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Write to the LA City Council!

There's a Bigger Picture and It's Time to Tell the Story for Millions of LA Animals, and for Humans Too

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LA's 'Wet Markets' Could Be On The Chopping Block
BY YINGJIE WANG IN FOOD ON JULY 9, 2020 10:05 AM

Special offer for LAist READERS

It's only 5 days long...
lululemon STOP OUR ONLINE SALE

L.A. city officials are still in the process of working with L.A. City Attorney Mike Feuer to write the ordinance, according to Councilmember [Paul Koretz](#), the motion's other sponsor. "The focus is primarily on animals that have unknown implications in terms of diseases they could spread," Koretz told us, although he acknowledges there is no guarantee the ordinance would be limited to animals that are commonly tied to illnesses.

A worker at L.A. Fresh Poultry brings from the chicken storage area. (Chris Sanchez/LAist)

Permalink for this alert: www.pawpac.news/2020july

READ THE ARTICLE

[Now is the time to write](#) to the LA City Council to support a ban on live animal markets, and to thank Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield for sponsoring it. The Council is on recess, but committees will have closed meetings for some issues, including this one. PawPAC submitted ±900 pages of evidence to the Council, and naturally, we are excitedly awaiting next steps. The animals need hundreds of voices to speak up right now during this crucial period before the committee reaches its conclusions.

If you only have time for one action today, we ask you to [make it this](#), which would save millions of animals per year—and please share with friends. You'll find everything you need, including the motion text, talking points, sample letters, with an easy to use comment portal linked to the LA markets page:

www.pawpac.org/LAmarkets

PawPAC and ACTAsia were interviewed for the LAist story above, but both interviews were an afterthought, and ACTAsia's strong voice for animals was selectively left out.

We're grateful for ACTAsia's support for the LA motion, as well as that of United Poultry Concerns, PCRM, Oceanic Preservation Society, Animal Defenders International and ALDF, among a growing list of experts and individuals, who've sent their letters to the Council.

Easy-Quick! [Retweet our tweet!](#)



Dr. Ben Lopman's and Dr. Neal Barnard's letters both referred to the threat of H2N2, which claimed millions of lives in the late 1950s. In reading about H2N2 and the avian influenzas, we learned that, like the bat-pangolin-human transmission chain, H2N2 has been researched for its transmission from **mallard ducks** to **quail** to **chickens**. Many of the H-class viruses are found in ducks.

The Los Angeles markets harbor mallards, quail and chickens, the perfect storm for another pandemic. So this hits even closer to home than we may have realized.

Fascinating Trivia

In 1999 PawPAC founder Virginia Handley and others approached Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (now LA County Supervisor) about a bill to protect animals in the live markets. Kuehl's bill, AB 2479, was chaptered in 2000, and is now referred to as the "**Kuehl law**" (Pen §597.3). Those who've followed and been involved with PawPAC for years are familiar with this.

But what you might not know is that Kuehl's original language (most of which was scratched) was a forerunner to Prop 12. AB 2479 passed, however diluted, and in 2004 Loni Hancock introduced AB 732 with similar space provisions for calves and pigs, with coauthors—not surprisingly—**Sheila Kuehl and Paul Koretz!** AB 732 did not get out of Assembly Ag, but was a stepping stone to Prop 2 which passed in 2008. Difficulties with realization and enforcement of Prop 2 led to Prop 12, which California voters passed in 2018. **But Kuehl's bill came first.** Here's the language from AB 2479, showing the clauses that were cut:

- ~~(1) Provide that all animals that are to be killed are killed humanely.~~
- (2) Provide that no animal will be dismembered, flayed, cut open, or have its skin, scales, feathers, or shell removed while the animal is still alive.
- ~~(3) Take reasonable care to offer for sale only those animals or carcasses that are free of injury or disease.~~
- (4) Provide that no live animals will be confined, held, or displayed in a manner that results, or is likely to result, in injury, starvation, dehydration, or suffocation.
- ~~(5) Provide that no live animals will be confined, held, or displayed in a manner that results in the animal being crushed, attacked, or wounded by any other animal.~~
- ~~(6) Provide that no animal will be confined, held, or displayed in a manner that prevents the animal from lying down, standing erect, changing posture, and resting in a normal manner for that species.~~

Compare Kuehl's number 6 above to Prop 2, nine years later:

PROP 2 STANDARDS FOR CONFINING FARM ANIMALS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

SUMMARY *Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures*

Requires that certain farm animals be allowed, for the majority of every day, to **fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up and turn around.** Limited exceptions apply. Fiscal Impact: Potential unknown decrease in state and local tax revenues from farm businesses, possibly in the range of several million dollars annually. Potential minor local and state enforcement and prosecution costs, partly offset by increased fine revenue.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: Beginning in 2015, state law would prohibit, with certain exceptions, the confinement on a farm of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal, and egg-laying hens in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: State law would not contain prohibitions specifically concerning the confinement of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal, and egg-laying hens.

[Your comments](#) to the LA City Council can help to save millions of animals per year. The motion stands to protect all animals in the markets. Your support will be counted whether it's three sentences or three pages. Just type into the box, and confirm it in the City Clerk's email to your inbox.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

COVID has prevented the Legislature from reconvening as planned (July 13). Assemblymember Tom Lackey has been hospitalized with COVID. Assemblymember Autumn Burke tested positive, though she has been asymptomatic. Several staffers have also tested positive for the virus. The Legislature currently plans to return to the Capitol July 27, leaving a mere five weeks to wrap up session. Staffers will continue to work from home, and calls and emails should work on a near-normal basis.

We wish Assemblyman Lackey a speedy recovery. The CA Leg staff and members are resilient and devoted, working under the pressures of COVID. We have the best legislature in the country! Please don't forget to thank your legislators and their staffs.

It's amazing that any animal bills at all have survived COVID, and it wouldn't be a surprise if some listed below are carried over to next year. The problem is that any bills carried over would depend on the member being reelected, or else the bill would need to start over with a new author.

SUPPORT

[AB 2152 \(Gloria/O'Donnell\)](#): Would prohibit the sale or adoption of dogs, cats and rabbits by pet stores, but permits the stores to provide adoption space to qualified rescue groups and public shelters. Cracks down on puppy mills masquerading as rescues. —> [Submit your letter](#) **STATUS: To Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development. Hearing date TBA. Contact your Senator to support.**

[AB 3030 \(Kalra\)](#): A plan to conserve 30% of land and 30% of water by 2030. —> [Submit your letter](#) **STATUS: To Senate Natural Resources & Water. Hearing date TBA. Contact your Senator to support.**

[SB 573 \(Chang\)](#): Would require public shelters to microchip dogs and cats prior to adoption —> [Submit your letter](#) **STATUS: Referred to Assembly Business and Professions. Hearing date TBA. Contact your Assemblymember to support.**

[SB 587 \(Monning\)](#): California Sea Otter Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund. Would extend the program through the end of 2027. —> [Submit your letter](#) **STATUS: Referred to Assembly Revenue and Taxation. Date TBA. Contact your Assemblymember to support.**

[SB 1044 \(Allen\)](#): Would ban harmful PFAS chemicals (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in firefighting foam. —> [Submit your letter](#) **STATUS: To Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Date TBA. Contact your Assemblymember to support.**

SUPPORT

[SB 1175](#) (Stern): Would add 13 African species to the restricted hunting/import list and prohibit the import and sale of zoonotic disease-carrying wild animals. Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to suspend import of species when "evidence suggests" suggests zoonotic transmission could be responsible for a novel, readily transmissible human disease. PawPAC fully supports the hunting language (carried over from 2018). The zoonose sections are in the process of being improved.

—> [See our letter](#) | [Submit your letter](#) **STATUS: To Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife. Hearing date TBA. [Contact your Assemblymember to support.](#)**

OPPOSE

[AB 235](#) (Mayes): **Oppose.** According to the Center for Biological Diversity, AB 235 "would roll back critical protections for plants and animals under the state's Endangered Species Act. Backed by developers, it's aimed at heading off protections for Joshua trees if they're designated a 'candidate' species at an upcoming Fish and Game Commission hearing. But the bill is sweeping enough that it would harm not just Joshua trees but all species for which state protection is sought in the future. It could even undercut safeguards given to recently protected candidates such as mountain lions." **STATUS: To Senate Natural Resources. Date TBA. ACTIONS: 1. [Contact your Senator to OPPOSE.](#) 2. [Call NRW: \(916\) 651-4116 to OPPOSE, and/or submit your letter.](#)**

[SB 1115](#) (Wilk): **Oppose.** Allows licensure of new, humane commercial blood banks, but would not close the existing blood farms for three years after the blood supply from the new system matches that of the existing closed colony system. During the pandemic, how quickly will the new blood supply save these animals? **NOT SOON ENOUGH. A dog's 4-5 years in waiting is like 28-35 human years.** A bill is needed to actually transition the existing blood banks to humane practices. **STATUS: To Assembly Ag. Date TBA. ACTIONS: 1. [Call your Assemblymember to OPPOSE.](#) 2. [Call AG: \(916\) 319-2084 to OPPOSE, and/or submit your letter.](#)**

FAILED

~~[AB 2059](#) Kamlager (support): Toxicological experiments on dogs~~

~~[AB 2523](#) Gray (oppose): Youth hunting program for terminally ill, et al~~

NOT MOVING / WATCH / OTHER

[AB 1974](#) Gray (neutral-leaning to oppose): Horse racing reforms

[AB 1999](#) Frazier (oppose): 70mph speed limits

[AB 2610](#) Cooper (oppose): Mustangs for prison therapy

[AB 2614](#) Smith (support): Large animal evacuations

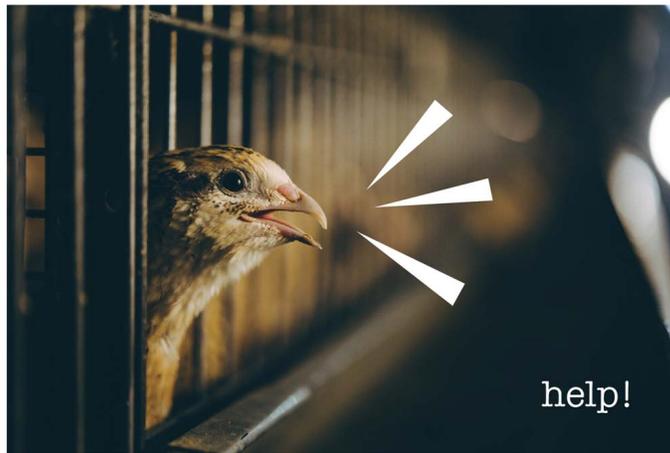
[SB 288](#) Wiener (support): CEQA exemptions for public transit projects

[SB 800](#) Dodd (support): Horse racing fatality and drug use transparency

[SB 1372](#) Stern (support): Wildlife corridors

Note: COVID prevented most animal protection bills from being introduced. During this void, we developed the proposal with the LA City Council, which is now in full force, and time doesn't allow us to scour the bills as usual. If you know of a bill not mentioned that would impact animals, please contact us!

*Psst: Please see note below about the need for volunteers!



Did you know that egg-laying quail do not benefit from the statutes from Prop 12? Live animal markets are exempt from the statutes. The best protection the animals have is the Kuehl law for the moment of slaughter, but unfortunately, it is not enforced.

2020 Endorsements

Thank You for Your Support

Special thanks to: Bonnie, Cliff, Courtney, Dawn, Elaine, Eva, Laura and Lisa! PawPAC will be turning 40 next month! Help us celebrate with a donation of \$4, \$40, \$400 or \$4,000! Or volunteer 4 hours of your time on a regular basis. As things stand, volunteer help is usually temporary or insufficient for the necessary tasks. To make an impact, much more support is needed. We could hire help with enough regular donations. We're happy to be doing the work, but to truly make a difference we need substantially greater contributions of money or time.

For the animals,

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René Rowland, Chair
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