



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION  
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## PLEASE HELP US!

We need your financial support to enable the Alliance to continue its fight in the halls of the State Capitol and with our state and federal officials on behalf of the animals.

**Your help is needed more than ever as we extend our efforts to the U. S. Capitol and into the courtroom to advocate for the effective enforcement of our federal animal welfare laws.**

With your generous support, we can continue our vital work of defending the animals.

Although we have made significant progress, there is much more for us to do to ensure that our animal welfare laws are adequately enforced.

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

Please show your support of the Alliance and contribute today to help us continue our efforts to help the animals!



### PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION TODAY

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## SHAKE-UP AT USDA FOLLOWING YEARS OF ANIMAL ABUSE COVER-UPS



Dr. Betty Goldentyer  
Deputy Administrator, Animal Care  
*Dr. Betty Goldentyer finally resigned when called out by DOJ officials for her refusal to enforce the Animal Welfare Act.*

The Alliance has been relentless in our efforts to compel the USDA to effectively enforce the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and to halt the

agency's illegal cover-ups of animal abuse and neglect. For many years, the USDA had ordered its inspectors to falsify inspection reports in order to conceal abuses at puppy mills and other regulated animal facilities. In this same time period, the USDA implemented rules that were harmful to animal welfare, such as the "teachable moments" rule, which allowed violations to be kept hidden from the public. The USDA also initiated a "self-reporting" rule allowing animal users to self-report violations and then not be cited for any violations that they admitted to prior to the inspection.

**Recognizing that there would be intense public opposition to these inhumane rules, the USDA failed to use the required federal rule-making process and instead illegally implemented the rules.**

Most distressing, this malfeasance was not only intended to deceive the general public about conditions at federally regulated animal facilities **but was also intended to aid and abet disreputable dog breeders in circumventing state and local laws.** In various states and municipalities, there are laws that prohibit pet stores in their respective jurisdictions from acquiring puppies from breeders with a certain number of violations documented on their USDA inspection reports. In response, **Dr. Robert Gibbens, the past Director of Animal Welfare Operations for the USDA, announced to dog breeders that the USDA was adopting rules to enable the breeders "to get around" such state and local laws.**

Unfortunately, Dr. Betty Goldentyer, who was the USDA official in charge of the enforcement of the AWA, and Dr. Robert Gibbens ignored pleas from the Alliance to halt these inhumane and illegal rules and practices.

**In response to the USDA's gross negligence and unlawful conduct, the Alliance successfully initiated a lawsuit to eliminate the "self-reporting" rule. Additionally, we employed a federal lobbyist who successfully persuaded Congress to order the USDA to cease using the "teachable moments" rule. Further, the Alliance persuaded Congress to order the USDA to stop falsifying inspection reports and start citing all AWA violations immediately.**

*As evidence of the harm that such illegal rules caused to animals, the USDA recently admitted to Congress that the agency had covered-up horrific acts of abuse to an animal at a Neuralink research facility due to the illegal rules that were in place at that time. Rules that were initiated by Dr. Gibbens and enforced by Dr. Goldentyer.*

Scandalously, Dr. Goldentyer and Dr. Gibbens took their cover-up efforts too far when they protected Envigo, a massive-scale breeder of dogs for use in research. The Department of Justice (DOJ) questioned why the USDA did not take action against Envigo, despite the extensive documented evidence of serious and continuing violations.

*Continued on page 5...*



*Dr. Robert Gibbens, who was behind the illegal "teachable moments" rule, also resigned after appearing before a federal grand jury to explain his negligence in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act.*



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

As always, it has been a very busy and tumultuous time advocating for the animals this year, but thanks to your help and support, we can look back with great satisfaction at our accomplishments. As we reported on the front page of our Newsletter, we have significantly improved the enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and achieved major changes in how the USDA must now implement and administer the AWA. And most satisfying, leadership within the USDA's Animal Care Division has resigned after many years of malfeasance, **much of which was exposed and brought to the attention of Congress and the Department of Justice by the Alliance.**

This was personally gratifying for me as these same USDA officials harassed the Alliance for years due to our calling out their misconduct. The USDA had previously demanded that the Alliance cease reporting on its illegal "teachable moments" rule and accused us of lying

when we first reported on it. Dr. Goldentyer, the USDA's head of enforcement of the AWA, even made false accusations against me to federal law enforcement officials and attempted to block the Alliance from communicating with USDA personnel. She even prohibited the Alliance from attending USDA gatherings where USDA was meeting with other animal welfare organizations.

Likewise, our work at the state Capitol was very contentious as puppy mill groups and corporate agricultural organizations initiated a campaign of lies in a futile attempt to pass their harmful agenda and even made slanderous attacks against the Alliance. Most disappointingly, state legislators participated in these verbal and slanderous attacks against the Alliance, **and one state senator even physically threatened me in an attempt to deter the Alliance from opposing his dangerous legislation.**

These attacks reveal the frustration these legislators and industry groups are encountering in their failed attempts to weaken animal protection laws due to the Alliance's lobbying efforts. The good news is that the Alliance would not be generating such hostility if it were not for our success in advocating for animals. **We are pleased to proclaim that the animals have prevailed once again against these continuing attacks against their welfare, and the Alliance remained steadfast against attempts to intimidate us from advocating for the animals at the Capitol.**

**YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE  
ALLIANCE WILL REMAIN UNYIELDING  
IN OUR EFFORTS.**

## GALA TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

*The Alliance Cordially Invites You to Our*

# OPEN YOUR HEART GALA

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at  
Meadowbrook Country Club in Ballwin



Join us for delicious food and drinks, a thrilling live auction and gift card frenzy, a splendidly curated silent auction, inspirational videos, and more.

This is President's Day Weekend — so make sure you're in town for our event!

Ready to buy your ticket? Head over to [maal.org](http://maal.org) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



*We'll See You in February!*



# THE ALLIANCE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS THE ANIMALS AT THE MISSOURI LEGISLATURE



**ANIMALS VICTORIOUS!**

Without a doubt, we witnessed the greatest onslaught of legislation against the welfare of animals this past legislative session than ever before. A blitz of harmful bills in the state legislature sought to repeal or seriously undermine our existing state laws protecting animals. Fortunately, due to your support, the Alliance was able to thwart all of the many efforts to weaken our animal protection laws this session.

We are especially pleased to report that **we successfully defeated legislation that would have eliminated or severely restricted our disposition process for abused and neglected animals.** Disgracefully, legislation that could have left abused and neglected animals in the possession of their abusers passed in the House of Representatives. Mercifully, we defeated this dangerous legislation in the Senate, where it came down to the wire. **Sadly, several state representatives who voted to eliminate the disposition process admitted that it was wrong to do so, but were intimidated into voting for it by their colleagues.**

We are also delighted to report that we successfully stopped several bills that were intended to prohibit municipalities from banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. Such legislation would have even prohibited municipalities from effectively regulating pet stores that sell dogs and cats. **Petland and the puppy mill industry were relentless in their efforts to pass this legislation to protect inhumane puppy mills and the unethical practice of selling dogs and cats in pet stores.**

In our effort to defeat this legislation, the Alliance detailed the common abuses found at pet stores marketing puppies and emphasized that Petland is the only one of the nation's twenty-five largest pet store chains that sell puppies. The vast majority of retailers believe that selling commercially raised puppies adheres to an outdated and unacceptable business model and believe responsible pet stores should be sending puppy buyers to local shelters or rescues.

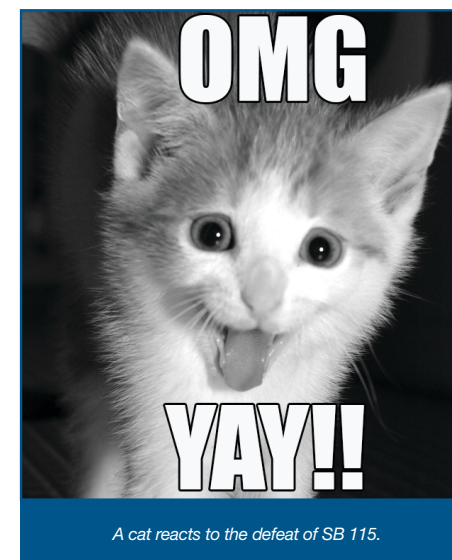
The pet store legislation also passed in the House, and this was a fight to the finish in the Senate as several such bills were still very much in play during the final weeks of the session. **Fortunately, the animals prevailed.**

**We are especially elated to have defeated SB 115. This legislation passed the Senate, which was extremely alarming since the Senate is usually where we can defeat harmful animal bills. Thankfully, the Alliance was able to prevent it from being voted on in the House.** This bill was intended to overturn the ordinances enacted by the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County prohibiting veterinarians from declawing cats. Most unfortunately, the bill went even further by prohibiting any restrictions or regulations on veterinarians by the local government, regardless of how cruel or abusive the practice might be.

**It must be emphasized that local control of veterinarians is critical, as, shockingly, veterinarians are currently exempt from the state criminal code in their veterinary medicine practice and, thereby, cannot be charged for abusing their animal patients.** And, regrettably, veterinarians have only minimal oversight by the state Veterinary Board since it is controlled by the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) — a trade association of veterinarians. Accordingly, the MVMA sought to remove the only viable oversight of veterinarians, local control, by passing SB 115.

In addition, many agricultural groups supported this legislation as they sought to prohibit counties from enacting bans on cruel practices by veterinarians at factory farms.

**Thanks to your generous support, the Alliance was able to be an effective voice for the animals with our state legislature again this year and successfully defended the animals!**



*A cat reacts to the defeat of SB 115.*



*The Alliance's efforts to compel USDA to enforce laws against puppy mills are making a difference.*

**Shake-Up At USDA Following Years of Animal Abuse Cover-Ups continued from page 1**

The DOJ eventually closed down Envigo when the USDA failed to act, and the DOJ seized more than 4,000 beagles due to Envigo's disregard for the dogs' welfare. Four hundred forty-six dogs were discovered to be in need of immediate veterinary treatment. Consequently, federal prosecutors investigated Dr. Goldentyer and Dr. Gibbens since they oversaw the USDA's oversight of Envigo and allowed this gross neglect and abuse to continue for several years.

Subsequently, Dr. Goldentyer and Dr. Gibbens were subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury to explain their malfeasance in failing to enforce the AWA. **Both Goldentyer and Gibbens resigned shortly thereafter.**

We hope that these recent developments send a strong message to leadership at the USDA that the agency has a mandate from Congress to enforce the AWA, and that the USDA will continue to be held accountable for its failure to do so. **You can be assured that the Alliance will closely monitor the USDA going forward and will once again take appropriate action, when and if necessary, similar to our lawsuit and the lobbying of the Congressional Appropriations Committees to ensure the humane treatment of animals in USDA-regulated facilities.**

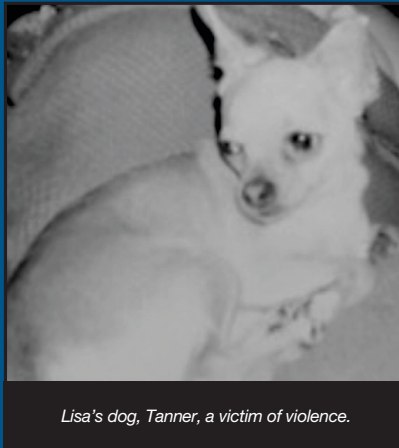


# ENDING CYCLES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ANIMALS & HUMANS

*"In July 2011, I left to start over in a women's shelter with my three children. The abuse had been going on for a long time. I tried to hide it, I tried to fix it. By March 2012, he had pending charges for sexual*

*assault and adult aggravated stalking. I was fighting back and standing up for my children and myself. When a victim steps out of line, there are often consequences. Often times abusers will target children and pets in an effort to 'control' their victim. **Our family dog did not survive.** I was left heartbroken. I felt like I had failed to protect my kids and our pets. Since that time, I appeared in court 78 times. I have worked on legislation to improve the system for the victims just starting their journey to survivors. It was bigger than I was. **I am proud to have worked with the Alliance to pass legislation to protect people and pets fleeing violence.**" [Pet Protection Act 2021]*

—Lisa Saylor



Lisa's dog, Tanner, a victim of violence.

If you want to learn more about Safer Together, head to <https://moanimalalliance.org/safer-together-missouri> or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



The Alliance has also created Child and Animal Neglect/Abuse (CANA) coalitions in the Kansas City area and Jefferson County. These coalitions consist of professionals who are likely in their work to come across both child and animal abuse or the abuse of animals by children. By engaging these professionals in case consultation and education, we ensure that animal abuse and neglect are identified and addressed appropriately and that cycles of violence in our communities are ended.

Education regarding the link between the abuse of vulnerable animals and humans is critical to obtaining safety for those needing our help urgently. Since the marriage of education and legislation is powerful, the Alliance intends to introduce a cross-reporting bill during the 2024 legislative session, requiring hundreds of human service professionals in Missouri to be educated on animal abuse and neglect and to make a report if they suspect it.

Thank you for supporting the Alliance in our persistent effort to ensure that animals living in dangerous households make it to safety.



Our Associate Executive Director speaking at last year's Safer Together, Kansas City.

We are extremely fortunate to host Lisa as one of the ten incredible speakers at our upcoming virtual seminar, **Safer Together, Missouri**. This full-day training will educate professionals such as law enforcement, social workers, juvenile justice officers, prosecuting attorneys, and others on the link between animal, child, and elder abuse, and domestic violence. We are pleased that professionals from all over Missouri, the United States, and Canada have registered thus far. The Alliance is confident that when human service professionals know how to better identify animal abuse, become aware of who to report it to, and understand its link to other crimes, animals will receive help before it's too late.

# ANIMAL CRUELTY ENDORSED BY ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING COMMERCIAL DOG BREEDERS



Price Kennel was closed, and dogs were permanently removed thanks to the state's disposition process for abused and neglected animals.

Once again, organizations such as the *Missouri Federation of Animal Owners*, *Protect the Harvest*, and the *Missouri Pet Breeders Association* have made false statements about the Missouri law allowing animals to be permanently removed from

abusive and neglectful situations. These groups continually fabricate stories alleging that animals are being unlawfully impounded, which they claim makes it necessary to prohibit law enforcement and animal control agencies from seizing animals.

This year the allegation was made that the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department went "rogue" and unlawfully seized dogs from a breeder named Sherlinda Price. The groups representing cruel puppy mills argued that there was nothing wrong with the animals and that the only reason Ms. Price lost her dogs was that she could not afford to pay for the cost of care while awaiting a civil trial where she would be given an opportunity to argue that her dogs were not abused or neglected.

**In truth, there is no need to pay for the cost of care or post a bond for animals that have been seized prior to a civil disposition trial being conducted.**

Sadly, these disreputable groups spread lies at the Capitol and even testify to them in legislative hearings in an effort to overturn our disposition process. **Repealing our disposition process would lead to many vulnerable animals being left in the hands of their abusers until the conclusion of a criminal trial — which could take years.**

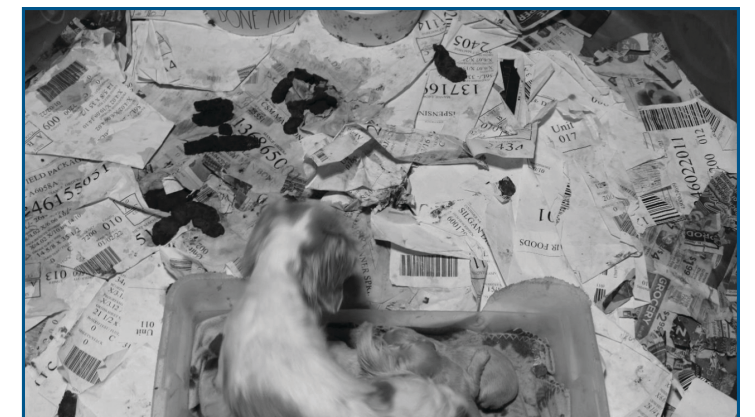
These groups falsely alleged that Ms. Price's animals were well cared for and were unlawfully impounded by the Sheriff's Department. In response, the Alliance presented overwhelming evidence, including statements and photographs showing that dogs lived in pools of feces and urine, and even feed and water bowls contained feces.

We provided evidence that the Sheriff's Department worked closely with the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) and that the MDA permanently banned Ms. Price from ever holding a commercial breeding license as a result. Finally, we informed legislators that Ms. Price was found to have abused/neglected her dogs at the civil disposition trial, and later, she pled guilty at her criminal trial.

**Fortunately, the Alliance's testimony rebutting such lies and revealing the truth about the breeder in question led to the sponsor of the disposition bill agreeing not to move forward with her legislation.**

Regrettably, these same groups and other organizations representing agricultural interests will return next year with a newly fabricated story to tell and will continue to spread more malicious lies about our animal welfare laws. **Sadly, many legislators embrace these lies and even embellish them.** During a committee hearing, one state representative even alleged that Ms. Price lost her "service dog" in the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department raid. Yet, there was no evidence of this occurring, and no one was aware of Ms. Price ever alleging that one of her dogs was a service dog. **However, such a lie makes for a better story in an effort to dismantle our anti-cruelty laws.**

**This is why it is so critical that you contact your state legislators when these bills come before the legislature. We need to counter the legislators who too often serve as apologists for animal abusers. If you do not receive our emails, please go to our website, [maal.org](http://maal.org), and sign up for our Alerts so you can help the Alliance protect the animals.**



Industry groups testified that conditions at Price's facility were acceptable. Yet over 50% of the dogs were found to be diseased.