

# 2024 Washington State Legislative Session

# Animal Advocacy Priorities



## IMPROVING THE SYSTEM FOR VICTIMS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

### **HB 1961: Ranking Animal Cruelty in the First Degree**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representatives Sam Low and Amy Walen

Protects animals, humans, and communities by adding animal cruelty in the first degree to the list of ranked felony offenses in Washington state.

## ADDRESSING LARGE-SCALE SYSTEMS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

### **HB 1153: Prohibiting Octopus Farming**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Strom Peterson

Prevents the environmentally destructive, unsustainable, and inhumane practices posed by octopus farming from coming to Washington state.

### **HB 1097: Cosmetic Testing on Animals**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Amy Walen

Prohibits the sale of cosmetics in Washington state if any ingredient, or the final product itself, was subject to new animal testing.

### **SB 5354: Fur Sales**

**SPONSORED BY:** Senator Derek Sanford

Prohibits the retail sale of fur products in Washington state with special exemptions for religious or cultural purposes.

### **HB 1157/SB 5148: Animals in Entertainment**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Mari Leavitt and Senator Marko Liias

Addresses the inhumane practices posed by circuses and other traveling entertainment acts by prohibiting the display of wild and exotic animals for entertainment or amusement.

## KEEPING PETS & PEOPLE TOGETHER

### **HB 1012: Improving the Response to Extreme Weather Events**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Mari Leavitt

Creates an Extreme Weather Response Grant Program, which would provide animal friendly shelters and transportation when small and under-resourced communities are impacted by extreme weather and/or wildfires.

### **SB 6064: Improving Access to Pet-Friendly Housing**

**SPONSORED BY:** Senator Drew Hansen

Addresses the lack of affordable pet-friendly housing in Washington, especially for lower income renters, by establishing reasonable limitations on pet rent, deposits, and other fees.

### **HB 1634: Dog Breed Discrimination in Insurance**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Kristine Reeves

Prohibits residential insurance companies from denying, canceling, refusing to renew, or modifying an existing residential insurance policy solely due to the ownership of a specific breed or mixture of breeds of dog.

## **HB 1653: Taxes on Animal Adoptions**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Michelle Caldier

Helps nonprofit animal rescues and humane societies by exempting them from paying business and occupation taxes on fees collected from animal adoptions.

## **BUDGET: Funding for Veterinary Students**

A \$5 million request within the state operating budget to address the critical veterinary shortage by funding 20 additional veterinary students annually over the next four years.

## **INCREASING ACCESS TO PLANT-BASED FOODS**

### **HB 2058/SB 5964: Access to Free Meals in Public Schools**

Improves student access to food in Washington Public Schools, which is a crucial step towards increasing access to healthy, plant forward meals in school cafeterias.