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## **2020 State Candidate Survey**

1. Pennsylvania is considered the “Puppy Mill Capital of the East” and this year, six PA dog breeding businesses made the Humane Society of the United States’ “Horrible Hundred” list, which names the hundred worst puppy mills in the country. Further adding to the problem, the PA Dog Law Bureau of Enforcement does not have proper funding. While two bills have been introduced to help fund Dog Law (HB 1277, which would take the judiciary out of the Dog Law Fund, and SB 663, which would raise the dog license fee), it is likely not enough.

**Will you support (or have you supported) these two bills, and what other assistance can you offer to help fund Dog Law?**

I will support both of those bills and look forward to supporting other legislation that would increase the funding available for the PA Dog Law Bureau of Enforcement.

**What are your plans to eradicate puppy mills and unethical breeders in Pennsylvania?**

I look forward to supporting Victoria’s Law.

2. For decades, Pennsylvanians have been calling for an end to live pigeon shoots. We are the only state that still legally and openly holds these cruel killing contests. Year after year, a bill (SB 787 is the most recent) has been introduced to ban live pigeon shoots but has been denied a fair vote.

**Will you support legislation to ban live pigeon shoots, and what can or will you do to ensure the bill receives a vote?**

Yes, I will support this legislation. Unfortunately, as a freshman legislator, there is likely little I can do to ensure that the bill receives a vote.

3. Zoonotic outbreaks, including HIV, Ebola, mad cow disease, avian flu, measles, smallpox, and COVID-19, have all spread through the confinement, slaughter, and/or consumption of animals. Research shows that factory farms, which are rampant in Pennsylvania, are breeding grounds for killer pathogens because of the animals' genetic similarities and the overcrowding of animals. While animal agriculture has long been hailed as the second largest contributor to human-made greenhouse gas emissions, our current crisis is revealing it to be a serious threat to public health, as well.

**What measures will you take to ensure that factory farms in Pennsylvania are operating using the safest and most humane methods possible?**

I'll support legislation to encourage responsible reporting by whistleblowers and that would enforce penalties on those who abuse farm animals.

**Will you support legislation to improve standards in factory farms, such as banning gestation crates and/or battery cages (means of keeping pigs and chickens so small that they do not have adequate space to even turn around)?**

Yes.

4. Plastic pollution is a growing problem worldwide and in Western Pennsylvania. Humane Action Pittsburgh's No Plastic Please campaign works to end single-use plastic (i.e. straws, bottled water, throwaway plastic cutlery, and other items that are only used one time) wherever possible. Most of these items are not easily recyclable and are costing our region and the state millions of dollars to manage the contamination of recycling streams, litter pickup costs, and landfill tipping fees. The PA State Legislature has now twice passed a yearlong preemption rule that prevents PA communities from creating policies to manage this deluge of harmful plastic waste. This state preemption prohibits regulation, fees, or bans at the local level. Meanwhile, regulation in other states, including bottle-deposit systems, requirements for post-consumer plastic content in products, and targeted bans and fees, are helping other communities greatly reduce their plastic waste and shift to more sustainable, responsible use of plastic.

**Do you support or oppose preemption, and what are your plans to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic in Western Pennsylvania?**

I oppose preemption. As a person with a disability and disability rights advocate, I support the reduction, but not elimination of single-use plastic (see: <http://cdrnys.org/blog/disability-dialogue/grasping-at-straws-the-ableism-of-the-straw-ban/>). While it's crucial to encourage consumers to make the choice to eliminate single-use plastics, it's even more important to reduce the amount of plastic that corporations use and produce.

