



*Advancing Collaboration, Advocacy
and Professional Development within
the Colorado Animal Welfare Community*

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Legislative Initiatives

Cost of Care and Impound Bill

CFAWA has worked closely with CAACO and several district attorneys and now feel we are ready to introduce a "Cost of Care for Animals Bill". This bill is SB-009.

[Cost of Care Bill FAQ's](#)

[See the bill in its entirety](#)

Please contact your Senator in the Colorado State Senate and ask them to vote in favor of SB-009. To determine who your Senator is click [here](#).

HB-1063 Animal Welfare and Control: CFAWA is OPPOSING this bill

We are opposing it for the following reasons:

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- Prohibits employees of nonprofits from becoming Bureau of Animal Protection Agents.
- Shifts significant burdens on police, sheriffs and municipal animal control agencies in areas where nonprofits currently employ staff who are commissioned bureau of animal protection agents.
- Limits the authority of animal control officers (regardless of if they are employed by a nonprofit or government) to enforcement of laws concerning pet animals only, preventing them from investigating livestock complaints.
- Creates a new definition of "pet animal" that directly conflicts with terminology used through animal cruelty and animal protection provisions in state statute.
- Makes regulation of animal control an issue of statewide concern, taking animal control out of the hands of local entities, cities and counties.
- Allows courts to waive cost of care for animal cruelty cases where owners are indigent. Removes a large portion of the funding base that cities and counties rely on in order to protect public safety and the welfare of animals.
- Requires organizations/agencies that engage in shelter for cities and counties to comply with an unprecedented open-records requirement that goes far beyond what is required for any other business or not-for-profit that contract with government.
- Potentially allows animal cruelty complaints provided to private, nonprofit animal shelters to become public record, and could have a chilling effect on people reporting animal cruelty.

Please contact your Representative in the Colorado House of Representatives and ask them to vote against HB-1063. To determine who your Representative is click [here](#).

Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund Extended

The Colorado Legislature extended the tax check off used to collect funds for spaying/neutering pets in underserved areas for an additional three years. This extra time on state tax forms will lead to thousands more animals being spayed and neutered in areas that need the assistance most.

Veterinarians Now Required to Report Animal Cruelty

Colorado veterinarians will now be required to report suspected cases of animal cruelty and provide authorities with any evidence of the suspected cruelty. Before the enactment of Senate Bill 187 the law required

veterinarians to report suspected child abuse, but not suspected animal cruelty.