

FOREWORD

FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF *ANIMAL LAW*

By
Congressman Earl Blumenauer*

Early in my congressional career, I was privileged to write an article in the *Animal Law* about how animal welfare is foundational to the concept of a livable community: how humanely we treat animals is inexorably linked to how we treat each other. I have spent my time in Congress working to create and sustain communities where families are safe, healthy, and economically secure. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, I know that the entire ecosystem of animals is involved in this; companion animals, native fish and wildlife, more urbanized species increasingly impacted by human development, farm animals, and others are all part of the equation. It is imperative to understand how and why animal welfare plays an increasingly prominent role in public policy.

Fifteen years later, I wrote another article about the many recent federal developments in animal welfare, with an analysis of the progress we've made. These political and policy achievements were driven in large part by the broader public becoming more attentive to animal issues and advocates effectively engaging with and winning key allies

* © Earl Blumenauer is Congressman for the 3rd District of Oregon. Through his years as a local official in the Oregon Legislature, Multnomah County Commission, and on Portland's City Council, he developed a national reputation for his advocacy on public transportation, land use planning, protection of the environment, and school funding. Protecting animal welfare has also been a priority for Blumenauer throughout his over 20 years in Congress. He has focused his efforts on protecting wild and domestic animals, as well as the habitats of threatened and endangered species. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, he has been a leader on efforts to crack down on animal cruelty and abuse, protect imperiled species and ensure conscientious wildlife management, defend farm animals, and require responsible research and testing. Blumenauer has sponsored or co-sponsored over a dozen bills that have improved the lives of animals around the world. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, where he chairs the Trade Subcommittee and sits on the Health Subcommittee.

in the business community and at all levels of government. This movement is growing stronger by the minute, propelling animal welfare further into public discourse and toward even more positive change.

The increase in public awareness and support has been remarkable. Programs specializing in animal legal studies have helped drive important intellectual and legal developments and have also trained a new generation of advocates and organizers. Their energy and expertise have fueled a growing number of organizations championing animal welfare issues at the federal, state, and local levels. Thousands of advocacy groups, animal rescues, sanctuaries, medical centers, foundations, and others, representing hundreds of thousands of people, power this movement.

At the same time there's been a surge of attention to these issues in the news media. Even as print and broadcast journalism declines, there has been a dramatic increase in animal-specific journalism that complements longstanding specialized publications like the *Animal Law*. Outlets like the Washington Post, New York Times, and the Guardian are writing more on animal topics.

Propelled by this attention, a rapid transformation has occurred in the political realm. Advocates have launched campaigns in states around the country, in many cases going straight to the people with initiatives when they have been denied success in state legislatures. More and more we see animal advocates pitted against powerful groups like farm bureaus and the National Rifle Association, with the advocates prevailing.

Recent examples include ballot measures in Florida, where in November 2018 voters decided to end greyhound racing by 2020, and in California, where the public voted to require better living environments for calves, pigs, and hens. Adding wins like this to Oklahoma's 2016 rejection of a constitutional "right to farm," Massachusetts's ban on gestation crates, and Oregon's restrictions on the sales of parts from exotic animals shows the increasing will of voters to improve animal welfare. These actions are reshaping the policy landscape.

In recent sessions of Congress, the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus has emerged as a well-organized, bipartisan forum for showcasing animal welfare legislation with broad support in the U.S. House of Representatives. Ironically, at a time of heightened public attention, Republican congressional leadership refused to allow votes on a number of measures with broad bipartisan support, including some with well over a majority. Examples include H.R. 909, the *Pet and Women Safety Act*, a bill with 250 co-sponsors which would protect pets in domestic violence cases and help domestic violence shelters accommodate pets, and H.R. 1847, the *Prevent All Soring Tactics Act*, a bill with 285 co-sponsors which would end the cruel practice of soring—deliberately injuring—Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds.

This intransigence has prompted advocates to unprecedented political action. This year a significant number of congressional candi-

dates embraced animal welfare, and most of them won. Two long-term Republican incumbents in “safe” congressional districts—Rep. Pete Sessions in suburban Dallas, Texas and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher in Orange County, California—were defeated after being designated enemies of animal welfare. This would’ve been unthinkable until recently. Animal welfare advocates have clearly become a potent force for political change.

Underlying all of this is the role of the Animal Law Review—and Lewis & Clark Law School’s Center for Animal Law Studies—in helping to foster legal and policy dialogue and train new advocates. Over these 25 years, the Animal Law Review has introduced groundbreaking topics for public discourse and examined issues that have gained public attention. The animal welfare movement has come of age academically, philosophically, and politically, propelled in part by contributors to this journal. Lewis & Clark’s pioneering development of animal studies and animal law have advanced this further, with national and international conferences, scholarship, and lively debate, serving as a model for programs around the world.

Pushing the boundaries of information, law, and policy has tremendous impact on politics, advocacy, and action. As we watch the animal welfare world evolve over the next 25 years, Lewis & Clark Law School and the Animal Law Review will be fundamental in helping to lead discussion, develop solutions, and inform and train the next generation of animal welfare advocates.

Onward!