



ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE PANEL: **LOCAL ACTIVISM: WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Use these examples to brainstorm ways to help animals in your community! This list is not exhaustive—there are countless ways you can advocate for animals locally.

- Species-specific advocacy (e.g., group that only focuses on salamander issues—they make sure salamanders' interests are considered in local hearings for development permits, work on salamander crossings when new roads are put in, etc.)
- Glue traps in parks ban
- Local horse-drawn carriages ban or document conditions i.e. weather extremes
- Firework bans and enforcement advocacy
- Review minimum requirements for animals kept (shelter requirements, food, water) and push for improvements
- Volunteer at local shelter or at a rescue group that is a partner organization of local shelter
- Volunteer to work on community cat issue; trap, neuter and return programs
- Anti-Tethering ordinance / enforcement
- Declaw Ban
- Circus/wild animal performances ban / permit denial; great for youth outreach
- Fur sales ban
- Rodeo ban or harmful devices ban
- Pony rides/ petting zoo ban
- Local retail pet sales ban
- City resolutions of any of the above as a first step toward an ordinance
- Monitor local Craigslist or other listserv for puppy mill sales; report
- Investigate the supplier of puppies at local pet store by posing as someone interested in a puppy
- Witness conditions at circus, rodeo, roadside zoo, etc. and report any problems to law enforcement authorities
- Free-speech or outreach events around any of the above activities
- Lobby the local school districts for access to vegan food in school districts; great opportunity for youth advocates
- Lobby for vegan options in local restaurant chains



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- Humane education in schools; also great youth outreach
- Local county commissioners deciding on lethal methods to “manage” wildlife; public records request for contract between local jurisdiction and USDA’s Wildlife Services
- Combating breed-specific legislation (because that is usually county or city code)
- Dangerous animal ordinances (again, usually county/city)—most often dogs that bite or “menace.” Activists can look at whether the code:
 - discriminates based on breed
 - directs judges to consider the animal’s motivation (e.g., were they being provoked? defending their people/place? etc.)
 - provides opportunity for the animal to move down to a lower level of danger after behavioral work, X many years without incident, etc.
- Local advocacy for safe crossing/wildlife corridors. E.g. if there is a particular stretch of roadway that sees a lot of wildlife traffic, doing something to make it more likely than the animals survive crossing—which could not involve government at all (e.g., get permission from landowners to put up “drive careful, quail crossing” signs) or could involve government (putting in a tunnel under roadway or animal bridge above roadway).
- Criminal cruelty and local politics
 - Encourage candidates for sheriff / chief of police / prosecutor positions to discuss how their administration would approach animal cruelty. This can be done by asking questions at candidate forums, writing letters to local papers, etc.
- Report animal neglect and cruelty in your neighborhood; say something, do something
- Attorneys can start an animal law/protection group of their local bar association
- Start an animal advocacy Meet-up or Facebook group in your community
- Join a local animal rights organization or vegan group
- Run for local office, neighborhood council or similar
- Volunteer for a candidates election campaign who have a strong animal platform
- Register to vote and VOTE for candidates who champion animal legislation
- Be a legislative advocate
 - get to know your representatives at all levels of government—local, state, and federal
 - Track animal friendly/harmful legislation
 - Call and email their offices, engage them on social media, attend town halls or other public events on their calendar, attend council meetings, set up a meeting with reps or their staff to discuss animal legislation

RESOURCES

[What To Do When You Witness Animal Cruelty](#)

[Protecting Animals through Local Legislation](#)

- [Retail Pet Sale Bans: Using Local Legislation to Protect Animals](#)
- [Fur Sale Bans: Using Local Legislation to Protect Animals](#)
- [Prohibiting Circuses and Traveling Acts that Use Animals: Using Local Legislation to Protect Animals](#)

[Animal Law Summer School: How to Use Grassroots Advocacy to Change Local Laws to Protect Animals](#)

[Hints for Speaking at the City Council Meeting](#)



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