



Karen Levenson

Candidate, Guelph

Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada
(AAEV Party of Canada)

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Karen Levenson is the Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada (AAEV) candidate in Guelph.

Karen is involved in campaigns to end Canada's commercial seal hunt, to end cosmetic and household product testing on animals, and to stop the use of animals in research. Karen is also a consultant with the Humane Society of the United States' ProtectSeals campaign.

Karen's career began in the advertising industry, where she spent 25 years creating T.V., radio and print advertising for high profile clients. She became involved in the issue of animals in research while working as a senior writer for several international advertising agencies with pharmaceutical clients. While working on advertising campaigns for new drugs, she began to read about the horrific and tortuous research that animals – mostly dogs and cats – were subjected to in the name of science. After learning that much of the experimentation on these former pets was simply replication of already completed studies, Karen became committed to helping end the use of abusive research and testing on animals.

Karen spearheaded *Harper's By-Law*, a trapping by-law in Guelph which City Counsellors made law in 2009 after a little Jack Russell Terrier, named Harper, was caught in a Conibear trap in an area of Preservation Park that is used as an off-leash dog walking area in December 2006.

Karen's commitment to helping those in need does not stop with animals. In 2003, she helped initiate a creative writing program with Spark of Brilliance and taught writing to people with mental health issues. She helped establish support groups for people with mental health issues in rural communities north of Guelph while on contract at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Wellington/Dufferin Branch, at Orchard Park, in Guelph.

Having grown up on the east coast of Massachusetts, Karen has a special interest in marine ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity of marine life. Her love of horses inspires her to help end horse slaughter in Canada.

Karen graduated Magna cum Laude from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. She earned an MA in film and video from York University in Toronto.