

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals – 2003 – 2023

*This information has been assembled by the former FOHO WV Legislative Action group as a history of animal legislation in WV. It is intended for **educational** purposes serving as the only known Animal Law History for WV in existence. It is 82 pages long and has not been edited. Please excuse our errors as this data was posted daily from each WV Legislative Session. Note that the dates are from newest to oldest as we post east current day to garner support for necessary bills.*

Sylvia Shafer, Theresa Bruner and others are noted throughout by comments offered. Occasionally, we have provided guest comments from other Animal Welfare groups. Sylvia Shafer has provided most of the information both when she lobbied for Kanawha Charleston Humane and then later for WV Legislative Action and then finally West Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare. HSUS and others are noted as needed. This information is the property of WVVAW. It is an excellent educational reference but it is otherwise not available in total for publication unless permission is given.

If there is a question on this information please contact: wvvaw14@gmail.com

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals – 2003

Session 2003

CODE 7-10-4 EFFECTIVE JUNE 5, 2003

CHANGED BY HB 2301

The purpose of this bill provides funding for animals seized because of allegations of neglect. Under this plan, owners whose animals are seized must post a maintenance bond for the reasonable and necessary care of their animal, pending a hearing. If the care of the animal exceeds any posted bond amount, the debt incurred caring for the animal stands as a lien against the animal. The owner must pay before the animal can be returned. Upon conviction, the animal transfers to the humane officer for disposition.

1. The owner of the animal shall post a bond in an amount sufficient to provide reasonable costs of care, medical treatment for the animal for at least thirty days. The bond shall be filed with the court within five days following the court's finding of probable cause. At the end of the time for which expenses are covered by the original bond if the animal remains in the care of the humane officer and the owner desires to prevent disposition of the animal by the humane officer, the owner shall post an additional bond with the court within five days of the expiration of the original bond.

2. If a bond has been posted, the custodial animal care agency may draw from the bond the actual reasonable costs incurred by the agency in providing care, medical treatment and provisions to the impounded animal from the date of the initial impoundment to the date of the final disposition of the animal.

These changes to the law will accomplish the following:

1. Eliminate or reduce the expenses incurred by the facility housing the animal. This includes foster homes. Many counties do not prosecute cruelty due to the expense.
2. Will reduce the number of continuances.
3. Some owners will surrender the animals, rather than pay the bond. This will free space for shelters as it provides for an early disposition of the animal.
4. This does not stop enforcing code 61-8-19. The Legislature has asked that we be reasonable and cooperative with the defendants.

CODE 19-20-12 EFFECTIVE MAY 27, 2003

CHANGED BY SB 205

The purpose of this bill changes the criminal intent necessary for cruelty to a knowing or reckless stand. If anyone kills, attempts to kill, injures, poisons, kidnaps, steals or in any other manner causes the death or injury of a companion animal is guilty of a misdemeanor and must perform 30 to 90 days of public service and/or pay a \$300 to \$500 fine.

1. Adds the language of knowingly or recklessly.
2. Adds the exception that this law does not apply to a death or injury if the animal is killed or injured while attacking a person, a companion animal or livestock.
3. Removes from the law that recovery can not be had in excess of the assessed value.

CODE 61-8-19 EFFECTIVE MAY 27, 2003

CHANGED BY SB 205

The cruelty to animals code is now divided between neglect and intentional cruelty.

1. Withholding necessary food, shelter or care from such an animal is also a misdemeanor punishable by a \$300 to \$1,000 fine and/or up to a six month jail term. Any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be confined in the county or regional jail for a period of not less than ninety days nor more than one year, fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, or both. This is an increase in both of the fines. No person who has been convicted of a violation of this section may be granted probation until the defendant has undergone a complete psychiatric or psychological evaluation and the court has reviewed the evaluation. The previous law stated the evaluation was on the second offense. The court shall prohibit the possessing, owning or residing with an animal or type of animal for a period of five years following a misdemeanor conviction. This is new to the law.
2. If any person intentionally tortures or maliciously kills an animal, or causes, procures or authorizes any other person to torture or maliciously kill an animal, he or she is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in a correctional facility not less than one nor more than three years, and be fined not less than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars. For the purpose of this subsection, "torture" means an action taken for the primary purpose of inflicting pain. No person convicted of the provisions of this subsection may be granted probation until the defendant has undergone a complete psychiatric or psychological evaluation and the court has reviewed the evaluation. The court shall prohibit any person convicted from processing, owning or residing with any animal or type of animal for a period of fifteen years following entry of a felony conviction. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars and forfeiture of the animal.

CODE 61-8-19a EFFECTIVE JUNE 8, 2003

CHANGED BY HB 2753

1. Cockfighting remains a misdemeanor.
2. It becomes a felony to fight all other animals whether wild or domesticated. Upon conviction, the person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars and not more than five thousand dollars, and imprisoned in a state correction facility for not less than one nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

CODE 61-8-19b EFFECTIVE JUNE 8, 2003

CHANGED BY HB 2753

This is a new section to the code. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly attend an animal fighting venture. This was already law, but was moved into a new code. Any person convicted is guilty of a

misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars, or confined in the county or regional jail not more than one year, or both fined and imprisoned.

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals – 2004 (cannot find the summary of 04)

Session 2004

Posted March 8, 2004 by Sylvia Shafer

In the Senate session this morning, SB 723 was amended into HB 4167. This is good news as it will be a good law. The bill is in passage stage tomorrow and calls need to be made today to your Senators. Please tell them to vote for HB 4167. That is all that you need to say. Their secretaries will relay the message. Numbers count, so have as many people as you can make the calls. If you need telephone numbers, please email me.

If you cannot make the calls today, please call tomorrow before 10:30am.

If this bill passes, it must go back to the House. I will be emailing tomorrow asking to make calls to key people in the House to support HB 4167 as amended by the Senate. These calls will need to be made on Wed. If that occurs we need to contact in particular Delegate Beane from Wood County jdbeane@mail.wvnet.edu Also contact your own delegates. Your delegates can be accessed below in the link to the State Legislative site. You can retrieve email information and phone numbers. Sylvia

Posted March 4, 2004

It is important that we find out more about what happened to HJR 102. We all know how much this could help us in West Virginia. This is one of those occurrences that keeps us scratching our heads to figure out why? Delegate Bobbie Warner of Harrison County fought hard for this and we are grateful for her assistance. We will keep you posted.

Posted March 2, 04

HJR 102 – the animal friendly license spay neuter resolution failed the house today by 6 votes. Bobbi Warner, a delegate who sponsored this bill has 24 hours to resubmit it and is going to do but needs our help to get these last 6 votes! We lost by 6 votes many of them republican votes. We do not know why this happened. So please, please, please call or email some or as many as possible of the following delegates tonight.

Example:

Dear Delegate, Please support HJR 102, the animal friendly spay neuter license resolution. We spend \$3 million every year in West Virginia picking up, housing and disposing of unwanted animals. For every \$1 spent on spay neuter, \$50 of taxpayer's money is saved. The ONLY solution is for responsible pet owners to spay and neuter their pets eliminating unwanted litters of puppies! Plus the cat situation is

out of control. We need your help. Let's join other states with license plate options like this to raise revenue! Pass this resolution!

Here are the delegates name, county and phone number. 340 is the capital number with the extension for each delegate listed here: Hall, Putnam County, 3145 (minority whip) - this is a must to email or call him and also Trump, Morgan County, 3240 who is minority leader! Anderson-Wood – 3168; Armstead – Kanawha – 3124; Azinger, Wood, 3202; Blair, Berkeley, 3122; Caruth, Mercer, 3179; Leggett – Pleasants -3195; Border-Wood -3136; Cann -Harrison – 3186; Canterbury, Greenbrier, 3138; Carmichael, Jackson, 3115; Coleman, Taylor, 3163; Duke, Berkeley, 3151; Ellen, Wood, 3394; Evans, Grant, 3399; Faircloth, Berkeley, 3275; Hamilton, Upshur, 3167; Howard, Cabell, 3121; Perdue, Wayne, 3269; Romine, Doddridge, 3226; Schadler, Mineral, 3191; Schoen, Putnam, 3141; Smirl, Cabell, 3172; Sumner, Raleigh, 3180; Wakim, Ohio, 3177; Webb, Kanawha, 3157; White, Ohio, 3174.

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/legishp.html> is the web site for more information or to email these delegates....

Please help. We need to get this one passed! Remember then it goes on the ballot and has to be voted upon!

HB 4167 (Exotic animals and pet store regulations, etc.) - this is not going to make it - We understand that Pet stores hired a high powered lobbyist from DC to work on this. It has lost all effectiveness! So it is being pulled by the state vet.

Posted 2/16/04

We need you to contact legislators again for two pieces of legislation: Also IMPORTANT NOTICE at the end of this message!

HB 4167 the Exotic Animal Control bill; this bill will regulate the sale and possession of exotic animals in the state, require pet shop regulations, record keeping, requirements for permits, etc. It is a good bill and should be supported. It is in the Government Organization Committee now. Please call the members of the committee, tell them you support the bill and want it put on the agenda and passed. The following are members of the Gov. Org. Committee. I am listing them in order of name, county, last 4 digits of their capital phone number. All delegates numbers start with 340.

Beane, Wood, 3192; Kuhn, Boone, 3171; Leggett, Pleasants, 3195; Butcher, Logan, 3139; Ennis, Brooke, 3161; Ferrell, Logan, 3154; Hatfield, Kanawha, 3140; Iaquina, Harrison, 3129; Manchin, Marion, 3170; Manuel, Jefferson, 3153; Martin, Putnam, 3126; Perdue, Wayne, 3269; Spencer, Kanawha, 3270; Talbott, Webster, 3152; Tucker, Marshall, 3162; Wright, Lincoln, 3183; Yeager, McDowell, 3221; Yost, Brooke, 3350; Azinger, Wood, 3202; Blair, Berkeley, 3122; Caruth, Mercer, 3179; Frich, Monongalia, 3125; Romine, Doddridge, 3226; Schoen, Putnam, 3141; Walters, Kanawha, 3194.

House Joint Resolution 102 (the resolution is now HJR 102 instead of HJR2. The resolution text is exactly the same, it just has a new number.) This resolution concerns establishing an animal friendly spay and neuter license plate. A resolution is the first step to make a change in the State Constitution. When a resolution is adopted by the legislature, a suggested amendment is placed on the ballot of the next general or special election for the voters to decide about the issue. HJR 102 needs to be placed on the agenda of the Government Revision Committee. At this point, it looks as if the resolution has a very good chance of this. Calls should be made to the Committee chair, Delegate Barbara Fleischauer,

Monongalia, 340-3169. If any of the other member delegates are from your county, please call them also. You can call everyone even if they are not from your county. The number of calls they get needs to be impressive. They have to be convinced that we are interested in these bills and will be watching. Please be polite and respectful when you call or write. Please do not be rude. It does not help. We don't want to be perceived as a bunch of "animal nuts". This resolution will certainly help to cut the numbers of animals entering shelters over time and save tax payer dollars. The other members of the Constitution Rev. Committee are:

Webster, Kanawha, 3184; Overington, Berkeley, 3148; Caputo, Marion, 3367; Crozier, Monroe, 3188; Fragale, Harrison, 3392; Houston, Monongalia, 3173; Kominar, Mingo, 3248; Long, Mercer, 3120; Louisos, Fayette, 3111; Manuel, Jefferson, 3153; Pino, Fayette, 3114; Renner, Marion, 3146; Spencer, Kanawha, 3270; Staton, Wyoming, 3220; Talbott, Webster, 3152; Varner, Marshall, 3249; Harry White, Mingo, 3117; Armstead, Kanawha, 3124; Blair, Berkeley, 3122; Calvert, Kanawha, 3378; Hamilton, Upshur, 3167; Schoen, Putnam, 3141; Sobonya, Cabell, 3175; Webb, Kanawha, 3157.

You may send thanks to Del. Bobbie Warner at 340-3134. She has been working very hard for this resolution. There is a toll free number too at 1 877- 565-3447. They will take a message and get it to the delegate you ask for. They keep track of phone calls for and against an issue. PLEASE EVERY ONE CALL. LET'S MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION. THEY NEED TO KNOW WE CARE. If you have any questions please let me know.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

There will be a meeting on Wed. Feb. 18 at 9am in room 422 to address HJR 102. If you can come to Charleston for this it would be great. You will probably not speak to the resolution but your presence will be noticed. We would like to have a lot of people show up. If you plan to go please contact me. I will be there along with some others. Hope to see you there! Betty Burkett

Feb 5, 2004

House Bill 4167

Please call the two chair people and your delegate if they are on this list.

The Chairman is J. D. Beane 340-3192 with email of jdbeane@mail.wvnet.edu and the Vice Chair is Timothy Ennis 340-3161 tennis@mail.wvnet.edu

This bill passed out of Natural Resources today with several amendments. Some were necessary to move the bill. The worst one is the changing of the number of litters of pups allowed to be required to register. The bill did read "the greater of one litter or ten animals." It now reads "two litters." The attorney explained that this means two litters per year per each female dog. They had to change this due to all of the hunting dog breeders. The other important change is the effective date. It is now Jan. 2005.

This bill now moves to Government Org. Committee. Calls need to be made to put the bill on the agenda and to say you support the bill. Even with the change on litters, it is still a good bill. The Chairman is J. D. Beane 340-3192 and the Vice Chair is Timothy Ennis 340-3161. There are many members on this committee and they are: Tom Azinger, Craig Blair, Greg Butcher, Don Caruth, Joe Ferrell, Cindy Frich, Barbara Hatfield, Richar Iaquina, Tom Louisos, Tim Manchin, Dale Manuel, Dale Martin, Don Perdue, Roger Romine, Patti Schoen, Sharon Spencer, Joe Talbott, Kenneth Tucker, Ron Walters, Bill Wright,

Emily Yeager, and Jack Yost. Please call the two chair people and your delegate if they are on this list.
Thanks, Sylvia

February 2, 2004

We need to make some calls to support some great legislation. Joe Starcher, the State Veterinarian, is the author of House Bill 4167. I received an email from Sylvia Shafer in Charleston and this is her info. about the bill: " The bill was created due to all the health problems throughout the world due to animal diseases, such as "monkey pox" that started in pet stores. This bill has great side effects for domestic animals also, such as pet stores being regulated, bringing exotic animals into the state, it will slow down canned hunts, cockfighting, backyard breeders, and cruelty to animals. This is a wonderful piece of legislation and deserves our support." The bill is presently in the natural resources comm. and then goes to the agriculture comm. Call Emily Yeager(chair of the NR comm.) 340-3116 and Robert Beach (vice chair) 340-3119. Tell them you support this bill. The Ag. comm. chair is Wm. Stemple 340-3112 and vice chair, Brent Boggs340-3137. The other members of the Ag and NR committee are (and I will just give the last 4 digits of the phone # as all delegates numbers begin with 340) Delegates Crozier-3188; DeLong-3287; Long-3120; Louisos-3111; Manuel-3153; Paxton-3199; Pethel-3149; Poling-3102; Shaver-3160; Schoen-3141; Anderson-3168; Border-3136; Duke-3151; Leggett-3195; Overington-3148; Romine-3226; Swartzmiller-3138; Tabb-3274; Rick Thompson-3158; williams-3337. Calls must be made to NR members, especially Yeager and Beach, before 3pm on Feb.4th as the mtg is set for 4pm.You can read the bill by going onto the WV web site at www.legis.state.wv.us Please do this ASAP. If you need further info you may email Sylvia

The other piece of legislation we are supporting concerns the animal friendly license plate for spay and neuter in the state. This is being worked by Delegate Bobbie Warner. It is House Joint Resolution 2 (HJR 2). Please call Delegate Barbara Fleischauer-340-3169. Ask her to put this on her committee agenda and that you support the resolution. Del Fleischauer is chair of the Constitutional Revision Committee. The other members are: Webster-3184; Overington-3148; Caputo-3367; Crozier-3188; Fragale-3392; Houston-3173; Kominar-3248; Long-3120; Louisos-3111; Manuel-3153; Pino-3114; Renner-3146; Spencer-3270; Staton-3220; Talbett-3152; Varner-3249; White-3117; Armstead-3124; Blair-3122; Calvert-3378; Hamilton-3167; Schoen-3141; Sobonya-3175; Webb-3157;

If any of these delegates are your own delegate please contact them and especially contact Del. Fleischauer even if she is not from your area. Ask them to request that HJR 2 be put on the agenda and that you support it.

Let's get behind these bills and have a HUGE showing of support. Numbers talk loudly to the legislators. This is a great chance to make a difference for the animals of WV with these two bills. Please pass this info. on to everyone you can. If you know of any other email addresses that I could add to my list of contacts I would appreciate having them. Thanks for all you do. Betty Burkett, President Federation of Humane Organizations of WV, Inc.

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals - 2005

WV Legislature session 2005

Legislative Session 05 Summary (a great year!)

HB 2078 the mandatory spay neuter of adopted shelter animals passed

HCR #51 resolution passed for the van study bill!

SB 588 the cruelty bill passed!

SB 226 the cross reporting bill did not pass due to technical difficulty but promised to be passed following year

HB 2078 the mandatory spay neuter of adopted shelter animals passed but the Governor wanted to veto this bill - now he has signed it!

You can still contact the Governor letting him know how important this bill is and thank him for signing it! It has taken us 5 years to get this bill passed. And now to have it vetoed was unthinkable!

4/14/05

On SB 588 you will see some items added to the description of cruelty and I hope you are pleased.

SB 588 the cruelty bill passed!

SB 226 the cross reporting bill due to a technical error did not pass - it had the support but did not pass!

HB2078 the mandatory spay neuter of adopted shelter animals passed!

HCR #51 resolution passed for the van study bill! Sylvia

4/9/05

The senate concurred with the house amendment on SB 588. All three bills now have to be signed by the Governor.

We have accomplished a lot this session and we should all be proud. These three bills will help future animals and people. We are making a start on stopping cruelty to people and to animals.

I know we are a long ways from the next election. But please study your candidates and what they stand for. And most of all please vote. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THIS SESSION HAS PROVEN THAT.

Again, I really appreciate all that you have done. This would not have happened without all of you who sent emails. Sylvia

4/9/05

I am still in shock. SB 588 passed the House at 7:30pm tonight. The vote was 99 for and 1 absent.

We lost the chaining, but we gained the Early Intervention Program for juveniles. They have till July 2006 to implement this program. We also gained the increased penalties. Sylvia

3/31/05

House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 -

This is the resolution that creates a study of low cost spay/neuter and the mobile van. This bill is now in the Senate Rules Committee and starting 3-31. We must email Senate President Tomlin and ask him to support the resolution.

SB 107 passed the Senate 34 to 0. (Not guilty of trespassing if owner pursues his animal on private property.)

HB 2368 that passed the House yesterday was heard today in Senate Ag. and passed out to Senate Finance. This bill is really on the fast track. (raises the amount from \$4 to \$8 to vets who participate in rabies clinics) Sylvia Shafer

HB 2880 which is the house bill version for the Spay/Neuter Van removing the restriction for the van to go throughout West Virginia - it was introduced by Delegate Mary Poling - It goes to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and then to Government Organization. (Relating to the Board of Veterinary Medicine to support low-cost animal spay and neuter programs) Submitted by Theresa Bruner

3/4/05 by Sylvia Shafer

SB 107 is on first reading on Monday 3-7. This is the hunting issue of not being guilty of trespassing.

SB 226 - Cross Reporting with abuse to animals and people is now the committee substitute for the committee substitute. It was heard in Judiciary today and they made some minor changes and sent it to the floor for first reading on Monday 3-7. You should throw away your copies of SB 226 and Sub comm. for 226. Make a copy of Sub 2.

For the people who are not familiar with legislation, I am writing the following:

First Reading is simply reading the bill number on the floor.

Second Reading is the amendment stage

Third Reading means it up for passage or failure.

If the bill passes, it goes to the other house & is assigned a committee and the process starts all over again. If the other house passes the bill and it is different than the original passage, then it goes back to the original house. The second reading of SB 226 will be on Tuesday and it could be changed on the floor. I will try to attend the session and let you know what happens.

3/3/05

HB 2874 is hunting coyotes. Last year a bill was passed that you could use an amber light to hunt them. This was the only animal bill that passed last session. 2874 bill would make them also be able to hunt with a red light. I am just listing this bill as a matter of interest. I do not work hunting bills. Sylvia Shafer For review, I would like to list all bills that have been introduced so when you come to Rally Day, you can talk with the legislators about your feelings on these bills.

1. SB 107 Not guilty of trespassing if owner pursues his animal on private property. This bill is the same as HB2357 and comes under DNR.

2. SB 137 This is a exotic animal control act. This bill has since been replaced by others.

3. SB 226 (Committee Sub) this is the cross reporting when abuse is known,

4. SB 277 is another exotic control bill.

5. SB 346 asking the State Vet Board to reduce the regulations for mobile s/n.

HB 2039 Bill is another retrieval of dog that relates to Sunday hunting.

HB 2040 Removal of tags. This bill is written under the animal control section of the code I do not know it could be enforced by animal control.

HB 2078 Spay/neuter all animals adopted from pounds or shelters

HB 2357 the same bill as SB 107

HB 2356 Giving the counties authority to have leash laws on cats.

HB 2368 Raising the pay to vets to \$8 during rabies clinics.

HB 2538 Wildlife breeders for meat or canned hunts.

HB 2560 Making the rabies vaccine only due every 3 years.

HB 2620 Another exotic bill

HB 2635 Another exotic bill the same as SB 277

HB2834 Prohibiting homeowners insurance to discriminate due to breed of dog.

HB 2862 licensing of cats Sylvia

3/1/05: Theresa Bruner

Remember to make it to Charleston now more than ever for the March 10th Rally for the Animals Day!

Facts for discussion:

There are 123 Spay-Neuter Mobile Vans in the United States in 42 states, all making a difference in pet overpopulation except in West Virginia ! Our van can go into Ohio but not into most parts of West Virginia. The Van was purchased by a West Virginian and is a \$100,000 state of the art van. If 42 other states can have mobile units traveling throughout the state then why not West Virginia? Statistically, states with mobile vans in operation have seen little loss of revenue to local vets due to low-cost spay/neuter. Most who use the van would not be going to local vets anyway. Having one of the highest pet ownership rates per capita in the country and one of the lowest income levels, the pet overpopulation problem is only going to get worse.

The passage of this bill will cost the State nothing and begin to save tax dollars that are spent on euthanizing unwanted offspring of pets that have not been spayed or neutered.

Negative results of pet-overpopulation:

Impacts public health and safety

Costing West Virginians \$3 million yearly
90,000 euthanized in 1998 in West Virginia

Contributes to neglect and abuse

Contributes to a negative image of West Virginia

Local shelters are sending thousands of dogs out of state to rescue groups. While we are excited to save these wonderful animals, we know this is not the solution we need. Rescue groups post pleas online throughout the East bringing vans into WV to transport dogs to other states saving them from being killed. This has promoted a very negative image of West Virginia for not handling its pet overpopulation issues. Read the posting for 2/25/05 below for more reasons to offer to get the mobile unit on the road!!

Submitted by Theresa Bruner

2/25/05 - Theresa Bruner

SB 346 was introduced! This could get the spay/neuter van on the road. This bill is requesting that the board of Veterinarians lessen their restriction for mobile spay/neuter. It is in the Committee of Agriculture. Please email the chair, Senator Edgell and Vice-Chair Senator Love to get the bill on the committee agenda. Call a member of the committee if they are in your county and ask them to support getting this bill on the committee agenda and then to support the bill. Explain that this state of the art \$100,000 mobile van can do low cost spay neuter assisting with the problem of pet overpopulation throughout the state

Help for Animals who runs the mobile unit provides this information: The reasoning the vet board has for the 50 mile radius restriction is that the animal has no follow up care after surgery. However, we provide clients with our number and someone is on call at all times. If the animal has a problem that requires vet care, they are told to take the animal to their local vet and 'Help For Animals' pays the bill. In addition, people are traveling to the clinic who are over the 50 mile radius and have the surgery at the 'Help For Animals' fixed clinic. The animal is under much more stress this way, first coming to the clinic and then after surgery having to travel all that distance back home.

Also, we have been told by many veterinarians and lawyers that this situation is a restriction of trade. (If a vet has a WV license, that vet should be able to practice anywhere in WV)

2/24/05

HB 2620 was introduced today called Regulation of exotic and domestic animals. This is the bill they are going to run. It goes to the Committee on Government Organization and then has a second reference to Finance.

HB 2078 Spay and neuter all adopted animals.

The bill sponsor is Mike Caputo who represents Marion County. If you reside in Caputo's district, please contact him and say you support the bill and want it to become law.

HB 2538 was introduced yesterday. The WV wild game breeder's and dealer's licensing act. This is a bad bill because it sets up breeding deer for meat and canned hunting. It places the deer farms under the Dept. of Ag. and the DNR is totally opposed due to bringing in disease. If I see it start to move, we must oppose due to canned hunting.

HB 2560 was introduced yesterday. It would change the state law on rabies vaccinations from two to three years. This is a good bill as WV vets all use 3 year vaccines anyway. The manufacturer's only made 1 year and 3 year vaccines.

SB 137 Animal Health Safety Control Act (Exotics) I was told that this bill will not be run. They are running HB2620 which will be introduced tomorrow. I will let you know who to contact when it comes out. I have not seen this bill. I spoke with the legal counsel today and was told it is very good.

SB 226 which is the cross reporting bill of cruelty to animals and people. It is a good bill but it needs to include domestic violence. I have requested an amendment and also spoken to two senators about this. If you ever have worked animal control, you will know this is a good bill and needed. Animal cruelty is related to domestic violence, elderly abuse and child abuse. Sylvia

2/18/05

The following bills were introduced this week:

HB 2356 - This bill gives the county the authority to provide ordinances to control cats running at large. The problems that I see are where is the funding and many of our shelters do not accept cats. I do not know how many counties would want this authority.

HB 2357 - This bill has a companion bill in the Senate. Not trespassing on private property if your dog pursues a bird or other wildlife.

HB 2368 - Raising the rate a vet is paid for giving rabies vaccine. Current is \$4 & would raise to \$8. This is for the counties that have rabies clinics and not private vets. It is paid out of the Kennel Fund, which is the sale of dog license. I understand that many vets will not participate as they are losing money. Rabies clinics are mainly held in rural counties.

SB 226 - This is a very important bill and I support it 100%. It requires cross-reporting among child protective service workers, adult protective service workers, law enforcement and humane officers of suspected child, incapacitated elderly adult, or suspected cruelty to animals. If all agencies worked together, we could help each other and stop a lot of cruelty to people and animals. Sylvia

2/12/05

Five bills were introduced this week and they are as follows:

SB 107 - The purpose of this bill is to provide that a person is not guilty of trespassing or hunting without permission merely because the person's dog pursues an animal or wild bird on a person's private or leased property. This is a bill that pertains to the DNR and we normally do not push for or against.

SB 137 - Animal Health Safety Control Act. This bill allows the Dept. of Agriculture to regulate exotics and pet stores. This is a good bill. If someone brought an African lion into your neighborhood today, there is no one that can help. This bill has regulations that the owner must comply with.

HB 2039 - The purpose of this bill is to exempt the retrieval of a dog turned loose before 5am on Sunday from offense of hunting on Sunday. Again, this is a hunting issue.

HB 2040 - The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a person not the owner of a dog from removing tags, collars, or apparel from a dog by someone other than the owner of the dog. I am sure that this is also a hunting problem, but it is in the animal control codes. So dog wardens would have to enforce it.

HB 2078 - The purpose of this bill is to require the spaying or neutering of dogs or cats adopted from humane shelters or county animal shelters. We support this bill. Sylvia

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals – 2006

WV Legislature session 2006

Legislative Session 06 activity and review: It was not a strong year for animal legislation but that is not uncommon for this to occur following a previous year of successes. Session 05 was a good year for animal legislation.

Senate Bill 13 passed and became law - Cross Reporting Bill and a good bill. This bill was signed by the Governor on 3-22-06. This is a law that will help animals and people. If a humane officer goes out on an animal in distress and he sees people in distress, he must report it to the proper agency. And this works in reverse. The agencies must report to each other.

State Legislative News: There are a number of bills that affect shelters and humane societies in West Virginia.

SB 45 : allow for mobile services for the purpose of spay neuter in West Virginia

SB 512 - Prohibit Breed discrimination on insurance bill

HB 3120 - Add provisions to strengthen current Animal fighting legislation

HB 3362 - Hybrid Canine Control Act

HB 4254 & HB 2356 : Cat Control Bill - Purpose of the bill is to allow counties to tax cats in the same manner as dogs

SB 15 & SB 291 & HB 2620 -Exotic Animal Control Bills

SB 13 - Cross reporting

HB 4485 - Anti-tether bill

Update for February 25th:

This email sums up the situation with SB45.

Attention those who support a mobile spay neuter van! The key opposition to SB 45 is follow-up care for the animals and that is addressed with the current mobile van running in West Virginia. To oppose this spay neuter solution for needy pet owners who rarely have access to veterinary services while avoiding a viable solution for our 'out of control' cat population does not make sense to us. We need to let our legislators know that this legislation is very necessary to stem the surplus of pets in West Virginia. Please contact Senator Edgell and others on the Agricultural Committee.

Some facts to use.....

SB 45, which encourages the WV Vet Board to support mobile spay neuter van for purposes of spaying and neutering low cost, 'low income' citizens in WV needs to be placed on the Agriculture Committee agenda and amended to target low income persons. The key opposition from vets is follow-up care for the animals. There is little follow up needed for simple spay neuter procedures. But if it is needed, 'Help for Animals' addresses that with an 800 number they leave with the patient combined with a plan for follow-up care. Plus has anyone noticed that most veterinary clinics are no longer available to their clients after hours but they are being sent to 'other' emergency clinics for follow up care? 41 other states utilize mobile spay neuter vans. There is a van (Help for Animals Van) traveling in the Huntington area already with regulations that the vet board has applied to mobile vans. So why aren't we allowed equal access to mobile units in our area of the state that Cabell County now enjoys? We understand that van routinely travels into Kentucky and Ohio to serve those citizens yet it cannot travel to other areas of West Virginia! Large sums of monies are spent each year by county animal shelters to pick up, house and then destroy homeless animals. This does not include the funds raised by humane societies and individuals trying to help with the problem of too many animals. WV is literally transporting thousands of dogs and cats out to other states to find them homes. We have a very bad reputation for how we treat our surplus animal problem. This money could be much better spent to spay and neuter thereby decreasing the numbers. The Mobile Spay Neuter Van is a strategic method we need to use to accomplish this endeavor. I respectfully ask that you put SB 45 on the agenda in its amended form to target low income persons. Thank you. Theresa Bruner

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

HB 4699 was introduced today. Most of you will not think it is important. Shelters and pounds will know it is important. This bill was introduced by kiss who is the speaker of the house.

We all hate the word euthanasia, but since it is a necessary evil, let us do it right.

WV only has a class and certification once a year. With the high turnover of shelter employees, that is not enough. This bill just states that they will offer a test and examination at least every six months.

Sylvia

HB 2560

This is an important bill. It changes the requirement for the rabies vaccine to be given every three years instead of every two years as it is now. Just a little information about the rabies vaccine. There are two types of rabies vaccine produced, 1 yr. and 3 yr. The American Animal Hospital Assoc. states " Every effort should be made to change laws that require vaccination with this rabies product more often than every 3 years since annual vaccinations cannot be shown to increase efficacy and it is know to increase adverse events." The American Medical Veterinary Assoc. agrees and the USDA licenses these vaccines for 3 years. There are studies and tests that have proven that the rabies vaccine is capable of producing immunity for at least 5 years by challenge and 7 years by serology. In other words, the rabies vaccine used is good for at least 3 years but we are required by WV law to vaccinate every 2 years. Do not assume that vaccines are harmless. They are potent medicine and have been proven to cause many adverse conditions. The state of WV is the only state in the US that requires rabies vaccinations every 2 yrs. Maine changed from 2 yrs to 3 yrs in 2004 and Texas has also changed from 1 yr to 3 yrs.

Update for February 21st:

Last year a promise was made to restore cruelly chained in the cruelty code. The house version is not good. Senate bill 623 was introduced today and it is a good bill. The purpose of the bill is to prescribe minimum requirements relative to tethering or chaining dogs, including the length and weight of chains or tethering devices, as well as other requirements, all of which are intended to protect dogs from cruel treatment. Sylvia

Update for February 12th

Senate Bill 512 has been introduced into the Banking and Insurance Committee. The sponsor of this bill is Senator Jon Hunter. It will prohibit insurance companies that offer liability coverage, from denying, refusing to renew or imposing an increased premium for their coverage because the person to be covered owns a particular breed of dog. We have all heard about this, that if you own a pit bull, German shepherd, Rottie, Doberman, etc. you will not be able to get liability insurance. This bill will prevent insurance companies from doing that. We need to call or e-mail Senator Minard, the chair of the Banking and Insurance Committee and ask him to put SB 512 on the committee's agenda and call or e-mail the other committee members to support the bill.

SB 45 : allow for mobile services for the purpose of spay neuter in West Virginia

Support this bill in its amended form. We are supporting an amendment to this bill which would add 'low income' to the bill for the spay neuter van to travel West Virginia.

SB 512 - Prohibit Breed discrimination on insurance bill

HB 3120 - Add provisions to strengthen current Animal fighting legislation

HB 3362 - Hybrid Canine Control Act - regulations applied to control hybrid canines which would require specific record-keeping, care, confinement and control of hybrid canines, wolf-dog hybrid, wolf, coyote or an animal which is the offspring of a wolf & domestic dog.

HB 4254 & HB 2356 : Cat Control Bill - Purpose of the bill is to allow counties to tax cats in the same manner as dogs

SB 15 & SB 291 & HB 2620 - Exotic Animal Control Bills - two Senate bills and 1 House bill have been submitted. these bills regulate the possession and sale of certain animals and creates an Exotic Animal Control Board.

HB 4485 -The purpose of this bill is to provide requirements for the tethering of a dog; and to provide penalties.

There are other bills that have been submitted that are worthy of mention but our purpose is to highlight those bills that directly impact shelters and humane societies throughout West Virginia. Plus

these are the bills that had been submitted to us at this time. Please let us know your view on these bills.

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals - 2007

WV Legislature Session 2007

Legislative Session 07 – was not a productive year for animal legislation

March 7

HB 2206 was pulled by the Rules Committee. It did not have the second reading.

March 6

HB 2206 which makes it a law to remove apparel, collars, etc. from a dog without the owner's permission is on second reading Wed. It should pass the senate on Thursday and be sent to the Governor for his signature.

SB 413 which changes some procedures for prosecution of cruelty to animals has passed both houses and is now on the way to the Governor for his signature.

HB 2390 bill that makes commercial exotics and deer farms entitled to payment out of the Dog Kennel Fund when a dog (owner unknown) kills one. It inserts deer farms, emu, ostrich commercial business into the definition of livestock, and if a dog kills any, the owner may recover the value out of the Dog Kennel Fund. This is the one that some of us have tried to kill. This bill will be on the Agriculture Committee Agenda on Wed. at 2pm. If it passes out of that committee it will go to the Finance Committee. You can still send emails to the Agriculture Committee tomorrow AM. By it being on the Agenda, it will probably pass out to the Finance Committee and then emails can be sent there. I know this is confusing.

SB 384 is dead. This is the Non Native Species Act. The House Judiciary is not going to put it on their agenda. I was told they would bring it back next year. It is too late in the session for them to hear a controversial bill. Sylvia

March 1, 2007

The following four bills are alive and moving. All other animal bills are dead.

HB 2206 removal of collars, etc. Now in Senate Natural Resources Committee and if passes there will move to Judiciary

HB 2390 bill that makes commercial exotics and deer farms entitled to payment out of the Dog Kennel Fund when a dog (owner unknown) kills one. Uses the dog kennel fund to pay for, killed by a dog, deer on deer farms, emu, ostrich, etc if they are a commercial venture. I do not support this bill. It is now in Senate Agriculture and if passes there it will move to Senate Judiciary.

SB 384 Nonnative Species Act is now in House Agriculture Committee and then will move to Judiciary. This bill has been amended.

SB 413 Humane Officer procedures has passed the House Judiciary and is now on the way to the Floor for passage or failure.

We have been promised that SB 700 will be introduced early in the next session by both the Senate and House. This bill was the requirements for tethering. Of course, it will not have the same bill number. It failed this time due to being introduced too late in the session. If you want to help pass or kill any of these bills, please contact the committee chair and its members Sylvia

February 20, 07

SB 700 This is an important bill so contact YOUR Senator on this bill!! It defines some standards on the shelter required for dogs. It also introduces standards for tethering. We have needed this for a long time. We all know there is nothing supporting standards. This will assist humane officers with some definition on standards while currently there are none. Please email your Senator and pass on to others and ask them to specifically email their respective Senators and let's get some support for this very important bill. There will be some controversy on this bill. Remember it took us 5 years to get a spay/neuter law through. But we have to start here with support on this. I have included the entire bill so you can see what is being added and removed. See your Senator on the list below! Thanks, Theresa Bruner

SB 700

A BILL to amend and reenact 61-8-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prescribing minimum requirements relative to tethering or chaining any animal; including the length and weight of chains or tethering devices, as well as other requirements, all of which are intended to protect animals from cruel treatment; and providing criminal penalties for violations.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prescribe minimum requirements relative to tethering or chaining animals, including the length and weight of chains or tethering devices, as well as other requirements, all of which are intended to protect animals from cruel treatment.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

Senate Bill 700 has been introduced into the Senate Agriculture Committee and needs our attention. Now is the time to call or email the members of the committee and the sponsors of the bill. Senator Unger is a member of the committee but Senator Vic Sprouse is not and needs to be contacted as the other sponsor. Please thank these sponsors for the bill.

The bill provides for improved requirements for tethering/chaining animals. It addresses the weight and length of the tether/chain among other things. Previous exclusions are still present in this bill including the exclusion of gaming birds. Tell them you support the bill and to please put it on the agenda and ask that they support the bill too.

If any of these senators are from your district, it is especially important to contact them. They are more likely to listen to their constituents. Time is getting very short. Please do this ASAP. Betty Burkett

February 15, 2007

HB 2206 will pass the House on 2-16 and move to the Senate. This bill has a committee sub which means that it has been changed from the original bill. This is the bill that makes it a crime to remove collars, radio transmitters, etc from dogs without the owner's permission. This law would be enforced by the dog warden as it is code 19-20-12.

SB 384 Has moved to the floor for 1st reading 2-16. This bill has a committee sub. This is the Nonnative Species Regulation Act. This bill could be amended on 2nd reading 2-19 and voted up or down on third reading 2-20. This bill has been changed quite a lot, so I suggest you read the committee sub.

SB 413 that passed the Senate on 2-5 has moved from House Agriculture to House Judiciary. This is the clarification on bonding for seized animal due to cruelty. It is a good bill. This is an important bill for the prosecution of cruelty to animals. It should shorten the time it takes to prosecute a case. This means the animal would not have to be held as long. I still have not been able to speak with Senator Prezioso. I am going to email my questions to him. This is the bill on Sale or Adoption of sick or underage pets.

1. Who is going to enforce this?

2. 19-20C-2 says that shelters are exempt from the provisions of this article. The Article would be the entire bill, but if that is so, why in 19-20C-4 are shelters required to give a health certificate. It says the director of the shelter. We could not do this. Anyone that works at a shelter knows that we cannot

predict kennel cough, parvo, distemper. No one knows how many days a pup sheds the parvo virus before it breaks with the disease. Also, the adopter could expose the pet after leaving the shelter. So, again as written, this bill will hurt a shelter as the HB 2869 did. Also, how many shelters have scales to weigh a pet? Sorry for the length of this email. We are in the second half of the session and that is when bills start moving. Sylvia

February 13, 2007

SB 547 was introduced yesterday. This is the Senate version of HB 2869 which protects owners from the sale or adoption of sick or under-aged pets. The senate version in my opinion is better than the House, but I still have questions. I am meeting with the bill sponsor tomorrow and I will let you know what I think. I have been involved with animal shelters since 1984 and I know all of the problems. I also know all too well the over-population problems. Too most breeders, this is just a money making scheme that is tax free due to being under the table. In other words, they do not have a business license nor a kennel license. But at the same time, I want to protect the shelters and I do know there are bad shelters. HB 3046 special license plate for pet owners was introduced today. When you read it, go to the end of the bill to find the new language. The rest is current law. " Issuing a special license plate for pet owners and pet enthusiasts." Some of the revenue would go to a special fund to be used for spay/neuter. This bill is in Road and Transportation Committee. If it clears that committee it will go to Judiciary. Please contact the members of the Road and Transportation Committee. Sylvia

Please email the following members of the House Roads and Transportation Committee with support of HB 3046 special license plate for pet owners . This is the bill that would let us have a special license plate with part of the revenue going to spay/neuter. Sylvia

February 09, 2007

SB 384: There are 3 bills dealing with exotics and pet stores. They have decided to move SB 384 which I consider to be the best of the 3. This bill passed out of Agriculture today with an amendment. The bill has moved to Senate Finance committee. If anyone wants to push this bill, they need to email Senate Finance (See committee members below) Sylvia

February 08, 2007

HB 2390 bill that makes commercial exotics and deer farms entitled to payment out of the Dog Kennel Fund when a dog (owner unknown) kills one. bill that makes commercial exotics and deer farms entitled to payment out of the Dog Kennel Fund when a dog (owner unknown) kills one. This bill was passed out of the Agriculture Committee and is now in Finance Committee. I have not been to the Statehouse this week, so I did not attend the meeting. I will check tomorrow to see if it was amended. Sylvia

February 07, 2007

HB 2869: This bill impacts animal shelters with money that none of us have. While I agree that bad breeders, bad rescues, and bad shelters need to change their ways, this bill will hurt good shelters. So therefore, the Kanawha/Charleston Humane Association does not support this bill as it is currently written. This bill also does not state who enforces what would become a new law. Animal control is certainly not able due to lack of manpower and lack of knowledge. So this implies civil suites. But I do not know and have not received a response to this question from the group that had the bill introduced. If you agree with my assessment, please email the members of the Agriculture committee with your lack of support. And if you support this bill, email them with your support. Please read this bill carefully. I have read it too many times to count. Thanks, Sylvia

Please join us for a lobby day for the animals sponsored by HSUS Feb 13th!

Lobby 101 Seminar

Tuesday February 13, 2007 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

West Virginia Manufacturers Association (just a few blocks away from the Capitol) 2001 Quarrier Street

Charleston, WV 25311

Lobby Day at the Capitol

Tuesday February 13, 2007 Noon - 2:00 p.m.

January 31, 07

HB 2766 affects the Humane Officers codes. The purpose of the bill is to clarify procedures for seizing abandoned, neglected or cruelty treating animals. If anyone on this list is a humane officer, prosecuting attorney, or involved in the prosecution, please read this bill carefully and give me your opinion as soon as possible. I will get back to you on this bill.

HB 2774 This is another exotic bill that has been introduced before. It is the same as SB 384 which was also introduced today. I will have to talk to the bill sponsors to see which bill they are going to move. Then I will get back to you.

SB 397 Greyhound Breeding Development Fund may interest some of you. It is making varied changes to the current law Greyhound Breeding Development Fund.

Sylvia

January 30, 07

HB 2737 Cockfighting prohibition was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the use of any animal in animal fighting ventures and to expand the application felony criminal penalties to include additional activities carried on for the purpose of supporting animal fighting. Attending an animal fight remains a misdemeanor."

This will be a very difficult bill to pass. Humane people will have to work hard if we are to have any success. The average person does not know the true story on cockfighting, how common it is, the money involved, the power people involved, and the members of our legislature who are opposed to the passage of this bill or any bill that pertains to cockfighting

Please help to bring WV out of the dark ages when blood sports were common. Thanks, Sylvia

January 19, 07

HB 2337 was introduced today. It is requirements for tethering dogs and the penalties. The language is in a new section of the code which is 19-20-26. I would have liked it to be in the cruelty code 61-8-19.

Sylvia

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals - 2008

WV Legislature Session 2008

WV LEGISLATURE 2008

We have kept the Legislative Information from past sessions back to 05 on here for those of you seeking animal legislative history and what has been submitted whether passed or not..

At times we have those who have voted against the legislation. We have attempted to keep the information just as it occurred daily at the state capitol.

Legislative Session 2008 – two animal friendly bills passed.

3/29/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs)and HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) were signed by the Governor. SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) becomes effective 6-5-08 and HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly

chain or tether) becomes effective 6-6-08. All shelters, animal control officers, and humane officers should copy these bills.

Thanks to all that helped pass these bills. Sylvia

3/11/08

Both SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) and HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) While we had a lot of bills introduced these are the only two that survived. And that is thanks to Sylvia Shafer's hard lobbying work and your effort in contacting your legislators. Also thanks to Jeanne Guise for the pdf files and contact information. United we can make a difference for the animals. Submitted by Theresa Bruner

3/4/08

On 2-8 HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) passed the House. I am listing the delegates that voted against it. Keep in mind that this was on 2-8 when the House passed the bill to the Senate. Border, Wood Co./ Canterbury, Greenbrier Co./ Evans, Grant Co./ Hamilton Upshur CO./ J Miller, Berkeley CO/ and Romine from Tyler CO. Sylvia

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) was read the second time today and it was not amended. This bill is up for passage 3-5

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) was to be read for the first time today. Since I spent the day in the House, I do not know what happened in the Senate

Sylvia But thanks to Jeanne Guise read below to see the result.....

According to Jeanne Guise who checked the WVSL website : HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether), it is up for the second reading in the Senate tomorrow so contact your Senators!

3/3/08

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee today and will have the first reading on the floor 3-4.

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) had it's first reading on the floor today. On 3-4 it will have the second reading.

An explanation of readings for those not familiar with the process.

First reading, the title and purpose of the bill is read.

Second reading is the amendment reading. In this reading the members of the legislature can try to make amendments.

Third reading is the passage or failure reading. The legislative members can make statements of support or non support. After that the members statements are heard, the members vote.

Please email your senators in your district asking them to vote for HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether). Thanks,Sylvia

3/2/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) passed out of the House Judiciary meeting this afternoon. I really need your help as this bill has opposition. Please email your delegates to support and pass this bill. The more emails that are received, the better chance this bill has. It is important that you send these emails tonight or tomorrow. This is a wonderful bill and the animals need your help. Be sure you sign the emails and show the county that you reside in. You can also email other delegates that are not in your district if you have time.

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) will be heard tomorrow in the Senate Judiciary committee. If it passes out of this committee, I will ask you to email your senators. Thanks, Sylvia

2/26/08

These are the only two bills that are alive. All other animals bills are dead. This is an election year and very few bills had a chance. On the night of 2-27 or morning of 2-28, please send an email to Jeff Kessler, chair of Senate Judiciary, asking him to put HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) on his committee agenda and to pass as is. Then send emails to the other senators in your district asking them to help pass HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) as is.

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) needs emails. Please send an email to Carrie Webster asking her to place this bill on her judiciary agenda and to pass as is. Then email the other delegates in your district asking them to please pass SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) as is

It is important to say as is. We do not have time for amendments. This would cause the bill to go back to the originating body. Also please sign your name and the county in which you reside. The session is almost over and we need to move quickly. On the 28th the House will begin work on the Senate bills and the Senate will begin work on the House bills. Thanks, Sylvia

2/22/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) has been sent to House Judiciary. On 2-28 please email Carrie Webster to put SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) on her committee agenda.

This is the date that the House starts working on Senate bills and the Senate starts working on House bills.

No other bills have moved.

Please email Jeff Kessler on 2-28 asking him to put HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) on his committee agenda. Remember, this is adding shelter and restricted tethering to the cruelty code. Please email Senator Kessler, chair of Senate Judiciary, and ask him to put it on his agenda and to add some language back into the bill that was deleted by the House. Sylvia

2/21/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) Sub passed the senate today and was sent to the House. I do not know yet which committee it was assigned to. After 2-28 we should push this bill. I will let you know which committee. This bill had a beautiful amendment and is a very good bill. At this time, no other bills are moving. Sylvia

2/20/08

I overlooked a good bill that was introduced 2-18,

HB 4672 (sedate vicious dogs prior to Euthanasia is a great bill for animal shelters who have euthanasia techs (a must) The bill adds the drug acepromzaine to the code 30-1A-3 which is Animal Euthanasia Technicians. This drug is a sedative type drug that could be used on vicious dogs prior to euthanasia. This will help reduce dog bites. I support this bill. It is in the House Judiciary Committee and emails should be directed to Carrie Webster. Ask her to place the bill on her committee agenda.

Some of my favorites are:

HB 2737 (Cock fighting a felony) Game cock fighting becomes a felony. I am told that this bill does not have any chance of passage.

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) which is adding shelter and restricted tethering to the cruelty code. Please email Senator Kessler, chair of Senate Judiciary, and ask him to put it on his agenda and to add some language back into the bill that was deleted by the House.

HB 4672 (change rabies vaccine due every 3 years) WV already uses a 3 year vaccine which must be repeated every two years. It is now in Agriculture Committee. Email the chair, Bill Stemple, and ask him to put it on his agenda.

HB 4452 (make spay neuter a tax deduction) making S/N a tax write off for some people. This bill needs improving which could be done in committee. This bill is now in Agriculture and the Chair is Bill Stemple. Ask him to place the bill on his agenda.

SB 566 (makes wagering on animal fights a felony) This might help reduce animal fighting. This bill is also in Agriculture and again Bill Stemple. Ask him to place the bill on his agenda. Sylvia

2/19/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) was removed from the second reading calendar due to a request from Senator Barnes of Randolph County. I do not know why unless he intends to make an amendment. It is on the schedule for tomorrow.

2-18 was the last day that bills could be introduced (exceptions can be bills that are drafted in a committee) This means that the House will work on House bills and the Senate will work on Senate bills. This does not apply to resolutions.

2-24 all bills House and Senate are due out of the committees they are in. Those who do not make it out are dead. That is unless someone amends them into a bill that is out of their committees..

2-27 The last day to consider bills on third reading (passage) in the house of origin. What this means is that this is the last time for the Senate to consider Senate bills and the last day for the House to consider House bills. This also means that all bills are dead that are not on third reading.

AFTER 2-27 THE SENATE WILL WORK ON HOUSE BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THE HOUSE AND THE HOUSE WILL WORK ON SENATE BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THE SENATE. An example is HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) which has passed the House will not be worked on by the Senate until 2-28.

The session ends March 8th at midnight. I know this can be confusing information. Sylvia

2/18/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) is on 2nd reading tomorrow on the Senate floor. This is the amendment reading. sub file of SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) first introduced on 1/23/08 below

SB 698 was introduced today. This is the same as HB 4452 (make spay neuter a tax deduction) which is the tax write off bill for s/n This bill was sent to Rules and the Bill Tracking shows that this bill was introduced in error. HB 4597 was introduced today and it is very similar to SB 566 (makes wagering on animal fights a felony). The purpose is to prohibit wagering at animal fighting ventures. This bill was sent to Agriculture and then will go to Judiciary.

HB 4632 (Vicious and dangerous dog) PLEASE READ THIS BILL. It repeals 19-20-20 and 19-20-21 of the current law and adds an entire new section to the state code. This bill is in House Judiciary. Please email Carrie Webster, the chairperson, if you like or dislike this bill. I have read it and the bill looks OK to me.

HB 4645 (protection on racehorses adopted from racetrack) This is a protection bill for horses adopted from racetracks. It requires shelter, water, food, etc. This bill is in House Judiciary. Sylvia

2/14/08

HB 4536 (registering kennel with 20 more cats/dogs) was introduced today. I understand the reason to be is to reduce the number of hoarders/collectors. I do not have any hope that the purpose will be any help for the problem. Anyone who maintains 20 or more cats/dogs would have to register as a Kennel. The law states as a commercial enterprise and all of you know that most hoarders are not a commercial enterprise. Please read the bill.

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) was heard today in the Senate Judiciary committee. It does have a sub that should be on the website in a couple of days. The purpose of the bill is to clarify procedures for seizing animals that are being cruelly treated. This is a very important bill for all who are involved with the procedure for seizing animals. This would apply to all law enforcement and humane officers. This bill will now go to the Senate floor and it appears that there is not anyone opposed. I think that it is a good bill. For anyone who would be involved and does not understand the bill, please email me. I think this bill will pass in both houses. Sylvia

2/12/08

HB 4672 (change rabies vaccine due every 3 years) was introduced today and I know that several of you want this bill. It changes the 2 year rabies law to 3 years. It was sent to House Agriculture, the chair is Bill Stemple. We need to email him and ask him to put it on the agenda of the Agriculture Committee. If it makes it out of there, it has a second reference to Judiciary. Do not email Judiciary unless it makes it out of Agriculture. You can also email all members of the Agriculture Committee, but the Chair should be emailed first. Sylvia

2/7/08

HB 4452 (make spay neuter a tax deduction) was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to permit a modification to income subject to personal income tax for the spaying and neutering of cats and dogs that are family pets. I am not a tax person so I am not sure who could use this. Could a tax person please email me with who would qualify? Next week when I go back to the Statehouse, I will ask one of the bill sponsors. This bill goes first the House Agriculture and then to Finance. All emails should go to the House Agriculture Committee.

I have heard from three tax people and they feel this is a good bill. I understand that you have to itemize your deductions for WV personal income tax to get the deduction and all may not qualify. Also, this is state tax only and not Federal. This should be a great help to the low income people who need it the most. This bill is now in the House Agriculture Committee. You should email Bill Stemple, he is the chairperson. Ask him to please place this bill on his agenda. If this bill gets out of his committee (Agriculture) it will then go to Finance.

I will go to the statehouse next week and find out what chance it has. Some bills take up to three years to pass.

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) Sub committee Bill that passed last week now needs emails sent. This is the bill that adds shelter from weather and cruelly tethered. The SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE needs to put it on their agenda. Your emails should be addressed to Jeff Kessler, Chair of Judiciary, stating "Please place HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) on the committee agenda." You should also email the Senators that serve on the Judiciary Committee. I hope that the Senate will add a little more language, but if not, it is still more than the current law.

HB 4344 passed the house on 2/7/08 91-6 with 6 Republican delegates voting against it.

Voting against the bill:

Larry Border of Wood County

Ray Canterbury of Greenbrier County

Allen Evans of Grant County

Bill Hamilton of Upshur County

Jonathan Miller of Berkeley County

Bill Romine of Tyler County

2/6/08

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) passed the house today and was received by the Senate and went to Judiciary. I need to check with the Chairman of Judiciary to see whether they are going to pursue SB 274 (changes to cruelty code -defines shelter) or try to amend HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether). Please do nothing until you hear from me. Sylvia

2/4/08

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) was read on the House floor for the first time today. This bill is on the House Calendar for 2nd reading tomorrow. This means that the bill will pass the House on Wednesday. Then it moves to the Senate. You do not need to send any emails at this time.

SB 560 (Feral Cat Colonies -enabling TNR in townships) was introduced today and it deals with feral cat colonies. This would make TNR legal for certain townships. It has many good restrictions: TNR is trap, neuter, release. This bill is first referenced to Senate Agriculture and then to Judiciary. If you wish to send emails, first direct them to Senate Agriculture members.

SB 566 (makes wagering on animal fights a felony) was introduced today. It makes all gambling at a animal fighting event a felony. This does not make gamecock fighting a felony. But does give some teeth by making it a felony to wager. This bill is worth supporting. This bill goes to Senate Agriculture first and then Judiciary. Send your emails of support to the members of the Senate Agriculture committee. Sylvia

1/31/08

Thanks to all of you that attended Animal Appreciation Day. It was a nice presentation.

HB 4358 (protection from abuse for elephants in traveling circus) (pdf file) was introduced today. This bill has two references. First Committee is Agriculture and second is Judiciary. This bill protects elephants from abusive behavior. This would apply to a traveling circus or a fair.

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) the watered down version of SB 274 (changes to cruelty code -defines shelter) passed out of the Judiciary Committee and is now on the way to the floor. Sylvia

1/30/08

HB 4344 (changes to cruelty code cruelly chain or tether) was introduced today. This is a very watered down version of SB 274 (changes to cruelty code -defines shelter) . Describes shelter as Protection from the elements of weather and adds cruelly tethered behind cruelly chained. The tethering requirements that were in SB 274 (changes to cruelty code -defines shelter) have been removed. Please do not make calls or emails on this bill until you hear from me. This bill will be heard in the House Judiciary Committee at 2pm on the 31st. I will let you know the outcome. Sylvia

1/23/08

SB 305 (enable County Commissions to set standards for housing dogs) is very important for any shelter or law enforcement officer that prosecutes Cruelty to Animals.

It changes "probable cause" to preponderance of evidence." This bill deals with the bond that is placed on the accused for the cost of keeping the animal through the court date. A similar bill was passed last session and then vetoed by the Governor. There is much confusion in this state over the bond (this includes Kanawha Co.) Hopefully this will clarify the current law. I do support this bill. It has been sent to Senate Judiciary and if you support the bill; please email the members of the Judiciary Committee.

HB 4153 (increase time for trapper to check traps from 24 hours to 48) (pdf file) was introduced today and it changes the amount of time that a trapper has to check his traps. Currently it is 24 hours and this will change it to 48 hours.

I do not do anything about hunting or trapping laws as I do not know enough. Sylvia (Sylvia lobbies for the Kanawha County Animal Shelter)

We do NOT support trapping since we find it a cruelty that should be abolished. So making the period longer that an animal has to suffer in a trap should not be allowed. If you agree, please email the members of the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee- Theresa Bruner

1/21/08

SB 274 (changes to cruelty code -defines shelter) (pdf file) was introduced today. This is the bill that I have been working on. This is new language in our cruelty code. It describes what shelter must be. In many of our counties they think under a car or on an open front porch is shelter. This bill describes it as three sides and a roof and a shelter that provides protection from the elements.

This bill also describes proper chaining or tethering. This is a much needed bill. This bill is single referenced to just Senate Judiciary and a plus is the Senator Kessler, who is the chair of Senate Judiciary, is one of the sponsors. Please read the underscores in this bill and if you approve, please email the senators who serve on the Judiciary committee. The email should read, please place SB 274 (changes to cruelty code -defines shelter) on the agenda calendar and please pass this bill as is out of the committee. If this bill passes out of committee in good shape, then it will go to the floor where all Senators will vote.

It is now time for us to get to work. Thanks, Sylvia

PS: I am tired of dogs being chained with logging chains and barb wire.

Yes it is Sylvia! We all agree it is time for this to stop Theresa Bruner

1/10/08

The Senate has introduced two bills.

1. SB 114 The purpose of this bill is to provide that horses are not included under the definition of "farm livestock" for purposes of an exemption to the prohibitions against cruelty of animals. This would mean that all horses will have to have shelter. This bill has been sent to Agriculture committee.

2. SB 164 The purpose of this bill is to empower county humane officers to pick up domestic and feral cats that are abandoned or otherwise in need of rescue thus alleviating the burden from private individuals presently taking the responsibility.

HB 2869 (sale or adoption of underage pets) (pdf file) The Sale or Adoption of sick and underage pets. No shelter could afford this and they need to read the bill. This bill is in House Agriculture.

HB 3112 (Dangerous Dog Act) (pdf file) This is the Dangerous Dog Act. I have not read the entire bill, so I do not have a comment at this time. Sylvia Shafer

1/9/08

Three House bills were introduced. All three were carried over from last year.

1.HB 2096 (gives county commissions authority for cat ordinances) (pdf file) Giving County Commissions the authority to have ordinances for cat control.

2.HB 2143 Exempting a dog from the Sunday hunting law that is out after 5am.

3.HB 2737 (Cock fighting a felony) is the return of the cock fighting bill. This would make all animal fighting a felony. Sylvia Shafer

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals - 2009

WV Legislature Session 2009

The Legislative Session ended 4/11/09. SB 501 to ban gas chambers in WV was the only animal bill passed that we supported. However, it was not signed by the Gov. and was sent to special session where it finally passed and will become effective law on August 27, 2009.

We posted daily activity affecting animal legislation here. Pending animals bills and also the bill status was available. Committee contact information was listed at the left menu under WV Legislature 2009. We hope that information was helpful to you. First thanks to Sen. Kessler and Sen. Prezioso for sponsoring SB 501. Thanks to Sylvia Shafer for her expertise at the Capitol on behalf of WV Animals combined with her daily updates in keeping us informed. Also thanks to Rob Casto, a lobbyist for HSUS for his assistance. HSUS also had Ann Church working on Humane Rally Day and Best Friends had Claudine Wilkins working on the Puppy Mill Legislation. We thank both of those groups for their efforts at the state level for us. Although the puppy mill bill did not pass it is one that will be back next year. Thanks to Jeanne Guise for her assistance with bill tracking, pdf files and committee contacts. We appreciate those who spoke before the legislative committee hearings. There were several of you and our fear is that we would overlook someone in our attempt to thank you individually. That level of support is critical to our effort in improving the climate for animals throughout WV. Most of all, thanks to all of you in 55 counties in West Virginia who cared enough to make phone calls for the animals! We are improving in our legislative activity each year. The gas chamber bill passed unanously in the legislature with only 1 nay vote. Those details are below.

6/9/09 - Here is a link to the final SB 501 which passed the special session and will go into effect August 27th, 2009 -pdf file

3/6/09 SB 501 (pdf) 'prohibit gas chamber bill' was introduced today. The bill was sent to the Judiciary Committee. This bill prohibits euthanizing animals by means of the gas chamber. This bill adds one line into current law. The term "humanely destroyed" does not include euthanizing an animal by means of a gas chamber. As we all know, many feel that the chamber is inhumane and death by injection is humane. If you support or oppose this bill email the senate judiciary committee. I support the bill. Sylvia

4/10/09 - SB 501 (gas chamber bill) passed the Senate today. Thanks to ALL of you who called on behalf of this bill. To save even one animal from the gas chamber would make this worth it. But in fact many will be saved! Hopefully those counties currently using the chamber will eventually transition to the preferred lethal injection. These voting details are as follows in the regular session vote:

Senate vote was unanimous with yeas 34 and nays 0 with noone absent.

House of Delegates vote on 4/9/09 was 96 yeas and nays 1 & 3 passed
Nays - 1 was J. Miller
3 passed - Moore, Shook, Stephens

4/9/09 - you must contact your Senator today - there is no time left!
SB 501 (gas chamber bill) has passed the House of Delegates by a vote of 96-1. It now must go to the Senate for them to concur the changes made in the house and pass the bill. Please tell your Senator to concur with the house changes and vote FOR SB 501. Thank them for voting for it before and ask them to make sure this gets passed. When the bill was before the Senate a few weeks ago it was passed overwhelmingly with only two votes opposing. You need to go to the state legislative site to find your Senator. There are just too many to list here. Go to www.legis.state.wv.us. (and by the way, those two opposing Senate votes simply did not like the grandfather clause - well neither do we but we would rather have it passed even with the grandfather clause to keep other counties from using chambers and to provide much needed oversight.)

4/8/09

SB 501 (gas chamber bill) is on 3rd reading tomorrow in the house on 4/9. If it passes it must go back to the Senate for them to concur with the changes made in the House. Sylvia
Make sure to check back here Thursday April 9th. If this bill passes the house and we think it will, it then goes back to the Senate since it has been amended. It then has to pass the Senate again so you will need to call your Senators, thank them for supporting it before and ask them to support it again and get it passed as is. The amendment provides needed oversight for gas chamber use and also offers authority for CAET's to use a sedative for calming uncontrollable animals. Again, we have only this week so make sure to check Thursday!

4/6/09

SB 501 Gas Chamber Bill : This bill is on first reading on the Special Calendar tomorrow. Now is the time to email or call your delegates and ask them to vote for this bill AS IS. You need to do this tonight or tomorrow morning. The 2nd reading is when it can be amended on the floor and that will be either tomorrow evening or Wednesday morning.

Thanks to all of you who called or emailed the Rules Committee to get this bill on the Special Calendar.
Sylvia

You need to go to the state site to find your individual legislators. There are just too many to list here. This is a general vote on the floor so they must hear from you that you support the passage of this bill. Please call or send them email that you want them to support SB 501. You have to do this tonight or tomorrow by 4/7. This is the last week of the session so there is little time left. www.legis.state.wv.us

Please help us to stop the gassing of animals in WV animal shelters!

4/5/09

SB 501 Gas Chamber Bill was heard and passed today in the House Judiciary Committee. The bill is greatly amended and is more acceptable now. Cats were removed so they would not have to be held five days. The Grandfather clause stayed in the bill. Use of sedative type drugs to be used on animals out of control was added to the bill. This is now a good bill and we need your help. This bill now goes to the

Rules Committee. If your delegate serves on this Committee, please email or call them tonight or early tomorrow with this request. "PLEASE PLACE SB 501 ON THE HOUSE SPECIAL CALENDAR. You can also just call any members of the rules committee requesting this too. The more calls they get, the better it is. If the Rules Committee does this, it will then go to the full House where all of the delegates vote. If it passes out of the House, then it must go back to the Senate for them to concur. The session ends 4-11. The list of members of the Rules Committee can be found on our left menu bar - WV Legislature 2009/House Committees/House Rules Committee Thanks, Sylvia

We decided that it is preferable to pass the bill keeping any more counties from using a gas chamber. Yes, it does grandfather those 5-6 counties using the chamber but it places a number of restrictions upon the use of the gas chamber in those counties. Please make your contacts immediately or this bill will not get out of the rules committee and to the house. It has such a narrow window to pass. This is the last week of the session! Please help!

Make sure to check here often tomorrow since we will have to make quick contact with our Senators if this passes the house tomorrow.

Senate Vote on 4/10/09 on the passage of the bill, the yeas were 34.
The nays were: None. Absent: None.

House of Delegates Vote on 4/9/09 YEAS: 96 / NAYS: 1 / NOT VOTING: 3 PASSED

NAYS: 1 Miller, J / NOT VOTING: 3 Moore, Shook, Stephens
4/2/09

Gas Chamber Bill still alive: During the House Judiciary Committee Hearing, an agreement was reached to grandfather the 5-7 counties (number is not exactly known but the bill would require reporting) using gas chambers without a time limit. It was decided that it was preferable to pass the bill keeping any more counties from using a gas chamber. The language on cats will be removed. A number of restrictions will be imposed upon the use of the gas chamber. We are supporting the passage of this bill. Sylvia will keep us informed of this progress and what to do to support the bill.

3/30/09

Bad news, HB 2843 is dead. This is the puppy mill bill. It was never heard in House Judiciary committee as they ran out of time. The only bills alive are SB501 which is the gas chamber bill and two bills removing the sales tax on veterinarian medicine. They are SB 533 and HB 3079. One of these bills will be dropped as they are the same.

Sylvia

Our Humane Lobby Day presence is still needed. We have the gas chamber bill to get passed. Plus we need to make sure our legislators hear our concerns that bills like the 'puppy mill bill' and the commercial feed fee bill to fund spay neuter are bills that must be passed in West Virginia. So we are ramping up for next year. There are a lot of legislators that supported all of these measures but there was not time to get some of this to the floor. Many other important pieces of legislation died in committee so we are not alone. We need to thank those that supported us and get those that did not on board with us. We will get instructions on Thursday to assist us with this. See you on April 2nd to lobby for the animals!

3/26/09

Status of SB 292 tax deduction for spay neuter: This is the bill that Sylvia talked to Finance about and the problem is they are not able to estimate the tax loss to the state. There is a concern on this and it will not pass until the amount of monies involved is known. It was suggested that before next year someone

figure how much revenue loss is involved. Sylvia talked to a local vet and they could not give an answer. It seems we would need to contact every vet in the state for amount of dollars charged to clients.

3/25/09

I missed a bill that was introduced on 3-23. It is SB 748 and is the same as HB 3079 that eliminates the sales tax on prescription drugs for animals. SB 748 went to Finance.

SB 501 (gas chamber bill) has been sent to House Judiciary. This bill has been much amended. It now grandfathers in existing gas chambers which means that the shelters that use the chamber can continue and creates a 5 day holding period for cats. The holding period for cats sounds great, but shelters cannot comply. Many county shelters in this state do not even take in cats and those that do, cannot hold for five days during warm weather. The House will not work on this bill until 4-2 so please hold your emails to the House until 4-2.

Sylvia

Word is that the Agriculture Committee may not meet again this week which would make SB 745 (commercial food fee for spay/neuter) dead in that committee. With so much legislation and work to do it is surprising that they would not meet so late in the session. But just in case, please send your emails as planned so the committee members get the message that WV needs this legislation. We realize that it often takes more than one year to pass a bill and these legislators will be back next year. We will make plans to talk to our legislators all year long to prepare for this bill to be introduced earlier in the session next year and have support early for passage. We have heard that the pet food industry lobby may gear up against us so we will need to be prepared.

3/24/09

SB 501 (gas chamber bill) passed the senate today. I will let you know tomorrow which committees in the House that you should contact.

SB 745 the bill that places a fee on commercial food for the distributor does need help. Please go to All of this money goes to spay/neuter. We have a very short window to get this bill moving out of committee or it will be dead this year.

Someone from Jefferson Co needs to contact Delegate Bob Tabb and ask him to allow a cap on the number of animals in a puppy mill. He is the one that had the cap removed. His phone number is 304 340-3274 and email rtabb@mail.wvnet.edu Please only one should call or email and saying they are speaking for Jefferson County animal lovers. This is on HB 2843 the puppy mill bill.

Sylvia

3/23/09

While I was gone HB 3112 (pdf file) was introduced. This bill is very interesting and has a goal to protect livestock in dire conditions. This bill is in the Agriculture Committee and then has a second reference to Judiciary.

SB 745 (pdf file) was introduced today. This bill establishes a commercial feed distributor permit fee to fund spay/neuter. This bill is in Agriculture and then to Finance.

SB 745 is a very important bill to provide ongoing revenue at the state level which will fund spay/neuter programs throughout West Virginia. We have needed a resource to help with pet-overpopulation in the state and this can be part of our solution. Be clear that it will be a fee on the distributor of commercial pet food brands in the state & not on the consumer. They are already paying a brand fee and we will just take a tiny portion of it. They make a lot of money on pets in the state. And this way, they become part of our solution in assisting with our pet problem of overpopulation. It will be for ongoing funding for spay/neuter in WV. You really need to contact the Senate Agriculture Committee members and the

Senate Finance Committee members and tell them how much we need this funding for spay neuter in West Virginia and for them to support the bill. Committee contact information is listed at the left menu under WV Legislature 2009. We do not have a lot of time to get this moving through the process of getting passed. Visit www.snapwv.org for more information on spay/neuter funding.

SB 501 (gas chamber bill – pdf below) has been amended and is on 3rd reading tomorrow.

HB 2843 (puppy mill bill amended pdf) has been amended and is the House Judiciary Committee. This bill needs to be placed on their agenda.

HB 3079 (veterinarian medication bill - pdf below) is now in the Finance Committee. Today was the last day for bills to be introduced, although there are exceptions. Sylvia

3/20/09 submitted by Jeanne Guise:

The amended gas chamber bill, SB 501, had its first reading in the Senate today. The committee substitute version allows the continuation of gas chambers in those counties currently using them. The key wording is:

(2) The term "humanely destroyed" does not include euthanizing a dog by means of a gas chamber: Provided, That any county which has a gas chamber in operation as of the effective date of this section may continue to operate the gas chamber subject to the following: (1) The gas chamber shall be operated by an animal euthanasia technician certified pursuant to article ten-a, chapter thirty of this code; and (2) the gas chamber shall have been manufactured and installed by a person who regularly manufactures and installs gas chambers.

We are concerned about the amended gas chamber bill allowing certain counties to continue to use the gas chamber indefinitely. A better option would include a reasonable timeline to discontinue the use of the gas chamber. We believe lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital, administered by competent, trained personnel, to be the method of choice for humane euthanasia of dogs, cats, other small animals and horses.

In the House, HB 2843, the "puppy mill bill," has moved out of the Agriculture Committee with a recommendation of passage and is now referred to Judiciary.

HB 3079, which would eliminate the sales tax on medications dispensed by veterinarians, has moved out of the Health and Human Resources Committee with a recommendation of passage and is now referred to Finance.

3/12/09 HB 2533 (pdf) regulating veterinary medicine, having passed the House, is now in the Senate Government Organization Committee. The pdf shows all the sections affecting CAETs. Submitted by Jeanne Guise.

3/11/09 HB 3079 (pdf) was introduced today. This bill would remove the 6% sales tax that veterinarians must pay for prescription drugs for the animals they treat. This bill is in Health and Human Resource Committee and then Finance. You will not receive emails from me until 3-23. Thanks, Sylvia

3/5/09 HB 2953 (pdf) was introduced today. This bill is to provide for the issuance of "Animal Friendly" license plates. This bill has a FISCAL NOTE which means it will be harder to pass in this economy. If you decide to read the bill, go to page 43 and look at what is underscored. This is new language being inserted into a current law. The bill has been sent to Roads and Transportation Committee and then it is secondly referenced to Judiciary. The chair of Agriculture has committed to place HB 2843 on his agenda for 3-11 or 3-18. Sylvia

3/4/09

Senate bill 447 was introduced today. This is the same as the Puppy Mill bill, HB 2843. The legislature has decided to work on the HB, so you do not need to do anything concerning SB 447. We need you to email Delegate Sam Argento, the chairman of House Agriculture Committee, and ask him to please put

HB 2843 on his committee agenda. His address is sargento@mail.wvnet.edu. Then, if you have members of the House Agriculture Committee from your area, please email them and ask them to vote for HB 2843.

HB 2533 (primarily for state vet board) has passed the House with a Committee Sub bill. This bill is now listed on the website and is an amended version. This bill now goes to the Senate who will not consider until later in the session.

2/20/09

Two new bills were introduced today.

HB 2699 (pdf file) "Aggressive or vicious dog breeding restrictions." This bill is double referenced, first to Agriculture and then to Judiciary Committees. My question about this bill is who declares the dog vicious or potentially dangerous? If HB 2721 passes, it could work with that bill.

HB 2721 (pdf file) "Dangerous Dog Act." This bill is also double referenced, first to Agriculture and then Judiciary Committees. This bill has some very good language and is not all bad. EVERYONE SHOULD READ THIS BILL. My concern is how we qualify that a dog is dangerous and who is determining that. If you are for or against you should contact the House Agriculture Committee.

2/18/09

A great bill was introduced today and it is SB 292 (pdf file) which gives a tax deduction for dog and cat spay/neuter. This bill is in the Senate Finance Committee. Emails and calls need to be made asking that this bill be placed on the committee agenda. I believe that many people would s/n to get the write-off.

2/17/09

HB 2533 (pdf file on 3/12/09) has a section on Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician and should be reviewed by all shelters that euthanize animals. If you see any problems, let me know. This bill updates the law governing the practice of veterinary medicine. THIS BILL HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE AND IS AN INTERIM STUDY BILL. It is now in the committee on Government Org. and then will move to Judiciary.

2/11/09

Three animal bills were introduced today.

1. SB 6 (pdf file)- Care and management of feral cats. This bill allows TNR programs. There is not any funding in this bill and does not require TNR programs.
2. SB 83 (pdf file) is a bill that I asked for two years ago. It does not make tethering illegal, but it does set standards for humane tethering.
3. HB 2061 (pdf file) would prohibit abusive treatment of elephants. This would be in a traveling circus.

Here are the updates of the daily activity at the state legislature pertaining to animal welfare. Sylvia Shafer, who is the chief lobbyist and board member of the Kanawha/Charleston Humane Association was our primary source for this information. She spends a lot of time at the capital and will be keeping us informed about bill activity throughout the session. Our thanks also to Jeanne Guise who provided us with legislative committee contact information and also turns the bills into handy PDFs for your convenience.

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals - 2010

WV Legislature Session 2010

THERESA BRUNER note* 4 animal bills passed this session. Please note that the enrolled (final) version of the bills are provided here for your convenience. 4407 - the rabies bill, 4201 - Livestock standards board, 490 - domestic violence bill with protection for pets, 337- spay neuter adopted greyhounds.

March 17

HB 4407 (pdf enrolled version) which is the rabies bill was signed by the Governor today. The bill is effective 90 days from passage which was 3-8. Sylvia

March 12

HB 4201 (pdf enrolled version) passed today. This bill creates a Board that will create standards for the care of livestock. One of its members will be a Humane Society member. Sylvia

March 11

SB 490 (pdf enrolled version) passed the House today with amendments. I had not mentioned this bill as it a Domestic Violence bill. But the legislature is now doing something good for animals. This bill gives the animals involved protection. In part "prohibiting the respondent from taking, concealing, molesting, physically injuring, killing or otherwise disposing of the animal and limiting or precluding contact by the respondent with the animal."

SB 337 (pdf enrolled version) also passed today. This bill takes some proceeds from greyhound racing to spay/neuter Greyhounds adopted from race tracks. Another great step forward.

As a reminder, all bills must be signed by the Governor. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* These are good bills so we are very pleased they passed. We commend the legislature for passing these bills. If Comm. Gus Douglass of the Dept of Agriculture had not killed SB 225 (spay neuter), we feel certain it would have passed the house. It had already passed the Senate. The legislators understood that we needed this funding. Unfortunately, the opposition of the Dept of Agriculture sealed its fate. We may have lost this battle but not the war on this issue.

March 10

I guess I have been waiting for a miracle that did not happen.

SB 225 which would have created the Spay/Neuter Assistance has died. It was killed by the State Dept. of Agriculture.

HB 4407 changing the rabies law will be effective 90 days from the date of passage which was 3-8. A repeat vaccine must be given one year after the first one and then repeated in three years. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* The Pet Food Institute letter in opposition to SB 225 is included here (pdf PFI Letter). It was sent to all the members of the House Agricultural Committee. Also the rebuttal to that letter by THERESA BRUNER WV is included here (pdf THERESA BRUNER Rebuttal to PFI). And you can read the letter from THERESA BRUNER to Gus Douglass, Commissioner of Dept. of Agriculture who opposed a spay neuter solution for West Virginia. (pdf Douglass letter). A copy of this letter was also sent to Gov. Manchin. Please read the letter and send your comments to Commissioner Douglass and to Gov. Manchin expressing your dismay for the lack of support. Governor@wv.gov douglass@ag.state.wv.us We are not giving up on this initiative.

March 8

HB 4407 which is a 3 year rabies law passed the legislature today. The bill will now go to the Governor for his signature. This is not a law until he signs the bill and I do not know the effective date. It is usually 90 days from passage. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* SB 225 will likely be put into interim study. The Dept of Agriculture has decided to oppose this bill aligning themselves with the Pet Food Industry rather than West Virginia Taxpayers. That resulted in the bill being pulled from the Agriculture Committee Agenda. The PFI (Petfood Institute) wrote a letter of opposition to SB 225 Friday, March 09. You will hear more about this later. SB 225 would have provided \$106,000 for spay neuter assistance for low income West Virginians. This would have relieved the burden on our shelters and on taxpayers.

March 4

SB 225 Creating the Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund has been sent to House Agriculture committee. Please email Greg Butcher gbutcher@mail.wvnet.edu asking him to place SB 225 on his committee agenda. WV really needs this bill to pass so low income people can have their pets spayed or neutered. Please send the emails as soon as possible as the session is nearing the end.

SB 4407 the 3year rabies law has also been sent to Butcher. Please include this bill on your email.

Thanks,Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* We need to inundate Sen. Butcher with requests both phone and email to put SB 225 on the Agriculture Committee Agenda. Urge him to assist with our pet overpopulation problem. Use the points we listed on the newsflash above. Please convince him that we need some financial assistance to address this problem. Greg Butcher's phone contact is (304) 340-3113. If you know anyone in Logan County have them contact Butcher too. We have 9 days to get this bill passed. Act now!

March 3

SB 225 passed the senate today and moves to the House

SB 695 passed the senate today and moves to the House

HB 4201 passed the House today and moves to the Senate

HB 4407 passed the House today and moves to the senate.

I will not know what committees these bills are assigned to until tomorrow. So we can do nothing today to help. Take a break until tomorrow. All other animal bills are dead. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* SB 225 passed the Senate with only one Senator voting against it (Sen. Sypolt)

March 2

SB 225 has now advanced to 3rd reading on 3-3 - this is the bill to fund statewide spay neuter in WV

SB 695 has now advanced to 3rd reading on 3-3

HB 4201 has now advanced to 3rd reading on 3-3

HB 4407 has now advanced to 3rd reading on 3-3

3rd reading is passage or failure

SB 337 which is a lottery bill that has included money for s/n of greyhounds adopted from the track passed the senate today and now moves to the House. It will retain the same bill number in the House. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* make sure you have contacted your Senator that you want SB 225 passed or any of the other bills passed so they can move to the house.

March 1

The second reading is the amendment stage.
The following bills have moved to 2nd reading on 3/2
SB 225
SB 695
HB 4201
Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* : Information on SB 225 is provided to help you understand the bill and argue for its passage. Please contact your Senators telling them to support this legislation. Then we will start on the house. We have added the new substitute bill when there is one so you can use this bill in reading about changes from the introductory bills. All legislative contacts are listed to the left under Legislative Committees

February 25 & 26th

SB 380 the gamecock bill is dead.

HB 4333 the puppy mill bill is dead. These two bills were held in House Agriculture Comm. and not put on the agenda. The following is what is still alive.

Make a decision as to whether you support the following bills. Call or email your delegate or senator and ask him to pass the bill or to vote against it. Time is very short so you need to act now. All legislators are here on this site under Legislative Committees.

HB 4407 which is the 3 year rabies bill has been substituted and passed to the House floor. It is on 1st reading on Monday.

HB 4201 which is creating the Livestock Standards Board has been substituted and sent to the House floor.

SB 225 (PDF sub 2) creating the spay/neuter assistance fund passed out of Finance Committee and is on its way to the Senate floor. It is on 1st reading Monday. This is also a substitute bill. I support this bill.

SB 695 is changing the current rabies law from 2 years to 3 years. This bill is on first reading Monday.

Email your senator about the bills you support. Sylvia

February 23 - 2nd note

SB 225 needs to be placed on the Senate Finance Committee agenda no later than Thursday. Please email Senator Walt Helmick and ask him to place this bill on his committee walt.helmick@wvsenate.gov. If senators from your district serve on the Senate Finance Committee, please email them and request they ask Helmick to hear SB 225.

Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* This needs to happen before February 25th. Please help or this bill will die since it has to be out of committee by Sunday, February 28th.

February 23

SB 695 originated in Senate Agriculture and is now going to move to Senate Judiciary. This bill amends the 2 year rabies law to 3 years. All bills had to be introduced by 2-22 unless they originate in a committee. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note*

Sponsors:

Facemyer - Agriculture

Guills - Agriculture
Laird - Agriculture & Judiciary
Palumbo - Agriculture & Judiciary
Snyder - Agriculture & Judiciary
Sypolt - Agriculture
Unger - Agriculture
Williams - Vice Chair, Agriculture & member, Judiciary
White - Chair, Agriculture

February 19

HB 4407 passed out of the Agriculture Committee today with an amendment. This bill now moves to House Judiciary. This is a bill that changes our current rabies law. Sylvia

February 18

SB 225 (PDF sub) passed out of Judiciary today in an amended form. For those who are reading bills, the sub is listed here. This bill now moves to the Finance Comm. Please email the chair of that committee Walt Helmick walt.helmick@wvsenate.gov and ask him to place this bill on his committee agenda. This is the spay/neuter assistance bill.

HB 4429 moved out of the House Agriculture Committee into the Judiciary committee. This bills adds a greater fine for injury to a horse or dog that is used by law enforcement.

Two new bills were introduced today. HB 4542 (PDF) which is a duplicate of what SB 225 looked like before it was amended and a sub written. Also a duplicate of HB 4406.

HB 4546 (PDF) is a bill relating to livestock in dire or extreme condition. This bill states that is county commission shall establish a livestock committee..

Both of the above bills are referenced to Agriculture and then to Judiciary. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* SB 225 is the bill establishing a statewide spay neuter assistance fund. THERESA BRUNER appeared at the Judiciary Committee meeting today speaking for SB 225. Betty Burkett, Sylvia Shafer and Jay Miller were in attendance. They reported that this bill could generate upwards of \$100,000 yearly for spay neuter assistance in WV. Currently, SNAP WV has awarded nearly \$25,000 in spay neuter grants to 9 counties. Please contact Chairman Walt Helmick walt.helmick@wvsenate.gov or call 304-357-7980 and ask him to place this bill on his committee agenda.

*THERESA BRUNER note

Sponsors of HB 4546 (livestock in dire conditions)

D. Poling

Hartman

Azinger

Evans

Ross

Williams - Agriculture

Hamilton - Judiciary

Smith

Ellem - Judiciary Minority Chair

Border

Sponsors of 4542 (establishes a statewide Spay Neuter Assistance Fund)

Varner

Ferro - Judiciary Committee

Cann

Kominar

Hutchins - Judiciary

Fragale

February 15

HB 4333 is in trouble. The vice chair of House Agriculture is not placing the bill on his committee agenda. This is the very important PUPPY MILL BILL. Please email Greg Butcher gbutcher@mail.wvnet.edu asking him "Please place HB 4333 on the agenda for House Agriculture and pass the bill out of committee." Please send your emails as soon as possible. We need to flood his office with emails. Thanks, Sylvia

February 10

SB 380 (animal fighting) passed the Senate today with one vote against: Senator Fanning of McDowell County. This bill now moves to the House who cannot consider the bill until 3-3.

A new House bill was introduced today. HB 4429 (PDF) increases the financial penalties for causing injury to a horse or dog used by law enforcement. This bill goes first to the Agriculture Comm. and then to Judiciary.

Your help is needed to have HB 4406 heard in the Agriculture Committee. This bill creates a Spay Neuter Assistance Fund. Please email the Vice Chair of this committee and ask him to place HB 4406 on the committee agenda. Greg Butcher gbutcher@mail.wvnet.edu Thanks, Sylvia

Sponsors of HB 4429 (police animal protection)

Phillips

Crozier

Frazier - Judiciary Committee

Longstreth - Judiciary

Mahan

Staggers

Guthrie - Agriculture

Hall - Agriculture

Theresa Bruner : In your plea to delegates for passage of bill to establish the Spay Neuter Assistance Fund, use the recent statistics from the THERESA BRUNER WV survey showing that in 2008, 49% of dogs and 77% of cats entering WV shelters were euthanized.

2008 WV Dog/Cat Euthanasia Statistics /11 shelters

(PTS = Euthanasia)

Dog intake 16823

Dogs PTS 8310

PTS % 49%

Cat intake 17725

Cats PTS 13707

PTS % 77%

February 9

The sub bill for SB 380 will be up for passage or failure tomorrow. If you have not sent your senators an email, you need to send it today or tonight. This makes gamecock fighting a felony.

HB 4406 (PDF) was introduced today. This bill creates the Spay Neuter Assistance Fund. The bill has been sent to the House Agriculture Committee and then will go to Judiciary. This is a good bill and needs your support.

HB 4407 was introduced today. This bill changes the vaccine required to prevent rabies to three years from two years, it also creates a waiver for animals that cannot take the vaccine. Please read this bill. It also goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary. Sylvia

HB 4406 is the companion bill to SB 225. It is the bill that provides ongoing funding for spay/neuter assistance in WV. We are endorsing this bill. Please send emails to the House Agricultural Committee Members to get this bill on the agenda of that committee. You will find the contact information for these committee members on the left menu link for easy access.

HB 4406 sponsors

Manypenny – Taylor - Agriculture

Guthrie – Kanawha - Agriculture

Brown – Kanawha - Judiciary

Skaff - Kanawha - Judiciary

D. Walker – Clay

Rowen – Hampshire

Klempa – Ohio

Caputo – Marion - Agriculture, Judiciary

Mahan – Summers

HB 4407 Sponsors

Guthrie – Agriculture

Butche - Agriculture Vice Chair

Manypenny - Agriculture

February 5

SB 485 (PDF) was introduced today. Anyone in animal control who does seizures of abandoned or neglected animals needs to read this bill. It states that the officer must report animal seizure to magistrate court. This bill is in Senate Judiciary Committee. Sylvia

Sponsors of SB 485:

Sybolt

Barnes – Judiciary

Yost

Hall

Stollings – Judiciary

Boley

Chafin - Judiciary

February 4

SB 380 was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee this afternoon and is on its way to the Floor. This bill has been amended and I am sorry but you won't be able to read the changes for a couple of days. They have merged SB 208 (wagering) into SB 380 and reduced wagering and attending to a misdemeanor.

Please send emails to all of the senators in your district asking them to support and pass SB 380. This bill will be on the Floor tomorrow. We need to make gamecock fighting a felony. All other animal fighting is already a felony.

HB 4333 (PDF) was also introduced today and it is a great bill: Commercial dog breeding operations. We should support this bill. Please read and if you agree, send an email to the chair of the House Agriculture Committee Sam Argento sargento@mail.wvnet.edu. Argento is on sick leave so please send another email to the vice chair Greg Butcher gbutcher@mail.wvnet.edu. Ask them to please put this bill on the Agriculture Committee Agenda. Thanks, Sylvia

Sponsors HB 4333:

Mahan

Beach - Agriculture Committee

Fleishchauer - Judiciary Committee

Overington - Agriculture & Judiciary

Guthrie – Agriculture

D. Poling

February 1

SB 208 (Animal Fighting – PDF below) was heard today in the Senate Agriculture Committee. It passed and is now in the Judiciary Committee. A date has not been set for the hearing in Judiciary. Sylvia

January 29

I have just received a call stating that SB 208 (making wagering on animal fighting a felony) is scheduled to be heard by the Agriculture Committee on Monday, Feb. 1st at 2pm. The meeting will be held in the Senate Judiciary Committee room. I plan to attend and all are welcome to come. Sylvia

January 28

It is time for us to get to work and send emails to committee chairs asking them to put certain bills on their committee agenda.

Two new bills today and both are good, but please push the Senate bill as it does more than the House bill.

SB 380 (PDF) makes ALL ANIMAL FIGHTING A FELONY AND THIS INCLUDES GAMECOCK. This bill was introduced by Senator Kessler. Please send Sen. Kessler an email asking that he place this bill on his Judiciary Committee Agenda. He is the chair of Judiciary where this bill was sent.

jeff.kessler@wvsenate.gov

HB 4216 (PDF) makes it a felony to wager on animal fighting. This bill is similar to SB 208. It does not make gamecock fighting a felony. It is in House Judiciary.

I have already listed HB 4201 and I have had several feedbacks on how much this bill is needed. Please email the chair of Agriculture and ask him to place this bill on the agenda. Sam Argento sargento@mail.wvnet.edu and (Vice Chair) Greg Butcher gbutcher@mail.wvnet.edu. WV does not have any standards of care for livestock.

Another bill that needs passed is SB 225. Please email Jeff Kessler and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. jeff.kessler@wvsenate.gov This bill would help spay/neuter for people who cannot afford it. All of the above are good and needed bills. Sylvia

SB 225 is a bill that we feel is critical and needs your support. It would provide some funding for spay/neuter through a fee to distributors of pet food in WV. There is more information about this bill on this website in the article 'Spay Neuter Funding Bill is needed.'

You can find all chairs and other legislators on this website by using our side user menu.

Of note here is that you want to thank these sponsors when you do your emails for sponsoring the bill and let them know how much you support it.

The following sponsors of SB 225 are on the Judiciary Committee:

Kessler - chair

Laird

Synder

Barnes

Stollings

The following sponsors of SB 380 are on the Judiciary Committee:

Kessler - chair

Yost

The following sponsors of SB 4216 are on the Judiciary Committee:

Overington

Wells

Hunt (Vice Chair)

Ellem (Minority Chair)

Longstreth

Brown

Michael

Shook

Ross

Ferro

January 27

A very good bill was introduced today which is HB 4201 (PDF). Anyone associated with animal control and welfare knows that many complaints are made concerning starving horses and cattle. This bill established a Board to establish standards of care for livestock and poultry. A Humane Society member will be one of the members.

This bill first goes to the Agriculture Committee and then to Judiciary. Standards of care are much needed in this state. Please read the bill and support it if you think it is needed. Sylvia

January 26

The only bill pertaining to animals introduced today is SB 337. It allows part of the purse from greyhound racing to be used for S/N for greyhounds rescued from the tracks. This is good but does not require spay/neuter. Sylvia

This is quite long so we will not post the PDF. You can read it from this website using the 2010 Legislative Search.

January 18

There was one bill introduced today SB 231 (PDF). This bill would give an income tax credit for people who spay/neuter their household pets. This bill is the same as last year and the Senate Finance committee said last year they had to know how much revenue loss the state would have. This amount would be very difficult to obtain. This bill is single referenced to the Finance Committee.

Please consider supporting SB 147 (puppy mill), SB 208 (gamecock), and SB 225 which is a permit license fee where the revenue would go for spay/neuter. This bill is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee then it must go to Finance.

For people contacting their legislators, you must contact the people on the committee where the bill will first be heard. Sylvia

January 15, 2010

SB 225 (pdf) was introduced today. This bill creates the Spay/Neuter Assistance Act by providing money from an additional commercial feed distributor fee assessed to commercial feed distributors to fund a statewide spay and neuter program. All of us are very aware of the pet over-population problem and this is a chance to help fund s/n on a statewide basis. It goes first to Judiciary and then to Finance. Sylvia

We are pleased that the bill has several sponsors: Sens. Kessler, Snyder, Barnes, Stollings and Laird. Tell your senator that you want their support for this bill. This bill would allow an increase on the existing permit fee on the distributor of commercial pet food brands in the state & not on the consumer. They are already paying a brand registration fee and it will be increased with that money being dedicated to a spay/neuter fund. The pet food industry then becomes part of our solution in assisting with our pet overpopulation problem. Maine passed a similar bill in 2005 and in 2008 they had \$127,750 collected in fees which went to a state spay/neuter fund.

January 14

No animal bills were introduced today. The senate is listing what is coming out tomorrow and SB 225 is on the list. Creating Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund by Kessler. We cannot see it until tomorrow probably late in the day. Sylvia

This spay neuter funding bill is one that THERESA BRUNER has proposed. We need other Senators to sponsor this bill to show maximum support. This would provide ongoing funding for spay neuter assistance throughout West Virginia.

January 13

All of the bills listed below are carry-over bills from the last session.

HB 2061 (pdf) prohibits abusive treatment of elephants. First goes to Agriculture Committee and then to Judiciary Committee.

HB 2699 (pdf) establish breeding restrictions for aggressive or vicious dog, First to Agriculture Committee and then to Judiciary Committee.

HB 2721 (pdf) Dangerous Dog Act. First to Agriculture and then to Judiciary Committee. This is a fairly good bill and may be needed as so many local governments are declaring Pit bulls and pit bull mixes as dangerous and not allowed.

HB 2953 (pdf) Creates an Animal Friendly License Plate with the money going to the state. This would be like any other specialty plate.

SB 147(pdf) Relating to commercial dog breeding operations. First to Agriculture Committee and then to Judiciary Committee.

SB 189 (pdf) Care and management of Feral Cats. Please note there is not any funding in this bill. First to Agriculture and then to Judiciary Committee.

SB 208 (pdf) Creating a felony offense for animal fighting venture involvement. This bill only stops wagering on animal fights.

All of these bills go first to Agriculture and then to Judiciary Committees of their respective chambers.
Sylvia Shafer

* Sylvia is reporting the bills introduced. She lobbies for KCHA so listing the bill does not mean that this bill is endorsed by KCHA, Sylvia Shafer or THERESA BRUNER. Sylvia will sometimes review a bill based on her experience dealing with the issue. You will need to read the bill and determine if it merits your support. Please read the THERESA BRUNER article on our home page explaining how we determine which bills we will actively support.

Here are the updates of the daily activity at the state legislature pertaining to animal welfare. Sylvia Shafer, who is the chief lobbyist and board member of the Kanawha/Charleston Humane Association was our primary source for this information. She spends a lot of time at the capital and will be keeping us informed about bill activity throughout the session. Our thanks also to Jeanne Guise who provided us with legislative committee contact information and also turns the bills into handy PDFs for your convenience.

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals - 2011

WV Legislature Session 2011

The 2011 Legislative Session is now over. Two bills passed out of 25 animal bills introduced. SB 349 is the bill that adds a bittering agent to anti-freeze. HB 3143 increases the penalties for killing or injuring a law enforcement animal.

Here are the updates of the daily activity at the state legislature pertaining to animal welfare. Sylvia Shafer, a board member of THERESA BRUNER WVLA and the chief lobbyist and board member of the Kanawha/Charleston Humane Association is our primary source for this information. She spends a lot of time at the capital and will be keeping us informed about bill activity throughout the session. Use the Legislature/Search button to the left to find bills or your legislators to email. Go to House or Senate and then enter your zipcode to right of that screen to find your legislator. You can email them that screen. Please help us to be the voice for the animals of West Virginia. You will occasionally see a THERESA BRUNERnote which is our opinion on a point or bill in addition to Sylvia's comments.

March 13

HB 3143 increases the penalties for killing or injuring a law enforcement animal and has passed the legislature. This bill and SB 349 await the governor's signature. These are my final comments for this session. Thanks to all of you who made calls and sent emails. If the animals could, I am sure they would also say thank you. Sylvia

Theresa Bruner note* It has been a disappointing session for the animals of West Virginia. We will regroup and prepare for next year's session. Our cause is right and our numbers continue to grow. Animal advocates throughout the state will continue to urge their lawmakers to support protective animal legislation. Whether it is spay neuter funding or stopping the horror of a puppy mill, we will continue to be the voice for those who have none. Thanks to all of you who made phone calls, emails and drove to Charleston to lobby in person. A special thanks to Sylvia Shafer for her effort in lobbying and keeping us informed. And thanks also to Summer Wyatt, WV Humane Society of US Director. Let's continue to lobby for animals all throughout the year.

March 10

HB 2883 - The puppy mill bill died today. There is nothing more that we can do. This is the third year that it did not make it. The reason that it died is simple. The breeders and their friends out called us. The legislators were swamped with calls from breeders and as I have said before, they count numbers. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER ote*

The puppy mill bill died in the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee. The members of that sub-committee were Sen. Foster (D- Kanawha), Sen. Tucker (D- Ritchie), and Sen. Facemyer (R-Jackson). The reasoning is that they want to continue to study the bill. Whether we find out exactly why this bill died, it is clear that again our voice for the animals was not loud enough. We want to thank those in the House who sponsored this bill, Delegates Mahan, Guthrie, Fragale and Manypenny and all of those in the house who passed this bill. Remember, this bill died in the Senate so express your concern to your Senator.

March 9

SB 349 is the bill that adds a bittering agent to anti freeze and it has passed the Legislature. This bill is now on its way to the Governor for his signature. Thanks for all of your help. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER alert* HB 2883 Puppy Mill Bill needs help immediately!

Phone calls/emails must be made to Sen. Palumbo, chair of Sen. Judiciary committee. Please ask him to put the puppy mill/commercial breeders bill (HB 2883) on the agenda.

Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7880

E-mail: corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov

The AKC is fighting this bill so let's make sure our voices are heard above theirs in support of this legislation! Call your Senator to ensure he/she puts pressure on Sen. Palumbo to get this bill out of committee and passed this session. This has to be done asap.

March 4

SB 349 the bill that adds a bittering agent to anti freeze will have its first reading on Monday 3-7. Please contact your delegates to support this bill. www.legis.state.wv.us

SB 303 is now in House Judiciary. This is the bill that protects cervids (deer farms) from dogs. The codes that are used in this bill are in the animal control codes and the monies to repay for the deer would come out of the Dog Kennel Fund which supports rabies clinics and animal shelters. It also gives the deer farmers the right to kill the dog. I do not support this bill. Please contact Tim Miley and ask him not to place this bill on his agenda. tim.miley@wvhouse.gov Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* on SB 303. We continue to see the irony and frustration in the fact that the WV Dept. of Ag is not willing to accept the responsibility that they now have with canines in WV, yet are so willing to take on Deer Farms. They even sent a letter to all county commissions last summer restating that they work only with dogs that are diseased and in NO other capacity. Why then are dogs under their oversight? Their archaic approach to animal issues in West Virginia will leave us playing 'catch up' for years into the future. The Dept. of Ag. is unwilling to assist with any spay neuter options with our pet overpopulation problem even when we have found a perfect solution with the pet food fee.

March 2

SB 540 is the Equine Protection Act and is now in the House Judiciary Committee. Please email Tim Miley and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. tim.miley@wvhouse.gov. Then go to www.legis.state.wv.us, enter your zipcode and ask each of your delegates to support this bill.

Starting tomorrow, 3-3, the House will only work on passed Senate bills and the Senate will only work on passed House bills. This means that many of the bills are now dead. There are too many to list. Following is a list of the bills that are still alive.

SB 303 protecting cervids from dogs

SB 349 adding a bittering agent to anti freeze

SB 351 transferring cervids from DNR to AG (Deer farms)

SB 540 Equine Protection Act

HB 2883 puppy mill bill

HB 3143 increasing the penalties for injury of death of a law enforcement animal

Sylvia

March 1

HB 2883 has passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please contact Corey Palumbo and ask him to please put this bill on his committee agenda. corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov. Also go to www.legis.state.wv.us and enter your zip code and ask all of your senators to support this bill.

SB 540 which is the Equine Protection Act is up for passage on 3-2 When this bill passes and is assigned a committee in the House, I will email with instructions. This is a very important bill.

SB 349 which is the bill that requires a bittering agent to be added to antifreeze. It is time to start this bill moving in the House Judiciary Committee. Please contact Tim Miley and ask him to place this bill on this agenda. tim.miley@wvhouse.gov Also email your delegates and ask them to support this bill.

SB 334 making wagering on animal fighting a misdemeanor is dead in the House. Butcher, chair of House Agricultural Committee, is not putting this bill on his agenda. There is nothing that you can do. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* We really need to get HB 2883 (Puppy Mill Bill) passed in the Senate. Make sure to contact Chairman Palumbo and members of the Judiciary Committee who are your Senators to get this bill on the committee agenda. Also SB 349 needs to move. Please follow the instructions and make your contact calls and emails today! You can contact your legislators without leaving this site by pulling up the WV Legislative site from the left menu. Be a voice for these animals in WV!

February 24

SB 540 - This bill has been amended and now applies only to Equine Rescue Facilities. It is now a very good bill and has moved to the floor of the Senate. It will be on first reading 2-25. Contact your senators to vote for this bill. Please read the sub com version of the bill. This bill was drafted due to the horse problems this state has had with equine rescue.

SB 303- This is the bill that protects captive deer from dogs. This bill also provides that a dog can be killed if attacking a captive deer. The monies to pay for the deer could come from the Kennel Fund. All animal control officers would be required to enforce it. This bill has been passed by the Senate and is now in the House and waiting to be heard in the House Judiciary Committee. If you do not support this bill, please contact Delegate Miley and ask him not to place the bill on his agenda. tim.miley@wvhouse.gov. Please read the revised sub bill by going to the legislative site. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNERnote* You should oppose SB 303. It could raid local kennel funds and much needed animal shelter and control of already distressed funding. Go to legislative site from the left menu.

February 22

HB 2883 - This is the puppy mill (kennel) bill and it passed out of the House Judiciary today. This bill has several amendments of which you will not be able to see until the sub version is on the website. This is still a good bill. It is going to have a rough time on the House floor and needs your emails and calls. Ask your delegate to please pass the puppy mill bill HB 2883. This needs to be done ASAP. Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* HB 2883 is the Commercial Breeding Bill or otherwise known as the Puppy Mill Bill. There is no reason that these breeders should not be regulated. We must not let WV become a puppy mill capitol as neighboring states strengthen their regulations and we welcome unscrupulous breeders in to do business. Please read the article on this page entitled "Animal Advocates of WV support Commercial Dog Breeding Bill" for reasons to vote FOR this bill. See above to find your delegates/legislators to email. Please do so immediately.

February 21

SB 334 passed the senate today. This is the bill that makes wagering on animal fighting a crime. Sadly, it would not be a felony but a misdemeanor. It is still a good bill. I will tell you when to start emailing the House asking them to pass this bill. Thanks, Sylvia

Today is the last day that new bills can be introduced although if they originate in a committee they can still be introduced.

Feb. 27 is the last day for bills to be heard in committee of the body where the bill originated.

March 2 is the last day for third reading in house of origin. What this means is that all House bills need to be passed by the House by 3-2 and all senate bills need to be passed by the senate

Starting 3-3 the senate will work on passed house bills and the house will work on passed senate bills. 3-12 at midnight is the end of the session. Sylvia.

February 17

SB 540 was introduced today. This bill is creating Equine Early Intervention and Protection Act. This is a very good bill but it is not on the state web at this time. This bill will allow officers to inspect twice a year property of horse sanctuaries. As many of you know there have been several problems in this state concerning rescued horses. Please read the bill (hopefully tomorrow) and then contact Corey Palumbo, Chair of Senate Judiciary, and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. 304-357-7880 or corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov Thanks, Sylvia

February 16

Good news. SB 334 is moving and will have its first reading tomorrow. This bill makes all wagering on any animal fighting venture a felony. Please contact the senators from your district and ask them to support this bill. Thanks, Sylvia

February 15

SB 303 passed the senate today and now moves to the House. I oppose this bill that protects cervids from dogs. This will be a function of animal control who already have a busy job. This will cost counties money when the deer are injured or killed as the payment will come from the Kennel Fund which helps support animal shelter. How can we prove they were not injured or killed by a coyote? This also allows the management of the deer farms to shoot your dog. When it is time to oppose the bill in the House, I will let you know. It will probably be the first of March.

HB 3143 was introduced today. This bill increases the penalties for injuring or killing an animal used by law enforcement. This bill goes to Judiciary and then Finance. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNERnote* Here is another bill to provide spay neuter funding.

HB 2966 would implement a \$3 fee on rabies vaccinations to help finance spay neuter programs in West Virginia. Moneys collected from the \$3 fee will be deposited in the newly created Spay Neuter Assistance Fund, and will be distributed to the Spay Neuter Assistance Program of West Virginia, which is a program currently providing spay neuter assistance in the state. It is in the Agriculture Committed then it would go to Finance.

Sponsors of the bill are Delegates Manypenny, Boggs, Caputo, Fragale, Morgan and White - If any of these are your delegates, thank them for caring enough to find money for spay neuter assistance.

The argument from some veterinarians is the issue of added paperwork. Yet, they are the direct beneficiaries of the additional revenue. Those spay neuter dollars come back to them while West Virginia addresses its pet overpopulation. Why can't we be creative enough to come together to make this work?

February 13

THERESA BRUNER note* How ironic that the WV Dept. of Agriculture wants NOTHING to do with spay neuter assistance funding to help reduce unwanted dogs and cats throughout the state; but now with SB 351 and SB 303 they will take on the cervids (deer) from the Deer Farms around the state. WV Dept. of Ag. does not seem to have enough resources to help with the dog population that now falls within their oversight so how can they possibly take on the cervids?

The WV Dept. of Agriculture, rather than the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) would be the overseer of Deer Farms in WV if SB 351 passes. And with SB 303, another Deer Farm bill, deer would be treated as livestock under the law and restitution could come from the County Commission local dog and kennel fund. There is little enough of those funds already in localities around the state. Plus, it would now involve local animal control resources rather than the DNR. You should oppose these bills. They can gut already distressed dog and kennel funds.

By the way, other states have Agricultural Departments effectively handling spay neuter assistance funds. There are three spay neuter assistance funding bills that would provide money from pet food registration in the state before the state legislature. HB 2398 & HB 2504 same bill with different sponsors. SB 313 which is the Senate version of the same bill. Ask your legislators to get one of these passed! An explanation of the need for these bills is on this site under article 'Spay Neuter Bills Introduced Again in 2011.'

February 10

HB 3095 was introduced today. This bill states that each county commission establish a livestock committee to aid livestock in dire conditions. I do support or not support this bill as I do not know if this would or would not work. Please make your own decisions. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary.

HB 3098 would provide funding for WV racing greyhounds for adoption and spay/neuter. I do not have a recommendation. This bill goes to Agriculture and then Finance.

SB 303 passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee and will have its first reading on 2-11. Amendment stage will be 2-14 and passage of the bill would be 2-15. This bill is adding captive cervids (deer) to the list of animals protected from dogs. If you oppose or support this bill, please contact the senators from your district. This bill affects the animal control people, gives the property owner the right to kill the dog worrying the captive deer. (This would be a deer farm) Animal Control Codes 19-20-14,15,16,17, &18. Sylvia

February 9

HB 3080 is a bad bill. DANGEROUS DOG ACT. Please read this bill. This bill discriminates against Pit Bulls. This bill has good sections, but also has bad ones.

Please email or call Delegate Greg Butcher asking him not to put this bill on his Agriculture agenda. 304 340-3112 304 340-3112 greg.butcher@wvhouse.gov and let Delegate Mark Hunt, the bill sponsor, know that you do not like this bill. 304 340-3392 304 340-3392 mhunt@markahunt.com Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note: We support good legislation on 'dangerous dogs' but not this type of legislation that discriminates against a specific breed. Our position on breed specific legislation is clear; we are opposed to it. Please follow Sylvia's instructions above on opposing this bill.

January 31

SB 349 is a good bill. The purpose of this bill is to require a bittering agent to be placed in certain engine coolants and antifreezes to prevent injury or death of human beings and animals. This bill has gone to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please contact the chair Corey Palumbo 304 357-7880 304 357-7880 or email corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov .

House Agriculture committee agenda does not show any animal bills to be heard on 2-2. Sylvia

January 28 addendum from Sylvia:

HB 2917 Purchase and sale of dogs is a good idea but there is not any penalty or enforcement. Dogs cannot be sold until they are 8 weeks of age. This bill goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary

HB 2924 is creating the Dutch Law for fallen canines and is the same as SB 302

SB 334 makes wagering on animal fighting a felony. This is a good bill. Please contact Corey Palumbo (Chair of Judiciary) and ask him to place the bill on his committee agenda. 304 357-7854 email corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov

Have a nice weekend. Sylvia

January 28

HB 2883 is the revised bill to regulate commercial dog breeders. This is the approved bill by HSUS and we need your help to make it become a law. Please contact Delegate Miley (Judiciary Chairman) and ask him to place this bill on his Judiciary Committee agenda. Contact Miley 304 340-3252 or send an email to tim.miley@wvhouse.gov. Please also contact all members of the Judiciary Committee and ask them to pass this bill out of committee. You can find all of the names by clicking on House, then committees, then Judiciary. Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* HB 2883 is the commercial dog breeder bill that we need to support. In order to curb the growth of larger puppy mills in WV we need to pass this bill. Please contact Delegate Miley and other members of the Judiciary Committee from your area to ask that this be put on the Judiciary Committee agenda and passed out of committee. Thanks to sponsors, Mahan, Guthrie, Fragale and Manypenny. If any of these delegates represent you, please thank them. Read the article from Animal Advocates on why support HB 2883.

January 27

HB 2883 is another bill creating regulation for commercial dog breeding operation. This bill is in the Judiciary Committee. I am waiting to find out which bill to support
SB 302 is a wonderful bill. "Dutch Law" to honor fallen law enforcement canines and their handlers. This bill first goes to Committee on Government Organization and then Finance.

SB 303 adds captive Cervids to the list of animals for whom one may kill a dog if observing a dog chasing or harming the animal. This would be deer farms. This bill is in Judiciary. I do not support this bill but please read the bill and make your own decisions.

SB 313 is another bill creating the spay/neuter assistance fund. This bill is in Senate Agriculture and then Senate Finance Comm. I do not know which of the three bills they are going to try to work. Please do nothing at this time. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* There are three spay neuter assistance bills. Two are House Bills and one is a Senate Bill. They are the same bills. We will let you know which of these spay neuter funding bills to support depending on which one gets moving first. SB 313 was sponsored by Kessler and Stollings so if they are your Senators, please thank them for sponsoring this bill.

January 25

HB 2015 will not be heard tomorrow in the Agriculture Comm. A new bill is to be drafted and will be heard on 2-2. Please plan to attend if you can.

SB 269 was introduced today. This bill gives a tax deduction on your state income tax when you have your animal spayed or neutered. This bill goes to Finance and the chair is Senator Prezioso, 304 357-7961, roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov Please ask him to place this bill on his committee agenda. Sylvia

January 21

HB 2716 creating the Dangerous Dog Act was introduced today. This bill is good with a few exceptions. I do not know if they plan to run this bill, so do nothing at this time. This is the third year for this bill and they have not heard it in committee the past two years. Sylvia

January 19

HB 2015 is the bill that regulates large scale breeders. This bill will be heard in the Agriculture Committee on 1-26 at 8:30am in Room 215 east. Your support is needed to get this bill out of committee. If you have a delegate on this committee, please email them and ask them to vote for this bill. To find out if your delegate is on this committee, please do the following listed in the THERESA BRUNER note below. This is the only bill that is moving. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* : Select the 2011 WV Legislative/Search on the left menu. You will be in the legislative site, then select House, then committees, then Agriculture. You can email from that screen. You do not even have to leave our THERESA BRUNER site to do all of this. This is an important bill so we need to strongly support it at this time.

January 14

HB 2504 Creating the Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund is almost the same bill as HB 2398. The bill has different sponsors. I do not know which bill they plan to try to move. I will let you know when I find out. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* HB 2504 is the Spay Neuter Funding Bill sponsored by Delegates Varner, Ferro, Cann, Kominar and Fragale. These are different sponsors than those who sponsored HB 2398. We want to thank these sponsors. If any of them are from your area, please give them a huge thanks. THERESA BRUNER will review each bill and provide information on which is preferred. We are pleased that there is interest in providing spay neuter funding and hopeful that a spay neuter fund will be the result.

January 13

HB 2443 - This bill will prohibit wagering at animal fighting ventures and provide a felony animal penalty. This bill goes first to Agriculture and then Finance. This bill would help stop gamecock fighting.
HB 2450 - This bill changes two current laws to include cats that are injured by dogs. This also includes dogs that chase cats. I have very mixed feelings as most dogs will chase cats that come on their property. Please read the bill. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then to Judiciary. Greg Butcher's email address is greg.butcher@wvhouse.gov Sylvia

January 12, 2011

Our first entry for this session from Sylvia shows three good bills being submitted:

All of the following bills are good and first go to Agriculture and then Judiciary. Greg Butcher is the chair of Agriculture 304 340-3112 gregbutcher@wvhouse.gov. The bills must first be placed on the Agriculture committee agenda.

HB 2015 - Creating regulations for commercial dog breeding operations.

HB 2372 - Prohibiting abusive behavior towards elephants by an owner or manager.

HB 2398 - Creating the spay/neuter assistance fund. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* HB 2398 is a Spay Neuter Funding Bill for a financial solution for spay neuter options at the state level. This is the original bill from last year. This is called the Spay Neuter Assistance Fund Bill. Thank you to Delegates Manypenny, Guthrie, Brown, D. Walker, Skaff, Rowan, Caputo and Mahan for cosponsoring this very important bill. If any of these delegates are one of yours, send them a huge thank you!!

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals – 2012

WV Legislature Session 2012

On 4/4/12, Governor Tomblin vetoed the Exotics Bill. The story is that it was vetoed on the concerns of the DNR (Dept. of Natural Resources) that they had neither the funding nor the ability to enforce this bill. The Governor signed into law SB 75 which is the equine facility act. This law becomes effective 7-1-12.

Sylvia Shafer who is the main lobbyist for Charleston Kanawha Humane Society & also the Associate Director of THERESA BRUNERWV Legislative Action provided us with first-hand reports from the Capital during the past 2012 legislative session. Only 2 animal bills made it through the legislative session out of many. SB 477, exotics regulation and SB 75 which has to do with standards for horse rescues. We will leave this information posted for a while and then we will archive it along with past legislative sessions on this site. We are starting now to prepare for legislative 2013. Your shelter may be contacted for information to complete a much needed survey on animal deaths, operating expenses, etc as we prepare our convincing arguments to again gain spay neuter funding from the WV State Legislature.

You will read Sylvia's daily log of activity and then occasionally you will note a THERESA BRUNERWV Legislative Action comment.

Mar. 10

SB 477: The Senate just concurred with the House Amendment. Now the bill will move on to the Governor's desk to be signed or vetoed.

Sylvia

SB 75 has passed and is on the way to the Governor's Office.

SB 477 passed the House with 27 delegates voted against the bill and all but four were Republicans. The Democrats that voted NO are Craig of Cabell, Marcum of Mingo, Reynolds of Cabell and Rodighiero of Logan.

The following are all Republicans: Anderson of Wood, Andes of Putnam, Border of Wood, Canterbury of Greenbrier, Cowles of Morgan, Gearheart of Mercer, Householder of Berkeley, Howell of Mineral, Kump of Berkeley, Lane of Kanawha, C. Miller of Cabell, J Miller of Berkeley, Nelson of Kanawha, O'Neal of Raleigh, Pasdon of Monongalia, Romine of Tyler, Rowan of Hampshire, Savilla of Putnam, Sigler of Nicholas, Snuffer of Raleigh, Sobonya of Cabell, Sumner of Raleigh, and Walters of Kanawha.

Please do not try to read the bill until the Enrolled Sub is on the state website. The amendment will be in that version. The Rules are to be written by DNR after public hearings to determine which animals are to be covered in this law. The law becomes effective 7-1-12 but not really. The Rules must be promulgated by the Legislators after the Rules are written. This will probably be in the 2013 session. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNERWV Legislative Action note: It is important to note who votes for and against animal bills. Animal advocates support animal measures with their vote for those who represent their interest.

Mar. 8

Our spay/neuter and puppy mill bills died last night. This is heartbreaking. Thanks to all of you who have helped. I would like to see a hundred or more of you come to Charleston for an Animal Day to show the legislators that we have many people who care about animals. If we show up on the same day wearing animal shirts, we will have more of an impact. More on this later.

SB 75 and SB 477 are still alive but all other animal bills are dead. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note: Very sad for WV animals. See our note on March 7 for reasons to support the two animal bills that are left. Exotics, SB 477 and Equine Facilities Act, SB 75. They are very important too.

Mar. 7

SB 75 The Equine Facilities Act passed out of House Judiciary this afternoon. It will have three readings on the floor of the house with the 3rd being on Sat. March 10th, the end of the session for passage or failure.

SB 477. The Exotic bill also passed out of House Judiciary this afternoon. This bill was amended by that committee. It is still a good bill. The Rules will have to be written next session (2013) and the animals will be named that are covered by this bill. They should only be the dangerous exotics such as lions, etc. Even if this bill passes this session, it will not be effective until after the 2013 session. Please do not listen to rumors that you cannot keep your hamster or parrot. This bill deserves your support. Like SB 75 it will be up for passage on Sat. Since the 477 was amended today, when it passes the House, it must go back to the Senate for concurrence.

If you support either of these bills, please email your members of the House of Delegates and ask them to support the bill.

Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER Legislative Action note: Ginnie Maurer, Board Member and founder of Animal Advocates of WV provides reasons to support these two bills!!

SB 75 - Equine Facilities Act We need to protect the animals of this state from unscrupulous individuals who are in humane in their treatment of animals in their care and under their protection. Berkeley County does not want to see a repeat of the horse rescue facility issue that occurred in the summer of 2010 (www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/local/west-virginia-rescue-organization-accused-of-starving-horses-091510).

SB 477 Exotics Regulation Bill: WV was found to be one of the few states with NO regulations on exotics ownership. No one wants to witness the killing of exotic animals as we all saw occur last year in Zanesville, Ohio. Yet, we have had our own incidents of wild exotic animals going on the rampage. For instance, in July 1998 in Sprague, West Virginia, a pet chimpanzee escaped from his enclosure and jumped into a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash. The chimp followed the postal worker out of the truck, and the two grappled until the chimp's owner intervened. In August 2000, this same chimpanzee escaped his cage and bit two individuals while roaming his neighborhood. In 2001 in Berkeley County, a pet monkey bit three children; the monkey was relocated to a sanctuary. In 2003 in Buckhannon, a pet lemur escaped from his home. In 2005 in Huntington, a child was bitten by a capuchin monkey. In 2006 in Pocahontas County, a 400-pound Asian brown bear escaped from his enclosure and was never found. In 2007 in Greenbrier County, a deer hunter reported seeing a 250- to 300-pound male African lion in the woods; the Department of Natural Resources confirmed this was the second report they had received about the lion. In 2008 in Pocahontas County, an escaped tiger was killed by his owner in the Monongahela National Forest.

Mar. 6

All of our bills seem to be stuck in a committee. Tomorrow is the last day for them to move out of committee and to the floor. If you did not send your emails, please do so tonight. Thanks to all of you who have helped.

Sylvia

Mar. 1

SB 479 the spay/neuter assistance bill was heard this morning in the House Agriculture Committee. It passed this committee and then moved to the House Finance Committee. Please send emails or call the chair of Finance committee asking that he place this bill on his agenda. Delegate White 304 340-3230 hkwhite@wvhouse.gov . Please also email the Vice Chair Delegate Campbell with the same request. 304 340-3250 or tcampbell@grcs.com . If you have any of the other members of this committee in your district, please email them asking to support the bill. I will send a separate email with the committee names.

We still need emails to the House Judiciary Committee on SB 75, SB 406, and SB 477. Please email Delegate Miley asking him to place these bills on the Judiciary Committee agenda. 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov

All animal bills except for the following died yesterday. The bills still alive are as follows:

SB 75 Equine Facilities Act
SB 406 Puppy Mill Bill
SB 421 Deer Farm Bill
SB 477 Exotic bill
SB 479 Spay/Neuter Assistance
SB 527 Livestock trespassing Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note:

Make sure to add this video link to your email to the delegates.

<http://youtu.be/WK20pAPE84U> WV Spay Neuter Assistance Funding Video

Finance Committee members:

hkwhite@wvhouse.gov; tcampbell@grcs.com; bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov;
mitch.carmichael@wvhouse.gov; sam.cann@wvhouse.gov; nancy.guthrie@wvhouse.gov;
richard.iaquinta@wvhouse.gov; virginia.mahan@wvhouse.gov; charlene.marshall@wvhouse.gov;
don.perdue@wvhouse.gov; linda.phillips@wvhouse.gov; dan.poling@wvhouse.gov;
mary.poling@wvhouse.gov; delegatedoug@yahoo.com; doug.skaff@wvhouse.gov;
josh.stowers@wvhouse.gov; scott.varner@wvhouse.gov; larry.williams@wvhouse.gov;
troy.andes@wvhouse.gov; bob.ashley@wvhouse.gov; ray.canterbury@wvhouse.gov;
daryl.cowles@wvhouse.gov; allen.evans@wvhouse.gov; carol.miller@wvhouse.gov;
ron.walters@wvhouse.gov

Feb. 29

This late in a session, it is very difficult to get notices out in time for emails or calls. I found out this afternoon that SB 479 will be heard in the House Agriculture Committee 3-1 at 8:30am. It is too late to get your support emails out as they won't see them until after the vote. This bill has a second reference

to Finance that may or may not be required. I will send out notices tomorrow afternoon as to whether we need to email the Finance Committee.

SB 421 Deer Farms moving under the Dept. of Agriculture was sent to the Judiciary Comm. If you support this bill, please email or call Delegate Miley and ask him to place the bill on his agenda. 304 340-3242 or tim.miley@wvhouse.gov

SB 527 The general livestock trespassing bill will also be heard tomorrow morning in House AG. at 8:30am. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note: If your delegate is on the House Ag Committee, send an email in support of the bill. Make sure to add the NEW video link to any email that you send in support of SB 479 to your delegate. It is the new video for delegates!

Feb 28th

SB 479 The Spay/Neuter Assistance bill passed the Senate today with one Nay vote by Senator Facemeyer of Jackson Co.

This bill now moves to the House. I will let you know tomorrow which committee to contact.

SB 421 Putting deer farms under Agriculture passed the Senate today with 8 Nay votes. The nays were Barnes from Randolph, Browning from Wyoming, Fanning from McDowell, Kirkendoll from Logan, Klempa from Ohio, Prezioso from Marion, Stollings from Boone and Yost from Brooke. This bill now moves to the House. I will let you know tomorrow which committee to contact.

All of the following Senate bills are now in the House.

SB 75 Creating Equine Rescue Facilities Act

SB 406 The Kennel bill

SB 477 Limiting possession of wild and exotic animals

Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER Legislative Action note: With only one day to spare, we made it! SB 479 passed the Senate and now moves to the House. Thanks to those who made the call to your Senator! Get ready to send your round of emails to your Delegates in the House.

Feb. 27

SB 479 was read the second time today and was not further amended. Tomorrow, 2-28 it will have the third reading which is passage or failure. If you have not emailed your senators, please do so today or tonight. Please ask them to support the passage of the Spay/Neuter Assistance Act. Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note: Send your Senator a link to the SB 479 video when you email for their support. It delivers a powerful message! This is the LINK to our SB 479 video:

<http://youtu.be/NVUpelKKme8> (thanks to Jo Staats for putting it together along with the Stop SPOT FB page!)

Feb. 24

GREAT NEWS

SB 479 the spay/neuter assistance bill was heard in Senate Judiciary this morning and is already on the floor. This bill will have its 2nd reading on Monday. Please use www.legis.state.wv.us to find your senators and send them an email asking them to please support the passage of this bill. Please call or email this weekend or at the latest early Monday morning. Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note: This is good news. We have to keep up the work of getting SB 479 passed. Now you must contact your Senator to vote for this on the floor. Then it goes to the House Ag. Committee where you will have to contact your delegates and then to the floor of the House. Then I believe it goes back to the Senate. We will keep you posted of each step. We are doing well thanks to your phone calls and emails. We have to keep this up for these animals. It may not be exactly the bill we wanted but it will be the best (ONLY) spay/neuter bill (EVER) to come out of the WV State Legislature. And that says something very positive about our animal welfare movement in WV!

Remember you can check the legislative site from this site by doing the legislative search to the left and the WV Legislature will appear below for your search of your Representative.

Feb. 22

SB 406 the puppy mill bill passed the Senate today and is on its way to the House Judiciary. On Monday 2-27 please contact Tim Miley 304 340-3252 or tim.miley@wvhouse.gov asking him to please place this bill on his committee agenda. Be sure to read the latest version of the bill.

HB 4427 This is livestock in dire conditions passed out of the House AG. Committee with amendments. Please read the latest version of the bill. I am not sure about this bill as I do not see a need. But there again, I do not live in a rural county. If you support the bill, please contact Tim Miley 304 340-3252 or tim.miley@wvhouse.gov

SB 479 passed out of Senate Agriculture Committee and will next be heard in Senate Judiciary. Please contact Corey Palumbo and ask him to put this bill on his committee agenda. 304 357-7880 or corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov. This bill is completely revised. Please wait until the Comm. Sub is on the internet. The fee on pet food is gone and the State Dept. of Agriculture is to receive \$50,000 every year that they will disburse for spay/neuter. There is also a way to donate on your state taxes. This is not what we wanted, but it is better than nothing. We were told to come back next year and try to increase the yearly disbursement amount. TIME IS VERY SHORT. PLEASE CONTACT PALUMBO TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note- Yes we are disappointed that the Pet Food Industry gets off again while we use WV taxpayer money to fund the spay neuter initiative. But this is a victory in that the Dept. of Ag. Now will administer this fund and it includes \$50K and the tax check off. Make sure to watch this video put together by Jo Staats, THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative board member and the person who did the Facebook page. She will be updating the video to reflect the changes in the bill but for now it is really good to watch. <http://youtu.be/OwNgJi1UWDw>

Feb 20

This link is to a Facebook page called "STOP SPOT." This is in response to a Facebook page called SPOT that was produced by the pet food industry to kill SB 479 which is the spay/neuter assistance bill. Please give a comment in support of the bill, LIKE AND SHARE.

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.417388257857.192762.238097537857&type=3&saved#!/SB479?sk=info> This is a new fan page to "Stop Spot". Please send it to all of your friends!

SB 479 The spay/neuter assistance bill was heard in the Agriculture Committee this afternoon. A representative of the Food Industry from Pittsburgh testified against the bill. Theresa Brunner testified for the bill (she did a great job.) The bill was placed in a sub committee and will be heard again on Wed. 2-

22 at 9AM in Room 208W. Please plan to attend if you can. If you have not already contacted your senators who are on the Agriculture Committee, please do so. This bill needs your help. I will forward the email with the senators listed.

SB 406 The Kennel Bill sometimes called the Puppymill bill was laid over today while on 2nd reading. The reason was Senator Facemyer from Jackson Co. wants the bill amended to exclude "Hobby breeders." This amendment will be heard tomorrow 2-21 by the full Senate at 11am. We are hoping the amendment will be defeated. The 3rd and final reading of this bill will be on Wed. 2-22.

Today was the last day that new bills could be introduced. The one exception is bills originating in committees.

HB 4427 Livestock in dire or extreme condition will be heard Wed. 2-22 at 8:30am in the Government Org. chambers on the east 2nd floor wing.

SB 477 The exotic bill that has passed the Senate has moved to the House Judiciary Committee. On Monday 2-27, please send an email or call Delegate Tim Miley 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov asking him to place this bill on his committee agenda.

SB 527 The livestock trespassing law that passed the Senate has moved to House Agriculture. On Monday 2-27 please send an email or call Delegate Greg Butcher 304 340-3113 greg.butcher@wvhouse.gov asking him to place this bill on his committee agenda.

SB 75 The Equine Rescue Act that passed the Senate is now in House Judiciary, Again on Monday 2-27 call or email Delegate Miley asking him to place this bill on his committee agenda. 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov

ALL HOUSE BILLS MUST BE CLEARED OUT OF THE HOUSE BY 2-29 OR THEY ARE DEAD. THE SAME FOR SENATE BILLS. STARTING 3-1 THE HOUSE WILL WORK ON SENATE BILLS AND THE SENATE WILL WORK ON HOUSE BILLS. THE SESSION IS OVER 3-10.

Feb. 17

SB 75 Equine Rescue Facility Act has moved to the House Judiciary committee. If you support this bill please call or email Delegate Miley, chair of Judiciary, and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov
Please wait until 2-26 before you start the emails.

SB 406 Puppy mill bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and will be on 1st reading on 2-17. Please read the 2nd com sub as there are changes.

SB 421 The cervid act is on 3rd reading 2-17

SB 477 Exotic animal bill is on 3rd reading 2-17

SB 527 Changing the livestock trespassing law is on 3rd reading 2-17

3rd reading is passage or failure. If these bills pass they will move to the House. Sylvia

Feb. 15

SB 75 Equine Horse Rescue passed the Senate today and is ordered to the House. I will not know until tomorrow which committee it is going to. It will probably be Agriculture

SB 421 Cervid Farming Act is on 2nd reading 2-16.

SB 477 Possession of wild and exotic animals is on 2nd reading 2-16

SB 527 Changing the livestock trespassing law in on 2nd reading 2-16.

2nd reading is the amendment stage on the floor of the Senate

SB 406 was heard in a sub-committee today and is ready to be passed out to the full Judiciary Committee. This bill has a sub com but will be changed again.

HB 4377 Creating the Nitro Law to honor fallen law enforcement canines was heard in the House Agriculture committee today. This bill passed out and will be next heard in the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 4427 Procedure to address livestock in dire or extreme condition was heard today in the House Agriculture committee but has questions that need to be resolved. This bill stays in the Agriculture committee and will be heard again on 2-22 at 8:30am. Sylvia

Feb. 13

SB 75 Equine Rescue bill will be heard on the Senate floor Tuesday 2-14. This is the amendment stage.

SB 105 Creating criminal offense for animal fighting involvement passed out of the Agriculture committee today and next moves to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 421 Creating the Captive Cervid Farming Act has passed out of the Judiciary Committee and now moves to floor for 1st reading. This bill moves captive deer farms out of control of DNR and places them under Dept. of Agriculture making captive deer livestock. This bill now has a committee sub.

SB 477 Limiting possession of wild and exotic animals has passes out of the Judiciary Committee and now moves to the Senate floor for 1st reading. This bill now has a 2nd sub which should be on the internet tomorrow or the next day.

SB 527 changing the laws on livestock trespassing has passed out of Judiciary and is now heading to the floor for 1st reading. This bill also has a sub.

When reviewing bills, the sub is the latest bill and means that a committee has substituted the original for their version.

SB 479 Spay/neuter assistance will be heard in the Agriculture Committee on 2-20 at 2pm. Please contact the members of this committee and ask them to support this much needed legislation. Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative note: Please make your calls to the Senate Ag committe to pass SB 479. The Dept. of Agriculture is working against us on this bill so we need to make our voices heard for getting this passed! Why is that? The Dept. of Ag does not want to take accept any responsibility for helping curb the pet over-population in WV. They want only to work with farming. They should be working with us on this issue!

Feb 9

SB 553 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to provide a personal income tax deduction for people who have their dog or cats spayed or neutered. This is a great bill. Please call Senator Prezioso on 304 357-7961 or email roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov and request that he put this bill on the Committee of Finance agenda. Also do the same for the vice chair Senator Facemire 304 357-7845 douglas.facemire@wvsenate.gov. This bill has a single reference to Finance. It has a Fiscal Note which means the bill will be more difficult to pass.

SB 479 is alive again thanks to the people who attended Lobby Day
Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action Note: Lobby Day was very beneficial today regarding SB 479, the spay/neuter funding assistance bill. Senate President Jeff Kessler provided an opportunity for us to clarify points of SB 479 with Sen. Ag. Chair Miller putting this bill back on track.

Please contact your Senator on the Agricultural Committee to pass this bill out of committee.

Ronald Miller – Chair - ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov

Bob Williams - Vice Chair- bob.williams@wvsenate.gov

Robert D. Beach - bob.beach@wvsenate.gov

Karen L. Facemyer - karen.facemyer@wvsenate.gov

John Pat Fanning - john.fanning@wvsenate.gov

Walt Helmick - walt.helmick@wvsenate.gov

William R. Laird - william.laird@wvsenate.gov

Joseph M. Minard - joe.minard@wvsenate.gov

David Nohe - david.nohe@wvsenate.gov

Herb Snyder - herb.snyder@wvsenate.gov

Dave Sypolt - davesypolt@wvsenate.com

Feb 8

SB 75 Creating the Equine Rescue Facilities Act. Passed the Government Org. committee today. This bill now moves to the full Senate for first reading.

SB 105 Creating a criminal offense for animal fighting involvement will be heard Monday 2-13 at 2 pm in the Senate Agriculture Committee. The public is always welcome in these meetings.

SB 406 Regulating Commercial Dog Breeding Operations has been placed in a sub-committee. Meeting date has not been set. This bill is in trouble as written due mostly to hunting dog breeders.

SB 479 Creating Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund is dead as written. They may put it in a sub- committee while they try to find another revenue source. See note below

SB 477 Limiting Possession of wild and exotic animals was heard today. The bill that was heard is a committee sub. You should be able to see the Committee Sub tomorrow or Friday. Be sure to read that version. This bill passed out of Natural Resources and is now in Senate Judiciary.

HOPE TO MEET SEVERAL OF YOU TOMORROW FEB 9 DURING ANIMAL DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE. SYLVIA

THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note – It is disheartening that SB 479 is stalled again. 45,000 unwanted animals died in WV Shelters in 2009. How many animals need to die to make this argument for curbing our pet over-population? How many more tax dollars need to be spent to control our over-population problem? SB 479 does not cost \$1 of tax payer money, nor will it cost the Dept. of Agriculture any money from their existing budget to administer. The money comes from a surcharge added to the existing permit/license fee already being paid by pet food companies to sell their product in our state. Appeal to your Legislators why we need this funding!!!

Feb. 6 - Three new bills today:

SB 527 I am only listing this bill due to many animal people having livestock such as horses. This bill is called "General Livestock Trespass Law." If you have interest in this bill, call Senator Miller 304 357-7959 or email ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov and ask him to place this bill on the Committee of Agriculture agenda. If this bill passes out of AG, then it must go to Judiciary.

HB 4427 The purpose of this bill is to provide a procedure to address livestock in dire or extreme condition. I do not know enough about livestock to help make decisions. The County Commission shall establish a Livestock Committee. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary. If you support this bill, please contact Delegate Greg Butcher and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. 304 340-3113 or email greg.butcher@wvhouse.gov

HB 4432 This bill I really like. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit declination or termination of property insurance based solely upon possession of a certain breed of dog. Please contact Delegate Cliff Moore who is chair of Banking and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. 304 340-3189 or clif.moore@wvhouse.gov This bill first goes to Banking and Insurance and then to Judiciary. Sylvia

Feb. 2

The time has come for all of us to get to work.

SB 477 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the possession of wild and exotic animals. The bill provides for a permit for those in possession on the effective date, for limited exceptions to the prohibition and for removing the animals if they are kept in violation of this article. This is a good bill and much better than the HB 4344. This is the bill that we should work on. This bill first goes to the Committee on Natural Resources and then to Judiciary. If you support this bill please call or email the Chair of Natural Resources and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. The chair is Senator Laird 304 357-7849 william.laird@wvsenate.gov. You should also email the vice chair Senator Fanning 304 357-7867 john.fanning@wvsenate.gov

SB 479 We have been waiting on this bill and it is a very good bill. The purpose of this bill is to create and fund the Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund. This is much needed to help control our animal overpopulation problem. It could save many animals lives. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then to Judiciary. Please call or email the chair of AG and ask him to place this bill on his committee agenda. The chair is Senator Miller 304 357-7959 ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov. Also email the vice chair who is Senator Williams 304 357-7995 bob.williams@wvsenate.gov

SB 75 has moved to the committee of Government Org. This bill creates the Equine Rescue Facilities Act. To support this bill call or email Senator Snyder 304 357-7957 herb.snyder@wvsenate.gov

HB 4377 was introduced today This bill creates "Nitro Law" to honor fallen law enforcement canines and other canines in service of state and local government agencies and honor their handlers. This bill first goes to the committee on Agriculture and then to Judiciary. To support this bill please call or email Delegate Greg Butcher and ask him to place this bill on his agenda 304 340-3113 greg.butcher@wvhouse.gov .

Please read these bills so you will know whether you wish to support them. Thanks, Sylvia

*THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note on SB 479 – First this replaces SB 184! Here are some points to persuade your legislators to support SB 479. 2009 statistics from animal shelters in WV show that 54% of all animals entering those shelters are euthanized. This overpopulation of unwanted pets must stop.

SB 479 could raise \$100,000 annually to help citizens statewide alter their animals. SB 479 proposes using funds that would come from a surcharge on the permit/license fee already being paid by pet food companies to the WV Dept. of Agriculture to sell their products in WV. This surcharge would be segregated into a dedicated fund in the state treasury for S/N from a small increase in the fees paid by the pet food companies – not charged to the pet owner. WV State Code 19-23-10 already provides for a special 'spay neuter' fund for greyhounds in the state treasury, establishing a precedent for an account of this type. SNAP WV - which has already administered state funding of \$25,000 for spay neuter grants around the state - stands ready to assist in the administration of these monies.

The 'Pet Food Industry' - seemingly recession-proof - is raking in billions of dollars from our dog and cat overpopulation. They can become part of our solution.

Jan. 30

SB 75 Creating Equine Rescue Facilities Act was heard today in the Senate Agriculture Committee. This bill passed out of the committee without amendments. It now goes to the Government Org. committee.

SB 421 Creating The Cervid Farming Act was heard today in the Senate Agriculture Committee. This bill passed out of the committee without amendments. It now goes to the Judiciary Committee.

HB 4344 was introduced today This bill relates to the control of potentially dangerous wild animals. This is the expected exotic bill. We are still expecting a senate bill to be introduced. PLEASE READ THIS BILL AS IT INVOLVES ANIMAL CONTROL, HUMANE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. Please read before you judge this bill. WV does not have any laws pertaining to exotics. In other words, you can own a lion, elephant, or whatever you want in this state. We do need some laws on the book before we have a problem such as Ohio recently had. Sylvia

Jan. 25

SB 421 - Creating Cervid Farming Act was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to place cervids on deer farms under the control of the Dept. of Agriculture. This would place the deer under the heading of livestock. DNR would still control deer as wildlife that are not on a deer farm. The reason that I list this bill is that Humane Officers would investigate cruelty the same as if they were horses or cows. I do not have an opinion on this bill. This bill first goes to Senate Agriculture and then to Judiciary. Sylvia

Jan. 24

Good news today. SB 406 was introduced this morning. This is the Kennel Bill or what is sometimes called the Puppy Mill Bill. The purpose of this bill is to regulate the Commercial Dog Breeding Operations. This has been much needed for several years and a person would have to own at least eleven breeding dogs to be considered commercial. This bill has a single reference and that is Judiciary. Please contact Senator Palumbo on 304 357-7880 or email corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov Please tell him that you support this bill and to please place it on the Judiciary Committee Agenda. If you have Senators on the Judiciary Committee, please ask them to support the bill. You can find that out by following the directions above. Thanks, Sylvia

*THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note: If you want to know more about 'puppy mills' and their existence in West Virginia, please read the article 'Puppy Mills -- much worse than you thought by Ginnie Maurer on this website. We need to pass this legislation this session!

Jan. 20

Two animal bills were introduced today.

HB 4237 is a bill which involves white tailed deer. The Agriculture Dept would like to have meat deer farms. The purpose of this bill is to allow the inclusion of white-tailed deer and its subspecies in the definition of "non traditional agriculture." DNR and AG have been at odds for several years over this subject. At the current time, all deer farms are used for sporting. The aim is that you could buy venison at the grocery store if AG is in charge. This bill goes to House Natural Resources and then Judiciary.

HB 4246 The purpose of this bill is to create the "West Virginia Companion Animal Protection Act." Generally governing the manner in which animals are to be treated by sheltering agencies and rescue groups. The bill provides animal care standards, including humane treatment and killing of animals: requires record keeping; and among other things; provides for court mandate procedure to compel compliance with animal care standards. If you do not operate a shelter, this bill sounds good. But if you have ever worked with a shelter, you will know that it is a BAD bill as it cannot be enforced. There are not enough foster homes and rescues are full. There are some good standards of care in this bill but far too many restrictions on what shelters must do to comply before euthanasia. It also has not changed current state codes that are in effect. For instance, the current holding time for a stray is five days. This bill would change it to two. It also states that an owner's animal must be held three days. The bill says animals, so this would also apply to cats. Since cats are not personal property, this is in conflict with current law. Please read the bill by going to www.legis.state.wv.us and enter the bill number on the home page or go to www.fohowvla.org Please call or email Delegate Butcher and tell him not to run this bill. His phone number is 304 340-3113 email gbutcer@mail.wvney.edu. He has voice mail so you can leave a message. Please email the members of the House Agriculture Comm. and tell them that you do not support the bill. I know the bill sounds good but it is impossible for shelters to live with. Final thought the bill does not say who is going to enforce the requirements. That is a good question. Sylvia Shafer

*THERESA BRUNER WV Legislative Action note. Mandating anything without providing resources to accomplish your goals often results in disappointment and failure to meet those goals. Standards of care for shelters and rescues are needed but we need to work together with these groups to define those standards. THERESA BRUNER WVLA believes HB 4246 could be the basis for much needed legislation. However, at this time, it needs further discussion and planning for implementation.

Jan. 13

Two Senate Bills were introduced today.

SB 178 making it unlawful to harm a police dog. this bill goes to Judiciary and then Finance>
SB 184 - Creating Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund. This is a bill requested by THERESA BRUNERWV Legislative Action and is very much needed if we are ever going to reduce pet over-population. I am requesting that THERESA BRUNER WVLA review the bill and if this is what they want, we will start making phone calls and sending emails. I will get back to you when I have their approval. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then on to Finance. Sylvia

*THERESA BRUNERWV Legislative Note – SB 184 is the old S/N bill and not the amended bill that we prefer. Do not take action on this bill yet.

Jan. 12

One bill was introduced today. It is HB 4011 relating to the distribution of funds from certain racing funds. This includes the spay/neuter of greyhounds. This bill goes to Agriculture and then Finance. Sylvia

Jan. 11

Three senate bills were introduced today. Please do not take any action at this time. I will let you know what to do later.

SB 75 which is creating the Equine Rescue Facilities Act. This bill first goes to the Agriculture Comm. and then must go to Government Org.

SB 105 Creating Criminal Offense for Animal Fighting involvement. Bill first goes to Agriculture and then to Judiciary.

SB 128 Exempting veterinary medications from consumer and service tax. Bill first goes to Agriculture and then to Finance.

The House introduced several carry-over bills. These are bills that failed in the past and they are introducing them again with the original bill numbers. Again, do not take any action at this time.

HB 2015 Creating regulations for commercial dog breeding operations. Bill first goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary.

HB 2443 Prohibiting wagering at animal fighting ventures and providing a felony animal penalty. This bill first goes Judiciary and then to Finance.

HB 2716 Dangerous Dog Act. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then to Judiciary

HB 2190 Making it a criminal offense to disturb the peace. (This includes dogs barking and howling) The bill first goes to Judiciary and then to Finance.

HB 2752 Relating to requirement and scope for registered vet. techs. This bill goes to Government Org.

HB 2883 Creating regulations for commercial dog breeding. This bill goes to Judiciary

HB 2917 Relating to the purchase and sale of dogs. This bill goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary.

HB 2991 Relating to the Fair Housing Act. This bill would make the State guidelines the same as Federal guidelines and applies to handicapped people who have a therapy or service dog. This bill goes to Judiciary. Sylvia Shafer

Daily Activity at the WV Legislature Pertaining to Animals 2013

WV Legislature Session 2013

We get information on legislative activity from multiple sources. Primarily, Sylvia Shafer, a supporter of WV Voters for Animal Welfare is providing comments daily or as often as something occurs with animal

legislation. This enables you to follow the progress of this very important legislation. Often, Theresa Bruner, another supporter of WV Voters for Animal Welfare will offer editorial comments. We obtain information from Summer Wyatt, HSUS WV Director, the ASPCA and Charleston animal lobbyist. Please check here daily for what is occurring with animal legislation and how you can help be the voice for animal throughout West Virginia. Please follow our 'call to action' when needed to contact your representatives. Please be the voice for these animals in WV. We are told time and again from our legislators that they do not hear from the animal welfare people like they do the environmentalists, the hunters and other interest groups. Let's make our voices heard for the animals.

Use the left menu options to contact your legislators. We have made it easier than ever to help the animals of the state by making your voice heard. You can also visit www.legis.state.wv.us for copies of bills and more legislative information. Or again use our side menu to get to the WV State Legislature's website.

On 3/6, WV Public Broadcasting aired a featured program outlining the animal legislation being considered by lawmakers this session. Sylvia Shafer and Mary Ann McDonald of Legislative Action and Summer Wyatt of HSUS were featured in the program. Also there is an excellent OP ED on Puppy Mills and why we needed this bill, in the Charleston Gazette, from Summer Wyatt, WV Director of HSUS.
<http://www.wvgazette.com/Opinion/OpEdCommentaries/201305020086>

And, if you missed the Today Show on May 1st, you can watch it here about the AKC raising dogs in miserable conditions. We know this but now the public is starting to find this out
<http://www.today.com/news/akc-registered-breeders-raising-dogs-miserable-conditions-6C9640008>

TERESA BRUNER note* Our sincere thanks to the WV Legislature for the passage of these bills!! 3 animal bills have passed. Please let your legislators know that you appreciate their recognition of these issues and that they have taken the steps to help by passing this legislation. We will discuss this legislation in more depth soon. Both the Puppy Mill Bill and the Spay Neuter Funding Assistance Bill have taken 5 years to pass and only thanks to the emails and calls from animal advocates throughout the state have we finally had success.

5/3/13

SB202 Spay/Neuter was signed on 5-1 with the effective date of 7-12-2013. This law establishes a fund for s/n but the rules must be established and approved by the legislature. This means there will not be any money available until the next session in 2014. I know this is disappointing but we now have an account established with the state. This program will work through the Dept. of Agriculture.

SB 437 the puppy mill bill was signed 5-3 with an effective date of 7-11-2013. This bill involves the County Commission, Law enforcement and Humane Officers. If you are involved with animal control and humane officers, please alert your County Commission of this law.

HB 2399 Livestock in dire condition was signed into law on 4-29 with an effective date of 7-12-13. This law involves the County Commission and humane officers. If you are involved with humane officers, animal control, or law enforcement, please alert your County Commission of this law.

Be sure to copy the final version of these laws.

My thanks to everyone who has helped with the passage of these bills. The S/N and the Puppy Mill bill passed on the fifth year attempt. This could have never happened without your help. Don't forget to thank the legislators who have helped and Governor Tomlin for signing them into law. The Puppy Mill bill had great opposition from AKC and breeders and Gov. Tomblin was pressured to veto the bill. Sylvia Shafer

4/13/13

SB 202 Spay Neuter Bill and HB 2399 Livestock in dire conditions and SB 437, the Puppy Mill Bill have all passed this session! It has been a productive session for animal welfare. Thanks to all of you who kept the phone calls and emails flowing to your legislators. It made a difference. Also thanks to ASPCA and to HSUS and Summer Wyatt for their lobbying effort for this legislation. And as always thanks to our own special Sylvia Shafer who walks those halls almost daily talking to legislators about animal legislation and keeping us informed on its progress. Our voices were strong for the animals this year!

4/12/13

All animal bills are dead except the three listed below. The following bills passed today. REP. stands for Republican

SB 202 Spay/neuter passed the House with five NAY votes from Troy Andres (REP. Putnam Co.), Anna Border Shepherd (REP. Wood Co.), Michael Folk (REP. Berkeley Co.), Bill Hamilton (REP Upshur Co.), Eric Householder (REP Berkeley Co.) This bill now must go back to the Senate for them to concur on a minor amendment.

HB 2399 Livestock in Dire Conditions passed the Senate today with all members voting yes. This bill must now go back to the House for them to concur on an amendment.

SB 437 The puppy mill bill passed today with 66 yeas and 33 nays. R will stand for republican and D for Democrat. I am listing the NAYS

Ambler Greenbrier Co. R, Anderson Wood Co. R, Andes Putnam Co. R, Arvon Raleigh Co. R, Ashley Roane Co. R, Azinger Wood Co. R, Border Wood Co. R, Butler Mason Co. R, Cadle Mason Co. R, Cooper Summers Co. R, Cowles Morgan Co. R., Ellem Wood Co. R., Ellington Mercer Co. R., A Evans Grant Co. R., D Evans Marshall Co. R., Faircloth Berkeley Co. R., Folk Berkeley Co. R., Frich Monongalia Co. R., Hamilton Upshur Co. R., Householder Berkeley Co. R., Howell Mineral Co. R., Ireland Ritchie Co. R., Kump Berkeley Co. R. Miller Cabell Co. R., Morgan Cabell Co. D., Nelson E Kanawha Co. R., Reynolds Wayne Co. D, Romine Tyler Co. R., Rowan Hampshire Co. R, Shott Mercer Co. R., Sobonya Cabell Co. R., Walters Kanawha Co. R., Westfall Jackson Co. R.

This bill is now on its way to the Governor's Office for his signature.

Please wait for the final bills to be on the internet before you copy the bills. HB 2399 and SB 437 both involve Humane Officers, so Animal Control will need copies of the bills.

Thanks to all of you who have helped with legislation. These bills are far from perfect, but it is a start. After the Governor signs these bills, we can work on improving them in another session. Thanks again, Sylvia

4/10/13

SB 202 S/N and SB437 Puppy mill will be heard tomorrow on 2nd reading. This is the amendment stage and we need to hope there are none. On Friday 4-12, they will be on 3rd reading which is passage or failure. I will check the voting printout and let you know who voted against it. It is important to know who is animal-friendly. Please contact your delegates and ask them to support these bills.

HB 2399 Livestock in Dire Conditions is also on 2nd reading in the Senate. This bill was amended by Senate AG and is better now. Please contact your Senators and ask them to support this bill.

At this time there has not been any action on SB 466 the Exotic and SB 490 - The Horse Facility bill. It looks like they may be dead, but strange things happen and there is still a little hope. Thanks, Sylvia

THERESA BRUNER note* Please do not think it is too late to email a house member. Do it right now. Our bills are too important to be left to chance. Here is a message also from Summer Wyatt which follows:

Hello advocates!

We have made many strides in legislation this session, which I am so thankful for. Session will end Saturday, April 13th, & I hope to see at least 3 new laws passed from the hard work put into it. Please consider contacting your House & Senate representatives & ask for their support on the following bills.

SB 202 – establishes a spay/neuter fund which donations can be made into, to be distributed to animal groups in WV. This bill is on the House floor (please ask you House representative(s) to vote yes on SB 202).

http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Text_HTML/2013_SESSIONS/RS/pdf_bills/SB202%20SUB2%20PRINTED.pdf

SB 437 – establishes regulations for large scale (commercial) dog-breeding. This language is needed to add to our current cruelty code in order for dogs in puppy mills to be housed & raised with some standards of care. This bill is on the House floor (please ask you House representative(s) to vote yes on SB 437).

http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Text_HTML/2013_SESSIONS/RS/pdf_bills/SB437%20SUB2%20PRINTED.pdf

HB 2399 – establishes rules for the WV Livestock Board to assist when livestock is found in dire condition. This will help our law enforcement to help neglected livestock, including horses. This bill has passed the House and is on the Senate floor (please ask your Senators to vote yes on HB 2399).

http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Text_HTML/2013_SESSIONS/RS/pdf_bills/HB2399%20SUB%20Printed.pdf

Sadly 2 bills, SB 490 & 466 (Dangerous Wild Animals Act & Equine Facilities Act), appear to be dead due to lack of time, committee assignment issues, & political issues. Please support these and other bills helping animals next year.

If you are unsure who represents you, please use this link: <http://votesmart.org/>

Thank you for advocating & please let me know if I can ever assist in any way. This has been a very long road for much of this legislation; thank you for helping make laws better for WV's animals. Summer Wyatt

4/9/13

HB 2399 which is Livestock in dire conditions will be on 1st reading tomorrow in the Senate. If you support this bill, please email or call your senators.

SB 202 has passed out of the Finance Committee and should have its first reading tomorrow. This is the Spay/Neuter bill and has one harmless amendment. But this means that after it passes the House, it must go back to the Senate for them to agree with. The amendment simply clarifies who is in charge which is the Dept. of AG. Please contact your delegates and ask them to support this bill.

SB 437 The Puppy Mill bill is being heard this evening in House Judiciary. I do not have a report at this time, in fact, they may not hear it until tomorrow. I will update you tomorrow on this bill.

There was not any action today on SB 466 the Exotic bill nor on SB 490 which is the Horse Facility bill. They have one more day to be heard in committee before they die.

If you choose to read any of these bills, be sure to read the latest com sub version. Thanks, Sylvia

4/7/13

SB 202 which establishes a fund for spay/neuter needs your help now. Time is running out. If you have not already called or sent an email, please do it this evening. Please contact the Chair of the House Finance Committee Harry Keith White. His phone number is 304 340-3230 and email is hkwhite@wvhouse.gov. Please ask him to place SB 202 on his committee agenda and to assist with the passage of the bill.

Thanks, Sylvia

4/4/13

From this day till the end of the session which is 4-13, the Senate will work on House bills and the House will work on Senate bills. Following is an update on the only animal bills that have not failed.

SB 202 Spay/Neuter is in House Finance. Please call or email Harry Keith White asking that this bill be placed on the committee agenda. 304 340-3230 or hkwhite@wvhouse.gov.

SB 437 Puppy mill bill is now in House Judiciary. Please call or email the Chair Tim Miley 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov. Please ask him to place this bill on his agenda.

SB 466 Exotic has now been double referenced and now first goes to Judiciary. This is a change from what was reported by me yesterday. Please call or email Delegate Tim Miley and ask him to please place this bill on his agenda. 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov If this bill makes it out of this committee, it then goes to Finance which is Harry Keith White 304 340-3230 hkw@wvhouse.gov

SB 490 which is the Equine Facility bill has been sent to Judiciary. Please call or email Chair Tim Miley 304 340-3252 tim.miley@wvhouse.gov. Please ask him to place this bill on his committee agenda.

HB 2399 Livestock in Dire Condition has gone to the Senate AG. Committee. This is Senator Ronald Miller 304 357-7959 or ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov. Please ask him to place this bill on his committee agenda.

Thanks to all who are helping pass animal legislation. Sylvia Shafer

THERESA BRUNER note* We are extremely pleased that these animals bills listed above are still alive. Please make the necessary contacts to keep these bills alive and get them passed. SB 202 is now in House Finance. Keep in mind, this is not the bill we submitted since the source of funding - Pet Food Fee has been removed. But we still want to get our Spay Neuter Fund established then we will continue to seek funding through various sources.

Please contact these members asking them to get SB 202 –Spay/Neuter Funding bill out of committee, placed on the agenda and passed right away. SB 202 simply establishes a state spay neuter fund within the Dept. of Agriculture. There should be no issue with this bill passing since the Pet Food fee increase has been removed.

Chair of Finance:

Del. White of Mingo, McDowell & Wyoming/hkwhite@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3230

Vice Chair of Finance:

Del. Reynolds of Cabell & Wayne/ delegatedoug@yahoo.com (304) 340-3280

Minority Chair is Delegate Anderson of Wood / bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3168

Minority Vice Chair is Delegate Nelson of Kanawha / nelson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3181

Remaining members of the House Finance Committee: If you have anyone on the committee ask them to request that the Chairman places SB 202 and SB 466 on the agenda and passed.

kjcraigwv@aol.com

Cabell and Lincoln

nancy.guthrie@wvhouse.gov

Kanawha

richard.iaquinta@wvhouse.gov

Harrison and Taylor

charlene.marshall@wvhouse.gov

Monongalia

rickmoye@wvhouse.gov

Raleigh

don.perdue@wvhouse.gov

Wayne

dave.pethtel@wvhouse.gov

Monongalia & Wetzel

linda.phillips@wvhouse.gov McDowell, Mercer, Boone, Logan, Wyoming

rupert.phillips@wvhouse.gov
McDowell, Mercer, Boone, Logan, Wyoming

dan.poling@wvhouse.gov
Wood, Barbour, Tucker

doug.skaff@wvhouse.gov
Kanawha

larry.williams@wvhouse.gov
Preston

troy.andes@wvhouse.gov
Putnam

bob.ashley@wvhouse.gov
Jackson, Roane

ray.canterbury@wvhouse.gov
Greenbrier, Monroe, Summers

daryl.cowles@wvhouse.gov
Hampshire, Morgan

allen.evans@wvhouse.gov
Marshall, Grant, Mineral, Pendleton

marty.gearheart@wvhouse.gov
Mercer, Raleigh

carol.miller@wvhouse.gov
Cabell, Lincoln, Brooke, Hancock

erikka.storch@wvhouse.gov
Ohio

ron.walters@wvhouse.gov
Kanawha

4/3/13 SB 437 Puppy mill, SB 490 Equine Bill, and HB 2399 Livestock in Dire Conditions all passed today. I will not know the committees they are going to until tomorrow. SB 202 Spay/Neuter is in the House Finance Committee. Please email the chair asking him to please place this bill on his agenda. Harry Keith White 304 340-3230 hkwhite@wvhouse.gov Thanks, Sylvia

4/2/13

SB 202 spay/neuter and SB 466 Exotic both passed out of the Senate today. SB 466 had one no vote and that was Sen. Sypolt from Preston Co. These bills now move to the House and we will not know what committee until 4-3. I will let you know as we will need lots of emails and phone calls.

SB 437 Puppy Mill and SB 490 Equine were both moved from 2nd reading to 3rd tomorrow 4-3. Thanks, Sylvia.

4/1/13

SB 202 Spay/Neuter and SB 466 Exotic were read for the 2nd time today. They will be up for passage 4-2.

SB 437 Puppy Mill and SB 490 Equine Facilities bills will both be read for the first time this evening in the 4:30pm session. They have been subbed again and the new copies should be on the internet tonight or tomorrow.

Please contact your senators and ask them to vote for passage of these four bills.
HN 2399 Livestock in dire conditions was read for the first time today in the House.
Thanks, Sylvia

3/29/13

THERESA BRUNER note*

SB 437, the puppy mill bill just passed out of subcommittee and will be on to full Senate Ag. committee on Monday. Make sure to contact your senators on Senate Ag. committee to support SB 437, the puppy mill bill. Also SB 202, the spay/neuter assistance funding bill and SB 466, the exotic animals regulation bill are up before the full senate so everyone contact your Senators to get these bills passed!

robert.beach@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7919
sam.cann@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7904
mitch.carmichael@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7855
donald.cookman@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7980
daniel.hall@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7807
william.laird@wvsenae.gov phone 304+357-7849
ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7959
david.nohe@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7970
dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7914
gregory.tucker@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7906
bob.williams@wvsenate.gov phone 304+357-7995

Senator Miller is the Senate Agricultural Committee Chairperson
Senator Williams is the Senate Agricultural Committee Vice-Chairperson

3/28/13

SB 202 the spay/neuter bill and SB 466 the Exotic bill both passed out of Senate Finance today. They have now moved to the full Senate. First reading will be on Friday 3-29, second on Monday 4-1 and third on Tuesday 4-2. Third reading is passage or failure. Please contact your senators and ask them to support these two bills.

SB 437 the Puppy Mill bill was placed in a Sub Committee of Senate Judiciary. This is very bad, but the bill is not dead yet. Sylvia Shafer

THERESA BRUNER note* Please make your contacts with your Senators on SB 202 and SB 466. SB 437 is opposed by the AKC. We really need to realize just how offensive this group is to animal welfare. The AKC had letters against the puppy mill bill sent to every senator. They condone cruelty and inhumane treatment by their inaction. And, all in the name of money and greed do these dogs have to continue to suffer in these horrible facilities. And, the real crime is that good breeders are supporting the action of the AKC. Read the article below which is a letter to the editor from Animal Advocates of WV to find out the intent of the AKC in the words of the AKC CEO.

3/27/13

SB 202, the spay neuter funding assistance bill and SB 466, the exotic animals bill will be heard in Senate Finance at 9:30 am on 3/28/13. Please contact your senator to support these bills! Your contact is working so make those contacts and get others around you to call or email too!

3/25/13

SB 437 Puppy Mill bill and SB 490 Regulate Equine Boarding Facilities both passed out of the Senate AG Committee. They both now move to Senate Judiciary.

Please contact Senator Palumbo and ask him to place both of these bills on his committee agenda. 304 357-7880 corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov

SB 202 Spay/Neuter Assistance bill and SB 466 the Exotic bill are still waiting to be heard in Senate Finance. Please contact Senator Prezioso and ask him to place both of these bills on his committee agenda.

304 357-7961 roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov.

We only have four days left to pass these bills out of the Senate over to the House.

ALL BILLS MUST BE PASSED OUT OF THE BODY OF ORIGIN NO LATER THAN 3-29. AFTER THAT DATE, THE SENATE WILL WORK ON HOUSE BILLS AND THE HOUSE WILL WORK ON SENATE BILLS.

Thanks, Sylvia

3/22/13

THERESA BRUNER note* Thanks to all of you for your effort in contacting your legislators and those on the Ag. Sub-committee to get SB 437 and SB 490 out of sub-committee to full Senate Ag. Committee for Monday. These must now pass the full Senate Ag. Committee. So stay in contact with your Senator if on that committee for their support. We must also act to get SB 202 out of the Senate Finance Committee. Contact Roman Prezioso, Chairman of the Sen. Finance Committee who is from Marion

County to place SB 202 on the agenda and pass it out of his committee. 304-357-7961
roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov

3/20/13

HB 2399 Livestock in extreme or dire condition was again laid over in House AG. It was on today's agenda.

HB 2838 The puppy mill bill was again laid over in House AG. It was on today's agenda. Both of these bills should be heard next week.

SB 341 Livestock Fencing and Trespassing will be on 2nd reading tomorrow 3-21 on the Senate floor.

SB 437 the puppy mill bill is on schedule for the subcommittee hearing tomorrow. THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTACTED SENATORS FOR SUPPORT OF THIS BILL.

SB 466 the exotic bill has passed out of Senate AG as a subcommittee bill and is now in Senate Finance.

SB 202 the spay/neuter bill is still waiting to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee.

Please contact Senator Prezioso (Marion County), the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and ask him to please place SB 202 and SB 466 on his Agenda. His phone number is 304 357-7961 and his email is roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov

Thanks, Sylvia

3/18/13

SB 437 the commercial dog breeding bill (puppy mill) was sent to an AG subcommittee today for more work.

SB 490 to regulate equine Boarding Facilities was also sent to an AG subcommittee today for more work. They both should be ready to be heard in committee one week from today.

We need help moving these bills out of the subcommittee. I am asking that you email or call the three members of this committee as soon as possible.

Bob Williams (Taylor Co.) 304 357-7995 bob.williams@wvsenate.gov Chair of Sub Comm.

Gregory Tucker (Nicholas co.) 304 357-7906 greg.tucker@wvsenate.gov

David Nohe (Wood Co.) 304 357-7970 dcnohe@suddenlink.net

It does not matter if you are not a resident of the three counties listed, contact them. But if you are a resident of one of these counties, please have everyone you know to send emails or make calls. Please ask them to support and work for the passage of SB 437 and SB 490.

Thanks, Sylvia

Theresa Bruner Note* The Senate Finance Committee needs to hear the Spay/Neuter Funding Bill. Please ask the Chair and Vice-Chair to place the funding bill on the agenda for passage out of committee.

Senate Finance Committee - where the Spay Neuter Bill is stalled
roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov (Chair-person)
douglas.facemire@wvsenate.gov (Vice-Chairperson)

If you have a Senator on the Finance Committee, also please email them and get others to email them from your county.

clark.barnes@wvsenate.gov
craig.blair@wvsenate.gov
donna.boleyn@wvsenate.gov
mike.hall@wvsenate.gov
dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov
truman.chafin@wvsenate.gov
larry.edgell@wvsenate.gov
mike.green@wvsenate.gov
william.laird@wvsenate.gov
brooks.mccabe@wvsenate.gov
robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov
ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov
john.unger@wvsenate.gov
erik.wells@wvsenate.gov
jack.yost@wvsenate.gov

3/14/13

SB 202 the spay/neuter bill is still waiting to be heard in the Finance Committee.

SB 47 the General Livestock Trespassing bill was heard this morning in the House AG committee where it was tabled. This bill had already passed the Senate.

SB 466 the Exotic bill was heard was heard 3-12 in the Senate Natural Resources Committee where it was laid over till next Tuesday as it needs more work.

HB 2399 which provides a procedure to protect livestock that are in dire or extreme condition was supposed to be heard this morning in House AG. This bill was not heard as they ran out of time in the committee meeting. This bill was laid over for a week and should be heard next Wednesday.

HB 2838 The Commercial Dog breeding bill was to be heard this morning in House AG. This bill was not heard as the committee ran out of time. This bill should be heard next Wed.

Sylvia Shafer

3/12/13 - Support the Puppy Mill Bill or Commercial Breeder's Bill

SB 490 was introduced on Friday. This bill is called the Equine Facilities & Care Act. This bill first goes to Senate AG and then to Senate Judiciary.

On Wednesday 3-13, three bills will be heard in House Agricultural Committee. They are SB 47 -The General Livestock Trespassing, HB 2399 which provides a procedure to protect livestock that are in dire or extreme conditions and HB 2838 which is the Commercial Dog Breeding Bill. Sylvia Shafer

Theresa Bruner note* The following information was provided by Cheryl Durst, Legislative Chairperson of Animal Advocates of West Virginia. Our appreciation for their effort in making ours easier!

Senate Agricultural Committee Contacts: Support SB 437

The Puppy Mill Bill or Commercial Breeder's Bill is in the Senate Agricultural Committee's hands. The following people need to be e-mailed or contacted by phone to support the bill immediately. The AKC is working hard to kill this bill. We need animal advocates to contact the following senators. Please remind Senators that this regulates breeders as needed! It should be a concern that providing any oversight for these breeding operations is opposed by the breeders themselves.

Robert.Beach@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7919
Sam.Cann@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7904
Mitch.Carmichael@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7855
Donald.Cookman@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7980
Daniel.Hall@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7807
William.Laird@wvsenae.gov Phone 304+357-7849
Ronald.Miller@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7959
David.Nohe@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7970
Dave.Sypolt@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7914
Gregory.Tucker@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7906
Bob.Williams@wvsenate.gov Phone 304+357-7995

Senator Miller is the Senate Agricultural Committee Chairperson
Senator Williams is the Senate Agricultural Committee Vice-Chairperson

House Agricultural Committee Contacts: Support HB 2838

Below is the contact information for the House Agriculture committee. Please contact these delegates & sharing this with friends that might do the same. The bill is on the agenda for Wednesday, March 13, and each member needs to hear the importance of the Commercial Dog Breeding Bill. Please give Delegate John Overington a special "thank you" for his support.

George.Ambler@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3139
Bill.Anderson@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3168
Brent.Boggs@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3220
Anna.Border@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3136
Ray.Canterbury@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3131
Phil.Diserio@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3367
Jeff.Eldridge@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3113
Michael.Folk@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3350
Nancy.Guthrie@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3156
Bill.Hamilton@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3167
woody.ireland@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3195
Mike.Manypenny@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3139

Carol.Miller@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3176
John.Overington@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3148
Brady.Praxton@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3337
Linda.Phillips@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3163
Mary.Poling@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3265
William.Romine@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3226
isaac.sponaugle@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3154
Randy.Swartzmiller@wvhouse.gov Phone 304-340-3138
David.Walker@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3135
Danny.Wells@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3287
Larry.Williams@wvhouse.gov Phone 304+340-3081
Delegate David Walker is the House Ag Chairperson
Delegate Mike Manypenny is the House Ag Vice Chairperson

3/7/13

SB 466 regulating exotics has been introduced. This is another attempt at the necessary regulation of exotic animals in WV. We still recall the tragic event that occurred in Ohio a couple of years ago when a number of exotic animals were released from an exotic pet farm. WV is one of those states with the least regulations for owning exotic animals resulting in the total number of exotic animal owners in our state being unknown. Incidents like in Ohio demonstrate the hazards of allowing unqualified individuals and facilities to harbor dangerous wild animals. WV needs this bill! Contact your legislators to support this bill. THERESA BRUNER.

3-6-13

HB 2838 was introduced today and creates regulations for commercial dog breeding operations. This bill first goes to House AG and then House Judiciary. I do not know which bill that HSUS plans to try to pass. I will find out and let you know.

SB 466 was introduced today. This bill creates the Dangerous Animal Act. This bill first goes to Natural Resources and then to Finance.

SB 468 was introduced today. This bill creates the Animal Abuse Registry. This bill first goes to Judiciary and then to Finance. One of the requirements of this bill that I really like is that animal shelters, pet stores, animal breeders must check the registry before adopting, selling or giving an animal. Sylvia Shafer

3-5-13

SB 437 the puppy mill or the kennel bill was introduced today. This bill is regulating commercial dog-breeding operations. The bill goes first to AG. If it passes out of that committee then must go to Judiciary. Stay tuned for instructions.

SB 341 requiring livestock to be enclosed by a fence passed out of the AG Committee today and now must go to Judiciary. This bill was introduced on 2-21 and seems to be moving so if you have livestock this may be of interest.

SB 47 - General Livestock Trespassing bill passed the Senate today and is now on its way to the House. This is mostly a 'clean up' of old language bill. Sylvia Shafer

*THERESA BRUNER Note – Please read the comments from Animal Advocates of WV on their opinion on why we need to pass a commercial breeding bill regulating these ‘puppy mills.’ It is an excellent summation of the problem and how this can be the solution.

3-1-13

On 2-27-13, HB 2757 was introduced. This bill could affect anyone who has a dog that has bitten or anyone who has been bitten and suffered at least \$1,000. In damage. The bill is called Felicity Law. The purpose of this bill is to protect the public by providing a private cause of action seeking euthanasia of a dog in Magistrate Court. This bill is a must read. This bill goes to Judiciary.

HB 2794 was introduced 3-1 and is very similar to HB 2301 that was introduced on 2-13. This bill prohibits declination or termination of property insurance based solely upon an applicant owners’ possession of a certain breed of dog. This bill goes to Banking and Insurance and 2nd reference to Judiciary.

SB 202 which is the spay/neuter bill is now in the Senate Finance Committee where it will not be heard for a while as they are working on Budget Bills. There is no need to call or email at this time. Thanks, Sylvia Shafer

2/25/13

SB 202 Spay Neuter Assistance Funding Bill

The Com Sub bill passed out of the Senate AG committee today. You should be able to see the Com Sub bill tomorrow. The Pet Food Surcharge has been removed. This bill sets up the “vehicle” to administer a spay/neuter account. We will not know until tomorrow after the 11am session where this bill goes next. Please do not take any action until directed to do so.

Thanks, Sylvia

2/22/13

SB 202 which is the Spay Neuter Funding Assistance bill now has a Com Sub (Committee Substitute) which means there have been changes made to the bill by the Senate Agricultural Committee. It is not available for you to review at this time.

The Senate Agriculture Committee will hear this bill on Monday 2-25 at noon in Room 208 which is located in the West Wing on the Senate side. All are invited to attend this meeting. It is important for as many people to attend as possible. You will not have to speak but your numbers will help us! If you can get to this meeting, please come. Thank you, Sylvia

2/18/13

SB 202 – the spay/neuter assistance fund has been introduced. This bill creates the spay/neuter assistance fund. This bill first goes to the Senate Agriculture Committee. And then it goes to Finance. On 2-13, I missed a bill. It is HB 2399 which provides a procedure to protect livestock in dire or extreme condition. The bill was sent to AG and then will go to Judiciary.

THERESA BRUNER note* - do not wait, start now contacting your Senators to support this bill.

2/14/13

If you read a bill that you are for against and want it to move. Please contact the chair of the assigned committee. See note above on how to find your legislators.

SB 144 The purpose of this bill is to create "Haas' Law" to honor fallen law-enforcement canines and other canines in service of state and local government agencies and to honor their handlers. This bill was sent to Senate Judiciary and then will go to Finance.

Yesterday, I reported HB 2209. The purpose is to provide for the control of specific potentially dangerous animals to protect the public against health and safety risks and to establish criminal penalties.. All Humane Officers need to read this bill. Sylvia

2/13/13

Some of the following bills are still in drafting and cannot be viewed tonight.

SB 49 is updating the current General Livestock Trespass Law. This bill has been sent to the Agriculture committee.

SB 61 would exempt sales tax on medicine sold by a veterinarian. This bill is in Agriculture.

SB 104 would reduce federal adjusted gross income for people who have spayed or neutered their dog or cat. This bill first goes to Agriculture then Finance. This has been tried before and failed as the state needs to know how much money they lose and we cannot determine how much this would be. All veterinarians would need to report total receipts. Bill goes to Ag and then Finance.

HB 2115 Relating to the purchase and sale of dogs. Bill goes to House Ag.

HB 2209 Relating to the control of dangerous wild animals. Bill goes to Natural Resources.

HB 2301 Prohibiting declination of property insurance based solely upon a home owners possession of a certain breed of dog. Bill goes to House Banking and Insurance.

HB 2387 WV Fair Housing Act update. The purpose is to realign with the Federal Fair Housing Act in regard to an "Assistance Animal."

Daily Activity Pertaining to Animals at the WV State Legislature 2014

WV Legislature 2014 Session

April 1

Felicity's law (HB 2757) The Governor has signed this bill and it will be effective 6-8-14. This bill enables a person to pursue the euthanasia of a dog that has bitten and caused \$2,000 or more damage by going to a Magistrate. The Magistrate will make the decision after hearing evidence of the dog's fate. A person may appeal. This is the bill that many of us fought against and we have lost. Please be sure you copy the latest version of this bill. It will state Final, Sorry, Sylvia

March 30

Governor Tomblin has until Tuesday April 1, to veto or it automatically becomes law.

Contact the governor's office IMMEDIATELY 304-558-2000/888-438-2731 and tell him to VETO HB 2757. If you call during non-office hours, stay on the line and you will get a chance to leave your message.

Why should the governor veto this law?

Its intended purpose is to remove an owner's right to a fair hearing in the event their dog attacks someone.

From the Law:

19-20D-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to protect the public by providing a private cause of action seeking euthanasia of a dog in magistrate court to a person who has been attacked by a dog resulting in personal injuries requiring medical treatment which cost \$2,000 or more, or who has been attacked by the dog and the dog had attacked a person causing personal injury which required medical treatment within the previous twelve months.

The bill:

1. violates a property owners right under both the U.S. and State Constitutions
2. permits a disgruntled neighbor opportunity to harass and remove an individual's personal property
3. causes extreme risk to dogs statewide, without offering protection from unjust euthanasia
4. fails to provide community safety as it does not address true dangers that can be the result of loose/roaming dogs; tethered dogs; etc.

There is no other law that allows us to go into a magistrate's office, declare wrong-doing by an individual, and receive a relief so drastic. For example, if you knew that your neighbor was operating a vehicle under the influence, a magistrate would not issue a revocation of your neighbor's driving privileges. If you witnessed a parent abusing their child, no magistrate would issue an order removing the child from the parents' custody.

HB 2757 permits anyone, friend or foe, to achieve action that is unconstitutional. Additionally, it increases the risk of the well-being of a living being. This bill, if signed into law, would risk family pets being killed based on an individual's sworn testimony and medical bills. No witness is required, no evidence such as DNA, bite impressions, etc. A person could be bitten by their own dog, seek medical attention and due to the required reporting to the health department choose to blame an innocent dog in effort to save their own dog (or prevent cancellation of their home owners insurance).

There is nothing good about this bill. We must ask for a veto.

March 21

HB 4393 Creating the Dangerous Wild Animal Act passed. This bill was signed today by the Governor. Thanks to all of you that helped pass the law and to those of you who encouraged the governor to sign it into law. Please, remember that the rules have to be written and passed next session in 2015. This law is much needed and hopefully the rules and regulations are approved in 2015. Sylvia

March 18

HB 4393 was sent to the Governor on 3-17. He now has 15 days to veto or sign. That should be by 3-31 or 4-1.

March 9

This was the final day of the session. All passed bills must now be signed by the Governor before they become law.

SB 583 The Emergency Rules for Spay/Neuter did not pass. Both bodies approved the bill but the House made an amendment that sent it back to the Senate to concur. The clock ran out before that could happen. All legislation must stop at midnight.

HB 2387 passed. This bill changes the WV Fair Housing Act for persons with disabilities who need assistive animals.

HB 2757 Private cause of action for the humane destruction of a dog. When the final copy of the bill is added to the state website, please read this bill. It is important if you have a dog that bites.

HB 4286 Captive Cervid Farming Act. This bill did not pass due to the House and the Senate could not agree on some amendments.

HB 4393 Creating the Dangerous Wild Animal Act passed. After the Governor signs the bill, the rules must be written. These will include which animals and set fees. During the 2015 session these rules must be approved by the Legislature. This law will not be in effect till 2015.

IMPORTANT REMINDER Please make sure to read the final copy of the bills. I would wait till the Governor signs them. I will send an email when this happens. Thanks to all who helped pass legislation. Sylvia

*wvaw note. It is very unfortunate that SB 583 - Spay Neuter Rules Bill died due to simply running out of time. It just needed concurrence on a question and was sent back to the Senate and there it did not get taken up before session ended. There was no opposition to this bill. We were told 35% of bills that passed both houses died due to lack of time. It makes one ask the question as to why the process is like this? And, why all of this has to be done at the last minute? Very disappointing outcome for this bill and for the delay of this bill for yet another year. However, it should pass in the next session. Theresa March 8

SB 583 Spay/Neuter Rules passed the House. Technically the Senate has to receive the message and agree. We are unclear on the status SB 583 so we are not satisfied yet. The end of the session is very busy so we will wait for the final report. When we will have a full report on all of the bills from Sylvia, we will post that information. Thanks, Theresa....

March 6

SB 583 Spay/Neuter rules will be read 3-7 for the 2d time. Passage or failure will be Saturday 3-8

HB 4393 The Dangerous Animal Passed the Senate today but it must go back to the House for them to concur with the amendments the Senate placed in the bill.

HB 4286 Putting deer farms under control of Agriculture is on 2nd reading tomorrow.

HB 2757 Private cause of action to have a dog euthanized has been amended to give the right to appeal. This bill is also on 2nd reading in the Senate 3-7. This bill just came out of committee so you cannot see the new language at this time. Thanks, Sylvia

March 4

HB 2387 the WV Fair Housing Act for persons who are disabled and need an assistant animal will be on 1st reading tomorrow on the Senate Floor. This bill just makes the WV code match the federal code.

HB 4393 The Dangerous Animal Act will be on 2nd reading with amendments from the Agriculture Committee.

HB 2757 The private cause of action for the humane destruction of a dog will be amended and will be heard in Senate Judiciary meeting on Thursday.

SB 583 The rules for the spay/neuter law has not been scheduled for a meeting in House Judiciary. If you have not done so, please email Delegate Tim Manchin, chair of House Judiciary, and ask him to place this bill on his agenda. 304 340-3252 or email tmanchin@manchininjurylaw.com

Thanks, Sylvia

March 3

HB 4393 - The Dangerous Animal Act has passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The second reference to Senate Judiciary has been waived. This means it is going to the Senate Floor for the first reading on 3-4. If you support this legislation, please contact your senator. Thanks, Sylvia

February 28

Bad News : SB 254 Regulating Equine Boarding Facilities died today in House Agriculture. I was surprised as there were not any delegates for the bill.

Good News : SB 583 passed out of the House Ag committee. This is the bill that allows Emergency Rules for S/N. This bill now goes to House Judiciary. Please call or email Monday morning asking the

chair to place this on his agenda. The chair is Delegate Tim Manchin 304 340-3252 or tmanchin@manchininjurylaw.com .

HB 4393 The Dangerous Animal Act will be heard Monday at 2pm in Senate Agriculture committee meeting.

I am still trying to stop HB 2757 and thanks to all of you who have called or emailed to corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov or 304 357-7880. If you oppose this bill and have not called or emailed. Please do so Monday morning. This is a bad bill for dog owners. Thanks, Sylvia
February 27

SB 254 Regulating Equine Boarding Facilities and SB 583 the Rules for S/N both will be heard tomorrow 2-28 at 9am in House Agriculture Committee.

HB 2757 is moving. I need for you to go to www.legis.state.wv.us and read the Engrossed Committee Substitute. Current law 19-20-20 entitled keeping vicious dogs, a humane officer may kill such dogs. If the Humane Officer finds the dogs not to be vicious, you can sue under Civil Law. If this bill passes, the magistrate could order euthanasia for the dog without the Right to Appeal. I feel this bill could cause the death of innocent animals. This bill is the result of two dog bites that the officer deemed not to be vicious and the parents of the bitten children want the dogs destroyed. One of the cases was appealed to the Supreme Court and the response was under current law the dogs did not have to be destroyed. With the passage of this bill, the magistrate could order the dog destroyed.

If you agree with me, please contact Senator Palumbo, chair of Senate Judiciary, asking him not to place this bill on his agenda - 304 357-7880 or corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov. Time is very short, so please act quickly after you read the bill. Thanks, Sylvia

wvwaw note* No one wants anyone to be injured by a vicious dog. The right to sue under Civil Law is already permissible under 19-20-20. Our concern is there is no right to appeal and innocent animals could be euthanized.

February 26

SB 583 The rules for Spay/Neuter will be heard this Friday at 9 am in the Agriculture Committee. You do not need to call or email until it passes out of this committee into Judiciary.

HB 2757 Felicity's Law that allows a Magistrate to order the euthanasia of a dog is moving. Please call or email Corey Palumbo the chair of Senate Judiciary and ask him not to pass this bill out of his committee. 304 357-7880 or corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov

HB 4393 The Dangerous Animal Act will have a hearing in the Senate Agricultural Committee on Monday. Do not do anything on this at this time. Thanks, Sylvia

February 25

SB 254 Regulation Equine Boarding Facilities passed the Senate today and is on its way to the House. I will let you know tomorrow to which committee it was sent.

Tomorrow is the last day for bills to be passed in their House of Origin. After tomorrow the House will work on passed Senate bills and the Senate will work on passed House bills.

Below is a list of active bills.

SB 254 Regulating Equine Boarding Facilities

SB 583 Allowing Emergency rules to be used for spay/neuter. This bill has been sent to House Agriculture and then Judiciary.

HB 2387 relates to the WV Fair Housing Act for persons with disabilities who need assistance animals. This bill has been sent to Senate Judiciary

HB 2757 Felicity's Law. This bill allows a Magistrate to order the euthanasia of a animal that has bitten. This bill was sent to Senate Judiciary. As this bill takes away the Right to Appeal, we do not support this bill.

HB 4286 The Captive Cervid Farming Act is on third reading in the House tomorrow.

HB 4393 The Dangerous Animal Act has been sent to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

I will let you know tomorrow who to contact. You should start sending emails tomorrow night or early Thursday to support the legislation above. Thanks, Sylvia

February 24

HB 4393 passed the House today and is on its way to the Senate. This is the dangerous animal bill. I will not know until tomorrow into which committees this will be placed.

SB 583 the Emergency Rule Spay/Neuter bill that passed the Senate 2-21 is now in the House with a double reference. First, to Agriculture and second to Judiciary. 2-26 Wednesday is Cross Over Day that means that after that date the Senate will work on passed House bills and the House will work on passed Senate bills. On that date I will give you who to call or email to get these bills going. There is nothing that you can do until 2-26.

All bills that did not make it out of committee and to the floor today are now dead. Thanks, Sylvia

February 21

SB 583 passed the Senate 34 to 0. Senator Miller was a key Senator in getting this through. He is a friend to animal advocates and he is up for reelection this year. Thanks to all of you for making phone calls. Now it is on to the house and Sylvia will have information on its committee assignment by Monday.

February 20

SB 254 Regulating equine boarding facilities will be heard on the Floor of the Senate. The first reading will be 2-21, second reading 2-24 and third reading 2-25. This is a good bill, please contact your senators asking them to vote for this bill. Thanks, Sylvia

February 19

SB 583 Spay/Neuter rules will have first reading on 2-19, 2nd reading on 2-20 and 3rd reading on Friday 2-21. The 2nd reading is amendment stage and 3rd reading is passage or failure. Please contact your senators asking them to vote for the passage of this bill. If this bill passes the Senate, it will move to the House where we start all over again going through a committee or committees and then on to the floor. If it passes both the House and the Senate, then the Governor must sign it. So, you can see we still have a lot of work to do. Thanks for all of your help,

PS: Do not contact any Delegates until this passes the Senate.

HB 4393 is the dangerous wild animal bill is now on its way to the House Floor. This bill will have 1st reading Thursday 2-20, 2nd reading 2-21, 3rd reading 2-24. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DELEGATES AND ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THIS BILL. WV needs protection from wild dangerous exotic animals. This bill does not affect wild animals native to WV. Thanks, Sylvia

6 states have NO regulations on wild, exotic, dangerous animals and WV is one of them. Let's change this in 2014! Call your delegates to support this bill!

February 17

SB 583 was heard and passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee today. The bill is on its way to the Floor. Please send the Senator in your District an email asking them to vote for this bill. If this bill passes we will be able to establish the Rules and start receiving grants to fund spay/neuter statewide. Please check the state website to find out who your senator is and his email address.

www.legis.state.wv.us or you can link from our site's homepage.

I spoke with the receptionist for Senate Judiciary today and she said she had received many phone calls on this bill. Thanks to all of you for helping. I will keep you posted as to when this bill reaches the floor.

Thanks, Sylvia

February 16

SB 583 (pdf) - This bill will pass the rules and regulations to establish the State Spay Neuter Fund that passed last session. There is nothing that should be objectionable in this bill. The fund cannot be setup until the rules are passed. We need to start obtaining financing and grants for this statewide fund. We

do not want to delay this fund by another year, so please help pass these rules and regulations so we can start the process to curb the pet-overpopulation in WV.

Please contact Senator Corey Palumbo, Chair of the Judiciary Committee, immediately to place SB 583 on his agenda and pass it out of his committee. The session is winding down and time is short. Please contact Senator Palumbo by phone 304 357-7880 or email corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov. We have worked for five years to get this fund established through the state legislature. Please do not let this be delayed another year due to the rules and regulations not be adopted. Thanks, Sylvia

February 13

HB 4393 was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee with a few amendments. Please read the Com Sub when it gets in the system. This is the Dangerous Wild Animal Bill and now moves to House Judiciary. We must get it on their agenda. Please contact Delegate Tim Manchin who is the chair and ask him to place this bill on his agenda.

His phone is 304 340-3252 and email tmanchin@manchininjurylaw.com.

Please contact other members of the committee asking them to support the bill. You can find every member and their contact numbers by using www.legis.state.wv.us and then clicking on House, then committees and then members. When you click on a member's name, their contact info will appear.

SB 254 is a bill regulating equine boarding facilities and it must be placed on the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda. Please contact Senator Palumbo asking him to please place this bill on his committee agenda. His phone number is 304 357-7880 and email is corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov.

Thanks, Sylvia

February 10

SB 83 was heard and passed in the Senate Agriculture committee. The bill now moves to Senate Finance Committee. This bill provides a tax write off for spay/neuter of personal pets. If you support this bill, please contact Senator Prezioso 304 357-7961 email roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov asking him to please place this bill on his committee agenda. This bill will not solve the pet overpopulation problem but will help. Sylvia

February 4

SB 254 advanced out of the Agriculture Committee today. It is now in the Judiciary Committee. This bill regulates equine boarding facilities. This bill is now a committee sub, so make sure you read the latest version. The chair of Judiciary is Corey Palumbo, 304 357-7880, corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov Thanks, Sylvia

February 3

HB 4393 was introduced today. This bill creates the Dangerous Wild Animal Act. This is now the bill of choice that needs to be passed. Please read the bill as many rumors are floating around that this will prohibit exotics that are not considered dangerous. This bill does not affect your birds, hedgehogs, etc. It will affect lions, tigers, etc. PLEASE READ THE BILL BEFORE YOU JUDGE IT. This bill goes first to House Agriculture and Natural Resource committee and then to Judiciary. The chair of Agriculture is David Walker. Phone 304 340-3135. Email david.walker@wvhouse.gov.

To read a bill go to the State Legislative website www.legis.state.wv.us and enter the bill number in bill status. The next screen will lead you to the bill. Another option is <http://www.wvaw.org> This site has all of the information you need. West Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare. Thanks, Sylvia

January 30

HB 4286 has moved out of House Agriculture Committee into the House Finance Committee. This is the Captive Cervid Farming. This bill moves Deer Farms out of the control of DNR into Agriculture. Sylvia

January 28

HB 4356 was introduced today. Creating a WV personal income tax modification reducing federal adjusted gross income for persons who choose to spay or neuter their dogs or cats. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources and then to Finance.

HB 2387 passed the House today and was sent to Senate Judiciary. This is the WV Fair Housing Act that aligns with the Federal for 'Assistance animals.' Sylvia

January 24

Four new bills introduced today:

SB 428 (SB428 intr pdf) Dangerous Wild Animal Act goes first to Natural Resources and next to Finance. I am advised that this is the better bill and supported by HSUS. I have read it and it looks good.

HB 4286 Captive Cervid Farming Act. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources and then Finance. This is the bill that moves Deer Farms from DNR to Agriculture.

HB 4293 Regulating release of fish, water animal and other aquatic organisms. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources and then to Judiciary. I do not know if any of you are interested but just in case I am including it.

HB 4300 (HB4300 intr pdf) Creating Animal Abuse Registry. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources and then to Judiciary. Sylvia

January 23

HB 2387 is on 1st reading Friday. This bill has a committee sub now. If you are reading legislation, be sure you are reading the latest version. This is the WV Fair Housing Act and the purpose is to realign with the Federal Fair Housing Act in regard to Assistance Animals.

HB 2757 (HB2757 SUB pdf) Felicity's Law passed the House today and is now in the Senate. Please read the Enrolled version of the bill. This bill pertains to civil action for euthanasia of a dog that has bitten doing damage of \$1,000 or more.

HB 4045 and 4111 are rules bills pertain to animal euthanasia and veterinary techs. These bills have moved out of Agriculture committee and are now in Judiciary committee. Sylvia

January 22

SB 398 (sb398 intr pdf) update: Thanks to all of you who phoned and sent emails against this bill. They were swamped with calls which shows me we can make a difference. I met with Senator Cookman this morning and told him that this bill opens a can of worms where any school in this state can take shelter animals for whatever purpose. He then made a call on the speakerphone to the person who had the bill introduced. It was a high school in Hampshire County who wanted to train students on bathing, grooming, feeding etc. and he did not want to borrow animals from their local shelter. He wanted to shelter them on school property. The local shelter told him they would have to be adopted and he wants free animals. I think he is sincere with good intentions but as I said this opens up the opportunity for others who may want to do more than groom. Senator Cookman now understands the problem and is talking a rewrite of the bill. I asked him to let it die but he wants a group to meet with the man from Hampshire who will be coming to Lobby Day on 2-3. I told Cookman that bill must have rules and regulations for standards of care and be inspected. I really think this bill does not need a rewrite but should just die. Please plan to come to Lobby Day and tell them in person what you think. There were not any new bills introduced today. I was told that a new and better exotic bill is coming soon. Thanks for all of your help, Sylvia

January 21

SB 398 was introduced today and I am upset. (sb398 intr pdf) 'The purpose of this bill is to provide that a state public school with an animal and veterinary science program may obtain impounded dogs and cats for humane use in furtherance of the school's curriculum and may provide any appropriate attendant care and adoption assistance for the animals.' We fought this battle and won in 1989. We will fight it again if necessary. When animals come into a shelter, the public does not expect that they will end up in research laboratories or used as training tools. This bill was introduced by Senator Cookman from Hampshire County. We need all of you to call his office and say NO to this bill. His email address is Donald.cookman@wvsenate.gov and phone 304 357-7980. The bill first goes to the Education Committee and then to Finance. Please email or call Robert Plymale, the chair of Education, and tell him

no to this bill. His email address is Robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov. Phone 304 357-7937. Please be courteous and polite. Thanks, Sylvia

WVVAW Note* SB 398 would turn around current law and a long held belief among animal advocates that shelter animals NOT be used in laboratories in West Virginia. This was the case until 1989. When the nation is moving toward a more humane world in which animals would never be used in research laboratories, why would a WV Legislator propose to take us back 25 years? Theresa

WV State Law 19-20-23. Prohibition of the use of impounded dogs and cats. (Became WV law in 1989) On and after the first day of September, one thousand nine hundred eighty-nine, any dog or cat impounded under the provisions of this article may not be sold, given, transferred or otherwise made available directly or indirectly to any person, institution, corporation or other entity for use in educational or scientific research or related activities. Disposition of impounded dogs or cats may only be by adoption as pets or humanely destroyed. Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than four hundred fifty dollars nor more than two thousand dollars.

January 20

There were no new animal bills introduced today.

HB 2757 - Felicity's Law pertaining to dog bites and euthanasia of vicious dogs has moved out of committee and to the Floor of the House. This bill will have 1st reading on 1-21, 2nd reading which is amendment stage on 1-22 and final vote on 1-23.

SB 120, 121, and 122 are Rules bills which means that rules are promulgated on previously passed laws. These bills pertain to the Board of Veterinary Medicine concerning vet techs, euthanasia techs and schedule of fees. These bills have moved out of the committee of Government Org. and are now in the Judiciary committee. Sylvia

January 17

HB 2757 'Felicity's Law' now has a Committee Sub from the Judiciary Committee. This bill should be of interest to dog owners and concerns dog bites. Please replace the original version with the Committee Sub bill.

HB 4218 (hb4218 intr pdf) was introduced today and is a must read. This bill permits counties to adopt certain ordinances relating to dogs and cats. This bill first goes to Political Subdivisions and then to Judiciary. Sylvia

January 16

One new bill introduced today. You will be able to view it later this evening.

SB 371 which prohibits possession of wild and exotic animals. This bill first goes to Natural Resources and then to Judiciary. Sylvia

January 8, 2014

The following bills were introduced today but as of this moment the bills are not on the legislative website. You should be able to view them by tomorrow.

SB 73 Exempting veterinary medicine from sales tax. This bill first goes to Agriculture and Rural Development Committee then to Finance

SB 83 (SB83 INTR pdf) Providing personal income tax deduction for spaying and neutering personal pets. This bill goes to Finance Committee.

SB 92 Establishing Animal Abuse Registry. This bill goes to Agriculture and Rural Development and then to Judiciary.

SB 120 is a Rules bill. This means they are changing the Rules for an existing law. This bill is relating to registration of veterinary technicians. This bill goes to Government Organization and then Judiciary.

SB 121 is also a Rules bill relating to certified animal euthanasia technicians. This bill goes to Government Org. and then to Judiciary.

SB 122 Another Rules bill relating to the schedule of fees. This bill goes to Gov. Org. and then to Judiciary.

SB 254 Regulating equine boarding facilities. This bill goes to Agriculture and Rural Development There are five carry over House bills. This means they were introduced last session and died. Therefore they carry the same bill number.

HB 2115 Relating to the purchase and sale of dogs. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources then to Judiciary.

HB 2301 Prohibiting declination of property insurance based solely upon a home owners possession of a certain breed of dog. This bill goes to Banking and Insurance and then to Judiciary.

HB 2387 The purpose is to realign state laws with the Federal Fair Housing act in regard to an "Assistant Animal." This bill goes to Judiciary.

HB 2757 Felicity Law. The purpose is to protect the public by providing a private cause of action seeking euthanasia of a dog in Magistrate Court. This bill goes to Judiciary.

HB 2794 (HB2794 intr pdf) Prohibits declination or termination of property insurance based on applicants possession of a certain breed of dog. This bill goes to Banking and Insurance and then to Judiciary.

New House Bills:

HB 4045 is a Rules bill Certified Animal euthanasia technicians. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources and then to Judiciary.

HB 4111 Rules Bill concerning registration of Veterinary technicians. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources and then to Judiciary.

HB 4112 Rules Bill concerning the Board of Veterinary Medicines schedule of fees. This bill goes to Finance and then Judiciary.

HB 2112 Prohibiting the use of prophylactic feeding of antibiotics to livestock. This bill goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources.

submitted by Sylvia Shafer

Daily legislative activity pertaining to animals – 2015

WV Legislature 2015 Session:

WVVAW comments on S/N Funding question and Greyhound Legislation for this session.

This legislative session held few surprises and several disappointments. Animal Welfare was not topping the list of what this legislature needed to achieve. But we knew that going into this session. Education must occur on what our issues are and how lawmakers can help us reach our goals. The Spay Neuter Rules passed but without any sufficient funding source. That was expected but disappointing. We held some glimmer of hope to gain some funding from the budget process but that did not occur.

No agreement could be reached on dog racing. With the help of GREY2K USA the media effort has paid off. Everyone now knows that dog racing in West Virginia is wasteful and inhumane. Lawmakers know it, the media knows it and even the breeders know it! Something must be done. In short, we have won the debate on whether dog racing should continue and now we just need to make this position a reality. WVVAW will continue to work with GREY2K USA in the budget process to end dog racing. They will be our guide on this issue.

2015 was not a good year overall for Animal Welfare Bills however some needed rules did pass! SB 199 - Bundled rules bill passed. **This bundled rules bill included SB 216 which are the Spay Neuter Rules which FOHO WV wrote along with help from ASPCA Michael Barrett and Lisa Star. These rules passed as needed with no changes and are excellent rules. There was no funding bill submitted since the rules had not passed and the fund could not operate without the rules.** SB 211 rules relating to Animal Disease Control and SB 217 Rules for Livestock Care Standards (the livestock rules are not what most animal advocates would want) SB 218 Relating to Equine Rescue Facilities, SB 222 Relating to Dangerous Wild Animals (also stripped down version of original rules submitted)

WVVAW Daily at the State Legislature 2015 by Sylvia Shafer

2/25/15

SB 199 the bill where the animal rules were bundled passed the Senate today and is now in the House. This includes the rules for S/N, Dangerous Animals, etc.

2/23/15

SB 547 Creating WV Greyhound Cessation Program was introduced today and now goes to Senate Finance. I do not know if this is a good bill or not and I am waiting for Grey2K to tell me. I will let you know.

The following Rules bills were bundled into SB 199 and will be on 2nd reading on the Senate Floor 2-24. The bundled bills are as follows:

SB 211 Relating to Animal Disease Control

SB 216 Relating to S/N assistance

SB 217 Relating to Livestock Care Standards

SB 218 Relating to Equine Rescue Facilities SB 222 Relating to Dangerous Wild Animals.

We now need to watch SB 199. SYLVIA

2/19/15

WVVAW does not support HB 2189 in its current form. We asked Delegate Gearheart for amendments to this same bill last session with the clear message that we could not support the measure as is. Rather than work WITH an animal welfare organization in constructing an effective and sound measure, he re-introduced the same bill this session. Again, our requested changes could have been included but have been ignored. The bill is redundant in that 7.1.14 already provides the county commissions the ability to set ordinances yet this bill creates more vagueness with terms that we need further definition on i.e. 'definition of shelter' and 'adequate protection.' It also opens the door on number of pets that could be restricted locally. It is simply not a very good bill, but at least the inclusion of our amendments would have made it worth our effort.

WVVAW wanted to amend HB 4218 so counties could not impose restrictions on a citizen's ability to own whatever breed of dog they choose. A national poll by Luntz Global revealed that 84% of Americans don't believe local governments should be allowed to dictate the breed of dog a person can own. More than a dozen different breeds of dogs in West Virginia are restricted in various localities throughout the state, for example: Great Dane, Husky, German Shepherd, St. Bernard, and others. Currently, 19 states have enacted similar legislation, and an additional 6 states have introduced such legislation this session.

Shouldn't West Virginia maintain its upward climb on national organizations annual legislative report cards by ensuring legislation is current and in-line with the majority of other states, as opposed to being near the rear of the pack?

Our amendments to HB 2189 would provide West Virginians relief from the discriminatory breed specific ordinances. We do not support this bill at this time. Please contact your legislators to oppose HB 2189.

2/16/15

SB 237 The Captive Cervid Farm Act completed legislation on 2-13 and now awaits the Governor's signature.

2/12/15

SB 237 Creating Captive Cervid Farming Act passed the House today. This bill goes back to the Senate due to amendments made by the House.

HB 2719 was introduced today with the purpose to increase the penalties for participating in an animal fighting venture. This is a good bill. This bill now goes to the Judiciary Committee.

2/9/15

SB 237 Captive Cervid Farming Act is on first reading in the House on 2-10. This bill has already passed the Senate.

2/6/15

HB 2650 was introduced today. This bill creates the WV Greyhound Racing Cessation Program. This bill goes to the Judiciary Committee and then to Finance.

WVVAW note* We want a bill to completely end greyhound racing in West Virginia. However, we are working with GREY2K USA on this in WV and we will follow their advice on what legislation to support to meet that end. We will keep you posted! Please take no action at this time on this bill. However, you can make it clear to your legislators that you want the 'end' of greyhound racing and the greyhounds to be cared for AND also for money to go into our newly formed S/N Fund.

2/5/15

HB 2618 Creating a State Animal Abuse Registry. This bill goes to the Judiciary committee. At first glance, this looks like a good bill. I need to read it again.

2/3/15

SB 222 Rules relating to the Dangerous Animal Act has passed out of the Agriculture Committee and is now in Judiciary. Several more animals have been removed from the list.

SB 216 Rules relating to spay/neuter assistance passed out of Agriculture committee and is now in the Judiciary committee.

SB 217 Rules relating to livestock care standards has now passed out of Agriculture and is now in Judiciary.

SB 218 Rules relating to equine rescue facilities has now passed out of Agriculture and is now in Judiciary

SB 237 Captive Cervid Farming Act has passed out of Agriculture and Finance committees and has moved to the floor of the Senate. It will have the first reading 1-28.

1/30/15

SB 237 The Captive Cervid Farming Bill has passed the Senate. It now moves to the House.

1/28/15

SB 237 Creating Captive Cervid Farming Act is on 2nd reading 1-29. This is the amendment stage.

HB 2105 Creating Captive Cervid Farming Act has passed out of the Agriculture Committee and is now in Judiciary.

1/27/15

SB 216 Rules relating to spay/neuter assistance passed out of Agriculture committee and is now in the Judiciary committee.

SB 217 Rules relating to livestock care standards has now passed out of Agriculture and is now in Judiciary.

SB 218 Rules relating to equine rescue facilities has now passed out of Agriculture and is now in Judiciary
SB 237 Captive Cervid Farming Act has passed out of Agriculture and Finance committees and has moved to the floor of the Senate. It will have the first reading 1-28.

1/26/15

The following are all to promulgate rules and are the same as the Senate bills. HB 2306 Relating to the rules for disease control in animals. HB 2310 Relating to the rules for Spay and Neuter assistance. HB 2312 Relating to the rules for care of livestock. HB 2313 Relating to the rules for equine rescue facilities. HB 2361 Relating to the rules for dangerous wild animals.

1/21/15

HB 2189 – Permitting counties to adopt certain ordinances relating to dogs and cats. This bill first goes to Political Subdivision and then to Judiciary. THIS IS A MUST READ BILL. Some counties already have some of the ordinances while other counties feel legislation is needed to make them legal.

1/20/15

HB 2105 – The Captive Cervid Farming Act was introduced today. This one is more detailed than the two already introduced.

SB 211 – A Legislative Rule bill to promulgate the rules relating to animal disease control passed out of the Agriculture Committee today and is now in the Judiciary Committee.

1/16/15

SB 237 is the senate version of HB 2033. Captive Cervid Farming Act. This bill changes the captive deer from DNR to Dept. of Agriculture. DNR has fought it now for several years. This bill goes first to AG and then to Finance.

SB 247 Repealing the Dangerous Wild Animal Act. This bill goes first to AG. and then Judiciary. When the rules were created for the Dangerous Wild Animal Act, the rules included many species that the public had problems with. After the Rules Committee met most of the ones the public were opposed to being on the list were removed. The Rules now only include what the average would consider dangerous. Such as lions, tigers, etc. We do not support repealing the entire law as the rules are now okay.

1/15/16

HB 2033 The Captive Cervid Farming Act. This bill goes to the Agriculture Committee and then Finance.

SB 86 Regulating equine boarding facilities. The bill first goes to agriculture and then judiciary.

SB 95 Creating a tax exemption for the cost of spaying and neutering. This bill goes to Finance.

All of the following bills are from Legislation Rule Making and just give authority to promulgate the rules. These bills do not contain the rules and all bills go first to Agriculture and then to Judiciary.

SB 211 relating to animal disease control.

SB 216 relating to spay/neuter assistance.

SB 217 relating to rules for standard care of livestock.

SB 218 relating to equine rescue facilities.

SB 222 relating to the dangerous wild animal act.

Legislative Session 2016

WVVAW Daily At the State Legislature 2016: www.legis.state.wv.us.

3/31/16

Wonderful news as the Governor has signed HB 4201 which is the animal fighting bill. This bill becomes effective 90 days from passage on 3-12-16. This means that as 6-12-16 the authorities will be using the new penalties. Thanks again to all who have helped with the passage of this bill. Sylvia

3/13/16

The end of a dismal session in which two bills survived. The Gov. did not sign the bundled rules bill so only one bill passed.

HB 4201 animal fighting bill passed and is a better bill since amended. To read the bill be sure to use the final version. This bill still must be signed by the Governor.

SB 159 which is the bundled rules bill also passed.

Thanks to all who helped with phone calls and emails. Let us hope that during 2017 session we can do more to help the animals. Sylvia

WVVAW note: Remember in November who voted against the animal fighting bill. A reprehensible vote. One that should not be rewarded with a vote from you!

Voting NO in House

Eldridge

Lynch

Perdue

White

P. Ihle

Marcum

Phillips, R.

Kurcaba

McGeehan

Walters

Voting NO in Senate:

N Facemire

N KIRKENDOLL

N MAYNARD

Absent (but voted No in Judiciary)...

A KARNES

3/9/16

HB 4201 the animal fighting bill just passed out of Senate Judiciary with amendment to increase the penalties for participating. This bill will now go to the floor. Please support this bill by calling your senators and asking them to vote for this bill. Time is very short and if this bill passes the Senate it must go back to the House due to the amendment. Please make your calls or emails tomorrow.

SB 359 will be on 2nd reading tomorrow on the House floor. This is a bundled bill that includes new or amended rules for livestock care standards, nontraditional domestic animals, etc. To support this bill please contact your delegates. You can find email address and phone numbers on the state website. www.legis.state.wv.us

SB 641 the greyhound bill died yesterday but at the end of a session bills have a way of coming back to life. I am not giving up until midnight 3-12.

HB 4625 another greyhound bill is still alive waiting to be heard in Senate Finance. It is on life support. Thanks, Sylvia

3/2/16

This is the last day for the 3rd reading on bills from the house of origin. Starting 3-3 the House only votes on Senate bills and the Senate only votes on House bills.

I am listing the bills that have not died.

HB 4201 the animal fighting bill is now in Senate Judiciary Committee and needs to be placed on their agenda.

SB 159 which is a Rules bill is in House Judiciary Committee and needs to be placed on their agenda.

SCR 57 was introduced 3-1 and is waiting more action from the Senate. This Resolution is requesting a study on county animal shelter dog and cat population and cost. This study would be conducted during a interim.

SB 641 which is a Greyhound bill passed the Senate 3-1 and is to be heard in the House Finance Committee.

HB 4625 which is a Greyhound bill passed the House 3-1 and is to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee.

The two greyhound bills are different and I am expecting the Legislature and Grey2K to work out the differences. Please do not take any action on these two bills unless I send another email with directions.

Thanks, Sylvia

WVVAW note* SB 436 the Shelter Definition bill is in House Ag but they have voted not to meet again this session. That is why there was no status on this bill listed above. You can still contact House AG and implore them to meet once more and get this on the agenda but generally when they do not want to address controversial issues, this is the way it is done. Not sure what is particularly controversial about this bill but we are reporting what we know.

2/28/16

HB 4201 The animal fighting bill has been sent to Senate Judiciary Committee. We need to get this bill on their agenda. Starting Monday 2-29, please email the Chair Charles Trump charles.trump@wvsenate.gov or call 304 357-7980. Also call or email the vice chair Ryan Ferns 304 357 7918 or ryan.ferns@wvsenate.gov. Please ask them to place HB 4201 on their agenda.

Two greyhound bills are moving. They are SB 641 and HB 4625. Both cannot pass. Sylvia

WVVAW note* The preferred Greyhound bill is **SB 641**. It both decouples and eliminates the subsidy for breeders. Decoupling would allow the greyhound racing to be separate from the gambling. The racing would have to stand on its own and not be subsidized by the gambling. This dying sport will not stand on its own and that is what we want with the passage of SB 641. SB 641 is on 2nd reading on the House floor. Call your legislator and tell them to pass SB 641.

2/27/16

HB 4201 the animal fighting bill passed the House today and moves to the Senate. The committee is not assigned yet but probably will be Senate Judiciary. I will let you know. There were 9 Nay votes and they are as follows.

Eldridge from Lincoln Co

Ihle from Jackson Co

Kurcaba from Monongalia Co

Marcum from Mingo Co

McGeehan from Hancock Co

R Phillips from Logan Co

R Walters from Kanawha Co

P White from Mingo Co.

SB 436 the shelter definition bill is still stuck in House AG committee

SB 641 the greyhound bill was laid over on 2nd reading on the floor. This bill would separate the gambling from the greyhound racing. That is called decoupling and it ends the breeders and other industry subsidies from slot machine profits.

The Legislature is in Session Saturday, Sylvia

2/25/16

The time frame to introduce new legislation has passed. You will not see any new bills listed. All bills must be out of committees by 2-28 All bills must have had third reading by originating body by 3-2.

March 3rd is Cross -Over Day which means the Senate will only work on passed House bills and the House will only work on passed Senate bills. Midnight 3-12 the regular session is over.

Current Status of Animal Bills:

HB 4201 is on 2nd reading today on the House floor. This is the amendment stage. This bill will be on 3rd reading which is passage stage 2-26. This is the animal fighting bill.

SB 641 is one of the Greyhound bills. This bill was heard in Senate Judiciary 2-24 and passed to the floor with amendments. More amendments are expected on 2nd reading which will be 2-26.

Thanks, Sylvia

2/24/16 WVVAW Legislative note

HB 4508 will prohibit municipalities and counties from having ordinances that cause the removal of your dog based on its breed/appearance! Contact Delegate Shott to add it to the Judiciary Committee's Agenda email: john.shott@wvhouse.gov phone: (304) 340-3252

HB 4201- increasing the penalties for animal fighting is on the House Floor with second reading tomorrow

SB 641 will be on first reading on the House Floor. This bill would succeed in accomplishing greyhound decoupling.

[HB4515](#) the Spay Neuter funding bill is stuck in the AG Committee right where the Billion dollar Pet Food Lobby and legislators in an election year want to keep it. They have effectively slowed it down so it does not make it to Finance or makes it late, ensuring that they have effectively killed it. This bill was submitted late in the session since it needed Republican sponsors which were finally found. And, this is election year so passing this surcharge or fee is something that the Republicans who signed a pledge not to raise taxes said they would not do. We need to educate our legislators so they know how important this bill is for WV. We call it the battle of David and Goliath and you know who ultimately wins that battle! If not this year, then next session with a new legislature!

See legislative date 2/11/16 below for contact information! The money listed by your legislator is the amount spent by County Commissions in that county to impound, care for, and euthanize unwanted dogs and cats!

The purpose of this bill is to increase the now existing pet food registration fee and direct that additional money to the West Virginia Spay Neuter Assistance Fund. This is an opportunity for \$900,000 yearly for spay neuter in West Virginia. We need all of you to help to get this passed. Remember the money comes from the already existing Pet Food Surcharge so no taxpayer dollars used or any negative impact on our budget! The Spay Neuter Fund has been established and the Rules have been written. All we need is the funding and this bill could ensure it yearly!

Why the Pet Food Fee is the right funding choice for the WV Spay/Neuter fund.

- Reduce the \$10 million taxpayer dollars spent on this problem.
- No impact on tight WV Budget.
- 40% of the 50,000 animals entering WV shelters die.
- Costs less than 75 cents per pet per year if cost is passed on to pet owners..
- Reliable source = \$900,000 annually available to all 55 counties.
- Add to already existing pet food registration fee.
- Pet Food Industry had \$165 million in WV Pet Food Sales 2014.
- WV Spay Neuter Assistance Program & Rules established and ready to go.
- Immediate implementation saving taxpayer dollars while saving lives
- ME and MD have successfully implemented.
- 34 states have funding programs to support spay neuter services.

2/23/16 is being declared WV Spay Neuter Day.

<https://www.facebook.com/WVLHV/> for more information!

Please join the WV League of Humane Voters, Charleston Regional Spay Neuter Center and others to support this wonderful announcement of WV Spay Neuter Day! We would like to get as many people as possible to attend the 10:30 press conference inside the Capitol in Senate Room 252. The WV State Senate will then announce the proclamation on the Senate floor at 11 A.M. Let's show our support for Spay/Neuter!

2/23/16

HB 4201 the animal fighting bill is on 1st reading on the floor of the House tomorrow.

HB 4653 was introduced 2-22 The purpose of this bill is to require spay/neuter of companion animals with exceptions. This bill goes to the AG committee with a second reference to Judiciary. This bill cannot become law as it is too late in the session. AG had their last meeting today.

HB 4667 was introduced on 2-22 and does many things. Such as license cats, establish an animal abuse registry, provide legal protections for and update the legal processes relating to the humane treatment of animals. The bill also prohibits the hoarding of animals and provides for the disposition and care of maltreated animals as well as mental treatment for the hoarder. It also increases the penalties for animal fighting. This bill first goes to AG and the Judiciary. Again it is too late for this bill but there is much good in this bill and it should be brought back next session.

HB 4710 - This is another greyhound bill which defunds the Breeding Development Fund and transferring the funds to one-half Public Employee Insurance Agency and the other half to the IDD wavier program of DHHR.

WVVAW note* Sylvia was given a wonderful and much deserved award today. And it is appropriate that it was given on the day proclaimed as WV Spay Neuter Day in the WV Legislature.

2/21/16

SB 641 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to transfer revenues from certain Greyhound racing funds to the State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund. This bill was sent to Finance.

HB 4625 was introduced today. This bill redirects certain greyhound racing funds to State Road Fund. This bill also went to Finance.

Grey2K has a paid lobbyist who will work with them to see if either is good. You do not need to take action on any greyhound bill...thanks, Sylvia Shafer

2/18/16

HB 436 is now in the House Agriculture Committee. This is the outside shelter bill. Please contact the chair Allen Evans asking him to please place this bill on his agenda. His email address is allen.evans@wvhouse.org or call [304 340-3399](tel:3043403399). Also ask him to place **HB 4515** on his agenda! This is the surcharge to raise income for spay/neuter.

HB 4508 prohibits counties and municipalities from adopting ordinances or regulations that place restrictions on the breed of a dog. This is a property rights issue. This bill has passed the Political Sub committee and is now waiting to get on the House Judiciary Committee agenda. Please contact John Shott asking him to place this bill on his agenda. John.shott@wvhouse.gov or [304 340-3252](tel:3043403252).

HB 4201 the animal fighting bill is still stuck in the House Judiciary Committee. It was passed out of this committee but for some reason is still there.

Time is very short. Thanks, Sylvia

2/17/16

HB 436 passed the Senate today with one nay vote from Karnes from Upshur County. This is the outdoor cat and dog shelter bill. This bill now moves to House Judiciary Committee. Please send or call the Chair of Judiciary John Shott [304 340-3252](tel:3043403252) or email john.shott@wvhouse.gov. asking him to please place this bill on his agenda.

Patrick Lane is the vice chair and an email should be sent to him patrick.lane@wvhouse.gov or phone [304 340 3252](tel:3043403252).

There has not been any movement on HB 4515 which is the surcharge on pet food.

HB 4201 The animal fighting bill is still stuck in Judiciary but I have been assured that it will move to the floor. Thanks, Sylvia

2/16/16

SB 436 which is the shelter for animals bill passed the 2nd reading on the Senate Floor. There were no further amendments. This bill now moves to the 3rd reading which is passage stage. When it passes the Senate, it moves to the House.

2/15/15

HB 4515 has yet to be placed on the Agriculture Committee agenda. Please use the contact list below 2/11/15 to ask them to please place this bill on the agenda. This is the surcharge on pet food that will be used to spay/neuter and reduce population.

SB 436 is on 2nd reading tomorrow 2-16. This is the amendment stage where any Senator can amend the bill. Please send your senators an email asking them to support having better shelter for dogs and cats
2-12-16

SB 598 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to transfer all the funds now existing or created in the future in the Greyhound Breeding Development Fund to Excess Lottery Revenue Fund. This bill was sent to the Finance Committee. I do not know if GREY2K is OK with this bill. I will let you know when I find out.

SB 436 the required shelter bill will be on first reading on Monday 2-15. Please ask all of your senators to support this bill.

2/11/16

A very busy day. SB 346 (shelter for cats and dogs) passed out of Judiciary Committee and will now head to the floor. This bill has amendments so please check for the latest copy of the bill.

HB 4201 (animal fighting) passed out of House Judiciary with amendments. It now heads to the floor. Again, be sure to watch for the latest copy.

The Livestock Standard Rules was amended linking the cruelty code 61-8-19 to the rules.

HB 4515 was introduced today. (SEE ABOVE NOTE) This bill is double referenced. First to the Committee on Agriculture and then to Finance. The purpose of this bill is to increase the pet food registration fee and direct that additional money to the West Virginia Spay Neuter Assistance Fund. Please call or email the chair and vice chair of the Agriculture Committee asking the bill be placed on the agenda. The chair is Allen Evans 304 340-3399 and allen.evans@wvhouse.gov. The vice chair is Roger Romine [304 340-3226](tel:304-340-3226) or roger.romine@wvhouse.gov. Thanks, Sylvia

WVVAW suggest it is also a good idea to contact your legislator IF they are on the Ag Committee. Here is the list for your reference. It is most important to contact them IF you are a constituent. The amount of money listed with your legislator is the amount of money spent on Animal Control within your county for 2014 resulting in more than \$10 million annually of taxpayer money to impound, care for, and euthanize unwanted dogs and cats. Each year, animal shelters in West Virginia take in over 50,000 cats and dogs, and each year, about 40% of these animals, including perfectly healthy and adoptable pets, are euthanized

Thanks to our sponsors of the HB 4515 bill particularly Del. Denise Campbell who took the bill and ran with it to obtain 11 sponsors extending across the isle in the bipartisan manner in which this should be approached. This is a problem costing WV \$10 Million a year with a solution using the Pet Food fee increase. The Pet Food Industry had sales in 2014 of approximately \$165 million per year in WV. Even IF they did pass the increase on to consumers it would be less than .75 cents per pet per year.

Spay Neuter Funding Bill HB 4515 Sponsors

Campbell (Randolph) denise.campbell@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3145 (Ag & NR Committee)

Eldridge (Lincoln) jeff.eldridge@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3113 (Minority Chair Ag)

Rowan (R) (Hampshire) ruth.rowan@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3157

Romine (R) (Tyler) roger.romine@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3226 (Vice Chair of AG)
Boggs (Braxton) brent.boggs@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3142
Guthrie (Kanawha) nancy.guthrie@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3156 (Minority Vice Chair – NR)
Rohrbach (R) (Cabell) matthew.rohrbach@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3221
Lynch (Webster) dana.lynch@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3916 (Minority Chair NR)
Perry (Fayette) d.perry@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3337
Caputo (Marion) mike.caputo@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3249
Skinner (Jefferson) stephen.skinner@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-32482/16/16

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Chair (Ag) - Evans – R – Grant - \$18,062.04 allen.evans@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3399
Chair (NR) Hamilton – R – Upshur - \$174,502 bill.hamilton@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3167
Vice Chair (Ag) – Romine – R – Tyler - \$0 roger.romine@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3226
Vice Chair (NR) Ambler- R – Greenbrier - \$292,000 george.ambler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3129
Minority Chair (Ag) – Eldridge- D – Lincoln - \$37,800 jeff.eldridge@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3113
Minority Chair (NR) - Lynch – D- Webster - dana.lynch@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3916
Minority Vice Chair (NR) Guthrie – D - Kanawha - nancy.guthrie@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3156
Minority Vice Chair (Ag) Sponaugle – D – Pendleton - isaac.sponaugle@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3154
Anderson – R – Wood - \$270,996 bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3168
Atkinson - R – Roane - martin.atkinson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3185
Blackwell – D – Wyoming - \$33,280 frank.blackwell@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3163
Border – Sheppard – R – Wood - \$270,996 anna.border@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3136
Cadle – R – Mason - \$127,500 scott.cadle@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3118
Campbell – D – Randolph - \$175,000 denise.campbell@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3145
Canterbury – R – Greenbrier - \$292,000 ray.canterbury@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3131
Cooper – R – Summers – \$22,318 roy.cooper@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3119
Folk – R – Berkley - \$304,766 michael.folk@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3350
Ireland – R – Ritchie - \$34,700 woody.ireland@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3195
Miller – R – Cabell - \$260,000 carol.miller@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3176
Rodighiero – D – Logan - \$101,154 ralph.rodighiero@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3297
Shaffer - D – Preston - \$263,000 steve.shaffer@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3160
R. Smith – R – Preston - \$263,000 randy.smith@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3396
Summers – R – Taylor - \$91,223 amy.summers@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3139
Wagner – R – Barbour - \$52,175 danny.wagner@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3398
P. White – D – Mingo - \$55,895 phyllis.white@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3304

WVVAW Note: Humane Lobby Day was February 11th. Thanks to those who braved the cold weather to talk to legislators and promote animal friendly legislation.

Also good news for Livestock standard rules (SB 153) 73cSR1 rules - that due to many of you writing comments to the board, the link to animal cruelty code will be amended to the rules. Now, appropriately it will amend to link violations of the WV Livestock Standards of Care to the penalties proclaimed under the WV Cruelty Code, section 61-8-19. While not the perfect outcome it is better than before so thanks to all of you for making a difference for livestock!!

2/10/16

The Spay Neuter Funding Bill, HB 4515 will be introduced and assigned to committee on Humane Lobby Day on Feb. 11. Very appropriate timing! However, we do not know the committee in time to provide that information to those attending Lobby Day. We have several legislators to thank for this and we will let you know more about them later. This is an opportunity for \$900,000 yearly for spay neuter in West Virginia. We need all of you to help to get this passed. Remember the money comes from the Pet Food

Surcharge so no taxpayer dollars used or any negative impact on our budget! More to follow, Theresa Sylvia (information provided by Theresa)

2/9/16

HB 4458 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to increase the penalties for animal fighting. This bill is going to House Judiciary. This bill is just like HB 4251. Both bills make animal fighting a felony. HB 4201 makes second offense a felony. 4201 is a HSUS bill and more in depth. I do not know which bill they will decide to run. All bills are in Judiciary.

2/8/16

SB 436 was heard in Senate Judiciary today. This is the bill that describes shelter for dogs and cats. Several were against this bill due to requiring shelter for farm/working dogs. This would be dogs that guard flocks, etc. Hunting dogs were also mentioned as not requiring shelter. This bill was placed in a subcommittee to create an amendment that would exempt some dogs. Cats were not mentioned thanks to the many of you that requested that cats be left in the bill. No further action is needed till after the subcommittee meets. The bill remains with the Senate Judiciary. I will keep you posted. Thanks, Sylvia

2/3/2016

HB 4373 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit exposing a dog or cat that is a companion animal to extreme weather conditions that result in injury or death. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary. Please note there are not any definitions of shelter and they can be exposed unless resulting in injury or death. SB 436 is a much better bill. I have been told that when SB 436 is heard in Judiciary Committee that cats will be removed from the protection of shelter. This will weaken the current cruelty code. Cats must have shelter. Think about the 18 inch snow we just had. I was told they could go under a car for protection. Those who know me know how well that went over. I could not even see my car during that snow. If you agree with me, please ask members of the Judiciary to not remove cats from protection. Thanks, Sylvia

2/1/2016

SB 436 which defines proper shelter for animals was introduced today. This bill has been sent to Senate Judiciary. Please contact Chairman Senator Trump asking him to place this bill on his agenda. Email charles.trump@wvsenate.gov or call (304) 357-7980. Thanks, Sylvia

1/25/2016

HB 4251 increasing the penalties for animal fighting ventures. This is not the same as HB 4201 but both bills have gone to Judiciary. I do not know which bill they will try to run. We will have to wait and see.

1/23/16

ACTION NEEDED ON SB 153 before Feb. 10th

SB 153 lists Rules for Livestock, as proposed by the Livestock Standards of Care Board. These rules were revisited after the last commenting period, resulting in providing sufficient floor space for poultry to rest. However, now there is a new but brief commenting period through February 10th on the existing SB 153. Our greatest concern with the proposed rules is the elimination of penalties for inhumane treatment of livestock. This is a complex issue since livestock were not handled well under the existing cruelty code. However, with these penalties removed from the rules we feel livestock are even more compromised in receiving adequate protection. Here is our suggestion for sending comments on this to the board. Please help livestock get the minimal protection they deserve.

Please send your comments before Feb. 10th to: Jodee Martin, WV Dept of Agriculture, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston WV 25305 or email jodeemartin@wvda.us.

ATTN: LIVESTOCK Standards Care Board:

Please add a brief amendment to Senate Bill 153 which would appropriately link violations of the WV Livestock Standards of Care to the penalties proclaimed under the WV Cruelty Code, section 61-8-19. We are concerned without this amendment, farm animals would have less protection from inhumane

treatment, resulting in more uncertainty with cruelty violations than what exist in current cruelty code.

We are proud in WV of our Farmer's Markets and organic farming methods. Let's not destroy this by creating an environment of less protection for inhumane treatment of farm animals.

1/21/16

HN 4201 was introduced today and appears to be a good bill. HSUS is sponsoring this bill. The purpose is to increase the penalties for participating in an animal fighting venture and for wagering. This bill is in House Judiciary and needs to be placed on their agenda. Please contact the chairman Delegate John Shott at 304 340-3252 or john.shott@wv.house.gov asking him to place this bill on his agenda. Thanks, Sylvia

1/13/16 At this time we are not supporting or opposing any legislation. We all need time to read the bills and study them. I will list them daily.

SB 128 Creates a write off of personal income tax for people who choose to spay/neuter. This bill goes to the Finance Committee.

HB 2189 is a carryover bill from the last two sessions. We also opposed this bill. This would allow counties to adopt certain ordinances that pertain to cats and dogs.

HB 2618 is also a carryover bill that would create an animal abuse registry.

You can read and track all legislation by going to www.legis.state.wv.us. Sylvia

We have provided an archive of animal legislation which has for the most part become law in WV. Much of this information has been provided by other groups such as FOHO WV 'Legislative Action' which is no longer incorporated in WV. A more extensive 85 page report of this animal legislation is maintained as a educational archive on animal law in WV from FOHO WV. FOHO WV -The Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia is still active and celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2014. Their status as a 501 c3 gives them limited lobbying capability but we at West Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare will fill that void in our state with animal advocate lobbyists and voters!

History of Animal Law in the WV State Legislature:

2017

WVVAW Daily At the State Legislature 2018: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

HB 2552 to increase the now existing pet food registration fee and direct that additional money to the West Virginia Spay Neuter Assistance Fund has passed. This is an opportunity for \$450,000 yearly for spay neuter in West Virginia. Remember the money comes from the already existing Pet Food Surcharge so no taxpayer dollars used or any negative impact on our budget! The Spay Neuter Fund has been established and the Rules have been written.

Why the Pet Food Fee is the right funding choice for the WV Spay/Neuter fund.

- Reduce the \$10 million taxpayer dollars spent on this problem.
- No impact on tight WV Budget.
- 40% of the 50,000 animals entering WV shelters die.
- Other states using this report no noticeable increase in their dog and cat food.
- Reliable source = \$900,000 annually available to all 55 counties. / Cut by 1/2 to \$450,000 in final bill
- Add to already existing pet food registration fee.
- Pet Food Industry had \$196 million in WV Pet Food Sales 2014.

- WV Spay Neuter Assistance Program & Rules established and ready to go.
- Immediate implementation saving taxpayer dollars while saving lives
- ME and MD have successfully implemented.
- 34 states have funding programs to support spay neuter services.

2017 Session

It is that time of year when we need to become involved. You need to read the bills and make decisions. Just because a bill is listed here does not indicate support. Our intent is to list all the pertinent animal welfare bills for your information. You can find the bills on the state website www.legis.state.wv.us Our bill HB 2552 is the WV Spay Neuter Assistance Fund and it did pass. It was the only animal bill that passed except for the Greyhound Bill which passed and was vetoed by the Gov. If you are following just the WV Spay Neuter Assistance Fund, it is better to follow our Facebook page....<https://www.facebook.com/WVSpayNeuterFund/>

4/28/17

HB 2552 has been signed by the Governor!

4/15/17

URGENT! CALLS MUST BE MADE STARTING MONDAY 4/17/17! SHARE THIS WIDELY THIS WEEKEND. EVEN IF YOU CALLED THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE IN THE PAST, CALL AGAIN.

The Pet Food Lobby and some powerful Senators who oppose our bill have gotten to the Governor to veto HB 2552, the Spay Neuter Funding Bill. He is considering the veto of our bill. Urgent calls must be made starting Monday morning to the Governor's office. Call the Gov. 304.558.2000 or 1.888.438.2731. He has no email but only the website contact. However, phone calls are better.

<http://www.governor.wv.gov/Pages/SubmitaCommenttotheGovernor.aspx>

Go to his FB page too and comment! <https://www.facebook.com/WVGovernor/?fref=fb>

Tell the Governor to sign the bill which:

- will assist local counties across the state to save \$10 million annually in animal control costs.
- was passed by the House with 84 yeas and the Senate with 28 yeas.
- has saved New Hampshire \$3.25 in sheltering costs for every \$1 invested in spay neuter.
- has decreased pet homelessness 61% in New Jersey and the euthanasia rate 75% in New Hampshire.
- Has not raised the cost of pet food at the consumer level in Maryland and Maine using this funding option.

4/13/17

In case you're wondering why we haven't posted that the governor has signed HB 2552, here's the reason. The bill has to go through procedural actions in both the House and Senate (where it is currently awaiting signature by Senate President Mitch Carmichael) before it's communicated to the governor. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't call or email the governor so he knows we want this bill signed. 304.558.2000 or 1.888.438.2731 or send email from the website. You can also contact Senator Carmichael at mitch.carmichael@wvsenate.gov or 304.357.7801. Thank him for his support and ask that he sign the bill so it can go to the governor.

4/8/17

HB 2552 has passed the Legislature. We have been trying to pass this for years. The animals have finally won thanks to all of your support with telephone calls and emails.

The bill passed the Senate with 28 yeas and six nays. The Nays were Azinger from Wood Co, Ferns from Ohio Co, Hall from Putnam, Karnes from Upshur, Sypolt from Preston, and Trump from Morgan. The bill then went back to the House to accept the amendment made in the Senate to reduce the requested funding by 50 percent. The bill again passed the House with 11 Nays and 5 absent not voting. The Nays were the same delegates that voted against it the first time on 3-28. The bill was passed at 7:10 this

evening. We wish to thank all of the delegates and senators that helped us with the passage. And, of course, we thank all of you the public that has helped accomplish this wonderful bill.

The Governor has vetoed the Greyhound bill but an effort is underway in the Senate to override the veto. Let us hope they can get enough votes to override the veto before midnight.

It has been a very long day but a very wonderful day. Sylvia, Sis and Mary Ann

4/6/17

Pass / Fail on Senate Floor Friday at 11 am!!!!

HB 2552 was amended on 2nd reading and advanced without further amendments. We knew this amendment to reduce the funding was on the bill and we accepted it as a compromise for passage. That occurred in Senate Agriculture. We thought half a loaf was better than none. IF YOU HAVE NOT CALLED YOUR SENATOR, PLEASE DO BEFORE 11:00 SESSION ON FRIDAY. We are up for vote on Senate floor Friday to pass or fail and then go back to the house for amendment to be accepted. Remember calls from 8:30 on Friday am are better since secretaries tally the calls. Your calls are working folks!!!

4/4/17

Urgent 2552 must pass Senate! Make calls now!

HB 2552, WV Spay Neuter Assistance Funding bill passed Senate Finance Tuesday morning. It has to go to the Senate floor for 1st, 2nd 3rd reading to pass the floor and then back to the House since it has an amendment. Yikes, that will take until Friday. With the session ending April 8, we are running short on time. Call your senators starting in am and get them to support HB2552. They have secretaries to count the calls. Emails can be done now but calls are best to Senators!! Our last effort is the next few days!! Call your Senator and as many others as possible.

Senator Carmichael, Senate Pres. mitch.carmichael@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7801

JacksonSenator Azinger mike.azinger@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7970 Wood

Senator Beach bob.beach@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7919 Monongalia

Senator Blair, Majority Whip craig.blair@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7867 Berkeley

Senator Boley, Pres. Pro Tempore donna.boleym@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7905 Pleasants Senator Boso greg.boso@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7973 Nicholas

Senator Clemens charles.clements@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7827 WetzelSenator Cline sue.cline@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7807 Wyoming

Senator Facemire douglas.facemire@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7845 Braxton

Senator Ferns, Majority Leader ryan.ferns@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7918 Ohio

Senator Gaunch ed.gaunch@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7841 Kanawha

Senator Hall mike.hall@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7901 Putnam

Senator Jeffries glenn.jeffries@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7866 Putnam

Senator Karnes robert.karnes@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7906 Upshur

Senator Mann kenny.mann@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7849 Monroe

Senator Maroney mike.maroney@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7902 Marshall

Senator Maynard Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7808 Wayne

Senator Miller ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7959 Greenbrier

Senator Mullins jeff.mullins@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7831 Raleigh

Senator Ojeda richard.ojeda@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7857 Logan

Senator Palumbo, Minority Whip corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7854 Kanawha

Senator Plymale robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7937 Wayne

Senator Prezioso, Minority Leader roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7961 Marion

Senator Romano mike.romano@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7904 Harrison

Senator Rucker patricia.rucker@wvsenate.gov (304)-357-7957 Jefferson

Senator Smith randy.smith@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7995 Tucker

Senator Stollings ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7939 Boone

Senator Swope chandler.swope@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7843 Mercer

Senator Sypolt dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7914 Preston

Senator Takubo tom.takubo@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7990 Kanawha

Senator Trump charles.trump@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7980 Morgan

Senator Unger john.unger@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7933 Berkeley

Senator Weld ryan.weld@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7984 Brooke

Senator Woelfel mike.woelfel@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7956 Cabell

Also SB 437 the Greyhound bill must be signed by the Governor. Make your call to the Governor not to veto this bill.

This will repeal \$15 million in annual subsidies and phase out greyhound racing in the Mountain State by July 1. Additionally, the bill creates a \$1 million adoption trust for the greyhounds! This is a win for the state's taxpayers and big win for the hounds. Call 888-438-2731 now and tell the Gov. to sign the bill.

3/31/17

HB 2552 was heard today in the Senate AG committee. It did pass with an amendment that we were not expecting. This amendment reduced the amount of funding we would receive by 50%. Very disappointing but still OK. We now need to be placed on the Finance Committee agenda. Please call or email Senator Hall asking him to place the bill on his agenda. Then call or email the other members of the committee asking them to support the bill. We would like to have it on Monday's agenda, so if possible, please call tomorrow. They are working Saturday but not Sunday. The bill must be read three times on the Senate Floor and then it must go back to the House to approve the amendment that was created in the Senate. The session ends Saturday 4-8 at midnight. I have included the members of the Finance Committee.

Senate Finance Committee Senator Hall - Chair mike.hall@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7901 R - Putnam

Senator Mullins - Vice-Chair jeff.mullins@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7831 R - Raleigh

Senator Blair craig.blair@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7867 R - Berkeley

Senator Boley donna.boleym@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7905 R - Pleasants

Senator Boso greg.boso@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7973 R - Nicholas

Senator Facemire douglas.facemire@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7845 D - Braxton

Senator Ferns ryan.ferns@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7918 R - Ohio

Senator Gaunch ed.gaunch@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7841 R - Kanawha

Senator Mann kenny.mann@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7849 R - Monroe

Senator Maroney mike.maroney@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7902 R - Marshall

Senator Palumbo corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7854 D - Kanawha

Senator Plymale robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7937 D - Wayne

Senator Prezioso roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7961 D - Marion

Senator Stollings ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7939 D - Boone

Senator Sypolt dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7914 R - Preston

Senator Takubo tom.takubo@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7990 R - Kanawha

Senator Unger john.unger@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7933 D - Berkeley

3/30/17

HB 2552 will be heard in the Senate AG committee either Friday or Saturday. A problem arose this afternoon when they started receiving calls from veterinarians against the bill. They were saying that this bill would increase the price of pet food and this is not true. Please call your veterinarian asking them to call Sypolt telling him that they support the bill. This is the way that the Pet Food Industry is fighting back. We need help from the veterinarians. Also please note that we had the wrong number for Senator Miller. It is 304 357-7959. Thanks for all of your calls today. The secretaries are counting the calls.

Here is the Ag Comm in the Senate....

Agriculture Committee - Senate

Senator Sypolt - Chair dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7914 Taylor Preston
Senator Rucker - Vice-Chair patricia.rucker@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7957 Jefferson
Senator Beach bob.beach@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7919 Mon
Senator Cline sue.cline@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7807 Wyoming
Senator Mann kenny.mann@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7849 Monroe
Senator Maynard Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7808 Wayne
Senator Miller Min. Chair ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7959 Greenbrier
Senator Ojeda richard.ojeda@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7857 Logan
Senator Smith randy.smith@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7995 Tucker
Senator Woelfel mike.woelfel@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7956 Cabell

Also SB 437 one of the Greyhound bills is on third reading in the House tomorrow. This is pass or fail day for the Greyhounds. We trust you made your calls to your house delegate on this important bill. Paws crossed!!!! Here they are in case you missed it.....Please call asap!

Please call and email ALL of the following Delegates right now, and ask them to Vote YES on Senate Bill 437.

Delegate Terri Sypolt 304-340-3160 terri.sypolt@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Mark Dean 304-340-3304 mark.dean@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Tony Lewis 304-340-3396 tony.lewis@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Tony Paynter 304-340-3163 tony.paynter@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Riley Moore 304-340-3248 riley.moore@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Ron Walters 304-340-3194 ron.walters@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Guy Ward 304-340-3331 guy.ward@wvhouse.gov
Delegate Daryl Cowles 304-340-3220 daryl.cowles@wvhouse.gov

Thanks, Sylvia

3/29/17

HB 2552 has been assigned to Senate Agriculture and Senate Finance. We have listed both below. We must make it through both in about a week. But we can do this. We have never been so close. This is one of those times that you ask your friends to help you and insist that they do so. Call the members of Senate Ag. Call your Senator about how important this is. It is critical that we get Senate Chairpersons to hear from us. And if you know how to connect to Pres. of the Senate, do so. We could pass all committees and not get on the agenda to pass the Senate. Call NOW!

Excellent note from Sylvia: Our bill HB 2552 is now in the Senate Ag Committee. Our calls need to start tomorrow 3-30. Below you will find their names, phone numbers and email addresses. They all have secretaries who will count number of calls for or against. They pay more attention to phone calls. When we pass this committee, we still have to be heard in the Finance Committee. There are only two weeks left in the session, so we must hurry with our calls.

Agriculture Committee - Senate

Senator Sypolt - Chair dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7914 Taylor Preston
Senator Rucker - Vice-Chair patricia.rucker@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7957 Jefferson
Senator Beach bob.beach@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7919 Mon
Senator Cline sue.cline@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7807 Wyoming
Senator Mann kenny.mann@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7849 Monroe
Senator Maynard Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7808 Wayne
Senator Miller Min. Chair ronald.miller@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7857 Greenbrier
Senator Ojeda richard.ojeda@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7857 Logan
Senator Smith randy.smith@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7995 Tucker
Senator Woelfel mike.woelfel@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7956 Cabell

Finance Committee - Senate

Senator Hall - Chair mike.hall@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7901 Putnam

Senator Mullins - Vice-Chair jeff.mullins@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7831 Raleigh

Senator Blair craig.blair@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7867 Berkeley

Senator Boley donna.boleym@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7905 Pleasants

Senator Boso greg.boso@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7973 Nicholas

Senator Facemire douglas.facemire@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7845 Braxton

Senator Ferns ryan.ferns@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7918 Ohio

Senator Gaunch ed.gaunch@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7841 Kanawha

Senator Mann kenny.mann@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7849 Monroe

Senator Maroney mike.maroney@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7902 Marshall

Senator Palumbo corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7854 Kanawha

Senator Plymale robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7937 Wayne

Senator Prezioso roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7961 Marion

Senator Stollings ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7939 Boone

Senator Sypolt dave.sypolt@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7914 Preston

Senator Takubo tom.takubo@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7990 Kanawha

Senator Unger john.unger@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7933 Berkeley

3/28/17 - We are excited. It was a little scary early in the day but we made it with your help!!!

HB 2552 Passed the House today and is on its way to the Senate. The vote was 84 yeas, 2 absent not voting and 14 nays. The nays are as follows: Arvon from Raleigh Co., Blair from Berkeley, Folk from Berkeley, Gearheart from Mercer, Hill from Nicholas, Householder from Berkeley, Howell from Mineral, Kessinger from Fayette, Marcum from Mingo, McGeehan from Hancock, Sobonya from Cabell, Statler from Monroe, Upson from Jefferson and Wilson from Berkeley.

We will be sending instruction requesting certain phone calls to be made so this bill will pass the Senate. We appreciate all of your help. We have come a long way, now we need to finish it. Tune in tomorrow for more updates.

SB 437 is a Greyhound bill and is on 2nd reading on the House Floor tomorrow.

HB 3107 appears to be in limbo. It was pulled off the House Special Calendar today and placed on the regular calendar. Thanks, Sylvia

3/27/17 Good news day!

HB 2552 WV Spay Neuter Funding bill sailed through the 2nd reading without discussion or debate. Vote for passage will be tomorrow 3-28. Keep your calls going to your delegates if you have not done so!!!!

SB 437 one of the Greyhound bills passed the Senate today and now moves to the House.

HB 3107 also a Greyhound bill is still on 2nd reading but should move to 3rd this evening. The Legislature is still in session this evening.

ALL OTHER ANIMAL BILLS ARE DEAD. Thanks, Sylvia

3/25/17

HB 2552 passed Finance Committee about 8pm last night. At 8am this morning it passed Rules Committee to get on the Special House Calendar, then it was read for the 1st time on the House Floor today. Monday 3-27 it will have its second reading. This is the debate reading. Then on Tuesday 3-28, it will be read the 3rd time which is the passage or fail reading. If it passes, it then moves to the Senate where it goes through the same steps that it took in the House. Then if it passes the Senate, it goes to the governor to sign. On Monday, please call your local delegates asking them to vote for the passage of HB 2552. All delegates will be voting on this bill.

If it passes the House, we will be asking you to call certain senators. Thanks to you and all the contacts you have made, this bill is on the move.

SB 437 which is the Greyhound Racing bill is moving. It will be read for the 3rd time on Monday 3-27. If it passes, it will then move to the House.

TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY FOR ALL BILLS TO MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEES AND GO TO THE FLOOR. IF THEY DO NOT MOVE BY MIDNIGHT THEY ARE DEAD.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CALLS ON HB 2552 on Monday 3-27. You can find all email addresses and phone numbers on the state website. www.legis.state.wv.us.

I must say one more time, what a wonderful job you have done by moving HB 2552 this far. Let's go all the way and really help solve the overpopulation problem of WV animals.

3/24/17

We made it! Thanks to the hard effort of all of you, HB 2552 passed House Finance at 8 pm this evening with solid support! So proud of everyone. We will post new direction Saturday but it is now time to call each delegate since this is going to the House Floor likely Monday.

3/23/17

This was a great humane lobby day at the Statehouse. Thanks to all of you who attended and to others who made phone calls to help HB 2552. Our bill is now on the agenda of House Finance for tomorrow in the afternoon. I have been requested by the Secretary to Delegate Nelson to stop the phone calls to him. All of you have helped to get this bill on the agenda. Please give yourself a pat on the back.

If you know other members of the Finance Committee, please call them and ask them to support the bill Friday afternoon!! Thanks, Sylvia

3/22/17 Two days left.....HB 2552

We know the Finance committee is busy. We check their agenda each day waiting for HB 2552 to appear. This would save \$10 million while saving 20,000 dogs and cats lives each year. It is hard to have patience when animals are dying and we know there is a solution. This makes so much sense financially and humanely and would pass the House Floor if it passed out of Finance. But please with patience and politeness, ask Chairman Eric Nelson to place HB 2552 on Finance's agenda, and pass this spay/neuter funding bill! Contact Del. Nelson here: (304) 340-3230 nelson@wvhouse.gov

See below for contacts remainder of Finance Committee delegate members.

3/21/17

Nothing new to report today. If you have not made the call to Delegate Nelson, please if possible please help us help animals by making this call. Thanks, Sylvia

Time is running out! HB 2552 is stalled in the House Finance Committee and not on the agenda for Wednesday. Contact House Finance Chair Nelson and urge him to place this on the committee's agenda. Eric Nelson at nelson@wvhouse.gov or more effectively call him at (304) 340-3230. This is the last week to get this bill out of committee or it is dead this session. If you are going to Humane Lobby Day on Thursday, talk to your legislators about this bill urging them to contact Finance Chair Nelson to pass this budget neutral solution saving \$10 Million dollars and 20,000 dogs and cats yearly! See you Thursday at Humane Lobby Day.

Remember, any of your delegates that are on the House Finance Comm. have influence on Chairman Nelson so ask them to run interference on HB 2552 by contacting their Chairman to get it on the Finance Agenda. We have until Saturday for HB 2552 to get on the agenda. We can do this.

Finance Committee - House

Delegate Nelson, E. - Chair nelson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3230 Kanawha

Delegate Householder - Vice-Chair eric.householder@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3274 Berkeley

Delegate Boggs - Minority Chair brent.boggs@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3142 Braxton

Delegate Bates - Minority Vice-Chair mick.bates@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3180 Raleigh

Delegate Ambler Bill Sponsor george.ambler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3129 Greenbrier Monroe Summers

Delegate Anderson bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3168 Wood

Delegate Barrett jasonbarrett@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3188 Berkeley
Delegate Butler jim.butler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3199 Mason Putnam
Delegate Cowles daryl.cowles@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3220 Hampshire, Morgan
Delegate Ellington joe.ellington@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3269 Mercer , Raleigh
Delegate Espinosa paul.espinosa@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3265 Jefferson
Delegate Evans, A. allen.evans@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3399 Grant, Pendleton Mineral
Delegate Frich cindy.frich@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3125 Monongalia
Delegate Gearheart marty.gearheart@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3179 Mercer Raleigh
Delegate Hamilton bill.hamilton@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3167 Upshur
Delegate Hartman Bill Sponsor billhartman@suddenlink.net (304) 340-3178 Randolph
Delegate Longstreth linda.longstreth@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3124 Marion
Delegate Miller, C. carol.miller@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3176 Cabell Lincoln
Delegate Moye rmoyewvhouse@yahoo.com (304) 340-3162 Raleigh
Delegate Pethtel dave.pethtel@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3158 Monongalia , Wetzel
Delegate Rowe larry.rowe@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3287 Kanawha
Delegate Sponaule isaac.sponaule@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3154 Hardy, Pendleton
Delegate Storch erikka.storch@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3378 Ohio
Delegate Walters ron.walters@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3194 Kanawha
Delegate Westfall steve.westfall@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3140 Jackson
3/20/17

This is the last day for new bills to be introduced in the Senate. March 14th was the last day for new bills to be introduced in the House. You will not be receiving any new animal bills. March 26th is the last day for bills to get out of committees and go to the Floor. Those bills that do not make it out of committee by the 26th are dead. I will keep you informed on what bills make it and what does not. The cutoff date is due to the fact that the bills must have three readings on the floor and if passed must move to the other legislative body.

HB2552 is currently in the House Finance Committee. If you haven't already contacted the chair of the committee and urge him to place this on the committee's agenda, please do that now: Eric Nelson at nelson@wvhouse.gov or more effectively call him at (304) 340-3230. If you have contacts in the Charleston area, call them. This is our last week to get this bill out of Finance or it will be dead this session.

We believe it will pass the House, if it gets out of committee.

HB 2552 would save \$10 million taxpayer dollars with a budget neutral option while helping all 55 counties throughout West Virginia solve their pet overpopulation problem?

There is a way to fund WV SNAP without taking money from our overburdened WV budget. The Pet Food Industry sold \$196 million in sales in WV in 2015. They register their pet food brands (every single dog food and cat food individual product requires registration charge) already in WV at the WV Dept. of Ag.; so raise that fee by \$70 -\$100 on 12,000 brands = \$900,000 for spay neuter! How simple is this? Make it happen. It is a public problem and it needs public funding to solve it!

3/16/17

Here is the contact information for House Finance Members. This is where HB 2552 is right now and it needs passed by early next week. Call now....

HB 2552, Spay Neuter Funding bill is in House Finance. It must get on the agenda and passed by early next week to have time to move through the Senate. Contact House Finance Chair Delegate Eric Nelson, nelson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3230. Please ask him to put this critical bill on the committee's agenda now. Additionally, please contact members of the committee to let them know you support HB2552. Let's do this!!!

Finance Committee - House

Delegate Nelson, E. - Chair nelson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3230 Kanawha
Delegate Householder - Vice-Chair eric.householder@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3274 Berkeley
Delegate Boggs - Minority Chair brent.boggs@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3142 Braxton
Delegate Bates - Minority Vice-Chair mick.bates@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3180 Raleigh
Delegate Ambler Bill Sponsor george.ambler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3129 Greenbrier Monroe
Summers
Delegate Anderson bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3168 Wood
Delegate Barrett jasonbarrett@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3188 Berkeley
Delegate Butler jim.butler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3199 Mason Putnam
Delegate Cowles daryl.cowles@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3220 Hampshire, Morgan
Delegate Ellington joe.ellington@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3269 Mercer , Raleigh
Delegate Espinosa paul.espinosa@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3265 Jefferson
Delegate Evans, A. allen.evans@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3399 Grant, Pendleton Mineral
Delegate Frich cindy.frich@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3125 Monongalia
Delegate Gearheart marty.gearheart@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3179 Mercer Raleigh
Delegate Hamilton bill.hamilton@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3167 Upshur
Delegate Hartman Bill Sponsor billhartman@suddenlink.net (304) 340-3178 Randolph
Delegate Longstreth linda.longstreth@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3124 Marion
Delegate Miller, C. carol.miller@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3176 Cabell Lincoln
Delegate Moyer rmoyewvhouse@yahoo.com (304) 340-3162 Raleigh
Delegate Pethtel dave.pethtel@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3158 Monongalia , Wetzel
Delegate Rowe larry.rowe@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3287 Kanawha
Delegate Sponaule isaac.sponaule@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3154 Hardy, Pendleton
Delegate Storch erikka.storch@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3378 Ohio
Delegate Walters ron.walters@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3194 Kanawha
Delegate Westfall steve.westfall@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3140 Jackson
3/14/17

Great news!! HB 2552 passed out of the AG. committee today. This bill has some needed amendments. This bill now moves to the Finance Committee. Thanks to all of you that have made calls and sent emails. Now, we need your help again. Please call the Chair of Finance E. Nelson and the Vice-Chair Householder and ask them to please place this bill on their agenda. Nelson 304 340-3230 nelson@wvhouse.gov Householder 304 340-3274 householder@wvhouse.gov. Also contact other members of the Finance Committee asking them to support the bill. Please go to the state web for addresses www.legis.state.wv.us

HB 2995 was introduced today and sent first to AG committee and then to Government Org. The purpose of this bill is to permit certain animal euthanasia techs who have been certified by other states to be certified animal euthanasia techs in WV.

This Resolution was introduced on 2-8 and I have been asked to list it. It is SJR 3 and has been sent to the Senate Committee of AG and then to Judiciary. The purpose is to propose an amendment to the constitution to guarantee the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in natural, traditional or modern farming or ranching practices in the state.

3/9/17

HB 2552 in on House Agenda on March 14th. It must pass this committee! Please call the House Ag members telling them to pass HB 2552. House Ag. contact information, scroll down to 3/1/17

HB 2905 was introduced today and sent to the Judiciary Committee. The purpose of this bill is to prevent animal cruelty, requiring the maintenance of a public animal shelter, providing definitions, providing for the inspection of animal shelters by humane officers, establishing standards for animal shelters and

providing consequences for failure to follow the law. This is a very comprehensive bill and is a must read for all animal advocates. This is a HSUS bill.

3/8/17

HB 2752 has passed the AG committee and is now in House Judiciary Committee. This is the bill that permits counties to recover costs from the owner when livestock is seized due to neglect or cruelty. If you support this bill ask the Chair of Judiciary John Shott to place it on his agenda. 304 340-3252 or john.shott@wvhouse.gov

HB 2855 was introduced today. This bill was sent to Judiciary. The purpose of this bill is to authorize courts to determine custody and visitation for pets in divorce proceedings and to allow for the inclusion of pet care, custody and visitation in property settlements and separation agreements.

HB 2552 in on House Agenda on March 14th. It must pass this committee! Please call the House Ag members telling them to pass HB 2552. House Ag. contact information scroll down to 3/1/17

3/6/17

HB 2552, Spay Neuter Funding bill will on the House Ag. agenda for March 14th, a bill saving \$10 million dollars in taxpayer money, saving the lives of 20,000 dogs and cats in WV shelters yearly, offering grants out to 55 counties for spay neuter services. There was a slight technical error in the bill which caused its delay until next week. This means our bill will have to move quickly so we will be calling you next week to help this bill get through House Finance Committee if it passes House Ag. If you have not contacted the House Ag members, please do so now before March 14th. See the list here on 3/1 daily update for House Ag. contact information.

3/1/2017

HB 2752 IS A GOOD BILL. This bill will resolve a confusing issue concerning prosecution costs for livestock. This bill first goes to Agriculture and then to Judiciary. The purpose of this bill is to permit counties to recover certain costs from the owners of livestock seized due to neglect and abuse. Delegate Evans is the lead sponsor of this bill.

Update on the HB 2552 spay/neuter bill is shown below. This bill is on the agenda of AG 3-7.

HB 2552 is the bill that increases an existing permit fee on dog and cat food that the Dept. of Agriculture requires as a dog and cat food product registration fee at the state level only, not at the consumer level or at the retail level. The increase would be used for Spay/Neuter in all 55 counties. It is NOT a tax on pet food. It is in House Ag and will be placed on the agenda for a vote March 7th. Contact members of the House Ag committee and tell them to vote YES on HB 2552

We need to save \$10 million taxpayer dollars with a budget neutral option while helping all 55 counties throughout West Virginia solve their pet overpopulation problem?

Agriculture Committee - House

Delegate Evans, A. - Chair Agriculture allen.evans@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3399 Grant, Pendleton Mineral

Delegate Hamilton - Chair Natural Resources bill.hamilton@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3167 Upshur

Delegate Romine R. - Vice-Chair Agriculture roger.romine@wvhouse.gov (304) 771-0018 Doddridge, Pleasants (part), Tyler

Delegate Ambler - V-Chair Nat. Res.- Bill Sponsor george.ambler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3129 Greenbrier Monroe Summers

Delegate Sponaugle - Minority Chair Agriculture isaac.sponaugle@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3154 Hardy, Pendleton

Delegate Rodighiero - Minority Chair Natural Resources ralph.rodighiero@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3297 Boone, Wyoming, Logan

Delegate Thompson - Minority Vice-Chair Agriculture robert.thompson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3355 Wayne

Delegate Hicks - Minority Vice-Chair Natural Resources ken.hicks@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3155 Wayne

Delegate Anderson bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3168 Wood
Delegate Atkinson III Bill Sponsor martin.atkinson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3185 Jackson Roane
Delegate Baldwin stephen.baldwin@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3131 Greenbrier, Monroe, Summers
Delegate Brewer scott.brewer@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3146 Mason, Jackson., Putnam
Delegate Cooper roy.cooper@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3119 Monroe, Raleigh Summers
Delegate Eldridge Bill Sponsor jeff.eldridge@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3113 Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam
Delegate Folk michael.folk@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3350 Berkeley
Delegate Hanshaw roger.hanshaw@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3135 Calhoun, Clay , Gilmer
Delegate Harshbarger jason.harshbarger@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3195 Pleasants, Ritchie
Delegate Lewis tony.lewis@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3396 Preston, Tucker
Delegate Love shirley.love@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3337 Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Nicholas, Raleigh, Cabell, Wayne
Delegate Lynch Bill Sponsor dana.lynch@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3916 Webster, Randolph, Upshur
Delegate Miller, C. carol.miller@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3176 Cabell Lincoln
Delegate Moore riley.moore@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3248 Jefferson
Delegate Overington john@overington.com (304) 340-3148 Berkeley
Delegate Summers amy.summers@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3139 Taylor
Delegate Wagner - Bill Sponsor danny.wagner@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3398 Barbour

2/24/17

SB 437 was introduced today and sent to the Finance Committee. The purpose of this bill is to discontinue the Greyhound Breeding Development Fund and transfer the funds to Excess Lottery Revenue. The Legislature will decide where the funds are directed. There are other changes that I am not listing.

2/22/17

HB 2664 was introduced today and was sent to Judiciary Committee. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit activities connected with bestiality.

This is a HSUS bill.

2/20/17

OUR BILL IS OUT AND NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT HB 2552

HB 2552 (our spay/neuter bill) was introduced today. This bill first goes to the Agriculture Committee and then Finance. The purpose of this bill is to increase the pet food registration fee and direct that the additional money to the WV Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund. This is not a tax and will cost our state nothing. Pet overpopulation is a major problem in this state and you can help. Please call Delegate Evans, Chair of AG and request that this bill be placed on his agenda. His phone number is 304 340-3399. Phone calls are preferred but if not send an email to allen.evans@wvhouse.gov. All members on the Ag Committee need to be asked to support this bill. You can find the members and their contact numbers by going to www.legis.state.wv.us . For more information on this bill go to www.wvaw.org or Facebook WVSpayneuterFund.

HB 2553 was also introduced today. This bill first goes to AG and then Finance. The purpose of this bill is to change the taxing structure for livestock breeding. I do not know how many of you breed livestock but for those who do, this could be an important bill. Please read the bill. Thanks, Sylvia

2/16/17

SB 334 was introduced today and goes to Judiciary. The purpose of this bill is to create the felony offense of aggravated cruelty to animals. In simple language this is a rewrite of 61-8-19 which is the Animal Cruelty code.

It changes several offenses from being a misdemeanor to being a felony. An example is failure to feed and water, proper shelter, etc. You need to read this bill. I know I said that I would not give an opinion on bills this early in the session, but I really like this bill. This bill does not contain declawing of cats.

2/13/17

HB 2418 was introduced on 2-13. This bill was sent to the Ag committee and then goes to Judiciary. This would be an addition added to the current cruelty code. Not using the medical terms this would prohibit declawing a cat and make it a misdemeanor under the code of 61-8-19.

2/9/17

HB 2168 The purpose of this bill is to prohibit counties and cities from enacting ordinances prohibiting a certain breed of dog. This bill first goes to Political Sub Committee and then to Judiciary.

2/8/17

HB 2029. This bill is first referenced to the Political Sub Committee and then Judiciary. The purpose of this bill is to give the counties authority to adopt certain ordinances pertaining to animals. We have seen this bill before.

2018

2018

Mar 11, 2018

Two bills survived the session and are waiting for the Governor to sign.

HB 2995 which is the bill to have euthanasia techs schooled in other states to work in WV.

HB 4079 which is the prorogation of several Rules pertaining to animals.

Wish I could report better news, Sylvia

Mar 1, 2018

HB 2995 relating to euthanasia techs has moved to the floor of the Senate and will have its first reading tomorrow. If you support this bill please contact your senators asking them to vote for passage.

HB 4079 which is the Rules bills is on 3rd reading tomorrow. This will pass without our support.

HB 4359 relating to animals left in motor vehicles is still stuck in Senate Judiciary and very much needs calls or emails. Please call or email the chair of Judiciary asking him to place this bill on his agenda.

HB 4455 which relates to animal abuse (bestiality) Passed the House 2-28 and is now in Senate Judiciary. Please call the chair of Senate Judiciary asking him to please place this bill on his agenda.

THE CHAIR OF SENATE JUDICIARY IS SENATOR CHARLES TRUMP. PHONE 304 357-7880, EMAIL charles.trump@wvsenate.gov. Also contact your own senator asking him/her to ask Trump to place the bill on the agenda.

TIME IS VERY SHORT AND THEY ARE VERY BUSY WITH THE TEACHERS, SO IS YOU SUPPORT THESE BILLS, PLEASE PLACE YOUR CALLS TOMORROW.

The session ends at midnight 3-10. To find the contact information for your senator go to www.legis.state.wv.us

Feb 27, 2018

HB 2995 was not heard today. It is rescheduled for tomorrow at 9am in Senate Government Org

HB 4359 is still waiting for a hearing in Senate Judiciary.

HB 4455 had a 2nd reading today without amendments. This bill is up for Passage 2-28 then it must be sent to the Senate.

2-28 is the last day for bills to pass out of the house of origin.

I forgot to tell you what happened to all of those House Rules bills. They were bundled into HB 4079 and passed out of the House. They are on 1st reading in the Senate 2-28. This is normal procedure for Rules bills.

Feb 26, 2018

HB 2995 which relates to euthanasia techs will be heard 2-27 at 2pm in the Senate Organization Committee.

HB 4359 relating to animals left in motor vehicles is still waiting to be heard in Senate Judiciary.

HB 4455 relating to animal abuse (bestiality) is on 2nd reading on the House Floor 2-27.

All other animal related bills are dead unless we have a miracle. Sylvia

Feb 24, 2018

HB 4455 relating to animal abuse (bestiality bill) has passed out of the Judiciary Committee and is on the way to the House Floor. The first reading is Monday 2-26. 2nd reading which is the amendment stage will be 2-27 and the 3rd reading will be 2-28. The 3rd is the pass or fail. If it passes, the bill then moves to the Senate. Please note that the bill now has a Com Sub. They are now calling this bill relating to Animal Cruelty. This code would be in 61-8-19 which is the Cruelty code. This is the bestiality bill. If you want this bill to pass, please contact your own delegates asking them to vote for the bill. You can find a complete list of delegates on the state website. www.legis.state.wv.us

Feb 22, 2018

House bill 4455 is being heard this afternoon in the House Judiciary Committee. Since I am not at the Statehouse, I will not be in the hearing. I will report tomorrow on the future of this bill. This is the bill relating to animal cruelty on bestiality.

HB 2995 is waiting to be heard in the Senate Government Org Committee. This is the out of state euthanasia bill that has passed the House. Senator Ed Gaunch is the chair. Please contact him asking him to place this bill on his agenda. ed.gaunch@wvsenate.gov or 304 57-7841.

HB 4359 is the bill that adds animals left in a motor vehicle part of the cruelty code. This bill has passed the House and is waiting for a hearing in Senate Judiciary. The chair of this committee is Charles Trump. Please contact him asking that this bill be placed on his agenda. charles.trump@wvsenate.gov or 304 357-7880.

All other animal related bills are not moving at this time.

February 25, 2018, all bills are due out of the committee in house of origin to ensure three full days for reading.

February 28, 2018 is the last day to consider bills on third reading in the house of origin.

The session ends March 10, 2018 at midnight.

The Senate will probably not hear HB 2995 or 4359 until after 2-28.

Feb 15, 2018

HB 2995 is the bill that allows euthanasia techs from other states to practice in WV This bill was sent to Senate Government Org committee. The chair is Ed Gaunch who address is ed.gaunch@wvsenate.gov. Phone 304 357-7841. If you want this bill to pass, please call Gaunch and ask him to place this bill on his agenda.

The cutoff date for new House bills was 2-13. The cutoff date for new Senate bills will be 2-19.

Feb 14, 2018

HB 2995 passed the House today and was sent to the Senate. I do not know which Committee yet. This is the euthanasia tech bill that allows out of state tech training.

HB 4568 was introduced on 2-13 and sent to the judiciary committee. This bill relates to Cruelty to Animals and rewrites Code 61-8-19. This is a wonderful bill as it describes food, water, tethering, shelter, etc.. This bill will apply to all domesticated animals. The chair of House Judiciary is John Shott, john.shott@wvhouse.gov or 304 340-3252. Please ask him to place this bill on his Agenda.

Feb 9, 2018

HB 2995 is on 1st reading 2-12 on the House Floor. This is the bill that allows euthanasia techs from other states to practice in WV

Feb 8, 2018

HB 4359 (animals left in motor vehicles) passed the House today with one Nay vote. This bill now moves to Senate Judiciary. Please contact Senator Trump asking him to place the bill on his agenda. Charles.trump@wvsenate.gov. 304 357-7980. The cutoff date for the Senate to introduce their own new bills is 2-19. They may choose not to hear a House bill till after that date. The one Nay against the bill was Delegate Fast from Fayette County.

HB 4455 was introduced today. This relates to animal offense of bestiality. This bill was sent to House Judiciary. The chair is Delegate John Shott. john.shott@wvhouse.gov.

SB 496 was introduced today. This relates to the care and management of feral cats. This bill was sent to Senate Judiciary. All of you should read these bills as they are important. www.legis.state.wv.us.

Feb 5, 2018

HB 4359 is on the move. It is on first reading today, which means the second reading on Tuesday (this is the amendment stage), and then passage or failure on Wednesday 2-7. If this bill passes the House, it then moves to the Senate. This is a Committee Sub bill, so please read the latest version. The amendments seem to be just to clarify. As a reminder, the bill relates to leaving an animal in an unattended motor vehicle. If you want this bill to pass, please contact your delegates asking them to vote for the passage of this bill. You can find all of your delegates by going to the Legislative website which is <http://www.wvlegislature.gov/>

Jan. 30, 2018

HB 4359 was introduced today. This bill was sent to Judiciary and then will move to Finance. This bill relates to the removal of animals left in an unattended motor vehicle. This bill is the only one that changes the cruelty code by amending 61-8-19 which is the cruelty code. This is a House bill and the other two were Senate bills. This shows interest in the bill. Please notify the Chair of Judiciary Delegate Shott if you are interested in this bill. Please, ask him to place this bill on his agenda. His address is john.shott@wvhouse.gov. Phone [304 340-3252](tel:3043403252). This bill would make leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle a possible chargeable crime.

Jan. 24, 2018

HB 4292 was introduced today. This bill discontinues the WV Greyhound Breeding Development Fund. The bill first goes to Judiciary and then Finance. This is at least year 3 for this bill.

HB 2995 is a euthanasia tech bill that was introduced on 1-11 has passed out of the Agriculture Committee and is now in Government Org. Committee.

Jan 17, 2018

There are four bills that were carried over by the House from 2017. They have the same bill numbers as during the 2017 session.

HB 2418 The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the performing of a onychectomy (declawing) or flexor tendonectomy procedure on a cat or other animal. This bill is very controversial. This bill goes to the Agriculture Committee.

HB 2553 This bill deals with consumer sales tax for raising and training livestock. This bill goes to Agriculture

HB 2855 This bill is to authorize courts to determine custody and visitation for pets in divorce proceedings. This bill goes to Judiciary.

HB 2995 This bill would permit certain animal euthanasia techs who have been certified by other states to be certified in WV. This bill goes to Ag and then to Government Org.

Jan. 15, 2018

SB 274 was introduced today. It relates to the Horse and Dog Racing Lottery. This has been introduced before. It discontinues the Special Breeding and transfers monies to Excess Lottery Revenue which is controlled by the Legislature.

Several House Bills were introduced and they are all Rules bills. Every session the House and the Senate introduce Rules and then decide who moves them. They are bundled together and passed. This is a very simplified version of what happens to these bills. You are probably confused by now.

HB 4052 relating to euthanasia Techs.

HB 4078 inspection of non-traditional domesticated animals.

HB 4083 Relating to animal disease control.

These are the same as the Senate bills I listed last week.

Jan. 11, 2018

Three bills were introduced today and all pertain to Rules involving animals. These bills come up every session for renewal. I am just listing them to keep track. All of these Rules are Dept of Agriculture and all were sent to Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 186 Rule relating to animal disease control.

SB 191 Rule relating to inspection of nontraditional domesticated animals.

SB 219 Rule relating to certified animal euthanasia techs.

Jan 10, 2018

The 2018 session started today. You are receiving this as you have requested to be informed of legislation pertaining to animals. If you do not to receive the emails, please send me an email. FOHO will not be sponsoring any legislation this year unless a bill is introduced that we have a major interest in. Then we will assist.

After several years of hard work, we are proud to announce that the grants for spay/neuter are in process. The award letters are being mailed today.

I will continue to track legislation and keep you up to date.

HB 2029 was introduced again. This is the third year. This bill authorizes counties to enact certain ordinances pertaining to animals. This bill goes to Political Subdivision.

SJR1 was introduced again for the second time. This is called the Right to Farm and Ranch. This resolution first goes to AG/Rural Development and then to Judiciary. This resolution scares me very much.

You, the public, control what passes / fails in this session. Let your voices be heard. You can read the bills, find your legislators and all the information needed. Phone numbers, emails, office locations. The state has a very good website.

2019

2019 WV Legislature - Daily activity on animal laws

March 9

ALL BILLS THAT I SENT EMAIS ON ARE DEAD. These were bills pertaining to domestic animals.

It is easy to say "there ought to be a law." It is not easy to pass a bill to make or change a law. I knew there would be a problem when three bills involving our cruelty code were introduced. Two of them passed the originating body and this presented a problem. That could have been worked out but our enemies seized the opportunity to downgrade our current law. Many in the legislature do not like the felony part and this was their chance to get rid of it. SB 124 had to die and so did the hot vehicle bill.

It is always dangerous to open a state law and try to improve it, but it can be done. We must stay united in our efforts. It would be great to have a statewide meeting to plan future legislation. This way, legislation would not be competing and we could all work for the same bill. A professional lobbyist told me years ago, that if all animal groups would unite that we could pass any legislation that we want. That is a wonderful thought. Thanks to all of you that have helped. Sylvia

Mar. 5

WV Animal Cruelty Code is in serious jeopardy in WV House Legislature!! The House Judiciary Committee has amended SB 124 (Winston Bill) This amendment seriously weakens our current cruelty code and we must take action now to prevent the passage with the amendments. **Please contact your delegates asap. You can find their email address or phone number on the state website. www.legis.state.wv.us** . There will be an amendment from the floor on the 2nd reading which will put the bill back to the Senate version of the bill. If this fails, the bill must die. We cannot let WV go backwards on cruelty to animals. Contact your house delegate now!

This is the message for your delegate.

“Please vote for the amendment on the floor to make the bill go back to the Senate version. If this amendment fails, please vote no on the 3rd reading.” I hope that I have not confused anyone. If you do not understand or have questions, please email me. Thanks, Sylvia

Feb 28

The reason you have not been receiving any updates from me is that nothing was happening with animal bills. With the exception that most of the bills were dying.

Today 2-28 is what they call Crossover Day which means that the Senate works only on passed House bills and the House works only on passed Senate bills.

Only three animal bills have survived. All others are dead.

SB 124 is a cruelty bill called Winston’s Bill. This bill is now in the House Judiciary committee. **CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS ON judiciary NOW!**

SB 331 is the bill that allows leashed dogs to track injured deer or bear. This bill is now in the House Judiciary committee.

HB 2185 which is the animal left in a vehicle unattended. This bill is now in the Senate Judiciary committee.

I saw a posting on Facebook that SB 2104 had passed. This is not a WV bill. At this time, WV has not passed any new ‘cruelty to animals’ bills. THIS HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD SESSION FOR ANIMALS. Sylvia

Feb 12

Today is the last day that NEW HOUSE BILL CAN BE INTRODUCED. That is unless they originate in a committee.

HB 3056 The purpose of this bill is to provide protections to owners of livestock and other domestic animals when the animals trespass on property of another. Domestic animal is explained in this bill and yes it would include your dog but not your cat. This bill first goes to the AGR committee and then Judiciary.

HB 3068 the purpose of this bill is to regulate sales by pet stores of dogs, cats or rabbits by requiring all such animals to be obtained from an animal control agency or shelter. This explains the purpose of the bill I listed yesterday HB 2986. This bill was sent to Judiciary.

Feb 11

HB 2986 was introduced today .The purpose of this bill is to require retail pet stores to complete registration forms required by the county assessor upon sale of a dog. The bill prohibits political subdivisions from enacting any ordinance, regulation, local policy, local resolution or other legal requirements regulating the operation of a retail pet store. This bill was sent to Judiciary. There has to be a reason for this bill but I do not know what it is.

SB 416 which is the bear bating bill was pulled off the agenda today. This means that the bill is most likely dead. I will keep watching and let you know if it comes back to life. (WVVAW note: we heard that the bear hunters actually pulled this bill and worked against it)

HB 2836 the special license plate for S/N is mostly likely dead. I spoke with the Chair of the Committee and he said " I will look it over the next session."

Feb. 7

HB 2894 was introduced today. This bill creates the offense of disturbing the peace by barking or howling dogs. This bill was sent to House Judiciary. When I read the bill, I said WOW. This is a bill that I hope will die.

Feb 4

SB 331 that passed the Senate is now in the House Agriculture Comm. This is the bill that allows leased dogs to track injured bear and deer.

HB 2836 was introduced today. This bill provides a special license plate for spay/neuter advocates. The revenue would go to the Dept. of AG spay/neuter assistance fund. This bill first goes to Technology Committee and then to Judiciary.

Please read to near the end of the bill to find where the revenue goes. This bill is 28 pages long and they just tacked us on near the end of current law. Would be another source of income for AG grants.

WVVAW note: There is a terrible bill in state legislature to use bait like poison for bears. Changes current law which does not allow this. It is in Senate Natural Resources Comm.

SB 416 The purpose of this bill is to permit a bona fide resident land owner to hunt and kill a bear on the landowner's private property through the use of bait.

Sponsors Lead Sypolt (Preston), Smith (Preston), Maynard (Wayne), Boso (Nicholas), Maroney (Marshall)

Changes current law 20-2-22a which is illegal now.

a) A person may not hunt, capture, or kill any bear, or have in his or her ... attempt to kill, or wound or attempt to wound, any bear through the use of bait, poison, ...

Using bait like this is unconscionable!! There is hunting and then there is this. No comparison!

Feb 1

SB 331 passed the Senate today and is now in the House. The committee has not been announced yet. This is the bill that allows leashed dogs to track injured bear or deer.

Jan 31

HB 2792 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit activities connected with sexual abuse of an animal. This bill was sent to House Judiciary.

SB 331 was read for the 2nd time today and is up for passage 2-1. This bill allows leashed dogs to track injured bear and deer.

Jan 28

SB 124 passed the Senate today and now moves to House Judiciary. This is great news. This is changing the Cruelty code 61-8-19 and is called **Winston's bill**. (There is a federal bill in Congress right now also that would make cruelty to animals a felony -hope it makes some progress since it could support our state laws on animal cruelty - Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act from Rep. Ted Deutch, D-West Boca, and Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Sarasota, would target "crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating and impaling animals." The measure would also address bestiality and other efforts to sexually exploit animals) This PACT bill did pass but we need to maintain our state felony laws!

Jan 24

HB 2622 was introduced today. This bill authorizes the use of specially trained dogs to provide comfort to children and other witnesses that may be comforted by the presence of the dog while giving testimony at a criminal trial. This bill is in the House Judiciary committee.

SB 124 will have the second reading on 1-25. This will be the amendment stage. This bill was amended in the Judiciary, so when reading the bill, please read the Committee Substitute version.

Jan 22

SB 124 was heard on 1-22 in the Senate Judiciary. This bill is being called Winston's bill . This bill is adding to our current cruelty code 61-8-19. This bill will have its first reading on the Senate Floor tomorrow 1-24. If you support this bill, contact your senators. I support this bill.

HB 2518 was heard yesterday in the Committee of AG and Natural Resources. The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee. This is the bill that allows leashed dogs to track injured bear and deer.

Jan. 18

HB 2185 has passed the House and has been sent to Senate Judiciary. This is the bill concerning animals left in a unattended motor vehicle. The bill does not protect an individual from liability but it does protect an "agent." Please read the bill to learn all who would be an agent. This bill has been amended, so please read the Engrossed copy of the bill.

HB 2518 was introduced today. This bill concerns a leashed dog tracking an injured deer or bear and is the same as SB 331. This bill is now in the Committee of Agriculture.

Jan. 16

HB 2185 will be read for the second time on the House Floor on 1-17. This is the bill relating to removing animals from an unattended motor vehicle.

Two new bills were introduced today.

SB331 The purpose of this bill is to authorize the tracking of wounded or injured deer or bear with leashed dogs. This bill also clarifies what is to be done with dogs that have hunted or chased deer. This bill has been sent to Committee on Natural Resources.

HB 2461 purpose of this bill is to amend the status relating to cruelty by providing definitions of food, water, shelter and treatment. Provides specifics for tethering an animal. The bill includes seizure and increased penalties. This bill first goes AG committee and then Judiciary.

HB 2461 is the third bill changing animal cruelty this session.

January 9 and 10th

SB 35 The purpose of this bill is to provide protection from civil liability for certain individuals for damages to the owner's vehicle when removing a domesticated animal from the locked and/or unattended motor vehicle under certain circumstances. This bill is in Judiciary.

SB 124 The purpose of this bill is to create a felony offense for subsequent actions of cruelty to animals that cause bodily injury to, or serious bodily injury or death of an animal. This bill is in Judiciary.

SB 191 This is a Rules bill to authorize the Agriculture Comm. to promulgate a legislative rule relating to animal disease control. This bill first goes to AG Committee and then to Judiciary.

SB 245 The purpose of this bill is to create a felony offense of aggravated cruelty to animals. This bill creates a criminal penalty and defines a term. This bill was sent to Judiciary.

HB 2119 This bill prohibits the performing of an onychectomy (declawing) or flexor tendonectomy procedure on a cat or other animal. This bill first goes to AG and then Judiciary.

HB 2185 The purpose of this bill is to permit removal of animals left unattended in motor vehicles. This bill defines terms and sets forth conditions. This bill first goes to Judiciary and then Finance.

HB 2275 this is the same as SB 191 as it is a Rules bill to control animal disease.

2020 WV Legislature - Daily activity on animal laws

3/8/20

SB 374, 381,384, HB 4208, 4214and 4215 were Rule changes requested by the Dept of AG to the following laws on animal disease control, spay/neuter assistance program and captive cervid farming. These bills were bundled into HB 4252 and passed 3/6.

SB 490 which was the criminal offence bill against Agriculture facilities that have crops or animals. This bill passed 3/6.

HB 4514 allows leashed dogs to track wounded bear or deer. This bill passed 3/7.

This was a very disappointing legislative session for the animals. Sylvia

2/27/20

Yesterday was Cross Over day. This means that starting today the House will only work on Senate bills and the Senate will only work on House bills. This means that only the bills that I list here today are alive and could be passed. All of the other bills that I have listed in the past are dead.

SB 191 which is a very good cruelty bill is now in House Judiciary and needs your help to pass. Please call or email the Chair of the committee asking him to place this bill on his committee agenda and to please support the bill. Chairman John Shott 304 340-3252 or email john.shott@wvhouse.gov.

SCR 1 is the resolution that makes a adopted or rescued dog the official dog of WV. This bill is in House Rules.

SB 490 is a bill that gives protection to Agricultural facilities that have crops or animals. This bill is in House Judiciary.

SB 550 is the bill that allows leashed dogs to track injured bear or deer. This bill is in House Agriculture.

HB 4514 is the House version of SB 550 and this bill is in Senate Natural Resources.
I strongly support SB 191. Sylvia

2/19/20

What a sad day for the Greyhounds and the people of WV. SB 285 was defeated in the Senate today with a vote of 11 yeas and 23 nays. I do not understand the vote. Two days ago, it was announced that a hospital in Marion County was closing with a loss of 600 good jobs but the WV Senate decides to support Greyhound racing which is subsidized to save a handful of jobs and support the cruelty of that industry, Does that make sense? Greyhound racing is a dying industry and the money is needed in many other programs.

Thanks to all of you that have made calls and sent emails to support the bill. I am sure that we have not seen the last of the attempt to stop this cruel practice.

See attached email from Theresa Brunner of WV for Animal Welfare. She has written a very good summary of the vote today. Sylvia

Commentary from West Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare, Theresa Bruner

*We are sad and disappointed that SB 285 went down to defeat allowing another year of this cruel 'so called' sport to continue in our state making West Virginia the last holdout in the country in greyhound racing. During the floor vote, every Democratic Senator voted as a caucus with 10 Republican Senators to defeat the bill with the final vote of 11 YEAS and 23 NAYS. **It was clear from the floor comments that these Senators want WV to become the greyhound capitol of America.** 'Let's give it a chance' they said, 'sure some dogs die but they do in every sport.' One Senator said 'he did not know if the dogs were treated bad but he had been on his county commission and if you want to see dogs treated bad, just go to your local animal control center.' There was concern over the loss of the jobs and that the subsidy must stay in place to protect those jobs. There was a good argument on having 'better priorities' for that subsidy money 'helping veterans' as an example but it was disregarded. The point was made this subsidy money does not belong to the industry but is 'excess lottery funding and taxpayer money' to be used as the state wishes. Again, no thought given to the 81% of West Virginians who do NOT want this subsidy nor greyhound racing in this state.*

This is a battle lost but the war will continue until greyhound racing is eradicated in West Virginia. There will be another session and there will certainly be another day in a voting booth.

February 18

SB 285 The Greyhound bill was read the 2nd time today. Tomorrow will be the 3rd reading. This is the Pass or Defeat reading. If the bill passes, it will move to the House. **This is your last chance to call your Senators in support of this bill.**

February 17

Today was the last day that new Senate bills could be introduced.

SB 285 The greyhound bill has been laid Over again. **(This means Tuesday 2/17/ is 2nd reading amendment stage on Senate floor and 2/18 is 3rd reading vote to pass or fail on the Senate floor. If you have not called your senator on this, please do it now to pass this bill)**

SB 490 passed the Senate today and now moves to the House. This is relating to criminal offenses against Agriculture facilities. This bill has a committee sub to the committee sub..

HB 4514 has passed out of the AG Committee and will be on 1st reading tomorrow on the House Floor. This is the bill that would allow leashed dogs to track injured deer and bear.

February 13

SB 285 is on 2nd reading tomorrow. This is the amendment stage and could have quite a debate. If you have not called or emailed your senators, please do this today or tomorrow. Ask them to support this Greyhound bill. **HUGE DEAL HERE! Breeders are determined to make this their last stand in the country. WV – Greyhound Racing Capitol of the country. We say no way!**

HB 4813 which eliminates veterinarian and euthanasia techs is a horrible bill. I do not know why anyone that cares for animals would support this bill. It is beyond my imagination. Please help defeat this bill by calling or emailing the following people. Please ask them to not put this bill on their agenda. The bill is in Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Chair of AG is Roy Cooper 304 340-3119 or roy.cooper@wvhouse.gov

Chair of Natural Resources is Atkinson 304 340-3185 or martin.atkinson@wvhouse.gov

Vice Chair of AG is Thompson 304 340-3355 or robert.thompson@wvhouse.gov

Vice Chair of Natural Resources is Hansen 304 340-3125 or evan.hansen@wvhouse.gov

(We have been told that they will not run this bill. That it will not come out of the Ag committee)

February 11

Today is the last day that new House bills can be introduced. That is unless they originate in a committee. There are two new House bills today.

HB 4813 This bill provides some new language for veterinarian and euthanasia techs. This bill goes to the Comm. Of AG and then to Gov Org. *(this bill is repealing code having to do with licensed euthanasia & vet techs in WV? This is a terrible bill!!)*

HB 4880 The purpose of this bill is to provide increased protection for the welfare of domestic animals under the care of animal shelters, breeders and private individuals (This includes Hoarders.) This is the most comprehensive animal care bill that I have ever read. This bill goes to Judiciary.

February 10

SB 285 passed out of the Finance Committee and will now move to the Floor of the Senate. If you support ending Greyhound racing, please call your Senator asking them to support this bill. *(We heard from people at the hearing today that the largest consideration for voting against this is jobs. Also that this is being pushed by out of state national groups. Our answer to the jobs is that yes there will be some jobs lost but seriously do we want this to become the greyhound racing capital of the United States? Do we want jobs built on animal cruelty? Within the bill is \$3M to retrain. Plus many of the jobs are people from other states who come here to race and then take their money back home. How about the jobs that will be created with the \$15 million which could be redirected to more worthy activities? Secondly, there are national groups who oppose the cruel activity but there are plenty of us in WV who do not like it as well! We believe the out-of-stater breeders have made this their last stand on racing in the country. They want WV to be the racing capitol of the country. We cannot imagine and cannot tolerate an industry this inherently cruel becoming even larger in WV)*

HCR 73 was introduced today. This resolution would make a dog adopted or rescued in WV the official dog of WV. This is the same as the Senate Resolution. This goes to AG and then Rules.

HB 4767 was introduced today. This bill would create a system for issuing permits for people to provide rehabilitation for orphaned, sick or injured wildlife. This bill first goes to AG and then to Gov. Org.

HB4769 is a new Greyhound bill called the Racing Industry Viability Assessment Act. (this is creating a study of the industry) This bill first goes to Judiciary and then Finance.

It is time to send out letters to your Senators in support of SB 285. This is Senate Finance and they need a letter from their constituents in particular to get this bill out of committee. There is a sample letter below to use and some points in your own. **Please contact by February 3!**

Here is a sample letter one supporter wrote:

The Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Gambling on greyhound racing has declined by 34 percent at West Virginia racetracks since 2010. An antiquated law requires so many live dog races to allow the gambling and subsidizes the breeders to the tune of \$15 million dollars for an unsustainable industry. The 2020 State of the State offered plenty of worthy places for this money to be used than for propping up these mostly 'out of state' breeders!

And, why not retool those two WV tracks in Wheeling and in Cross lanes? Stock car racing, Senior / Assisted Living or Residential Housing, Business Office Space or perhaps a water park? There are real world examples of former dog tracks continuing to provide jobs. The Sarasota Kennel Club is in the process of being transformed into 340 units of affordable housing and an assisted living facility. Similarly, Sanford Orlando Kennel Club is under contract to be redeveloped as a 32 acre mixed use property possibly including housing, retail, and office space.

Greyhound Racing is not popular in West Virginia. Greyhounds are kept confined in stacked cages which are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. Most of their days, weeks, months, and years are spent in their solitary cages. According to state records, every 10 days, a WV greyhound dies. Females are routinely given steroids to ensure they run. It's time for West Virginia to join the 41 states that have banned this inhumane "sport" outright. Ending the subsidies will end this cruelty! And open other opportunities for many of us in West Virginia! **Support SB 285!**

Here are some points if they just want to write their own letter and add a point or two.

Here is more data to use in a letter to your delegate:

- \$15 million in state gambling subsidies goes to greyhound breeders
- According to state record, every 10 days, a WV greyhound dies.
- 2 racetracks in WV in Wheeling and in Cross lanes could be retooled for something else. Stock car racing, Senior / Assisted Living or Residential Housing, Business Office Space or perhaps a water park? There are real world examples of former dog tracks continuing to provide jobs. The Sarasota Kennel Club is in the process of being transformed into 340 units of affordable housing and an assisted living facility. Similarly, Sanford Orlando Kennel Club is under contract to be redeveloped as a 32 acre mixed use property possibly including housing, retail, and office space.
- **SB 285 features a \$3 million dollar worker retraining fund, a \$1 million greyhound adoption fund plus a \$500 personal tax credit to any state resident who adopts a West Virginia greyhound!**

- Gambling on dog racing in WV declines by 34% between 2010-2017
- More than 1500 greyhounds live in stacked warehouse styled kennels in WV with no limits on confinement. They are fed 4-D dogfood which is the lowest on the chain of cheap food from dying, diseased animals.
- Females are routinely given steroid drugs to ensure they can run which is prohibited elsewhere but continues in WV
- Since 2007, more than 800 disciplinary cases have been reported including 100 drug cases and 19 cases of animal abuse.
- Job loss is actually more like 200-400 and those employees can be retrained into other areas SB 285 has \$3 million to retrain personnel

January 31

SB 550 passed the Senate today and is now in the House. This bill allows leashed dogs to track injured bear or deer.

January 29

SB 550 which is the bear/deer tracking with leashed dogs is on 2nd reading tomorrow. This is the amendment stage.

HB 4599 was introduced today. This bill discontinues the Greyhound Breeding Development Fund. This bill first goes to Judiciary and then Finance.

January 28

SB 191 passed the Senate today with 2 Nay votes Voting Nay were Azinger from Wood County and Pitsenbarger from Nicolas Co. Absent not voting was Maroney from Marshall. This bill changes many misdemeanor offenses to felony animal cruelty. This bill is going to have a rough time in the House. Please call the chair of the House Judiciary asking him to place the bill on his committee agenda. Delegate John Shott 304 340-3252 or john.shott@wvhouse.gov .

SB 550 passed out of the committee of Natural Resources today and will be read on the Senate Floor for the 1st reading on 1-29. This bill allows for leashed dogs to track injured deer or bear. There are some restrictions and describes what DNR does with a dog not on a leash.

January 27

SB 191 was read today on the Senate Floor. It will be on 3rd reading tomorrow 1-28. This is passage reading. If it passes, it will move to the House. This is a felony cruelty bill.

January 23

One new bill today

HB 4514 The purpose of this bill is to allow leashed dogs to track injured deer or bear. The difference between this bill and the other two that have been introduced is what DNR will do with an unleashed dog. This bill has been sent to Agriculture.

SB 191 was heard in Judiciary yesterday. There is now a committee sub bill that will be read on the floor of the Senate 1-24. This is the first reading. Be sure to read the Com Sub bill. This is a felony cruelty bill. There is more detail under bill status above.

SB 490 has moved out of the AG Committee and is now in Judiciary. The bill is now a Committee Sub. Using the instructions above, please read the sub bill. The purpose of this bill is to give protection to animal and crop facilities.

January 21

SB 550 was introduced today. This bill is the same as HB4116 which permits leashed dogs to track injured deer and bear. This bill was sent to Senate Agriculture Committee.

HB 4208, 4214, and 4215 have moved to Judiciary Committee. These are Rule Bills for Dept. of Agriculture.

January 20

HB 2185 which is the hot car bill has moved out of the Judiciary Committee to the Finance Committee.

HJR 107 was introduced today. This resolution purposes an amendment to the Constitution that would give the Legislature discretion in appropriating revenue generated from motor vehicle registrations and nongame wildlife motor vehicle registration plates. I may be incorrect, but I believe this would open the door for revenue for spay/neuter license plates. I am not an attorney so I cannot be sure about this.

January 15

Just one bill today and it is the same as HB 4169 that was introduced 1-14. The purpose of this bill is to protect animals and crops from damage and destructive acts in a facility of crops or animals.

January 14

SCR 1 has passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. This is the resolution that declares that any dog adopted or rescued is a WV dog.

HB 4169 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to give protection to animals and crops from damage and destructive acts. This would apply to a facility that is used in the agriculture production of animals or crops. This bill has been sent to Agriculture and then goes to Judiciary.

The next three bills are Rules Bills and all have been sent to Judiciary. HB 4208 amends rules for Animal Disease Control. HB 4214 Amends rules for Spay/neuter assistance program. HB 4215 Amends rules for cervid farming.

The next 3 Senate bills are Rules bills and are the same as the House bills. They have all been sent to Judiciary. SB 374 amends rules concerning animal disease. SB 381 amends rules for spay/neuter assistance program. SB 384 amends rules for cervid farming.

January 13

One bill today:

HB 4116 The purpose of this bill is to permit the tracking of wounded deer or bear with leashed dogs

January 10

SB 285 was introduced today. This bill eliminates the Greyhound Breeding Fund. We very much support this bill. This bill has been sent to the Finance Committee. More information on how you can support this bill will follow later. This eliminates the \$15 million subsidy which would eventually end greyhound racing

SCR 1 This is a resolution that a adopted or rescued dog be designated as a WV official dog. This bill was sent to unfinished business to be finished on 1-13. Do not ask me to explain as I do not have any answers. Wish I did.

January 9

Two new Senate bills today.

SB 184 The purpose is to provide liability protection for removing a domesticated animal from a locked car.

This bill has been referred to Judiciary.

SB 191 This bill creates a felony offense for aggravated cruelty to animals. It also defines terms. This bill has been referred to Judiciary.

January 8

The session started today. To read the bills go to www.legis.state.wv.us. At this time, I am just listing the bills mostly without comment.

Senate bills:

SB 1 makes some second offense cruelty a felony. I think this is the same as Winston's bill from last year. This bill goes to Judiciary.

The next 3 bills are Carryover from last year:

HB 2119 prohibits the declawing of cats. This bill goes to Agriculture committee and then to Judiciary.

HB2185 is what was called the hot car bill last session. This bill goes to Judiciary and then Finance.

HB 2461 updates the cruelty code by giving definitions for food, water, shelter. This bill goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary.

HB 4023 is new this session and gives County Commissions the authority to regulate and tax cats. This bill goes to Political Sub and then to Finance.

2021 WV Legislature - Daily activity on animal laws

4/11/21

The session has ended and I am sorry to report that all of the domestic animal bills are dead. Please accept my thanks and gratitude to all of you that tried to help improve the lives of animals in this state. Sylvia

**WVVAW Note Usually when it is a contentious year with bills like the income tax front and center demanding attention, our animal bills are the collateral damage. From the decoupling of greyhounds from casinos to the definition of outside shelter for dogs, neither party deemed those issues worthy of more than a cursory glance. We do need to give the House of Delegates a nod for passing HB 2095 but it died immediately in the Senate with no champions for it there. This bill may gain momentum next year. Let us hope so.*

4/1/21

HB 2095 passed the House on 3-31 and is now in the Senate awaiting a meeting in the Government Org committee. We must get this bill on the committee agenda. Please call or email the Chair of this committee asking him to please put this bill on his agenda. Chairman Mark Maynard 304 357-7808 or Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov. Then we need to ask the Vice Chair to assist with the passage of this bill. V Chair Chandler Swope 304 357-7843 or chandler.swope@wvsenate.gov.

HB 2095 is a very comprehensive bill which adds needed information such as a definition of adequate shelter, tethering, adequate care of companion animals, requirement for all counties to provide animal shelters and inspection of those facilities. The bill covers hoarding, lends more detail to commercial breeding law with protection to purchasers from breeders and more. It is quite long so read it to see if you agree that this is a needed comprehensive change to animal law in WV. We will watch this bill carefully as it is amended to ensure that no erosion occurs to 61-8-19. We still believe some changes should be made to some of this bill but it is acceptable.

3/28/21

HB 2095 is a pleasant surprise. We must take action 3-29 to help the passage of this bill. It is on 1st reading in the House Chamber tomorrow 3-29. The title will be read. On Tuesday 3-30, will be the 2nd reading. This is the amendment stage. On Wednesday 3-30, is the 3rd reading when the delegates will vote to pass the bill to the Senate or kill the bill. Please call your own delegates asking them to vote for this bill. You can find all of their telephone numbers and email addresses by going to www.legis.state.wv.us At the top of your screen, click on House and then click on Delegates. They are in alpha order.

Comm. sub. HB 2095 is a comprehensive animal welfare bill. It provides a needed definition of adequate shelter, tethering, adequate care of companion animals, requirement for all counties to provide animal shelters and inspection of those facilities. The bill covers hoarding, lends more detail to commercial breeding law with protection to purchasers from breeders and more. It is quite long so read it to see if you agree that this is a needed comprehensive change to animal law in WV. We will watch this bill carefully as it is amended to ensure that no erosion occurs to 61-8-19. Sylvia

3/16/21

HB 3219 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to decouple Racehorse racing from racetrack casinos. This bill has been sent to the committee of Government Org.

**** WVVAW Note on HB 3219 The purpose of this bill is to clarify that a licensed racetrack casino must not maintain an active dog racing license in order to receive telecasts and accept wagers on dog and horse races, or to otherwise apply and qualify for a video lottery or racetrack table game licenses. Another bill to rid racing of the live mandate on greyhound racing and remove all of those ties.***

HB 3226. The purpose is to waive the adoption fee for veterans who adopt a dog or cat from a public or humane society shelter. It also provides a limitation on the number of animals adopted without a fee. This bill has been sent to the Committee of Veteran Affairs and then to Government Org.

HB 2059 which allows for rebaiting orphan, injured or sick wildlife is on the agenda 3-17 at 8am in the committee of Natural Resources

HB 2782 is on 1st reading on the floor 3-17. This bill deletes an obsolete section of the taxation code of domestic animals .

TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY THAT NEW HOUSE BILLS CAN BE INTRODUCED.
BILLS ORGINATING IN A COMMITTEE ARE STILL ALLOWED.

THE CUTLOFF DATE FOR SENATE BILLS IS 3—22.

3/12/21

HB 3093 - This bill would decouple active dog racing licenses from racetrack casinos.

This bill would end the live greyhound racing mandate in WV! They do not do mandates like this to other private businesses in WV yet race tracks cannot operate any casinos without live greyhound racing. Why? It is a mandate from an old law in 1994 when we had some WV Legislators who had ties to greyhound breeding in this state.

This bill has been sent to the House Judiciary Committee and we need your help to end Greyhound Racing in WV. Please make contact by phone or email to the following delegates asking them to place this bill on the Judiciary Agenda.

Chair Delegate Capito 304 340-3252 or moore.capito@wvhouse.gov

Vice Chair Delegate Fast 304 340-3170 or tom.fast@wvhouse.gov

Minority Chair Delegate Lovejoy 304 340-3280 or chad.lovejoy@wvhouse.gov

Minority Vice Chair Delegate Brown 304 340-3126 or nathan.brown@wvhouse.gov

All of the delegates on the Judiciary Committee may be found by going to www.legis.state.wv.us

Thanks, Sylvia/wvvaw

***WVVAW NOTE** There are only 3 states in the country still racing greyhounds and shamefully WV is one of them. We believes greyhound racing is inhumane. We support the end of the \$17 million dollar subsidies propping up this dying industry. We believe the passage of HB 3093 could lead to the eventual end of greyhound racing in our state.

3/11/21

HB 3060 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to define unlawful animal tethering. This is a new section added to the current cruelty code 61-8-19. This bill has been sent to House Judiciary Committee.

As of 3-11, no animal legislation has moved or passed. Sylvia

3/10/21

HB 3053 as introduced today. The purpose of this bill to define the requirements and scope of practice for veterinary nurses. This bill first goes to the Agriculture and then to Gov. Org.

This bill works with HB 2344 which changes vet tech to veterinary nurse. This bill has not moved or heard in any committee since it was introduced on 2-12. Sylvia

3/8/21 Important Feral Cat Bill

HB 2966 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to make it unlawful to trap and kill a feral cat. In my opinion, this is a well written bill as it gives definitions and sets forth criminal penalties. For anyone involved in cat rescue this bill is a must read. This bill first goes to the Political Subdivision Committee and then to Judiciary. To help with the passage of this bill, please contact the Chair of this committee asking him to please place this bill on his agenda. Carl Martin, Chair telephone 304 340-3167 or carl.martin@wvhouse.gov

Also contact the minority Chair John Williams asking him to assist in the passage of this bill. Phone 304 340-3173 or john.williams@wvhouse.gov

Thanks, Sylvia

3/2/21

HB 2827 was introduced today. The purpose of this bill is to create the felony offense of sexual crimes against animals.

This bill was sent to the House Judiciary Committee, The Chair of this committee is Delegate Capito. Telephone 304 340-3252. Email moore.capito@wvhouse.gov.

**WVVAW note - this should be clear for all to support!*

2/24/21

SB 309 was heard yesterday in Senate Judiciary and is now DEAD. After all of the amendments, this bill needed to die. This was the bill affecting 61-8-19 cruelty code by establishing AGGRAVATED CRUELTY. It was a good bill until amendments were passed. We thank Senator Weld for his attempt to improve the cruelty code.

We still support SB 306 which is the Hot Car bill and hope the Senate Judiciary will place it on their Agenda.

Thanks to all of you that helped with SB 309. Sylvia/ wvvaw

2/20/21

It is time for all of us to get involved. After careful consideration and consultation, we have decided to endorse these two bills for the following reasons.

SB 306 introduced 2-17 by Senator Takubo is a cruelty bill 61-8-19 code. This is what has been called 'THE HOT CAR BILL' for several years. The purpose of this bill is to permit the rescue of animals from a locked vehicle. The bill defines terms and conditions.

SB 309 introduced 2-17 by Senator Weld is also a cruelty bill 61-8-19. The purpose of this bill is to create the felony offense of AGGRAVED CRUELTY to animals. This is a needed addition to the code. The bill creates a criminal penalty and defines a term.

Both of these bills are in the Senate Judiciary Committee and needs to be placed on their Agenda.

Please call or email the Chair Senator Charles Trump asking him to please place both of these bills on his committee. Phone 304 357-7880 or email charles.trump@wvsenate.gov

Also please contact the Vice Chair Senator Ryan Weld asking him to help place these two bills on the Judiciary Agenda. Phone 304 357-7984 or email ryan.weld@wvsenate.gov

YOU CAN LOCATE ALL OF YOUR SENATORS OR DELEGATES ON

<http://www.wvlegislature.gov/>

Thanks,

Sylvia/ wvvaw

****Note from WVVAV SB 306 is the better bill of the two hot car bills that have been introduced. This one has criminal penalties as needed and also provides for remuneration for medical bills if needed. So it combines the release from liability for defined officials for entering the car to save the animal while defining terms. This does not cover the public for doing so.***

SB 309 does change the cruelty code of 61.8.19. It does create a felony offense for aggravated cruelty which fills a void in the code. It lacks the definition of shelter which is still needed

2/17/21

SB 306 the purpose of this bill is to define who can remove a animal from a locked vehicle and the action they must take. This does not apply to the general public. This bill goes to Judiciary .

SB 309 This bill establishes an Aggravated Cruelty section to 61-8-19. This section is a felony. I find this bill to be confusing because it depends on the condition of the animal. For instance Failure to feed is a misdemeanor but if the animal is in very bad condition it becomes a felony under the Aggravated section. This bill goes to Judiciary.

SB 317 is another removal of animal from a locked vehicle. This bill is mostly about protection from civil liability. This bill goes to Judiciary.

2/16/21

HB 2561 was introduced 2-16. This bill is a rewrite of the cruelty code 61-8-19, It describes what is Shelter, Food, Water, etc. It increases jail time as a penalty for 2nd offense. It does not add felony. This bill goes to Agriculture and then Judiciary.

****WVAV note this bill has the definitions in it we need but it does not provide for a felony like SB 309 in aggravated cruelty. But it is still is a bill we need. Problem is it has 2 Democratic sponsors and no Republican sponsors so it is likely not going to get the necessary support.***

On the 17th, the Senate will introduce three bills covering cruelty.

If passed HB 2007, would provide for occupational licenses or other authorization to practice by recognition for qualified applicants from other states. Should this bill pass, this would affect out of state Veterinary Technician and Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician applicants to be able to use their work experience instead of their education or passing a national exam. This would apply to applicants that currently practice veterinary technology or animal euthanasia technology in a state where there is not occupational license.

This bill is moving very quickly on special calendar. When this occurs, there is strong intent for it to pass. It is presently on 2nd reading in the House. The WV Board of Veterinary Medicine opposes HB 2007. Anyone have any thoughts on this bill? Would it be in the best interest of the animals we serve in WV?

2/12/21

HB 2344 The purpose of this bill is to change the title of Vet Tech to Nurse. This bill goes to ARG and then Government Org.

*****HB 2095 that was introduced on 2-10 is a good and bad bill. In the section of 61-8-19 changes have been made that are not acceptable. This is the cruelty code and we cannot accept the changes. At this time, we need to look more closely at this bill so we are not endorsing at this time.***

2/10/21

Three House bills were introduced today.

HB 2037 which provides protection for owners of livestock and other domestic animals. This bill first goes to Agriculture and Natural Resources. It then goes to Judiciary.

HB 2059 This bill provides permits to rehabilitate orphaned, sick or injured wildlife. This bill goes to agriculture and natural resources and then goes to Government Org.

HB 2095 is 38 pages of wonderful laws for domestic animals. It covers hoarding, animal shelters, pet stores, humane officers, breeders, owners, etc. This bill has been sent to Judiciary.

DUE TO COVID, THE STATEHOUSE IS MOSTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. SO OUR LOBBY EFFORTS WILL BE PHONE OR EMAIL. I WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED. SYLVIA

**WVVAW note here is that we are looking more closely at HB 2095. It is comprehensive. However it has some areas that we are checking out. More to follow.*

2022 WV Legislature - Daily activity on animal laws

March 14 - the end!

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY EXCEPT NOTHING WAS PASSED TO HELP OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS. During this session it seems that animals were forgotten. Thanks to all of you who tried to help. Sylvia

Feb. 15

Today is the last day for new bills to be introduced in the house unless the bill originates in a committee. Three were introduced today.

HB 4681 the purpose is to establish an animal abuse registry for WV. This bill goes to AG and then Judiciary.

HB 4704 the purpose of this bill is to prohibit unlawful restraint of dogs. This bill goes to Judiciary.

HB 4806. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit breed discrimination of dogs. This means that no county, city or municipality could have ordinances banning certain breeds of dogs. This bill goes to arg and then to judiciary.

HCR 68 to establish a study concerning the need for a Veterinarian School in WV Sylvia

Feb. 14

A very good animal bill was introduced today. HB 4673 relating to Cruelty to Animals. This is a much needed bill covering food, water, tethering, etc. Please help with its passage by contacting the Judiciary chairs asking them to please put 4673 on their Agenda and pass the bill.

CONTACT THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

CHAIR is Delegate Capito 304 340-3252 moore.capito@wvhouse.gov Kanawha
Vice Chair is Delegate Fast 304 340-3170 tom.fast@wvhouse.gov Clay (part), Fayette,
Kanawha (part), Nicholas (part), Raleigh (part)
Minority Chair is Chad Lovejoy 304 340-3280 chad.lovejoy@wvhouse.gov Cabell (part)

and Wayne (part)

Minority Vice Chair is Nathan Brown 304 340-3126 nathan.brown@wvhouse.gov. Ming and Logan County where dog in barrel frozen Feb. 2022

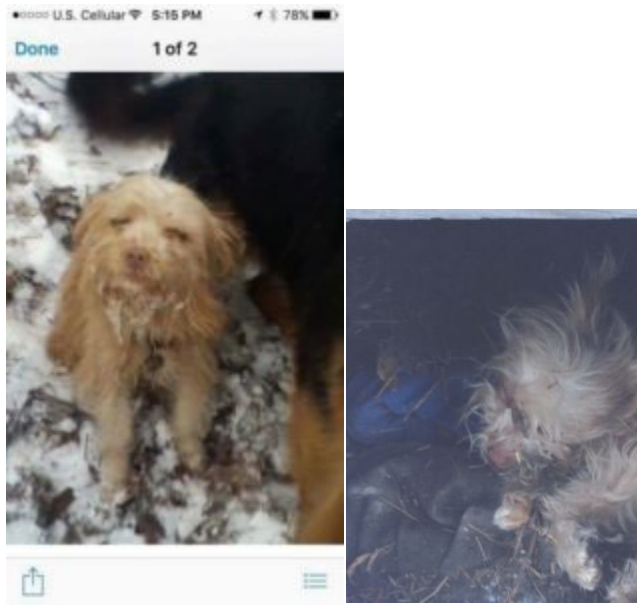
Please send your messages as soon as possible. Sylvia/WVVAW

***WVVAW note**

House Bill 4673 was just introduced to the WV State Legislature today. It has been referenced to Judiciary Committee where one Logan Legislator Nathan Brown is Minority Vice Chair. This bill has the definition of shelter that would have saved the Logan County dog from freezing to death in a barrel and the others from the horrible situation by ensuring that these dogs would not have to live in those conditions. See photos.



Another tragic case brought to our attention which occurred in Rowlesburg in Preston County in Dec. of 2017 concerning a little dog named Bella who was allowed to freeze to death due to a lack of response to complaints made to the Preston County Sheriff's Dept. see photos.



Contact your legislators to support and become a sponsor of this bill citing this recent horrific case in Logan County.

Feb. 8

HB 4577 WAS INTRODUCED TODAY. THE PURPOSE IS TO CREATE THE COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITY CATS FUND. This bill is triple referenced. First to agriculture, second to Judiciary and then to Finance. Very interesting bill. Sylvia **WVVAW note - the money source in this bill is the current spay neuter fund. That fund already provides grants for community cats. A point of clarification needed that those who sponsor this may not understand.*

Jan 18, 2022

The House introduced Rules Bills today. Here Are the Three Pertaining to Animals.

HB 4160 Pertaining to Thoroughbred Horse Racing.

HB 4180 Pertaining to Livestock Care Standards

HB 4193 Pertaining to Dangerous Wild Animals.

SB 424 Relating to the 2022 Farm Bill. This Bill First Goes to Agriculture and Then To Finance.

Jan. 17 2022

Listed below are the bills that have been introduced thru 1-17. Most or all of these are rollover bills. More to follow on these as we learn more.....

Sb 134 Creating Felony Offense For Aggravated Cruelty To Animals. In Judiciary Committee

Sb321 Commission Rule For Thoroughbred Racing. Sent To Judiciary Committee

Sb341 Agriculture Rule Relating To Livestock Standards Of Care. Sent To Judiciary.

Sb354 Rule For Dangerous Wild Animals Board. Sent To Judiciary.

Hb2017 Relating To The Criminal Code. Sent To Judiciary

Hb2059 Relating To Permits For Rehabilitating Wild Animals. Sent To Natural Resources.

Hb2095 Providing Increased Protection For Domestic Animals. Sent To Judiciary / **Brought same bill back as rollover but did not change the number. Error here which confused us but the bill was submitted anyway.**

Hb2782 Repealing Domestic Animal Tax. Sent To Finance.

Hb 3093 Decoupling Dog Racing License. Sent To Judiciary

Hb 3219 Decoupling Horse Racing. Sent To Gov. Org.

Hb 4006 Relating To Criminal Codes. Sent To Judiciary

Hb4051 Save All Baby Dog Acts Of 2022. Sent To Finance. (Looks Like A Repeal Of The Dog Tax)

Sylvia (wvvaw)

Jan. 12-14 first week of session

SB 134 creates more felony offenses for cruelty. Sent to Judiciary.

HB 2095 is a rewrite of most animal codes and includes shelters, breeders and individuals. 39 pages long and very comprehensive. Sent to Judiciary.

wvvaw note*– this is definitely a rollover bill since it was introduced last year. We need to look it over to see if there are changes from last year. We supported this bill last year.

HB 3093 is decoupling greyhounds

wvvaw note*- this is the same bill from last year and we definitely support it!!

HB 3219 is decoupling horse racing

wvvaw note*– this may be a rollover bill from 2020 session.

HB 4051 SAVE ALL BABY DOGS repeals the head tax on dogs. Code 19-20-2. This has a fiscal note and is sent to Finance.

HB 2059 establishing a system for issuing permits to persons to provide rehabilitation of orphaned, sick and injured wildlife. Carry over bill double referenced in Ag and DNR committee. Also 2nd reference to Gov. Org.

HB 2782 eliminates The purpose of this bill is to repeal the section of code relating to domestic animal tax. Code 8-13-10 Referred to Committee on Finance.

HB 2017 – Rewriting of Criminal Code (check the legislative website /lots of code affected – at first glance it looks as if this is codifying the criminal code into Classes and making the penalties across the board uniform and it does affect penalties in our animal code too. This looks okay at first glance unless any of our penalties lessen. Now the question what is a class 6 felony or a class 1 misdemeanor?) Carryover bill

HB 4006 – Relating to revising the criminal code generally.

2023 Legislative Session runs January 11 through March 11

Daily commentary on the 2023 WV State Legislature on Animal Welfare Activity:

2023 WV Legislature – Daily activity on animal laws

March 13, 2023

This Session did not have any interest in animals. The only bill that passed was SB 200 which permits leashed dogs to track wounded elk, turkey, wild boar and bear. This bill has several amendments, so please read the Committee Sub bill.

WVVAW note : March 1, 2023: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. This is the way it is when bills are left to die due to inactivity. This session was spent on a whole host of social issues. Definitely not animal issues. Looks like the greyhound bills will not make it either so more cruel greyhound racing in the only state in the country. Way to go WV

SB 62 (None) Establishing secondary location for racetrack video lottery terminals
03/02/23 – To House Finance House Reference 1 – Finance

Senate Reference 1 – Government Organization

SB 78 (None) Creating felony offense of aggravated cruelty to animals 01/11/23 – To Senate
Judiciary Senate Reference 1 – Judiciary

SB 200 (None) Allowing leashed dogs to track wounded elk, turkey, and wild boar when hunting
03/11/23 – To House Completed legislative action

House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

Senate Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Only bill passed

SB 217 (None) Requiring animal owners protect animals in cold weather 01/13/23 – To
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Senate Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Senate Reference 2 – Judiciary

SB 305 (None) Relating to dog racing requirements SI HB3137 01/20/23 – To Senate Judiciary
Senate Reference 1 – Judiciary

Senate Reference 2 – Finance

HB 2082 (None) Repeal breed specific legislation 01/11/23 – To House Agriculture and Natural
Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2117 (None) Relating to the hunting of coyotes 01/11/23 – To House Agriculture and
Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2181 (None) To establish a state animal abuse register 01/11/23 – To House
Agriculture and Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2338 (None) Relating generally to unlawful restraint of dogs 01/11/23 – To House Judiciary
House Reference 1 – Judiciary

HB 2614 (None) Relating generally to hunting and fishing 01/17/23 – To House
Agriculture and Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2631 (None) Authorizing dogs to be in certain licensed establishments 01/17/23 – To
House Health and Human Resources House Reference 1 – Health and Human Resources

HB 2700 (None) Authorizing the Agriculture Commissioner to promulgate a legislative rule relating to
inspection of nontraditional, domesticated animals SI SB369 01/25/23 – To House Judiciary
House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2702 (None) Authorizing the Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to
livestock care standards SI SB371 01/25/23 – To House Judiciary House Reference 1 –
Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2783 (None) To remove primates as a dangerous wild animal 01/18/23 – To House
Agriculture and Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Government Organization

HB 2891 (None) Repeal domestic animal tax 01/20/23 – To House Finance House
Reference 1 – Finance

HB 2918 (None) Relating to the removal of animals left unattended in motor vehicles
01/23/23 – To House Agriculture and Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and
Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2979 (None) Establishing an animal abuser registry 01/24/23 – To House Agriculture and
Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Judiciary

HB 2983 (None) Relating to cruelty to animals 01/24/23 – To House Judiciary House
Reference 1 – Judiciary

HB 2995 (None) Relating to requirements for a registered veterinary nurse 01/24/23 – To
House Agriculture and Natural Resources House Reference 1 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

House Reference 2 – Government Organization

HB 3031 (None) Eliminating West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund
01/25/23 – To House Judiciary House Reference 1 – Judiciary

House Reference 2 – Finance

HB 3196 (None) Relating to racetrack casino decoupling 01/31/23 – To House Judiciary House
Reference 1 – Judiciary

House Reference 2 – Finance

HB 3524 (None) Making a supplementary appropriation to the Department of Agriculture – West Virginia
Spay Neuter Assistance Fund SI SB706 03/10/23 – To House Completed legislative action
House Reference 1 – Finance

Feb. 8, 2023

HB 3345

WAS INTRODUCED TODAY AND IS A VERY GOOD BILL. THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO PROVIDE
INCREASED PROTECTION FOR THE WELFARE OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS. THIS INCLUDES BREEDERS,
ANIMAL SHELTERS, HOARDERS AND INDIVIDUAL OWNERS. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU WITH MORE
INFORMATION SOON. SYLVIA/WVVAW

Greyhound Racing Decoupling Bill – HB 3196 – All this means is that gambling at racetracks can occur without dog racing occurring too. That decouples a racing mandate from a gambling mandate. This would also END the subsidy too.

Here is a sample email to send to committee members who are on the Judiciary committee. Phone calls work too. See the contacts below.

Please support HB 3196, the greyhound decoupling bill, by getting it on the Judiciary committee agenda and passed. There is no reason to require dog racing in order to gamble in this state. That large subsidy of \$17 million or so to the Greyhound breeding development fund is money going to prop up a dying 'so-called sport' which has ended EVERYWHERE in America but West Virginia. It is long overdue to end greyhound racing in West Virginia too! Just let it either make it on its own or fade away. WV should be known for so many other tourist activities rather than the cruelty of greyhound racing.

HB 3196 decoupling

Chris Pritt Kanawha chris.pritt@wvhouse.gov (304) 573-9980 R Lead sponsor
Judiciary

Jarred Cannon Putnam jarred.cannon@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3324 R sponsor

Geno Chiarelli Monongalia geno.chiarelli@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3158 R sponsor

Riley Keaton Roane, Wirt riley.keaton@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3185 R sponsor

Todd A. Kirby Raleigh todd.kirby@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3180 R sponsor Judiciary

Carl Martin Upshur carl.martin@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3167 R sponsor Judiciary

David Elliott Pritt Fayette elliot.pritt@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3337 R sponsor

Caleb Hanna Greenbrier, Nicholas, Webster caleb.hanna@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3916 D
sponsor

Tom Fast Fayette tom.fast@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3252 R sponsor V. Chair Judiciary

Andy Shamblin Kanawha andy.shamblin@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3392 R sponsor
Judiciary

House Judiciary

Moore Capito Kanawha moore.capito@wvhouse.gov (304) 552-8986 R Chairman

Tom Fast Fayette tom.fast@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3252 R sponsor & V. Chair

Joey Garcia Marion joey.garcia@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3124 D Minority Chair

Jan 31. 2023

HB 3196 : Greyhound decoupling bill. Simply allows gambling without greyhound racing YEAH!

The purpose of this bill is to clarify that a licensed racetrack casino must not maintain an active dog racing license in order to receive telecasts and accept wagers on dog and horse races, or to otherwise apply and qualify for a video lottery or racetrack table game licenses. It is the companion House Bill to Senate Bill 305. These two bills may be the ones that get the most traction so PLEASE make your calls, send your emails to get this passed! Chris Pritt of Kanawha is the lead sponsor.

This bill is in House Judiciary and then it goes to Finance.

House Judiciary : Tell the chair, vice chair and min chair to put this on their committee agenda and pass it.

House Judiciary

Chair

Moore Capito Kanawha moore.capito@wvhouse.gov (304) 552-8986

Vice Chair

Tom Fast Fayette tom.fast@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3252

Minority Chair

Joey Garcia Marion oey.garcia@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3124

These are the sponsors of HB 3196. Tell them thank you especially if it is one of your delegates.

Chris Pritt is the lead sponsor.

HB 3196 decoupling

Chris Pritt Kanawha chris.pritt@wvhouse.gov (304) 573-9980

Jarred Cannon Putnam jarred.cannon@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3324

Geno Chiarelli Monongalia geno.chiarelli@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3158

Riley Keaton Roane, Wirt riley.keaton@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3185

Todd A. Kirby Raleigh todd.kirby@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3180

Carl Martin Upshur carl.martin@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3167

David Elliott Pritt Fayette elliot.pritt@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3337

Caleb Hanna Greenbrier, Nicholas, Webster caleb.hanna@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3916

Tom Fast Fayette tom.fast@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3252

Andy Shamblin Kanawha andy.shamblin@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3392

Jan 28, 2023

SB 305 Greyhound/casino gambling decoupling bill

SB 305 is a decoupling bill (same as former ones) which may have some momentum this year. This bill would stop the subsidy by not requiring that gambling can only occur if dog racing does, and that is what we want to happen maintaining that the industry should stand on its own and be propped up by a subsidy. This one could pass the Senate perhaps. I will let you know the number when it is submitted to the house. which is going to happen.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify that a licensed racetrack casino must not maintain an active dog racing license in order to receive telecasts and accept wagers on dog and horse races, or to otherwise apply and qualify for a video lottery or racetrack table game licenses. This is called a decoupling bill which would allow the gambling but not require dog racing. It would end the \$17 million subsidy which would mean the greyhound breeders would have to live on what they make, not on what WV gives them to exist. Sen. Mike Stuart – Logan, Lincoln, Boone, Kanawha (part) mike.stuart@wvsenate.gov

A compatible bill has been introduced into the house see above. It is HB 3196

House Bill 3031 The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund, redirect all moneys from the West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund to the State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund, and to eliminate requirements that applicants for video lottery and racetrack table game licensees must hold a dog racing license. HB 3031 to completely end the greyhound breeding development fund was introduced by Delegate Kirby from Raleigh. Please go like his facebook page post and share his post on this bill. We need to show our support for legislators who support this. It would shake up the breeders if it did pass the House since it drastically affects greyhound racing by eliminating the fund & subsidy and decouples which shuts down the requirement for greyhound racing to occur for gambling. It is a double whammy which the industry would not sustain.

In the meantime, go to the link below and like Kirby's FB post and share to show him some support. Also when you get a chance send a thank you to the sponsors of HB 3031 and Sen. Stuart for SB 305. You can to one thank you email and send a bcc thank you to all at once. Easily done.

The link to his post is

<https://www.facebook.com/kirbyforhouse/posts/pfbid02SFbZRtoNUzK7JA53FEQxCbUV6Fo28A5QhjGHiB5uBdU78zUEa29GBozYgSZaUsREI>

BY DELEGATES KIRBY, LONGANACRE, BROOKS, E. PRITT, TONEY, BUTLER, THORNE, CHIARELLI, PINSON, STEELE, AND FOSTER

Legislator County Email Phone

HB 3031

Todd A. Kirby Raleigh todd.kirby@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3180

Brandon Steele Raleigh brandon.steele@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3162

Chris Pritt Kanawha chris.pritt@wvhouse.gov (304) 573-9980
Christopher W. Toney Raleigh, Wyoming chris.toney@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3265
Darren Thorne Hampshire, Morgan darren.thorne@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3157
Eric Brooks Raleigh, Fayetteeric.brooks@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3197
Geno Chiarelli Monongalia geno.chiarelli@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3158
Geoff Foster Putnamgeoff.foster@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3121
Jim Butler Mason, Putnamjim.butler@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3199
Jonathan Pinson Jackson, Mason jonathan.pinson@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3146
Todd Longanacre Greenbrier, Monroe todd.longanacre@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3129
SB 305 Decoupling
Mike Stuart Logan, Lincoln, Boone, Kanawha (part) mike.stuart@wvsenate.gov (304) 357-7939

Jan 24, 2023

HB 2979 the purpose of this bill is to establish a state animal abuse registry. Bill goes to Ag /Nr and then Judiciary. Del. Steele from Raleigh Same as HB 2181

HB 2983 this bill updates the current cruelty code 61-8-19 and includes definition of food, water, shelter, bedding, tethering. And vet care. This bill goes to judiciary. Del Williams of Monongalia

Hb 2995 gives requirements to be a veterinary nurse. This bill goes to Ag /Nr and then to Government Org and Judiciary Del Foster – Putnam

HB 2918 is to update the cruelty code 61-8-19 on removing an animal left unattended in a vehicle. This bill goes to AG/NR AND THEN JUDICIARY.

Delegate Westfall from Jackson

Jan 20, 2023 (to date total of 1308 bills introduced into 2023 session)

HB 2891 WOULD REPEAL THE DOMESTIC ANIMAL TAX IN CODE 8-13-10. THIS BILL GOES TO FINANCE. DELEGATE FOSTER Putnam SYLVIA

WVVAW Comment: Introduced as HB 2782 in 2022 also, went nowhere. This would repeal the dog tax. Now that may not be a lot of money but it contributes to animal control. Without it, how would we establish ownership of dogs?

Hb 2631 this would allow dogs in certain places where food is served such as Pubs. This bill goes to Health and Resources Committee

HB 2700 The purpose is to promulgate a legislative rule for non traditional domesticated animals can be inspected . This bill goes to AG/NR AND THEN TO Judiciary sponsored Del Foster Putnam

HB 2702 The purpose is to promulgate a rule to change the Livestock Care standards.

Hb 2614 This bill is changing fishing regulations. This bill goes to AG/NR AND THEN TO Judiciary.

WVVAW comment on HB 2614: This bill changes WV fishing regulations and states trotlines, droplines, minnow traps, jug fishing would be lawful and allowed on our rivers and streams. A trot line is a fishing line with baited hooks used to catch multiple fish at once. There is already allowance for trotlines, droplines and minnow traps in fishing regulations but jug fishing is new. Our streams are already littered so the last thing we need is more debris left along our streams. Unnecessary bill!

This can affect those who flyfish, kayak, canoe and enjoy recreational activities on our rivers and streams in WV. And what about deer, bear and other wildlife who may get caught in these devices? Kayaking has become quite popular in our state. Let's protect wildlife while not threatening our newest most popular water sport. Here is an article from 3 years ago in which one person died in these hooks.

Paddler groups frustrated by lack of regulation by state wildlife agency – Tennessee Lookout

HB 2783 The purpose is to exempt Primates from the Dangerous Wild Animal Act. This bill goes to AG/NR and then to Government Organization.

This would remove primates off this list and we definitely oppose that occurring. It makes no sense to remove primates from this list.

There are hundreds of primates that could be imported into facilities in WV without regulation. Not to mention the problem with health issues? by Delegates Chiarelli of Monongalia, Foster & Kirby of Putnam, and Brooks of Fayette & Raleigh

Sent to Agriculture and Natural Resources

WVVAW comment HB 2783: We do not think is going anywhere but will be following its progress. It is an extremely bad bill.

Jan. 16, 2023

Seven bills have been introduced this session. They are as follows. Please read these bills.

SB 78 CREATING A FELONY OFFENSE FOR AGGRAVED ANIMAL CRUELTY.

SB 200 WOULD ALLOW LEASED DOGS TO TRACK INJURED ELK TURKIES AND WILD BOAR

SB 217 THE PURPOSE IS TO ADD MORE PROTECTION FOR ANIMALS IN COLD WEATHER.

This is a good bill but they must add PROTECTION FROM DIRECT RAYS FROM THE SUN.

HB 2082 Would appeal breed specific discrimination ordinances and insurance.

HB 2117 Coyotes could be spotlighted when hunting.

HB 2181 would establish a statewide registry of people found guilty of cruelty to animals.

HB 2338 Would prohibit unlawful restraint of dogs. This bill and SB 78 should be combined. There is good in both bills. Sylvia Shafer WVVAW

Jan. 16, 2023 bills in more depth with comments from WVVAW

The 'protecting from the elements of the weather' in code 61.8.19 is a good example. Obviously with the recent bitter cold, some common sense applied would have saved dogs from freezing. The definition of shelter is one area of the law that needs enhanced.

SB 217 The purpose of this bill is to provide animals protection from cold weather. This bill gives a description of an adequate shelter but does not speak to hot weather. BILL STATES COLD WEATHER. Ag, NR and Judiciary committees

The definition of shelter has been pulled from previous bills and certainly helps to definite more fully 'protect from the elements of the weather.' Senator Chapman District 01 Counties: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall (part)

(It must also provide protection from the direct rays of the sun in hot weather) has been included in past definitions. We are always concerned about ambiguity so we think this should be added. We must ensure that in hot weather, this shelter definition would still apply and not be ignored under the law. Should be a cooperative effort between the two senators from district 01 to combine SB 217 and SB 78, add the protect from the sun clause and the result would be a decent bill.

SB 78 Creating felony offense for aggravated cruelty to animals. Same bill from 2022 and 2021 with Weld as sponsor. District 01 Counties: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall (part) sent to Judiciary. See out comment on SB 217

Now, we have intentional cruelty as a felony but it seems hard to prove and then of course the animal usually dies as a result before the charge is made. Often the perpetrators plea bargain their way out of a felony. That could still occur with this too but it is worth a closer look at this bill. Of note here is that felony is added in the code to the area of protection for shelter, food and water, medical treatment, etc. It is still going to be up to local law enforcement to determine that charge.

HB 2082 Repeal breed specific legislation Pertains to local ordinances and insurance. Same bill was introduced in 2022 and went nowhere. This is a good bill. It ensures that local ordinances cannot be enacted to discriminate on certain breeds and that insurance companies can't either. To Agriculture and Natural Resources then Judiciary / Sponsored by Del Walker Mon County

Concerned about breed specific bans and how to ensure that local ordinances cannot be enacted to discriminate on certain breeds and that insurance companies can't either; HB 2082 is one you will want to get behind. Get your delegate to sponsor this bill along with its current sponsor. It is always better for the bill to be bipartisan in sponsorship as you would expect.

HB 2181 Establish a State Cruelty Abuse Registry Del. Skaff introduced in 2022 and went nowhere with a lot more sponsors. AG and NR We are noticing an increase in dog neglect and cruelty. With 55 counties, it would be helpful to ensure that no one can go to another county to adopt if there was an animal abuse state registry. This one has been submitted before but gets little support from law enforcement since they are the ones who would need to keep up the registry.

HB 2338 Relating to unlawful restraint of dogs adds definition in §61-8-19d. Unlawful restraint of dogs. This offers some definition on shelter and outside tethered dogs. This bill has an extremely good definition of inclement weather It was introduced in 2022 and did not have movement. To Judiciary Del Griffith Cabell Wayne

We added these as an FYI

HB 2117 Regarding the killing of coyotes. The purpose of this bill is to permit year-round hunting of coyotes using artificial light or night vision technology and to permit hunting of coyotes at any hour. To AG NR & Judiciary

SB 200 To allow leashed dogs to track injured elk, wild boar, turkey. Sent to AG/NR. We have seen this bill before. It adds to wounded deer and bear. Sponsor Sen Hamilton District 11 Counties: Braxton, Webster, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, Barbour, Pendleton. To AG NR

Here we are again for another session with the WV State Legislature. We know everyone thinks we need more laws to help animals. We need some but really not many to do the job well. First, we need the enforcement of the laws we have. However, there are areas of ambiguity within the code. And bills that are just lacking in support of our furry friends.

Often bills get introduced as a courtesy to a local constituent. If bills do not get helped along they simply remain in committee and languish like the majority of other bills that never pass. If you have an interest in a bill, you have to get involved, get others involved, write to your legislators, post on social media, travel to Charleston to see them in person, make phone calls. Sounds like a lot of effort, doesn't it? Well, it definitely is. That is why only a small portion of bills actually make it through to passage and becoming law.

Read and see if you can get behind any of these that have been introduced. If you do nothing, then your argument remains that the law needs changed but you are unwilling to offer effort to get it done. It may be different this year and you could be that difference.