



PAWS II

Kara Holmquist



How PAWS Came to Be

- August 2013 case of abuse
- Galvanized people who care about animals to ensure that perpetrators are penalized in a manner sufficient for the crime



PAWS: An Act to Protect Animal Welfare and Safety (2014)

Governor Patrick signed PAWS into law; took effect in November 2014.

- Increased penalties for animal cruelty from 5 to 7 years in prison and from \$2,500 to \$5,000 fine
- Created enhanced penalties for repeat offenders (up to 10 years in prison and up to \$10,000)
- Required veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty (had been a “may” before; made it a “shall”)
- Created a task force

Animal Cruelty Task Force

- To engage in a thorough investigation of the strength and effectiveness of existing laws, as well as to determine what gaps exist.
- Members:
 - Veterinarian
 - ACO
 - MSPCA and ARL
 - MDAR
 - Attorney General
 - Pet Industry
 - Mass. Bar Association
 - State Police
 - District Attorneys Assoc.

ANIMAL CRUELTY
AND PROTECTION
TASK FORCE

*Findings and
Recommendations*

July 2016

PAWS II

Provisions



PAWS II: Ensure Abuse is Reported

Builds on Massachusetts law relating to the reporting of abuse, both of animals and vulnerable people, recognizing the link between these crimes

Mandates ACOs to report suspected elder, child, disabled persons abuse

Allows Elder Affairs, Disabled Person Protection Commission investigators to report suspect animal abuse



PAWS II: Prohibits the Drowning of Animals

- Applies to wild and domestic animals
- Fisheries and Wildlife will file report identifying best practices related to trapping and pest control, to include alternatives to drowning (due March); trigger for PAC agents



PAWS II: Efficient Enforcement of Animal Control Laws

Increases the effectiveness of and add more appropriate penalties to animal control laws that provide non-criminal penalties for violations (such as licensing violations; violations of the dangerous dog law).



PAWS II: Landlords Check Vacant Properties Abandoned Animals

- Require a landlord, owner, or assignee that knew or should have known that a property was vacated, to check the property within three days
- If they encounter an animal, they must immediately notify the police or animal control officer
- Deems animal abandoned



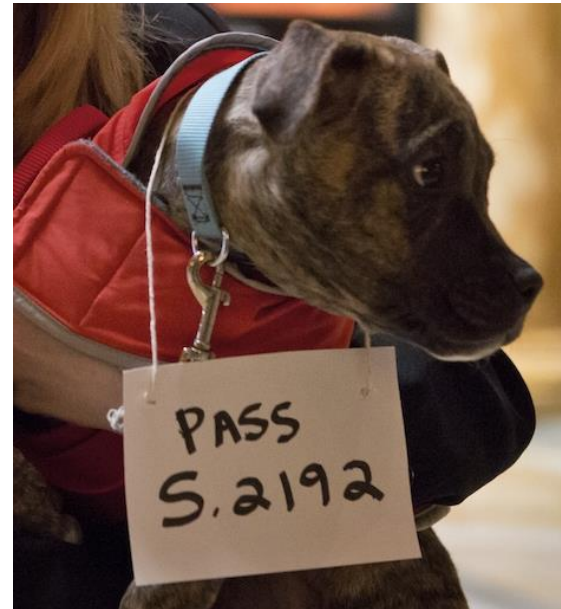
PAWS II: Animal Sexual Abuse

- Clarifies and updates the law against animal sexual abuse
- Prohibits sexual contact with an animal



PAWS II: Insurance and Dogs

- Requires insurers to ask more questions about dog bite incidents
- Allows for better tracking and identifying factors that contribute to dog incidents (not just focusing on breed)



PAWS II: Other Provisions

- Add animal crimes to the list of offenses that serve as the basis for a request for a determination of detention and/or release upon conditions
- Update the animal fighting law to prevent the automatic killing of animal fighting victims





PAWS II: advocacy

FOLLOW: 

Make sure PAWS II passes!

*Call to get a strong PAWS II done by midnight
TONIGHT!*

We need your help. PAWS II, An Act to protect animal welfare and safety, has passed both the Senate and House -- but, it is not done yet. **A conference committee is reconciling the differences between the two versions** (S. 2347 & H. 4565). They need to get this done ASAP so that it can be voted on by both the Senate and the House by midnight **TONIGHT when the session ends!**

1. Please call **your** state representative and state senator (visit



PAWS II Becomes Law

PAWS II was signed on August 9, 2018 by Governor Baker



The law went into effect on November 8, 2018

PAWS II: Next Steps

- Commission on reporting
- Drowning task force/Repeal effort?
- DOI
- Education, generally
- Making sure all works

