



MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE

P.O. Box 23 Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 476-8444

www.monroe-animals.org

AN INDEPENDENT, ALL VOLUNTEER, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO HELPING THE ANIMALS IN MONROE COUNTY SINCE 1943

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2003

House bill 709 Passed the full House unanimously (194-0) on May 5, 2003. Representative DiGirolamo's bill amends the Animal Cruelty Law, and increases the maximum jail penalty for a misdemeanor of the first degree from 2 years to 5 years under Section 5511 (a)(2.1). This applies to those who kill, maim, mutilate, torture or disfigure dogs or cats. It also increases the penalty under Section 5511 (c) for those convicted of a second or subsequent offense of cruelty to dogs or cats from a summary to a misdemeanor of the third degree. Representative Gannon amended the bill in the House Judiciary Committee to enable a judge to limit ownership or custody of animals for a period of time for those guilty of animal cruelty. Representative George amended the bill to enable the judge to limit the defendant's employment with the care of animals for a period of time.

Please call your state senator immediately and ask him or her to support this bill!
Please call your state representative and thank him or her for voting in favor of HB 709.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 709 Session of 2003

INTRODUCED BY DIGIROLAMO, ALLEN, BARD, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BROWN, BUXTON, CASORIO, CAUSER, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CORNELL, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, DALLY, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, KELLER, KENNEY, KOTIK, LaGROTTA, LEACH, MARKOSEK, McNAUGHTON, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, RAYMOND, READSHAW, ROONEY, RUBLEY, RUFFING, SAINATO, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, STABACK, TAGRETTI, TRUE, WATSON, WEBER AND WILT, MARCH 6, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICARY, MARCH 6, 2003

AN ACT

- 1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
- 2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for cruelty to
- 3 animals.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:
6 Section 1. Section 4411 (a) (2.1) (ii) of Title 18 of the
7 Pennsylvania consolidated Statutes, amended December 9, 2002
8 (P.L.1439, No. 183), is amended and the section is amended by
9 adding a subsection to read:
10 §5511. Cruelty to animals.
11 (a) Killing, maiming or poisoning domestic animals or zoo
12 animals, etc. --
13 ★ ★ ★
14 (2.1) ★ ★ ★
15 (ii) Any person convicted of violating the

1 provisions of this paragraph shall be sentenced to pay a
2 fine of not less than \$1,000 or to imprisonment for not
3 more than (two) five years, or both. The court may also
4 order a presentence mental evaluation. A subsequent
5 conviction under this paragraph shall be a felony of the
6 third degree. This paragraph shall apply to dogs and cats
7 only.

8 ★ ★ ★
9 (m.2) Certain offenses. – In addition to any other penalty
10 provided by law, a person convicted of a second or subsequent
11 offense of cruelty to animals involving a dog or cat under
12 subsection © shall be charged with a misdemeanor of the third
13 degree.

14 ★ ★ ★
15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately

PENNSYLVANIA PET LAW

ALL dogs 3 months or older to have a current license, due January 1, each year.

ALL dogs and cats 3 months or older must be vaccinated against rabies.

Dogs must not be allowed to run loose, they must be under the owners control at all times. Owners are responsible for damage caused by their dog(s). Note: Some towns have laws pertaining to cats roaming also.

To abandon or attempt to abandon any animal, fines ranges from \$300 - \$1000, plus court costs.

To barter, trade, sell, give away or transfer any dog under 7 weeks old.

To operate a kennel that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, gives away, or transfers over 26 dogs you must have a current kennel license.

All animals must have proper shelter, the shelter must be shaded in the summer, and protected from the wind in the winter. Shelter must maintain body heat in the winter and keep pets cool in the summer.

All pets must have food, water and veterinary care.

Animal fighting is prohibited.

A person commits a summary offense if cruelly, ill treats, abuses, or neglects any animal.

It is unlawful to offer as a prize any live animal, except goldfish, in any game, raffle, or event.

All dogs must wear their license tag when in public.

SUMMER CARE TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR PET

Summer is a time for both you and your pet to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors, but along with the fun, the season also offers up situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen.

Healthy pets tolerate summer heat better so make sure their protective inoculations are up to date. **Dogs** need inoculations for distemper, and parvovirus (DHLP). **Cats** need distemper/rhino/calicivirus boosters. **Puppies and kittens** especially need this protection, and a stool sample check for worms. Rabies shots for cats and dogs are needed every 3 years. Check with your veterinarian to see if your pets should be taking heartworm prevention medication. Heartworm disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, can be fatal in both dogs and cats.

Grooming – Brush, comb and trim your pet to prevent matted and overlong fur. Ears and body need ventilation to prevent infection. Do not shave your pet as fur protects against sunburn and insulates from heat and insect bites.

Keep Fido and Tabby cool – Never leave a dog tied in midday sun, nor housed in an unshaded doghouse. Furred animals have a “heat dissipation” problem. They cannot perspire, so their temperature “spikes” quickly. Be extra sensitive to old and overweight animals as well as those with heart or lung disease in hot weather. They should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible. Cats should always be kept indoors.

Never leave your pet in a parked car on a muggy day. On an 85-degree day, with the windows slightly open the temperature in a car can reach 120 degrees in a matter of minutes. Dogs and cats are unable to perspire and can only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. A dog’s normal temperature is 105.5 – 102.2 degrees. It can withstand 107 – 108 degrees F for only a short time without experiencing brain damage or death. Dogs have suffered heatstroke from just riding in cars on hot, humid days, or without good ventilation. Signs – Glazed look, staggering, bluish tongue and gums, no response to command, fever up to 110 degrees, rapid heartbeat, collapse or convulsions. Vomiting may also occur. Pups, geriatric dogs, obese dogs, heavy breeds and short-nosed dogs are more susceptible to heat stress. Cats can also suffer in small carriers, cars or hot stuffy rooms. If you see an animal in a parked car during the summer, alert the management of the shopping mall or grocery store. If the owner does not return promptly, call local animal control or the police.

Heat exhaustion or prostration may follow over-exertion – The onset is less rapid than heatstroke, and is characterized by fatigue, muscular weakness, and circulatory collapse. Death may result, sometimes as a complication of cardiovascular disease.

Treatment for heatstroke – Reduce fever rapidly to prevent death or brain damage. Immerse the dog in ice water or spray with cold water from a garden hose. Put ice packs on the head and neck. Next, get the dog to a veterinarian for treatment.

Fresh water – Maintain fluid intake, but not ice water. Change water as needed to provide your pet with a generous supply of cool, fresh, clean water.

Foods – Remove any uneaten food in hot weather to prevent spoilage. You will have the added benefit of not attracting flies, mosquitoes, skunks or raccoons.

Housing – Keeping a pet outdoors in wet areas of the property increases the risk of worms, mosquito bites (heartworm source), fleas, ticks and maggots. Flies lay eggs on hairless, feces-soiled or open wound areas. In 24 hours, maggots feed on the raw flesh and filth. Keep outdoor pets clean and dry. Tip: Indoor pets are safer, healthier and happier.

Injuries – It is very dangerous, and in some states illegal, to drive with a dog in the back of a pick-up truck. Not only can flying debris cause serious injury, but a dog may be unintentionally thrown into traffic if the drive suddenly hits the brakes, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs should ride either in the cab (in a crate or wearing a seat belt harness designed for dogs) or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.

Screen all windows to prevent accidental escape and/or injury. Many feline deaths result from falls from upper story windows. Never use metal fans without mesh guard encasing the blades.

Sunburn – Pets can get sunburned too, and your pet may require sunscreen on his or her nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.

Allergies – Allergies may be caused from inhalants (pollen) and by contact to (powders, grasses, etc.) that are common in the summer. Symptoms are skin itch, watery nose, and swelling of eyes, face or throat. Please see your veterinarian.

Accidental poisoning – Summer is often a time when people fertilize their lawns and work in their gardens. But beware: plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides can be fatal if your pet ingests them. In addition, more than 700 plants can produce physiologically active or toxic substances in sufficient amounts to cause harmful effects in animals. Call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-4ANI-HELP if you suspect that your animal has been poisoned.

Exercise – Do not cycle or jog with a dog on hot, hazy or humid days, and don't exercise him at midday. Limit walking to the early morning or evening hours. Keep in mind that asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws. Leash walk all dogs to protect them from accidents, poisoning, fights, property damage loss or theft.

July 4th – A trial for dogs, some of whom bolt and are never seen again. Loud noises hurt both dog's and cat's sensitive ears. Don't use fireworks.

Fleas and ticks – Another summertime threat is fleas and ticks. Fleas transmit tapeworms, and some pets are allergic to fleas. Ticks are known to cause Lyme disease. There are many products available to kill or repel fleas and ticks, but please remember to use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian, and be sure to follow the directions carefully. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.

Traveling with pets – If you plan on traveling with your pet during the summer, take the time to prepare for your furry friends in advance. Many airlines have summer pet embargoes, and most trains and ships do not allow pets other than service animals. The HSUS has information on traveling with your pet that may make the difference between a pleasant trip and a vacation nightmare.

Don't take your pets to crowded summer events such as concerts or fairs. The loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat, can be stressful and dangerous for pets. For your pet's well being, leave her at home.

Dog bites rise during the summer months when people and their pets spend more time outside. Spaying or neutering your dog reduces the likelihood that he will bite and provides many other health benefits.

Make sure your pet is always wearing a collar and identification tag. If you are separated from your pet, an ID tag may very well be his or her ticket home.

Pets and pools can equal disaster – Prevent free access to pools and always supervise a pet in a pool.

Tips provided by HSUS, ASPCA and the Foundation for Animal Protection, Inc.

FREE HEAT KILLS WARNING CARDS

The Monroe Animal League has designed cards for you to place on the windshields of parked cars or trucks that have pets left inside on hot days. The front of the card states that heat kills, and the back of the card lists the symptoms of heat stroke. By placing a card, you may help prevent the death or brain damage of a pet whose owner doesn't know how soon the inside of a parked vehicle can reach 120 degrees even with the windows left slightly open. These cards are available to the public free of charge. For more information on how to receive your free cards phone our office at 570-476-8444 (24 hours.), or visit us on the web at www.monroe-animals.org.



THE MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE HELD IT'S FIRST AUCTION ON APRIL 30, 2003

The League would like to thank all who supported our auction by donating items, refreshments, baked goods, working and attending our first auction. Since we had never had an auction before, it was quite a learning experience for our group and we are very pleased to announce that it was a success! MAL has decided to make the auction an annual event as a part of our fund-raising efforts to help the animals of Monroe County.

The League would also like to announce that we had a good turnout at our bi-annual rabies clinic that was held on May 17th. We again offer our thanks to all who attended and those who helped in any way. If, by chance, you were unable to attend this clinic, we are having another in the fall of this year, and are looking forward to seeing you there.

THE CRUELEST SHOW ON EARTH

Say NO to Animal Circuses, by the Animal Protection Institute tells you how to welcome the circus.

The height of the circus season is drawing near, so it's time to take advantage of API's free 30 sheet billboards that encourage potential patrons in cities along the circus route NOT to attend these shows that are so cruel to the animals who are forced to perform in them. Along with API's name, there is space for local groups to add their name as well.

In addition to our English-language billboards, API also has some billboards with text in Spanish.

API has taken care of design and production costs, so all activists need to do is locate a company that sells billboard and space (look under “Advertising” then “Outdoor” in the Yellow Pages), and pay the costs to post the billboard(s). Activists can also use API’s non-profit status to get a lower cost and API will also pay for the cost of shipping, but supplies are limited, so reserve your billboard space today! In addition, most billboard companies need a few months time to reserve space – especially if you’d like to pick your location – so now’s the time to call.

API also has circus posters available as well as flyers to hand out at circus demonstrations. See our website to view the billboards and posters. Api4animals.org. For more information contact Sharie Lesniak at sharie@api4animals.org or 916-447-3085 ext. 216.

PETITION FOR ANIMAL CONTROL

We would like to remind you that we did not forget about the petition for animal control. The League has been extremely busy, but we have managed to assemble a committee to handle this task. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR MR. Z’S AND KINSLEY’S SHOPRITE REGISTER RECEIPTS!

THE MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE PET WALK

Our pet walk was held on May 4, and we thought you would enjoy looking at some photos of our participants.



PHOTO OF CAKES WITH THE MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE’S LOGO

Fran Marlin baked these cakes especially for our auction. She did such a great job that we just had to include a photo of the cakes and offer her a special thanks.



COMING EVENTS:

CLAM BAKE – May 31, 1-6 PM. Rain or shine, at Linda's Hide-A-Way. 28 E. 1st St., East Stroudsburg. Featuring entertainment, raffles all day, sausage & hot dogs at 1 PM, steak, corn on the cob & salads at 5 PM, along with unlimited clams, beer & soda. \$30 per adult & \$10 per child under 12. Phone MAL at 476-8444 or Linda's at 422-9116 for more info or to donate items needed for raffles.

ANNUAL YARD SALE – Saturday, July 19, 9 AM to 5 PM at U-Lock-It-Of-Poconos, Rt. 611, Tannersville. We need volunteers & donations to help make this a success. Items for the sale can be dropped off at our office on Tues. & Fri. between the hrs of 10 AM to 2 PM or we can arrange for pick up. No clothing or junk. Phone 476-8444 or visit us on the web at www.monroe-animals.org for more info.

WEST END FAIR – August 24 thru 30 – Be sure to visit our booth while roaming the fairgrounds to enter our free dog bone contest. Receive your free pet emergency decals, informative booklets & heat kills warning cards to place on the windshields of cars with pets left inside. Support the League by purchasing a membership, MAL T-shirt, sweatshirt, tickets for our cash raffle or by making a cash donation.

We had a special request to place this poem in our newsletter.

The Last Battle

If it should be that I grow frail and weak,
And pain should keep me from my sleep,
Then will you do what must be done,
For this – the last battle – can't be won.

You will be sad I understand,
Don't let your grief then stay your hand,
For this day, more than all the rest,
Your love and friendship must stand the test.

We have had so many happy years,
What is to come can hold no fears,
You would not want me to suffer so,
When the time comes, please, let me go.

Take me to where to my needs they'll tend,
Only, stay with me until the end,
And hold me firm and speak to me,
Until my eyes no longer see.

I know in time you will agree,
It is a kindness you do for me,
Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering I have been saved.
Don't grieve that it must be you,
Who has to decide this thing to do,
We've been so close – we two – these years,
Don't let your heart hold any tears.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

In Memory Of – Anna Ezzo, Keith R. John, Jacqueline A. Pastusak, Elmer S. Possinger, Martin R. Rinker, Jeanette Russell, Martha E. Savercool and Sharon Lynne Schweitzer

In Honor Of – Kathryn Mikels' birthday, and Vivian Valdin for her kindness to animals & pets.

Pets – In memory of Casper the white cat.

MAL WEB SITE

Please be patient as our web site is still under construction. The League consists of all volunteers who must also devote some time to their families and jobs. We are trying to provide the general public with as much helpful information as possible on a number of topics that may be of interest to pet owners and those considering adding a pet to their household. As time goes on, we will continue to add to our site. Please feel free to visit us anytime at www.monroe-animals.org to check for updates or leave a message on our board.

Pet health insurance may be of interest to some of the people who read our newsletter. I am in the process of reading articles concerning this type of insurance and trying to find some statistics as to which companies offer the most coverage for your dollar. Hopefully I'll have enough time to research and draw a conclusion in time for the fall newsletter.


REMINDER TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET



PLEASE COMPLETE OUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE

Supporters of the Monroe Animal League can make a lasting difference for the welfare of animals by including the Monroe Animal League in their will or insurance policy.

The official registration statement and financial information of the Monroe Animal League may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-973-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

	MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE 2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT)
NAME _____	
MAILING ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____	
PHONE _____ DATE _____	
NEW MEMBER	RENEWAL
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	\$ 10.00
DONATION (optional)	\$
ENDOWMENT FUND (optional)	\$
TOTAL	\$
I AM INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER _____	
Please make checks payable to: MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE	
PO Box 23	
Stroudsburg, PA 18360	
SPR/03	