



LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION

If rumors can be believed, the legislature will convene for a special session this summer. The latest information is the General Assembly will meet at the end of July, just before the CT state primary on August 11, 2020. We have heard the agenda will be limited to voting on the use of absentee ballots during the COVID-19 pandemic and initiatives to address racial injustice. There even have been rumors that an additional special session could be held in September to remedy other issues created by the pandemic but that is far, far less certain. First we have to see if they will find a way to hold votes and still keep socially distant among 151 state representatives in the capitol chamber.



While the special session will not address animal welfare issues, it will address matters important to you as a resident of CT. The state is coping with concerns created by a once in a generation crisis. We think they are important and urge you to follow them and take action when possible.

ELECTION YEAR 2020 VOTE...VOTE...VOTE



2020 is an important election year. In addition to the presidential and congressional races, every state legislative seat will be up in this election. CVA is putting together a legislative score card for animals so that you can see how your state elected representative voted on bills important to us. Unfortunately, the CT General Assembly closed in March due to COVID-19 so there were no votes taken on animal issues in 2020. But our guide will be a helpful tool to get you through election season.

Since the spring, 15 legislators announced they would be retiring and not returning to the Capitol. This means that in 15 districts there are races between two new candidates that will result in someone entirely new coming to Hartford in 2021.

It is more important than ever to get to know the candidates in your district, find out how they view animal issues, let them know that you vote and the humane treatment of animals is a key voting issue for you. Attend meetings hosted by the candidates, talk about animal issues, go to the candidate debates in the fall, write each candidate and ask them about animal issues that are important to you. Here are a few questions:

- Does he/she support the sale of puppy mill dogs and cruelly bred cats and rabbits in pet stores?
- Does the candidate support finding peaceful solutions to living with wildlife and will they oppose a bill to allow bear hunting in CT?

- Will she/he support a moratorium to stop the use of live animals in traveling shows and entertainment -- including circuses?

You have two opportunities to vote this year:

- **August 11, 2020 CT State Primary Election**
- **November 3, 2020 National Election Day**

The Secretary of State's Office has already sent out applications for an absentee ballot for the August 11 Primary. The Governor has signed an Executive Order allowing all CT registered residents to vote by absentee ballot because of COVID-19. According to the Governor, "Nobody should need to make a decision between their health and their right to vote". And we couldn't agree more. Your absentee ballot should be in the mail now so look for it in the coming days.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE

It's your right. Vote like CT's animals' lives depend on it...because they do!

CVA's Important Animals June Special Project

During June, we posted photos on our Facebook page of animals living with CVA Board and Advisory Committee members to show how animals are helping people work during this stay at home period. We asked people to post photos of their own BFF and many answered the call. It was only a month long but it turned out to be a wonderful reflection of how much we love our animals and how they help us make it through the day, during the pandemic and every day.





QUICK LINKS

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2020 CVA EVENTS*

**Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation's
5th Annual Catherine's Butterfly Party**
RESCHEDULED TO August, 22nd, 12:00-4:00PM
3 Primrose Street, Fairfield Hills Campus
Newtown, CT (on the green)
[https://cvhfoundation.org/5th-annual-catherines-
butterfly-party/](https://cvhfoundation.org/5th-annual-catherines-butterfly-party/)

Westport Dog Festival
October 4, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PAWS in the Park (Windsor)
October 17, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Because of COVID, many events may be cancelled beforehand. Please check before attending.

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