



news

MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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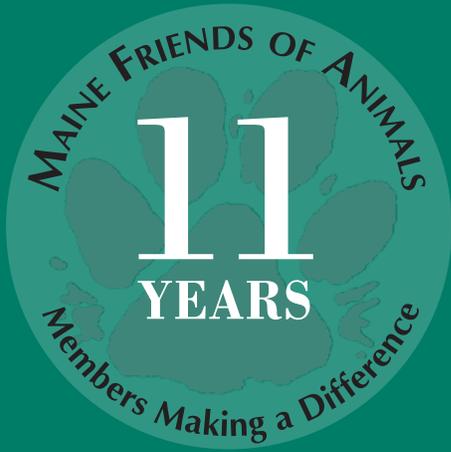
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Read about MFOA's animal protection work over the last 11 years by clicking on Timeline at: www.mfoa.net



Commentary



*Love animals. Hate Politics.
Where does that leave the animals?*
This is the motto of Maine Friends of Animals, which we repeat and repeat. We have always encouraged our membership to engage the political fray more while we charted a pragmatic legislative course.

This recent election cycle presented an occasion to show that an active small voting bloc can make the difference, and in this case in an important State Senate race. In Senate District 15 (Auburn, New Gloucester, Durham, Poland), animal activists were presented with the opportunity to help elect someone we felt was a strong advocate for animal protection issues, while also defeating her opponent who for over four House terms and one Senate term consistently voted against animal welfare.

MFOA endorsed and actively supported Rep. Deborah Simpson (D) who defeated incumbent Sen. Lois Snowe-Mello (R) in arguably the Senate's most contested, competitive and party supported

legislative race in the state. After over 20,000 votes were cast and a recount taken Rep. Simpson won the seat by a mere 121 votes.

Comparatively MFOA members made a very marginal contribution in the success of that campaign. But consider that we had two District Coordinators contact MFOA members in the Senate district who contacted friends, family and business associates, worked on a phone bank, passed out literature at a county fair and MFOA placed three well-received political ads (see page 6) in the Lewiston Sun Journal. Is it unreasonable to think that maybe we swayed 121 voters?

So when one says we cannot take on the vested interests or that my singular activism is not going to make a difference, here is a poignant example how a small voting bloc can make a difference.

As we increasingly move animal protection into mainstream thinking, we need animal-friendly legislators to advance the issues of this just cause. Channeling our passion for ending animal suffering and exploitation toward the business of politics can be very uplifting as it was on election night in Senate District 15.

Robert Fisk, Jr.,
President & Director

RESOURCES FOR PET OWNERS DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

During these difficult economic times, it is important to remember our commitment to our companion animals. Although money is tight, giving up your beloved pet should be a last resort. Asking your community for help and locating pet-specific assistance programs can go a long way to keeping your family together, happy and healthy. Below please find a variety of resources available to help pet owners care for their four-legged family members during a time of financial hardship.

EMERGENCY VET FUNDS:

Below are just a few of many resources available to assist with emergency vet care. For a complete list, please visit:
www.uan.org/index.cfm?navId=163

AAHA Helping Pets Fund: Low-income situations, financial hardships, Good Samaritans; available only to animals treated in an AAHA accredited veterinary hospital.
www.aahahelpingpets.org/

Care Credit: Credit loan for veterinary care.
800-333-1071 www.carecredit.com

Feline Outreach: For cat owners in need of financial assistance with large, unexpected veterinary expenses.
www.felineoutreach.org/Assistance.asp

Help A Pet: For seniors or disabled individuals only, all types of veterinary care for their pets. www.help-a-pet.org/

In Memory of Magic: Emergency and chronic vet care assistance. www.imom.org/

The Pet Fund: Urgent veterinary care.
www.thepetfund.com/

United Animal Nations Life Line Grant: LifeLine Grant Program provides funding

to Good Samaritans, animal rescuers, non-profit organizations and pet owners to help them care for animals in life-threatening situations. www.uan.org/

LOW-COST PREVENTIVE VET CARE:

SPAY/USA: Spay/neuter assistance referrals. 800-248-SPAY or www.spayusa.org/

Friends of Animals: Low Cost Spay/Neuter Certificates that can be used at any of FoA's participating veterinary hospitals. 1-800-321-7387 or www.friendsofanimals.org

Help! Fix ME: Maine's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program. 207-287-7621

Pet Quarters: Low cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs, de-worming and FeLV, heartworm/lyme disease testing. www.petquartersne.com

PetCo: Low cost vaccination clinics. www.petco.com



PET FOOD PANTRIES:

Aroostook County

Houlton Humane Society: 263 Callaghan Road, Houlton. 207-532-2862

Hollywood Pet Salon: 70 Main Street, Houlton. 207-532-7387

Ludlow Food Pantry: May have pet food available on a limited basis. 831 Ludlow Road, Ludlow. 207-538-6404

St. Mary's Church: May have pet food available. 110 Military Street, Houlton. 207-532-9122

(continued on page 8)

MFOA Member Profile

Steven Jacobsen, Executive Director, Animal Welfare Society

Steve has been the Executive Director of the Animal Welfare Society (AWS) since 1995. The AWS provides municipal shelter services to 18 communities in York County, representing a population of more than 150,000 people. In 2007, the shelter handled a total of 3,252 animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, mice, birds, rats, ferrets and more; and found permanent homes for 2,793 – an 86% overall placement rate, which is nearly double the national average.

Steve has been a long-time member of MFOA and has worked with animal activists on many animal welfare issues, disaster preparedness, puppy mill cases, and changing animal welfare laws in Maine. He has also served as a member of the Humane Society of the United State's (HSUS) Companion Animal Advisory Council since 2006. Jacobsen resides in Kennebunk with his family.



Puppup, a Katrina New Orleans very sick survivor riding with Steve Jacobsen to a home in Maine.

MFOA: In your tenure at the AWS, you have spurred major growth for the organization, quadrupling its budget, leading capital improvement projects and expanding its regional reach. How did you accomplish that?

SJ: I have been fortunate to have been surrounded by a great number of dedicated Board Members, staff, volunteers and of course, supporters (donors). I, hopefully, allowed many talented people to work on their own passions and interests while addressing our AWS goals. While keeping an eye on our mission and our community, we have concentrated our PR efforts on our results and successes, so as many as possible are aware of what the AWS does.

MFOA: Along with the Animal Welfare Program, you were heavily involved in the rescue effort at the recent Buxton puppy mill case. What did you learn from that effort?

SJ: It was an honor to share the lead with colleagues from the Animal Welfare Program and the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland and to enjoy the support from many other local, regional and national organizations. What I learned was the value and power of having relationships with other groups during times of need. We were so fortunate to have this support.

MFOA: The recent economic downturn is causing increased cases of animal suffering and relinquishment. How is this impacting Maine shelters?

SJ: We are all faced with the potential of less support and increased demand for our services to help animals. I am heartened by the establishment of assistance programs such as food bank efforts and even attempts to address medical needs of pets in distress as well as the continued offering of traditional services. On the other hand, we are seeing a pull back of some services and programs, potential reductions of staff and fundraising.

MFOA: How do you feel about the relationship between shelters and animal protection groups?

SJ: The constant need is to find common ground. How often we hear the phrase, "We are all in it

for the animals." I believe that we have many organizations that must exist to reflect the values of the community and I also believe that we must have organizations that challenge, upgrade, and improve community standards for animals and their lives.

MFOA: Any general comment?

SJ: In all we do and say, and in all of our mission-driven work, we must always be in a position of supporting the joys of having pets. Whether we are discussing laws, spay/neuter, aggressive dog issues, or whatever. We in animal welfare would be well served to remind folks always, of the joys of pets and for that matter, the joys of having all species in our lives.

MFOA: What do you see as the challenges for animal shelters in the future?

SJ: The challenges of the future in my eyes are:

- Meeting the expectations of the public now and in the future
- Customer service
- Humaneness, providing safe family pets, etc.
- Cats...overpopulation; giving cats the value they deserve (imagine never hearing the word, "It's just a cat").
- Financial support for all to keep up the good and important work we do.

MFOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

190 U.S. Route 1
Falmouth, ME 04105
mfoa@maine.rr.com
info@mfoa.net 207-781-2187

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njoffe@msad49.org 441-6657

BANGOR – ORONO
Valerie Carr-Winocour
vwinocour@aol.com
827-5265

BIDDEFORD – SCARBOROUGH
(OPEN)

BRUNSWICK – WISCASSET
Debbie Brooks
debkamaine@roadrunner.com
478-1297

CAMDEN – BELFAST
Lynne Rayburn
luddite08@roadrunner.com 930-3556

ELLSWORTH -MACHIAS
Marie Swicker
wolfspirit@excite.com 460-8920

FALMOUTH – FREEPORT
Jill Brown
cbbrown1@maine.rr.com 781-7200

KENNEBUNKPORT –
OGUNQUIT
Julie Fernee
Jfern7@earthlink.net 676-2165

LEWISTON – AUBURN
Patricia Richards
pattic@localnet.com 597-2613

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(OPEN)

PORTLAND
Susanna Richer
slricher66@yahoo.com 773-2382

RUMFORD – BRIDGTON
Monique Aniel
sherwats2@wildblue.net 364-8422

SOUTH PORTLAND –
CAPE ELIZABETH
(OPEN)

WESTBROOK – GORHAM
Ree Gonzalez
reeg@gte.net 854-3139

Copy: Robert Fisk, Jr. and Susanna Richer
Editing: Jayne Winters
Design: Belinda Pease and
Ericson Mitchell Design & Marketing
www.ericsonmitchell.com

Why Maine Should Ban CANNED HUNTING

- It is morally and ethically wrong to enclose animals and charge fees to kill them
- Animals are domestically raised, have lost much of their fear of humans; guides often bring hunters to watering and feeding areas in fenced acreage manipulating the odds against the animal to insure the hunter's success
- Many hunters and respected national and state hunting groups are against canned hunting and consider the practice void of Maine's hunting heritage and fair chase traditions
- Inexperienced trophy hunters are attracted to the "no kill, no bill" guarantee
- Meat and skin are seldom used, only the head is taken
- Canned hunts have a theme park environment with the prize a dead animal
- Most operations are open year round, including Sundays, and there are no bag limits
- Nine states have documented chronic wasting disease in captive herds, a disease which is deadly to Maine native deer species
- Canned hunters are not required to have a license or gun handling experience and there is no age limit
- Canned hunting is a cruel blood sport in which clean kills are rare due to inexperience and animals are often shot with numerous arrows or bullets to the body to prevent harm to the "trophy" head
- Canned hunting is not a primary source of income to property owners
- Three of the nine hunting ranches in Maine are no longer in business; the number of animals taken has decreased annually to its lowest level ever and is a dying business in Maine
- IF&W Department will not take responsibility for the "hunting" practice because animals are "captive" and they feel it falls into the category of "domestic" animals (such as cows), not wildlife
- Licensing has been lapse at times; canned hunting is something the Department of Agriculture neither needs nor wants to regulate
- Much needed time and resources are taken from the Department of Agriculture to license, inspect and re-inspect these facilities
- License and tag fee income to the state was just \$10,000 in 2007
- The proposed bill has a two-year phase-out period to provide owners an opportunity to comfortably disengage
- This practice is not the image Maine wants in general or for its hunting tradition



How You Can Help End CANNED HUNTING in Maine

- 1** Many hunters consider "Canned Hunting" unethical and contrary to the image of Maine's hunting heritage and fair chase traditions. The campaign is actively getting names of hunters who support the ban. If you know of any hunters who may want to sign up for the ban, please let us know.
- 2** If you do not know your legislators, find them below and contact them.
For your State Senator:
www.maine.gov/legis/senate/senators/index.htm.
For your State Representative:
www.janus.state.me.us/house/dist_mem.htm
A letter to you legislator's home is most effective. Place a follow-up call and/or email. Your letter should be concise and courteous while stressing the issues, and ending with a request of support for upcoming legislation.
- 3** Write a Letter-to-the-Editor for your local newspaper. Read your newspaper policies as most have a limit on the length, such as 250 words. It can be similar to what you wrote your legislators.
- 4** Contact the MFOA office or District Coordinator in your area (www.mfoa.net) to learn how you can help the "Ban Canned Hunting in Maine" campaign. MFOA can provide you with materials to schedule a tabling event in your community.
- 5** Hold a fundraising event. Campaigns have financial needs. MFOA will provide a representative from the campaign to speak at any event you schedule.
- 6** Pass the word to others and have them go to www.mfoa.net to see more on how they can help.
- 7** Register online to get MFOA 'Action Alerts' to follow the campaign and stay updated.
- 8** Join us in our press conference and awareness demonstration at the public hearing.



124th Legislative Session



Our annual newsletter has always included our “Augusta Watch” page to provide a brief description of important bills involving animal welfare in Maine. Normally, cloture for all bills to be submitted to the new legislature is mid-December. This year - for the first time - cloture was not until January 16, 2009, therefore delaying the printing of bills. At the time of this newsletter publication, only a fraction of the bills had been printed. However, you can keep track of legislation by using the following resources:

Use the Legislative website:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/>

Go to “Council Offices.” click on “Office of Legislative Information” and then “Bill Status” (second from the bottom) where you will be able to find all bills.

You can also call the Legislative Information Office at 800-301-3178.

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/house> and click on “Bill Status.”

Visit MFOA website:

www.mfoa.net for bills and updates. MFOA will periodically alert members to bills to support and bills to work to defeat.

Contact your State Representative or State Senator:

If you wish to then find or contact your State Representative or State Senator:

<http://www.maine.gov/house/townlist.htm>

Thus we use this page to encourage you to support Maine Friends of Animals’ primary legislative initiative this legislature: “An Act To Ban the Hunting of Animals in Enclosed Areas.” The “Why” (fact sheet) and “How you can help” are on page 4.

In 1999, a bill to end canned hunting ended in a compromise where the existing nine hunting ranches in the state would be grandfathered. MFOA submitted legislation the following legislature, but it was defeated on an ‘economic’ argument. However, six years later, statistics show that argument is no longer valid. Two facilities are no longer in business, the numbers of animals taken has decreased annually to the lowest level ever, and the “hunting ranches” are not the primary source of income for the land owners.



MFOA feels it is time to revisit this issue and end this cruel trophy hunting by ‘weekend warriors’ where “hunters” are not required to have a license or any gun handling experience, with no age limit or bag limit, where this enclosed ‘hunting’ can take place year ‘round, including Sundays.

This legislation is supported by many hunters, avid hunting legislators and local and national hunting groups that feel it is an unethical and unsportsmanlike practice that is void of fair chase principles and does not belong in Maine. Go to www.mfoa.net to read what prominent hunting legislators have said in the past about supporting a ban.

STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED

We make it easy for you to take action and help animals. Get on MFOA’s “ACTION ALERT” / UPDATES list. Send us your email address at info@mfoa.net.

Want to help Maine animals. Inquire about board and District Coordinator positions with MFOA

Office Volunteers

Do you have a few hours a month you would like to help out at the MFOA office in Falmouth? Call 781-2187

www.mfoa.net



“Hunting and fishing in the woods and waters of Maine have a long and storied tradition. It seems to me that any Mainer familiar with the outdoors would realize that canned hunts are not only unfair but not sporting.”

Governor John Baldacci
Bangor Daily News (6/1/02)

Getting Political



MFOA Animal-friendly 2009 legislators

State Senators

Lawrence Biss	S7	South Portland
Peter Bowman	S1	Kittery
Margaret Craven	S16	Lewiston
Gerald Davis	S11	Falmouth
Stanley Gerzofsky	S10	Brunswick
Deborah Simpson	S15	Auburn
Nancy Sullivan	S4	Biddeford

State Representatives

Herb Adams	H119	Portland
Seth Berry	H67	Bowdoinham
Richard Blanchard	H14	Old Town
Anna Blodgett	H56	Augusta
Andrea Boland	H142	Sanford
Emily Cain	H19	Orono
Jim Campbell	H138	Newfield
Alan Casavant	H137	Biddeford
Alex Cornell du Houx	H66	Brunswick
Jane Eberle	H123	South Portland
Sean Flaherty	H127	Scarborough

Jayne Giles	H43	Belfast
Charles Harlow	H116	Portland
John Hinck	H118	Portland
Melissa Innes	H107	Yarmouth
Bryan Kaenrath	H124	South Portland
Gary Knight	H81	Livermore Falls
Edward Legg	H141	Kennebunk
Edward Mazurek	H47	Rockland
Andy O'Brien	H44	Lincolnton
Peggy Pendleton	H128	Scarborough
Ann Peoples	H125	Westbrook
Wendy Pieh	H50	Bremen
Wright Pinkham	H88	Lexington
Margaret Rotundo	H74	Lewiston
Diane Russell	H120	Portland
James Schatz	H37	Blue Hill
Larry Sirois	H92	Turner
Sara Stevens	H17	Bangor
Sharon Treat	H79	Hallowell
Richard Wagner	H73	Lewiston

Join *The Humane Society of the United States* and *Maine Friends of Animals* in the **MAINE HUMANE LOBBY DAY**

Learn how to be an effective citizen lobbyist for animals and why lobbying of any kind is most effective when you are politically engaged. Interesting agenda and meet your legislator at the Capitol.

Date: March 31, 2009
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM
St. Paul Center
136 State Street
Augusta, ME 04338

For more information
 Katie Lisnik, klisnik@humanesociety.org or 775-2224 or
 Robert Fisk, Jr., mfoa@maine.rr.com or 756-3455



MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS
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2/09



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
 OF THE UNITED STATES

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Love Animals. Hate Politics.
Where does that leave the animals?

LEGISLATIVE RECORD ON ANIMAL WELFARE:



A

DEBORAH SIMPSON
Strongly supported closure of an inhumane 500-dog puppy mill in Buxton.

Senate District 15

AUBURN
 DURHAM
 POLAND
 NEW GLOUCESTER



F

LOIS SNOW-MELLO
Went to Buxton to stop the seizure and what she called "Gestapo Methods."



PAID FOR BY

Maine Friends of Animals
 190 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, Maine

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We want to thank those who have donated financially to Maine Friends of Animals. Our memberships and donations continue to grow, which means our ability to advance animal protection grows as well. We realize there are many good causes your donation could be going to, thus it means a great deal to us that animal protection means that much to you. Your generosity over the years has made MFOA a voice for animals in Maine, and we now are stronger than ever in advancing animal protection into mainstream thinking. We simply could not have done what we have done without your memberships and generous donations. We could not list all our donors in the space allowed, but all donations large and small are most appreciated, and are used entirely to make the life of Maine's animals a better one.

\$5000 and over

Betsy Holtzmann

1,000 and over

Elizabeth Fay

Alan Hyman

Eugenie Sotiropoulos-Foss

Nancy Bogenberger &

Peter Lamandia

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Ann Tracy

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Renew your membership to Maine's leading animal protection organization. Go online at www.mfoa.net or use the enclosed remittance envelope. Help us give Maine's animals a voice.

Maine Friends of Animals is a 501.c4, which allows us to be more legislatively and politically engaged than a regular non-profit, but as a 501.c4 your donations are not tax deductible. That makes your contributions even more appreciated.

(continued from page 2)

Catholic Charities of Maine: Serves Food Pantries throughout Aroostook County and occasionally has pet food and litter. 1-800-781-8550 or www.ccmaine.org/info.php?info_id=38

Cumberland County

Furry Friends Pet Pantry: Available through the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland and Camp Bow Wow in Portland. 207-854-9771 or www.arlpg.org

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Animal Shelter, Edgcomb: Contact Manager Melinda Reed at 207-882-9677 or www.lcaspaws.org/

Hancock/Washington Counties

The towns of Sullivan and Sorrento have a new pet food pantry, the Sullivan Animal Food Eatery. The Town Office is located at 1888 Route 1, Sullivan or 207-422-6282.

MDI Pet Food Pantries: Harbor Food Pantry, Bar Harbor. 207-288-3375 or www.barharborfoodpantry.org/index.php

Penobscot County

Furry Friends Food Bank: Available through the Eastern Area Agency on Aging in the Bangor area. 207-941-2865 or www.eaaa.org/furryfriends.shtml

Somerset County

Paws for a Cause: Has a pet pantry at the Victor Grange in Fairfield Center. Call Del Pomerleau 207-465-7906 or Sabrina Williamson 207-249-9441.

York County

York County Shelter: Food pantry is expanding to include pet food. York County Shelter's food pantry is located on Shaker Hill in Alfred. Call Joan 207-324-1137 or Sandy 207-324-881.

If you do not have a pet food pantry in your area – contact your local Animal Shelter and local human Food Pantry as both may have pet food donated that is available to the general public.

RESOURCES FOR PETS OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

PAWS: A Partnership between the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunkport and Caring Unlimited. PAWS uses volunteer homes to temporarily foster pets for victims living at the Caring Unlimited women's shelter. Contact: Caring Unlimited at 1-800-239-7298 or www.animalwelfare.org/prg_paws.html

The Linkage Project: Offering resources to pets and families of domestic violence households. www.linkageproject.org/home/pet-foster-homes

Pass the word

License your dog, tell others, and ask your municipality to enforce dog licensing and support their Animal Control Officers.

HELP STOP ANIMAL CRUELTY

85% of dog licensing fees goes directly to the Animal Welfare Program.



Maine Friends of Animals
190 U.S. Route 1 • Falmouth, ME 04105



Tell your cat and dog-loving friends about Maine's **Tax Check Off!**



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Companion Animal Sterilization Fund

\$5 \$10 \$25 Other \$

the **Companion Animal Sterilization Fund** will be used to save lives by:



- Spaying/Neutering Cats and Dogs
- Preventing Unwanted Litters
- Lowering Shelter Intakes
- Lowering Shelter Euthanasias
- Reducing the Number of Feral cats
- Reducing Dog Bites

For more information Call **HELP FIX ME!** now at:

1.800.367.1317

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
Animal Welfare Program
LOW-INCOME SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

2008015



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