



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Formerly called the Humane Society
of the United States

Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance

1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
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humaneVMA.org

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT OPPOSING AMENDMENT 83

Protect Wildlife from Inhumane Killing Methods

October 2026

To the voters of Colorado:

As veterinary professionals in the Centennial State, we have dedicated our careers to the health and welfare of animals. We understand, better than most, the difference between humane and inhumane treatment of animals, and we recognize when a policy proposal puts that distinction at risk. **It is from this professional perspective that we, the undersigned, urge Colorado voters to reject Amendment 83 this November.**

The Problem:

Amendment 83 is framed as an amendment to our constitution to establish the "right to hunt and fish." In reality, it adds intentionally vague and undefined language—including a constitutional protection to kill wildlife using "traditional methods." That could give opponents of animal protection laws a new way to challenge important safeguards that Colorado voters have already approved. The phrase "traditional methods" has been used by proponents of similar initiatives as a way to protect cruel and unpopular practices, like trapping, chasing wildlife with packs of dogs (hounding), or luring wildlife with food (baiting) for an easier kill.

The History:

Coloradans have already taken a stand against these types of inhumane killing methods. In 1996, Colorado voters banned the use of leghold traps, poison, and snares on wildlife by a wide margin, recognizing these methods cause prolonged suffering, are indiscriminate, and frequently injure or kill animals never intended as targets, including dogs, cats, and other companion animals that encounter them in the field.

The Threat:

Amendment 83's proponents have publicly indicated their desire to challenge existing wildlife protections in court. That should concern every Colorado voter. If this amendment creates a new legal path to weaken or overturn the trapping ban, animals across our state could once again face the same prolonged and indiscriminate suffering voters rejected in 1996. Even if the trapping ban itself is not overturned, by making "traditional methods" like trapping the constitutionally "preferred means" of managing wildlife, the amendment could make it much harder to prevent trapping from expanding to new species, places, or situations where it is not currently used—putting companion animals and both target and non-target wildlife at greater risk.

Veterinary Professional Position: Vote "No" on Amendment 83

As veterinary professionals, we treat non-target wildlife injured or maimed by traps and counsel grieving families whose companion animals were injured or killed by methods meant for wildlife. Expanding the legal footing for these practices is a step backwards for animal welfare in our state. Sound, science-based wildlife management requires flexibility to use the most humane and effective tool available for a given situation; a constitutional mandate that elevates one method as "preferred" removes exactly the kind of professional judgment and adaptability that best serves animal welfare.



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For these reasons outlined above and to continue our state's longstanding commitment to protect wild and domestic animals from cruel killing methods, we urge Colorado voters to vote **no** on Amendment 83 this November.

Signed by the following Colorado veterinary professionals:

Dr. Susan Barden, Veterinarian, Denver
Dr. Linda Behrns, Veterinarian, Alamosa
Dr. E'Lise Bell, Veterinarian, Greenwood Village
Sarah Bertsch, Veterinary Student, Fort Collins
Dr. Stephanie Buccholtz, Veterinarian
Dr. Christine Capaldo, Veterinarian, Telluride
Dr. Beth Cohen, Veterinarian, Aurora
Dr. Kathleen Cooney, Veterinarian, Loveland
Dr. Michelle Dally, Veterinarian, Denver
Dr. Gregg Dean, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Dr. Tracy Duerksen, Veterinarian, Lakewood
Dr. Janice Facinelli, Veterinarian
Sage Farrow, Veterinary Student, Fort Collins
Dr. Margaret Firth, Veterinarian, Pueblo
Brooke Garcia, Veterinary Technician, Denver
Dr. Paige Garnett, Veterinarian, Golden
Ashlely Gates, Veterinary Technician, Grand Junction
Dr. Jon Geller, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Kelly Hegel, Veterinary Technician, Telluride
Dr. Kelly Keeney, Veterinarian, Boulder
Victoria Klimuk, Veterinary Student, Longmont
Dr. Lauren Kloer, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Dr. Cheryl Kolus, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Andrea Lawless, Veterinary Technician, Lakewood
Dr. Meri Major-Lovan, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Gail Marshall, Veterinary Technician, Breckenridge
Dr. Lea Mayer, Veterinarian, Penrose
Dr. Stacy McVicker, Veterinarian, Littleton
Pam Morton, Veterinary Technician
Dr. Cathy Ortloff, Veterinarian, Lone Tree
Dr. Jennifer Pearson, Veterinarian, Colorado Springs
Dr. Christine Petrovec, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Dr. Angelina Piccoli, Veterinarian, Arvada
Jordyn Pinnock, Veterinary Student, Fort Collins
Dr. Kelly Proctor Veterinarian, Broomfield
Dr. Erica Rambus, Veterinarian, Denver
Dr. Meghan Shannon, Veterinarian, Chromo
Courtney Slice, Veterinary Technician
Dr. Christine Stanton, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Dr. Neil Tenzer, Veterinarian, Estes Park
Dr. Nicole Vumbaco, Veterinarian, Fort Collins
Dr. Melissa Ward, Veterinarian, Castle Rock