## UPDATE: 2020 Legislative Session



The last time we checked in, the leaders in the General Assembly had extended closure of the legislature to April 12. With that deadline just a couple of days away it's certain the date will be extended. While it may not be said publicly, for all intents and purposes the legislative session is over for 2020. The legislature is required by the State Constitution to adjourn on May 6. And while there always exists the possibility of a special session, if it happens, it will be limited to critical support related to COVID-19.

But all is not lost. When it comes to our legislative initiatives, CVA views this as an "extended recess" that provides a great opportunity to gear up and work on our issues, get to know your legislators better, bring animal welfare issues to their attention, and raise awareness about the needs of animals in our state. Because of COVID-19, our priorities for the 2021 session are likely to expand as we assess the damage and find solutions to issues created by the virus.

So what can you do **now** to help the tens of thousands of animals and their families in the state? Here are a few ideas:

· **Help people in your community keep pets in their homes**. As the population most vulnerable to the corona virus, seniors may need special help with their animals. If you are young and healthy, reach out to seniors in your neighborhood to see if they need help with dog walks or getting pet food and supplies.

· **Pet Food Banks**: Families are struggling financially, which means their animals are struggling too. Contact your local food bank to see if they offer pet food and if not, why not? There are pet food pantries throughout the state that can get donated pet food to distribution centers. Ask your local food bank to be attentive to the needs of the entire family unit.

· **If you see something, say something**. If you see animals left outside without adequate shelter and who are clearly suffering, contact your local animal control officer. We expect to see an increase in animal neglect during these very hard times. Communities are also experiencing an increase in abandoned pets because of the cost of pet health care. If you see stray pets, call your local animal control office.

· **Domestic violence reports** are up more than 20 percent in Connecticut. We know that where there's violence in the home, the animals can be among the likely victims. If help is needed with domestic violence concerns urge people call CT Safe Connect **(**888) 774-2900**).**

· **Reach out to your local state legislator**. Many legislators are hosting virtual community meetings through Facebook Live or other internet services. Make sure you attend periodically and use the opportunity to talk about resources needed for animals and their families.

· **Make people aware.** At every opportunity, remind people and organizations that animals are hurting now too and that there are resources to help. Post reminders on local Facebook pages, write a letter to the editor in the local paper, reach out to your neighbors. We all need to work together to get through this crisis.

# Speak Up for Animals
# CVA Education Talks . . . Coming Your Way!

CVA is putting the final touches on a new series of live internet, educational chats on current animal welfare issues. Stay tuned for our announcement. The fifteen-minute interviews will feature community experts and elected officials, and offer an opportunity for Q&A. The first several in the series will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on animal welfare. Later in the season, the topics will shift to discussions of legislative initiatives for the upcoming session. We're using this time to be productive, educate people about ways to help animals in the state, and get ready for the 2021 legislative session. So, although this session has come to an end, it really isn't over for CVA and its more than 5,000 members.

*Stay safe, stay home, use this time to give extra love to your animals, and remember even now you can still "Speak Up for Animals".*

# An Easter Rescue Story
**Written By: Sarah Drew, Vice President, The Riley Farm Rescue**
**Humane Education Chair, Resident Care & Medical Records**

Easter is a time for celebration. Families often gather together and while this Easter might look a bit different in your family, we wanted to feature a special family who gets to be together every day!



Daisy and Piggy are a mother and son pair that live at The Riley Farm Rescue. They were rescued from an auction house in April 2019. Piggy was just a few days old and his mom, Daisy, was fiercely protective of him. When Marla, founder of The Riley Farm Rescue, first spotted the pair, she knew they needed to come home to the rescue. After a long and sad day, the bright spot was that Daisy and Piggy were in the back of Marla's car on their freedom ride (see video below).



Daisy and Piggy live together with other sheep who have been rescued from similar circumstances. Daisy and Piggy now have a group of friends but they remain bonded and are never too far apart from one another. Daisy has really blossomed at the farm. She is a sweet, curious sheep who loves a fruit or vegetable treat. Piggy was so tiny when he first arrived. We got to be part of many first experiences for Piggy. We saw him try hay for the first time, the first time he felt grass, the first time he tried grain, and more. We have also had the amazing opportunity of watching him grow, alongside his mom.



Daisy and Piggy's story has had such an important impact on people. People are realizing the special bond that sheep can have with one another and how they each have their own personalities. We recognize that so many animals never have their stories shared and that the world was very close to not having known Daisy and Piggy. We love them so much and we are grateful each day to be able to share them with you.

*Watch the tearfully happy video clip of Piggy & Daisy's freedom ride from the auction to their new home on the farm. Sound on! Rescued on April 14, 2019.*

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**How you can help more animals like Piggy & Daisy:**

- Create new holiday traditions and recipes that evoke peace and kindness for all.
- Support the organizations that do the tough rescue work, like The Riley Farm Rescue through donations of time and money, sponsorship of their rescued animals, and by following them on social media.

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# QUICK LINKS

**Donate Today!**

**Visit our website**

**Contact Your Legislator**

**Learn More About CT Animal Laws**

# 2020 CVA EVENTS

**Paws in the Park**
Saturday, May 2nd (No rain date) 9:30AM - 3:00PM
75 Brookfield St. South Windsor CT
http://www.swjaycees.org/paws.php

**Westport Dog Festival**
Sunday, May 31,2020, 10:00AM-4:00PM
Winslow Park, 25 CT-136, Westport, CT
http://www.westportwestonchamber.com/dogs

**2020 CT Vegan Festival**
RESCHEDULED: June 14, 2020 from 1:00 - 6:00PM
St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
480 Racebrook Road Orange, CT 06477
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vegan-festival-ct-2020-tickets-88258143483

**Compassion Fest**
July 25, 2020, 10:00AM-5:00PM
1253 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT
http://www.compassionfest.net/

**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-

**Connecticut Votes for Animals**
advocates for animal welfare
where it counts – in the State Legislature
and in the public arena.

**Speak Up For Animals!**

Join the fight today to improve animal
protection laws for all animals – domestic
companion animals, farmed animals, wildlife,
and animals used for entertainment.

butterfly-party/

**CT Folk Festival and Green Expo**
September 12, 2020, 1:00-6:00PM
Edgerton Park, New Haven, CT
https://ctfolk.com/event/2019ctfolkfest/