

# FACT CHECK: Ballot Initiative 16 (PAUSE)

**What is Initiative 16?** Initiative 16 is a ballot initiative that:

- **Criminalizes farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians** who use commonly accepted animal husbandry practices to care for animals.
- **Changes state statutory language** to define common animal care practices as “cruelty to animals.”
- **Criminalizes the following veterinary and animal husbandry practices:** spaying and neutering, reproductive practices (artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, fertility testing), and more.
- **Bans slaughter** for animals that have lived less than 25 percent of their “natural” lifespan -- which is far greater than the customary age of harvest.
- **Eliminates common animal husbandry practices**, opening the door to animal cruelty prosecution for basic practices such as feeding, sheltering, and transportation.

**What will Initiative 16 do?** If approved by Colorado voters, Initiative 16 will:

- **Drive pet overpopulation and unwanted pets** by criminalizing spay and neuter practices intended to reduce pet overpopulation in Colorado.
- **Threaten animal health in Colorado** by prohibiting the types of procedures veterinarians are permitted to do.
- **Reduce the availability of certain dog breeds** in Colorado due to limitations on artificial insemination.
- **Result in practices that are bad for animals and the environment** by requiring detrimental production practices, and significantly increase consumer cost of meat.

**What can I do?** You can help protect animal health in Colorado!

- **Educate your friends and community** on the impact this initiative would have on animals in Colorado.
- Check the CVMA website regularly for the latest updates and how you can get involved: [colovma.org/legislative/pause](https://colovma.org/legislative/pause)
- If you are a veterinarian, add your voice by joining CVMA as a member: [colovma.org/membership](https://colovma.org/membership)