CANNED HUNTS ARE RIGGED
Animals on canned hunts often come from private breeders or animal dealers. The offspring are often hand-raised and even bottle-fed, so they lose their natural fear of people, making them easy targets. Canned hunting amounts to nothing more than pay-to-play trophy hunting. The setup is guaranteed kill from start-to-finish. In fact, several captive hunts offer “no kill, no pay” guarantees or boast about their “100% success rates.”

CANNED HUNTS ATTRACT BROAD OPPOSITION, EVEN AMONG HUNTING GROUPS
Canned hunting is despised by a broad coalition of interests, including animal protection groups and rank-and-file hunters. The Boone & Crockett Club, the Izaak Walton League, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and the Pope & Young Club have vocally and adamantly opposed canned hunting. Hunting groups themselves often espouse that in fair chase hunting there can be no such thing as a guaranteed kill.

On a canned hunt, people pay hundreds or even tens of thousands of dollars to kill a wild animal held in a confined, fenced-in area. Over half of the states have already enacted full or partial bans on canned hunts.

In the U.S., hunters often visit canned hunting ranches to kill threatened or endangered animals. These operations profit off the importation or breeding of these wild animals by charging people money to kill them for a trophy.

Despite what hunting ranches typically argue, canned hunting does nothing to enhance or benefit threatened or endangered species.
CANNED HUNTS BREED DISEASE
The unnatural densities that characterize canned hunts, plus the constant movement of live animals to stock these facilities, creates a breeding ground for the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) — a fatal, incurable disease which can devastate native deer populations. An outbreak of CWD in Rhode Island would be an economic disaster. States where CWD has been found have directly spent millions of taxpayer dollars responding to the disease.

CANNED HUNTS HAVE NO PLACE IN RHODE ISLAND
In 2018, a Rhode Island hunting club — where members pay up to $250,000 for access — announced its wish to import elk and wild boar to Rhode Island for the purpose of canned hunting. As a result, in 2019, legislation to explicitly allow canned hunting was filed — as was common-sense legislation intended to prohibit canned hunting.

This session, with one simple amendment, HB 7308 and SB 2691 would effectively prohibit canned hunting in Rhode Island:

> Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 20-17-1 and 20-17-9, and any other law to the contrary, no person shall hunt or attempt to hunt any mammal held in captivity for amusement, or sport, or gain; or possess, import, breed, or sell any mammal for use in captive hunting for amusement, or sport, or gain.

In addition to HB 7308 and SB 2691, HB 7305 was filed by Representatives McNamara, Ackerman, Kislak, Diaz, and Edwards and HB 7869 was filed by Representatives Slater, Diaz, and Bennett with the intent to prohibit captive hunting. Rhode Island should seize this opportunity to more closely align the state’s laws with its values and prohibit canned hunting.

Support an Act Relating to Fish and Wildlife – Artificial Propagation of Game (HB 7308 and SB 2691)