



2023 State Legislative Wrap-Up: Committee on Animals and the Law

We've come to the end of 2023, with several actions taken by the Legislature and Governor that may be of interest to your committee. Any memoranda and letters drafted by the committee in support or opposition to legislation was shared by the Government Relations team, and the team looks forward to working with the committee as we move into the 2024 Legislative Session.

Committee Legislative Engagement in the 2023 Session

Signed by the Governor:

- S1677A(Addabbo)/A3552A(Pretlow): Increases the fines for selling disabled horses at auctions; also expands the protection to mules and donkeys. The Committee on Animals and the Law supported this legislation with a letter to the Governor.
- S.2163-B (Addabbo) / A.5109-A (Glick): Prohibits the slaughter of horses for human or animal consumption. To strengthen its prohibitions, the bill makes it unlawful for a person who owns or is buying a horse to import, export, sell, offer to sell or barter, transfer, purchase, possess, transport, deliver, receive, give away, hold or accept, or direct another to do so, with intent to slaughter the horse for human or animal consumption. The Committee on Animals and the Law supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#18) to the Legislature and a follow up letter to the Governor.
- S.4099 (Kennedy) / A.2917 (Glick): Makes contests, competitions, tournaments, and derbies to take wildlife unlawful. The legislation is narrowly crafted to prohibit only these killing contests for prizes or other inducement, or for entertainment; it would not affect the continued lawful, regulated hunting of furbearer or game species, fishing contests and derbies, or dog field trials. The Committee on Animals and the Law supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#12) to the Legislature and a follow up letter to the Governor.

Not Passed by the Legislature:

- S.460A (Sepulveda) / A.768A (L.Rosenthal): Includes wildlife as those subjected to the animal cruelty provisions. The Committee on Animals and the Law supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#1).
- S.761 (Krueger) / A.776 (L.Rosenthal): Amends the definition of aggravated animal cruelty. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#2).
- S.1455 (Serrano) / A.1226 (L.Rosenthal): Regulates controlling nuisance wildlife. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#3).
- S.1619 (Addabbo) / A.110 (L.Rosenthal): Prohibits leg-gripping traps. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#4).

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NYSBA.ORG/GOVERNMENTRELATIONS

- S.1659 (Bailey) / A.111 (L.Rosenthal): Provides for a court-appointed advocate for animals. COAL supported this with a Memo in Support (#6).
- S.1673 (Addabbo) / A.420 (L.Rosenthal): Requires the installation and testing of fire protection systems at pet stores. The Committee supported this legislation with a memo in Support (#9).
- S.1968 (Sepulveda) / A.3798 (L.Rosenthal): Authorizes emergency medical care personnel to provide basic first aid to dogs and cats. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#7).
- S.3279 (Brisport) / A.790 (L.Rosenthal): Prohibits fur products including the manufacture, sale, display for sale, trade, giving, donating, or otherwise distributing of fur products in NYS. COAL opposed this legislation in its current form and submitted a memo in opposition.
- S.3431A (Skoufis) / A.1148A (Zebrowski): An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the crimes of animal fighting and promoting animal fighting and conform the associated penalties to New York's penal code. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#13).
- S.4081 (Brisport) / A. 5499 (L.Rosenthal): Increases eligibility and income deductions for disabled people who have guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs by repealing SSL Section 303-a and adding new SSL Section 131-y to the Social Services Law. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#11).
- S.4163 (Hoylman-Sigal/ A.1149 (L.Rosenthal): Prohibits insurers from canceling renters' insurance based on ownership of a specific breed of dog. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#19).
- S.4363-A (Fernandez) / A4005-A (Glick): Prohibits the use of wild animals in circuses, aka traveling animal acts. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#14).
- S.4533 (Harckham) / A.416 (L.Rosenthal): Expands the teaching of the humane treatment and protection of animals in schools to include publicly funded secondary schools. The COAL supported with a Memo in Support (#16).
- S.4717 (Sanders) / A.3149 (Hunter): Authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide eligible veterans with financial assistance for purchasing, training, and upkeep of service and emotional support dogs. COAL supported with a Memo in Support (#5).
- S.4976-A (Harckham) / A.2084A (Glick): Prohibits the use of lead ammunition in the taking of wildlife on state-owned land and on land contributing surface water to the New York City water supply. COAL supported with a Memo in Support (#8).
- S.5203 (Skoufis) / A.1409 (Zebrowski): Expands the definition of "dangerous" relating to a dog that caused death to a companion animal, farm animal or domestic animal while trespassing on property. COAL opposed this legislation with a Memo in Opposition (#10).
- S.5341 (Addabbo) / A.2718 (Paulin): Provides for the licensing of pet grooming facilities and establishes standards of care and required record keeping. COAL supported this legislation with Memo in Support (#17).
- S.6365 (Hinchev) / A.2881 (Lupardo): Requires vacated property to be inspected for animals. COAL supported with a Memo in Support (#15).
- S.7287A (Brisport) /A.3505A (L.Rosenthal) : Requires higher education research facilities make available certain information regarding the adoption of dogs or cats on their website. COAL supported this legislation with a Memo in Support (#20).

Other Legislation of Interest Signed into Law

- S. 846 (Gianaris) / A.981 (L. Rosenthal) – Chapter 35 of the Laws of 2023, effective 3/3/23: Allows a retail pet store to receive rental fees from animal adoption organizations. COAL did not take a position.
- S.2123 (Addabbo) / A.3777 (Paulin) – Chapter 131 of the Laws of 2023, effective 12/15/2025: Technical correction for legislation related to the transport of animals to shelters. COAL did not take a position.
- S.7459 (Martinez) / A.6996 (Wallace) – Chapter 153 of the Laws of 2023, effective 6/30/23: Provides that when a medication is prescribed for animals that information may be provided in writing or orally and noted in the veterinary medical record. COAL did not take a position.
- S.2630 (May) / A.783 (Hunter) – Signed by the Governor: Establishing an urban deer management pilot program for the city of Syracuse. COAL did not take a position.
- S.4804-A (Palumbo) / A.5542-A (Thiele) – Signed by the Governor: establishing an urban deer management pilot program for the town of Southold (Long Island). COAL did not take a position.