

HUMANE VOTERS OF ARIZONA 2006 STATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate ___Kyrsten Sinema_____

Legislative District ___15___ House of Representatives ___X___ Senate ___

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Citizens look to the government to protect animals from inhumane treatment.

Humane-minded citizens care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona appreciates your input on this 2006 State Candidate Questionnaire. HVA will be endorsing candidates based upon voting records and response to this questionnaire.

For more information on any of the issues, please visit the following websites:

www.adlaz.org (Animal Defense League of Arizona)

www.greyhoundnetworknews.org (Greyhound Network News)

www.azhumane.org (Arizona Humane Society)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues? If so, please name issues and any actions taken.

I have worked with the Humane Society in north central Phoenix, with PETA at ASU Law School, and with the Sierra Club over the years to protect domestic and wild animals in various ways.

Are there any animal protection programs or issues of interest that you would be willing to address while in office?

Yes. During my first session in 2005, I proposed an amendment to the agriculture omnibus bill that was similar to Prop 204. I support this type of legislation and will continue to do so. I also support legislation that protects wildlife and domestic animals from abuse and harm.

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you?

I grew up with many animals, and for 6 years my family lived on a 100-acre farm, with more animals than I could even count! My favorite memories are

of our first horse. But the two companion animals that had the greatest impact on me would be Sheba, the miniature collie we had when I was 4-8 years old, and Kelly, the golden retriever we had when I was 14-16 years old. Kelly died of cancer.

Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones?

I support the efforts of all organizations that seek to protect animals from harm and teach people about the importance of appropriate animal treatment and protection.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

ANIMAL ABUSE LAWS

The link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans is well documented. People who have committed acts of violence on animals are more likely to act out violently towards people in a number of scenarios and psychological profiles.

Do you believe that laws against animal cruelty should be strongly enforced?

Yes. I also think that we need to pay more attention to youth who are cruel to animals. These youth show signs of mental disturbance and need to be treated through the mental health system so they do not continue a pattern of animal abuse and begin abusing people as well.

FARM ANIMALS

Gestation crates for pregnant pigs and veal crates for calves are among the cruelest confinement techniques used on factory farms—both in terms of the intensity and duration of confinement. Keeping animals so restrictively crated that they cannot even turn around for nearly four months straight is patently inhumane. And, with the industrialization of pork production, gestation crates are

becoming more and more prevalent in the United States, although they, like veal crates, have been banned throughout Europe for their inherent cruelty.

Over 1000 Arizona volunteers gathered signatures for a citizens' initiative that will appear on the November ballot. Proposition 204 simply ensures that animals, such as pigs and calves that are raised for food, have enough room to turn around, lie down and extend their limbs in their pens.

**Do you support Proposition 204?
Absolutely.**

If you do not support Proposition 204, please state your reason for opposition.

GREYHOUND RACING

Dog racing in Arizona has been subsidized by the state and the taxpayers for the last ten years, since the passage of a mega-tax break bill for the failing dog tracks in 1994. Tucson Greyhound Park, the first track to benefit from the bill, has not paid any pari-mutuel taxes to the state since 1996. The Tucson track's out-of-state-owners have reaped nearly \$50 million in gross profits in the last ten years. Phoenix Greyhound Park, which paid \$5.8 million in pari-mutuel taxes in 1995, saw its tax reduced to zero by 2005. Because the tax credits are carried over from year to year, neither track will ever pay taxes again.

The Phoenix track financially supports an on-site adoption program; the Tucson track does not provide financial support to any of Tucson's non-profit adoption organizations.

The greyhound racing industry has been in a steep decline since 1991 and is unlikely to recover; 24 tracks across the country have closed, and many of them have been demolished. Eight states have banned greyhound racing because of the inherent cruelty involved in dog racing. Currently the Arizona Department of Racing is investigating Tucson Greyhound Park for the disappearance of 100 to 200 racing dogs.

Would you be willing to reinstate legislation requiring that dog tracks pay pari-mutuel taxes to the state?

Yes.

What steps would you take to ensure the welfare of racing dogs in Arizona?

I think requiring tracks to implement or support programs for retired racing dogs is a good start. Ultimately, though, I don't support the idea of racing animals for sport.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is charged with managing our state's wildlife.

Do you believe that wildlife should be managed not for the benefit of special interest groups but to produce balanced ecosystems in which all, native species may thrive?

Of course.

Some people believe that holding a hunting or fishing license should be a defacto requirement for Arizona Game & Fish Commissioners. Last session a well qualified candidate for the Commission came under criticism because she was not a hunter. The candidate is a wildlife biologist and former employee of the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and yet was denied a vote by the full Senate.

Do you believe that candidates for the Arizona Game & Fish Commission should be based upon their qualifications irrespective of whether they hunt or fish?

Yes. Jennifer Martin was supremely qualified for that position, and it was denied to her because of sexist and narrow thinking. She is a constituent of mine, and I was very supportive of her appointment to the Commission. Luckily, the Governor has appointed her as an interim commissioner, and hopefully the Senate will treat her with more professional and personal respect next year.

ARIZONA ROADLESS AREAS

According to the Forest Service, roadless areas function as biological strongholds and places of refuge for many animal species—from wide-ranging

large mammals, such as grizzly bears, to narrowly distributed bird species, and other small animals. Nationwide, these roadless areas provide habitat for, or affect, more than 220 threatened, endangered, and proposed species, and 1,930 sensitive species. Within Arizona, there are currently 71 species of animals and plants that are listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. For some species with limited populations, the protection of National Forest roadless areas may represent their final, critical refuge.

Arizona's roadless areas may be threatened by logging, road construction and other forms of development. Just over 10 percent of Arizona's national forests are free of roads, and these lands provide far-reaching values to the wildlife that rely on them and the people who visit them.

The original rule provided roadless areas the protections that so many Americans have sought. This rule was not preserved, but now there is an opportunity to return the protections it once offered to Arizona's remaining roadless lands.

Do you support full protection of all roadless lands in Arizona's national forests for the benefit of the state's wildlife, habitat, and citizens? Yes.

MEXICAN GRAY WOLF REINTRODUCTION

As a keystone predator, the Mexican Gray wolf is an integral component of the ecosystems. And yet over the past century wolves have been systematically exterminated, primarily as the result of livestock conflicts. By the 1970's the Mexican Gray wolf had been extirpated throughout the U.S. Now protected by the Endangered Species Act, the Mexican Gray wolf is getting a second chance through a recovery program led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies. However, Mexican wolf recovery in the Southwest has been compromised by various factors. The fact that they are captive-bred affects their ability to survive in the wild. Moreover, their designated recovery area is not large enough to accommodate the wolves. Another problem is that some ranchers do not dispose of carcasses. This may result in wolves that feed on livestock.

According to a recent NAU poll, Arizonans overwhelmingly support the recommendation of biologists to let endangered Mexican Gray wolves roam over a wider area of the Southwest and return to northern Arizona forests and mountains.

Do you support the Mexican Gray wolf Recovery Program? Very much.

Would you support the recommendation of biologists to expand the boundaries for Mexican Gray wolf reintroduction to wider areas of suitable habitat in Arizona and New Mexico? Yes.

Do you support biologists' recommendation to require livestock operators on public land to take some responsibility for carcass disposal to reduce the likelihood that wolves become habituated to feeding on livestock? Yes.

CITIZENS' VOTING RIGHTS

Arizona's public initiative process is a constitutional right which was enacted at statehood in 1912. The first initiative was for women's suffrage, and it passed by a margin of greater than two to one that same year.

Arguably the most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals is the public initiative process. Thanks to grassroots citizens' ballot measures, cruel leghold traps were banned on public lands in 1994, and cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. And yet citizen initiatives are under continual attack from legislative bills aimed at eroding public voting rights.

Do you support Arizona's public initiative process? Yes. It's often the only way to get progressive legislation passed, as the Legislature refuses to listen to the will of Arizona voters.

Do you believe that the Legislature should not attempt to dismantle the constitutional voting rights of Arizona citizens? Yes.

PET SAFETY

Every year numerous pets, wildlife, and even children are poisoned because they are attracted to the sweet taste of antifreeze. These poisonings could be greatly reduced by including an inexpensive bittering agent in engine coolant and antifreeze. Some states have passed legislation requiring bittering agents in antifreeze, and Congress is considering a similar federal law.

Do you support legislation which would require the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze? Yes.

ANIMAL CONTROL

PET OVERPOPULATION

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals.

The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities. Consider that in a period of seven years, one cat and her young can produce 420,000 kittens. Only by implementing widespread spay neuter programs will we be able to stop pet overpopulation.

Would you support better Animal Control laws to help alleviate the pet overpopulation problem? Yes. We need to be proactive, not reactive here. We should focus on spay neuter programs so that we can realistically call for no-kill shelters and protect living animals.

Would you support a revision of Arizona's Spay Neuter Ordinance ([A.R.S. 11-1022](#)) to address the problem of unaltered animals? Yes.

ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES

In Arizona, Animal Control agencies fall under different jurisdictions. The lack of uniform regulatory structure has resulted in animal control procedures that do not conform to conventional protocol. Over the past decade some small counties in Arizona have hired a government agency to shoot stray dogs.

Would you support a more uniform regulatory structure for Animal Control agencies in Arizona? Yes.

OTHER ISSUES

Do you have further comments, questions, or concerns related to animals in Arizona?

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Humane Voters of Arizona

Email to: HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net