VOTERS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

PRESS FACT SHEET

Building political power for animals in New York

Voters For Animal Rights (VFAR) is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) organization that wins laws for animals through elections, lobbying and legislative advocacy in New York State and New York City. Its 501(c)(3) sister organization, the VFAR Civic Engagement Fund, leads public education.

2016
Year founded; 10th anniversary on Oct. 31, 2026

19
Laws VFAR has led or supported to passage

85%
Primary win rate for VFAR-endorsed candidates in 2026 (39 of 46)

70%+
Drop in guinea pig surrenders since the 2023 sales prohibition

How VFAR works

ELECTIONS Endorses animal-friendly candidates and campaigns to help them win.

LOBBYING Meets with lawmakers in City Hall, Albany and Washington to move bills to passage.

ADVOCACY Mobilizes New York animal voters to contact lawmakers at key moments.

NONPARTISAN Works across party lines and weighs every race on its own merits.

Track record

Year	Result
2017	New York City prohibits the use of wild animals in circus acts — VFAR's first legislative victory
2018	Council Member Paul Vallone's Intro 401-A requires a full-service animal shelter in every borough
2019	New York City prohibits the sale of foie gras from force-fed ducks and geese (Local Law 202)
2020	New York City requires bird-friendly glass on new buildings to prevent collisions (Local Law 15)
2021	Intros 1483 and 1484 expand shelter access for unhoused New Yorkers with companion animals
2022	Puppy Mill Pipeline Act prohibits retail sales of dogs, cats and rabbits statewide; VFAR campaigned in the coalition
2023	VFAR leads the campaign for NYC's prohibition on guinea pig sales after hundreds were abandoned in parks
2024	VFAR leads the campaign to extend NYC's slaughterhouse moratorium through August 2028, and to pass Intro 1018-A (40–5), prohibiting the sale of animals from residences
2026	Romanch's Law ends horse-drawn carriages in NYC (40–7), and Intro 806 creates a citywide wildlife management board. The State Legislature passes the industrial octopus farming prohibition, pushed by a coalition VFAR co-leads

See more of VFAR's victories and the laws it has helped pass at **vfar.org**.

2026–2027 priorities

- **NYC:** prohibit bird sales in pet shops, and expand companion animal–friendly housing and spay/neuter access
- **New York State:** get four passed bills signed, let localities prohibit fur sales and restrict rat poisons
- **Federal:** defeat the Save Our Bacon Act, pass the SAFE Act and Mink VIRUS Act, and end USDA wildlife killing
- **Elections:** help animal-friendly candidates win in 2026, 2027 and every New York race on the 2028 ballot

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LEADERSHIP
Julie Cappiello, President and Executive Director
Mian Osumi, Policy and Advocacy Manager
Allie Taylor, Founder and President Emerita

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