



**Humane Voters of Arizona
Phoenix City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2011**

Candidate Bill Barker _____ Phone 623-915-1692

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Humane-minded citizens of all political stripes care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) appreciates your input on this 2011 Phoenix Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues? If so, which ones?

Yes ___ No Comments _____

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

Yes No ___

Comments: Of course. I had a dog when I was a child, named Mr. Bumps. He was very devoted to us, and even saved my sister's life, by knocking her out of the way of a car.

I currently share my home with my dog, Ollie. He is neutered and is up to date on his shots, micro-chipped and registered.

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

Yes____ No_X__ Comments_____

COMPANION ANIMALS AND HOMELESSNESS

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.

Would you be willing to work with animal care and control agencies and/or shelters in Phoenix to address problems related to the homeless animal crisis?

Yes_X_ No____ **Comments This is an ongoing problem that will probably never be solved, as long as there are irresponsible individuals who like the idea of having a pet, but will not assume responsibility for its care.**

Between 30-40 % of cats that enter shelters in Maricopa County will be euthanized. Those shelters are working with many neighborhoods and a group of non-profits to do Trap Neuter Return of feral cats and to provide low cost and no cost spay neuter services to owned cats.

If elected, would you be interested in learning more about Trap Neuter Return and plans to reduce the number of unwanted cats in Phoenix?

Yes_X_ No____ Comments_____

Would you support a resolution acknowledging the grassroots effort to solve this community problem?

Yes_X_ No____ **Comments From what I see, the effort is being made at the grassroot level. As I have already stated, this problem will not go away as long as there are irresponsible people out there. Education and laws can only do so much. We have laws and they are being enforced, when a perpetrator is apprehended.**

As is so often the case, the innocent (dogs and cats), are the ones that suffer, not the irresponsible owner that deserts them when they get sick or injured.

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

Humane Voters of Arizona
Email to: HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net