

Help Prevent Animal Collisions in CT and Keep Each Other Safe

Link for my pledge:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUYYM3ctQDjrFMb2eFIQXg8xOiDe4lpD_dG5MB-2wqef9c1w/viewform?fbclid=IwY2xjawKR55BleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETFNTk9vSzFSTjBpR3hMN3pSAR755eHIM509Unsr-yABxvWSbSHpHtrrgqSrwAWO5AZL5DlOITuhW7FPbi87mA_aem_WaR4lpT_udm-dRf7_rHUhQ

QR Code



Did you know that in CT alone there were an estimated 10,000 animal collisions between the years 2022–2023? Animals feel pain and suffering just like you and I do. Animal collisions can leave an animal unconscious on the side of the road for hours and rip families apart. Not only that but they can be dangerous for the person driving and have serious repercussions.

Sign my pledge today and make the promise to be a safer driver!



Help Prevent Animal Collisions in CT!



**200 HUMAN
DEATHS, 26,000
INJURIES, AND \$8
BILLION OR MORE IN
PROPERTY DAMAGES**



**4,600 DEER
CRASHES
ARE
REPORTED
ANNUALLY IN
CT**

**IN 2022-2023
THERE WAS AN
ESTIMATED
10,000
ANIMAL
COLLISIONS
IN CT**

**50-70% OF
ANIMAL
COLLISIONS GO
UNREPORTED IN
THE U.S. EQUAL
TO 1 TO 2
MILLION EACH
YEAR**



Help report
animal collisions
in CT

What You Can Do

- SLOW DOWN ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT
- USE HIGH BEAMS IF YOU NEED TO
- PAY ATTENTION TO WILDLIFE SIGNS
- BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS
- IF YOU SEE AN ANIMAL DON'T SWERVE!
- BRAKE FIRMLY!



**PROTECT NATIVE
WILDLIFE THEY
MATTER TOO!
SIGN THE PLEDGE
TODAY!**

My goal was to gain awareness and concern for the ongoing issue of animal car crashes specifically in the state of CT, where I often see dead animals lying on the side of the road. I posted a pledge with a caption on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat along with an infographic.

Seeing animals lie lifeless and hopeless on the side of the road after being hit by a car, lying there for who knows how long always used to sadden me as a kid. Sometimes a lot of people don't realize that the animal does not die on impact, but instead can suffer for hours on the side of the road. It's completely unfair for them to have to go through this, just because they wanted to cross the road. Little did they know that travelling from point A to point B would cost them their life, and something so simple as crossing the road would not be able to be done.

Although I originally wanted to reach out to policy makers and send a petition to them as well I had some difficulty figuring out who exactly I was supposed to send it to and how to get in contact with them. Even after doing extensive research the only reasonable organization I could find would be the CT Department of Transportation (CT DOT). I messaged the CT DOT, but did not receive a response until weeks later, and by then I had already chosen to go another route. My pledge used emotional impact and collective action together. I feel like emotional impact was the strongest concept I could use here, and I showcased that in the images I placed on my infographic and my wording choice such as in my captions on social media and in my infographic and blog post. I want people to care about this topic and understand that it is an unfortunate thing for an animal to go through, enough so that they are willing to sign a pledge that promises that they will try their best to follow posted speed limits and be attentive when driving. This also is an example of collective action because it attributes responsibility to the person signing it, and it encourages them to make a promise to be safer drivers in their area.

Something I can definitely improve for next time is trying to be more comfortable with reaching out to my local government policy makers like the mayor for example who my family is fairly acquainted with, and overcoming that fear of having to talk to policy makers. In the future this could help me with creating a petition to then gain attention on the issue to my local policy makers. This could help at least bring some attention to the issue on the government side, even if my end goals are not met. Another challenge for me was my audience size, and being so far away from home it was hard to garner support for an issue without physically being there and not being able to go to different places and simply ask for signatures, like in the library, or at a family gathering or at my local park. This limited the scope of my project and also the amount of signatures I received. Throughout this project I

learned that it is difficult just to make people care. I received some no responses and some people who refused to share the posts on Instagram. While my more specific goal of meeting at least 50 signatures for my pledge was not met, I came really close to it with 30 responses and feel like I have caught the attention of my family and close friends and raised more awareness and education on the issue.

Furthermore, while I understand not all animal collisions are preventable, it is helpful to do our best and be the safest when driving for the benefit of everyone. By placing the blame on some other reason we take away responsibility from ourselves, and although not enough research is done on this issue a lot of the times accidents can happen from speeding, being distracted. By signing this pledge they have to promise to be safer and more attentive when driving and to follow the law. Most animal collisions happen in rural areas and at evening or night time, with little traffic, meaning in some cases these are preventable.

Helping prevent animal collisions on the road can also help save a mama possum carrying her babies, a mama deer crossing to find food for her baby hidden in the bushes, or a turtle simply trying to get to the other side. Together we can raise awareness on this issue, and encourage others to spread the news. Thank you for doing your part in helping our native wildlife!

The lives of animals matter too and they depend on you!
Sign my pledge today and promise to drive safely on our roads in order to
protect our native CT animals.

Be a part of helping make our roads safer for all!



The animals thank you! :)

Sources

1. Garvey, S. (2021, March 29). *Myth busters – Wildlife collisions don't just happen!* Safety Driven – Trucking Safety Council of BC.
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2. Leaveanworth, J. (2023, September 18). *State Farm report shows how often CT drivers hit deer, other animals with their cars.* SF Gate.
<https://www.sfgate.com/connecticut/article/car-animal-crash-ct-state-farm-18372943.php>
3. Skroch, M., & Hilaire, T. St. (2021, May 10). *Wildlife-vehicle collisions are a big and costly problem and Congress can help.* The Pew Charitable Trusts.
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/05/10/wildlife-vehicle-collisions-are-a-big-and-costly-problem-and-congress-can-help>