



THE ALLIANCE SPEAKS

FALL 2024

CANINE CARE CERTIFIED ADVOCATING FOR ANIMALS OR FOR PUPPY MILLS?



Dr. Candace Croney, Director of Canine Care Certified, asserts that critics of the commercial dog breeding industry have never been to a dog breeding facility and that there is no such thing as a bad breeder.

Several years ago, animal welfare advocates were encouraged when they learned that Purdue University was researching how to improve animal welfare at commercial dog breeding facilities. The stated aim of the

research was to create standardized humane requirements for breeding dogs and puppies. It was alleged that these new uniform humane standards would be promoted by veterinarians nationwide as well as industry representatives and would be adopted by the majority of commercial dog breeders.

Subsequently, Purdue University created a dog breeder certification program, Canine Care Certified (CCC), utilizing its newly developed standards of care. The Alliance was initially hopeful that this would result in meaningful changes in a frequently cruel industry. However, these hopes were dashed when Purdue University chose not to share its standards with the animal welfare community or the public. This lack of transparency was disappointing and has resulted in widespread skepticism of the program.

Our concerns were proven justified last year when Dr. Croney, the director of the CCC program, made a startling claim. **She publicly asserted that those who take to the podium to complain about puppy mills have never been to a commercial dog breeding operation.** This past June, a colleague of Dr. Croney doubled down on this allegation and asserted that **no one at the Alliance has been to a**

commercial breeding facility. Therefore, she questioned how we would know if bad conditions existed in the industry. Well, maybe we are aware of the conditions in the industry because our executive director has personally visited over 1,000 USDA-licensed commercial dog breeders nationwide over his career.

Statements such as these that no one critical of dog breeders has even been to a breeding facility are outrageously false and reveal that it is not animal welfare advocates but rather Dr. Croney and her colleagues who have little to no first-hand experience with the commercial breeding industry. Dr. Croney's only knowledge of such facilities appears to be based on visiting facilities showcased by the industry and by invitation only and scheduled in advance. Dr. Croney's comment raises a crucial question: *Has Dr. Croney ever visited a commercial dog breeding facility at random and unannounced?*

We suggest that Dr. Croney should start by visiting the breeding operation of Kevin Beauchamp, the president of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association. The USDA has fined Mr. Beauchamp \$6,000, suspended his license, and issued a cease-and-desist order for not caring for his animals. Yet, he still maintains a critical leadership role in the industry. When the Alliance complained about bad breeders controlling industry leadership such as Mr. Beauchamp, **Dr. Croney admonished the Alliance and asserted that there is no such thing as a bad breeder; rather, these are good people who are simply engaging in "bad breeding practices."**

Sadly, it appears that the CCC program is becoming nothing other than an apologist for commercial dog breeders rather than promoting the actual health and well-being of the hundreds of thousands of puppy mill breeding dogs and puppies. Consequently, Petland and other pet stores that sell puppies are using the CCC program as ammunition to falsely claim that since dog breeders are now "certified," there is no longer a need for local

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Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation

MISSION STATEMENT

To advocate for the welfare of animals and to protect companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife from abuse, neglect and inhumane exploitation. We accomplish this by enacting animal welfare laws and by working towards the effective enforcement of all existing animal protection laws and regulations.

FUNDING

The Alliance is a 501 (c) (4) nonprofit animal advocacy organization.

The organization depends solely on donations from concerned and compassionate individuals to fund its animal welfare advocacy and legislative efforts. Because of our extensive advocacy work on behalf of animals we are considered a lobbying organization and therefore gifts to the Alliance are not tax-deductible.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*Bob Baker,
Executive Director*

Your support has been instrumental in our achievements for animals this year. You have made it possible to expand our staff and lobby team, which allows us to better advocate for animals with our state and federal legislators and public officials. Your contributions have made this all possible. We are deeply grateful for your continued support.

As always, it has been another hectic and contentious year fighting for the animals. As mentioned in our report on state legislation, some of our state legislators have engaged in outright hostile behavior in an attempt to silence the Alliance. Advocating for animals at the state Capitol can be extremely stressful at times, but we are able to persevere because we have made a commitment to being on the side of those who cannot fight these battles themselves. Your support reassures us that we are not alone in this fight.

Your generous contributions have enabled us to transition from a one-person operation to a team of three full-time animal advocates in just a few years. I would like to introduce our newest team member, who will help us strengthen our animal welfare laws.

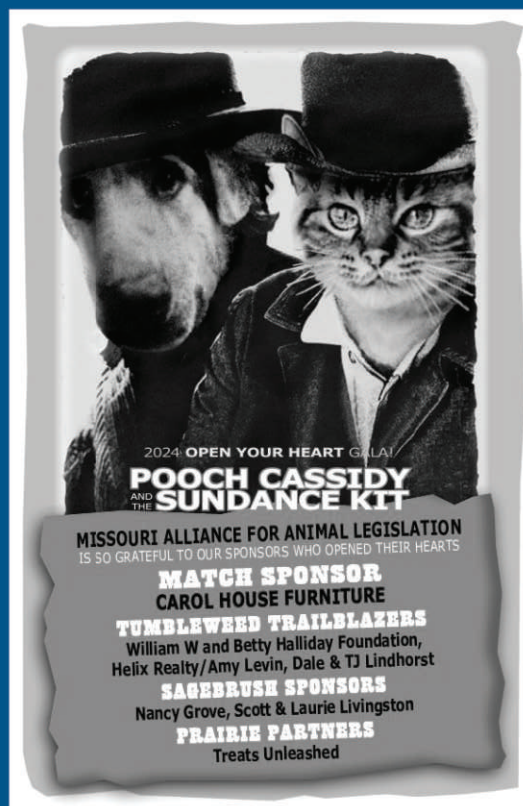
Tori received her Bachelor of Science from Webster University in 2023 in Political Science and Public Law, with a minor in Human Rights. During college, she was able to explore different fields through internships, volunteerism, and classes that helped her fulfill her desire to help others. Tori has served as a campaign intern for a Missouri State Senator and interned at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

In 2020, Tori began volunteering as a dog walker at the Humane Society of Missouri. There, she developed an immense desire to help shelter animals. After graduation, she accepted a temporary Volunteer Coordinator position before transitioning to the Alliance. She continues to volunteer to walk dogs weekly and is grateful that her work will continue to support the animals of our state.

We are delighted to have Tori join our team. Most of all, we are deeply grateful to our supporters for your significant role in our growth and success. Your backing has been instrumental in our achievements, and we eagerly look forward to your continued involvement in our mission to advocate for the welfare of animals. Your ongoing support is crucial to our future endeavors.



*Victoria "Tori" Cichelero
Policy & Communications Coordinator*



OPEN YOUR HEART 2024

The Alliance concluded another fun-filled and inspiring *Open Your Heart Gala* in 2024. The event's theme, "Pooch Cassidy and the Sundance Kit," gathered animal advocates from all corners of Missouri to raise funds for the most vulnerable. We extend our warm gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their vital contributions towards making the gala such a glowing success.

This year marked the establishment of the "Carol House Award" by the Open Your Heart Committee, intended to recognize an exceptional animal welfare advocate and Alliance supporter. It was only fitting that Julie Dubman, pictured alongside Bob Baker, was the inaugural recipient of this award. Julie has devoted decades to enhancing the lives of animals in our state and beyond. We are profoundly appreciative of her invaluable contributions.

This annual event continues to uphold its importance as our most critical fundraiser. We hope to see you in 2025!



STATE LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES



Animals prevailed in Jefferson City!

After another challenging year in the Missouri Legislature, we are elated to report that the animals have once again emerged victorious. This is particularly heartening as the puppy mill industry and other animal users waged a fierce battle to overturn our laws protecting animals – solely to profit from animal neglect and exploitation.

The efforts to undermine our animal welfare laws this year in the legislature frequently consisted of outright lies by those seeking to exploit Missouri's vulnerable animals. Most disappointing, our testimony was often cut short by legislative committee chairs who were sympathetic to puppy millers. One committee chair yelled multiple times at the executive director of the Alliance to "wrap it up" while allowing proponents of harmful legislation to continue uninterrupted.

Another committee chair limited the Alliance to two minutes of testimony while assuring pet store/puppy mill representatives not to worry about such time limits.

Fortunately, these contemptible tactics failed because other House and Senate members were convinced by the Alliance's arguments in defense of animals. **As a result, our animal laws were protected.**

In addition, our efforts were successful regarding HB 2134, which will curtail the excessive amount of waste from slaughterhouses. This waste is so thick and contaminated it is referred to as **"sludge waste" and is often spread on pastures where cattle are grazing.** It was a long battle in the legislature with numerous hearings, but it finally passed in the last days of the session. It has already resulted in one large slaughterhouse temporarily shutting down.

After many years of advocating for increased penalties for injuring or killing a law enforcement animal, search and rescue animal, bomb and narcotic sniffing dogs, and tracking animals, **Max's Law** was finally passed by the state legislature. Max's Law was named after a law enforcement dog who was stabbed and seriously injured while apprehending a suspect. It is now a felony offense in Missouri to seriously injure or kill an animal assisting police, a fire department, or a rescue unit or agency.

Below are some of the bills that we defeated that posed the greatest threat to animals, marking a significant victory for animal welfare:

HB 1826 – sought to eliminate civil disposition trials for abused and neglected animals. These civil trials allow animal victims to be permanently removed from harmful situations in a timely manner, expediting their adoption into good homes. If HB 1826 had passed, it would have often resulted in abused and neglected animals being left in the hands of their abusers until the conclusion of a criminal trial. ***This legislation would have also eliminated the authority of animal control officers from rescuing abused and neglected animals.***

HB 2265 & SB 937 – The Pet Store Protection Act sought to prohibit municipalities and counties from banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores and would even prohibit local regulations that would safeguard the welfare of the animals, protect public health, or provide consumer protection against the sale of sick puppies and the charge of excessive interest rates. **Such a law could have overturned the Alliance's successes this past year in keeping a disreputable pet store chain from opening in St. Peters and in O'Fallon, MO.** Most telling was the fact that there was a provision in the original bill that prohibited pet stores from acquiring puppies from breeders who had been cited for endangering the health and welfare of their animals. Not surprisingly, the Missouri Pet Breeders Association demanded that such a provision be removed from the bill. **Shockingly, the Chair of the Committee agreed to eliminate such language from the bill, confirming that this legislation was intended solely to protect the cruelest dog breeders in the state.**

HB 1509 – was intended to overturn the ordinances recently enacted in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County that prohibit veterinarians from declawing cats. Regrettably, the bill went even further by prohibiting any restrictions or regulations of veterinarians by the local government regardless of how abusive the practice, including cruel procedures occurring at factory

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Breeding dog left to starve at a licensed puppy mill because Italian Greyhounds were no longer selling in pet stores. Would Dr. Croney not consider this a bad breeder?

Canine Care Certified. Advocating for Animals or for Puppy Mills? **continued from page 1**

regulations on pet stores or any necessity for prohibiting the sale of puppies in pet stores.

When the Alliance recently complained about the puppy mill industry's efforts to overturn Missouri's animal welfare laws, **a colleague of Dr. Croney at Purdue University chastised the Alliance, arguing that such laws could be harmful to dog breeders.** The legislation in question was a bill that sought to repeal our state's disposition process and would **result in abused and neglected animals being left in the hands of their abusers until a criminal trial which could take years.**

Regrettably, instead of seeking to improve the treatment of dogs in commercial breeding operations as was its stated goal, the Canine Care Certified program is currently serving as an apologist for an industry infamous for its cruelty.

BARK TO BAN PUPPY MILLS CAMPAIGN



This year, the Alliance's work was significantly enhanced by the invaluable support of the *Bark to Ban Puppy Mills* campaign. The campaign was a crucial partner in our fight against cruel puppy mills in Missouri and helped us oppose legislation that would have weakened our animal welfare laws. Its support was a significant factor in our victory in defending laws regulating the sale of dogs in pet stores.

The *Bark to Ban Puppy Mills* campaign aims to raise awareness about puppy mills in the St. Louis region, change puppy buying habits, and encourage stronger legislation to protect animal welfare.

Towards this effort, the campaign placed billboards across the region to enhance awareness of puppy mills and educate consumers about the perils of purchasing a puppy from a pet store. The billboards also advised on how to obtain more

information and how to join in the legislative fight to protect the welfare of dogs. In addition, the campaign arranged for numerous television stories on puppy mills, including frequent TV appearances of Wiggles, our official campaign spokesdog and puppy mill survivor.



*Wiggles, Puppy Mill Campaign Manager
Bark to Ban Puppy Mills*

The campaign emphasized the importance of contacting your legislators regarding puppy mill/pet store legislation. It warned consumers not to purchase a puppy from a pet store but rather encouraged adoption. It also provided information on how to find a responsible breeder if that is the consumer's choice.

The Alliance wishes to extend its appreciation to all those involved with the *Bark to Ban Puppy Mills* campaign. You truly made a difference for the animals!

SAFER TOGETHER SEMINAR HUGE SUCCESS!



Tori (left) and Aislinn (right) working behind the scenes during our virtual seminar.

The Alliance was thrilled to host our fourth annual *Safer Together* seminar in May. This all-day training, which brought together professionals from animal and human services, left a lasting impact, inspiring and motivating the attendees on how to best address the connection between animal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence.

Seminar presenters included a forensic veterinarian, prosecutors, survivors of domestic violence, a child psychologist, a legislative professional, and an expert in elder abuse.

The Alliance was pleased that presenters were able to educate scores of human service professionals on how to identify and report animal abuse and neglect. Attendees also learned about our cross-reporting bill, which would mandate animal abuse/neglect reporting for many human service professionals.

At the end of the day, attendees could opt-in to help the Alliance pass our cross-reporting bill in a future legislative session. We are pleased that dozens of professionals from fields ranging from legal professional services to child welfare to animal control committed their assistance in passing this critical legislation.

Evaluations of the seminar revealed that human service

professionals are now more prepared to assist animals in need when they encounter them. One juvenile officer wrote in her evaluation that they will now “Consider how pets play into the family dynamics and consider asking about pets during child abuse interviews.”

A supervisor from the state’s Children’s Division wrote that the training was useful because they will now “Recognize neglect in animals, and that could be a hint of other things going on in the home. There are times we will go to a home and just think the family are poor pet owners due to not having water for the animals or being tied up with a short leash; now, knowing to really pay attention to those things and talking to kids about their animals.”

One attorney wrote, “I recently changed jobs from private practice in family law to representing Children’s Division and will now be looking for the link in cases to help offer better services to families and cross-report, as well as having my client consider the link more!”

Another attorney wrote, “Best training in years – already recommending next year’s training to others.” A Director of Community Programs noted, “It was an excellent conference! I plan to attend every year.” A Humane Educator shared, “This was the BEST seminar I’ve ever experienced. I’m so glad I was able to participate... This seminar was so well organized and executed... Exceptional job.”

The Alliance cannot wait to host our 2025 *Safer Together*. The date will be announced in an upcoming e-Newsletter, so be sure you’re signed up to receive them!

Adult Abuse & Animal Abuse

- Child Maltreatment & Animal Abuse
- Domestic Abuse & Animal Abuse
- Adult Abuse & Animal Abuse

**When animals are abused, people are at risk.
When people are abused, animals are at risk.**

*A slide shared by the presenter from
the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services*

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES



Good News from Washington for puppy mill dogs!

The Alliance's federal lobbyist once again triumphed in having language inserted into the most recent federal budget instructing the USDA to continue performing unannounced

inspections of puppy mills and to continue to document each violation of the Animal Welfare Act in the inspection report. This is in response to past nefarious actions on the part of the USDA in an effort to protect the reputation of inhumane puppy mills and allow them to continue to sell their dogs to pet stores.

For many years, the USDA denied public access to inspection reports of puppy mills, shielding the worst offenders. The Alliance's successful lobbying efforts in Congress put an end to this blatant violation of the Freedom of Information Act. However, the USDA then responded by illegally adopting rules to prevent violations from being reported on inspection reports. The Alliance put a halt to such criminal actions on the part of the USDA through a lawsuit and more lobbying efforts by our federal lobbyist, Chris Heyde.

The fight this year to continue strict supervision of puppy mills was met with strong opposition by industry groups, including the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Kennel Club, but we prevailed, and dogs in puppy mills will be better protected once again.

Be assured that the Alliance will continue our efforts to end the USDA's prior practice of concealing animal welfare violations. We hope someday to make such a directive a permanent admonition and not a yearly fight.

We are encouraged that this year's federal budget also recommended that the USDA work in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel and the Department of Justice to ensure effective enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, and the legislation also encouraged the USDA to share information on inhumane breeders with local, state, and other federal agencies. In addition, the USDA has recently announced that it has proposed new rules to strengthen enforcement efforts on puppy mills.

Most noteworthy of these proposed rules would prohibit substandard breeders whose licenses have been revoked due to serious Animal Welfare Act violations from continuing to do business as usual by relicensing under a family member's name.

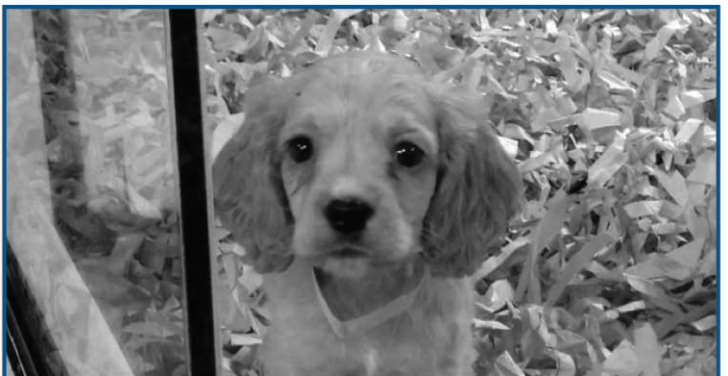


The Alliance is committed to advocating for puppy mill dogs with Congress and all of our federal officials with the help of our federal lobbyist.

State Legislative Successes **continued from page 4**

farms, such as dehorning and castration of cattle without anesthetics and the agonizing and prolonged suffocation of unwanted animals known as "ventilation shut down."

Amendment to HJR 87 – would have guaranteed in the state constitution the right to trap animals regardless of the cruelty associated with steel jaw leg-hold traps. Dogs and cats often become caught in these traps. We strongly opposed this amendment, and fortunately, HJR 87 failed to pass the legislature.



A win for puppies in defeating the Pet Store Protection Act!



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PLEASE HELP US!

In addition to your efforts to contact your legislators when needed to assist our efforts to curb puppy mill abuse and animal suffering, **we need your financial support to enable the Alliance to continue fighting on behalf of the animals with local governments and with our elected officials in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C.**

Your help is needed more than ever as we expand our advocacy staff and lobbying team to more effectively help the Alliance speak for those who have no voice!

With your generous support, we can continue our vital work of advocating on behalf of animals.

Your contribution is a powerful tool that helps us make a real difference. Although we have made significant progress, there is much more we can do to vastly improve our animal welfare laws and ensure that our current animal welfare laws are effectively enforced.

HELP US TO CONTINUE TO BE THE VOICE OF THE ANIMALS.



PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE TODAY!

Please send your donation today using the enclosed envelope or by making a generous contribution online at maal.org or by using the QR code.

