



Makin' Pawsitive Change, June 2023

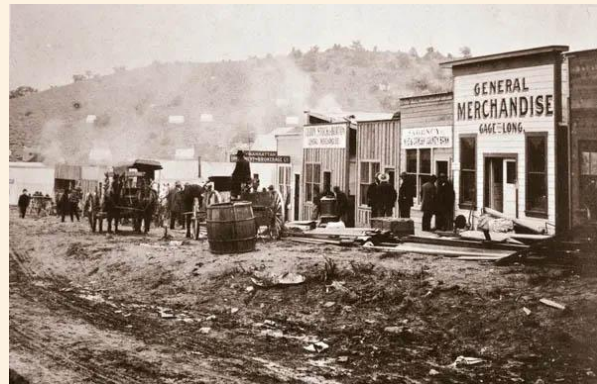
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Make Your Voice Count: MPA's Lobbying Partnership

Think about what life was like 104 years ago. The year was 1919. World War I had just ended, and it was the year women gained the right to vote.

That was the same year that Michigan passed the Dog Law of 1919, the law that **still** governs how dogs are treated in our state.



The Dog Law of 1919: *AN ACT relating to dogs and the protection of livestock and poultry from damage by dogs; providing for the licensing of dogs; regulating the keeping of dogs and authorizing their destruction in certain cases; providing for the determination and payment of damages done by dogs to livestock and poultry; imposing powers and duties on certain state, county, city and township officers and employees.*

It's difficult to believe, but 104 years later, we're still operating under this law, the primary focus of which is the protection of livestock. And, all along, dogs and cats lacked a voice in our state capital.

Until now.

On May 1, Michigan Pet Alliance began working with [Midwest Strategy Group](#), a contracted lobbying firm representing MPA, its members and Michigan's pets.

That means we now have a voice for the animals in Lansing daily, representing our members throughout the state, from the UP to Grand Rapids, from Charlevoix to Detroit. This partnership allows us to reach out to MPA members to let them know a

phone call to their legislator at a critical point in the process could have a real effect on policy.

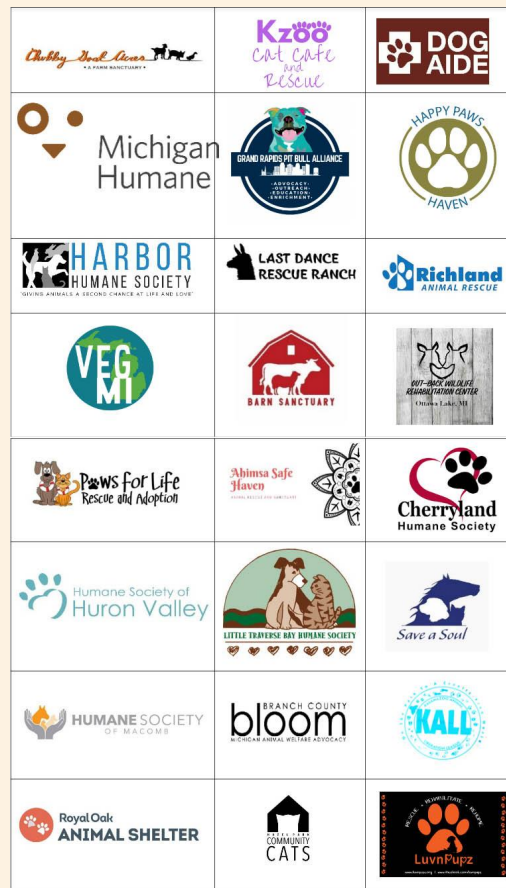
The voice of our members will now become a chorus that can be heard on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Soon, MPA will be in Lansing providing testimony on Teddy's Law, which refers to a brace of bills, HB 4881 and HB 4882, that would make it easier for Michigan residents to adopt animals that have been used by laboratories and are no longer needed for research.

We are submitting a letter with the signature logos of at least 60 animal shelters and home-based rescue organizations in Michigan that support the bills, which are named for a beagle rescued from a laboratory four years ago, to the committee members considering the legislation.

You can help too. Your voice matters and you can play a role in changing the lives of companion animals in Michigan.

If you're not already a member of MPA, [join today](#). Then, reach out to a friend and encourage them to join MPA, too. Your membership will give you a voice in Lansing. Michigan dogs and cats are counting on it to pass laws that protect them today.



Early Bird Registration Ends Tonight

2023 ONE VOICE: MICHIGAN PET ALLIANCE CONFERENCE & EXPO



Register Today



September 21-22, 2023
Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel



[Early bird registration](#) ends tonight at midnight.

Get in before the registration rates go up tomorrow, June 5.

We want you to join us in Grand Rapids, Sept. 21-22, for an exciting opportunity to network with Michigan's animal welfare community and to learn all about what's new and what's next in:

- FIP, FeLV and FIV treatments and management
- Behaviorally challenged cats and dogs
- Scentwork and enrichment with dogs
- Matchmaking conversation-based adoptions
- Return to home workshops
- Humane education
- Customer service
- Community cats
- Adopt a Pet: the adopter's online search
- Hiring and retaining the best human talent
- Volunteer and foster care programs
- Legislation and advocacy
- Community outreach
- Shelter diversion and surrender prevention
- Using data to save lives
- Communication and how your words matter
- Addressing social and emotional pain in dogs

Sign-up for shelter tours of Humane Society of West Michigan and Kent County Animal Shelter. Scholarships and volunteer opportunities are available. Continuing education credits are also available.

[Register Now](#)

Michigan Legislative Updates

HB 4674

Bill would ban cat declawing in Michigan. Introduced May 25, assigned to the House Committee of Agriculture, awaits committee hearing.

SB 148/149, Teddy's Law (also HB 4277/4278)

Bills would require dogs and cats used in experimentation to be offered for adoption through a shelter after their "retirement." The bills would also require labs performing animal testing to submit annual reports to the state. Awaits committee hearing, coming soon.



Michigan's Chance to Ban Cat Declawing

On May 25, House Bill 4674 was introduced to [ban the declawing of cats](#) in

Michigan.

Introduced by Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. of District 32, which comprises Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, HB 4674 states that a licensee cannot perform by any means an onychectomy, a partial or complete phalangectomy, or tendonectomy procedure, or any other surgical procedure that prevents normal functioning of the claws, toes or paws on a cat.



Once passed, Michigan would become the third state, following New York and Maryland, to ban the painful procedure.

The only exception would be if the procedure is necessary to address a therapeutic purpose, such as an infection, disease, injury, existing or recurring illness, or abnormal condition in the claw of a cat that compromises the cat's health.

Therapeutic purpose does not include a cosmetic or aesthetic reason or a reason of convenience in keeping or handling a cat.

Other state representatives who are also sponsoring HB 4674 include Julie Brixie, Christine Morse, Erin Byrnes, Dylan Wegela, Joey Andrews, Natalie Price, Donavan McKinney, Carrie Rheingans, Jenn Hill, Kevin Coleman, Rachel Hood, Kara Hope and Kelly Breen.

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Sadly, the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) has released a [statement](#) that it and its members oppose the bill. We hope the MVMA membership finds a voice for compassion and speaks up against the association's unilateral decision to oppose this bill, which eliminates this type of cruelty to cats.

June MPA Member Events

A benefit of [MPA membership](#) is free promotion for the upcoming events and fundraisers of member organizations. Here are a few opportunities to support animal welfare organizations this month:

June 9: [HSHV Advocacy Open House](#), Humane Society of Huron Valley, Ann Arbor

June 10: [Baseball Fundraiser](#), Humane Society of Bay County, Midland

June 10: [\\$10 TNR Spay Day](#), Feline Fund, Warren

June 10: [Distribution](#), Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry, Grand Rapids

June 10: [Petco Adoption Event](#), Paws for Life Rescue, Rochester Hills

June 11: [TNR Training](#), All About Animals, Warren

June 17: [New Volunteer Orientation](#), Adopt-A-Pet, Fenton

June 24: [Putts Fore Pets](#), Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance, Allegan

June 24: [Pet Adoption & Fundraiser](#), Fig and Friends Pet Rescue, Grand Rapids

June 27-29: [Animal Art Youth Camp](#), Harbor Humane Society, West Olive

June 29: [Shelter Buddies](#), Little Traverse Bay Humane Society, Harbor Springs

Enjoy the benefits of membership and [join](#) Michigan Pet Alliance today!

About Michigan Pet Alliance

MPA Vision

To achieve the best quality of life for Michigan's companion animals.

MPA Mission

To work in collaboration and speak with a single voice to eliminate abuse and neglect of Michigan's companion animals and to save all healthy and treatable homeless companion animals through training, technical assistance, education, and advocacy.

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Michigan Pet Alliance is a 501(c)3 charitable organization as defined by the IRS (EIN 20-0399162) and is a [GuideStar Platinum Participant](#).



Contributions are tax deductible.

[Donate](#)

