



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 the above statement?

**Answer:** I completely support this initiative. I must admit I am unfamiliar with any discussions regarding legislation on this topic, but I absolutely would be open to consulting members of your group to further educate myself and learn more about the problem. Once I understand the problem more in detail I surely would be open to creating a comprehensive plan to address it. Otherwise, the battle against evil people and acts of cruelty against animals is one we can address by promoting ways to detect signs that an animal is being abused. Needless to say, I have zero tolerance for animal cruelty. It should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

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:** Thus far, I have slowly been avoiding contributing to demand for market meats in my personal life. On a wider scale I let people know of the benefits of meat-free lifestyles. As a politician I suppose when I hold events it could be very influential to make a point to mention and promote meat-free foods. I'd be open to conversations about legislation for city sponsored events as well to contain meat-free foods.

3. Plastic pollution is a growing problem worldwide, and in the city of Pittsburgh. HAP’s “no plastic please” campaign works to end to 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:** Pittsburgh should join the initiative to end single plastic use. Period.

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 tax payer 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:** I consider trapping within city limits to be hunting, unless a resident has an issue with certain breeds of small animals on their property in which case, rather than providing trapping mechanisms to them to trap and then euthanize the animal, the city should mandate that the animal be relocated.

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:** I was unaware of this, but I would say that just off of the top of my head, the city should have the right to inspect whether or not the zoo is compliant with city regulation or face strict penalties.

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

**Answer:** I grew up in a household that fosters animals, particularly greyhounds, which as a breed are highly susceptible to abuse. I too plan to foster various types of animals once I am comfortable enough to do so. I also have a few other aspirations, but I'll leave them for now.