



# NEW HAMPSHIRE ANIMAL RIGHTS LEAGUE

Newsletter May 2023

## Message from the President

For decades now, the New Hampshire Animal Rights League has been publishing detailed, multi-page newsletters with updates about on our actions for animals, legislative news, opinion pieces, articles, book recommendations, recipes, and more.

Publishing the printed newsletter has been a labor of love, but as our world is increasingly moving online, we've decided that sending shorter, more frequent updates is a better way to stay in touch and keep you up to date.

Therefore, it is with some sadness that I announce this will be our last newsletter using this format. Starting in June, we will begin sending monthly updates by email to all our members and followers. (Past newsletters will live on forever on our web site.)

If you have been receiving our newsletters by U.S. Mail, please provide us with your email address by sending a message to [info@nhanimalrights.org](mailto:info@nhanimalrights.org). If you do not use email, we are happy to print our monthly updates and mail them to you each quarter. (If we do not hear from you by email, that is what we will do.)

NHARL is proud of each and every printed newsletter we have published, and I want to thank the many board members and regular contributors who have worked on it over the years.

We hope that you will enjoy the monthly email updates, and we always welcome your feedback.

James Glover, President

## Upcoming Events

### Paws Walk 2023

Sunday, June 4, 2023

10 am to 2 pm (walk is at noon)

Stratham Hill Park (270 Portsmouth Ave, Stratham, NH)



NHARL will have our usual table at Paws Walk, but this year one of our members has also organized "**Team NHARL**" to do the walk and raise money for homeless animals.

So grab your companion animal\* and come join us for this fun event! Team NHARL T-shirts will be available.

To join Team NHARL (or donate to support the walkers), go to:

[www.classy.org/team/501377](http://www.classy.org/team/501377)

### Concord Market Days Festival

June 22 to 24, 2023

Daily 10 am to 10 pm

Downtown Concord, New Hampshire

NHARL booked a "double-wide" tent space this year, so that we accommodate more visitors at a time.

We are looking for volunteers to work at both events. If you are interested, please email [info@nhanimalrights.org](mailto:info@nhanimalrights.org).

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\* NHARL saw at least one goat walking last year. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see a pig participate? (Hint, hint)

## A Promise of Freedom for Lolita!

If you have been following NHARL for any length of time, you know that our organization has been actively involved in the “Until Lolita is Home” movement to free this lonely orca from the Miami Seaquarium (formerly owned by the parent company of New Hampshire destinations Story Land, Water Country, and Living Shores Aquarium).



Given our work on this campaign, we were thrilled to hear plans announced in March to return Lolita to her home in Puget Sound. The transition will be slow and complicated — and we wish it hadn't taken so long for her captors to do the right thing — but how wonderful to know that she is finally going home! You can follow plans and progress for Lolita's release at [facebook.com/UntilLolitaIsHome](https://facebook.com/UntilLolitaIsHome).

## Ongoing Programs

**No Hunting Signs** — Our free “No Hunting” signs program remains one of our most popular and successful initiatives. In addition to sending free signs, we send valuable information about how and why to post your property. As a bonus, we now send a blaze orange neckerchief to keep people safe while they are posting their property.

Keep in mind that it is always hunting season in New Hampshire. Turkeys are hunted twice a year, including in May, and coyotes can be hunted year-round. A few years ago in February (a month when many people assume the woods are free of hunters), a dog out walking with his guardian was killed by coyote hunters who were sitting in a tree stand and using an electronic coyote calling device.

**Grants for Living with Beavers** — With the approach of warmer weather, keep in mind that NHARL offers a matching grant of up to \$750 to those choosing to coexist with beavers

## New for 2023: Vegan Potlucks

At the suggestion of a member who attended our Gentle Thanksgiving event, this year NHARL began a series of vegan potlucks and meetups as a way for members and followers to get to know each other better and share ideas for helping animals.

So far we've had a gathering each month, including a February brunch at [The Green Beautiful](#) in Manchester and April dinner at [Col's Kitchen](#) in Concord — two wonderful fully vegan eateries.



At each event, a board member has shared news of NHARL's work and presented current volunteer opportunities.

We are keeping our word that these gatherings will further our efforts to help animals, although the food part is pretty good, too.

Plans for **May** and **June** meetups are in the works. We'll notify you by email once the dates are confirmed. If you'd like to host a future potluck, send email to [info@nhanimalrights.org](mailto:info@nhanimalrights.org).

rather than trapping and killing this important animal. Spread the word about this grant program to friends, family, and your town's conservation commission — especially if you hear that someone is planning to trap and remove beavers.

**Humane Mouse Traps** — We continue to send out free humane mouse traps. Order yours today on our website. Mice and rats are here to stay, and poisoning them is not acceptable for the immeasurable suffering it causes, and because it sickens hawks, owls, and other non-target animals who would otherwise provide natural rodent control.

Did you know that backyard chickens attract rats? Yet another reason not to eat eggs. One of our board members recently began rescuing chickens, and rats soon followed. With patience and the help of repellents, live traps, and rat contraceptives, she was able to catch and release nine rats. Tell your family, friends, and anyone considering getting chickens for the eggs that they will soon have rats as well!



## Legislative Update

Below is a list of animal-related bills we have been tracking this legislative session, as well as an update on the two bills NHARL has been actively supporting, **HB 231** and **HB 326**.

- [HB 231](#) Prohibiting the removal of claws from cats  
**Referred to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**
- [HB 326](#) Prohibiting use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. **Retained in Committee**
- [HB 37](#) Best practices for companion animal groomers.  
**Retained in Committee**
- [HB 249](#) Regulatory standards for pet insurance and allowing restaurant owners to keep dog on premises  
**Committee: Ought to Pass**
- [HB 260](#) Prohibiting driving with animal on lap **Committee: Inexpedient to Legislate**
- [HB 485](#) Establishing deputy animal control officers  
**Laid on Table**
- [HB 258](#) Establishing a certification for animal chiropractors  
**Inexpedient to Legislate**
- [SB 97](#) Relative to the use of animals in product testing  
**Rereferred to Committee**
- [SB 14](#) and [SB 15](#) Relative to the use of game cameras and tree stands, respectively **House: Ought to Pass**
- [SB 164](#) Supporting biodiverse environments  
**Referred to House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee**

### Update on HB 231

Having twice been defeated in two prior legislative sessions, there was a feeling of triumph when this bill passed the House of Representatives 225 to 147 in March.

Thank you to everyone who took action in support of this bill. Ultimately, it is you who got us this far!



But now the bill is with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where it is in danger of being amended in a way that would weaken its ability to protect cats.

If you are a constituent of [Senator Pearl, Avard, or Birdsell](#) — the three senators who have not committed their support — [you can help save the bill](#) by letting your senator know that this bill is important to you, and that you do not want to see it amended.

If we can preserve the original bill language, there would still be a chance to get it passed in a full Senate vote, even if the committee recommends otherwise.

We will send another action alert before the full Senate vote, at which time everyone will need to take action by contacting their senator.

### Update on HB 326

The use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) has injured and killed thousands of wild animals who become sick or die as a result of consuming poisoned mice, rats, and other small rodents.

The owl pictured died as a result of rodenticide poisoning. Countless other victims, just like him, are dying not only in New Hampshire but all across the country and around the world.

The sale and use of rodent poisons is a lucrative business, both for “pest” control companies and the manufacturers of the poisons, including **Bell Laboratories**.

After learning about the devastating effects SGARs have on birds of prey, Representative Gerri Cannon introduced HB 326 to ban them.

NHARL stepped up to testify and also secured key expert witnesses from the wildlife rehabilitation community. We believe our contribution was instrumental in the House committee’s decision to retain — rather than kill — the bill and order that a Rodenticide Review Task Force be assembled to study the problem.

The task force has been meeting every 3-4 weeks at the Department of Agriculture, 25 Capitol Street, Concord, and online. Meetings are open to the public, and the dates are published on the [NH Pesticide Control Board page](#).



## Outreach Through the Years

In the 46 years since NHARL was founded, certain forms of outreach have been mainstays of our work.

### Tabling at Events

Wherever the public gathers, there's an opportunity to speak for animals. Over the years NHARL has exhibited at all sorts of events around the state, and we've developed a list of favorites where we know we'll reach a large and receptive crowd.



In planning our exhibits, we've learned to focus on a specific animal rights issue rather than trying to cover everything. For example, at Concord Market Days last year, we answered the question: What's Wrong with Eating Eggs? And at Discover Wild NH Day 2022, our focus was kindness toward mice and other uninvited houseguests.

You can find write-ups for our recent tabling events on our web site, and you can see the brochure we created for Discover Wild NH Day 2023 at the end of this newsletter.

### Film Screenings

Films and documentaries about the ways animals are mistreated can have a powerful, life-changing effect on viewers. But the challenge is in getting people to come out and watch!

Over the years NHARL has hosted many film screenings — The Sustainable Table, Peaceable Kingdom, Cowspiracy, The Game Changers — with varying levels of attendance.

These days, when people can stream movies on their phone, convincing them to come out to a theater is an even tougher sell. To have any chance of attracting viewers, the seats better be comfortable, and the snacks free!

**Chunky's Cinema** can be rented for private events, so this is a possible venue for a future film screening.

### Protests and Demonstrations

Gathering together to stand up against injustice to animals has been a cornerstone of our work.



NHARL has protested greyhound racing, circuses, bull riding, fur, trapping, trophy hunting, puppy mills, animals used for entertainment, animals used in research, and more.

With the unfortunate arrival of a new puppy-selling pet store in Manchester, **Puppy Palace**, we will soon be rejuvenating our organized opposition to puppy mills.

While protests don't always net immediate results, they are an important component of any long-term strategy for change in their ability to raise awareness.

***"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." — Elie Wiesel***

### Contact Us/Become a Member

To become a member or make a donation, please use the forms on our web site (<http://www.nhanimalrights.org>) A printable version of our Membership Form is available for those who prefer to mail a check. Membership is \$20.00/year (just \$10 a year for students, juniors, and seniors) or \$200 for a Lifetime Membership for you and one other.

### Board Members

James Glover, President  
Elisa O'Neill, Vice President  
Cindy Glenn, Treasurer  
Joan O'Brien, Secretary  
Michelle Fransen-Conroy, Representative  
Linda Dionne, Representative  
Liz Herrick, Representative

## How lead affects wildlife and the environment

Lead can sicken and kill many different kinds of animals. Lead poisoning can also make animals lethargic and disoriented, so that they are at greater risk of fatal accidents.

**Ducks, geese**, and **swans** are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning because they naturally consume small rocks ("grit") to help them grind food in their gizzards. Lead fragments from **spent bullets** or **fishing tackle** are easily mistaken for suitable grit.

**Bald and golden eagles** are also particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning because of their highly acidic stomachs. Any ingested lead is quickly broken down by the acid rather than passing through their bodies. A piece of lead only the **size of a grain of rice** is enough to kill an eagle.

**Foxes, coyotes**, and other mammals who eat the carcasses of animals shot with lead are also at risk of lead poisoning.

The lead in spent ammunition **never goes away**. It accumulates, year after year, eventually poisoning marshes and any environment where guns are fired.

In 1991, the **use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting was banned** nationwide.

In 2016, the sale and freshwater use of **lead fishing tackle was banned in New Hampshire** to protect loons.



## Make the switch!

Many hunters are ditching lead ammunition amid growing evidence of the harm it causes to wildlife and the environment and concerns about consuming contaminated meat.

Alternatives to lead include 100% copper or copper-zinc alloys that expand similarly to lead-core bullets but without the extensive fragmentation.

Resources for hunters:

- [huntingwithnonlead.org](http://huntingwithnonlead.org)
- **North American Non-lead Partnership** ([nonleadpartnership.org](http://nonleadpartnership.org))

## What you can do

- ☐ If you hunt, use non-lead ammunition. (Bow hunting is not recommended as it prolongs animal suffering.)
- ☐ If you already have a stockpile of lead ammunition, use it at the shooting range where it won't harm wildlife.
- ☐ If you continue to hunt with lead ammunition, do not leave "gut piles" behind to poison scavenging animals.
- ☐ If you hunt as a way to get "healthy protein," consider that plant-based protein is the healthiest form and does not require killing.



***Non-lead ammunition protects people, wildlife, and the environment***

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

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## Lead then and now

In the “olden days,” people made all sorts of things out of lead — paint, pipes, even makeup (which is what likely killed Queen Elizabeth I).

But today we know that no amount of lead exposure is safe. Even trace amounts of lead can impair brain development in young children and babies, even before birth.

Despite these known dangers, lead is still used to make ammunition although there are safer alternatives, such as copper.



## Lead: It's what's for dinner

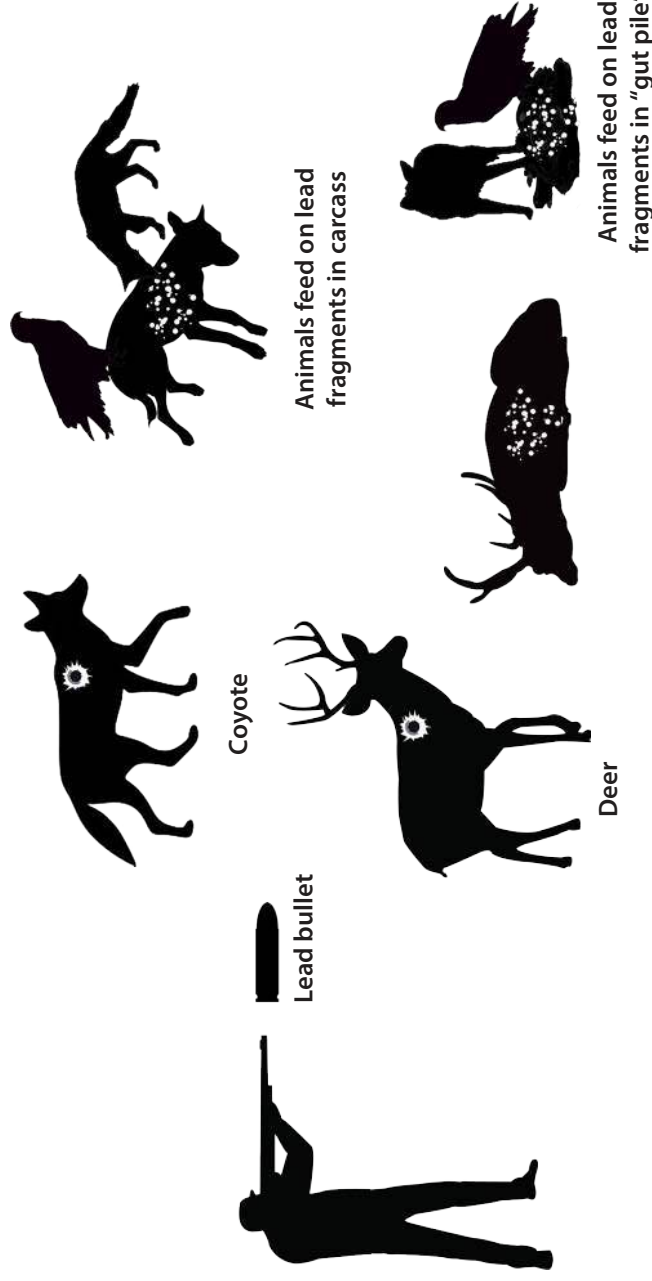
Studies show that lead fragments too small to detect by sight, touch, or chewing can be present in the flesh of deer shot with lead ammunition. (See NH Fish & Game web site)

The x-ray at right shows more than 450 lead fragments spread through the neck of a deer shot with a lead rifle bullet.

One study involving 30 deer carcasses brought to 30 different butchers found that

## Wildlife poisoning from lead ammunition

Lead bullets fragment into hundreds of tiny pieces upon impact. Fragments can travel up to 18" from the wound site. Eagles, foxes, and other scavenging animals get lead poisoning from eating contaminated carcasses and “gut piles” left behind by hunters.



ground meat from 24 of the deer contained at least one metal fragment, 93% of which were lead.



Studies also show that people who eat hunted animals have higher blood lead levels on average than those who don't.

