



# Animal Welfare

Congressman Earl Blumenauer □ Third District of Oregon □ [www.blumenauer.house.gov](http://www.blumenauer.house.gov)

Protecting animal welfare has been a priority for Congressman Earl Blumenauer throughout his nearly 20 years in Congress. Congressman Blumenauer believes that a livable community promotes the humane treatment of animals, whether in our households, the community at large, or the wild. He believes that the health of all animals, including wildlife, farm animals, and urban animals, is directly linked to the health of the ecosystem for human inhabitants. His goal is to make animal welfare part of the broader concept of a truly livable community.

Congressman Blumenauer knows that animal welfare is a unifying, non-partisan issue that can be uniquely collaborative in a Congressional environment that is often very polarized. Working on animal welfare in Congress both creates a better world for animals and communities, and builds trust and relationships among those who may not normally work together. It is an excellent illustration of how government should function.

## **A CAREER AT THE FOREFRONT**

Throughout his congressional career, Congressman Blumenauer has been a leader on efforts to crack down on animal cruelty and abuse, protect imperiled species and ensure conscientious wildlife management, defend farm animals, and require responsible research and testing. Congressman Blumenauer has sponsored or co-sponsored over a dozen bills that have improved the lives of animals around the world. He currently co-chairs the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus.

Congressman Blumenauer's support for animal welfare has earned him a 100 or 100+% favorable rating from the Humane Society Legislative Fund for the eight of the last ten years, and a reputation as one of the foremost advocates of animal welfare in Congress today. In 2007, in recognition of his leadership and commitment to animal protection, Congressman Blumenauer was named Humane Legislator of the Year by the Humane Society of the U.S.

*"Representative Blumenauer has been one of the best and most effective voices for animal protection in the U.S. Congress. On the major policy debates relating to animal protection, Rep. Blumenauer is in the forefront, and we are enormously grateful to him for his passion and leadership."* – Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States

## **KEY LEGISLATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **STOPPING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND ABUSE**

*Congressman Blumenauer has lead efforts to ban animal fighting and help law enforcement combat its cruelty.*

- Since 2005, Blumenauer has co-led a bipartisan letter to the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee every year calling for strong funding to improve enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, the Horse Protection Act, and the federal animal fighting laws; to address the needs of animals in disasters; and to establish a veterinary student loan forgiveness program to encourage graduates to locate in underserved areas. Congress has responded by approving significant increases in funding for several of these laws and programs in multiple years, including 2006, 2009, 2011, and 2014. This funding has improved U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversight of puppy mills, laboratories, roadside

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zoos, circuses, and slaughterhouses, and ensured care for animals in disasters.

- In 2015, Blumenauer and colleagues called for language in the Agriculture Appropriations legislation restricting the use of funding for horse slaughter inspections in the FY 2016 spending package. This language, included in previous Agriculture Appropriations bills, prevents horse slaughter facilities from operating in the United States, and allows the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to spend its resources inspecting food Americans actually eat.
- In 2015, Blumenauer and colleagues introduced the *Prevent Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act* (H.R. 2293) to strengthen existing laws that prohibit the trade of obscene animal torture videos by making the underlying act of animal abuse depicted in the videos illegal.
- In 2013, Blumenauer and colleagues introduced the *Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act* which prohibited any person from attending animal fighting events. Provisions of this bill were included in the 2014 Farm Bill, making it a felony to knowingly bring a minor under the age of 16 to a dogfight or cockfight, and a federal misdemeanor to knowingly attend a fight as a spectator, both punishable by prison time and a fine.
- Blumenauer and colleagues successfully pushed for provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill that make it a crime to knowingly possess or train animals for fighting, boosting the maximum penalty for animal fighting offenses to a 5-year jail sentence, and making any animal fighting activity that affects interstate or foreign commerce a felony.
- In 2007, President George W. Bush signed into law the *Animal Fighting Enforcement Prohibition Act* (P.L. 110-22), championed by Blumenauer and other colleagues, which established felony penalties for violating federal animal fighting laws.

#### **PROTECTING IMPERILED SPECIES AND ENSURING CONSCIENTIOUS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

*Congressman Blumenauer believes that the health of wildlife, including those in urban settings, is directly linked to the health of the ecosystem. By managing growth and supporting livable communities, we can better protect precious habitats, threatened species, and all wildlife.*

- In 2015, Blumenauer reintroduced the *Captive Primate Safety Act* (H.R. 2920), which he has introduced in previous Congresses, which would amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals who cannot be traded and transported across state lines as pets. A previous version of this bill that he introduced passed the House in February 2009, 323-95.
- Over the last three decades the African Lion population has declined 50% due to decimated habitat, disease, and poaching. In 2014 Blumenauer authored a letter urging the Department of Interior to identify the African Lion as an endangered species and for the U.S. to accept responsibility as the leading importer of African Lion trophies. Under an endangered species designation, the import of the African Lion and trophies would be prohibited.
- In 2005, Blumenauer and colleagues successfully pressed for the inclusion, in a multi-year transportation bill, of requirements for the U.S. Department of Transportation to study and publish a report on ways to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, produce a “best practices” manual, and develop a training course.

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## **DEFENDING FARM ANIMALS**

*Congressman Blumenauer believes that animals raised for human consumption deserve humane and compassionate treatment. Farms that raise and process livestock by more humane means expand choices for consumers and help drive the market toward more humane, sustainable practices.*

- In 2013, Blumenauer introduced *the Balancing Food, Farms, and the Environment Act* to make wildlife and its habitat a priority in the Farm Bill's Conservation Title, strengthen Endangered Species Voluntary Partnerships, and end grants for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.
- In 2013, Blumenauer proposed a Farm Bill amendment based on the *Balancing Act* to prioritize projects that focus on managing farmland and habitat, provide financial support and technical assistance to help livestock producers reduce nontherapeutic use of antibiotics, limit payments to confined animal feeding operations for constructing new waste facilities, provide support for farmers transitioning to more environmentally friendly pest management practices, and set aside funding for wildlife-focused projects.
- In 2011, Blumenauer proposed an amendment to a government spending bill to cap agricultural subsidies, limiting taxpayer giveaways to commodity growers supplying factory farms with cheap animal feed.

## **REQUIRING RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND TESTING**

*Congressman Blumenauer believes that Congress has a key role to play in reducing harm to animals used in research, testing, and education, by promoting alternative methods. He is a strong advocate for continued investment in new research technologies, particularly for medical advancements.*

- In 2015, Blumenauer introduced the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors Act (H.R. 746), which would remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that exempts farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities to ensure that these animals receive the basic care required under the AWA.
- In 2015, Blumenauer led a letter to appropriators urging them to include language to reduce animal abuses at federal agricultural research facilities in any final spending bill.
- In 2015, Blumenauer and colleagues called upon the Obama Administration to improve animal welfare at USDA facilities and asked that the Agricultural Research Service work with the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to provide oversight and inspections at ARS facilities.
- In 2015, Blumenauer and Rep. Fitzpatrick also called upon the U.S. Sentencing Commission to revisit and increase the base level offense for animal fighting crimes to reflect their severity. The Sentencing Commission is currently reviewing their existing guidelines.
- In 2013, Blumenauer urged the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to abandon the use of chimpanzees in the field of biomedical research as modern medical practices and technologies have deemed the policy outdated and inhumane. NIH listened, and, later that year, announced the retirement of virtually all chimpanzees in captivity and an end to breeding practices.

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## **CONGRESSIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION CAUCUS**

Congressman Blumenauer co-chairs the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus with Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA). The Caucus is a bipartisan group of 126 members of the House of Representatives who work to raise awareness and build coalitions in support of animal-friendly legislation and Administration actions. It sponsors non-partisan forums and briefings, tracks the progress of relevant legislation, provides members of Congress with information on animal welfare issues, and builds broad coalitions in support of common-sense animal welfare laws.

### **CAUCUS PRIORITY BILLS FOR THE 114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

*Congressman Blumenauer is a sponsor or co-sponsor of all of the bills below.*

#### *Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act – H.R. 746/S.388*

- The bill would remove a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act that exempts farm animals used for agricultural research at federal government facilities, to ensure that these animals receive the basic care required under the AWA. The bill has 70 bipartisan cosponsors.

#### *Captive Primate Safety Act – H.R. 2920*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. Fitzpatrick and Blumenauer and would amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals who cannot be traded and transported across state lines as pets. It does for primates what the Captive Wildlife Safety Act – which Congress passed unanimously in late 2003 – did for big cats. This legislation has passed both the House and Senate in previous Congresses, and the current bill has 63 bipartisan cosponsors.

#### *Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act – H.R. 1258/S.1559*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. Clark and Ros-Lehtinen in the House and introduced by Sens. Ayotte and Peters in the Senate. It would expand federal domestic violence protections to include safeguards for the pets of abuse victims on a national level and to provide grant money for domestic violence shelters to better accommodate families with pets. This bill has 161 bipartisan cosponsors.

#### *Prevent Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act – H.R. 2293/S. 1831*

- The legislation was introduced by Reps. Blumenauer, Smith, Deutch, and Marino in the House and Sens. Toomey and Blumenthal in the Senate. It would strengthen the animal crush video law and prohibit those same extreme acts of animal cruelty in interstate or foreign commerce. The bill has 173 cosponsors.

#### *Humane Cosmetics Act – H.R. 2858*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. McSally, Beyer, Joe Heck and Cárdenas. It would make it unlawful for anyone to conduct or commission cosmetics animal testing in the United States, and prohibits selling, offering for sale or transporting any cosmetics in interstate commerce if the final product or any component was developed or manufactured using animal testing. The bill now has 124 cosponsors.

#### *Horse Transportation Safety Act – H.R. 1282/S.946*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. Cohen and Whitfield in the House and Sen. Kirk in the Senate. It would prohibit a person from transporting a horse in interstate commerce in a motor vehicle (except a vehicle operated exclusively on rail or rails) containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another. The bill now has 30 cosponsors.

*Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act – H.R. 3268/S.1121*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. Yoho, Schrader, Fitzpatrick, Cohen, Jolly, and Schakowsky in the House and by Sens. Warner and Ayotte in the Senate. It would stop cruel soring of Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds by amending the Horse Protection Act to end the failed industry self-policing system, ban the use of devices associated with soring, strengthen penalties, and make illegal the actual soring of a horse for the purpose of showing or selling the animal. The bill has 216 bipartisan cosponsors.

*Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act – H.R. 1942/S. 1214*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. Guinta, Schakowsky, Buchanan, and Lujan-Grisham and by Sens. Menendez, Graham, Mikulski and Collins in the Senate. It would ban domestic horse slaughter and stop the export of horses for slaughter abroad, as well as prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States. The bill has 172 cosponsors.

*Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act – H.R. 1095/S. 587*

- This legislation was introduced by Rep. Johnson in the House and Sen. Wyden in the Senate. It would require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries. The bill has 41 cosponsors.

*Global Anti-Poaching Act – H.R. 2494*

- This legislation was introduced by Reps. Royce and Engel in the House. It would support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, and designate major wildlife trafficking countries, among other purposes. The bill has 107 cosponsors.

*Big Cat Public Safety Act – H.R. 3546*

- This legislation was introduced by Rep. Walter Jones. It would amend the Captive Wildlife Safety Act to prohibit the private possession and breeding of big cats, with exemptions for larger facilities such as zoos, sanctuaries, state colleges and universities. The bill has 17 cosponsors.

**CAUCUS EVENTS IN THE 114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

*September 17th: Caucus sponsored briefing on Domestic violence & pets: The Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act*

- This provided an opportunity for Members and staff to learn more about the link between animal abuse and violence, and legislation to help provide much needed federal protections to both people and their pets.

*July 28th: Caucus sponsored briefing on the Bipartisan Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act*

- This briefing discussed the importance of criminalizing animal cruelty at the federal level with Hill staff and included remarks by several Senators and Members of Congress. The PACT Act criminalizes the acts of animals being crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled, or subjected to other forms of heinous cruelty as they affect interstate trade or foreign commerce.

*July 30th: Caucus sponsored “PAWS for Celebration” adoption event*

- The “PAWS for Celebration” event featuring former Senator Bob Dole brought dozens of adoptable dogs and cats from nine local shelters and rescues, as well as equine groups, to Capitol Hill for an afternoon. The event sought to raise awareness and promote the general goals of the Congressional Animal Protection

Caucus in advocating for greater animal protections. After remarks from animal welfare advocates and Members, Hill staff and Interns were able to adopt animals on site.

*July 9th: Caucus sponsored briefing on the Humane Cosmetics Act – Ending Animal Testing for Cosmetics*

- In coordination with several animal welfare organizations, this briefing provided an opportunity for Members and staff to learn about the Humane Cosmetics Act, introduced by Representatives McSally, Beyer, Heck (NV) and Cardenas. This legislation would prohibit anyone from conducting or commissioning cosmetics animal testing in the U.S.

*April 30th: Caucus sponsored briefing on The Cost of Care and Rehabilitation for Animal Fighting Victims*

- Featuring experts from the Department of Justice as well as animal welfare advocates, this event allowed Members and staff to learn more about the complexities surrounding animal fighting cases. In these cases, the arrest of the alleged perpetrator is often just the beginning of a long road for the animal victims seized in the case.

*February 12th: Caucus sponsored “PAWS for Love” adoption event*

- The popular “PAWS for Love” event began the series of our animal adoption events on Capitol Hill. With the help of local shelters and rescues, this Valentine’s Day-themed gathering allowed Hill staff and Interns to meet adoptable cats and dogs in the Cannon Caucus room for an afternoon.

*February 5th: Caucus sponsored press conference and briefing on the introduction of the AWARE Act of 2015*

- Joining with HSUS and ASPCA, Congressmen Blumenauer and Fitzpatrick highlighted the introduction of their AWARE Act, which would put a stop to the abuses featured by the New York Times that occurred at the US Meat Animal Research Center.