

## ABOUT NAIA

The mission of the National Animal Interest Alliance is to promote the welfare of animals, strengthen the human-animal bond, and safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners. Our members are pet owners, dog and cat clubs, obedience clubs and rescue groups, as well as breeders, trainers, veterinarians, animal scientists, farmers, anglers, hunters, and wildlife biologists.

Many of America's most respected authorities on animal welfare, animal management, animals and public policy, and responsible pet ownership belong to NAIA. We're a traditional organization with an educational approach. We support the rights of others to disagree with our views, but not to break the law or use threats, lies, intimidation, harassment, or violence to force their views on others.

NAIA supports animal welfare and the rights of animal owners by:

- Providing factual information to the public about animals and animal welfare issues
- Creating programs to improve the care and welfare of animals
- Helping local animal welfare groups achieve their mission
- Helping local authorities write reasonable laws that target irresponsible ownership practices and inhumane treatment of animals while safeguarding the rights of responsible animal owners
- Supporting enforcement of state and federal laws that mandate the proper treatment of animals and provide penalties for animal abuse



## NAIA MEMBERSHIP

I (we) offer the following support for NAIA activities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Friend (\$35)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Champion (\$100)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Steward (\$250)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Benefactor (\$500)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Angel (\$1,000)**

*All members receive a beautiful NAIA logo pin*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

To learn more about NAIA, visit our award-winning website at [www.naiaonline.org](http://www.naiaonline.org) and join online!



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## Animal Welfare and Animal Rights

### Learn the Difference!



### Legislation, Language, and Wolves in Sheeps' Clothing



### National Animal Interest Alliance

*Our members feed, clothe,  
heal, comfort, entertain,  
inform, and protect the world*

[www.naiaonline.org](http://www.naiaonline.org)



### PICTURES WORTH MORE THAN WORDS

Do pictures of neglected or abused animals make you feel sad or angry? Of course they do -- as they should! But don't let yourself be manipulated by the imagery.

It pulls on the heartstrings of any compassionate person who sees images of sickly animals in filthy, cramped conditions. It spurs a desire to act, a desire to do something to put an end to such horrors. But it is important to step back and ask a few questions before opening your wallet or leaping on the legislative bandwagon:

- What do these images represent?
- Are these images representative of an industry or practice as a whole, or of an irresponsible or incompetent outlier?
- Are the images you are seeing depicting situations that are already illegal?
- What are the ultimate goals of the people who are presenting the images to you? Legislation? Fundraising? Do they want to put an end to the cruelty they are showing you, or are they trying to promote another agenda altogether?

### DO THE ANIMAL GROUPS YOU SUPPORT SHARE YOUR BELIEFS?

Donating to an animal group can be worthwhile, but you should be careful to familiarize yourself with a group's background and philosophy first. Is it an animal welfare group or an animal rights group? It is important to know the difference!

**Animal welfare** is a philosophy that advocates that people who keep and utilize animals have a moral responsibility to assure their well-being, and to protect them from abuse and unnecessary suffering.

**Animal rights** is a philosophy that feels animals should be viewed as legal persons, not property, and that they should not be used as food, for clothing, in research, or entertainment.

Given the fact that the vast majority of Americans are philosophically closer to animal welfare than animal rights, many animal rights groups have become careful to couch their arguments in terms of protection in order to mask their abolitionist agenda. The best way to discern a group's true philosophy is to make yourself aware of their legislative history and agenda.

If you view your beloved pet as your property, eat an occasional steak, wear leather or wool, support animal research, and attend rodeos and/or the zoo, it might be a good idea to take another look into the agenda of the animal groups you support. If you are donating to PETA or The Humane Society of the United States (a group unaffiliated with local humane societies) you may very well be funding legislative efforts to change your lifestyle in ways you do not want!



### WHY LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT

Recent legislative efforts to replace the term "Owner" with the gentler sounding "Guardian" seem kind-hearted on the surface. And these efforts are even supported by many dog owners who have not yet considered the ramifications of such a seemingly innocuous change.

But such changes in terminology have legal consequences: if you no longer "own" your dog, you no longer have the property rights to use your knowledge and values to protect him, and restrictions on your rights to breed, sell, or show your dog become much easier to legislate. And the people who are pushing hardest to change dog owners' status to "guardian" know this. It's important *you* know this, too!

So continue to love and respect your animals, and please continue supporting reasonable cruelty laws and restrictions. They make a positive difference! And just as importantly: make sure you are aware of who shares your values and goals and who doesn't before donating to any animal groups or supporting any animal legislation!