committee with experience in animal control and spay/neuter services. This bill would disband this committee and give the authority for distributing grants to the Department of Agriculture.



Eliminates Breed Specific Ordinances Including Spay/Neuter Ordinances

HB 905

Sponsor: Representative DeGroot

Alliance Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

This bill would nullify all ordinances and policies that are breed specific, including mandatory spay/neuter ordinances in Springfield and Kansas City that have dramatically reduced impoundment of pit bulls in these two municipalities. The Alliance is seeking an AMENDMENT to allow municipalities to regulate the breeding of dogs.

WILDLIFE



Captive Cervids (Deer)

SB 123

Sponsor: Senator Munzlinger

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill transfers the authority of regulating deer in canned hunts and captive deer farms from the Department of Conservation to the Department of Agriculture. The intent of the bill is to PREVENT any regulations on canned hunts and captive breeding farms. Last year the Court overturned recent attempts by the Department of Conservation to regulate canned hunts. This bill is a follow-up to that court action.



Captive Cervids (Deer)

HB 279

Sponsor: Representative Houghton

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill transfers the authority of regulating deer in canned hunts and captive deer farms from the Department of Conservation to the Department of Agriculture. The intent of the bill is to PREVENT any regulations on canned hunts and captive breeding farms. Last year the Court overturned recent attempts by the Department of Conservation to regulate canned hunts and captive breeding farms. This bill is a follow-up to that court action.



Right To Hunt

HJR 4 *Sponsor: Representative McGough* *Alliance Position: **OPPOSE***

This bill would amend the state constitution to limit restrictions on hunting and trapping and would make hunting the preferred method of controlling and managing wildlife as compared to employing humane alternatives to deer and other wildlife overpopulation problems.

FARMS & AGRICULTURE



Protects Factory Farms from Lawsuits for Pollution

SB 76 *Sponsor: Senator Munzlinger* *Alliance Position: **OPPOSE***

This bill severely limits lawsuits against factory farms for air, water, and waste pollution.



Prohibits Counties from Regulating Waste from Factory Farms

SB 77 *Sponsor: Senator Munzlinger* *Alliance Position: **OPPOSE***

This bill prohibits county commissioners and county health boards from regulating the disposal of waste from factory farms so as to prevent the pollution of streams, waterways, as well as neighboring public and private property. It also prevents counties from establishing any regulations pertaining to GMOs.



Eliminates Authority of Clean Water Commission to Regulate Factory Farms

HB 71

Sponsor: Representative McGough

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill came about when a large Minnesota CAFO (factory farm) tried to set up a hog CAFO in Missouri. The Missouri Clean Water Commission requires CAFOs to have financial assets to reimburse the state for environmental disasters. The MN Corporation set up a shell corporation in Missouri so that the parent company would be immune from any financial losses due to environmental disasters. When the Clean Water Commission refused to grant a permit to a shell corporation, the MN Corporation sued the Clean Water Commission. After the MN CAFO lost its lawsuit, it appealed to the Missouri Legislature to pass legislation to bypass the authority of the Clean Water Commission. An identical bill passed the House of Representatives last session.



Eliminates Authority of Counties to Regulate Factory Farms

HB 113

Sponsor: Representative McGough

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

Missouri is one of the few Midwestern states that still permits County Commissioners and County Health Boards to regulate CAFOs (factory farms). In fact, all 8 states contiguous to Missouri prohibit local control of CAFOs. As a result, large corporate agricultural entities have poured more money into the coffers of Missouri state legislators than any other state legislature in the country. Subsequently, this legislation was introduced to deny counties the authority to regulate CAFOs. Missouri has become Ground Zero for corporate agriculture. An identical bill passed the House of Representatives last session.



Suppress Free Speech on Farm Animal Issues

HB 114

Sponsor: Representative McGough

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill holds a person liable for voicing concerns about the safety of food from animals raised on factory farms. This bill is similar to the law in Texas that resulted in Oprah Winfrey being sued for speaking about Mad Cow disease. This bill is intended to quell criticism of unhealthy practices at factory farms such as the excessive and injudicious use of antibiotics on pigs raised for human consumption. Pigs in factory farms often require large doses of antibiotics due to the unsanitary and stressful living conditions.



Prohibits Counties from Regulating Waste from Factory Farms

HB 175

Sponsor: Representative Reiboldt

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill prohibits county commissioners and county health boards from regulating the disposal of waste from factory farms so as to prevent the pollution of streams, waterways, as well as neighboring public and private property. It also prevents counties from establishing any regulations pertaining to GMOs.



Protects Factory Farms from Lawsuits for Pollution

SB 156

Sponsor: Representative Munzlinger

Alliance Position: OPPOSE

This bill places the state veterinarian in charge of all animal care training, including all animal care training in high school classes, 4-H clubs, college level courses, and

vocation schools. The state veterinarian would also supervise any instructions on animal care given by a veterinarian with his/her client. This bill would give the state veterinarian authority over all training for law enforcement personnel in matters related to the investigation of animal cruelty cases even though the state veterinarian has no authority, purview, expertise or experience with the state's cruelty statutes. The sponsor has stated that he foresees "monitors" in classrooms across the state to monitor how people are instructed in animal care. This is GOVERNMENT OVERREACH at its worst.

MISCELLANEOUS



Canned Hunting Ballot Initiative

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has been attempting to regulate both captive deer farms and canned hunts due to concerns that these facilities are causing the spread of chronic wasting disease to the wild deer population in the state. In response to these regulatory efforts, the Missouri deer breeders have successfully brought legal action to block the implementation of any regulations on their operations and have sought to deny MDC any authority whatsoever to regulate canned hunts and captive deer farms.

As a rejoinder to these legal challenges of the deer breeders, a ballot initiative has been filed with the Secretary of State's office that, if passed, would enact into the state constitution a prohibition of "confined big game killing" starting in 2021. If enough signatures are gathered to place this on the ballot, this initiative would be voted on by Missouri voters in 2018.

FOR MORE INFO, click below:

[Summary of Initiative](#)

and

[Canned Hunting Ballot Initiative](#)

