VOTERS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

2026–2027 Policy and Political Agenda

Voters For Animal Rights (VFAR) is a nonpartisan organization that builds political power for animals in New York through elections, lobbying and legislative advocacy. This agenda sets out the laws VFAR will push for at the city, state and federal levels through 2027, and how VFAR will use elections to move them.

November 2026 · This agenda is updated every six months. Questions? Contact **woof@vfar.org**.

> *Bill numbers are current as of November 2026. Some may change as bills are reintroduced in the NYC Council or the New York State Legislature.*

IN THIS AGENDA

2 2026 Results
3 New York City
4 New York State
5 Federal
6 Elections

At a Glance

Level	Top priorities
New York City	Prohibit bird sales in pet shops · Companion animal–friendly housing · Citywide companion animal food pantry · Low-cost spay/neuter in every borough · Funding for rescue and vet care
New York State	Get four passed bills signed · Let localities prohibit fur sales · Restrict rat poisons · Prohibit bird sales statewide
Federal	Defeat the Save Our Bacon Act · End horse slaughter · End mink fur farming · Stop USDA wildlife killing · Restore the bear-baiting prohibition
Elections	Help animal-friendly candidates win through canvassing and phone banking

2026 Results

Six bills VFAR supported passed this year. Two are now New York City law, and four state bills await Governor Hochul's signature.

Bill	Number	What it does	Status
Romanch's Law	NYC Intro 943	Ends horse-drawn carriages in New York City	Enacted · 40–7
Citywide wildlife plan	NYC Intro 806	Creates a board to develop a citywide plan that protects biodiversity and humane treatment of wildlife	Enacted · 49–0
Industrial octopus farming prohibition	S.7421-B / A.8043-C	Prohibits industrial octopus farming in New York	Awaiting signature
Circus prohibition	S.3629-A / A.5850	Prohibits big cats, bears, primates and other wild animals from traveling circuses and animal acts	Awaiting signature
Co-shelter toolkit	S.7612 / A.8375	Helps shelters house domestic violence survivors and unhoused people together with their animals	Awaiting signature
Insurance breed discrimination prohibition	S.9207 / A.10272	Bars insurers from denying or limiting policies based on a dog's breed	Awaiting signature

New York City

Top priorities

Priority	Bill	What it does
Bird sales prohibition	**Intro 912**	Ends the sale of parrots, parakeets, cockatiels, finches and other companion birds in NYC pet shops
Companion animal–friendly housing	**Intros 305 & 435**	Removes clauses barring companion animals from residential rental leases
Companion animal food pantry	**Intro 841**	Creates a citywide companion animal food pantry pilot, with budget funding to run it
Spay/neuter in every borough	**Intro 1029**	Requires low-cost spay/neuter clinics in all five boroughs
City budget	**Budget request**	Funds animal rescue, vet care and spay/neuter, and expands the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare

Other priorities

ENFORCING EXISTING LAWS

- Prohibition on foie gras sales (Local Law 202)
- Prohibitions on pet store sales and backyard breeders (Local Laws 132 and 54)
- Prohibition on stealing pigeons and wild birds (Local Law 201)

WILDLIFE

- Prohibiting glue trap sales (Intro 531, Res. 466)
- Limits on nighttime building lighting that kills migrating birds (Intro 998)
- Prohibiting commercial bird releases and balloon releases

CAPTIVITY AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Ending elephant captivity in zoos (Intro 590)
- Prohibiting live fish as prizes (Intro 963)
- Prohibiting rodeo calf roping, electric prods and flank straps

COMPANION ANIMALS

- Prohibiting devocalization of dogs and cats (Intro 560)
- Paid sick leave to care for a sick animal (Intro 21)
- Better dog bite reporting (Intro 783) and dog licensing outreach (Intro 784)
- Animal cruelty liaisons in every NYPD precinct (Intro 785)
- A public map of licensed boarding facilities (Intro 968)
- Vet price transparency (Intro 1098)
- Protections for tenants with companion animals

FOOD, FUR AND EDUCATION

- Organic, free-range eggs in city contracts (Intro 930)
- Good Food Purchasing Program (Intro 533, Res. 183)
- Protections for aquatic animals
- Prohibiting fur sales citywide
- Expanded humane education in schools

RESOLUTIONS

- Ending public funding for animal testing (Res. 636)
- Supporting the state PAWS Act (Res. 723)
- Opposing the federal Save Our Bacon Act (Res. 213)
- Recognizing animal sentience

New York State

Top priorities

Priority	Bill	What it does
Get passed bills signed	**S.7421-B / A.8043-C** **S.3629-A / A.5850** **S.7612 / A.8375** **S.9207 / A.10272**	Secures Governor Hochul's signature on the industrial octopus farming prohibition, circus prohibition, co-shelter toolkit and insurance breed discrimination prohibition
Local fur prohibitions	**A.3065**	Lifts the state preemption that blocks cities and towns from prohibiting fur sales
RAPTORS Act	**S.7532-C / A.10750**	Restricts rat poisons that kill hawks, owls and other wildlife up the food chain
Bird sales prohibition	**A.8327**	Ends the retail sale of birds statewide

Other priorities

FUR AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

- Prohibiting farmed fur sales statewide (A.1923-A)
- Prohibiting kangaroo leather sales (A.3150 / S.5709)
- Ending the red-eared slider turtle trade (S.6621 / A.1685) — passed the Senate in 2026

GLUE TRAPS

- Statewide prohibition (A.10193)
- Prohibition in state-owned and leased buildings (S.3046-C / A.10189-A)

CRUELTY AND SAFETY

- Prohibiting ikizukuri, serving fish while still alive (A.8926)
- Ending classroom hatching projects (A.140)
- Sprinklers and smoke detectors in racetrack barns (S.10656 / A.11612)
- Higher penalties for drivers who hit companion animals — the PAWS Act (S.3459 / A.3616)

COMPANION ANIMALS AND HOUSING

- Boarding kennel standards (S.8510 / A.9123)
- Ending renters insurance discrimination against people with companion animals (S.364 / A.893)
- A tax credit for companion animal care expenses (A.5340-A / S.9808-A)

FOOD AND EDUCATION

- Grants for farmers moving to plant-based agriculture (A.1639 / S.6381)
- Humane education in secondary schools (A.798 / S.4952)

Federal

Top priorities

Priority	Bill	What it does
Defeat the Save Our Bacon Act	**H.R. 4673**	Formerly the EATS Act. Would override state animal protection laws, including New York's
SAFE Act	**H.R. 1661 / S. 775**	Ends the slaughter of American horses and their export for slaughter
Mink VIRUS Act	**H.R. 2185**	Ends mink fur farming, a source of bird flu outbreaks
USDA Wildlife Services	**Agency action**	Ends taxpayer-funded killing of wildlife and requires nonlethal methods
Bear baiting	**Agency action**	Restores the Interior Department's prohibition on baiting bears on public lands

Other priorities

- **OCTOPUS Act (S. 1947)** – Prohibits industrial octopus farming and commercial imports of farmed octopus nationwide
- **Canyon's Law (H.R. 4180 / S. 2179)** – Prohibits M-44 cyanide devices on public lands
- **Glue Traps Prohibition Act** – Reintroduction of a national glue trap prohibition
- **Defending core laws** – Protecting the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act from rollbacks

Elections

VFAR wins laws by helping elect lawmakers who will vote for them. VFAR endorses animal-friendly candidates and works directly on their campaigns to help them win, through canvassing, phone banking and other volunteer outreach.

2026 state primaries

46
Candidates endorsed

39
Endorsed candidates who won

85%
Win rate

15
Votes: David Siffert's margin in Assembly District 66

VFAR is nonpartisan and works with elected officials across party lines. It weighs each race on its own, and stays out of races where both candidates are strong on animal issues.

2026–2028 plans

- **November 2026** – Help endorsed candidates win the general election, including volunteer support for the re-election of State Senator Steve Rhoads.
- **2027** – Endorse in local and special elections, and hold newly elected officials to their commitments on these bills.
- **2028** – Mobilize animal voters up and down the ballot, from the State Legislature to the presidency.

2028 elections on New York ballots

Office	Seats up	VFAR focus
President	1	Educate voters on candidates' records on animal protection
U.S. Senate	1 (seat held by Chuck Schumer)	Secure commitments on federal priorities like the SAFE Act and Mink VIRUS Act
U.S. House	All 26 NY seats	Build support for federal priorities and opposition to the Save Our Bacon Act
NY State Senate	All 63 seats	Endorse and campaign for animal-friendly candidates
NY State Assembly	All 150 seats	Endorse and campaign for animal-friendly candidates

New York holds primaries before the November 2028 general election. VFAR will endorse and campaign in both.

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