

Representative Steve King (R)
Defending Animal Cruelty at Every Turn,
Often Standing Solo Among Iowa and South Dakota Lawmakers

Rep. Steve King, in his fifth term representing western Iowa, is arguably the leading anti-animal welfare person in the Congress. *The roster of votes below, along with his outspoken activities on the House floor and in committee, shows a callous and uncaring record toward the care of all of God's creatures.*

King has led the fight in Congress to block legislation to crack down on the barbaric practices of dogfighting and cockfighting. During consideration of the 2012 Farm bill, King led an unsuccessful effort to defeat a McGovern amendment to make it a crime for an adult to attend or to bring a child to a dogfight or cockfight. A three-year study by the Chicago Police Department found that 70 percent of animal offenders had also been arrested for other felonies, including domestic and aggravated battery, illegal drug trafficking, and sex crimes. That pattern of behavior undoubtedly encouraged the Fraternal Order of Police, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and nearly 200 law enforcement agencies from across the country to support the current effort in Congress to quash illegal dogfighting and cockfighting.

Every other federal lawmaker in Iowa – including Republicans Charles Grassley and Tom Latham – supported this policy of forbidding adults from bringing children to these spectacles of violence. South Dakota Senator John Thune also voted in favor of barring adults from taking kids to animal fighting spectacles.

King also stood alone in Iowa's delegation in opposing a previous upgrade of the federal law against animal fighting. In 2007, he was one of a just a small group of lawmakers to oppose H.R. 137, a bill to make it a federal felony to transport animals or cockfighting implements across state lines. Again, this legislation was designed to crack down on the national network of illegal animal fighters who routinely operate across state lines. The measure passed the Senate unanimously, and was approved by the House with a commanding vote of 368 to 39 (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll188.xml>). President George W. Bush signed that bill into law just days after Michael Vick's horrible dogfighting crimes came to light.

There's no federal lawmaker who has worked harder to thwart the enactment of anti-dogfighting legislation than Steve King.

King was part of a rogue group of lawmakers, in a vote of 349 to 24, to oppose efforts to include pets in disaster planning – this vote, coming in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster in the Gulf Coast, after so many people stayed behind and put themselves and first responders at risk because there were no plans to care for pets (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll178.xml>). Again, he was the only Iowa lawmaker in the House or Senate to oppose that legislation. Senator Thune also favored this bill, and President Bush signed it into law in 2006.

Below is a more detailed record of his votes against animal protection. You'll see here that he's also opposed legislation to crack down on horse slaughter; to stop bear baiting on federal lands; to spend

millions of taxpayer dollars on federal predator control programs; and to oppose efforts to protect cranes, bison, and other popular wildlife species.

108th Congress(2003-04)

- Voted against an amendment to bar the National Park Service and Forest Service from using federal funds to kill Yellowstone bison. (H.R. 4568)
- Voted against an amendment to prohibit the use of funds for bear baiting on federal lands. (H.R. 2691)
- Voted against an amendment to strike down provisions in an energy bill that would allow oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. (H.R. 6)

109th Congress(2005-06)

- Voted against a bill to bar the transport, possession, purchase, or sale of horses to be slaughtered for human consumption. (H.R. 503)
- Voted for an amendment to delay implementation of the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. (Amendment to H.R. 503)
- Voted against an amendment to prohibit the Bureau of Land Management from using tax dollars for the sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros. (H.R. 2361)
- Voted against a bill to require state and local authorities to consider the needs of people with pets and service animals in their disaster planning. (P.L. 109-308)

110th Congress (2007-08)

- Voted against the Animal Fighting Enforcement Prohibition Act, which was signed into law in 2007 and strengthened the penalties for illegal dogfighting and cockfighting, making it a felony to transport animals across state lines for these gruesome and barbaric fights. (H.R. 137)
- Voted against a bill to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros. (H.R. 249)
- Voted against an amendment to bar federal funding that permits the import of sport-hunted polar bear trophies from Canada. (H.R. 2643)
- Voted against a bill to assist conservation programs that protect rare dog and cat species outside North America and Europe. (H.R. 1464)
- Voted against a bill to provide assistance to conservation programs aimed at helping imperiled crane populations in the U.S. and around the world. (H.R. 1771)
- Voted against a bill to prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in primates for the pet trade. (H.R. 2964)

111th Congress (2009-10)

- Voted to uphold an amendment to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from proceeding with plans to collect greenhouse gas emissions data from factory farms. (P.L. 111-88)
- Voted against a bill to authorize additional grants for marine turtle conservation projects in foreign countries, expand eligibility to include projects in the U.S., and increase authorized funding levels. (H.R. 509)
- Voted against a bill to establish a more effective recovery program for the severely declining population of Southern sea otters. (H.R. 556)
- Voted against a bill to once again prohibit the commercial sale and slaughter of free-roaming horses and burros, and make holding facilities more humane, effective, and fiscally responsible. (H.R. 1018)

- Voted for an amendment to remove the federal ban on carrying loaded firearms in national parks. (P.L. 111-24)
- Voted against a bill to fund conservation programs that protect rare dog and cat species outside of North America and Europe. (H.R. 411)
- Voted against a bill to fund conservation programs for imperiled crane populations in the U.S. and around the world. (H.R. 388)
- Voted against a bill to prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in primates for the pet trade. (H.R. 80)

Midterm 112th Congress (2011-12)

- Voted against amendments to cap agriculture subsidies that would limit huge taxpayer giveaways to commodity growers. (H.R. 1/H.R. 2112)
- Voted against an amendment to save millions of taxpayer dollars by ending subsidies for lethal predator control for ranchers. (H.AMDT.471/H.R. 2112)
- Voted against an amendment to remove a devastating rider that would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from protecting any new species or designating critical habitat for currently listed species. (H.R. 2584)
- Voted against McGovern amendment to the Farm bill to make it a crime to attend a dogfight or cockfight or to bring a child to an animal fighting venture. That amendment was approved by the House Agriculture Committee.