



### Questions for Pittsburgh City Council District candidates:

1. HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh is seeking to shape Pittsburgh into ‘America’s Model Humane City’. This means participating in an open dialogue on animal protection, working to end animal cruelty for all animals and passing protective legislation where needed.

What are your plans to protect animals and can you support our goals to make Pittsburgh America’s Model Humane City?

**Answer:** We have a responsibility to treat all kinds of life with humility. We must continue working together to create a humane environment for humans and animals. I plan to work on ending animal cruelty for all animals by passing protective legislation where needed.

2. The resilience strategy “ONEPgh” calls for a 50% reduction of the meat consumed in our city by 2030. This is in keeping with the United Nations recommendation to combat climate change, which states: The #1 corrective action is to greatly reduce or give up meat entirely. This is more impactful to the environment than discontinuing the use of cars and airplanes altogether.

What are your plans to protect animals and the environment through meat reduction?

**Answer:** As your Councilwoman, I have signed the City of Pittsburgh’s Climate Action Plan. Last year, I did a year of Meatless Mondays in coordination with Humane Action Pittsburgh and tweeted some of my experience. Reducing meat consumption will almost immediately bring about benefits through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and decreased pressure on land and water use. We agreed to work together to reduce meat consumption by 50%, increase local food production by 200%, reduce food waste by 90% and increase local composting by 200% by the year 2030.

3. Plastic pollution is a growing problem worldwide, and in the city of Pittsburgh. HAP’s “*no plastic please*” campaign works to end single-use plastic wherever possible. We also encourage people to examine their dietary choices as approximately half of the plastic in the ocean is from commercial fishing.

What are your plans to reduce or eliminate plastic use in the City of Pittsburgh?

**Answer:** I have pledged to eliminate single-use plastic wherever possible for the purpose of reducing the suffering of all living creatures. Over Lent I again took a “No Plastics Please Pledge” and promoted the issue on my social media. I am currently working on a Business District No Plastics Please day for May with Humane Action Pittsburgh.

4. Our city has one of the worst wildlife trapping policies, meaning highest kill rate, for a city of our size in the United States. Residents have become used to calling Animal Care & Control to trap groundhogs, raccoons and skunks which must then be euthanized at taxpayer expense. For the most part, trapping is a temporary solution as other animals will fill the void, leading a cycle of trapping and killing.

Will you prioritize an education campaign for Pittsburgh residents that separates wildlife myth from reality and support a policy change to reduce the amount of needless trapping?

**Answer:** As your councilwoman, I pledge to prioritize an education campaign for Pittsburgh residents. We need to educate people with the reality of trapping and killing and how we can move to a much more humane method to deal with unwanted wild animals.

5. The Pittsburgh Zoo is currently ranked the #2 Worst Zoo in the County for elephants. They are in violation of their lease with the City of Pittsburgh for failing to maintain AZA accreditation. Further, no satisfactory answer has been received from the Zoo or the City as to whether the Zoo is following city law, which bans the use of bullhooks and other instruments of pain on elephants.

What are your plans to ensure the Pittsburgh Zoo follows city law and regains their AZA accreditation?

**Answer:** Negative reinforcement is never an effective way to train any animal. I am willing to discuss how the City might do such an inspection, but it is not clear to me that it is happening now. Also, the City has the opportunity to re-negotiate the Zoo's lease, but while the Administration has the responsibility and the clear authority for negotiating leases, Council can be sure that the lease terms are made public.

6. Please let our members know what you have done in the past to protect animals.

**Answer:** As stated previously, I have signed the City of Pittsburgh's Climate Action Plan, and been supportive of several ordinances about treatment of both pets and wildlife.