



**Humane World
Action Fund™**

Formerly called
Humane Society Legislative Fund

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

North Carolina state office

2026 North Carolina state office 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 to promote the welfare of animals in the past? (Please include any action taken in an official or unofficial context.)

Are there any animal welfare programs or issues of importance to you that you would take initiative on after you are elected?

Will you post information in your campaign materials stating 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?

STATE ISSUES:

Statewide office holders and members of state legislatures influence animal protection policy by supporting humane legislation, opposing government programs that use taxpayer funds to harm animals, supporting funding for government programs to protect animals and for adequate enforcement of animal welfare laws, and opposing inhumane laws or those which weaken current protections. We'd like to know your position on the following important animal welfare issues, which are subject to debate in your state.

PETS AND CRUELTY

Puppy Mills: Internet sales, flea markets, face-to-face sales and many pet stores that sell puppies are getting those dogs from puppy mills. A puppy mill is an inhumane, high-volume commercial dog breeding facility which churns out puppies for profit, ignoring the needs of the pups and their mothers. Dogs from puppy mills are often sick and unsocialized. Pet retailers often falsely assure consumers that the puppies they offer for sale are raised in reputable or humane breeding facilities, when really, they are coming from mass production puppy mills.

Will you support legislation to end the sale of puppies sourced from puppy mills in pet stores?

Yes No Not Sure

Animal Fighting: Animal fighting continues to be a prevalent industry across the country. Dogfights often result in death by blood loss, shock, dehydration, exhaustion or infection hours or even days after the fight. The dogs used in the majority of these fights have been specifically bred and trained for fighting—an upbringing that relies on abuse and mistreatment from puppyhood. Additionally, birds forced to participate in cockfighting suffer terribly before, during, and after fights—common injuries include punctured lungs, broken bones and pierced eyes, yet there is no escape from the fighting pit. The steel blades tied to the birds' legs are so sharp and dangerous that cockfighters themselves have been killed when accidentally slashed by their own birds. As federal and state law enforcement can attest, animal fighting is often associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, drug trafficking, gang activity and illegal weapon sales. Instituting prohibitions on the possession of animals for the purposes of fighting and on the ownership of paraphernalia related to animal fighting are policies that can end this cruel industry.

Will you support legislation to prohibit ownership of animals and paraphernalia with the intent that either be used for the purposes of animal fighting?

Yes No Not Sure

Indirect Supervision: The U.S. is currently experiencing a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technicians, with profound effects on the accessibility of in-office veterinary care to pet owners across the country. One way to increase access for pet owners in North Carolina is to empower veterinary

technicians to provide care, such as rabies vaccinations, with indirect supervision rather than immediate or direct supervision from a veterinarian. Indirect supervision means that a veterinarian does not need to be present on the premises of care, but that they can still delegate care tasks via written or oral instructions to the technician. Affording veterinary technicians the ability to do the work they are trained to do without additional red tape frees up currently licensed veterinarians and technicians to treat more animals in need.

Will you support efforts to implement indirect supervision standards?

Yes No Not Sure

Pets in Housing: Monthly pet rents, non-refundable pet fees, and a variety of pet deposits are all legal in North Carolina rental housing, and there is no cap on their amount. Rental agencies also frequently ban or restrict dogs because of their breed, or, more commonly, what is perceived to be their breed. Founded on myths and misinformation, breed-based policies and high, non-refundable pet fees and pet rents force dogs away from their families and into shelters, taking up kennel space and resources that could be used for other animals. Recent research suggests that almost 75% of renters with pets have struggled to find affordable, pet-friendly housing, but will go to great lengths to stay with their pets, including renting poorer-quality housing. Altogether, pet ownership can be a mechanism for housing and financial insecurity among renters, as families with pets often feel powerless and discriminated against while seeking a home.

Will you support pet-inclusive rental housing, including efforts to prohibit breed-based policies by home rental agencies in North Carolina?

Yes No Not Sure

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Retirement: It is a bleak life for the tens of thousands of dogs and cats used in testing and research in U.S. laboratories each year. These animals spend almost every hour of their short lives behind bars in cold steel cages, never knowing what it is like to play fetch, lie in the sun, or roll over happily for a belly rub. Those who have adopted former research dogs and cats can attest to the resilience and affection of these animals once they are given the chance to flourish in a home environment.

Will you support legislation to require institutions of higher education, and related research facilities, to offer cats and dogs no longer used for educational, research, or scientific purposes to animal rescue organizations for adoption prior to euthanizing the animals?

Yes No Not Sure

University Testing: The vast majority of animal testing is for drugs, vaccines, medical devices, and to assess the risk of chemicals — however, 95% of drugs tested on animals fail in human trials. Non-animal alternatives not only save countless animal lives, but can be cheaper, faster, and more relevant to human biology, therefore more reliable at predicting safety. Despite the evidence that animal testing is an unreliable metric for determining efficacy of products for humans, many laboratories across the United States, including those housed in universities, continue to test on animals. Duke University, Gaston College, North Carolina State University, UNC Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University are some of the higher education institutes in North Carolina with a history of animal testing. Continued reliance on these outdated and inhumane testing methods harms the animals confined to the cages of the laboratories and stunts scientific development at these schools. Even universities which have conducted animal testing recognize this – we are already witnessing the implementation of non-animal testing alternatives in North Carolina’s universities. Legislative support can aid in expanding the use of these humane methods.

Will you support legislation to encourage the use of non-animal testing alternatives in universities?

Yes No Not Sure

WILDLIFE

Bear Hounding: Bear hounding is a tactic in which packs of dogs pursue exhausted, frightened bears until they seek refuge in a tree—where they are then shot—or must fight to the death. After this gruesome conflict, any babies left orphaned are vulnerable to their natural predators, or to mauling by the same dogs. In turn, the dogs involved can suffer broken bones, punctured lungs or other serious injuries, and are frequently dumped at municipal animal shelters or left in the woods if they do not perform adequately.

Will you support efforts to end hound hunting of bears in North Carolina?

Yes No Not Sure

Appointments to State Agencies: North Carolina state agencies are responsible for a wide range of policymaking with immeasurable effects on the state’s animal populations and wildlife habitats. The Wildlife Resources Commission is one of these, responsible for wildlife management, conservation, regulating hunting, and more. With much to gain, special interests often fill state commission seats—where there should instead be a diverse group of perspectives, representing the broad interests of the public.

Will you encourage the appointment of a diverse range of experts committed to preserving North Carolina’s natural beauty and wildlife, backed by science and not by special interests?

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

Rev. 1/20/2026

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.



**Humane World
Action Fund™**

humaneaction.org