2019 Scorecard

for the Colorado General Assembly

During the 2019 legislative session CVA tracked a number of bills and proposed bills related to animals, only two of which were ultimately used for scoring. Other bills were withdrawn during the committee process, meaning that there was no vote for CVA to include in our percentage scores.

2019 Bills

HB-1092 Animal Ownership Ban for Cruelty to Animals Conviction

Position: **Support**
Outcome: **signed into law**

This bill allows courts to require a mental health treatment program or other appropriate treatment program as part of the sentencing for a person convicted of cruelty to animals. The court is also required to prohibit a person convicted of felony animal cruelty from owning a pet animal for a period of 3 to 5 years, and a juvenile adjudicated a delinquent for an animal cruelty crime from owning a pet animal. This requirement may be waived if the offender's treatment provider makes a specific recommendation not to impose the ban and the court agrees. Freshman legislator Rep. Alex Valdez (D-Denver) introduced this important legislation, which was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Joann Ginal (D-Fort Collins).

As originally proposed, the bill would have banned any contact with animals rather than just ownership, and applied to any animal (not just pets). This met with opposition from legislators concerned about potential effects on agriculture, as well as offender treatment providers who pointed out that contact with animals can often play a role in rehabilitation. Rep. Valdez worked with these interests to address their concerns and ensure the bill's passage.

HB-1220 Court Facility Dogs

Position: **Support**
Outcome: **signed into law**

This bill allows a court facility dog to provide support to a witness testifying during court proceedings, provided the dog does not cause a distraction. These specially-trained dogs may accompany vulnerable people, such as child abuse victims, on the witness stand to provide a calming and supportive presence during what may be a frightening and intimidating process. The bill requires such dogs to have graduated from an accredited training program that prepares them for this task. The court has discretion regarding instruction to the jury about the dog's role, as well as the decision to permit or refuse a dog's presence if there are valid objections that it might unduly influence a jury. The law does not have any effect on existing laws that allow the presence of service animals. HB-1220 was introduced by Rep. Tom Sullivan (D-Centennial) and was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora).

Bills Not Scored:

HB19-1102 Misbranding of Nonanimal and Lab-Grown Meat

Outcome: **withdrawn during committee**

This bill would have made it illegal to label food products that did not come from an animal with terms such as "meat," or other words used to describe cuts of meat. It also would have

required that products grown from animal cells ("clean meat") be labeled as "lab grown" or "artificially cultured." CVA opposed this bill as we felt that the present labeling of plant-based products such as "Beyond Meat," "Plant-Based Tuna," "Coconut Bacon," etc., is not confusing to consumers, as was alleged by the bill sponsors, and that the cost of having to re-label existing plant-based products would be passed on to Colorado consumers.

HB-1116 Hunter Education Requirements in Public Schools
Outcome: **defeated in committee**

This bill, as introduced, would have required school districts and charter schools that contract with a provider of hunter education courses to make the course mandatory for all seventh graders. "Hands-on" activities could not be required to complete the course, and would have required parental permission. During the House Education Committee hearing, the bill sponsors submitted a revised version of the bill that would make the course elective rather than required. The committee still voted not to approve the bill. CVA did not take a position on this bill as amended.

2019 Voting Scores

The The numerical score is the legislator's score on actual votes. The letter grade is our overall assessment of the legislator's performance. For the letter grade we considered votes, sponsorship or co-sponsorship of bills, and any behind-the-scenes efforts affecting animal-related legislation.

New this year
we have added a column for "Extra Credit" (or "debit," as the case may be) to draw attention to some of these behind-the-scenes efforts. This year, CVA would like to recognize Rep. Jeni Arndt (D-Fort Collins) and Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D-Arvada/Westminster) for their attempt to introduce a bill to prohibit traveling exotic animal performances such as circuses. Because these were delayed bills (introduced later in the session) leadership did not allow them to move forward. We applaud these two legislators for their efforts. We have also added a column indicating which legislators attended, or sent an aide to attend, the Colorado Legislative Animal Welfare (CLAW) Caucus.

NOTE: The scores don't tell the whole story! Sometimes a legislator is either more or less animal friendly than the score indicates. This is especially true during years when there are few animal-related bills available for scoring.

✔=Pro-animal vote; ✗=Anti-animal vote; ***S***=Prime sponsor; S=sponsor; *= Co-sponsor; e=excused

Colorado State Representatives	Party	District	HB-1092 Animal Ban for Cruelty Conviction Votes	Sponsors	HB-1220 Allow Court Facility Dogs Votes	Sponsors	Voting Score	Extra Credit	CLAW Caucus Attendance	Letter Grade
Arndt, Jeni James	D	53	✔	*	✔		100%	✔		A+
Baisley, Mark	R	39	✔		✔		100%			A-
Becker, KC	D	13	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Beckman, Susan	R	38	✗		✔		50%			D
Benavidez, Adrienne	D	32	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Bird, Shannon	D	35	✔	*	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Bockenfeld, Rod	R	56	✔		✔		100%			A-
Buck, Perry	R	49	✔		✔		100%		✔	A
Buckner, Janet	D	40	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Buentello, Bri	D	47	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Caraveo, Yadira	D	31	✔	S	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Carver, Terri	R	20	✔		✔		100%			A-
Catlin, Marc	R	58	✗		✔		50%			D
Coleman, James	D	7	✔		✔		100%			A-
Cutter, Lisa	D	25	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Duran, Monica	D	24	✔	S	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Esgar, Daneya	D	46	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Exum Sr., Tony	D	17	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+

Colorado State Representatives continued	Party	District	HB-1092 Animal Ban for Cruelty Conviction Votes	Sponsors	HB-1220 Allow Court Facility Dogs Votes	Sponsors	Voting Score	Extra Credit	CLAW Caucus Attendance	Letter Grade
Froelich, Meg	D	3	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Galindo, Rochelle	D	50	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Garnett, Alec	D	2	✔		✔		100%			A-
Geitner, Tim	R	19	✔		✔		100%			A-
Gonzales-Gutierrez, Serena	D	4	✔	*	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Gray, Matt	D	33	✔		✔		100%			A-
Hansen, Chris	D	6	✔		✔		100%			A-
Herod, Leslie	D	8	e		✔		100%			A-
Hooton, Edie	D	10	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Humphrey, Stephen	R	48	✔		✔		100%			A-
Jackson, Domimique	D	42	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Jaquez Lewis, Sonya	D	12	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Kennedy, Chris	D	23	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Kipp, Cathy	D	52	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Kraft-Tharp, Tracy	D	29	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Landgraf, Lois	R	21	✔		✔		100%			A-
Larson, Colin	R	22	✔		✔		100%			A-
Lewis, Kimmi	R	64	e		✔		100%		✔	A
Liston, Larry	R	16	✔		✔		100%		✔	A
Lontine, Susan	D	1	✔		✔		100%			A-
McCluskie, Julie	D	61	✔		✔		100%			A-
McKean, Hugh	R	51	✗		✗		0%			F
McLachlan, Barbara	D	59	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Melton, Jovan	D	41	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Michaelson Jenet, Dafna	D	30	e	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Mullica, Kyle	D	34	✔	S	✔	*	100%			A+
Neville, Patrick	R	45	✔		✔		100%			A-
Pelton, Rod	R	65	✗		✔		50%			D
Ransom, Kim	R	44	✔		✔		100%			A-
Rich, Janice	R	55	✗		✔		50%			D
Roberts, Dylan	D	26	✔		✔	*	100%			A+
Saine, Lori	R	63	✔		✔	*	100%		✔	A
Sandridge, Shane	R	14	✔		✔		100%			A-
Singer, Jonathan	D	11	✔	S	✔		100%			A
Sirota, Emily	D	9	✔	*	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Snyder, Marc	D	18	✔	*	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Soper, Matt	R	54	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Sullivan, Tom	D	37	✔	S	✔	*S*	100%			A++
Tipper, Kerry	D	28	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Titone, Brianna	D	27	✔	*	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Valdez, Alex	D	5	✔	*S*	✔	*	100%		✔	A++
Valdez, Donald	D	62	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Van Winkle, Kevin	R	43	✔		e	*	100%			A
Weissman, Mike	D	36	✔		✔		100%			A-
Will, Perry	R	57	✗		✔		50%			D
Williams, Dave	R	15	✔		✔		100%			A-
Wilson, James "Jim"	R	60	✗		✔		50%			D

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Bill Number — Colorado State Senators	Party	District	HB-1092 Animal Ban for Cruelty Conviction Votes	HB-1092 Sponsors	HB-1220 Allow Court Facility Dogs Votes	HB-1220 Sponsors	Voting Score	Extra Credit	CLAW Caucus Attendance	Letter Grade
Bridges, Jeff	D	26	✔	*	✔		100%			A
Cooke, John	R	13	✔		✔		100%			A-
Coram, Don	R	6	✔		✔		100%			A-
Court, Lois	D	31	✔	*	✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Crowder, Larry	R	35	e		e				✔	
Danielson, Jessie	D	20	✔		✔		100%			A-
Donovan, Kerry	D	5	✔		✔		100%			A-
Fenberg, Stephen	D	18	✔		✔		100%			A-
Fields, Rhonda	D	29	✔		✔	*S*	100%			A++
Foote, Mike	D	17	✔		✔		100%			A-
Garcia, Leroy	D	3	✔		✔		100%			A-
Gardner, Bob	R	12	✔		✔		100%			A-
Ginal, Joann	D	14	✔	*S*	✔	*	100%		✔	A++
Gonzales, Julie	D	34	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Hill, Owen	R	10	✗		✗		0%			F
Hisey, Dennis	R	2	✔		✔		100%			A-
Holbert, Chris	R	30	✔		✔		100%			A-
Lee, Pete	D	11	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Lundeen, Paul	R	9	✔		✔		100%			A-
Marble, Vicki	R	23	✗		✔		50%			D
Moreno, Dominick	D	21	✔	*	✔	*	100%			A+
Pettersen, Brittany	D	22	✔		✔		100%		✔	A
Priola, Kevin	R	25	✔		✔		100%			A-
Rankin, Bob	R	8	✔		✔		100%			A-
Rodriguez, Robert	D	35	✔		✔		100%			A-
Scott, Ray	R	7	e		e					
Smallwood, Jim	R	4	✔		✔		100%			A-
Sonnenberg, Jerry	R	1	✗		✗		0%			F
Story, Tammy	D	16	✔		✔		100%			A-
Tate, Jack	R	27	e		e				✔	
Todd, Nancy	D	28	✔		✔	*	100%		✔	A+
Williams, Angela	D	33	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Winter, Faith	D	24	✔		✔	*	100%			A
Woodward, Rob	R	15	✔		✔		100%			A-
Zenzinger, Rachel	D	19	✔		✔		100%	✔	✔	A+

About Colorado Voters for Animals

Colorado Voters for Animals is committed to animal protection through effective legislation. We support candidates and incumbents who align with these values. We advocate for humane legislation, oppose inhumane legislation, and educate the public on issues that affect animals.

Colorado Voters for Animals has a separate Small Donor Committee, established to help get humane candidates elected and keep them in office.

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