



Humane USA - Massachusetts Candidate Questionnaire

Sean Garballey

Print name

Jim Garballey, 781-648-7446

Contact name and number

Signature

Person completing form, if other than candidate

State Representative/23rd Middlesex District

Office/district candidate is running for

Completed questionnaires may be posted on our website, www.humanemass.org

Humane-Massachusetts PAC is devoted to the task of electing humane-minded candidates to public office in our state. We are seeking candidates' positions on animal protection issues that come before the state legislature. Please fill out the following survey, attaching additional sheets, if necessary. We will use this survey as part of the basis for our endorsements of candidates. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@humanemass.org.

Legislators can affect animal welfare by 1) supporting legislation to protect animals and opposing bills that cause or increase animal suffering; 2) opposing state programs that cause or fund the exploitation of animals; and 3) supporting policies and funding levels for state programs to protect animals.

Background:

1. Have you taken any actions in either your public or private life that impacted the welfare of animals? (Co-sponsorship or votes in the legislature, or other actions as a public official or private citizen?) During my time as a member of the Arlington School Committee, currently I serve as the Vice-Chairman, I have worked with the administration to try to prohibit any form of "senior prank" which would involve the abuse of animals. At the end of each year the senior class tries to administer a joke on the whole school. Unfortunately, many of these pranks have involved the abuse of dogs, pigs, mice and other animals. As a member of the School Committee I helped create the Community Safety Officer position at the High School and I have worked with him to stop these kinds of pranks from taking place. This was a strong initiative of mine because I witnessed the death of a pig during a "senior prank" a number of years ago. As a member of Vision 2020 and as a member of the Mystic Shores Team, I have worked with other members of those committees to protect the ecosystems of Spy Pond and the Mystic Lakes. I have also worked with a number of students from the SAVE Club at Arlington High School to try to find ways to educate the citizens of Arlington on how to discard chemicals that could be harmful to animals. Last year I also led a group of students at the Ottoson Middle School on how they can become active within their community. Some of the students were very concerned about the well being of animals, so therefore we educated each other on how we can try to convey a strong message to their fellow students on how animals should be treated and what we can all do to mitigate the abusive treatment of animals.

2. Are there any programs or policies affecting animals that you would like to address as a legislator that would encourage animal protection or eliminate animal abuse and inhumane practices? I believe that a legislator can be an extremely affective advocate for animal protection. As a State Representative I intend to be a legislator who will be a strong advocate for animals throughout the Commonwealth. I will work to uphold the Wildlife Protection Act; which includes protecting against cruel traps and prohibiting any form of hunting on Sunday. I will work to make sure that exotic animals are also treat humanely, working to maintain the safety and humane treatment of dogs, working to ban any form of "force feeding" of ducks for foie gras and I will work to end confinement systems for pigs and calves. I will be an extremely progressive and strong advocate for animals throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

3. Have animals or an individual animal had any significant impact on your life? Throughout my life I have always had the honor of having animals as companions. Currently I have one dog and three cats. Growing up I can not remember a moment where my family did not have animals within our home. One of the most significant moments of my life with an animal was when I was nineteen years old. One afternoon I was driving home with some friends when we noticed that there had been some sort of a car accident on Lake Street in Arlington Massachusetts. We immediately pulled over to offer assistance where we discovered that a dog had been accidentally hit by a vehicle. The dog was seriously injured and nobody knew exactly how to handle the situation. With people gathering around the dog, I called for emergency care and tried to help the suffering animal. We called the owner and I helped her carry her dog into her car to bring the injured animal to a hospital in Boston. Without giving it a second thought, I went with the stranger and her dog to the hospital and helped apply pressure on the wound of the animal to try to get the bleeding to stop. I was with the dog and its owner for about five hours that afternoon in an effort to try to help save the animals life. Later in the evening we were at the hospital and discovered that the animal did not survive the accident and I tried to comfort the family as best as I could. This was a transcendental moment for me where I realized how valuable and fragile animals truly were and how important it is for humans to care for them as best as we can.

Issues:

Animal Protection Issues in Massachusetts Legislature

Wildlife: In 1996, 64% of the voters in the Commonwealth supported Question 1, the "Wildlife Protection Act," a ballot question that restricted cruel traps, banned using dogs for bear hunting, and removed the requirement that sportsmen hold the majority of seats on the state's Fisheries and Wildlife Board. To date, no governor has appointed a person other than a hunter or trapper to this Board.

1. Would you uphold and reaffirm the integrity of the Wildlife Protection Act -- the trapping restrictions (it includes exceptions for public health and safety) and the prohibition on hunting bears with packs of dogs?

Yes No. Comments:

2. Would you support the appointment to the state's Fisheries and Wildlife Board of qualified wildlife managers, non-consumptive wildlife recreationists, wildlife protection advocates, and other professionals who are non-hunters or trappers; managers who would manage our wildlife for the benefit of healthy balanced wildlife populations and healthy ecosystems under the provisions of the 1996 Wildlife Protection Act?

Yes No. Comments:

Hunting is allowed six days of the week, leaving only one day for the 98% of Massachusetts citizens who do not hunt to safely walk in the fields and woods. Every year, legislation is introduced to allow Sunday hunting or to grant such decision-making power to the director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

3. Would you oppose legislation to allow hunting on Sunday?

Yes No. Comments:

Animals Used in Entertainment/Other:

Legislation was recently defeated on Beacon Hill that would have legalized slot machines at greyhound racetracks.

4. Do you support legislation that would allow slot machines at the racetracks?
 Yes No. Comments:

A question will be on the 2008 statewide ballot that will ask voters that, if passed, would phase out greyhound racing in Massachusetts.

5. Do you support ending to dog racing in Massachusetts?
 Yes No. Comments: I personally believe that dog racing should be phased out in Massachusetts because it has been proven that this practice does have an extremely harmful impact on animals. I would try to work with fellow legislators to protect the safety of animals and try to make sure that people do not suffer from losing their jobs.

The bullhook and ankus are devices used to train, punish and control elephants. The handle is usually made of wood, metal or fiberglass and there is a sharp steel hook at one end that is used to puncture and put varying degrees of painful pressure on an elephant's skin.

5. Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of the bullhook/ankus or similar device that may reasonably result in harm to elephants in Massachusetts?
 Yes No. Comments:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it to:
info@humanemass.org

or

HumaneUSA- Massachusetts, 11 Lantern Lane, Arlington, MA 02474