

# Candidate Questionnaire - Humane Legislation

## 1. Introduction

We appreciate your taking time from your busy schedule to complete this survey. It should only take about 15 minutes and will help us understand the animal welfare issues most important to you.

\* **Please list your name, e-mail address, phone number and legislative district.**

\* **Please indicate for which office you are running.**

Senate

House of Representatives

## 2. Spay/neuter Assistance Legislation

Statewide data indicate that at least 60,000 cats and dogs are euthanized in our state's shelters each year. By reducing the pet population through access to affordable spay/neuter surgery, the number of healthy animals euthanized in shelters each year can be significantly decreased. The costs incurred by local animal care and control agencies for handling homeless animals could also be significantly reduced.

An affordable spay/neuter program could rely on funding through a fee on cat and dog food distributed in Washington State. The fee would be paid by distributors or manufacturers (not retailers) at a rate between 2c to 3c per pound of pet food.

**Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Counties and cities would support a statewide spay/neuter assistance program, if significantly reducing the number of homeless animals helped these entities reduce their burden and costs for animal control and sheltering.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To address the pet overpopulation problem, your constituents would support a statewide spay/neuter assistance program funded by a fee of 2c to 3c per pound, paid by pet-food distributors (and presumably passed along to pet-food purchasers).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please mark the choice that most clearly represents your position on this issue.**

	Would prime sponsor	Would co-sponsor	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Legislation in support of a statewide spay/neuter assistance program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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If you are uncertain or would oppose statewide spay/neuter assistance legislation, please explain why.

If you have other comments or suggestions concerning statewide spay/neuter assistance legislation or funding of such legislation, please let us know.

## 3. Regarding the Feeding of Wildlife

Of the thousands of calls that wildlife agencies and organizations receive yearly, a significant number are related to conflicts associated with feeding wildlife. Conflicts between people and wildlife occur when people intentionally feed or attract wild animals, causing these animals to become habituated (lose their fear of humans). This can have tragic consequences for both the people and wildlife involved, including harm and injury to the animal and/or serious health and safety risks to the people coming in close contact with these wild animals. Feeding wild animals also contributes to overpopulation of those animals being fed. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife along with other wildlife agencies and organizations, supports restricting the feeding of wild animals at high risk for habituation (e.g. bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes, deer, elk and raccoons).

**Do you feel that the feeding of these specific types of wildlife (bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes, deer, elk and racoons) is a problem in your district?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**Please mark the choice that most clearly represents your position.**

	Would prime sponsor	Would co-sponsor	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Legislation to limit the intentional feeding of these specific types of wildlife.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

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**If you are uncertain or would oppose legislation to restrict the intentional feeding of wildlife, please explain.**

### 4. Unlawful Trapping

In 2000 Initiative 713, the State Trapping Ban, was passed overwhelmingly by the voters of Washington State. This Initiative banned the use of cruel and indiscriminate traps such as the steel-jawed leghold trap and other inhumane body-gripping traps used to kill wildlife for recreation and/or commerce in fur. At various times since the passage of Initiative 713, there has been legislation introduced that would overturn or change the intent of this initiative.

**Do you support upholding the intent of Washington State voters' passage of Initiative 713, by opposing measures that would repeal or change key elements of this law?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**Do you have any concerns regarding the current state trapping ban? Please comment.**

### 5. The Humane Treatment of Dogs

Our current anti-cruelty laws do not address the inhumane practice of continuous chaining or tethering of dogs. Many dogs are left chained outdoors for the duration of their lives. They often have little shelter and may be exposed to extreme heat or cold. These dogs are often neglected, do not receive adequate veterinary care and may be used for dog fighting or backyard breeding. They are unable to get away from predators or torment caused by people. Dogs are very social animals and this practice stops them from engaging in the very behaviors that are necessary for their well-being, such as being part of a family group, running and playing. Dogs that are continuously chained and neglected also become aggressive as they are under-socialized and try to protect the small amount of territory that they have. Twenty-five percent of fatal dog bites are caused by chained dogs. They pose a special threat to children who wander into their territory.

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Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I feel the continuous chaining of dogs as a means of confinement is inhumane.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please mark the choice that most clearly represents your position.

	Would prime sponsor	Would co-sponsor	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Legislation that limits the amount of time a dog can be chained in a 24-hour period.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you are uncertain or would oppose a ban on continuous chaining of dogs, please explain.

## 6. The Humane Treatment of Livestock

A growing issue for Washington consumers is the cruel and inhumane treatment of animals raised inside factory farms. The majority of eggs come from hens crammed into battery cages, which provide each bird less space than a single sheet of paper on which to spend her entire life. Veal calves and breeding sows are confined in spaces hardly larger than their own bodies, which restricts them from such basic behaviors as turning around and extending their limbs. In a 2008 Election Day landslide, voters in California enacted The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act which simply requires that certain farm animals have enough room to stand up, turn around and stretch their limbs. Michigan, Arizona, Florida, Maine, Colorado and Oregon have passed similar laws through state legislatures or citizen ballot initiatives. In 2009, the California governor signed landmark legislation prohibiting a common and cruel mutilation of dairy cows, which involves the partial amputation of up to two-thirds of a dairy cow's tail, a procedure typically performed without anesthetic. This practice (tail docking) benefits neither animal nor human health and is opposed by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Bovine Practitioners Association.

Please mark the choice that most clearly describes your position.

	Would prime sponsor	Would cosponsor	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Legislation to improve the way egg-laying hens are raised, by eliminating battery cages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legislation to change how veal calves are confined during their lifetime by eliminating crates that prevent them from turning around or extending their limbs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legislation to change the way breeding sows are confined during their pregnancies and until weaning of their piglets, by eliminating farrowing crates that prevent them from turning around.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legislation to ban tail docking of dairy cows.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I feel that animals raised for food deserve basic humane treatment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments you have concerning the humane treatment of livestock.

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## 7. General Questions

Does your family include cats or dogs?

- Yes
- No

If your family includes cats or dogs, do you license them with your city or county?

- Yes
- No
- Not required by my city or county

What issues pertaining to animals do you feel affect your district?

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**Are there any animal related problems not addressed here or by current legislation that you would like to see addressed?**

### 8. Animal Protection Caucus

In 2009, an animal protection caucus was formed in the U.S. Congress. In early 2010, California legislators formed an animal protection caucus modeled after the congressional caucus. These caucuses were designed to sponsor nonpartisan forums and briefings; track the progress of relevant legislation; provide members with dependable information; and build broad coalitions in support of common sense animal welfare laws.

**Would you be interested in joining an animal protection caucus if one were formed in the Washington State Legislature?**

- Yes
- No
- Need more information