

2015 Scorecard

for the Colorado General Assembly



The 2015 legislative session was marked by an unprecedented level of bipartisan cooperation on animal-related legislation. CVA tracked several bills during the session, four of which we ultimately used for scoring. We are pleased to report that three pro-animal bills were passed and signed into law by the governor. Also, one inhumane proposal was cut short and replaced with a more animal-friendly alternative.

2015 Bills

HB-1062 Animal Fighting Penalties

Position: **Support** Outcome: **signed into law**



This bill stiffens the fines for dogfighting or cockfighting in order to keep pace with laws in other states. It calls for a minimum \$1,000 fine for a first offense and \$5,000 for subsequent offenses. Previously, \$1,000 had been the maximum penalty that could be levied on a first offender and \$5,000 was the maximum for a subsequent offense.

CVA was pleased to testify in support of this bill, which was sponsored by Rep. Jovan Melton (D-Aurora) and Rep. Steve Lebsock (D-Thornton). The Senate sponsors were Sen. David Balmer (R-Centennial) and Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, (R-Sterling). HB-1062 was signed into law by Gov. Hickenlooper on March 18.

HB-1099 Bear Hunting

Position: **Oppose** Outcome: **died in committee**

This bill would have mandated an August start to Colorado's bear-hunting season. This bill was irresponsible on two

counts. First, it would have permitted killing mother bears during a period when their cubs are still dependent upon them, thus leaving them orphaned and defenseless. Second, it would have overturned the will of voters, who decided in a 1992 ballot initiative that black bear hunting should be prohibited between March 1 and September 1--the entire vulnerable period for the animals.

CVA testified before the House State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee in opposition to this bill and also worked collaboratively to mitigate its chances of passage. In the end, legislators voted to table the bill and requested a new one be drafted to address the human/bear conflicts that had motivated the original sponsors, Rep. Yeulin Willett (R) and Sen. Ray Scott (R), both from Mesa County.

HB-1304 Bear Management Study

Position: **Support** Outcome: **signed into law**

The second bear bill was also introduced by Rep. Willett, along with Rep. Steve Lebsock (D-Thornton). The Senate sponsors were Sen. Ray Scott (R-Mesa County) and Sen. David Balmer (R-Centennial). HB-1304 directs the Division of Parks and Wildlife to "gather information about, consider and evaluate all available management tools...to manage black bear populations year-round to address bear-human conflicts and public safety." The Division is required to report its findings to the Legislature by the end of 2015. This bill received CVA's full support and was signed into law on May 8.



SB-013 Dog Protection Act Extension

Position: **Support** Outcome: **signed into law**

The Dog Protection Act, which passed in 2013, mandates that all Colorado law enforcement officers take a prescribed course in humane handling of dogs, in order to prevent unnecessary shootings. Under the Act, the prescribed course



Photo by Mike Roach

had to be completed by Jan. 1, 2015--a date that proved too ambitious to meet. Therefore, SB-013 was introduced by Sen. David Balmer (R-Centennial) and co-sponsored by Rep. Lois Court (D-Denver) and Rep. Don Coram (R-Montrose) to extend the date to June 30, 2015. CVA, of course, favored this bill.

Other Legislative News

Positive consequences have stemmed from a bill that CVA supported two years ago, which would have prohibited Colorado farmers from cutting off the tails of their dairy cows. The 2013 bill, introduced by Rep. Steve Lebsock (D-Thornton) and Sen. Matt Jones (D-Louisville), did not pass, but it set the stage for some great news: Denver-based Leprino Foods, the world's largest maker of mozzarella cheese,

announced in April that it has updated its animal treatment policies to phase out tail docking by the end of 2016.

And in wildlife news, CVA would like to commend Gov. John Hickenlooper for his May 15 executive order that authorizes additional measures to protect the greater sage-grouse.



2015 Voting Scores

This report lists legislators' scores on animal-related legislation for the 2015 session. The numerical score is the legislator's score on actual votes. The letter grade is our overall assessment of the legislator's performance. For the letter grade we considered votes, sponsorship or co-sponsorship of bills, and any behind-the-scenes efforts that affected animal-related legislation.

NOTE: The scores don't tell the whole story! Sometimes a legislator is either more or less animal friendly than the score indicates. This is especially true during years when there are few animal-related bills available for scoring.

KEY: ✓ = Pro-animal vote; ✗ = Anti-animal vote; **S**= Bill sponsor; * = Co-sponsor; e = Excused

Colorado State Representatives	Bill Number		HB-1062 Animal Fighting		HB-1099 Bear Hunting	HB-1304 Study Bear Conflicts		SB-013 Dog Protection		Score	Letter Grade
	Party	District	Agriculture Committee	Floor vote	State Affairs Committee	Agriculture Committee	Floor vote	Judiciary Committee	Floor vote		
Arndt, Jeni James	D	53	✓	✓*		✓	✓		✓	100%	A
Becker, Jon	R	65	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	100%	A-
Becker, KC	D	13	✓	✓*		✓	✓	✓	✓*	100%	A+
Brown, J Paul	D	59	✓	✓	*	✓	✓*		✓	100%	A-
Buck, Perry	R	49	✗	✗		✓	✓		✓	60%	C-
Buckner, John	D	40		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Carver, Terri	R	20		✗			✓	✓	✓	75%	C+
Conti, Kathleen	R	38		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Coram, Don	R	58	✓	✓		✓	✓*		✓S	100%	A++
Court, Lois	D	6		✓*			✓	✓	✓S	100%	A++
Danielson, Jessie	D	24	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	100%	A-
DelGrosso, Brian	R	51		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Dore, Timothy	R	64	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	e	100%	A-
Duran, Crisanta	D	5		✓			✓*		✓	100%	A

Colorado State Representatives continued	Bill Number		HB-1062 Animal Fighting		HB-1099 Bear Hunting		HB-1304 Study Bear Conflicts		SB-013 Dog Protection		Score	Letter Grade
	Party	District	Agriculture Committee	Floor vote	State Affairs Committee	Agriculture Committee	Floor vote	Judiciary Committee	Floor vote			
Esgar, Daneya	D	46		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	
Everett, Justin	R	22		✗			✗		✓	33%	F	
Fields, Rhonda	D	42		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Foote, Mike	D	12		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	100%	A-	
Garnett, Alec	D	2		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	
Ginal, Joann	D	52	✓	✓*		✓	✓		✓*	100%	A+	
Hamner, Millie	D	61		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Hullinghorst, Dickey Lee	D	10		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Humphrey, Stephen	R	48		✗	✓		✗		✓	50%	D	
Joshi, Janak	R	16		✗			✗		✓	33%	F	
Kagan, Daniel	D	3		✓			✓	✓	✓*	100%	A	
Keyser, Jon	R	25		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Klingenschmitt, Gordon	R	15		✗			✗		✓	33%	F	
Kraft-Tharp, Tracy	D	29		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Landgraf, Lois	R	21		✗			✓		✓	67%	C	
Lawrence, Polly	R	39		✗			✓	✓	✓	75%	C+	
Lebsock, Steve	D	34	✓	✓S		✓	✓S		✓*	100%	A++	
Lee, Sanford "Pete"	D	18		✓			✓	e	✓	100%	A-	
Lontine, Susan	D	1		✓	✓		✓		✓	100%	A-	
Lundeen, Paul	R	19		✗			✓	✓	✓	75%	C+	
McCann, Elizabeth "Beth"	D	8		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	
Melton, Jovan	D	41		✓S			✓		✓	100%	A++	
Mitsch Bush, Diane	D	26	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	100%	A-	
Moreno, Dominick	D	32		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Navarro, Clarice	R	47		✗			✓		✓	67%	C	
Neville, Patrick	R	45		✗	✓		✗		✓	50%	D	
Nordberg, Dan	R	14		✗			✓		✓	67%	C	
Pabon, Dan	D	4		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	
Pettersen, Brittany	D	28		✓			✓*	✓	✓*	100%	A+	
Primavera, Dianne	D	33		✓*	✓		✓		✓*	100%	A+	
Priola, Kevin	R	56		✓			✓*		✓	100%	A	
Rankin, Bob	R	57		✓			✓*		✓	100%	A	
Ransom, Kim	R	44		✗			✗		✓	33%	F	
Rosenthal, Paul	D	9		✓*			✓*		✓	100%	A+	
Roupe, Catherine "Kit"	D	17		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	
Ryden, Su	D	36		✓	✓		✓*		✓	100%	A	
Saine, Lori	R	63	✗	✗		✓	✓		✓	60%	C-	
Salazar, Joseph	D	31		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	100%	A-	
Sias, Lang	R	27		n/a*			e		✓	100%	A-	
Singer, Jonathan	D	11		✓*			✓*		✓*	100%	A+	
Tate, Jack	R	37		✓	✓		✓*		✓*	100%	A+	
Thurlow, Dan	R	55		✓	✓		✓		✓	100%	A-	
Tyler, Max	D	23		✓	✓		✓		✓	100%	A-	
Van Winkle, Kevin	R	43		✗			✓	✓	✓	75%	C+	
Vigil, Edward	D	62	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	100%	A-	
Willett, Yeulin	R	54		✓	✓S		✓S	✓	✓	100%	A-	
Williams Angela	D	7		✓*			✓		✓*	100%	A+	
Wilson, James "Jim"	R	60		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Windholz, JoAnn	R	30		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-	
Winter, Faith	D	35		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	
Young, Dave	D	50		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A	

*Rep. Sias was not in office at the time of the floor vote on this bill

KEY: ✓ = Pro-animal vote; ✗ = Anti-animal vote; **S**= Bill sponsor; *= Co-sponsor; e = Excused

Bill Number			HB-1062 Animal Fighting		HB-1099 Bear Hunting	HB-1304 Study Bear Conflicts		SB-013 Dog Protection		Score	Letter Grade
Colorado State Senators	Party	District	Judiciary Committee	Floor vote	No Senate Vote	Local Gov't Committee	Floor vote	Judiciary Committee	Floor vote		
Aguilar, Irene	D	32		✓			✓		✓*	100%	A
Balmer, David	R	27		✓S		✓	✓S		e S	100%	A++
Baumgardner, Randy	R	8		✗			✓*		✓	67%	C+
Cadman, Bill	R	12		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Carroll, Morgan	D	29		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Cooke, John	R	13	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	100%	A-
Crowder, Larry	R	35		✓		✓	✓*		✓	100%	A
Donovan, Kerry	D	5		✓*		✓	✓*		✓	100%	A+
Garcia, Leroy	D	3		✓			✓*		✓	100%	A
Grantham, Kevin	R	2		✓*			✓*		✓	100%	A+
Guzman, Lucia	D	34	✓	✓*			✓	✓	✓*	100%	A+
Heath, Rollie	D	18		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A
Hill, Owen	R	10		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Hodge, Mary	D	25		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Holbert, Chris	R	30		✗			✓		✓	67%	C
Jahn, Cheri	D	20		✓			✓		e	100%	A-
Johnston, Michael	D	33		e			✓		✓*	100%	A
Jones, Matt	D	17		✓*		✓	✓		✓	100%	A
Kefalas, John	D	14		✓*		✓	✓		✓	100%	A
Kerr, Andy	D	22		✓*			✓		✓*	100%	A+
Lambert, Kent	R	9		✗			✓		✓	67%	C
Lundberg, Kevin	R	15	✗	✗			✓	✓	✓	60%	C-
Marble, Vicki	R	23		✗		✓	✓		✓	75%	C+
Martinez Humenik, Beth	R	24		✓*		✓	✓*		✓*	100%	A+
Merrifield, Michael	D	11	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	100%	A-
Neville, Tim	R	16		✗			✓		✓	67%	C
Newell, Linda	D	26		✓*			✓		✓*	100%	A+
Roberts, Ellen	R	6	✗	✗			✓*	✓	✓	60%	C
Scheffel, Mark	R	4		✓			✓		✓	100%	A-
Scott, Ray	R	7		✓*	S		✓S		e	100%	A
Sonnenberg, Jerry	R	1		✓S			✓*		✓	100%	A++
Steadman, Pat	D	31		✓*			✓*		✓	100%	A+
Todd, Nancy	D	28		✓*			✓		✓*	100%	A+
Ulibarri, Jessie	D	21		✓*			✓		✓	100%	A
Woods, Laura	R	19		✗			✓		✓*	67%	C+

About Colorado Voters for Animals

Colorado Voters for Animals is committed to animal protection through effective legislation. We support candidates and incumbents who align with these values. We advocate for humane legislation, oppose inhumane legislation, and educate the public on issues that affect animals.

Colorado Voters for Animals has a separate Small Donor Committee, established to help get humane candidates elected and keep them in office. Learn more at AnimalCommittee.com