

NEW HAMPSHIRE ANIMAL RIGHTS LEAGUE

Newsletter October 2021

Vegan Gentle Thanksgiving

We are excited to announce that we have a VERY special Gentle Thanksgiving planned this year! Our Annual Meeting and Gentle Thanksgiving will be held at the NH Audubon McLane Center at 84 Silk Farm Road in Concord, NH 12:00 PM-4:00 PM on Saturday, November 13th.

Hang up your aprons, because this year we will be leaving the cooking to the very talented Madeline and Olivia of [New Roots Plant-Based Meal Prep](#) in Manchester!

Tickets are \$21 for Adults and \$10 for children 10 and under.

Your ticket includes:

- Buffet-style vegan Thanksgiving meal featuring 2 entrees and 6 side dishes
- Two drink tickets redeemable for beer, wine, and mocktails
- Dessert and coffee
- Raffles and prizes!
- Year-End Review by President James Glover
- Introduction of the 2022-2023 Board of Directors
- Special Guest Speakers

Tickets are limited and will be sold only until 10/30 (earlier if we sell out before then), so don't miss out on getting your ticket to this spectacular event!

Visit our website for more details, to view the full menu and purchase tickets.

Contact us directly if you have any questions.

[Nov 13 - Annual Meeting & Gentle Thanksgiving — New Hampshire Animal Rights League \(nhanimalrights.org\)](#)

BOOK CORNER- HALLOWEEN EDITION

A Very Vegan Halloween: *The Witch's Cauldron Cookbook* (The Vegan Holiday Cookbook Collection)

by Rebecca Henry

If you're looking for the perfect book to get you feeling the Halloween spirit as we head into Spooky Season— look no further than *A Very Vegan Halloween: The Witch's Cauldron Cookbook!*

This festive book is jam-packed with delicious, sweet recipes like *Screaming Pumpkin Sugar Cookies* & *Going Batty Chocolate Cupcakes with Wicked Witch Syrup*.

There are also plenty of recipes for those craving more savory treats, including *Gruesome Goblin Fettucine with Spectacular Specter Sauce* and *Bare Bones Breadsticks*. This book is great for both adults and children alike with simple, limited-ingredient recipes, decorating tips and party ideas.

Available on [Kindle](#) and [Paperback](#)



World Animal Day

For World Animal Day, celebrated October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, NHARL reserved the sanctuary candle at St. Francis Parish in Litchfield, NH.



SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Thanksgiving & Respect for All
Animals in the Spirit of St. Francis



NEW ROOTS

Thanksgiving

NH ANIMAL RIGHTS LEAGUE GENTLE THANKSGIVING

ENTREES

Celeriac Root Roast

Celeriac root rubbed with spices, soaked in marinade and baked with fresh herbs

Baked Mac and Cheese

Gluten-free pasta smothered in a butternut cashew cheese and topped with breadcrumbs

SIDES

Green Beans and Fried Shallots
Herb and Apple Stuffing
Smashed Fingerling Potatoes
Whipped Yucca
Rosemary Rolls
Cranberry Sauce

DESSERT & COFFEE

Apple Pie
Carrot Cake
Chocolate Chip Cookies

PRICING PER PERSON

\$21 per adult \$10 for kids age 10 and under

Ticket includes 2 complimentary drinks

Your choice of wine, beer & signature seasonal mocktail



Bull Riding Doesn't Belong in NH, or Anywhere

This op-ed from NHARL was published in the *Union Leader* on Oct. 15, 2021

For those who care about animals and want to protect them from mistreatment, a silver lining of the pandemic was that it kept the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) tour away from Manchester, NH for more than a year. Alas, the tour is returning for two shows at the SNHU Arena in October.

The New Hampshire Animal Rights League opposes bull riding and any other activity where animals are made to perform for our entertainment. Although the PBR refers to the bulls as “animal athletes” and claims that they were born to buck, the bulls, unlike their human riders, do not consent to be there.

Being a PBR bull means being hauled around the country in a trailer, prodded into stalls and chutes, and on performance nights subjected to “a rock concert environment, complete with pulsating music, and explosive pyrotechnics,” as promoters describe it.

In the arena, there are several observable indicators that the bulls experience fear and distress. These include increased “eye white,” which results when the upper eyelid lifts, as well as “diarrhea butt,” an excrement-stained backside.

On event night, life for the bulls goes from just unnatural to downright dangerous. Just before they are let loose into the arena, the flank strap around their mid-section is yanked tight, which aggravates them into bucking harder and over-extending their hind legs as they fight to throw off the rider.

Although portrayed as “beasts” who are impervious to pain, bulls are not machines and often get hurt right along with the riders. Veterinarian and former rodeo performer Peggy Larson explains, “Bucking straps and spurs can cause the bull to buck beyond his normal capacity, and his legs or back may thus be broken.”

The PBR claims to care about the wellbeing of the animals, and yet they subject them to risk of injury over and over again. “In the case of a severe injury, that can’t be repaired through surgery, a bull would be humanely euthanized,” their web site states.

When profitable bulls are worn out or injured so severely that they can no longer perform, they may be retired to life as sperm donors. This allows the industry to continue exploiting the bulls for profit by



selling their offspring, semen, or even frozen embryos created in vitro with their sperm. (Google “bucking bull semen and embryos” for an eye-opening look into the mindset of those who treat animals as commodities.)

Remarkably, despite the terrible risk to both the rider and animal, bull riding is marketed as family entertainment. These events may seem like harmless fun, but consider the message they send to both children and adults: it’s okay to dominate and control animals, to force them to perform for our entertainment, and to give little thought to their needs or imagine how they might be suffering.

A number of cities across the country have passed ordinances preventing the use of devices that force bulls and other rodeo animals to perform, including spurs and the flank strap. It is no accident that where these implements are prohibited, bull riding and rodeos disappear.

If you are interested in keeping bull riding out of New Hampshire, please reach out to the NH Animal Rights League.

You can join the NH Animal Rights League outside the SNHU Arena on Friday, Oct. 15 from 6:00 to 7:30PM for a peaceful demonstration against bull riding.

Animal-Related Legislative Service Requests

Dear NHARL Friends,

Below is a list of animal-related Legislative Service Requests from the NH House of Representatives for the 2022 legislative session. The full text of the bills is usually available at the end of December/beginning of January. The members of the NH Senate will be filing their LSRS from Oct 13 - 27... they will then be available on the state's website. We will likely see several more bills from the Senate, as many of our state Senators, both Dem and Repub, are animal-friendly. I will be tracking the bills; feel free to contact me for more information. (jeans1155@hotmail.com)

- **LSR 2026**, Douglas Trottier, requiring registration of cats—
WITHDRAWN
- **LSR 2269**, Eric Gallager, requiring state of emergency evacuation orders to include evacuation of family pets and prohibiting a shelter from denying admission to any person during a state of emergency on the basis of pet ownership
- **LSR 2283**, Gary Hopper, relative to penalties for failure to provide information after an animal injury
- **LSR 2301**, Brian Sullivan, relative to penalties for poisoning dogs. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals and is a follow-up to last year's successful HB 338-FN, regarding stolen dogs and removal of collars/microchips.
- **LSR 2381**, Cam Kenney, prohibiting declawing of cats
- **LSR 2574**, Ellen Read, establishing a Committee to study rental or lease of housing to a person who has pets
- **LSR 2575**, Ellen Read, relative to the prescribed manner of posting land (this bill would allow property owners to post their property for NO HUNTING by painting purple stripes on trees at regular intervals)

- **LSR 2598**, Kevin Verville, prohibiting discharge of a firearm in the direction of a building, livestock or pets
- **LSR 2617**, Edith Tucker, prohibiting the capture, possession and propagation of hares and rabbits for hunting dog training and field trials
- **LSR 2690**, Amanda Bouldin, prohibiting the use of canine units in law enforcement (I've written to the sponsor of this unusual bill for more information but have not received a reply).
- **LSR 2786**, Amanda Bouldin, establishing a season for the taking of gray squirrels

I am also supporting **LSR 2307**, prime sponsor Ellen Read, relative to the disclosure of legislative bill proposals. This bill does not directly affect animals, but I think it's very important for all of us involved in legislative advocacy. In the last several years NH's legislative agenda for animals has been dominated by large, wealthy, national animal protection organizations. This is both good and bad for animals ... It's good because the large organizations have the legal and financial resources to fight for animals, but it's bad because negotiations on bills often take place between lobbyists and legislators, behind closed doors, leaving local activists out of the picture. I think identifying the source of legislative bill proposals will help our elected officials understand the relationship between the national animal organizations and NH animal shelters and animal protection organizations, and will ultimately help our legislators make more informed decisions about what bills to sponsor and support.

The 2022 legislative session will begin the first week in January. Please contact your NH legislators now to ask for their support/opposition to the bills above, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Jean Slepian (jeans1155@hotmail.com)

Contact Us/Become a Member

To become a member or make a donation, please use the forms on our web site. 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. Thank you! PO Box 4211, Concord 03302

nhanimalrightsleague@gmail.com

<http://www.nhanimalrights.org>

<http://facebook.com/NHARL603>

<http://twitter.com/NHARL603>

Board Elections

Thank you everyone submitting nominations for the Board of Directors for the term of 2022-2023. Attached you will find the election ballot for this upcoming term. Please keep in mind that only dues paying members may vote. Votes must be received before November 10, 2021. The newly elected Board will be announced at the NHARL Gentle Thanksgiving/Annual Meeting on November 13.

Board Members

James Glover, President
Elisa O'Neill, Vice President
Cindy Glenn, Treasurer
Joan O'Brien, Secretary

Emily Murphy, Representative
Linda Dionne, Representative
Liz Herrick, Representative

NHARL Liberates Snapping Turtle After 24 Years in a Fish Tank

Imagine spending your entire life in solitary confinement, unable to move farther than a few feet in any direction, and never able to see another member of your own species.

This was the bleak existence for a “pet” snapping turtle named Shelly who lived in a fish tank in Tilton, NH for 24 years.

Imagining what that turtle’s life must be like kept members of the NH Animal Rights League, and an outraged woman named Hillarie Goldstein, awake at night.



Shelly the turtle a few months before she was liberated

How Could This Happen?

Shelly the turtle was taken from the wild as a hatchling by well-meaning but uninformed people who saw her attempting to cross a busy downtown intersection. Although their intentions were good, they made the mistake of keeping the turtle far beyond the time when she could have been safely released back into the wild.

In New Hampshire, it is perfectly legal to take a snapping turtle out of the wild and make it a pet. In fact, you are allowed to take up to two.

This surprises most people, who reasonably assume that taking an animal out of the wild and keeping it captive is illegal.

Turns out there are some animals you can take from the wild, and some that you can't.

Having exclusive control over all captive and noncaptive wildlife in the state, the **NH Fish and Game Department makes the rules.**

Wildlife Possession Laws in NH

Here is a glimpse into laws surrounding possession of wildlife species occurring in New Hampshire. See <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/> for a complete list.

Species That Cannot Be Possessed

Any animal classified as threatened, endangered, or of special concern at the federal or state level (e.g., Blanding's turtles). Note: Although the average person cannot possess endangered animals, exhibitors can with a permit.

Species That Can Be Possessed

- Up to 5 of **13 different listed amphibians**, including spring peepers and red-spotted newts.
- Up to 2 of **9 different listed reptiles**, including snapping turtles* and ring-necked snakes.

* To protect breeding females, only snapping turtles of a certain size can be taken, and no indigenous turtle can be taken from May 15 to July 15.

Despite allowing possession of some species, NH Fish & Game encourages people to “leave wildlife wild,” adding, “Populations of some species, especially turtles, can be adversely affected by the removal of a small number of individuals.”

Life in a Tank

The people who took Shelly home became more and more attached to her as time passed. She also became somewhat of an “attraction,” as she was on display in the lobby of the family’s used auto parts store.

As Shelly matured, successively larger fish tanks were purchased each time she outgrew one. But no matter how big the tank, her living conditions bore no resemblance to a natural snapping turtle habitat.

For one, snapping turtles like to be hidden and will dig themselves into the mud. They can also stay out of water for up to two weeks and move surprisingly fast on land.

Someone Speaks Up

In 2016, Hillarie Goldstein visited the auto parts shop where Shelly was kept and was shocked by her captivity and living conditions. She expressed her concern to the owners, but they believed that they were taking good care of the turtle.

Hillarie also contacted the NH Fish and Game Department, assuming that what she had witnessed must be breaking some law or rule. cursory welfare checks were performed, and it was determined that the turtle was not being mistreated.

But Hillarie was not deterred. She wrote a letter to the editor and got press coverage in local newspapers.

Despite the publicity, nothing changed for Shelly.

Press Coverage of Shelly the Turtle

- [Giant snapping turtle in Tilton draws concern](#) (Laconia Daily Sun, July 2016)
- [Local business owner refutes accusations of animal cruelty](#) (Minnisquam Echo, July 2016)
- [Shel-he the snapping turtle deemed healthy](#) (Laconia Daily Sun, April 2018)
- [Turtle re-homed after 24 years at Camaro Heaven](#) (Laconia Daily Sun, Sept 2021)

NH Animal Rights League Gets Involved

Still unwilling to give up trying to help Shelly, Hillarie contacted the NH Animal Rights League.

NHARL got involved immediately but ran into the same roadblocks: no laws were being broken, and the owners did not want to give up the turtle.

Nevertheless, NHARL continued to try and convince the owners that Shelly would be better off elsewhere, while at the same time searching for an appropriate home. Being large and long-lived, snapping turtles are difficult to place.

Releasing Shelly back into the wild was not an option. Even if she were able to adapt to the elements and find food, not having built up a resistance to disease and parasites meant she would likely perish.

A Change of Heart

Years passed and the situation seemed hopeless. Then a new NHARL board member picked up the fight. In approaching Shelly's captor, she found that he'd had a change of heart and now realized the turtle would be better off elsewhere.

With renewed purpose, NHARL contacted every obvious potential home in NH; then expanded the search to surrounding states.

A promising option at a Vermont farm sanctuary with a pond fell through at the last minute, due to that state's stricter possession laws.

Then NHARL found the [Turtle Rescue League](#), a licensed native turtle rehabilitation clinic in Southbridge, MA, co-founded by Alexxia Bell and Natasha Nowick (below).



The Turtle Rescue League agreed to take Shelly as a permanent resident, and NHARL agreed to provide the funding needed to build her a habitat.

Liberation Day

On a beautiful September morning, NHARL board member Joan O'Brien met Alexxia and Natasha at the used auto parts store in Tilton, NH where Shelly had spent her first 24 years. Board member Linda Dionne would be on the other end in Massachusetts to witness the turtle's arrival at her new home.

Shelly was given a new name that day (Miękki, Polish for "soft"); otherwise, the Turtle Rescue League would have hundreds of turtles named "Shelly."



This photo of Miękki (previously named Shelly) was taken on Oct. 1, 2021 during an outdoor exercise session. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/wdxudasf> to see all the photos of Shelly's liberation day.

**New Hampshire Animal Rights League
Election of Board of Directors for the term of 2022-2023**

INSTRUCTIONS for VOTING:

After confirming that you are a current member of NHARL by checking below, vote for the candidates of your choice by marking an X on the line that is after the nominee's name.

_____ I am a member of the New Hampshire Animal Rights League.

The NHARL bylaws state there may be as many as 9 board members, therefore you may vote for all nominees.

Board member nominee-----James Glover, Raymond, NH_____

Board member nominee -----Elisa O'Neill, Bedford, NH_____

Board member nominee -----Joan O'Brien, Amherst, NH_____

Board member nominee-----Cindy Glenn, Merrimack, NH_____

Board member nominee -----Linda Dionne, Raymond, NH_____

Board member nominee -----Liz Herrick, Deering, NH _____

Board member nominee -----Michelle Franson-Conroy, Concord, NH _____

CASTING YOUR VOTE:

Mail or Email your ballot, to be received before November 10, 2021, to NHARL's election assistant at:

Ruth Tanner Isaks, Election Assistant

205 Main St., Apt. 118

Salem, NH 03079

(603) 893-6542

OR

Ruth_Tanner@uml.edu

The newly elected Board will be announced at the NHARL Gentle Thanksgiving/Annual Meeting on November 13, 2021.

If you need to check your current NHARL membership status, please contact the NHARL Secretary Joan O'Brien at joanlobrien@yahoo.com