



NH Animal Rights League

NHARL
PO Box 4211
Concord, NH 03302-4211
www.nhanimalrights.org
nhanimalrightsleague@gmail.com

NHARL Board

Adele Buchwald
Linda Dionne
Cindy Glenn
Emily Murphy
Julia Sinclair

Veterinary Advisor

Barry Taylor, DVM
Editor
Linda Dionne
Associate Editor
Ruth Tanner Isaks

Cowspiracy
Free Screening
Red River Theater
Concord, NH
August 16 at 2 PM

"THE GROUNDBREAKING ENVIRONMENTAL FILM
ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE"



www.cowspiracy.com
Sponsored by the NHARL

New Hampshire
Animal Rights League
Newsletter
July 2015

Saving the Bobcat in NH

The NH Animal Rights League has been working on saving the bobcat in NH since January when we got word that the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) was asked by the NHFG Commission to come up with a proposal to begin hunting and trapping the bobcat again. We have been attending every monthly commission meeting this year to voice our concerns about this unnecessary proposal. At the first meeting in January we had a protest on the grounds of the NHFG Department and received media coverage. We have an online petition that has gathered thousands of NH signatures, and we have been writing to conservation groups in NH to request their support. We have also written *Letters to the Editor*. We are being heard. Opening a season on bobcats has turned into a very controversial issue and NHFG seems to be reconsidering the proposal. We hope this is the case.

Background

The bobcat in NH hasn't been hunted or trapped since 1989, other than legal trapping which, as we know, results in non-target species being trapped. The NHFG Department closed seasons on bobcats because of dwindling numbers. It was estimated then that the bobcat population in NH was around 100-150. Today it is estimated the population has rebounded to about 800 to 1200 bobcats. It has taken the bobcat over 25 years to make what is only a small comeback.

Mark Ellingwood, the chief wildlife biologist at NHFG, recently stated during a legislative public hearing that bobcats, as a furbearer predator, do not need managing. The NHFG Executive Director, Glenn Normandeau, stated that the department is required by statute to provide hunters and trappers with opportunities to hunt and trap. (*NHFG is also required by statute to provide opportunities to wildlife viewers*). So from their own words, bobcats don't need managing and the reason they would open a season on them is to provide opportunities to hunters and trappers. That is certainly not a reason to kill one of our valuable, native, predator species. Please consider helping us to save the bobcat in NH. We have a *Save the Bobcat in NH* Facebook page for more information, and have a petition at www.tinyurl.com/bobcatpetition that you are encouraged to sign. In addition, please contact your county NHFG Commissioner to let him know your opposition to opening the hunting/trapping /hounding season on bobcats in NH. Contact info for them is on page 4.

The Harris Center for Conservation Education has come out in support of continued protection for NH's bobcats: http://www.harriscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/HC15_BobcatResolution_May22.pdf

Other organizations in NH have also come out in support of bobcat protection including the Piscataquog Land Conservancy and the Franconia Land Trust. Having the support of conservation groups is invaluable to the success of this campaign.

NHARL Election

It is time, once again, to nominate members for the NHARL Governance Board. The form for nominating Board members for the NHARL 2016-2017 term is enclosed in this Newsletter or is attached if you get this in electronic form. Suzanne Fournier has agreed to be our election assistant. (Thank you, Suzanne.) Mail or email your completed nomination form to her. (See addresses below*) Those nominated will be contacted and asked to accept or decline the nomination before being listed on the election ballot. Consider the following requirements when nominating an individual, and also in accepting or declining a nomination:

- Able to attend at least 4 meetings annually
- Readily available on email

Nominations must be received by September 1, 2015.

The election ballot will be included in the next Newsletter for you to complete and again, return to Suzanne either by mail or email. If you plan on attending our Founder's Day meeting in November, you may return your election ballot at that time as well. Mailed or emailed ballots must be received by November 1, 2015.

*Suzanne Fournier
9 Woodward Drive
Milford, NH 03055-3122

animalfriendlysolutions@comcast.net

Washington Beavers

NHARL had the opportunity to again help a family of beavers. We heard of a situation in Washington, NH of a property owner who was asked by the town for permission to trap the beavers on her property because their activities were causing flooding on a public dirt road. The town was willing to hire the trapper at no cost to the property owner, but she refused and in looking for a different solution, she found us. We asked Rick Hesslein (see below) for his help and he enthusiastically agreed. He determined the problem could be solved by building up the road which was being flooded. He spoke with the town officials and NHARL offered to pay the cost of \$500 for the gravel to build up the road. They agreed to try this humane solution rather than trapping and killing the beaver family. Rick reported this beaver pond was supporting a very active wildlife community. He even saw a bittern flying around when he was talking to the town official about building up the road. Maybe that had something to do with the change of heart by the town official. We are encouraged that alternative solutions to trapping are changing hearts and minds. We will continue this type of work as situations arise and as long as we are financially able to do so.

Rick Hesslein

We met Rick about a year ago at a beaver management workshop held in Merrimack, NH. Since then we have come to know Rick as someone who wants to protect beavers and the rich habitats they create as much as we do. He suggested building up a road, for example (above), rather than tampering with the beaver pond. Quite often, flow pipes and/or fences need to be installed in the pond. This involves lowering the water, and Rick will only lower the water as much as is needed to solve the problem. NHARL is working with Rick to help him establish his beaver management business for preserving beavers and their ponds. Beavers, and wildlife in general, need more people like him, and we want to be a part of that happening.

Upcoming Events

August 16 at 2pm [Cowspiracy](http://www.redrivertheatres.org/2015/07/cowspiracythe-sustainability-secret/) at the Red River Theater in Concord, NH. Free Screening Sponsored by us.

August 22 at 1pm [Summer Vegan Potluck Outing](http://www.meetup.com/vegan-204/) at Odiorne State Park. Please bring a vegan dish for everyone to share. www.meetup.com/vegan-204/

September 12 [Vegan Food Truck Festival](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/vegan-food-truck-festival-tickets-15047648923) in Cambridge, MA. Preferable to purchase tickets online. They are limiting festival goers so may run out of tickets. <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/vegan-food-truck-festival-tickets-15047648923>

September 19 [Pet Step](#) a fundraiser for the Animal Rescue League of NH at Derryfield Park in Manchester.

October 2 [World Day for Farmed Animals](#) TBD Any thoughts or ideas for this commemoration are welcome.

Legislation 2015

House Bills

HB212 - requires the Fish and Game director to revoke hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses of persons convicted of sexual assault and also allows the director to set fees of hunting, trapping and fishing licenses.
Passed and signed by the Governor.

HB298 - relative to the taking of game animals and birds with the use of bait.
Sponsors: Rep. Burt, Rep. Spillane, Rep. Rideout, Rep. Parent
Motion: Inexpedient to legislate

HB336 - relative to seasons for hunting by crossbow.
Sponsor: James Webb
Passed and signed by the Governor.

HB423 - designating the bobcat as the NH state wildcat.
Sponsors: Jonathan Manley, Richard McNamara, Peter Leishman
Passed and signed by the Governor.

HB499 - permitting NH farmers to sell certain farm raised game animals directly to the public.
Sponsor: Gene Chandler
Retained in sub-committee

HB500 - repealing the prohibition on the use of silencing devices for taking wildlife.
Sponsor: John Burt
Retained in committee

HB505 - relative to baiting for game birds and game animals by persons with a disability.
Retained in committee

HB624 - relative to animal care costs in animal cruelty cases.
Sponsor: Rep Booras
Motion: Inexpedient to legislate

Senate Bills

SB222 - relative to harassment of hunting, fishing, or trapping.
Sponsor: David Watters
Passed and signed by the Governor

SB183 - allowing the fish and game department to offer lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for newborns.
Sponsor: David Watters
Passed and signed by the Governor.

To learn more about NH legislation and animal welfare issues in New Hampshire, we recommend signing on to Lindsay Hamrick's email list. Lindsay is the HSUS liaison in NH and keeps very busy around the state working for animals. Contact info for Lindsay is below.

Lindsay Hamrick

New Hampshire State Director – State Affairs

lhamrick@humanesociety.org

† 603.401.0287 The Humane Society of the United States

PO Box 432, Keene, NH 03431

NH Fish and Game Commissioners

Please write or call and let them know you want continued protection for the bobcat in NH.

Strafford County

Barry Carr
285 NE Pond Rd
Milton, NH
755-1175

Merrimack County

Vincent Greco
PO Box 151
Pembroke, NH 03275
715-9091

Coos County

Theodore A. Tichy
12 Spruceville Road
Milan, NH 03588
449-2244

Belknap County

John W. McGonagle
165 Potter Hill Road
Gilford, NH 03249
524-3144

Carroll County

David L. Patch
PO Box 10
Glen, NH 03838
387-3771

Cheshire County

Robert Phillipson
195 Gunn Road
Keene, NH 03431
352-8336

Coastal

Fred Clews, Jr.
100 Landing Rd.
Hampton, NH 03842
926-5072

Grafton County

Todd Baldwin
36 Chickenboro Rd.
Thornton, NH 03285
726-3446

Hillsborough County

Walter Morse
103 Preston Road
Hillsboro, NH 03244
464-3797

Rockingham County

James W. Ryan
194 Old Mountain Rd.
Northwood, NH 03261
942-8579

Sullivan County

Tom Hubert
585 Unity Road
Newport, NH 03773
863-9213

Vegan Outreach

Joel and Amanda are the team who do NHARL's Vegan Outreach. They tabled for NHARL in June at *Concord Market Days* promoting veganism.

Please check out their facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Hampshire-Animal-Rights-League-Vegan-Outreach-program/352421308169322?fref=ts>

Awesome Chalking!

**Summary of the 2015 legislative session from Jean Slepian**

NHARL Friends:

The 2015 NH Legislative Session has come to a close and on page 3 is a list of animal-related bills and their dispensation. We've got a couple of bills that have been retained in the Fish, Game and Marine Resources Committee which will be voted on first thing in the 2016 session, so it's not too late to contact Committee members and your own Representatives to ask them to OPPOSE HB500 and HB505, both sponsored by Rep. John Burt. Rep. Burt has turned out to be a true enemy of animals, so if there's anyone out there from his district (Goffstown), please remember that during the primaries and on voting day in 2016.

Summer is a great time to check your legislators' voting records on the animal related bills (Go to www.nh.gov, click on LEGISLATIVE on the right, then follow the links on the House and Senate Dashboards to find your own Legislators' pages and links to their voting records). If they voted for the animals, send them a note to say, "Thank you"; if they voted against the animals, send a note to express your displeasure.

Legislative Service Requests for new bills for the 2016 session will be posted on the state's website by the end of September. I haven't heard of any animal related bills that will be coming up, and I don't think we will see significant advances for animals with the current Legislature. However, I am anticipating big changes for 2016, both statewide and nationally, so pay attention to the races in your Districts, and get involved to advocate for animals.

In Memory of Richard Maloney

October 4, 1950 - September 29, 2014

NHARL is grateful to Richard Maloney, who, in his lifetime helped us on many occasions. We remember that one of his favorite pastimes was walking the homeless dogs for the Concord SPCA shelter. Those dogs are missing you, as we are too. Rest in Peace, Richard.