

# NH ANIMAL RIGHTS LEAGUE



NHARL Newsletter

January 2016

## Save the Bobcat in NH

**Public Comment—Now Open** Send Email: [comments@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:comments@wildlife.nh.gov) This is the single most important action you can take to support the bobcats. Be sure to put **Bobcat—opposed to proposal** in the Subject Line of your Email.

Postal Mail: Atty. Evan Mulholland  
NH Fish and Game Department  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

## **Rulemaking Hearing—Your Attendance is Needed**

**When:** February 1, 2016 at 6 PM

**Where:** Representatives Hall, 107 Main St., Statehouse in Concord, NH

A second rulemaking hearing has been announced to accommodate those living in the North Country for Feb 2 at 6 PM in Lancaster, FG Region 1 office at 629B Main St.

**We need people to attend this hearing too!**

**Attend!** Even if you don't speak, it is extremely important that you attend one of these meetings. There will be sign in sheets and they will be counting the attendance for and **OPPOSED** to the proposal to open a trapping, hounding, and baiting season of the NH bobcat. Have a copy of your testimony to turn in to the Commission. Also you can just hand in testimony rather than speaking.

### **NHARL Board of Directors**

Linda Dionne  
Cindy Glenn  
James Glover  
Emily Murphy  
Julia Sinclair

### **Veterinary Adviser**

Barry Taylor, DVM

### **Newsletter Editors**

Linda Dionne  
Ruth Tanner-Isaks

### **Members and Supporters**

Without you this good work for the Animals would not be possible. *Thank You!*



Photo Courtesy of NH resident Woodrow Beckford



The Worldwide Rally for Cecil will take place on February 6, 2016 and will coincide with the annual conference of Safari Club International, which takes place from February 3-6 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rallies will take place all over the world including here in Manchester, New Hampshire. The location of this event will be in front of Senator Kelly Ayotte's office at 1200 Elm St., Manchester, NH from 11 AM - 1 PM. We want to show our senator that we want her to stand up against trophy hunting and show support for Cecil's Law. Hot drinks and hand warmers will be provided. Leading this rally is James Glover who can be reached by email at [Glover31188@yahoo.com](mailto:Glover31188@yahoo.com). If you would like more information about the Worldwide Rally for Cecil, please visit [www.cwint.org/rallyforcecil](http://www.cwint.org/rallyforcecil) and for local info visit the Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1662156857331419/>



### Lighted Digital Billboard on Rte 3 in Belmont, NH

Thank you to Allen Kasiewicz for doing this to Save the Bobcat. Mr. Kasiewicz was upset upon learning that NHFG was considering opening a season so he put his billboard to good use to voice his disapproval.

### Amending the NHARL Bylaws

On January 9 a special NHARL meeting was held at the Marion Gerrish Community Center in Derry for the purpose of amending the Bylaws. The Bylaws were amended so that the Board of Directors may appoint a member to fill a vacancy in the Board caused by a resignation or a removal in an off-election time period. Two other small changes were made to the Bylaws. If any member would like more information or would like a copy of the Bylaws please let us know.

Because of the resignation of one of the Board members, James Glover was appointed by the remaining Board to fill the vacancy until the next election cycle. Thank you to James for accepting this appointment, and thank you to all of the NHARL Board members who give freely of their time and services. We couldn't do this without you.

## Why Protect Bobcats?

Bobcats have been protected in NH from hunting and trapping since 1989. That moratorium on the killing gave the population a chance to recover. This modest recovery of about 1100 resident adults provided a convenient excuse for NHFG to propose opening a season on bobcats for recreational hunting and trapping. They are proposing opening a season of hounding, baiting, and trapping bobcats. In the first year they would give out 50 permits to hunters and trappers. They think the NH public will be ok with this because of the small amount of permits; they are wrong!

Top predators, such as the bobcat, serve a vital function in our ecosystems. They exert a top-down regulation keeping not only their prey populations in check, but also by keeping entire ecosystems healthy, abundant and diverse. The bobcat also self-regulates its population in response to environmental triggers. Hence there is no fear of bobcat overpopulation so there is no need to kill the bobcat to manage the population. Bobcats are elusive and reclusive. They avoid people as best they can and are not a nuisance. They are very rarely seen.

Patrick Tate, NHFG furbearer project leader, said in a January 2011 Hippo Press article that officials would consider these two questions before deciding to open a season on bobcats:

- 1. Are bobcat populations so large as to be unhealthy for the animal and the ecosystem?*
- 2. Are they causing problems with humans?*

The answer to both of these questions is **NO** but NHFG is disregarding these criteria, if they approve the season proposal in order to cater to the small minority of recreational trappers and hunters.

### Rally for the Bobcats

<https://www.facebook.com/events/872664936185680/>

Please join us when we rally for the bobcat in Market Square in Portsmouth, NH on January 29 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM. Sponsoring this rally are the Voices of Wildlife in NH, Occupy NH Seacoast, and the Seacoast Overpass Light Brigade. We need at least 13 people to help us out with this rally, one person for each lighted letter. Consider attending this rally and please let us know if you will be attending by calling us or by sending us an email.

### What You as a Landowner Can Do—Post to Protest

<https://www.facebook.com/events/490349607811405/>

Posting your land against all hunting is something you may want to consider doing if NHFG goes forward with trapping and hunting the bobcat. Put up Posted signs on your property, no matter the acreage. For large properties signs need to be posted every 300 feet and at gates and entrances. You can get free signs mailed to you by contacting [voicesofwildlifeinnh@gmail.com](mailto:voicesofwildlifeinnh@gmail.com) Let NHFG know that you are considering this, or that you have already posted your land, so that this action will be an effective tool to Save the Bobcat in NH.

### Contact Your Town Conservation Commission

Ask if they will join other town Conservation Commissions (CCs) and take a formal position against the bobcat proposal. Other town CCs that are doing this are Candia, Merrimack, Litchfield, Concord, Conway, Deerfield, Stoddard, and many more. Contact us if you need more information.

### Continue Signing and Sharing the Save the Bobcat Petition

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/709/965/625/save-the-bobcat-in-new-hampshire-from-cruel-traps-for-nh-residents-only/>

### Write Letters to the Editor

Let us know if we can help with this or with anything else to help Save the Bobcat in NH.



## Legislation

To learn more about any of these bills go to [www.nh.gov](http://www.nh.gov) or contact us with any questions. Some of these bills we aren't that familiar with as of yet and we will be monitoring them. There are a few we are asking everyone to support as can be seen below. Please contact your representatives and ask them to support the bills marked for **Support** below.

HB 1100 Parent - relative to the licensure of guides  
HB 1176 Parent - relative to the nomination and qualification of Fish and Game Commissioners  
HB 1177 Parent - relative to permission required for baiting for game on the property of another  
HB 1178 Parent - relative to the taking of black bear assisted by a licensed guide  
HB 1191 Cushing - establishing an exotic game license for hunting in a game preserve  
HB 1524 Duarte - repealing F&G authority to establish fees by administrative rulemaking  
HB 1230 Sad - relative to information on dog licenses  
HB 1567 Massimilla - authorizing friends of animals number plates  
HB 1576 Hull - repealing licensure of dogs  
HB 1547 Rogers - prohibiting bestiality **Support**  
HB 1571 Booras - prohibiting possession, purchase or sale of equipment used for animal fighting **Support**  
HB 1548 Booras - prohibiting the trade of shark fins **Support**  
HB 1499 Ammon - relative to certificates for rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, ferrets  
HB 1615 Gardner - regulating the transfer of dogs from out of state  
HB 1519 Walsh - relative to the season for taking bear using dogs  
SB 376 Watters - relative to wildlife corridors  
SB 415 Stiles - relative to the standard of care for dogs outside  
2941 (no bill # yet) Hosmer - relative to the transfer of animals and birds

Humane Lobby Day, sponsored by the Humane Society of the US, is February 3 from 7:30 AM—12:00 PM at the Statehouse in Concord, NH. <http://action.humanesociety.org/site/Calendar>

It is required to attend a webinar to participate in this event.

For more information please contact the HSUS NH State Director Lindsay Hamrick at [hamrick@humanesociety.org](mailto:hamrick@humanesociety.org) or 603-401-0287.

## Contact Us

NH Animal Rights  
League

PO Box 4211

Concord, NH 03302-  
4211

603-377-0225

[www.nhanimalrights.org](http://www.nhanimalrights.org)

Find us on Facebook

To become a member or make a donation use the membership/donation form at the website or send a check, made out to NHARL, to our PO Box. Yearly membership is \$20 and Students, Juniors, or Seniors are only \$5. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank You!

## Upcoming Events

**Apr. 16** Discover Wild NH Day at NHFG in Concord

**May 7** Vegfest

**May 5-8** Ringling Circus at the Verizon Wireless Arena Manchester. This is the first time in over 10 years that Ringling has been coming to NH, that they come in May.

We will have more information in April's newsletter but for now mark your calendars.