

Dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and exploitation through education, advocacy and example.

## VEG FEST RETURNED!

On October 29th Maine Animal Coalition's 17th Annual Veg Fest was held in Portland after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. While the turnout, approximately 450 attendees, was less than at previous Veg Fests, in other ways it was one of our best. For example, our four speakers were excellent.

Journalist Avery Yale Kamila spoke on "Three Hundred Years of Hidden Vegan & Vegetarian History in Maine." Additionally, she gave the audience bound copies of her published articles on Maine vegan and vegetarian history and an additional handout of vegan recipes.

Brendan Walsh, a vegan adventure athlete, shared his journeys to raise money for medical charities. Some of his adventures include biking from Boston to Seattle, setting the Guinness World Record for the fastest crossing on bicycle of the United States from north to south, and running at record breaking speeds the length of Cape Cod and across Maine.

Dr. Candice McElroy, who has a solo practice in Lovell, Maine, spoke of the medical research supporting the benefits of a whole food plant-

based diet. Dr. McElroy is a board-certified family physician and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine. Dr. McElroy explained that the six pillars of lifestyle medicine are diet, exercise, social connections, sleep, avoidance of unhealthy habits, and stress management.



Clare Beverage, an employee of the Maine company North Spore, spoke enthusiastically of the nutritional benefits, preparation, and home cultivation of five different types of mushrooms. She also shared some

of her favorite resources on mushrooms, including North Spore's website.

Also at the fest were a variety of vendors and exhibitors promoting veganism and vegan products. Twelve were first time participants in the fest.

Finally, we were fortunate to have the financial support of three foundations – the Mark Baumer Sustainability Fund, the Veg Fund and the T Colin Campbell Center for Nutritional Studies. And as always, we benefited from the generous participation by the vegan community in our raffle and silent auction.

# Maine Animal Coalition Covered the Legislature

The second regular session of 130th Maine Legislature convened in January 2022. The second session, sometimes called “the short session”, considered approximately 600 bills. (The long session in 2021 considered 2,041 bills.)



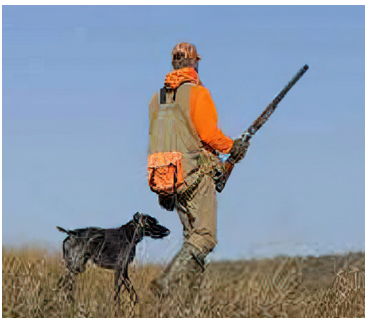
**Below are four Important animal related bills that passed:**

**LD 1744 An Act to Increase Funding for the Animal Welfare Fund by Increasing Certain Fees** This bill increased funding for the State of Maine’s Animal Welfare Program and increased the compensation to shelters for holding animals pending court decisions.

**LD 1828 an Act Requiring a Contract for the Administration of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry’s Low-Cost Spaying and Neutering Program** This bill was initiated by those who felt the State was mishandling the Help Fix Me Program and wanted outsiders to run the program.



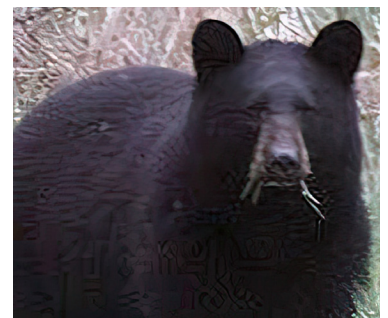
**LD 482 An Act Regarding Pet Insurance** This new law includes various consumer protections, standardizes policy language and addresses issues unique to policies that cover the accidents and illnesses of pets.



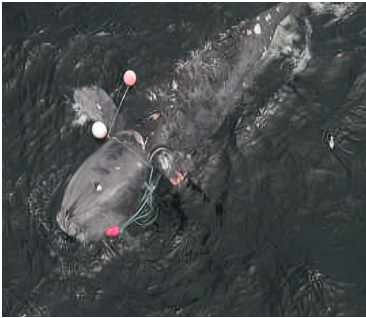
**LD 1951 An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass** This law prohibits trespass by a hunting dog if a property owner has posted or notified the dog handler that hunting dogs are not allowed on his property or a law enforcement officer has notified the dog handler in writing within the previous year that the landowner does not want hunting dogs on his property.

**Below are two bills that MAC actively opposed, and they did not pass.**

**LD 1604 An Act to Reclassify certain Offenses Under the IF&W Laws and Motor Vehicle Laws and Increase the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System** proposed to decriminalize certain offenses including violations of laws regulating bear baiting and hunting bears with dogs. This bill was championed by the ACLU of Maine because “too many people face unnecessarily harsh consequences and a permanent criminal record for behaviors that don’t need to be criminalized.”



While we recognized the good intentions of the bill, Maine Animal Coalition opposed the bill because we believe that the currently legal hunting of bears with dogs and bear baiting is cruel and should be outlawed. The bill was passed by both the Maine House and the Senate but died on the Appropriation Committee table.



**LD 1916 An Act to Create a Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry**

MAC testified against this bill which would have created a defense fund for the lobster industry funded by the Legislature and lobster license fees. At the hearing Beth Gallie of Maine Animal Coalition, Barbara Skapa of Mainers Guarding Right Whales and Holly Travers of Westbrook waited for hours to testify in support of protecting the whales only to be interrupted by committee members who said their testimony would not be allowed because it was irrelevant to the bill.

If the animal advocates had been allowed to testify, they would have told the committee that it was time for the Maine lobster industry to stop resisting change. There are only 336 right whales left and ropeless technology is already being tried in Massachusetts and Canada.

Although right whale distribution has shifted due to climate change, the Gulf of Maine still provides important habitat for this near extinct species. Maine’s lobster industry is responsible for half a million vertical lines in the water. Entanglement in commercial fishing gear is the leading cause of their death. Eighty three percent of identified right whales are scarred from entanglements. Entanglements lead to slow, gruesome deaths and those females who do not die are less likely to reproduce due to the energy spent fighting entanglements.

Claims of the lobster industry that the right whales no longer inhabit their waters are misleading. In 70% of known entanglements no gear is recovered, and the source of the entanglements is unknown. Most whales that die disappear without scientists being able to observe their bodies.

Unfortunately, at the close of 2022 Maine’s Congressional delegation slipped a provision into the \$1.7 trillion omnibus package funding the federal government. The provision gave the lobster industry six more years before they must comply with the latest federal regulations, which a judge found inadequate. The amendment does include up to \$50 million in annual funding to study, develop and deploy the new “ropeless” fishing technology. However, this money was authorized and will not necessarily be “appropriated”.

## Maine Animal Coalition Helped Others Accomplish Their Goals



These are exciting times for animal rights and often MAC's key role is helping other groups accomplish their goals. We spent many hours doing this in 2022.

For example, we helped **Animal Wellness Action** pass a provision in the FDA Modernization Act by mobilizing supporters in Maine. (The section of this bill we supported clarified the right to use alternatives to animal testing.)

We also helped **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine** defeat a provision in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Landmark Advancements Act of 2022 that would have denied states the right to ban the sale of cosmetics tested on animals. (Maine is one of nine states that has banned the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.)

MAC helped **Don't Cage Our Oceans** connect with individuals and groups in Maine who would likely support their mission of stopping the development of offshore finfish farming in the United States.

MAC helped **The Coyote Center** get their message out to Mainers who would likely support greater protections for Coyotes.

As MAC does every year, we helped the **State of Maine's Animal Welfare Program** raise funds for the Help Fix Me Program by creating and circulating a poster to inform Mainers about the Tax Check Off Program.

MAC also donated \$500 to **Mainers Guarding Right Whales**. The money was used to help distribute to influential Mainers copies of Michael J Moore's book *We Are All Whalers – the Plight of Whales and Our Responsibility*.

We publicized animal welfare films such as *Milked* and *The Last of the Right Whales* and veg friendly events such as North Spore's 1st Annual Maine Fungi Fest.

MAC donated \$150 to **Peace Ridge Sanctuary** as a sponsor of its first RUN FOR THE ANIMALS 2022.

**Sign up on our website for our emails & follow us on social media.**



## We Took Your Calls and Answered Your Emails



In 2022 MAC answered over 270 calls and numerous emails from Mainers seeking advice and information. Often the callers asked for help in dealing with an injured animal. MAC referred many of these callers to the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick and Avian Haven in Freedom. For this reason, we donated \$500 each to the Center for Wildlife and Avian Haven.

MAC also answered calls from journalists. For example, we spoke out against pig scrambles, circuses with animal acts, trapping of wild animals, the near extinction of the right whale, and heartbreaking situations caused by the high cost of veterinary care.

### Join Us!

If you appreciate our work, please become a member! Members receive a free subscription to **VegNews Magazine**.



### Maine Animal Coalition Board

**President: Beth Gallie**

**Treasurer: Bryana Amsden**

**Secretary: Angela Bell**

### Maine Animal Coalition Financial Report

1/1/2022 — 12/31/2022

#### Income

Individual Contributions	\$ 9,838.80
Grants	\$ 2,827.00
Veg fest and flag sales income	\$ 1,844.50
Interest	\$ <u>.73</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,511.03</b>

#### Expenses

Program	\$ 8,562.04
Operating	\$ <u>1,376.36</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,938.40</b>

#### Total Assets (cash)

January 1, 2022	\$ 10,267.44
December 31, 2021	\$ 14,840.07
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 14,840.07</b>

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**MAINE ANIMAL COALITION**

Maine Animal Coalition is dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and exploitation through education, advocacy and example. For more information about MAC and our programs, visit our website at [www.maineanimalcoalition.org](http://www.maineanimalcoalition.org). Phone (207) 773-2215 Email [mac@maineanimalcoalition.org](mailto:mac@maineanimalcoalition.org)

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30/individual    \_\_\_\_\_ \$40/family    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 supporting    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 sustaining

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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