



2007 PRESIDENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

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The President of the United States has a major impact on public policies that affect the lives of animals. The Animal Welfare Act, Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, Horse Protection Act, and a long list of other federal laws need proper enforcement if their original purposes are to be fulfilled. Executive agencies—including the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce—have wide-ranging authority over issues affecting pets, wildlife, farm animals, marine mammals, animals in research, and public lands. The President also shapes how Congress views new legislative proposals to protect animals from cruelty and abuse.

For more information on any of these issues, check the web sites of animal protection groups such as: www.hsus.org (The Humane Society of the United States), www.hslf.org (Humane Society Legislative Fund), www.humaneusa.org (Humane USA), www.farmsanctuary.org (Farm Sanctuary), www.aspca.org (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), www.ifaw.org (International Fund for Animal Welfare), www.saplonline.org (Society for Animal Protective Legislation), or www.ddal.org (Doris Day Animal League).

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.

I am proud to have earned a perfect score on the Humane Society's scorecard in the 108th and 109th Congresses. I am also pleased to be a co-sponsor of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, and the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act. In the 108th and 109th Congresses, I spearheaded efforts to study the effects of certain antibiotics in animal feeds and to prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from buying chickens for the federal school lunch program that have been injected with cipro-like antibiotics called fluoroquinolones. I have also called for decisions about where CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) can be located to be made at the local community level. In addition, I have proposed a comprehensive plan to address global warming by reducing global warming pollution by 80% below 1990 levels by mid-century. Our nation and the world's habitat will be severely impacted unless we take steps to address this planetary emergency.

There is an important bond between people and animals. How should that bond impact federal policy?

Our policies should reflect the important role that animals play in our lives and our environment. I believe we should treat animals humanely and that is why I support anti-cruelty laws. Last year's contamination of pet food, which caused the deaths of an unknown number of pets, served as a wake-up call about the need to protect not only our food supply, but that of our pets. I supported the passage of the *Food and Drug Administration Revitalization Act*, which included a proposal for the Department of Health and Human Services to establish stronger measures and ensure the safety of the pet food supply. I also believe it is good that there is a growing market for food that is produced with better living

conditions for animals. I have long supported providing consumers with choices and the ability to make informed decisions about the food that they give to their families.

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

Yes, I believe animal welfare is an important issue to Americans, and I would work to address these problems when I am President, as I have during my time in the Senate. From preventing dog fighting to preventing horse slaughter to addressing global warming, I will work to ensure that these issues get the attention and support they deserve.

I have long been concerned about the use of antimicrobial drugs in animal production. These drugs, often used to treat diseases, are being used at an alarming rate and there is growing evidence of an increased animal and human health risk as a result, specifically the development of antibiotic resistance. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, livestock producers in the United States use an estimated 24.6 million pounds of antimicrobials on healthy animals every year. Furthermore, the overall use of antimicrobials for nontherapeutic purposes has risen by nearly 50 percent since 1985.

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

My family's first dog was a cocker spaniel named Zeke. From the time he was a puppy, Zeke was full of curiosity and brought great joy to our family. We acquired Socks, a cat, one spring when taking Chelsea to her piano lesson. As we were walking to the car, Chelsea reached out to kittens we found in her piano teacher's yard and the black one with white paws — Socks — jumped right up into her arms. That clinched our decision to make him part of our family. We also arranged a good home for Socks' sibling, Midnight, with the help of a local animal shelter. After Zeke died, we got Buddy who we named for Bill's beloved Uncle Buddy who trained dogs for 50 years. While in the White House, both Socks and Buddy, received thousands of letters, mostly from children who expressed their affection. In 1998, I published some of the letters in "Dear Socks, Dear Buddy," and gave the proceeds to the National Park Foundation, the charity that raises funds to support our national park system. We got Seamus, Buddy's great nephew, in 2002. He lives in our home in Chappaqua. I have loved all our animals and have cherished them as loyal and fun companions.

EXECUTIVE AGENCIES AND FUNDING FOR ENFORCEMENT:

Animal Welfare Act: Over the past eight years, the President and Congress have increased annual funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act by 89% (a cumulative total of about \$48 million in new dollars to the program). Today, there are 100 USDA inspectors, compared to about 60 inspectors during the 1990s, who ensure basic humane treatment at thousands of zoos, circuses, puppy mills, research laboratories, and other facilities.

Will you support continued funding for adequate enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Humane Methods of Slaughter Act: Livestock such as cattle and pigs must be rendered insensible to pain before being slaughtered. The President and Congress have recently approved millions of dollars for the USDA to help ensure that animals at slaughter plants are not hung upside down, cut, scalded, skinned or dismembered while still conscious. This includes funding to implement a new system for tracking violations.

Will you support continued funding for adequate enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Animal Fighting: The President and Congress have recently allocated additional funds for USDA's Office of Inspector General – the department's chief law enforcement arm – to continue to work with state and local law enforcement to crack down on illegal dogfighting, cockfighting, and hog-dog fighting.

Will you support continued funding for adequate enforcement of the federal animal fighting laws?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Wildlife Conservation: The President and Congress have continued a steady increase in 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

Alternatives Development: Increased efforts are expected to direct greater funding for development and approval of alternative chemical testing methods that can reduce the use of animals in product testing. Such alternative methods for determining toxicity 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

Lethal Predator Control: The USDA's Wildlife Services program kills 1.7 million animals each year as a government subsidy for private ranchers. Government agents use traps, poisons, aerial gunning, and other inhumane methods of killing coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, bears, and other predators – at the cost to taxpayers of about \$10 million annually.

Will you support a reduction in funding for lethal predator control, so that the USDA will shift its resources toward non-lethal management of predators when possible?

Yes No Not Sure

Wild Horse Population Control: The Bureau of Land Management historically has rounded up wild horses from public lands in the West, and put them into government holding pens for long periods of time until they could be adopted or sold. There is a more humane and more cost-effective way to manage wild horse herds, which is the application of an immunocontraception vaccine called PZP.

Will you support funding for the BLM to use immunocontraception to manage wild horse herds?

Yes No Not Sure

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

The following issues are currently being debated in Congress. We'd like to know your position on these important animal welfare policies.

PETS AND CRUELTY

Pet Food Safety: Recent recalls of tainted pet food have shaken consumer confidence in the ability of the industry to ensure the health and safety of pet food. We need stronger regulations – for both human food and pet food – to ensure that standards are in place and the government has the ability to conduct inspections of foreign facilities and recall products immediately if needed.

Will you support legislation such as the Human and Pet Food Safety Act, S. 1274 and H.R. 2108, to help protect the food supply for people and pets?

Yes No Not Sure

Pet Trusts: Two-thirds of American households have pets, and most people consider dogs and cats a cherished part of their families. There are 39 states that allow pet owners to set up trust funds to provide long-term care for pets after the owner's death, but the federal tax code currently does not include such a provision.

Will you support legislation such as the Charitable Remainder Pet Trust Act, H.R. 2491, to allow the establishment of pet trusts?

Yes No Not Sure

I believe in fairness and equity in the tax code, and strongly support the rights of individuals to establish trusts for their pets.

Dogfighting: In May 2007, the President signed legislation upgrading the federal penalties for the interstate movement of animals for fighting purposes, from a misdemeanor to a felony. Tougher laws are needed to crack down on this cruel enterprise, which is often associated with drugs, firearms, violence, and high-stakes gambling. Dogfighting is illegal in all 50 states, but is still only a misdemeanor in two states. In some states, it is still legal to possess fighting dogs and legal to attend a dogfight. Banning spectators and possession will help law enforcement crack down on this organized crime.

Will you support legislation such as S. 1880, H.R. 3219, and H.R. 3327, which would make all dogfighting a federal felony with penalties up to five years in prison, and also ban possession of fighting dogs and being a spectator at a dogfight?
X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Puppy Mills and Imports: A loophole in current law exempts large-scale commercial pet breeders, known as “puppy mills,” that sell directly to the public – over the Internet or through newspaper ads – from the minimum standards of care required by the Animal Welfare Act. Thousands of puppies are imported from other countries, and many become sick or die before making it to American pet stores.

Will you support legislation such as the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) which would tighten the regulations concerning sale of puppies and kittens?
X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

“Class B” Dealers: Some laboratories purchase dogs or cats from “Class B” dealers, who serve as middlemen between so-called “random sources” and the research facilities. Class B dealers are notorious for unsavory practices, such as stealing pets and acquiring animals from free-to-good-home ads under false pretenses. There are plenty of purpose-bred dogs and cats available for research, and the “random source” animals are not needed. There are only a handful of dealers who traffic in these pets, but the USDA spends more than \$250,000 each year on monitoring and enforcement.

Will you support legislation such as the Pet Safety and Protection Act, S. 714 and H.R. 1280, to prohibit the use in research of dogs and cats obtained from Class B dealers?
X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Antifreeze Safety: Every year numerous pets, wildlife, and even children are tragically poisoned because they are attracted to the sweet taste and bright color of antifreeze. These poisonings could be greatly reduced by including an inexpensive bittering agent in engine coolant and antifreeze.

Will you support legislation such as the Engine Coolant and Antifreeze Bittering Agent Act which would require the addition of a bittering agent to these sweet-tasting substances?
X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Horse Slaughter: The House and Senate have voted several times to stop the slaughter of American horses for human consumption, and the two states where horse slaughter plants were located – Texas and Illinois – both now have anti-horse slaughter laws on the books. Americans don’t eat horsemeat and consider horses as pets rather than livestock, but our horses are killed for human consumption in France, Belgium, and other countries where horsemeat is a delicacy. American thoroughbreds, family ponies, and other horses are shipped over the border to Canada or Mexico for slaughter.

Will you support legislation such as the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, S. 311 and H.R. 503, to institute a permanent ban on horse slaughter and exports of horses for human consumption?
X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

FARM ANIMALS

“Downer” Livestock: Animals too sick or injured to stand or walk – “downers” – are often dragged with chains or pushed with bulldozers to slaughter. These animals also pose a danger to our food supply. After discovering that the first case of “mad cow disease” in the U.S. was found in a downed cow in 2003, the USDA passed a temporary ban on the processing of downed cattle for human consumption. In 2007, the USDA finalized the rule and made the ban permanent.

Will you support the current USDA ban as well as legislation such as the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act, S. 394 and H.R. 661, to require the humane euthanasia of downer livestock and prohibit USDA certification of meat from such animals?
X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Government Procurement: There is no federal law requiring humane treatment of animals on the farm. The federal government can take a leadership role by purchasing humanely raised food products for the military, school lunches, prisons, and other federal programs. Many producers are improving animal welfare by phasing out intensive confinement and other inhumane methods, and the government can help influence the market and encourage producers to improve animal welfare standards.

Will you support legislation such as the Farm Animal Stewardship Purchasing Act, H.R. 1726, to require that the federal government only purchase food from producers who meet certain humane standards?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Poultry Slaughter: Since the 1950s, federal law has required that animals be rendered insensible to pain before slaughter, but the USDA interprets this law to exclude poultry – 95% of all farm animals slaughtered for food, or nine billion animals a year. Chickens, turkeys, and other currently excluded species under the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, should have this most basic humane protection.

Will you support USDA action or legislation to assure that poultry are rendered insensible to pain prior to being killed?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Antibiotic Overuse: Large commercial agribusinesses dose farm animals with antibiotics so the animals can be raised in large numbers in overcrowded and inhumane factory farms. This is unhealthy for both animals and people, as it reduces the effectiveness of antibiotics for treating sick people and animals.

Will you support legislation such as the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, S. 549 and H.R. 962, to phase out routine non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

WILDLIFE

Primates as Pets: While some states ban the private ownership of primates because the animals pose a safety threat and can transmit a variety of diseases to people, federal legislation is needed because the animals are traded across state lines and over the Internet. Often purchased as infants, primates can become aggressive as they age, and they often are not provided humane care. Recent high-profile incidents of captive primates attacking people emphasize the need for this legislation.

Will you support legislation such as the Captive Primate Safety Act, S. 1498 and H.R. 2964 to prohibit monkeys, chimpanzees, and other primates from being shipped across state lines for the pet trade?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Internet Hunting: Sportsmen and animal advocates were outraged in 2005 when a Texas entrepreneur launched a web site where clients can click a computer mouse to fire a remotely controlled rifle and bag exotic trophy animals stocked in fenced pens miles away. Thirty-four states – including Texas – have already banned Internet hunting, and federal legislation is needed to prevent this pay-per-view slaughter from occurring across state or national boundaries.

Will you support bills such as the Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting Act, H.R. 2711, to prohibit Internet hunting?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Canned Hunts: Even many hunting groups scorn the unsportsmanlike practice of “canned hunts,” where trapped animals have no chance of escape from fenced pens and patrons are often guaranteed to take home a trophy. Exotic animals are especially tame and may have come from zoos or circuses, ensuring hunters an easy target at these drive-thru killing operations.

Will you support legislation such as the Sportsmanship in Hunting Act to prohibit interstate and foreign commerce of captive exotic animals to be shot at “canned hunt” operations for entertainment or trophies?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Fur Labeling: A recent investigation found that leading designers and retailers were selling dog fur and raccoon dog fur falsely advertised as “faux” or falsely labeled as a different species of animal, such as raccoon, coyote, or rabbit. The Congress banned the sale of dog and cat fur in 2000, but loopholes in the law allow the sale of fur from raccoon dogs – a canine species killed in China by gruesome methods such as skinning alive – and do not require any labeling of fur-trimmed apparel if the fur is valued at \$150 or less, making it easy for dog fur to slip into the country unnoticed.

Will you support legislation such as the Dog and Cat Fur Prohibition Enforcement Act, H.R. 891, to close these loopholes and protect consumers?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Polar Bear Protection: The U.S. does not allow sport hunting of polar bears, but Canada allows hunting of these animals in the Arctic and most of the trophy hunters are Americans. Since 1972, American residents had not been allowed to import polar bear trophies (nor any other marine mammal parts) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In 1994, Congress bowed to trophy hunting interests and created a loophole that allows the importation of trophy heads and hides from Canada. Since then, more than 800 import permits have been issued. At a time when polar bears are facing threats from global warming and vanishing habitat, we should minimize human-caused forms of mortality such as trophy hunting.

Will you support legislation such as the Polar Bear Protection Act, S. 1406 and H.R. 2327, to restore the longstanding prohibition on imports of polar bear trophies?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Trade in Bear Parts: Poachers and profiteers are killing bears for their gall bladders and leaving the carcasses to rot, selling bear organs illicitly throughout the world and putting bear species at risk. Thirty-four states prohibit the sale of bear parts, but the patchwork of state laws make this underground trade difficult to enforce. A strong federal law is needed to protect bear populations from poaching.

Will you support legislation such as the Bear Protection Act, H.R. 3029, to prohibit the trade in bear parts?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

Marine Mammals: Americans are concerned about the terrible cruelty of Canada's commercial seal hunt. The three-year quota set by the government allowed the slaughter of nearly one million seals, mostly pups as young as twelve days old. And tens of thousands of small cetaceans (such as dolphins, porpoises, and small whales) are cruelly slaughtered in Japan's "drive fisheries," in which the animals are herded into a bay or onto shore and stabbed to death with spears or knives.

Will you support resolutions such as S. Res. 118 and H. Res. 427 calling on other nations to stop the slaughter of marine mammals?

X Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

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

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