

# FEDERAL LEGISLATION

CURRENT ISSUES  
&  
NEW IDEAS



# LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Local/Municipal

State

**Federal**

100 Senators (2 per state)

435 Representatives (dependent on population)



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# EXISTING FEDERAL LAWS

**Endangered Species Act:** Prohibits commerce of listed species and their parts and products without authorization from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Prohibits “taking” endangered species.

**Lacey Act:** Makes it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce fish or wildlife in violation of US law.

**Animal Welfare Act:** Sets minimum care standards for most species of warm-blooded animals used in laboratories or for commercial purposes.

**Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act:** Makes some of the most egregious forms of animal cruelty a federal crime.

**Humane Methods of Slaughter Act:** Requires that farmed animals be stunned into unconsciousness before slaughter.



# EXEMPTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

**Current federal laws are not strong enough to adequately protect animals.**

## Exemptions:

- Animal Welfare Act does not apply to pet owners, farmed animals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, or rats.
- Humane Methods of Slaughter Act does not apply to birds or fish.

## Enforcement:

- Some roadside zoos have received over 100 AWA violations before being shut down.
- From 2016 to 2018, AWA citations dropped by 65 percent.



# WHAT'S PENDING?

- PAW and FIN ACT
- BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT
- CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT
- TRAVELING EXOTIC ANIMAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTION ACT
- CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE DETECTION AND REPORTING ACT
- FARM SYSTEM REFORM ACT



# PAW and FIN ACT

## Protect America's Wildlife and Fish In Need of Conservation Act

### H.R 4348

- Sponsored by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
- 126 co-sponsors

### S. 2491

- Sponsored by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM)
- 19 co-sponsors



# BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT



## H.R. 1380

- Sponsors: Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) & Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
- 229 co-sponsors

## S. 2561

- Sponsor: Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- 19 co-sponsors



# BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT



“Cub petting fuels the rapid and vicious cycle of breeding and dumping cubs after they outgrow their usefulness.”  
– Brian Fitzpatrick, bill sponsor



# CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT



## **H.R 1776**

- Sponsors: Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) & Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
- 58 co-sponsors

## **S. 2562**

- Sponsor: Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- 12 co-sponsors



# TRAVELING EXOTIC ANIMAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTION ACT

## **H.R. 2863**

- Sponsors: Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) & Representative David Schweikert (R-AZ)
- 59 co-sponsors

## **S. 2121**

- Sponsor: Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
- 3 co-sponsors



*A growing trend at the local level: More than 150 cities and counties, and six states ban or restrict the use of wild animals in traveling exhibitions.*

# CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE DETECTION AND REPORTING ACT

## H.R 2808

- Sponsor: Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH)
- 25 co-sponsors



*THE LINK: Studies show that there is a direct link between acts of **cruelty to animals** and **violence toward humans**, including children. **At least ten states** mandate or permit child protection officials to report suspected animal abuse and vice versa.*



# FARM SYSTEM REFORM ACT

## S. 3221

- Sponsored by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
- Co-sponsors N/A

## H.R. 6718

- Sponsored by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)
- 6 co-sponsors



# WHAT'S NEXT?

How does COVID-19 affect  
animal protection at the federal  
level?



# WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Each one of us has the ability to influence federal legislation.**

- Sign up for ALDF action alerts: [aldf.org/TakeAction](https://aldf.org/TakeAction)
- Sign up for more ALDF webinars: [aldf.org/Webinars](https://aldf.org/Webinars)
- Get to know your elected officials
- Lend your voice to animals by writing op eds and LTEs
- Boycott businesses that exploit animals, such as roadside zoos and circuses that use animals
- Visit [Congress.gov](https://Congress.gov) to learn more about specific bills



# THANK YOU!

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