



## Humane USA - Massachusetts Candidate Questionnaire

**Jeff Thielman**

Print name

**Jeff Thielman - 781.859.9099**

Contact name and number

**House of Representatives - 23<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex**

Office/district candidate is running for

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Jeff Thielman**

Person completing form, if other than candidate

*Completed questionnaires may be posted on our website, [www.humanemass.org](http://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](mailto: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:**

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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?)

**Many years ago in high school I volunteered at the Humane Society in our community (Meriden, Connecticut).**

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 will support and work for passage of the Greyhound Protection Act (House Bill 320, proposed by Carl Sciortino, Will Brownsberger, and others).**

3. Have animals or an individual animal had any significant impact on your life?

**Yes. I grew up with a dog, and my wife and I own a cat. My siblings all have animals as well.**

**Issues:**

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**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:

**I absolutely believe the law should be upheld.**

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:

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:

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

**or**

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