



## 2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND SCORECARD



Desert Nesting Bald Eagle photo by Robin Silver



## ARIZONA 2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Karen Michael

The 2022 session of the Arizona Legislature was one of the longest sessions in state history. Six bills that will help protect animals were passed and signed into law. Three of the measures were sponsored by Representative



John Kavanagh, a long-time advocate for animals. His efforts include legislation that prohibits insurance companies from raising rates or denying people homeowners' insurance based solely on the breed of dog they keep. Another bill adds a criminal penalty for bringing a minor to a cockfight or animal fight. And he also sponsored a measure that requires scanning dogs and cats for a microchip and making a reasonable attempt to contact their owners.

Representative Amish Shah and Senator J.D. Mesnard sponsored the new law that allows municipalities in Maricopa and Pima Counties to prohibit the overnight use of consumer fireworks except for two hours permitted on July 4 and December 31. Rep. Shah, an emergency

medicine physician, has been a tireless champion for animals. This session he reintroduced his bill to prohibit declawing of cats, a painful, unnecessary procedure which can cause significant medical issues. He and Senator Sean Bowie also reintroduced separate bills aimed at stopping pet stores from selling dogs from puppy mills. While those bills failed to pass, we have no doubt Rep. Shah will not give up on this important legislation. Rep Bowie did not seek reelection.

A new law sponsored by Rep. T.J. Shope establishes the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Program to address Arizona's veterinary shortage by providing incentives to keep veterinarians working within the state.

Another new law, sponsored by Representative Shawna Bolick, prohibits anyone on probation for an animal cruelty violation and commits a second animal abuse offense from possessing or having contact with any animal as a condition of release.

In the Bad Bills Department, the Legislature passed a measure targeting endangered Mexican gray wolves. The new law, sponsored by Representative David Cook, forbids the Arizona Game & Fish Commission from prohibiting anyone from killing a wolf that is actively threatening or attacking a person, livestock, or other domestic animal. This, despite the fact that people can already kill wolves if they are threatened, which is extremely rare. Allowing wolves to be killed for preying on livestock or other animals will increase illegal killing of endangered wolves, which is the leading cause of mortality.

Unfortunately, legislators continued their attempt to derail Arizona's citizen initiative process -- the single most important tool for protecting animals. This session legislators referred a measure to the ballot that requires an initiative or referendum that creates a new tax to be approved by a 60 percent majority instead of the current simple majority vote. This would create an extremely difficult threshold for citizen initiative campaigns to meet. Other anti-initiative bills were introduced but failed to pass the Legislature.



Photo by Robin Silver

*Photo by Robin Silver*

Also, in the 2022 session, legislators launched significant threats to nonprofit groups that conduct voter registration. By law, 501(c)(3) organizations are permitted to engage in nonpartisan efforts to register voters and encourage citizens to vote. Despite this legal right, legislators ran bills that would have created unnecessary, difficult hurdles for nonprofits and volunteers who register citizens to vote. One of the bills would have had a

chilling effect on volunteers by requiring the Secretary of State to publish their personal information on its public website. Fortunately the bill died, largely thanks to Senators Boyer and Ugenti-Rita.

### The Good Bills

#### **Bills Passed by Legislature and Signed into Law**

[HB2323 homeowner's insurance; dogs; nondiscrimination](#) (Kavanagh) bans breed discrimination by insurance companies. Prior to this bill's passage, insurance companies have been able to deny or drop coverage and charge higher premiums based solely on the breed (or imputed breed) of the family dog. HB2323, sponsored by Rep. John Kavanagh, prohibits insurance companies from hiking rates or denying people homeowners' insurance based on the type of dog they keep.



At a time of unprecedented housing challenges, the cost and availability of property insurance is often an unnecessary barrier to housing for responsible dog owners across the country. This is because the vast majority of property insurance companies have been able to hike the cost of premiums or deny insurance coverage for customers who have specific breeds of dogs. The range of dog breeds captured by this arbitrary practice includes many common and beloved breeds such as Labrador Retrievers, Boxers, Giant Schnauzers, German Shepherds, Dobermans, Chows, Great Danes, Alaskan Malamutes and more. This causes many thousands of responsible dog owners to be burdened with harsh financial and emotional consequences. Moreover, it is virtually impossible to identify a dog's breed without DNA testing. In fact, it is estimated that 50 percent of dogs kept by families are of mixed breed.

This practice is unjustified and unsupported by data. There is also no evidence to support the argument that insurance claims for the prohibited breeds are financially significant for insurance carriers relative to other paid losses. Homebuyers are required to obtain property insurance coverage as a prerequisite to obtaining a mortgage. Yet many insurance companies refuse to provide coverage for dog owners of certain breeds, which puts customers in the position of having to choose between owning a home and their family pet. Learn more in this [white paper](#) by animal welfare organizations.

Past behavior is a much stronger indicator of current behavior than genetics, so HB2323 specifically reserves insurers' latitude to cancel, refuse to issue or renew or to increase premiums for households in which a resident dog of any breed has an adjudicated history of aggression. Thanks to Best Friends Animal Society for their efforts to get this bill passed.

HVA supported this measure.

HB2323 passed the Senate 26-1-3, passed the House 43-10-7, and was signed into law by Governor Ducey.

[HB2324 animal fighting; cockfighting; minors presence](#) (Kavanagh: Shah) is an emergency measure that classifies, as a class 1 misdemeanor, knowingly causing, allowing or assisting a minor to attend an animal fight or cockfight or any place where fight preparations are being made. Cockfighting and animal fighting are already illegal in Arizona. The new law charges people who bring minors to cockfights or animal fighting contests with an additional penalty.



*Photo by HSUS*

Many of our supporters volunteered on the grassroots citizen initiative campaign (Prop 201) that banned cockfighting in 1998. Before voters outlawed the blood sport, we worked unsuccessfully to pass bills to ban cockfighting in the Arizona Legislature. Bill and initiative opponents consistently defended cockfighting as a family activity which children frequently attended. HB2324 will help prevent children from being needlessly exposed to the animal cruelty, violence, and other illegal activity at brutal cockfights and animal fighting events. Thanks to Humane Society of the United States - Arizona (HSUS-AZ) Director Gabe Wigtil for his efforts to get this bill passed.

HVA supported this measure.

HB2324 passed the House 59-0-1, passed the Senate 24-2-4, and was signed into law by Governor Ducey.



[HB2372 animal cruelty; release conditions](#) (Bolick) prohibits a person serving a term of probation for a cruelty to animals violation and who has committed a new animal cruelty violation from possessing or having contact with any animal as a condition of release. In 2021, the Arizona Legislature passed a [law](#) that prevents persons convicted of extreme animal cruelty to own an animal or live in a house with one for a certain period of time. HB2372 applies these restrictions to animal abusers on probation that commit a second animal cruelty offense.

HVA supported this measure.

HB2372 passed the House 59-0-1, passed the Senate 26-0-4, and was signed into law by Governor Ducey.



[HB2626 animal handling; microchip scan](#) (Kavanagh: Shah) requires all dogs and cats to be scanned for the presence of a microchip and reasonable effort be made to contact the owner upon being impounded at a county pound, city or town facility, a veterinarian, or humane society. The bill also requires that all deceased dogs and cats be scanned for a microchip and reasonable effort made to contact the owner when found in a public place and brought to a county pound, city or town facility, a veterinarian or humane society. Thanks to Debra Nolen for her efforts to get this bill passed.

HVA supported this measure.

HB2626 passed the Senate 26-1-3, passed the House 42-15-3, and was signed into law by Governor Ducey.

[SB1271 Arizona veterinary loan assistance program](#) (Shope) establishes the Arizona Veterinary Loan Assistance Program to address Arizona's veterinary shortage by providing incentives to keep veterinarians working within the state. The Program will provide student loan reimbursement, up to \$100,000, to veterinarians who graduated from school after January 1, 2023. To qualify for the reimbursement veterinarians must work in Arizona for at least four years, with two of those years spent at a municipal, county, or nonprofit shelter or in an agricultural practice in a rural area. Thanks to Arizona Humane Society and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona for their efforts to get this bill passed.

HVA supported this measure.

HB1271 passed the Senate 27-2-1 but was held in the House. However, the bill was included in the Arizona budget and signed into law by Governor Ducey.



[HB2226](#) (Shah: Bowers, Longdon, Pawlik) and [SB1275](#) (Mesnard: Shah) [fireworks; use; overnight hours; prohibition](#), allows cities and towns in Maricopa and Pima Counties to prohibit the overnight use of consumer fireworks except for two hours permitted on July 4 and December 31. While this new law will not end the use of fireworks, it is a significant step, especially considering the challenges of passing legislation to ban or regulate consumer fireworks.

Since the Legislature passed a law in 2009 allowing certain types of fireworks to be sold to consumers, neighborhoods across the state sound like a war zone, not only on legal holidays but at other times thanks to easy access to fireworks at pop-up corner stands. The bright lights and booming sounds of fireworks can be extremely difficult for veterans suffering from PTSD, and result in terrified animals injuring themselves, getting killed on roads, or winding up in animal shelters.

Fireworks are especially terrifying for homeless shelter dogs, which raises costs for taxpayers, donors, animal rescues and shelters. Fireworks impact already overburdened first responders and can also cause wildfires deadly to wildlife and habitat, especially with our drought conditions.

It is important to note that cities in Arizona's two largest counties have been powerless to regulate fireworks in their communities. The Legislature passed a law in 2014 that prohibits cities and towns in Maricopa and Pima Counties from regulating the sale or use of fireworks for periods around holidays. And in the 2020 and 2021 sessions, Senator David Gowan, a fireworks salesman, sponsored a bill that would have legalized aerial fireworks in Maricopa and Pima Counties, which shoot 100 feet into the air and explode. Fortunately his bills failed to pass.

Representative Amish Shah, an emergency room physician, has sponsored measures to restrict the use of fireworks over the past two sessions, and along with Senator J.D. Mesnard, was successful in getting the fireworks restriction bill passed and signed into law.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1275 passed the Senate 23-6-1, passed the House 36-21-3, and was signed into law by Governor Ducey.

### Good Bills that Failed to Pass the Legislature

[HB2224 cat declawing: prohibition: exceptions](#) (Shah: Kavanagh, Longdon, Nguyen), supported by Paw Project, HVA, Animal Defense League of Arizona, Arizona Humane Society, HSUS-AZ, and other animal protection groups, would have prohibited non-therapeutic declawing of cats. Rep. Shah, MD, also sponsored this bill in 2020 and 2021. According to Paw Project, declawing is one of the most painful, routinely performed procedures in all of veterinary medicine, where each toe of the cat is amputated at the first joint. Declawing a cat is equivalent in humans to amputating the entire first knuckle of every finger. Published veterinary [research](#) indicates that declawing cats increases the risk of unwanted behaviors and may increase risk for developing back pain. As a result of declawing, many cats will have permanent or intermittent lameness and other surgical complications. Major health authorities including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and others all agree that declawing cats to protect humans is “not advised.” Read the HVA alert on the cat declaw bill [here](#).



HB2224 passed the House Government & Elections Committee but Representative Travis Grantham, who chaired the Rules Committee, refused to grant the bill a hearing, so it died.

Rep. Kavanagh revived the bill with a strike-everything amendment to HB2014 which passed Senator Mesnard's Senate Commerce Committee. In both bill hearings veterinarians Steve Hansen, DVM, with AZ Humane Society, Nellie Goetz, DVM, with Altered Tails, and Jennifer Conrad, DVM, with Paw Project testified in support of the bill. Veterinarian Wayne Anderson, DVM, and CEO of AZPetVet, a chain of vet clinics that employs over 600 veterinarians and staff in Maricopa County, testified in opposition to the bill as did Susie Stevens, lobbyist for the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association. You can view the hearing video [here](#). The striker amendment to HB2014 passed committee unanimously but Senate president Karen Fann did not allow the bill to progress to a floor vote, so it died.

HVA supported this measure.

The striker to HB2014 was held in the Senate before it could reach the floor, so the bill died.

[SB1223 pet stores; pet dealers](#) (Bowie: Stahl Hamilton, Jermaine), supported by Animal Wellness Action (AWA) and Bailing Out Benji (BOB), would have amended pet store regulations to restrict the sale of dogs from puppy mills. Senator Bowie first sponsored this legislation in 2021 following an investigation by AWA and BOB alleging that Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom pet stores owned by Frank and Vicki Mineo trucked in hundreds of dogs from puppy mill breeders cited for health issues. Former employees of the Mineos' company provided records and photos of dogs with various medical conditions housed in filthy cages in a private distribution facility in Phoenix. Based on documentation, the Mineos appear to have violated state laws and possibly federal laws. Read the



AWA/BOB investigative report [here](#), and an Arizona Republic article [here](#).

In 2016, the Arizona Legislature passed the 'pet store law' which preempted Phoenix and Tempe city ordinances banning sales of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. The law states that pet stores cannot source puppies from facilities who have received direct USDA violations in the last two years. However, for a variety of reasons this law has not been enforced. Read more on the pet store law in the [HVA 2016 Legislative Report](#).

HVA supported this measure.

As with the similar 2021 measure, SB1483 did not receive a committee hearing, so the bill died.

[HB2225 pet dealers; state preemption; repeal](#) (Shah: Longdon) supported by HSUS-AZ, would have repealed the provision of current law that strips localities of their right to prohibit sales of puppy mill puppies in pet stores. Rep. Shah also sponsored this legislation in the 2021 session, which died without a committee hearing.

HVA supported this measure.



*Photo: Prairie Dog Coalition*

HB2225 was not granted a committee hearing, so the bill died.

[SB1098 G&F; appointment recommendation board; repeal](#) (Mendez: Salman) would have repealed the special-interests-controlled board that recommends candidates to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, charged with managing and protecting wildlife. In 2010, the Legislature passed a measure (SB1200) creating a recommendation board controlled by ranchers and elite hunting clubs to appoint candidates to the Commission. The law requires that the governor is limited to selecting only “board-endorsed” candidates. Since then, no wildlife biologists or women have been appointed to the Commission, which has become increasingly more industry-friendly, catering to ranchers and specific hunting groups that it considers its primary stakeholders. Senator Mendez and others have introduced this legislation numerous times, but it has never been granted a committee hearing.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1098 was not granted a committee hearing, so the bill died.

While not a legislative victory, the [Cage-Free Egg Rule](#) was passed as a state regulation. Protections similar to those in bills sponsored by Rep Kavanagh to provide more humane requirements for egg-laying hens, which failed in the 2020 and 2021 sessions, were passed on a regulatory level by the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The new rule (R22-62) requires that eggs produced and sold in Arizona must come from hens free from cage confinement by 2025. Thanks to HSUS-AZ for their efforts on the legislative and administrative levels to pass this regulation.

HVA supported both bills and the regulation.

### **The Bad Bills**

[HB2181 game and fish; taking wolves](#) (Cook), forbids the Arizona Game & Fish Commission from prohibiting anyone from killing a wolf that is actively threatening or attacking a person, livestock, or other domestic animal. People can already kill wolves if they are threatened — which almost never happens — but allowing endangered wolves to be killed for preying on livestock or other animals will increase illegal killing of endangered wolves.

The Mexican gray wolf received protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1976 after being extirpated in the wild as the result of hunting, trapping, and poisoning. The Mexican wolf was listed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as an endangered species in May 1976 and was considered extinct in the wild up until their reintroduction in 1998 into Arizona and New Mexico. More than forty years after receiving protection under the ESA, the Mexican gray wolf remains one of the most endangered subspecies of gray wolf in the world.



*Photo: Wolf Conservation Center*

One challenge that Mexican wolves face is widespread illegal killing, which is the leading cause of mortality. From 1998 through 2019 known illegal killing took the lives of 105 wolves, comprising 56 percent of all known mortalities (USFWS 2022). Substantial poaching of Mexican wolves goes undetected, and killing increases when protections are reduced. In a 2021 [study](#), scientists found that Mexican wolves were 121 percent more likely to disappear (despite being monitored by radio collars) when legal rulings resulted in less protection of endangered wolves. The disappearances were likely caused by poachers hiding evidence of their activities.



The passage of HB2181 will likely increase the illegal killing of wolves. Moreover, the new law is unnecessary as people are already allowed to kill a wolf that is actively threatening or attacking them (which is extremely rare). The provision to allow killing wolves for threatening or attacking livestock or domestic animals is vague and would promote more wolf killings. What constitutes threatening behavior? For some a wolf that is breathing is engaging in threatening behavior.



During the recent public comment period, over 81,000 people and organizations including Animal Defense League of Arizona urged the USFWS to establish stronger protections for endangered Mexican gray wolves. Arizonans strongly support protecting Mexican wolves. Legislators should promote coexistence with Mexican wolves as opposed to passing measures that would increase illegal killing of these endangered animals. Thanks to Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Director Sandy Bahr for her efforts opposing this damaging legislation.

HVA opposed this measure.

HB2181 passed the House 36-23-1, passed the Senate 17-9-4, and was signed into law by Governor Ducey.

### **Attack on Citizen Initiative Rights and Nonprofits**

Arizona's citizen ballot measure process is the single most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals.

Arizona's initiative process is a constitutional right enacted at statehood in 1912. One of our founders' biggest concerns was the right to pass laws through initiatives. The first initiative passed in Arizona recognized women's right to vote. Thanks to grassroots citizen ballot measures, voters banned indiscriminate leghold traps, snares, and poisons on public lands in 1994. Cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters prohibited the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal in industrial agriculture operations. All these measures failed in the Legislature, yet were passed by Arizona voters, most by large margins. In 1998 voters passed [Proposition 105, the Voter Protection Act](#), to prevent the Legislature from undermining citizen initiatives and to protect measures passed by voters. The Legislature has placed several referenda on the ballot that could have destroyed the public initiative process, but voters overwhelmingly defeated all damaging referenda, indicating the strong determination of citizens to defend voting rights.

In 2017, the Arizona Legislature passed two bills that have severely damaged our public initiative process. These laws have driven up the cost of hiring petition circulators and changed the state's standard for initiatives to 'strict compliance', which could result in valid signatures being tossed out for even the smallest technical mistakes. The Legislature's passage of these two measures has made it even more difficult, time consuming, and expensive for Arizonans to place a measure on the ballot.



As polls consistently indicate, Arizona voters strongly support animal protection and our public initiative process. However, each session legislators continue to run bills that could weaken or dismantle the citizen initiative process. These bills generally, with very few exceptions, are highly partisan. The issue of citizen initiatives could be related to any number of issues unrelated to animal protection and it is possible that otherwise animal-friendly legislators are considering a bigger picture when supporting these bills. That is why one of HVA's priority goals is to continually educate legislators on the importance of citizen initiatives for protecting large numbers of Arizona's animals.

### **New Threat to Nonprofits that Register Voters**

In the 2022 session, legislators launched a new threat – one aimed at nonprofit groups that register citizens to vote. HVA is a member group of [Voices for Arizona Animals](#), a coalition of 15 nonprofit animal welfare organizations whose volunteers work to encourage animal advocates to register and vote in Arizona's elections. By law, 501(c)(3) organizations are permitted to engage in nonpartisan efforts to register voters and encourage citizens to vote. Many organizations encourage citizens in our communities to get involved and vote in Arizona's

elections. This legislative attack on nonprofit groups could have a chilling effect on volunteers who register people to vote.

## 2022 Anti-Initiative and Nonprofit Bills

[HCR2015 initiatives; supermajority vote; requirement](#) (Dunn) refers to the ballot a measure that increases the percentage of votes required for an initiative or referendum to be approved by voters from a simple majority to a supermajority of 60 percent of votes cast in an election. The original bill was amended to apply to an initiative or referendum that approves a tax. Voters will be asked to create an extremely difficult threshold for specific citizen initiatives to pass.

HVA opposed this measure and will oppose it on the ballot

HCR2015 passed the Senate 16-12-2, passed the House 31-27-2, and was transmitted to the Secretary of State.

[SB1629 registration; verification; images; audits; boxes](#) (Borrelli: Barto, Fann, Gowan, et. al), would have created unnecessary, difficult hurdles for nonprofits and volunteers who register citizens to vote. By law, 501(c)(3) organizations are permitted to engage in nonpartisan efforts to register voters and encourage citizens to vote. However, this bill would have a chilling effect on volunteers who work on voter registration. The bill language requires any volunteer who collects more than 25 completed voter registration forms within a calendar year to register with the Secretary of State before collecting voter registration forms. The bill also includes numerous other burdensome provisions including requiring volunteers to submit a notarized registration application to the Secretary of State before registering voters. The registration application must include the volunteer's full name, residence address, phone number, and email address. It also must state the name, address, and phone number of any organization for which the person is volunteering.



One of the worst provisions of SB1629 is that it requires the Secretary of State to publish all information required for registration on its public website. This requirement significantly jeopardizes the privacy of volunteers who help people register to vote. Under this bill, volunteers would be forced to have their personal information displayed on a public government website. This provision alone would have a chilling effect on volunteers who exercise their democratic right to register voters.

SB1629 also dilutes the National Voter Registration Act. According to the American Bar Association, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) is a federal law designed to reduce barriers to voter registration. Despite the clear mandate of the NVRA, there have been attacks on third-party voter registration drives under state legislation (including SB1629) that restrict and burden volunteers who register people to vote. Read the [letter](#) that HVA, Animal Defense League of Arizona, and other nonprofit groups sent to senators.



*Julio at Goats with Horns Animal Sanctuary*

SB1069 failed in the Senate when Senators Boyer and Ugenti-Rita crossed party lines to oppose the bill. Senator Livingston attempted to bring the measure back for a revote, but it was not rescheduled for another vote.

HVA opposed this measure.

SB1629 failed the Senate 13-16-2 and a motion for reconsideration passed, but the bill was not reconsidered so it died.

[SB1094 petition signatures; description; invalidity](#) (Mesnard: Leach), would have voided the signature of any initiative or referendum petition signer that signs the petition without either hearing or reading the description printed on the petition. It would have required petition circulators to either read the initiative or referendum description aloud to the signer or allow sufficient time to read the description before signing. What is considered 'sufficient time' is not specified.



The bill would also have required the petition circulator to inform the signer that reading the description is required and requires the signer to affirm that they heard or read and understood the description before signing the petition and required the circulator to draw a line through the signature of any signer that did not hear or read the description. The Secretary of State would be required to toss out any signatures on an initiative or referendum petition with a line drawn through them by the circulator.



*Lenny and Freddy at Farm Sanctuary*

This legislation is not only unnecessary but would have made it even more difficult for grassroots initiative campaigns to place a measure on the ballot.

HVA opposed this measure.

SB1094 passed the Senate 16-12-2, but was held in the House, so the bill died.

[HCR2014 initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts](#) (Dunn), would have referred to the ballot a measure to require citizen initiative campaigns to collect signatures from 10 percent of electors from each legislative district. Currently, initiative campaigns must submit signatures from 10 percent of all voters statewide, not in each of the 30 legislative districts. This would make it virtually impossible for grassroots groups to place citizen initiatives or referenda on the ballot. This legislation to create virtually insurmountable requirements for citizen initiative campaigns has been introduced in many legislative sessions. Fortunately all have so far failed.

HVA opposed this measure.

HCR2014 passed the House Government and Elections Committee but was held in Committee of the Whole, so the bill died.

[SCR1025 initiative; referendum; legislative districts; signatures](#) (Leach), the Senate version of HCR2014, would also have referred to the ballot a measure to require citizen initiative campaigns to submit 10 percent of signatures from each of Arizona's 30 legislative districts.

HVA opposed this measure.

SCR1025 passed the Senate Government Committee but was retained on Committee of Whole Calendar, so the bill died.

### **Superstar Legislators**

HVA wishes to thank those special (we call them) "Superstar Legislators", who expended efforts to protect animals and our public initiative process and were present for most or all key bill votes.

Two legislators in particular stand out for their tireless efforts to protect animals. Representatives John Kavanagh and Amish Shah are not only strong, committed advocates for animals, but they demonstrate the need for and importance of bipartisan cooperation. Kavanagh, a Republican, and Shah, a Democrat, worked closely over the past two sessions to cosponsor each other's pro-animal bills and work diligently and tirelessly to pass them. These two legislators epitomize HVA's belief that an interest in protecting animals transcends partisan viewpoints and includes advocates across the political spectrum.



*Rep John Kavanagh with Lewis and Clark*

Other Animal Champion Legislators voted against all measures damaging to animals and citizen initiatives and voted for animal protection bills. Many also spoke out against anti-initiative bills and defended animal protection measures in committee and on the floor. Their votes and actions are reflected in the scorecard included in this report.

## **Legislators who helped on specific animal-related measures**

HVA greatly appreciates the efforts of the following legislators who sponsored animal protection measures. As stated, Representative Kavanagh was the primary sponsor of several animal protection bills, three of which were passed by the Legislature and signed into law. His previously sponsored bills to improve conditions for laying hens was passed as a rule under the Arizona Dept. of Agriculture. He was also one of only two members of his party that opposed the bill aimed at endangered wolves. While Rep. Kavanagh's record on protecting citizen initiatives needs improvement, he is a powerful, effective longtime champion in fighting animal cruelty.



*Rep Amish Shah with Taylor Marie*

Representative Amish Shah was the primary sponsor of the new law allowing municipalities in Arizona's two largest counties to ban overnight use of fireworks. He again sponsored bills that would have repealed the law prohibiting local ordinances that ban sales of puppy mill dogs, and legislation to ban the practice of declawing cats. As an ER physician, Rep. Shah was able to address all of these measures from a medical perspective. He has proven to be a dedicated, tireless advocate for animals and citizen initiative rights. He also has a perfect score on key animal-related bills listed in the 2021 and 2022 HVA scorecards.

Senator J.D. Mesnard sponsored the Senate version of the bill to ban overnight fireworks, which passed the Legislature and was signed into law. As chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, he spoke out in support of the bill to ban cat declawing when it was heard in his committee.

Senator T.J. Shope sponsored the new law to ease Arizona's veterinary shortage by creating a student loan reimbursement fund for veterinarians who work in-state for a specific amount of time.

Representative Shawna Bolick sponsored the new law that prevents animal abusers on probation who create a new animal cruelty violation from having pets. In the 2021 session, Bolick sponsored "Matthew's Law" which ensures that families of deceased tenants are able to rescue their pets.

Senator Sean Bowie again sponsored legislation to restrict the sale of dogs from puppy mills.

Senators Paul Boyer and Michelle Ugenti-Rita crossed party lines to oppose SB1629, which would have had a chilling effect on nonprofits and volunteers who register voters.

## **Advocates**

HVA thanks the Humane Voters of Arizona board and other team members: Martha German, Stephanie Nichols-Young, Scott Bonsall-Cargill, Tom Krepitch, Michelle Lukasiewicz, and Heather Moos.

HVA thanks Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA) volunteer lobbyist Don Bentley for his substantial efforts over the session. HVA has worked closely with ADLA for decades on legislation.

Thanks to HVA volunteer lobbyist Martha German for her outstanding efforts on legislation.

Thanks to HSUS-AZ Director Gabe Wigtil for his successful efforts to pass the bill that penalizes bringing minors to animal fights and helping to get the cage-free laying hens rule passed.

Thanks to Gretchen Jacobs and Ledy VanKamp with Best Friends Animal Foundation for their successful efforts to get the bill passed that bans blacklisting by insurance companies.

HVA thanks Steve Hansen, DVM with Arizona Humane Society, Jennifer Conrad, DVM with Paw Project, and Nellie Goetz, DVM with Altered Tails, for their efforts on the bill that would have banned declawing of cats.

Thanks to Debra Nolen with Don't Leave Me.org, for her successful efforts to get the bill to require scanning for microchips passed.

Thanks to retired Phoenix Police Lieutenant Deb Thompson, former Representative Nancy Young Wright, city and town leaders, animal shelters, first responders, veterans, health care professionals, and concerned citizens for their support of legislation that restricts overnight use of fireworks.

HVA thanks to Sierra Club Arizona Director Sandy Bahr and the organizations, advocates, and concerned citizens who attempted to stop the bill aimed at endangered Mexican wolves.

Thanks to the following organizations and individuals that signed on to the letter by HVA and ADLA to senators opposing the bill aimed at nonprofits and volunteers who register voters: Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, Earth Justice Ministry, Rural Arizona Engagement, Yuma Audubon Society, Arizona Climate Action Coalition, and Cyndi Tuell.

Thanks to Nicole Galvin with Bailing Out Benji and Lain Kahlstrom for their efforts on the pet store bill and their extensive investigation of puppy mill dogs sold in AZ pet stores

Thanks to the Grand Canyon Sierra Club, Hugo Polanco with Living United for Change in Arizona, Arizona League of Women Voters, and the many other organizations, legislators, and citizens for their efforts opposing anti-initiative bills.



As always, HVA appreciates the tireless efforts of Sierra Club Arizona Director Sandy Bahr to protect our state's wildlife, habitat, and citizen initiative rights.

Finally, thanks to, Martha German, Stephanie Nichols-Young, Tom Krepitch, Don Bentley, Heather Moos, Scott Bonsill Cargill, and Gabe Wigtil for their valuable input on this report.

For more information on legislation visit the HVA [website](#).

### **Legislative Scorecard**

Voting records are provided on key bills affecting animals including citizen initiative measures. There are no actual points or grades assigned. The votes included refer to Third Read or Final votes taken on the House or Senate floors. Committee votes are also very important and HVA includes those votes for key measures that did not reach the floor for consideration by the entire House or Senate. Those are listed under Other Actions. To access all committee vote records, visit the bill links included in this report.

#### Animal Bills

A checkmark ✓ indicates a vote in favor of animal protection, while an "x" represents a vote that negatively impacts animals.

#### Voting/Initiative Bills

A checkmark ✓ indicates a vote that supports citizen initiative rights, while an "x" represents a vote that negatively affects the initiative process and in turn voters' ability to protect animals.

#### All Bills

An asterisk \* indicates that the legislator's vote was for the purpose of reconsideration. After a bill vote takes place, a legislator who voted with the prevailing side may move to reconsider it. This tactic is a final attempt to save a bill that failed the House or Senate but can also be used to kill a bill that passed. The asterisk will follow symbols based on whether HVA supports or opposes the bill: ✓ \* or x\*

NV indicates that the legislator did not vote on a bill. This could be because that legislator was absent, or that they refrained from voting to affect the outcome of the bill vote.



A blank column under a bill indicates that the legislator did not have the opportunity to vote on that measure. This applies to legislators who replaced another one who left office during the session. In that case the new legislator is included in the scorecard but will have a blank column for bills voted on prior to the replacement.

### Other Actions

Bill voting records represent one public aspect of the legislative process. However, many factors that affect measures are not subject to public scrutiny and are frequently beyond the scope of this legislative report. The efforts of lawmakers, lobbyists, and others to influence legislation largely take place within the “hidden” political process. That is why some additional actions by lawmakers are also taken into consideration, such as sponsoring bills or influencing the passage or defeat of animal-related measures. However, not all attempts to influence legislation are reflected in the scorecard, which is more of a snapshot of legislative votes and significant actions as opposed to a comprehensive account. Detailed information on each measure in this report is included in the bill links.

Those actions are represented in the OTHER column by positive icon 😊 or negative icon ☹️. In the COMMENTS column, PS means that the legislator was the primary sponsor of the bill. Cosponsors are not included in the scorecard.

Please click on the bill number in the main legislative report for all information including status, primary and co-sponsors, amendments, committee and floor votes, and videos. Bill positions registered by organizations and individuals are listed under RTS Bill Positions.

Although animal protection and initiative bills provide a gauge for reviewing lawmakers, other bills that impact animals are those that affect wildlife habitat in Arizona. For legislative information on environmental and conservation measures visit the Arizona Sierra Club’s [legislative](#) page.

For questions or other information on this legislative report please email [info@humanevotersaz.org](mailto:info@humanevotersaz.org)

## ARIZONA STATE SENATE 2022 SCORECARD

### Animal Bills

### Initiative and Nonprofit Bills

NAME	LD	PTY	Animal Bills					Initiative and Nonprofit Bills				COMMENTS
			HB 2323	HB 2324	HB 2626	HB 2181	SB 1275	HCR 2015	SB 1629	SB 1094	OTHER	
<a href="#">Karen Fann</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	☹	Helped prevent declaw bill from progressing to senate floor vote
<a href="#">Rosanna Gabaldon</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Supported S/E HB2014 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Sally Ann Gonzales</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	D	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Lisa Otondo</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Sonny Borrelli</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	☹☺	PS SB1629; Supported S/E HB2014 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Wendy Rogers</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	R	✓	NV	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Theresa Hatathlie</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Supported S/E HB2014 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Thomas Shope</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	☺	PS SB1271 (veterinary loan assistance program)
<a href="#">Victoria Steele</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Stephanie Stahl Hamilton</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Vince Leach</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	☹	PS SCR1025 (anti-initiative bill)
<a href="#">Warren Petersen</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Sine Kerr</a>	<a href="#">13</a>	R	✓	NV	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">David Gowan</a>	<a href="#">14</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Nancy Barto</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Kelly Townsend</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">J.D. Mesnard</a>	<a href="#">17</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	☺☹☺	PS SB1275; PS SB1629; heard/supported declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Sean Bowie</a>	<a href="#">18</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS SB1223 (pet store); Supported cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Lupe Contreras</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	D	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Paul Boyer</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	R	✓	NV	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Crossed party lines to kill SB1629
<a href="#">Rick Gray</a>	<a href="#">21</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">David Livingston</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓*	✗	☹	Attempted to get SB1629 returned to floor for revote
<a href="#">Michelle Ugenti-Rita</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	NV	✗	✗	✓	✗	☺☺	Crossed party lines to kill SB1629; supported cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Lela Alston</a>	<a href="#">24</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓		
<a href="#">Tyler Pace</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	☺	Supported S/E HB2014 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Juan Mendez</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	D	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	✓	NV	☺	PS SB1098 (AZ Game & Fish Commission Rec Board)
<a href="#">Rebecca Rios</a>	<a href="#">27</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV		
<a href="#">Christine Marsh</a>	<a href="#">28</a>	D	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Martin Quezada</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV		
<a href="#">Raquel Terán</a>	<a href="#">30</a>	D	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Supported S/E HB2014 cat declaw bill in committee

#### Animal Bills

HB2323: bans blacklisting by insurance companies  
 HB2324: penalizes bringing minors to cockfights  
 HB2626: requires scanning dogs/cats for microchips  
 HB2181: aimed at endangered wolves  
 SB1275/HB2226: allows banning overnight fireworks

#### Initiative/Nonprofit Bills

HCR2015: requires supermajority to pass initiatives  
 SB1629: creates hurdles for nonprofits/volunteers  
 SB1094: creates hurdles for petition circulators/signers

#### Vote Symbols

Vote supporting animals or initiatives ✓  
 Vote opposing animals or initiatives ✗  
 Vote changed for purpose of reconsideration ✓\* or ✗\*

#### Other

Action taken supporting animals or initiatives ☺  
 Action taken opposing animals or initiatives ☹

#### Comments

PS: Primary sponsor of a bill (cosponsors not included in scorecard)

**ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2022 SCORECARD (Page 1 of 2)**

NAME	Animal Bills							Initiative and Nonprofit Bills		
	LD	PTY	HB 2323	HB 2324	HB 2626	HB 2181	SB 1275	HCR 2015	OTHER	COMMENTS
<a href="#">Judy M. Burges</a>	<u>1</u>	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Quang H. Nguyen</a>	<u>1</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x		
<a href="#">Andrea Dalessandro</a>	<u>2</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Daniel Hernandez, Jr.</a>	<u>2</u>	D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Alma Hernandez</a>	<u>3</u>	D	NV	✓	✓	x	✓	NV	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Andrés Cano</a>	<u>3</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Brian Fernandez</a>	<u>4</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Joel John</a>	<u>4</u>	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Leo Biasiucci</a>	<u>5</u>	R	x	✓	✓	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Regina E. Cobb</a>	<u>5</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x		
<a href="#">Brenda Barton</a>	<u>6</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Walter "Walt" Blackman</a>	<u>6</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren</a>	<u>7</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Myron Tsosie</a>	<u>7</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓		
<a href="#">David L. Cook</a>	<u>8</u>	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x	☹	PS HB2181
<a href="#">Neal Carter</a>	<u>8</u>	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Christopher Mathis</a>	<u>9</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Pamela Powers Hannley</a>	<u>9</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Domingo DeGrazia</a>	<u>10</u>	D	NV	✓	x	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Morgan Abraham</a>	<u>10</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Mark W. Finchem</a>	<u>11</u>	R	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Teresa Martinez</a>	<u>11</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Jake Hoffman</a>	<u>12</u>	R	NV	✓	x	x	x	x	☹	Opposed HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Travis Grantham</a>	<u>12</u>	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Joanne Osborne</a>	<u>13</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x		
<a href="#">Tim Dunn</a>	<u>13</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	☹☹	PS HCR2015; PS HCR2014 (anti-initiative bills)
<a href="#">Gail Griffin</a>	<u>14</u>	R	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Lupe Diaz</a>	<u>14</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Justin Wilmeth</a>	<u>15</u>	R	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">Steve Kaiser</a>	<u>15</u>	R	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x		
<a href="#">Jacqueline Parker</a>	<u>16</u>	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x		
<a href="#">John M. Fillmore</a>	<u>16</u>	R	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	☹	Opposed HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Jennifer Pawlik</a>	<u>17</u>	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS <a href="#">HB2078</a> to allow electronic initiative petition signatures

**Animal Bills**

HB2323: prohibits insurance companies from blacklisting dog breeds  
 HB2324: penalizes bringing minors to cockfights or animal fighting events  
 HB2626: requires scanning dogs/cats for microchips & attempting to notify owners  
 HB2181: creates requirements that could increase illegal killing of endangered wolves  
 SB1275/HB2226: allows cities to ban overnight use of fireworks almost year-round

**Initiative/Nonprofit Bills**

HCR2015: requires supermajority vote to pass initiatives

Full Scorecard Key is on Page 2



**ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2022 SCORECARD (Page 2 of 2)**

**Animal Bills**

**Initiative and Nonprofit Bills**

NAME	LD	PTY	HB 2323	HB 2324	HB 2626	HB 2181	SB 1275	HCR 2015	OTHER	COMMENTS
<a href="#">Jeff Weninger</a>	17	R	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Jennifer Jermaine</a>	18	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Mitzi Epstein</a>	18	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Diego Espinoza</a>	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Lorenzo Sierra</a>	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Judy Schwiebert</a>	20	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Shawna Bolick</a>	20	R	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	☺	PS HB2372 (restricts animal abusers with new violation from owning pets)
<a href="#">Beverly Pingerelli</a>	21	R	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Kevin Payne</a>	21	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Ben Toma</a>	22	R	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Frank P Carroll</a>	22	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	☹	Opposed HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">John Kavanagh</a>	23	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	☺☺☺☺	PS HB2323; PS HB2324; PS HB2625; other actions
<a href="#">Joseph Chaplik</a>	23	R	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
<a href="#">Amish Shah</a>	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺☺☺☺	PS HB2226 (fireworks), HB2224 (cat declaw); HB2225 (pet store); other actions
<a href="#">Jennifer L. Longdon</a>	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS <a href="#">HB2365</a> to include animal cruelty in Severe Threat Order of Protection (STOP)
<a href="#">Michelle Udall</a>	25	R	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗		
<a href="#">Russell "Rusty" Bowers</a>	25	R	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗		
<a href="#">Athena Salman</a>	26	D	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	✓		
<a href="#">Melody Hernandez</a>	26	D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV		
<a href="#">Marcelino Quiñonez</a>	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Reginald Bolding, Jr.</a>	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Kelli Butler</a>	28	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Sarah Liguori</a>	28	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">César Chávez</a>	29	D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Richard C. Andrade</a>	29	D	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Christian Solorio</a>	30	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Supported HB2224 cat declaw bill in committee
<a href="#">Robert Meza</a>	30	D	NV	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		

**Animal Bills**

HB2323: prohibits insurance companies from blacklisting dog breeds  
 HB2324: penalizes bringing minors to cockfights or animal fighting events  
 HB2626: requires scanning dogs/cats for microchips & attempting to notify owners  
 HB2181: creates requirements that could increase illegal killing of endangered wolves  
 SB1275/HB2226: allows cities to ban overnight use of fireworks almost year-round

**Initiative/Nonprofit Bills**

HCR2015: requires supermajority vote to pass initiatives or referendums

**Vote Symbols**

Vote supporting animal protection or initiative rights ✓  
 Vote opposing animal protection or initiative rights ✗  
 Vote changed for purpose of reconsideration of bill ✓\* or ✗\*

**Other**

Action taken supporting animal protection or initiative rights ☺  
 Action taken opposing animal protection or initiative rights ☹

**Comments**

PS: Primary sponsor of a bill (cosponsors are not included in this list)