

**Q+A with Haze Lynn:
Social Compassion in Legislation's Board Member**

Q: When did you realize animals were important to you?

A: I've always loved animals, ever since I was a young child. Growing up, I was absolutely drawn to animals and always had pets. I don't know if there are any words that can really express what drew me to them, but I have always felt a special connection with them. I never had a sister so my parents got me a dog, but she wasn't a puppy. They got her from a woman who couldn't show her as her feet didn't have the right confirmation for dog shows. Her name was Fancy and I tried everything to become her favorite person, but she loved my brother. I remember when he went to college, I moved into his room thinking she would now sleep with me. Fancy then moved out to another room!

Q: Can you share a special animal memory with us?

A: The day I adopted my first dog out of college, Lyric, I went for a walk with her. She wasn't a puppy and was basically agoraphobic, meaning she was completely afraid of being outside. She didn't know me and I didn't know her, but as we were walking, a guy came up behind me with a hood over his face and tried to grab me. In that split second, I thought she was trying to run away from me. But all of a sudden, she found her courage and stepped between me and the guy and pushed him off of me. From that day on, we had an instant bond and I knew we could go through anything together, and we got to spend 11 great years together.

Q: What is your spirit animal and why?

A: I would have to say dolphin, but not just because I'm a Pisces. There's something about dolphins that I'm drawn to - they're mystical, beautiful, and incredibly kind. Dolphins are loyal and stick with their family, but they can also fight and defend themselves when they need to, which is something I can really relate to.

Q: How did you first get involved with Social Compassion in Legislation and what is your role as a member of the board?



A: When Judie Mancuso, SCIL's founder and CEO, was working on AB1634, the spay and neuter bill, my friend emailed me about it. I immediately sent Judie a message and asked if she was behind the bill. After a bit of messaging online, I became very involved with that particular piece of legislation. I worked to get a ton of cities and police departments on board to support that bill, and then we never parted because I was hooked. I became SCIL's first board member in 2007, and since then I help whenever we need rescue, city, or police department support— I enjoy going after municipalities and shelters to get coalitions on board.

Q: What animal movie is important to you and why?

A: The movie I connected to as a child is Benji. It's a rescue story about an average brown mutt, and it's something that made a mark on me and I carried with me throughout my life. That's what my organization, Take Me Home, focuses on— getting those dogs a home. We love helping the mutt who might be overlooked.

Q: What led you to found the project Take Me Home?

A: When I graduated college, I wanted to adopt a rescue dog and my brother runs a very large festival company. He had this idea to combine the worlds of rock and rescue, and that's how 'Take Me Home' began. Our first board member was Chester Bennington from Linkin Park. I helped him find a dog, which led to helping other rock stars adopt rescues, too. Take Me Home actually travels with my brother's festival company and we work with famous rock bands to promote animal adoption and spay and neuter. We fund local spay and neuter programs across the country and around the world. Any money we raise at the festival we pour back into underserved communities. We buy dog beds, crates, medicine, and provide spay and neuter programs - basically anything we can do to help alleviate dogs being put down nationwide. We also use marketing and band promotion to encourage people to adopt. These issues are near and dear to my heart, and also what led me to joining Social Compassion in Legislation.

Q: What is the law you are most proud of passing and why?

A: I would say the Pet Rescue and Adoption Act, which requires pet stores to only sell animals that are rescues as opposed to continuing to support the breeder industry and the Cruelty-Free Cosmetic Act. These bills address issues I'm passionate about, and while I love every animal, I'm excited when we work on spay and neuter, puppy mills, and animal testing issues.

Q: Who inspires you?



A: Judie Mancuso. Watching her take the heat when we worked together on AB 1634, (a spay and neuter bill), from the ruthless breeders was remarkable. She put up a fight, and even though that bill did not pass, the amount of noise we created was out of this world. Judie took a lot of bullets and really was a champion for the animals. I gained so much respect for her during that time, which is why I am Social Compassion in Legislation's longest standing board member.

Q: Why are greyhounds commonly used at commercial blood banks?

A: For a couple of reasons: First, they are docile breed, and in animal testing in general they pick breeds that are submissive and sweet, which is why they would be used in blood banks, too. Additionally, they have a universal blood type which can be used to treat any breed. This is great and we should use greyhound blood for this reason, but they shouldn't be held captive. They should be in loving, comfortable homes and donate without suffering.

Q: Community-based animal blood banks aren't legal in California, but they are in all other states. Why is that?

A: I'm so surprised myself that we don't allow them here— to allow the general public to use their animal to give another animal life is, to me, so much more humane than the current model. I think it began in the 1970s, when licensing animal blood started following a deadly outbreak of the bird virus. At the time, using colonies of dogs was seen as the safest way to limit a donor's exposure to diseases that could be deadly to a recipient. This is not the case anymore, and thriving programs across the country use household pets. The animals can give blood and go home, and be with their family instead of serving as a blood slave. California has fallen behind in compassionate animal blood donations and hopefully this bill will end our inhumane practices.

Q: AB 1282, the California Pet Blood Bank Modernization Act would allow for volunteer/ community based donations, but how can an individual support this bill?

A: Anyone can help by signing support letters to show they care about this bill. If you work somewhere like a rescue center, you can write support letters from your organization. Even as an individual, you can collect letters from your neighbors, friends and family— the more community outreach the better chances we have of getting the bills passed because the legislators really do care about what their constituents think. Supporters can also call their legislators to tell them you're a constituent and that you want them to support the bill. Lastly, donations always help since there's so many costs that go into getting a bill passed, and every dollar helps!

