



To end the suffering of animals in the United States through the political process, including the support of candidates and elected officials who promote animal welfare, rights and protection.

-- Mission of the Animal Legislative Action Network

Animal Champions

Paul Koretz



During his many years of public service, Assemblyman Paul Koretz has distinguished himself as a voice for the most vulnerable members of our society — including its animals.

“There are those who ridicule animal-related legislation and allege that legislators have ‘more important things to do,’” says Koretz, elected to represent the 42nd District in 2000. “However, thousands and thousands of our constituents care deeply about protecting animals. These are serious bills that demand serious attention.”

Measures sponsored by Assemblyman Koretz include:

- AB 342 (2003) would have prohibited the use, or training of, dogs to hunt bobcats and bears
- AB 395 (2003) would have prohibited the declawing of all cats
- AB 588 (2003) would have prohibited county animal shelters from selling dogs and cats to medical research facilities and veterinary medical schools

During 12 years as the Mayor, and as a City Councilman, in West Hollywood, Koretz authored a resolution declaring the city an “Animal-Cruelty-Free Zone,” spearheaded a pet adoption program at City Council meetings and created an Animal Issues Task Force.

Since his Assembly election, Koretz sponsored AB 1336 to require pet stores to address pet overpopulation by spaying or neutering cats and dogs prior to their sale. Although the bill met stiff opposition, a compromise bill was passed requiring pet stores to provide new dog and cat owners with information about the benefits of spay and neuter.

Koretz also sponsored AB 1857 (2003) prohibiting the declawing of native wild and exotic cat species, such as lions, tigers, bobcats and cougars. This bill was just signed into law in October 2004!

Two years prior to his Assembly election, A.L.A.N. began actively campaigning for Koretz, supporting him through the donation of funds and through many volunteer hours.

“It is a privilege to work with A.L.A.N.,” says Koretz. “Those like the members of A.L.A.N. who speak on behalf of animals are becoming a powerful force in California.”

Editors note: This is the first in an ongoing series of features in which A.L.A.N. will recognize candidates and elected officials who champion animal causes.



Letter From The Director

In 1785, New York City's "Common Council" declared that dogs who weren't chained, or somehow permanently confined, could be captured and killed.

In 2004, the Los Angeles City Council, noting that hundreds of dogs spend their lives miserably, tethered in severe heat and cold to a small patch of yard, voted to draft an ordinance that would outlaw the practice of permanently chaining dogs.

The contrast between these laws is striking. It also illustrates the role of the Animal Legislative Action Network. Bad laws, or the absence of law, can create years of suffering. At the same time, society and its attitudes change most effectively through good laws. Laws define what is acceptable behavior. Laws can have long-term consequences to improve the lives of all animals. We create laws through participation in the political process.

I first learned the power of political action at my father's side, canvassing the Hollywood Hills in support of a candidate for the City Council. I stayed politically active over the years and, when my abiding passion turned to the overwhelming suffering that we impose on animals, I saw the role of politics in creating legal prohibitions of that suffering. I saw how heroic people drained their resources in attempting to help animals, unaware of the power and efficiency of political participation to help even more animals.

People come to me all of the time in a crisis mode, requesting help to save companion animals. **Our absence from the political process yesterday has condemned these animals today.** I want to get animal people involved today so that, in 10 years, we will not be in continual crisis.

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This is why I am asking you to follow our work and become a part of our team. **We can change the fate of the animals in this country. However, to do so, we must use the system that is in place, and we must all participate.** The Animal Legislative Action Network needs your participation for one, two or more days a year, and we need whatever kind of donation you can make to increase our effectiveness in the system. Added together, small sacrifices make a huge difference in the seriousness with which decision-makers acknowledge our concerns.

This is the inaugural edition of the quarterly newsletter of A.L.A.N. In each edition, we will endeavor to provide you with the fresh information, insights and tools that will empower you politically. **Let's not let another 200 years elapse before we outlaw other egregious examples of animals suffering.** Please stay with us, please follow us and contact us at any time.

For the Animals,
Richard G. McLellan, MD

Apathy and indifference are animals' greatest threat; political action by enlightened advocates – their greatest hope

Please visit the A.L.A.N. website for our November 2004 election guidance and reference information. <http://www.alanpac.com>

THE TRIUMPH OF POLITICAL ACTION

48-Hour Blitz on Sacramento

Preserves Landmark Animal Protection Bill

Editor's note: With November 2 around the corner, all eyes are on the presidential election. However, it is local action that has the greatest impact to ease the suffering of animals in the United States. The following is a recent, vital example:



Senator Tom Hayden

California State Senator Tom Hayden was troubled after he adopted his dog “Lobo” at a Los Angeles animal shelter.

“I was shocked by the factory-like destruction of so many animals who could be kept alive, and adopted,” says the legendary political activist.

Working directly with A.L.A.N., Hayden championed SB 1785, which provided unprecedented protections for the state’s shelter dogs, cats and other companion animals. UCLA Law Professor Taimie Bryant was the principal drafter of the bill — passed by the Legislature in 1998.

In June 2004, however, *the measure was threatened with obliteration* by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposed across-the-board budget cuts.

“In an effort to solve the budget crisis, the Governor has taken a hatchet to years of laws enacted to protect abused and abandoned animals,” said A.L.A.N. Director, Richard G. McLellan, MD.

McLellan, and Jennifer Fearing of United Animal Nations, alerted the humane community. They urged activists: “Send an email, send a fax and make a call. Tell them to not repeal the Hayden Law!” They widely distributed the details that people needed to connect with their legislators and with the Governor.

“Pet Lovers Howl, So Governor Rolls Over,” was the headline of the front page *Los Angeles Times* coverage of the blitz on the state’s Capitol. In the end, the Governor, a self-professed animal lover, relented.

“It shows that the Governor has a disarming ability to confess a mistake and reverse course which I find in few, if any politicians,” said Hayden in the news coverage. *Perhaps, more to the point, Hayden credits those who had put their lives aside long enough to make a difference in the lives of thousands of animals.*

“The emails, phone calls, faxes and media pressure did the job,” says Hayden. “A.L.A.N. played a vital role in preserving the bill. And it plays a growing role in both grassroots mobilization and effective lobbying in Sacramento. A.L.A.N. makes a life and death difference.”

See next page for the specific provisions of the Hayden Bill.

June 2004: The Hayden Shelter Law was rescued from state budget cuts by coordinated, effective activist response.

Hayden Shelter Law

A.L.A.N. played a critical role with Tom Hayden during the process from conception to implementation of the Shelter Law (1998 California Senate Bill 1785).

Highlights:

- o Strays and relinquished animals must be held for six days; (the previous holding period was 72 hours)
- o Shelters must seek on-site veterinary care for injured and sick animals
- o As a condition of probation, people convicted of animal cruelty can be prevented from owning animals for three years
- o Shelters must check microchips, and other means of identification, to determine the lawful owner of seized and impounded animals
- o Shelters must allow qualified animal adoption and rescue groups to take responsibility for animals, upon payment of the required fees
- o Shelters must allow owner-relinquished animals a chance to be adopted, instead of destroying them on the day of relinquishment
- o California policy favors adoption, not euthanasia

For more Hayden Shelter Law background, please visit our website:
http://www.alanpac.com/html/Shelter_Law_threat_2004.html

Work with A.L.A.N. and maximize your effectiveness:

We create allies and we work for laws at the level of the California state government.

Legislation passed in this most populous state becomes a model for other states. By making real improvements in animal law here, you are potentially helping animals in the future, over the entire nation!

How to Help

All donations to A.L.A.N. will be given directly to support animal-friendly candidates, legislators and legislation. Please send your donations to the:

Animal Legislative Action Network (A.L.A.N.)
2379 Panorama Terrace
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2559

Volunteering and Electioneering

Volunteering to help candidates' campaigns can be as effective as donating to A.L.A.N., and the experience will enrich you and give you a deeper appreciation for the political process.

A.L.A.N. has extensive experience in organizing and assisting campaign volunteers. Please see the A.L.A.N. website for information:

<http://www.alanpac.com/html/volunteering.html>
<http://www.alanpac.com/html/appealletter.html>

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A.L.A.N. -- A Decade of Making a Difference

By mobilizing grassroots activists, A.L.A.N. forges alliances with those who have the greatest power to create sweeping changes for the welfare, protection and rights of animals. Each time an animal-friendly bill makes it to the legislative floor, there is a spike in public consciousness, and concern, about animal suffering.

The following are some examples of A.L.A.N.'s "cause and effect" impact in its first decade:

Action by A.L.A.N. Activists

1994: A.L.A.N. volunteers campaign extensively for Jack O'Connell in his state Senate race. Immediately following his victory, O'Connell (state Superintendent of Public Instruction) thanks A.L.A.N. for its "Herculean" efforts on his behalf.

1996: A.L.A.N. campaigns extensively for, and gives donations to, animal-friendly legislators in the Los Angeles area. These include State Senator Gil Cedillo, State Senator Jack Scott, State Senator Debra Bowen, U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, past Assemblymember Scott Wildman, and state Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

1997: A.L.A.N. donates more than 50 volunteers, raises funds and runs a regional campaign office in state Senator Tom Hayden's race to become the mayor of Los Angeles.

Animal-Friendly Outcome

2001: Senator O'Connell sponsors SB236, drafted by A.L.A.N.. Its requirements include that breeders be registered, that sellers report the numbers of animals sold, and that dogs and cats sold have microchips for identification. The bill's policy is to create a paper trail for animal companions so that the cruel act of abandonment could be traced and prosecuted. The bill loses by only one vote on the Senate floor.

These legislators consistently oppose anti-animal legislation and consistently support anti-cruelty bills. Attorney General Lockyer has diligently encouraged the appropriate entities to pursue malpractice complaints against veterinarians, and requires detailed documentation of complaints from communities attempting to repeal SB 1785, the landmark "Hayden Bill," described below.

1998: Hayden sponsors SB 1785—a landmark piece of legislation for the protection of companion animals in California's shelters. The bill is signed into law after A.L.A.N. confronts stiff opposition from municipalities and shelters. Between 1999 and to the present, A.L.A.N. fends off numerous attempts to repeal the bill, including a lawsuit by Los Angeles County.

Because of this measure, California's policy now is that "adoption is preferable to killing as a means of companion animal population control." In the ensuing years, shelters statewide build larger and more modern facilities, and local governments allocate larger budgets for animal care.

In 2004: the bill's impact on public awareness about the plight of shelter animals is demonstrated when Governor Schwarzenegger threatens to repeal its key provisions. He relents in response to the activist onslaught on Sacramento that froze the Capitol's faxes, phones and emails.

A.L.A.N. -- A Decade of Making a Difference continued

Action by A.L.A.N. Activists

Animal-Friendly Outcome

1998: A.L.A.N. begins to actively campaign for Paul Koretz, donating hours of volunteer time, and funds, prior to his election the state Assembly in 2000.

In 2002 and 2003: Koretz sponsors five animal-friendly pieces of legislation, one of which, a bill to prohibit the declawing of exotic and native big cats, is signed into law.

Another bill, which would require pet stores to spay and neuter dogs and cats upon sale, passes as a weak compromise requiring stores to merely provide information about the importance of these procedures. However, Koretz has promised to continue to reintroduce this bill until it passes, or until he retires from office.

1998: A.L.A.N. donates to the campaign of State Senate President Pro Tem John Burton.

“We plan to encourage Koretz to continue to carry this bill in its original form until it is passed or until dogs and cats are no longer destroyed in California’s shelters,” says Richard G. McLellan, MD, A.L.A.N. Director.

2003: A.L.A.N. joins 14 other activist groups to form the California Animal Association (CAA).

2004: Senator John Burton sponsors SB 1520 to ban the force-feeding of ducks and geese to produce the so-called delicacy, foie gras. The bill is signed into law.

CAUSE and EFFECT:

Coordinated selection of candidates, highly competent volunteer hours, successful networking and well-planned campaign funding create powerful political allies, who make all the difference in achieving landmark animal legislation.

2004: The coalition has already begun to apply its power, and financial resources, to assure the success of future efforts to legislate for the protection, welfare and rights of animals.

The year, the CAA will attempt to amend the California Humane Slaughter statute to prohibit certain kinds of backyard slaughter, and to include spent hens and small game birds, which are currently excluded under the act.

Since 1994, A.L.A.N. has donated hundreds of hours and more than \$200,000 to candidates and elected officials who promote legislation, and other political action, that eases the suffering of animals.