



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

Maine Animal Coalition Covers the Long Session of the Legislature

In 2023 Maine Animal Coalition followed sixty animal related bills through the long session of the Maine Legislature and reported to our followers in a timely manner so that they, like MAC, could respond to the bills.

A number of animal friendly bills were passed: **LD 595 An Act to Establish the Companion Animal Sterilization Program in the Maine Revised Statutes.**



LD 595 directs the Maine Department of Agriculture to contract the administration of the Help Fix Me program to a non-governmental animal

welfare program. Animal advocates have been dissatisfied for years with the way the Help Fix Me program has been managed by the State and demanded change.

LD 958 An Act to Expand Protections to Maine’s Loons from Lead by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs. Despite being painted,



these newly prohibited small jigs weighing one ounce or less can if ingested kill a loon in five

days. Currently lead poisoning is one of the leading causes of death for loons in Maine. Larger lead tackle may be legally sold in Maine.

LD 670 An Act to Protect Birds in the Construction, Renovation and Maintenance of Public Buildings.



This bill requires the State of Maine to develop guidance regarding integration of bird collision risk management into substantial renovations

of public buildings.

LD 598 An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or livestock.



LD 598 makes the law clear that if a motor vehicle accident occurring anywhere in the state results in the injury or death of a dog, a cat or livestock, the operator of a vehicle must take reasonable

steps to notify the owner of the animal. If the owner of the animal cannot be located, the driver of the vehicle must take reasonable steps to immediately report the injury or death of the animal to a law

enforcement officer or the animal control officer for the municipality or region where the accident occurred. This bill was created in recognition of the importance of companion animals to Mainers regardless of the market value of their animals.

LD 679 An Act Regarding Animals Abandoned by Tenants. This bill states that a landlord may require



a tenant to provide information about any animal present in a rental unit and request contact information of a person

the tenant authorizes to enter the property to retrieve or care for the animal in the event the tenant abandons the animal or is unable to care for the animal as a result of death or disability. A landlord may also require permission to enter an apartment in case of emergencies in order to protect the animal.

Unfortunately a number of bills that would have benefited animals did not pass:

LD 428 An Act to Reclassify Certain offenses under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws. LD



428 decriminalized violations of Maine’s atrocious bear hunting laws. MAC testified against this resulting in a slight improvement in the bill. Also, because of our testimony, a minority of the

IF&W Committee voted not to change the bear hunting laws.

LD 814 An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes. If passed, LD 814



would have limited daytime hunting of coyotes from October 1st to March 31st and stopped the year-round hunting of coyotes during the day. The night hunting

season for coyotes, which is currently December 16th to August 31st, would have been restricted to December 16th to March 31st.

MAC Protests Pig Scrambles



On July 16th MAC member and volunteer Dylan Palme planned and led a demonstration against a pig scramble at the Waterford World’s Fair. Dylan also wrote an anti-pig scramble letter to the editor and it was published in the Portland Press Herald. Dylan said, “Another fair, another chance to

teach people that abusing animals is acceptable.” Indeed! Maine holds approximately 23 county fairs each year and in 2023 all but 5 feature a pig scramble. And don’t get us started about the pull events!

MAC's 18th Annual Veg Fest

Veg Fest was planned for October 28th but had to be postponed for one week due to the tragic mass shooting in Lewiston. Despite not initiating a new publicity campaign, 450 people attended the four hour fest.

The fest included new exhibitors and vendors. First timers included Plant-Curious Cooking School, Midcoast Vegan, The Whole Almond, Vegan Jaunts and Journeys and Vickie's Veggie Table. And as always, we had great speakers.

Food Waste

Susanne Lee, a Faculty Fellow at the University of Maine's Senator George Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, spoke on "Food Waste Problem Is Everyone's Problem – And What Can You Do?"

This topic is important to animal activists because when food is wasted animal lives are wasted. Also agriculture destroys animal habitat and pollutes the environment.

Lee began her talk by defining the problem. Thirty to forty percent of food produced in the United States is wasted. Thirty percent of the waste occurs on farms, nine percent during processing, 18% at the retail level and 42% is caused by consumers. For an average family of four, this means spending annually almost \$2,000 on food that is never eaten.

Food waste is a global problem and not just an

American problem. Lee said, "We produce enough food in the world to feed our population two and a half times."

Production of uneaten food also wastes fresh water, energy, soil, and labor needed to produce the food. Ultimately most of this food ends up in landfills where it contaminates surrounding environments and produces millions of pounds of methane gas, which is more damaging to the climate than CO2.

What can consumers do? Lee gave the following tips for reducing food waste.

Start by noting how much food you are wasting. Next, create an "Eat This First" section in the fridge and "shop" the fridge before buying more food.

Don't buy more food than you need in order to get a perceived bargain. Grocers may say three boxes for three dollars, but you do not need to buy three boxes to get the bargain rate. And buying in bulk is not a bargain if the food is not eaten.

Also learn how to properly store every type of food. To keep food from spoiling, use your freezer. Don't be too controlled by "Best Buy" and "Use By" dates except for baby formula and fresh meat and seafood. Learn to cook creatively using the scraps you have. (There are apps to help with this.)

Find ways to share unwanted food instead of throwing it away.



Finally, compost! For those who cannot compost waste themselves, increasingly there are ways to drop off food scraps for others to compost.

Fermentation

Ger Tysk, owner of Red Kettle Foods LLC, and Eli Cayer, founder of Portland's Urban Farm Fermentory, gave a talk on "Fermentation from Beverages to Food — A Simple Explanation."

Ger said, "Fermentation is one of the oldest methods of preserving food."

Her company makes kimchi, a spicy Korean version of sauerkraut, using lacto-fermentation. Lacto-fermentation uses the bacteria that is already present on plants to change their chemical structure to create tasty food. It requires salt and an anaerobic (oxygen free) environment. Typically, Nappa cabbage, combined with other vegetables, is pressed down into a brine to create an anaerobic environment. Kimchi takes about a week to ferment. It is served as a side dish.

Eli Cayer produces a wide variety of fermented beverages including kombucha. Kombucha is a

sparkling probiotic beverage. (Probiotic means containing healthy live bacteria that are good for gut health.) It is made from tea, cane sugar and a SCOBY, a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast. To learn more, drop into the Urban Farm Fermentory on Anderson Street in Portland.

Seaweed

Bonnie Tobey is the Operation's Manager for SOURCE Inc. and the President of the Maine Seaweed Council. Her talk was titled "Maine Seaweed: History & Today."

Bonnie explained that Seaweed has been used by Mainers as fertilizers for centuries. However, in the 1970's production in Maine expanded to create nutritional supplements, cosmetics, animal feed and food for human consumption. Bonnie stressed that seaweed may be harvested sustainably and does not take land resources.

Bonnie said, "Seaweed is being used more and more as a world food supply."

The Maine Seaweed Council's website is a great source of information about seaweed.

We Answer Your Calls and Emails



In 2023 MAC answered over 280 calls and numerous emails from Mainers seeking information and advice. Often the calls were about injured wildlife. MAC referred many calls about injured wildlife to Avian Haven in Freedom and the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick. For this reason, we donated \$500 each to Avian Haven and Center for Wildlife.

MAC Raises \$10,000 to Help Build New Shelter in Aroostook County



In the summer of 2023 MAC started a GoFundMe page and encouraged direct donations to help the Central Aroostook Humane Society build a much-needed new shelter. The CAHS’s current dilapidated shelter serves over 28 communities in Aroostook County and annually takes in and finds new homes for approximately 500 cats and 200 dogs.

MAC President Beth Gallie said, “Maine Animal Coalition strives to serve the entire State of Maine and this project was viewed as a good opportunity to help out in the County.”

By the end of 2023 MAC had raised over \$10,000. Construction of the new shelter is expected to start very soon. Our GofundMe page will continue into 2024.

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a program of Maine Initiatives

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**Maine Animal Coalition
Financial Report
1/1/2023 — 12/31/2023**

Income	
Individual Contributions	\$ 12,067.33
Grants	\$ 2,180.00
Veg Fest Income	\$ 1,966.53
Flag Sales	\$ 204.30
Interest	<u>\$ 2.25</u>
TOTAL	\$ 16,420.41
Expenses	
Program	\$ 12,707.03
Operating	<u>\$ 1,052.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 13,759.03
Total Assets	
(cash)	
January 1, 2023	\$ 14,840.07
December 31, 2023	\$ 17,501.25
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Total Net Assets	\$ 17,501.25

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