

**HUMANE USA PAC  
2006 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. House District: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Americans. Countless citizens look to the 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 more information on any of these issues, check the following web sites: [www.humaneusa.org](http://www.humaneusa.org) (Humane USA), [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org) (The Humane Society of the United States), [www.fund.org](http://www.fund.org) (Humane Society Legislative Fund), [www.farmsanctuary.org](http://www.farmsanctuary.org) (Farm Sanctuary), [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), or [www.ddal.org](http://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.

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

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

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

**CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES:**

Members of Congress influence animal protection policy by sponsoring or cosponsoring 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. The following issues are currently being debated in Congress. We'd like to know your position on these important animal welfare issues.

***FUNDING***

**Animal Welfare Act:** Over the past seven years, Congress has increased funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act by 89% (a cumulative total of about \$40 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?  
 Yes       No

**Humane Methods of Slaughter Act:** Livestock such as cattle and pigs must be rendered insensible to pain before being slaughtered. Congress has 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?  
 Yes       No

**Animal Fighting:** Congress has 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?  
 Yes       No

**Wildlife Conservation:** Congress has 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

**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

***PETS AND CRUELTY***

**Disaster Planning:** During Hurricane Katrina, thousands of pets were lost and abandoned because responding agencies had no plans for evacuating people's pets and service animals. Many people stayed behind and put themselves in danger because they were not allowed to take their pets with them.

Will you support legislation such as the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act which would require state and local disaster plans to include pets and service animals?

Yes       No

**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?

Yes       No

**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?

Yes       No

**Animal Fighting:** While interstate and foreign animal fighting activities – dogfighting, cockfighting, and hog-dog fighting – are federal crimes, the penalties are too weak. Felony-level jail time is needed to deter this organized criminal activity, as well as a ban on interstate and foreign commerce of cockfighting weapons. The need to strengthen the weak federal law on animal fighting has become even more urgent, as the illegal transport of cockfighting birds has been linked to the spread of deadly bird flu.

Will you support legislation such as the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act which will strengthen federal penalties for illegal dogfighting, cockfighting, and hog-dog fighting?

Yes       No

**Pet Cloning:** A cloned dog in Korea made international headlines, and a company in California has sprouted up for the sole purpose of taking tissue from deceased pets and, for immodest sums, creating clones for bereaved owners. With millions of healthy and adoptable cats and dogs being killed each year for lack of suitable homes, it's hugely frivolous to be cloning departed pets.

Will you support legislation to ban the interstate and foreign commerce in cloned pets?

Yes       No

**“Class B” Dealers:** Many laboratories purchase dogs or cats from “Class B” dealers, who serve as middlemen between so-called random sources (e.g., animal shelters, pet owners, and flea market or auction sales) 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.

Will you support legislation such as the Pet Safety and Protection Act to prohibit the use in research of dogs and cats obtained from Class B dealers?

Yes       No

## **FARM ANIMALS**

**Horse Slaughter:** In 2005, the House and Senate both approved amendments to the Agriculture Appropriations bill to stop the slaughter of American horses for food exports. Most Americans are unaware that more than 90,000 thoroughbreds, family ponies, and other horses are killed every year at three foreign-owned slaughterhouses – two in Texas and one in Illinois – or shipped over the border to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. Americans don't eat horsemeat, but our horses are killed for human consumption in France, Belgium, and other countries.

Will you support legislation such as the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act to institute a permanent ban on horse slaughter for human consumption?

Yes       No

**“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, the USDA passed a temporary ban on the processing of downed animals for human consumption.

Will you support legislation such as the Downed Animal Protection Act to require the humane euthanasia of downer livestock and prohibit USDA certification of meat from such animals?

Yes       No

**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 legislation to assure that poultry are rendered insensible to pain prior to being killed?

Yes       No

**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 to phase out routine non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in farm animals?

Yes       No

**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 to require that the federal government only purchase food from producers who meet certain humane standards?

Yes       No

## ***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 to prohibit monkeys, chimpanzees, and other primates from being shipped across state lines for the pet trade?

Yes       No

**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. Thirteen 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 to prohibit Internet hunting?  
 Yes       No

**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?  
 Yes       No

**Fur Labeling:** Since 1951, the Fur Products Labeling Act has required garments made of real animal fur to be labeled by species and country of origin, to provide important information to consumers about what they are buying. But a loophole in the law allows an exemption for fur-trimmed items if the value of the fur is \$150 or less, leaving consumers guessing about whether the fur is real or faux.

Will you support legislation to close this loophole and require that all fur is labeled regardless of value?  
 Yes       No

**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 calling on other nations to stop the slaughter of marine mammals?  
 Yes       No

**Trophy Hunting Tax Scam:** An investigation revealed that trophy hunters are writing off their big game safaris at taxpayers’ expense. The scam involves wealthy hunters killing a few extra animals, donating the trophies to pseudo-museums (e.g., someone’s basement or an abandoned railroad car), then inflating the value of these trophies and taking a huge tax deduction for their “charitable” contribution.

Will you support legislation to tighten the tax code so that hunters must provide the IRS with proof of the actual market value of their trophies and can no longer write off their travel costs – changes expected to save taxpayers more than \$43 million?  
 Yes       No

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

**Humane USA  
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