



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
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**Mark Your Calendars...
UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Lobby Day**
January 29, 2008
- Open Your Heart – Kansas City**
February 7, 2008
- Open Your Heart - St. Louis**
February 10, 2008
- Humane Day**
April 8, 2008

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and much more!



FALL 2007

The **Alliance
Speaks**

Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation

ALLIANCE OUTLINES MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2008

With the Missouri General Assembly convening on January 9, 2008, the Alliance has outlined its legislative priorities for the upcoming session. This year the Alliance plans to introduce several pro-active pieces of legislation. The Alliance's legislative priorities have been outlined below.

Dog Fighting

Recent news stories about dog fighting have uncovered details about how this brutal activity still persists throughout Missouri. Hopefully, the new attention on this issue will help the Alliance advocate for much needed improvement to our state laws involving this inhumane crime.

Current Missouri statutes need clarification regarding the fate of victimized animals that are seized in connection with dog fighting.



Rescue organizations and veterinarians are often wary of caring for these victimized animals while criminal charges are pending because of the length of time and the uncertainty involved. We believe that a hearing needs to be held within a reasonable time.

Increasing the penalties for being a knowing spectator at a dog fight is another goal of the animal welfare community. It would send a message about the seriousness of the offense and it would assist prosecutors when ownership of the animals is difficult to prove.

Missouri law should also add dog fighting to its criminal forfeiture statute in order to add an appropriate penalty to this horrific crime.

Breed Specific Legislation (BSL)

The Alliance opposes legislation that would treat entire breeds of dog as inherently dangerous, as opposed to treating each dog as an individual. It is the inhuman acts of humans, as opposed to genetics, that is generally to blame for aggressive or dangerous dogs.

As a more positive response to the problem of dangerous dogs, the Alliance supports the passage of improved procedures for identifying and controlling individual dogs that have shown dangerous or aggressive tendencies. While some cities already have good laws to address dangerous dogs, many communities could benefit from such an update to state law.

Registration of Large Carnivores / Dangerous Exotics

The Alliance will again push for legislation that would require lions, tigers, and bears to be registered with the state, identified with a microchip, and sufficient insurance obtained by their owners.



While a ban on ownership and breeding of these animals would be ideal, basic registration is the minimum protection necessary to protect public safety, as well as discourage illegal sales. Sadly, as adjacent states have been cracking down on exotic animal trafficking, Missouri has become a haven for such activity.

Impoundment of Abused/Neglected Horses

We will likely see attempts again next year to gut the Missouri law that permits law enforcement authorities to impound

large animals that have been abused or neglected. The Alliance will remain vigilant in opposing such legislation, which would lead to unnecessary suffering.

The Missouri Federation of Animal Owners and the Missouri Farm Bureau have repeatedly supported legislation that would take impoundment decision-making away from local sheriffs and prosecutors, instead giving that authority to the Missouri Department of Agriculture (See House Bill 46—2007). HB 46 would have also changed the standard for rescuing a large animal that was suffering, allowing it only if the animal was facing "immediate loss of life."

Other Barriers to the Enforcement of Animal Abuse Laws

In addition, we will need to be vigilant to oppose any legislative efforts designed to hinder the evidence-gathering activities of those law enforcement officers who investigate abuse and neglect.

For example, over the past several years, the Alliance has stopped measures that would have made it a felony to photograph a pet breeding facility, or to use such photographs to prosecute crimes against animals. Generally, the Alliance opposes all efforts to make it a crime to investigate a crime against animals. We also believe that it is wrong to criminalize the free speech activities of anti-cruelty advocates who are not trespassing or otherwise violating the law.

Puppy Mills

The Alliance will continue to seek better regulation and control over the deplorable conditions in pet breeding facilities in Missouri—known widely as

Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alliance protects animals from abuse, neglect and exploitation by monitoring and facilitating the passage of animal welfare laws, thereby enhancing the quality of life for people and animals in Missouri.

FUNDING

The Alliance is a 501 (c)(4) nonprofit and receives no United Way, government or corporate funding. The organization depends on donations from concerned and passionate individuals to fund its animal welfare education and legislative efforts. Because we are a lobbying organization, gifts to the Alliance are not tax deductible.

HEADQUARTERS

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Director's Perspective

by Julie Leicht

Since the legislature adjourned in May, the Alliance has been busy with outreach activities, fundraising and planning for the 2008 legislative session. This summer and fall we hosted legislative seminars in Columbia, Kansas City and Springfield. Other outreach activities included countless community events throughout the state where we distributed information and met new supporters. Because of our dedicated volunteers, the Alliance was able to participate in a record-breaking number of outreach events this year.

Fundraising efforts included the ever-fun Pool Paws for Humane Laws events, the Howlin' Halloween Festival held at Lola and Penelope's in Clayton, and our first annual "Works of Arf" fundraiser held in downtown St. Charles at the Framations Art Gallery.

Works of Arf was an evening of wine and art showcasing a raffle of 30 original pieces of artwork donated by animal-friendly artists. The invitation featured a painting by Ken Farris of "Harley," beloved pet of gallery owner, Amy Wilson. Harley will return this year on the Alliance's holiday card. Thank you to Ken and the other artists who supported the Alliance's efforts with their talent. We also appreciate the hospitality and generosity of gallery owners, Amy Wilson and Sarah Merideth.

Lastly, but most importantly, we have been working on the Alliance's 2008 legislative agenda. The Alliance is excited about several pro-active pieces of legislation it plans to introduce this session. We have been meeting with legislators, identifying sponsors and strategizing for the upcoming legislative session.

The Alliance has accomplished so much over the last six months. Most of what we have achieved is the result of the help of our dedicated supporters. Thank you to all who volunteered to work an event, helped at a fundraiser, or made a donation. We appreciate your efforts. I am looking forward to 2008 and what we can accomplish for the animals.



Calling All Humane Organizations

Mark your calendars for the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation's Humane Day at the capitol on **Tuesday, April 8, 2008**. Join the Alliance and other humane organizations around the state to network and meet state legislators. Each participating humane organization will be provided an exhibitor's table in the rotunda of the capitol. Legislators and staff will be invited to browse the informational exhibits. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to present your organization to Missouri lawmakers. To register for Humane Day or any questions, contact 314-432-6090 or mail@maal.org.

Alliance Welcomes Two New Board Members

A long-time goal of the Alliance has been to expand the board and increase representation from across the state. The Alliance moved closer to realizing this objective with the recent election of two new directors, David Cosgrove and Mary Paulsell. David and Mary were elected to the board in May and September, respectively. Both individuals bring outstanding skills and talents to the Alliance board of directors.

David is an attorney with Capes Sokol Goodman Sarachan law firm in Clayton. Prior to working in private practice, he served the state of Missouri in several capacities including commissioner of securities and chief legal counsel for Governor Holden. Mary is the director of the University Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship with the University of Missouri Business Development Programs. In that position, she oversees the operations of the Center which serves 14 central Missouri counties with business management counseling, entrepreneurial education and technical assistance.

"Both David and Mary bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Alliance. I am pleased that individuals of their caliber have agreed to serve on the board. I look forward to working with them to further the Alliance's mission in Jefferson City," stated board president, Bob Hull.

First Annual "Works of Arf" Fundraiser



Board President
Bob Hull

Framations Art Gallery in historic downtown St. Charles was the location for the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation's "Works of Arf" fundraiser on Monday, October 8, 2007. Twelve local artists donated works of art, valued at \$300 or more, to be raffled the night of the event. Golden tickets were purchased for \$200 which allowed admittance of two individuals into the event and a chance in the Gold Art Raffle. Single Silver tickets could be purchased for \$50 which provided a chance in a special Silver Art Raffle.

"We are so fortunate to have gallery owners, Amy Wilson and Sarah Merideth, as devoted supporters of the Alliance's work in Jefferson City. In order to help the organization, they offered to host a fundraiser at their gallery," stated Julie Leicht, executive director of the Alliance. "It was such an unusual idea to combine art with animal welfare that we knew it would be an extraordinary evening," commented Leicht.



Joe Tiernan & Event
Chair Alexa Hull

Visitors to the gallery were greeted by Improvisational Dance troupe, "the Group Formerly Known as Jete." The wine and cheese reception featured desserts donated by Armando's Flan Factory and music by flutist Christine Darling. The highlights of the evening were captured by photographer, Garry Rose of Rose Photography. Attendees were invited to bid on silent auction items which included artwork and other animal-related goodies.

The artists mingled with Alliance guests and were on-hand to discuss their work. The event could not have been possible without the support of the following individuals who generously donated their art: Diana Bono; Juliette Travous; Ken Farris; Linda Smith; Linda Wilmes; Lisa Ober; Nancy Young; Serena Boschert; Shirley Nachtrieb; Sarah Merideth; A. Wilson; and Davis Smith.

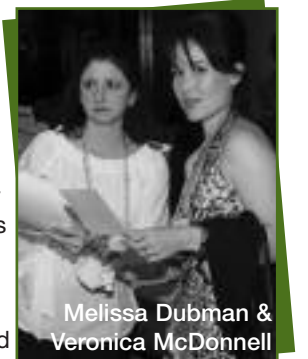


Artists Nancy Young and Diana
Bono with Nancy Miller

Many thanks to Amy Wilson and Sarah Merideth who so graciously opened the doors of their gallery to the Alliance. The Alliance gives special recognition to Chair Alexa Hull who effortlessly coordinated the details of the evening. Lastly, our appreciation to the angel sponsors of the evening: Bob and Alexa Hull; Dale and TJ Lindhorst; Brook and Melissa Dubman; Connie and Ed Throop; and Nancy Grove. The event was such a success that plans are underway for 2008.



Gallery Owners Sarah
Merideth & Amy Wilson



Melissa Dubman &
Veronica McDonnell

Photographs courtesy of Rose Photography

WANTED: LEGISLATIVE SPONSORS

The Alliance is seeking animal-friendly supporters to sponsor a week at the capitol as part of the 2008 "Voice for the Animals" Campaign. For a suggested donation of \$500, individuals can underwrite the expenses of one week of the Alliance's work in Jefferson City. After the sponsored week, individuals receive an update from our legislative director describing how their support affected our activities. And all sponsors will be recognized in the Alliance newsletter. This is an opportunity to *personally* help the animals without having to go to the capitol!

Now it is even more convenient to participate in the 2008 "Voice for Animals" campaign. Your pledge can be submitted in a variety of ways. It can be paid in full by check or credit card prior to the legislative session. Another option is to evenly distribute the payments over the five months of the legislative session. The last alternative is for the Alliance to bill you after your sponsored week and you will have until the end of the session to pay. For more information or to participate in the 2008 "Voice for the Animals" campaign, contact 314-432-6090.

Alliance Kicks Off 10 Friends Campaign

The Alliance has launched a 10 Friends Campaign to help increase its supporter base throughout the state.

Developing an active base of support is very important to the Alliance's work in Jefferson City. It demonstrates to the legislators that the issues we are lobbying for or against are important to their constituents. The more supporters we have, the more calls and letters legislators will receive. Elected officials listen to their constituents so your voice is needed.

Please consider sharing with the Alliance the names of 10 of your neighbors, relatives, co-workers and/or friends who have compassion for animals and would be interested in knowing more about animal welfare in Missouri. We will NEVER share or sell our mailing list so you can be assured these individuals will be contacted only to support our mission to help animals.

Your friends will receive a welcoming note from the Alliance with information about our mission and an invitation to join our efforts. We will not add anyone to our database without their permission. Lists can be e-mailed to mail@maal.org.

eScrip Card Raises Money for Alliance

Take multi-tasking to a new level by raising money for the Alliance while shopping for groceries. It is that easy if there is a Schnucks grocery store in your community. With the eScrip Community Card Program, your purchases add up to free cash for the Alliance. This is how the program works.

- First, contact the Alliance (314-432-6090) to receive your free eScrip card.
- Every time you shop at a Schnucks store, present your eScrip card to the cashier. That is it.
- The Alliance automatically receives up to 3% of your monthly purchases. What could be easier?

The eScrip program also works with other credit and debit cards including Macy's department stores. If you would like to register your other credit cards or obtain a complete listing of participating merchants, visit www.escrip.com

SUMMER ENDS WITH ANNUAL DOG SWIMS

Summer is not officially over until the Alliance hosts its annual "Pool Paws for Humane Laws" dog swims. This year six area pools participated in the pooch parties. Our thanks to the following municipal pools for hosting the events: McNair Park Pool; Kline Pool in Hazelwood; Kirkwood Aquatic Center; Splash at Wabash in Ferguson; and Alligator's Creek Aquatic Center. A special thank you to Jan Myers who not only planned and coordinated the events, but served as official dog lifeguard and referee at all of the swims.

Next year the Alliance hopes to increase the number of pools participating in the event throughout the state. If your municipality would like to host a dog swim, please contact the Alliance at 314-432-6090.



Open Your Heart Fundraiser HEADS WEST

Every February, Alliance supporters look forward to the fabulous Open Your Heart fundraiser. The gala is the Alliance's major fund-raising event of the year. Since the affair has been so well received by our St. Louis friends, the Alliance decided to head west to host Open Your Heart-Kansas City.

The St. Louis reception will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2008, at Harry's Restaurant in downtown St. Louis. Open Your Heart-Kansas City is scheduled for the preceding Thursday, February 7, 2008 at One Park Place, Kansas City. "A Cause for Paws...We NEED YOU!" is the theme for both events.

The Kansas City event is modeled after the St. Louis fundraiser offering silent and oral auctions. Alliance outreach coordinator, Amy Cox, is chairing a committee of creative volunteers who are planning the Kansas City fundraiser. Playing off the 2008 elections, both receptions will host "Pet Presidential" elections. Individuals are asked to submit a photo of their pet that will be displayed at "Petsyvania Avenue" the night of the event. Individuals will then "buy votes" for a pet to be elected president.

"It is wonderful that our Kansas City friends are interested in taking our lead to help raise funds for the Alliance. We have been so successful with the St. Louis event that it makes sense to expand the idea to other parts of the state," commented St. Louis Open Your Heart co-chair, Melissa Dubman.

Alliance supporters are encouraged to take the "I-70" challenge and attend the Kansas City event on Thursday, February 7, 2008 and then travel to St. Louis for the fundraiser on February 10, 2007. **To receive an invitation or to volunteer to help with either event, please contact 314-432-6090.**

Re-Gift It to The Alliance!

Admit it – we've all done it. You receive a gift. Maybe it's lovely. Maybe it was thoughtfully chosen, beautifully wrapped. Perhaps it's even expensive. But...It doesn't fit. You already have one. It's not your taste. You'll never use it. You don't need it. Or, you just don't like it.

What to do? Maybe, or maybe not, get around to returning it to the store? Hide it in the closet and forget about it? Put it in a garage sale for a tiny fraction of its value? Or...

RE-GIFT IT TO THE ALLIANCE!

The Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation has many upcoming events where it could use your generous donations. Both Open Your Heart fundraisers to be held in February are soliciting gifts for its silent auctions. The Alliance will be hosting many outreach events such as Humane Day in the Capitol and we are always in need of small items for tabling.

Your gifts keep on giving - to the participant at the auction who is thrilled to purchase the item or the individual receiving it at one of our outreach events, to the donors who feel wonderful about their donation. No gift is too small or too large. We will find a loving home for your gift. All of the funds raised by your generous donation will benefit the Alliance.

If after the holidays you have something *new* you would like to re-gift, please contact: 314-432-6090.

(Sorry, no fruitcakes accepted!)

Alliance Outreach Efforts Break Record

Thanks to the help of many, many volunteers, the Alliance was able to reach out to individuals around the state in a big way this year. With your assistance, we provided information and gathered potential supporters at over 40 events around the state in 2007, breaking an outreach record for the Alliance. Our volunteers registered new supporters and handed out information on animal welfare issues at outreach events in Springfield, Columbia, St. Charles, Kansas City and St. Louis.

If you are aware of any events in your area focusing on animals (walk to raise money, festivals, fundraisers), let us know so we can be part of it! We would be thrilled to add your community happening to our list for 2008. Please e-mail the Alliance at mail@maal.org with the name of the event, date, and a contact number. We can either staff the event or provide information/giveaways to be distributed by the coordinators. Outreach events are an effective tool for the Alliance to "get the word out" on animal welfare issues in Missouri and attract new supporters.



Linus, dressed as a peacock, was one of the contests in the pet Halloween parade at the "Howlin' Halloween Festival" held on October 27, 2007 at **Lola and Penelope's Premiere Pet Boutique and Wellness Center**, 7742 Forsyth, downtown Clayton. Linus' proud owner is Amanda Reynolds.

This is the second year Lola and Penelope's hosted this spooky fundraiser for the Alliance. For an admission fee of \$10, pets could participate in a Halloween costume parade, holiday canine games and other fun activities as well as enjoy tasty goodies.



We Salute Recent Contributors

The following list of donors includes donations received from June 1, 2007 through November 1, 2007. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please call 1-877-444-6225 or 314-994-1000 to make corrections.

LEGISLATIVE CIRCLE (\$5,000 or above)

Bob and Alexandra Hull

SPEAKER (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Ed and Connie Throop

FLOOR LEADER (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Roger Crouch

LOBBYIST (\$500 - \$999)

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TJ and Dale Lindhorst
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Frances Sullivan
Verla and Charles Sullivan
Margie Tarkow
Sharon Tash
Rosilee Trotta
Lisa Vorst
Elizabeth Winkler
Robert and Kathryn Wirth

Gifts in Honor of....

Sarah Casey for all her good words and deeds on behalf of the animals
by Nancy Grove and JoAnn Stephan
Nancy Grove
by Liz and Sam Rudder
Nancy Grove
by Michael and Rebecca Zaccarello
Jim and Deb Compton
by Lisa Ashley

Gifts in Honor of Companions....

"Franciso" & "Ysabella"
by Elizabeth Carmichael
"Nooter"
by Ted and Peggy Wilson
"Sir Chico of AO" and
"Princess Caramela of AO"
by Amber Allen
"Marsha" Stephan
by Mary Ann Moore
"Mollie" and "Nellie"
by Terry and Lee Ann Sander

Gifts in Memory of...

Glenn Holler by Diann Valenti and Verla and Charles Sullivan
James Chilton by Janice Chilton
Leslie Moore by Joyce Jonn

Gifts in Memory of Companions...

"Coco" by Erin Runnels
"Nica" and "Sara" by Colleen Loomis
"Sierra", "Lady" and "Maggie" by V. Stewart
"Casper" and "Claude" by Mary Gaffey
"Scooter" and "Honey" by Ruth Johnson

Thank you to the following for hosting our Pool Paws for Humane Laws 2007 events:

City of Ferguson
City of Hazelwood
City of O'Fallon
City of St. Charles
Kirkwood Municipal Pool

Thank you to the following individuals for your in-kind donations since June 1, 2007:

Armando's Flan Factory
Bonnie Boime
Diana Bono
Serena Boschert
Betty Buckley
Iris Carr
Ken and Dee Farris
John Forti
Framation's Art Gallery
Michele Harris
Bob and Alexandra Hull
Lola and Penelope's
Sarah Meredith
Maureen Missimore
Shirley Nachtrieb
Lisa Ober
Dorene Olson

Stewart and Terri Preston
Sue and Harold Prouhet
Garry Rose
Davis Smith
Linda Smith
The Wine Merchant
Juliette Travous
Linda Wilmes
Amy Wilson
Nancy Young

Please consider donating an item (or making a financial contribution with which to purchase it) from the following list:

- Portable presentation/display boards
 - Large paper shredder
 - Copy paper
 - Printing services
- Auction items or gift certificates for fundraising events
- Promotional items to give away at Alliance information tables

Call 1-877-444-6225 (toll free) or 314-994-1000 for delivery assistance.

cont'd from Page 1

the "Puppy Mill Capitol of the Midwest."

Unfortunately, good laws alone are not enough to solve this problem. The Missouri Department of Agriculture continues to inspect only a small fraction of the regulated pet breeders each year, despite two scathing audits by the Missouri State Auditor. Better funding for inspections and a more committed effort on enforcement are needed from this department in order to repair our state's reputation.

Barriers to Voter-Initiated Petitions

There has been an increase in the number of legislative efforts attempting to make it harder for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to petitioning for better laws. The Missouri Federation of Animal Owners has repeatedly advocated for changes to the Missouri Constitution, requiring that voters pass any measures involving forestry and wildlife by a 2/3rds supermajority.

By comparison, the Alliance successfully used the petition process to gather signatures for the popular anti-cockfighting initiative, and when it was placed on the ballot, it received 63% of the vote—not quite enough to have passed by a supermajority.

Last year, the Alliance also opposed numerous bills that proposed doubling or tripling the number of signatures needed to place proposed changes to the law on a ballot for voter approval.

Throughout the legislative session, the Alliance updates its supporters through e-alerts and its website. If we do not have your e-mail address and you would like to receive legislative e-alerts from the Alliance, please send your contact information to mail.maal.org.