

# MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



This scorecard has been created to help provide information about legislators' voting records on animal protection issues to those who care about legislation that affect animals in Massachusetts and in the United States. This scorecard can be used to help make informed choices when voting for legislators.

In the Massachusetts state legislature, recorded votes on animal protection issues are not often taken. For this reason, we have included several past years of recorded votes. We have included the important votes taken on trapping, as well as more votes on greyhound racing and greyhound welfare. We have also included information on legislators who have sponsored pro-animal legislation, and those who have taken positions harmful to animals.

On the federal level, the scorecard reflects the 109th Congress to date and the position members of our Massachusetts Congressional Delegation have taken on animal protection measures.

The scorecard is meant to assist you in learning about your legislators. It is not a personal evaluation of legislators, nor does it reflect every action legislators may have taken to help or harm animals. For example, the scorecard does not necessarily reflect when legislators testified for or against an animal protection measure, made a phone call to push or stop an animal bill, or when they may have helped constituents with animal concerns in their districts. In addition, some legislators may be very helpful on domestic animal issues and not as supportive of wildlife issues, or vice-versa. Therefore, as always, we encourage you to meet with your legislators (in either their State House or district office), write to them, and ask them about their positions on specific animal issues. If your legislators have been supportive of animal issues, please take a few minutes to thank them.



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**KEY:**

+ a vote for the animal  
 ++ primary sponsor of an animal-friendly bill  
 - a vote against the animals  
 -- primary sponsor of harmful bill  
 nv absent or not voting  
 P present, but not voting  
 \* legislator did not vote or reserved rights during a poll in committee

A blank box mean no action or, for A-K, that a legislator may not have been in office during that term. A-K represent votes that took place earlier than the 2005-06 legislative session.

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**A TRAPPING:** Using restricted traps. This vote was to remove the restrictions on the body-gripping conibeat trap that were passed in 1996 with Question 1 (approved 91-60). A “No” vote was a vote for the animals. (11/10/99, H. 4884)

**B TRAPPING:** Using restricted traps - recommitment to committee. This vote would have sent the bill that removed the restrictions on the body-gripping conibeat trap back to the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee (rejected 81-70). A “Yes” vote was a vote for the animals. (11/16/99, H. 4884)

**C TRAPPING:** Using restricted traps - engrossment. This vote was to engross the bill that removed the restrictions on the body-gripping conibeat trap (approved 89-64). A “No” vote was a vote for the animals. (11/16/99, H. 4884)

**D TRAPPING:** Using restricted traps - concurring with Senate amendment. This vote was to concur with the Senate’s amendment to the House bill (that would have allowed for the unrestricted use of traps). The Senate amendment would have allowed for the use of traps only in certain circumstances (rejected 65-86). A “Yes” vote was a vote for the animals. (3/8/00, H. 4884)

**E ANIMAL CRUELTY:** This vote was to increase the penalties for animal abuse (approved 151-0). A “Yes” vote was a vote for the animals. (5/22/00, H. 947)

**F TRAPPING:** This vote was to engross the conference committee’s report of a bill that allowed use of restricted traps only in specific circumstances. (approved 154-0). A “Yes” vote was a vote for the animals. (7/13/00, H. 4884)

**G GREYHOUND RACING:** This vote was for an amendment to the racing bill improve greyhound disposition and injury records (approved 137-0). A “Yes” vote was a vote for the animals. 6/25/01



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**H** GREYHOUND RACING:  
 This vote was for an amendment to give Revere's Wonderland track an additional \$750,000 for capital improvements at the racetrack (approved 81-55). A "No" vote was a vote for the animals. (6/25/01)

**I** GREYHOUND RACING  
 This vote was for an amendment to the racing bill to give \$2 million to racetracks (approved 97-41). A "No" vote was a vote for the animals. (6/25/01)

**J** GREYHOUND RACING  
 This vote was for an amendment to the racing bill to limit greyhound races in weather above 80 degrees or below 20 degrees (rejected 95-42). A "Yes" vote was a vote for the animals. (6/25/01)

**K** GREYHOUND RACING  
 This vote was to extend the state's simulcasting law (approved 101-38). A "No" vote was a vote for the animals. (6/25/01)

*Actions relating to L through EE have occurred during the 2005-2006 session.*

**L** TRAPPING  
 This bill not only repeals the Wildlife Protection Act (Question 1), but would allow all forms of trapping (steel leghold included) without restrictions, making the trapping laws more lenient than prior to 1996. A "-" means the legislators is a cosponsor of H. 1327.

**M** TRAPPING  
 This bill would allow the use of the conibear body-gripping trap in most counties in Mass. with beaver. The harm caused from this bill is not mitigated by the language calling it a "pilot program". A "-" means the legislators is a cosponsor of H. 1331.

**N** TRAPPING  
 This bill would delete the trapping law in ch. 131 sec. 80A and replace it with new language that would allow all traps except legholds to be used without restrictions. A "-" means the legislator is a cosponsor of H. 1310.

**O** TRAPPING  
 This bill would allow the use of the conibear body-gripping trap in most counties in Mass. with beaver. The harm caused from this bill is not mitigated by the language calling it a "pilot program". The language is the same as M above. A "-" means the legislators is a cosponsor of H. 1297.

**P** TRAPPING  
 Expands the use of padded leghold traps for capturing coyote (pursuant to the health or safety exception) by allowing the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife to authorize this use (currently the state and federal departments of health can already do this. A "-" means the legislators is a cosponsor of H. 1299.



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**Q ANIMAL CRUELTY**  
 This would prevent the MSPCA and the ARL of Boston from enforcing the animal cruelty statutes as they pertain to wildlife. A “-” means the legislators is a cosponsor of H. 1308.

**R MOOSE HUNTING**  
 This bill would allow a moose hunting season to be established in Massachusetts. A “-” indicates the legislators is a cosponsor of H. 1278.

**S ANIMAL FIGHTING**  
 This bill would clarify existing animal fighting statutes to authorize the seizure and application for forfeiture of paraphernalia relating to animal fighting and for animals used for breeding fighting animals that law enforcement officers seize under Mass. statutes pertaining to animal fighting. Also prohibits breeding animals with the intent that they be used for fighting. Requires reasonable vet care; requires animals forfeited upon guilty finding. A “+” indicates the legislator is a cosponsor of H. 1765.

**T GREYHOUNDS**  
 This bill would increase greyhound adoption in the Commonwealth by removing discriminatory language from the requirements of applicants to the state’s Greyhound Care and Adoption Fund. A “+” indicates the legislator is a cosponsor of H. 3957.

**U DISSECTION CHOICE**  
 This bill would allow students to opt out of dissection and complete an alternative project. A “+” indicates a cosponsor of H. 1051.

**V GREYHOUNDS**  
 This bill would phase out dog racing. A “+” indicates a cosponsor of House Docket 4476.

**W WILDLIFE**  
 This bill would give exclusive authority to the state DFW over the taking, possession and management of wildlife and inland fisheries. This bill would remove the ability of any political subdivision (city/towns and their conservation commissions, etc.) to enact any bylaws and regulate activities (such as hunting, trapping) on municipal land. A “-” indicates a legislator has cosponsored this bill S. 486.

**X FOIE GRAS**  
 This bill would ban the production of foie gras in Massachusetts. A “+” indicates a legislator has cosponsored S. 2397 (previously S. 498).

**Y WILD ANIMALS**  
 Bans the use of certain wild animals in circuses and traveling entertainment acts. A “+” indicates a legislator has cosponsored S. 2457 (formerly S.1840).









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a vote for the animal  
 primary sponsor of animal-friendly bill  
 a vote against the animals  
 primary sponsor of harmful bill  
 absent or not voting present, but not voting  
 legislator did not vote or re-served rights during a poll in committee  
 the Senate President votes only to break a tie

A blank box mean no action or, for A-K, that a legislator may not have been in office during that term. A represent votes that took place earlier than the 2005-06 legislative session.

**A TRAPPING:** This vote was to engross the conference committee's report of a bill that allowed use of restricted traps only in specific circumstances. (approved 38-0). A "Yes" vote was a vote for the animals. (7/13/00, H. 4884)

See previous pages for key for L-EE. There were not votes for B-K in the Senate.

# MASSACHUSETTS' U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

## 109th Congress Midterm Report

Senators:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Kerry, J. (D)	+	N/A	+	+	+	+
Kennedy, E. (D)	+	N/A	+	+	+	+

**KEY:**

+ co-sponsorship or a vote for the animals

nv not voting

Representatives:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Capuano, M. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+
Delahunt, W. (D)	+	+			+	+
Frank, B. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lynch, S. (D)	+	nv	+	+	+	+
Markey, E. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+
McGovern, J. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+
Meehan, M. (D)	+	+		+	+	+
Neal, R. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+
Olver, J. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	
Tierney, J. (D)	+	+		+	+	+

- A. **HORSE SLAUGHTER.** A “+” indicates a vote for an amendment to stop horse slaughter. This amendment would stop the US Department of Agriculture from spending tax money to allow the slaughter of horses for food exports.
- B. **WILD HORSES** (House only). A “+” indicates the member voted for an amendment to prohibit the Bureau of Land Management from using any of its budget to sell wild horses and burros for slaughter purposes.
- C. **PAWS.** A “+” vote indicates that the member is a cosponsor of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) (S. 1139/H.R. 2669) to provide oversight and better care for animals bred by large commercial breeding operations.
- D. **DOWNERS.** A “+” indicates cosponsorship of S. 1779 (in the Senate) or H.R. 3931 (in the House), that would establish a permanent ban on the slaughter of “downed” livestock — animals too sick or injured to stand or walk on their own.
- E. **ANIMAL FIGHTING** A “+” indicates cosponsorship of the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act (S. 382/H.R. 817). These bills would create felony-level penalties for animal fighting activities.
- F. **ENFORCEMENT LETTER :** A “+” indicates that the member signed a letter to the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee seeking funds needed for the USDA to improve enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, and the federal animal fighting law.

*Information courtesy of The Humane Society of the United States*

### WHO REPRESENTS ME?

**On the State level:** The Massachusetts State Legislature consists of 200 members (40 senators and 160 representatives). You are represented by one representative and one senator. The easiest way to find out who your legislators are is to look them up at [www.vote-smart.org/index.phtml](http://www.vote-smart.org/index.phtml) or [www.magnet.state.ma.us/legis/citytown.htm](http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/legis/citytown.htm) or call your city or town hall. Massachusetts legislators can be reached by writing: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, State House, Boston, MA 02133. The salutation should be: Dear Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_. The phone number for the State House is (617) 722-2000.

**On the Federal level:** All states have two senators (Massachusetts Senators are John F. Kerry and Edward M. Kennedy) — both represent all citizens of the Commonwealth. The number of representatives a state has depends on its population. Massachusetts has ten representatives who represent the ten Congressional districts in Massachusetts. Members of Congress can be reached at: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, The Capitol, Washington D.C., 20510, (202) 224-3121 (switchboard). The salutation should be: Dear Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_: