animal wellness action 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

A Remarkable Year of Major Victories and Tangible Gains in 2022

Highlights of 2022

Animal Wellness Action, along with its affiliates the Center for a Humane Economy and the Animal Wellness Foundation, work to prevent cruelty to all animals, taking on the sectors that threaten to do the most harm to animals.

Animal Wellness Action closed 2022 with very tangible victories to help animals at risk from long-standing and extremely harmful practices conducted in several major sectors of the economy. These were signature gains in our broader quest to set guardrails on how people, at least in some industries, should treat animals. These new legal standards, if properly adhered to by citizens and enforced by authorities, will yield benefits for countless billions of animals over time, within terrestrial and ocean ecosystems.

We worked to pass five major new federal laws for animals, and also secured millions in new funding for enforcement of previously enacted laws. Every year, the Congress considers upwards of 15,000 bills, with only about 250 crossing the finish line. Securing five new national animal protection laws in 2022 is remarkable productivity, especially comparing the very high failure rate for bills introduced in Congress. Our success rate is without peer in the animal protection movement.

At the top of the list in terms of degree of difficulty and mass number of potential animals saved is our win to address the mass use of animals in science for testing: AWA eliminated the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act's 84-year-old mandate for animal testing for new drug development.

The FDA Modernization Act 2.0 will benefit dogs, rabbits, and other domesticated animals. But it will also benefit wildlife, including primates captured in the wild and sent to laboratories in the United States, including endangered animals. Indeed, protecting wildlife was a big theme for us in 2022. Also in Congress, we helped get the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act over the finish line — shutting down the trade in fins for soup in the U.S. that comes from the ruthless practice of people catching sharks in their native habitats and cutting off the appendages that allow them to move in ocean waters.

We also had a signature win for terrestrial predators. With a wide range of other animal welfare and environmental groups, we succeeded in a major lawsuit to restore federal protections for wolves across tens of thousands of square miles of their range in the Lower 48 states.

We got close to ending mink farming by winning a first-ever vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the rank abuse of wild mink on factory farms. We

did, however, come up short in the Senate, whose members did not properly assess the zoonotic disease threats posed by keeping wild, solitary mink in extreme confinement — all to sell mink pelts to the Chinese, who are happy to outsource these viral threats to the U.S.

But we are encouraged about a proposed rulemaking to establish the first anti-confinement standards in federal law for hens, pigs, and cows raised under the "organic label." And we continue to be the leading advocacy organization for horses — fighting to halt horse soring and slaughter, end abuses and misconduct in horse racing, and keep wild horses and burros free and safe on the range.

This year, we also convinced the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to break its absolute ban on imports of dogs from more than 100 countries, after the agency overreacted to a handful of dogs with rabies who were presented for import but never cleared the screening process for entry into the United States

In 2022, we helped secure a series of wins in the federal courts to beat back efforts by cockfighters to challenge the National Animal Fighting law and to establish that staged animal fighting is banned on every inch of U.S soil — from Puerto Rico to Oklahoma to Guam. Meanwhile on the ground, we worked to gather intelligence and work with law enforcement to target kingpins in the business of cockfighting and to dismantle the network of cockfighting traffickers operating throughout the U.S.

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AWA is a lean, hard-hitting, highly strategic, and extraordinarily effective policy and political organization, working to change legal standards for animals and to see that laws are enforced. Working in partnership with the Animal Wellness Foundation on direct care and with the Center for a Humane Economy on corporate reforms, we are a triumvirate of organizations, with several key and closely allied other partners, that are driving change for animals on the biggest levels.

A Landslide of Legislative Victories in 2022

Animal Wellness Action conceived or played a leading or critical role in the novel passage of bills and enactment of laws, as well as fixing or strengthening animal-protection measures.

Here is a list with brief descriptions of our successful congressional work in 2022:

FDA Modernization Act and Reducing Animal Testing Act

These measures eliminate the 84-year-old federal mandate that all new drugs and biosimilars must be tested first on live animals before going to human clinical trials. AWA also helped secure $12.5 million to support an FDA-wide New Alternative Methods Program that will be used to reduce animal testing and is directly related to the FDA Modernization Act signed into law by President Joe Biden, December 2022.

Big Cat Public Safety Act

After more than a decade-long fight, we helped engineer the passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act to strengthen the federal law banning trade in big cats as pets and then shutting down the commercial cub-petting operations that use tiger cubs and kittens as props. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden December 2022.

Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act

This new law prohibits the sale of shark fins in the United States, taking fins off the menu at any restaurant and retailer offering up this product for use in sups. The killing of sharks for fins produces tens of millions of sharks mutilated and killed across the oceans every year, and its enactment of this bill closes off the major U.S. market for this commerce. It also signals to other nations that the trade in the parts of these animals should end there as well. It was signed into law as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act

This measure fixes a provision of the existing Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) to keep a national law in place designed to end race-day doping in the Thoroughbred industry.

The Horse Protection Act

While we haven't yet succeeded in upgrading the federal law banning the barbaric practice of horse soring, we did secure record funding of $4.1 million for enforcement of the existing Horse Protection Act (HPA), which does limit placing sored horses (horses that are intentionally harmed and given sores to force a desired gait) in horse show competitions.

Animal Welfare Campaigns in Action

This year there is much to celebrate for AWA and its game-changing wins in the halls of Congress, and each of these measures required an enormous number of maneuvers to secure their enactment. In addition to securing these key gains, we also made progress on a wide range of other reforms, putting us in a position to succeed in 2023 and beyond.

Campaign: Modernize Testing

Landmark Measures Enacted to Reduce Animal Testing

AWA's biggest win this year in terms of sheer numbers of animals that will be positively affected, came in December when federal lawmakers passed the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 — including both the original FDA Modernization Act and also the Reducing Animal Testing Act — to eliminate a federal mandate for animal testing for new drugs and for biosimilars.

This measure that is now law after being signed by President Joe Biden Dec. 23 will significantly reduce the countless scores of animals — dogs, rabbits, chimpanzees, mice, rats and more — bred and sold every year for laboratory testing, because the large majority of lab animals are used for drug protocols.

There were two major routes to victory, and in the end, we succeeded in getting the measure hitched to a massive, end-of-year spending bill. We'd been set up for success because Sens. Rand Paul and Cory Booker led an effort to pass it as a stand-alone measure in the Senate in late September and key House allies attached a version of the legislation as an amendment to a larger House legislative package earlier in the year. (You can listen to Sen. Paul's persuasive floor speech here.) In short, we've passed the measure twice in both chambers, underscoring that we framed the issue in the right way, built a base of remarkable bipartisan support, and then drove it home by building a diverse coalition of stakeholders and generating grassroots energy to prompt the Congress to move. Enactment of the measure punctuates the biggest policy win on the issue of animal testing in our nation's history. (You can read these OpEds here.)

On a significant parallel track, we succeeded in securing $12.5 million (including $5 million in new

money) to support an FDA-wide New Alternative Methods Program to reduce animal testing. This additional money will build the toolkit on alternatives, as we turn to pressing FDA and private and public drug developers to embrace alternative methods and work on dramatically reducing the numbers of dogs, primates, mice, rats, and other animals used in testing.

We are planning on globalizing the campaign and securing similar policies in other industrialized nations. Global drug companies will want to harmonize the rules of drug development.

Enactment of the FDA Modernization Act will reboot a broken drug development paradigm, and if follow-up work is diligent, it will deliver safer, more effective, more reliable palliatives and cures to people in need. We are planning on globalizing the campaign and securing similar policies in other industrialized nations. Global drug companies will want to harmonize the rules of drug development.

Related to FDA: Putting Animals in Politics

AWA Played a Major Role in Defeating Animal-Testing Practitioner in Senate Race

In a deft and timely move that is intimately tied to values and goals within AWA's Modernize Testing campaign, AWA played a major role in defeating Dr. Mehmet Oz as he ran for a U.S. Senate seat in Pennsylvania in 2022 by shining a spotlight on his egregious acts toward animals in a laboratory he oversaw.

In fact, animal issues never had a more prominent role in a major political race in America than in this race. Animal Wellness Action and other outside groups spent more than $3 million on TV and digital ads to elevate the issue of animal testing because of Dr. Oz's startling record of inhumane animal testing and his failure to provide assurances that he would support policy efforts to reduce animal testing. The Washington Examiner reported that Dr. Oz's experiment on dogs may have doomed his campaign, with Oz and his research team conducting tests on more than 1,000 animals, including 330 beagles, between 1989 and 2010 at the University of Columbia. The mistreatment was severe enough to prompt USDA to issue citations for Animal Welfare Act violations and fine Columbia University for the abuses.

We very carefully target lawmakers, whether Democrats or Republicans, if they actively work against animal protection values. It's our view that opposition to animal cruelty should be a universal value and that lawmakers of all ideological types should favor mainstream reforms to spare animals from abuse.

Campaign: No Big Cats as Pets (or Props)

Commercial Tiger and Lion Cub-Petting Industry Shut Down

Just like with animal testing, our work to shut down the dangerous and cruel business of keeping big cats — mostly lions and tigers — for commercial cub-petting operations has been a tough one to shut down.

But after a long, 11-year campaign to end the trade in big cats as pets and shut down these roadside zoos and fake sanctuaries, 2022 was the year AWA closed the door on these poorly thought-out operations after the House and Senate took final action on the measures and then President Joe Biden signed the Big Cat Public Safety Act, H.R. 263, into law. This bill closes out the cub-petting industry, which breeds tigers and lions to allow patrons to handle cubs for a fee. There are thousands of big cats kept in private hands, and just a decade ago, there were more than 60 cub-petting menageries.

It is important to note that in addition to securing the support of all Democrats and dozens of Republicans in the House, AWA worked with all 50 Republicans and all 50 Democrats to secure their support. Even a single Senate could have blocked the bill, and we credit every one of the Senators for supporting the idea of stopping inhumane treatment of big cats.

We worked particularly closely with Howard and Carole Baskin and Big Cat Rescue on the measure, and they were steadfast and high-impact partners, along with the National Sheriffs Association and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

You can watch our Animal Wellness podcast with Carole Baskin as we celebrate the passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act on YouTube.

Campaign: Banning the Shark Fin Trade

Shark Fin Sales Outlawed in the United States

Similar to the Big Cat bill, which was first introduced in 2011, it's been a struggle to secure an end to a practice called shark finning in our country, not to mention the world. But in 2022, AWA saw its work to ban shark finning succeed with passage of the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

Shark finning is the abhorrent and irresponsible act of shark hunters who can make a buck from slicing off a shark's fin and discarding the living body back into the waters to drown. Removing apex predators in this manner is not only inhumane, but losses of large numbers for the shark fin soup industry can have terrible consequences for whole marine ecosystems.

> ***"Shark finning conjures up the cruelty and wanton destruction of the medieval era. But it's more of a modern evil, and the United States has determined this trade is no longer legal in our nation. Nobody really knows the global toll on sharks killed for their fins, but it has been estimated at an eye-popping 70 million a year."***
>
> **— AWA President Wayne Pacelle**

The shark fin sales prohibition bill had amassed overwhelming bipartisan support in the House and Senate, with the first formulation introduced more than seven years ago. But it had never gotten over the finish line.

This anti-finning legislation came in the wake of two other shark protection measures in the last two decades: 1) the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 amended the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) to prohibit shark finning in U.S. waters, and 2) the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 amended the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the MSA to require that sharks brought to American shores have fins intact.

In 2022, AWA can proudly say that shark fins are off all menus in the United States, since Congress passed the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law in December. Like the ban on the sale of dog and cat meat in the United States, U.S. leadership will be attention-getting throughout the world, including in nations where there is still an appetite for shark fin soup.

Campaign: End Cockfighting

Ban on Animal Fighting in U.S. Territories Affirmed and Cockfighting Convictions, Stemming from Our Investigations

Animal Wellness Action and its partners are leading the fight against the criminal enterprise of cockfighting. In 2022, we put a punctuation mark on our campaign that has ended all legal dogfighting and cockfighting on U.S. soil.

With AWA submitting pleadings to the federal courts in every case — in the wake of our winning enactment of a 2018 law that bans animal fighting in all parts of the U.S. — the federal courts delivered a series of favorable rulings on the issue. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had affirmed a ruling of the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam that Congress has the authority to bar animal fighting throughout the United States, cementing the ban on cockfighting in five U.S. territories that have been major hotspots for staged fights.

But cockfighters not surprisingly pushed back in their desire to keep harming animals for their sick idea of entertainment. One former Northern Marianas Islands politician — a self-described lifelong cockfighter — tried his best to invalidate the federal ban on cockfighting in the Pacific-island territory. But in November, AWA and its allied groups won, and a U.S. District Court dismissed his claim.

Stateside, AWA congratulated federal prosecutors for securing federal prison time for one of the nation's most elaborate cockfighting syndicates, with Brent Easterling and several relatives based in Alabama going to federal prison for their illegal animal fighting ventures. Animal Wellness Action provided compelling evidence to the federal government that aided the government's investigation and prosecution, and ultimately led to the conviction of seven people in Alabama.

"Every cockfighter in the United States should pay attention to what has happened to an Alabama family that was knee-deep in the enterprise of cockfighting. These cockfighters have lost their assets and their freedom. That's the potential fate of anyone involved in the barbaric practice of staged animal fighting."

— AWA President Wayne Pacelle

Campaign: Saving Wolves

Great Lakes Wolves Spared from Trapping, Hounding, Hunting

Wolves across much of their range in the Lower 48 states got a major dose of protection when a federal judge restored federal Endangered Species Act protections for the animals. AWA and the Center participated in this case with other key organizations throughout the nation, and it came after our successful state lawsuit in 2021 to halt trophy hunting and trapping in Wisconsin. Had the federal lawsuit not succeeded, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin could have potentially restarted wolf hunting and trapping programs in the Upper Great Lakes states and collectively killed 1,000 wolves a year. The federal court ruling not only prevents sport killing, but it limits damage-control killing in Michigan and Wisconsin to threats to human life (a very rare exception since wolves almost never threaten people).

Campaign: Creating a Cage-Free Future

USDA Proposes First-Ever Farm Animal Welfare Standards

At our urging, and that of other groups long-engaged on this topic, this year the USDA released its proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards rule, which calls for elevated animal welfare standards in organic animal agriculture. The new rule stipulates animals raised under the "organic" label gain very specific protections when it comes to housing and other husbandry standards, including the prohibition of certain painful practices, such as tail-docking of pigs and cattle and debeaking of birds. Importantly, the rule sets minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for egg-laying chickens and requires that producers provide a sufficient number of exits and outdoor enrichment opportunities to entice birds to go outside on a daily basis. It also specifies that covered porches and similar structures do not qualify as outdoor space. Now we need to see a final rulemaking action that provides only a short phase-in period and then vigorous oversight.

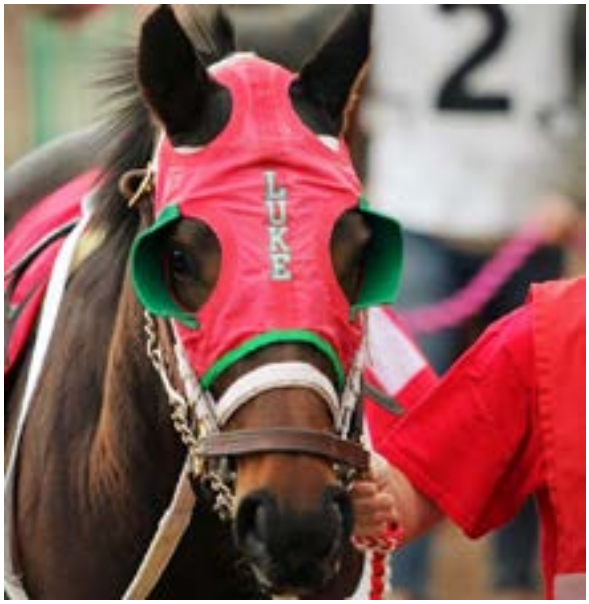
Campaign: Keeping Wild Horses Wild

Positive News for Horses On the Range and At Risk of Slaughter

In its end-of-year spending bill, Congress continued a ban on funding any horse-slaughter inspections in the United States, thereby extending the de facto end of horse slaughter in our nation. That same end-of-year funding bill also included funding and directives for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to pursue more forward-facing, humane on-the-range management of wild horses and burros and renewing an Animal Wellness Action-led effort in prior years to secure $11 million in annual funding for fertility control. This is just one step in a long march needed to keep wild horses and burros safe and free in their native habitats. The BLM must move from persecutor to protector, as it is charged to be doing for these equids.

Keeping a Watchful Eye on Race Horses

National Race-Day Ban on Performance-Enhancing Drugs Restored



Animal Wellness Action, along with The Jockey Club, worked with key lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to amend the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020, amending a provision in the original law that a federal appellate court declared unconstitutional in November and that put the national ban on race-day doping of Thoroughbreds in jeopardy. Performance-enhancing drugs put the animals at risk of breakdowns and other injuries and make the entire industry suspect. We launched our new site, www.HISAWatchdog.org, to help facilitate communication and keep a watchful eye on regulators.

Keeping Lawlessness and Torture Out of the Show Ring

Record Funding Achieved to Enforce Federal Anti-Horse Soring Law

Animal Wellness Action helped secure record-level funding for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act of 1970. This year, the approved Congressional spending bill funding government operations in 2023 includes a record level $4.1 million to enforce the HPA — that's $1 million more than the prior year's record funding level of $3 million. This is consequential because a segment of horse trainers tortures horses to get them to exaggerate their gait and win ribbons at horse shows. With more inspections, we should be able to crack down on some level of lawlessness until we can upgrade the 52-year-old law next year. Until AWA started pressing for more funding in 2018 when the organization opened shop, the HPA never saw more than $705,000 in funding per year since the HPA was enacted in 1970. Funding is needed. According to the USDA Animal Plant and Health Inspection Services, one-third of horses were found non-compliant with the HPA and disqualified from the year-end Tennessee Walking Horse finale.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2022

Animal Wellness Action is a 501(c)(4) organization under Internal Revenue Service rules, allowing it to spend substantial sums on lobbying and political advocacy, including candidate electioneering. Since most groups in the animal welfare field are 501(c)(3) organizations that have strict limits on public policy and political work, AWA has a particularly important role to play in animal protection. Indeed, AWA works to establish legal standards to protect animals and, once enacted, to enforce the laws to shield animals from cruelty.

In 2022, AWA had total revenues of $1 million, and an additional $135,000 in revenues for Animal Wellness Action PAC.

AWA had total expenses for AWA in 2022 of $1 million. In election years, the organization often spends substantially because it weighs in many candidate elections, seeking to inject animal welfare into our national political discourse and drive better policy outcomes for animals.

AWA ended the year with assets of $920 thousand and AWA PAC had assets of $94 thousand.

In 2022, we spent 86.5% on animal protection advocacy and programs, and just 13.5% on management, administration, governance, and fundraising. Pound for pound, AWA is perhaps the most effective organization in the field of animal protection, using your resources and volunteers to leverage the power of government to create legal protections for animals that spare millions of animals suffering and cruelty.

Ways You Can Help

1 Get educated on animal issues

Stay updated on animal welfare issues with our blog, *The Policy Animal*. Read *The Humane Economy* by founder Wayne Pacelle for a practical road-map on how you can use the marketplace to promote the welfare of all living creatures.

2 Influence lawmakers

Take action on our Contact Congress page. And don't forget to sign our petitions here. You can easily make your voice heard by letting your local, state and national lawmakers know you want them to introduce new animal welfare bills and vote for existing ones.

3 Vote with your conscience

Vote in your local, state and national elections for candidates who support animal welfare policies and programs.

Check if you're registered to vote by checking here. Or you can register to vote here.

4 Be social

Keep up on the latest in animal welfare news by following us on social media and alerting your followers to the opportunities to help the animals.

5 Donate for Change

Donate to candidates and law makers who support better animal welfare laws. Support organizations like Animal Wellness Action that move forward public policy surrounding animals. By donating to AWA, you will be supporting our work influencing legislation that shapes animal welfare laws and regulation.

6 Campaign for Compassion

Seek opportunities to campaign and support legislators, law enforcement personnel, judges, and other candidates for public office who support animal welfare policies. Volunteering at their campaign offices, door-knocking, and phone banking are easy and productive ways to help. First, find out which of your lawmakers are supportive of animal welfare policies here.

7 Show appreciation for legislative leaders

Spread the news about legislation and legislative leaders. Write letters to the editor, post information on social media about key legislative items. Remember to thank lawmakers who carry animal protection legislation and help lead on our issues. You can find your lawmakers' voting score here.

8 Educate others

Further the dialogue surrounding animal welfare issues with friends and families. Make sure the people who care are getting the latest information by sharing our feeds.

9 Urge proper enforcement of animal welfare laws

Speak out with any information you have about the inhumane treatment of captive, farmed or companion animals, wildlife trafficking or environmental crimes by calling The Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice at 202-514-2701.

And send tips about the cruel spectacle of illegal animal fighting here: animalcrueltytips@animalwellnessaction.org

10 Eat and act with conscience and purpose

Eat more plant-based foods, reduce food waste, minimize packaging waste, buy cruelty-free products, and live your life as if every choice matters. When we live this way, we create a healthier planet and build a more humane economy.

animal wellness action

helping animals helps us all

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