



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK**

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR LEG-GRIPPING TRAP BAN A.110/S.1619

**TO: ASSEMBLYMEMBER GLICK, CHAIR, ENCON COMMITTEE;
SENATOR HARCKHAM, CHAIR, ENCON COMMITTEE**

CC: ASSEMBLYMEMBER LINDA ROSENTHAL AND SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO, JR.



Photo © Wildlife Watch

Our heartbreaking poster boy in support of this bill is Rackus, a raccoon who chewed off his right hand, then months later chewed off his left paw. Although his strong will to live gave him back his freedom, he was left without the ability to find food or even eat normally.

Raccoons' hands are as important to them as our eyes are to us. Please visit this video from Nature PBS:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/w2KaLgR5nQM>

It's clear that without their hands, staying alive becomes impossible as raccoons rely on their sense of touch to find food and eat.

In addition to target species, non-target animals fall victim to traps and suffer terribly before dying. Please see: <https://awionline.org/aw-quarterly/2016-spring/caught-mistake-pets-suffer-serious-steel-jaw-leghold-trap-injuries>

Further, not only are wild mammals caught in leg-gripping traps, but protected wildlife, dogs and cats, have suffered and lost their limbs and lives in these traps as well.



Photo: thefurbearers.com

I personally was afraid to bring my own dogs along for hikes because of what had happened to the beloved dogs of friends. (Upon request, I would be happy to share their traumatic experiences.)

We urge the EnCon Committee of the Assembly and Senate to report this bill favorably for the following reasons. The bill will:

- Prevent the extreme suffering of target and nontarget victims of leg-gripping traps.
- Prevent the indiscriminate killing of non-target wildlife including raptors. One trapper estimated that he found two non-target species in his traps for every target species he trapped.
- Prevent raptors and domestic animals from being injured or killed in leg-gripping traps.

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.