



## State Legislative Questionnaire on Animal Welfare

Produced by Humane USA -- Florida

1) Hurricane Katrina showed an urgent need for effective evacuation plans for people and animals during emergencies. While some Florida counties open pet friendly shelters (where animals are housed safely near human shelters and owners take care of their own animals), other counties do not. State legislation requiring counties to implement pet friendly shelters during evacuations failed in 2006. Will you support efforts to make pet friendly shelters the standard in Florida?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

2) Florida allows the shooting of captive mammals in fenced enclosures for a set fee. Hunting occurs on these operations year round. These animals are not a part of any wildlife management program, and the hunters need not be licensed to kill these captive animals. Most hunters consider the shooting of confined animals to be unfair and unsporting. Humane groups consider it inhumane. Will you support legislation to ban these canned shoots of mammals?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

3) Recent Florida media reports throughout the State have highlighted the harmful effects of captive wildlife who have been released or have escaped. Florida has large numbers of wild animals kept in captivity, many of them as pets. Wild animals kept as pets can endanger people, either by attacking them or spreading disease. Exotic pets who escape or are deliberately released can establish themselves in the wild, posing a threat to native species and ecosystems. Will you support a ban on the sale of exotic wild animals as pets?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

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4) Some pet stores sell dogs to the public from puppy mills - commercial dog breeding operations, often located in the Midwest, that overcrowd dogs, breed them too frequently, and fail to socialize the animals. Will you support legislation that requires notification of a puppy's origin to store visitors and that ensures all dogs sold at pet stores are spayed or neutered prior to sale?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_

Explanation:

5) In 2002, Florida voters banned the confinement of pregnant sows in two-foot wide cages that don't even allow the animals enough space to turn around. Will you support a ban on confining egg-laying hens in battery cages - small wire cages that are so restrictive they don't allow the birds to spread their wings?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_

Explanation:

6) The initiative process allows citizens only to do constitutional amendments, and there has been some concern that the constitution should not be the place where all of these voter-approved measures are placed. Do you support creating a statutory initiative process, perhaps with a lower signature gathering threshold to encourage use of the statutory process over the constitutional amendment process?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_

Explanation:

7) In recent years, legislation has been proposed to legalize thousands of slot machines (sometimes referred to as video lottery terminals) at pari-mutuel racetracks across the state. Animal protection groups oppose this move, because it would provide a revenue boost to greyhound tracks that sometimes mistreat dogs. Would you oppose such legislation?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_

Explanation:

8) In 2006, legislation was introduced to require the state to keep records on greyhounds who race in the state, including records on greyhounds injured while racing. This provision is required in most greyhound racing states, but not in Florida. It was recently approved in Massachusetts (2001) and New Hampshire (2004). Would you support legislation requiring the state to keep records on racing greyhounds, including greyhounds injured while racing?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_

Explanation: