



**Humane World
Action Fund™**

Formerly called
Humane Society Legislative Fund

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2025 special elections

2025 special congressional candidate questionnaire

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Address: _____

Office Sought: _____ Locality: _____

Staff Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Animals play an important role in the lives of many Americans. Countless citizens look to their local government to protect animals from cruel treatment and exploitation. Humane-minded individuals care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues.

For information on the range and details of our issue areas, please visit the websites of Humane World Action Fund (humaneaction.org) or Humane World for Animals (humaneworld.org).

Background information

What actions have you taken affecting the welfare of animals in the past? Please include actions taken at the local, state, or federal levels.

What actions have you taken affecting the habitats of animals in the past? Please include actions taken at the local, state, or federal levels. Examples may include efforts to address the impacts of natural disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes on ecosystems.

Are there any animal welfare programs or issues of importance to you that you would take the initiative on after you are elected? Examples might include municipal animal welfare standards; cracking down on large-scale commercial breeding facilities known as puppy mills; or local tethering and weather-related laws where pets are concerned.

Will you post information on your campaign website outlining your positions on animal protection issues?

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any pets that have made an impact on you personally?

PETS AND CRUELTY

Strengthening Animal Welfare Act Enforcement: The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires research facilities, exhibitors, and breeders/dealers to meet basic standards of animal care. This law is crucial to protecting over a million animals from inhumane care and treatment, yet many facilities are getting away with egregious abuses. Without strong enforcement, facilities such as puppy mills and roadside zoos have no meaningful deterrent to violating the law. There are currently only three Administrative Law Judges for the entire U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a result, only so many enforcement actions can go through the system each year. While the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) may currently ask courts in AWA cases to issue injunctions to prevent continued unlawful mistreatment of animals, the Better CARE for Animals Act (H.R. 5041 / S.2555) would authorize DOJ to seek license revocations, civil penalties, and the use of forfeiture to seize and remove animals experiencing harmful treatment.

Will you support legislation such as the 118th Congress's H.R. 5041 and S. 2555, the Better Collaboration, Accountability, and Regulatory Enforcement (CARE) for Animals Act?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Puppy Mills: Puppy mills are commercial breeding facilities that mass-produce puppies for sale. Under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the USDA regulates dog breeders that sell to pet stores or over the internet, but the standards of care outlined under the AWA regulations are very outdated. In 2020, the USDA finalized an important rulemaking that provides some upgrades to dog care standards, such as requiring hands-on veterinary exams and 24-hour access to fresh, clean water, but in many ways the regulations still allow dogs at puppy mills to be kept in overcrowded, filthy, and inhumane conditions that cause them terrible suffering, and often result in sick puppies being sold to consumers.

Legislation is needed to codify the recent rule's upgrades and make other long-overdue reforms – e.g., prohibiting the stacking of cages; no longer allowing gridded or wired flooring for these cages; increasing the size of the cages to reduce behavioral problems that dogs in these facilities often develop; requiring protection from sweltering or frigid temperatures; requiring that all dogs be fed at least twice a day, receive prompt treatment for illness or injury, and receive daily socialization with humans and compatible dogs; prohibiting the overbreeding of dogs or the breeding of dogs that have serious health conditions or inheritable diseases; and requiring that breeders make an effort to find humane placement for retired breeding dogs rather than destroying them.

Will you support legislation like the 118th Congress's H.R. 1624, the Puppy Protection Act, to upgrade standards of care for dogs in large-scale commercial breeding operations?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Animal Protection Enforcement: Over the past fifteen years, Congress has given modest increases in funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, Horse Protection Act, and other animal welfare laws. Increased funding is needed to enforce basic humane treatment of animals at breeding kennels, research laboratories, roadside zoos, circuses, and other regulated facilities.

Will you support continued funding for adequate enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, Horse Protection Act, and animal welfare programs?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

EQUINE PROTECTION

Horse “Soring”: Congress enacted the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to prohibit the practice of “soring,” in which caustic chemicals and other painful substances are used to injure the hooves and legs of show horses to exaggerate their high-stepping gait in show competitions. Unfortunately, the law is too weak, and this deliberate cruelty persists on a widespread basis in the Tennessee walking horse industry.

Will you support legislation such as H.R. 1684, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, to fortify existing federal law by ending the failed industry self-policing system, strengthening penalties, banning the use of devices associated with soring, and making the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling it illegal?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Horse Slaughter: The horse slaughter industry is a predatory, inhumane enterprise. They don't "euthanize" old horses, but do precisely the opposite: they buy young and healthy horses, often by misrepresenting their intentions, and kill them to sell the meat to Europe and Japan. Most Americans don't eat horsemeat; American thoroughbreds, family ponies, and other horses are shipped in long-distance transport over the border to Canada or Mexico for brutal slaughter. In addition to animal welfare concerns, horse slaughter is a human health issue. Because horses are not raised for human consumption, they are often given drugs and medications throughout their lives that should not enter the food supply.

Will you support legislation such as H.R. 1661 and S. 775, the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, to ban exports of horses for slaughter in other countries, and prevent horse slaughter plants from re-opening in the U.S.?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION AND FOOD SAFETY

States' Rights: Some members of Congress have introduced bills to strip states of their right to enact legislation to address animal welfare or a host of other agricultural issues that states have traditionally regulated. These measures block states and local authorities from setting standards for the sale of agricultural products within their own borders. The U.S. Supreme Court has long recognized the broad latitude provided by the Tenth Amendment to allow states to enact laws that protect public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the sale of goods and services within state borders. Advancing any measure to rescind states' rights runs contrary to principles of federalism and the Tenth Amendment that have guided our nation since its founding and have long allowed states to create specific guidelines and regulations for the sale of goods within their borders.

Will you oppose legislation like the 118th Congress's H.R. 4417 and S. 2019, the so-called Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Cage-free & Crate-free: More than 200 companies are demanding a completely cage-free egg supply chain, including McDonald's, Walmart, Kroger, Denny's, and IHOP, and dozens of top retail and restaurant companies are demanding a crate-free pork supply. As a result, millions more animals around the world will no longer face lives of abject misery in tiny cages and crates on massive factory farms that treat them as products and not as sentient beings. In addition, in response to public demand, 15 states have passed laws requiring animal welfare, food safety, and public health standards for the in-state production and/or sale of products from mother pigs, egg-laying hens, and calves used for veal.

Will you support federal incentives to expedite conversions to cage-free and crate-free systems?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Plant-Based Protein and Cultivated Meat Alternatives: Both plant-based and cultivated meat technologies hold enormous promise for reducing animal suffering by providing alternatives to traditional animal production for food. Conventional animal meat receives significant financial support from the federal government through subsidies, research grants, and more. We are supporting a shift in existing and new federal funding to prioritize additional research and development of cultivated and plant-based meat alternatives, critical to expanding choice in the marketplace.

Will you support federal incentives to encourage research and innovation into plant-based protein and cultivated meat?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Fashion: The transmission and spread of disease between mink and humans on fur farms is an urgent warning we cannot afford to ignore: these farms present a clear, immediate danger to public health in a time when we are already struggling to overcome an ongoing pandemic. If we allow these farms to continue with business-as-usual, we risk public health. The mink farming industry, already struggling due to a decreased demand for fur, is now confronted with even lower revenues, as the link between mink fur farms and diseases such as avian influenza becomes clearer.

Will you support efforts to encourage greater federal agency oversight over the fur industry in the United States to prevent further spread of disease?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Cosmetics Testing: Humane and safe cosmetics can be made using the thousands of existing ingredients that have already been approved, and several non-animal safety tests are already available for new ingredients. These non-animal alternatives not only save countless animals, but can be cheaper, faster, and more relevant to human biology, and therefore more reliable at predicting safety. Countries with a collective 1.7 billion consumers, including India and those in the European Union, already prohibit the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, and global companies are meeting this demand with cruelty-free products. And 11 states have already passed laws to prevent new animal testing for cosmetics. Industry needs a federal law to ensure a uniform regulatory climate for the production and sale of cosmetics throughout the states.

Will you support legislation like the 118th Congress's H.R. 5399, the Humane Cosmetics Act, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Alternatives Development: The accelerated federal effort to transition to non-animal scientific approaches began after the passage of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act in 2016. This law, reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act, passed with broad bipartisan support and established a mandate to promote the development and implementation of test methods and strategies to reduce animal testing, and provide information of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance for assessing risks to human health or the environment. Many of these methods are already in use by industry and the federal government is taking steps to evaluate and apply these technologies. In 2023, Congress provided \$5 million for the FDA to establish a New Alternative Methods Program in the Commissioner's office to eliminate animal testing through alternative methods, demonstrating a commitment to getting safer products to consumers faster. However, greater funding for development and approval of alternative testing methods is vital as they are often faster, cheaper, and more scientifically sophisticated than animal testing, leading to better results as well as less animal suffering.

Will you support funding for the research and development of alternatives to animal testing?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

WILDLIFE

Wildlife Conservation: Congress has continued funding over recent years for programs that help protect critical wildlife habitat and prevent poaching around the world. Millions of dollars have been appropriated for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, the African Elephant Conservation Act, the Indian Elephant Conservation Act, the Great Ape Conservation Act, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Will you support continued funding for wildlife conservation and habitat protection programs?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Wolf Conservation: Due to the decimation of gray wolves in the lower 48 states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided them with Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections in the 1970s. In the early 2010s, wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes were stripped of these protections and their management was handed to individual states. These states rushed to open brutal trophy hunting, trapping, snaring, and even hounding seasons on them. In the Western Great Lakes alone, nearly 1,500 gray wolves were killed in just three years as state wildlife agencies capitulated to the demands of trophy hunting and agriculture groups, and set reckless quotas informed by myths, fearmongering, and rhetoric, rather than the best available science. Court decisions challenging these federal delisting actions have overwhelmingly rejected these delisting efforts. While wolves in the Western Great Lakes were relisted under the ESA in 2014, and again in 2022 along with most of the lower 48 states, wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains have largely been subject to reckless state management for more than a decade.

In 2020, in a heinous move that defied both science and common sense, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prematurely lifted federal protections for gray wolves in the lower 48 states (outside of the Northern Rocky Mountains, where wolves had been previously delisted), giving them carte blanche to open trophy hunting seasons on these beloved native carnivores. While a federal court overturned this decision in 2022, the threat of delisting still exists for wolves in the lower 48 states.

Will you support efforts to restore and maintain protections for vulnerable gray wolf populations in the United States as the science dictates?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Thank you for your time! Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Humane World Action Fund

1255 23rd St NW, Suite 455

Washington, D.C. 20037

Phone: (202) 676-2314

Email: info@humaneaction.org

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About us

We fight for political and policy change to tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering.

We work to advance our mission by passing animal protection laws at the state and federal levels, educating the public about animal protection issues and supporting humane candidates for office. Together, we act to end animal cruelty.



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