

HB

273

Alaska State Legislature

Rep. Sharon Cissna
Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom
Rep. Mark Neuman
Rep. Kurt Olson
Rep. Woodie Salmon



State Capitol, Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Co-Chairs
Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
(907) 465-3882 FAX 465-4956
Rep. Anna Fairclough
(907) 465-3777 FAX 465-2819

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2008

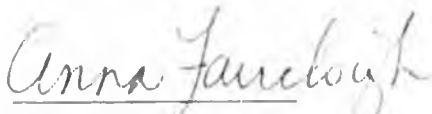
TO: Representative John Harris
Speaker of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Anna Fairclough, Co-Chair
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, Co-Chair
House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

RE: Waiving SB 273


The members of the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee agree to waive SB 273 from Committee and onto the next Committee of referral.


Signature and agreement to waive this resolution does not constitute support or opposition to the resolution, nor does it obligate a member to a specific vote on the House Floor.



Co-Chair Fairclough



Co-Chair LeDoux


Representative Dahlstrom


Representative Olson


Representative Neuman


Representative Salmon


Representative Cissna

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Resources Committee

•
Judiciary Committee

•
Transportation Committee



State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
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Fax: (907) 465-6615

716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 440
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SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

March 31, 2008

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, Chair
House Community & Regional Affairs Committee
Room 412, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative LeDoux,

I respectfully request a hearing on SB 273, which seeks to increase the penalty for the most heinous acts of animal cruelty, add an additional penalty if cruelty is committed as an attempt to threaten or intimidate another person, and criminalize participating in dog and animal fighting.

Forty-three states and the District of Columbia have enacted felony level penalties for atrocious acts of animal cruelty, yet Alaska ranks among the weakest states for animal protection. Research indicates that without intervention, people who abuse and kill animals are more likely to similarly abuse humans. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters state that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets. Many abusers have a history of animal abuse that precedes domestic violence toward their partner.

Passage of a felony-level animal cruelty law is a critical step toward halting the progression of violent crime. Thank you for your speedy consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Bill Wielechowski

25-LS1127M
Luckhaupt
4/9/08

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 273(JUD)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to cruelty to animals and promoting an exhibition of fighting animals."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1. AS 11.61.140(a) is amended to read:**

4 (a) A person commits cruelty to animals if the person

5 (1) knowingly inflicts severe and prolonged physical pain or suffering
6 on an animal;

7 (2) with criminal negligence, fails to care for an animal and, as a result,
8 causes the death of the animal or causes severe physical pain or prolonged suffering to
9 the animal;

10 (3) kills or injures an animal by the use of a decompression chamber;

11 **[OR]**

12 (4) intentionally kills or injures a pet or livestock by the use of poison;

13 **or**

14 **(5) knowingly kills or injures an animal, other than as provided in**

15 **(1) or (3) of this subsection, with the intent to intimidate, threaten, or terrorize**

1 another person.

2 * Sec. 2. AS 11.61.140(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) Each animal that is subject to cruelty to animals under (a) [(a)(1) - (4)] of
4 this section shall constitute a separate offense.

5 * Sec. 3. AS 11.61.140(f) is amended to read:

6 (f) Cruelty to animals under (a)(1), (3), or (4) of this section is a class C
7 felony. Cruelty to animals under (a)(2) or (5) of this section is a class A
8 misdemeanor. In addition to these penalties, the [THE] court may also

9 (1) require forfeiture of any animal affected to the state or to a
10 custodian that supplies shelter, care, or medical treatment for the animal;

11 (2) require the defendant to reimburse the state or a custodian for all
12 reasonable costs incurred in providing necessary shelter, care, veterinary attention, or
13 medical treatment for any animal affected;

14 (3) prohibit or limit the defendant's ownership, possession, or custody
15 of animals for up to 10 years.

16 * Sec. 4. AS 11.61.145(d) is amended to read:

17 (d) Promoting an exhibition of fighting animals

18 (1) under (a)(1) or (2) of this section is a class C felony;

19 (2) under (a)(3) of this section is a violation for the first offense,
20 [AND] a class B misdemeanor for the second offense, and a class A misdemeanor
21 for the third and each subsequent offense.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Senate Resources Committee

•
Senate Judiciary Committee

•
Senate Transportation Committee



Session:
State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
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Fax: (907) 465-6615

Interim:
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SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Senate Bill 273: Animal Cruelty/Dog-fighting

Forty-three states and the District of Columbia have enacted felony level penalties for atrocious acts of animal cruelty, yet Alaska ranks among the weakest states for animal protection. SB 273 seeks to increase the penalty for heinous acts against animals from a misdemeanor to a Class C felony and to criminalize participating in animal fighting.

Research indicates that without intervention, people who abuse and kill animals are more likely to similarly abuse humans. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters state that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets. Many abusers have a history of animal abuse that precedes domestic violence toward their partner.

In addition, animal cruelty often is an indicator that an individual poses a risk to himself and or others. A U.S. Department of Justice-supported longitudinal study found that animal abuse predicted which children would exhibit anti-social and aggressive behavior later in childhood, adolescence, and then adulthood. Serial killers and school shooters often have histories of abusing animals.

Passage of a felony-level animal cruelty law is a critical step toward halting the progression of violent crime. Please join us in supporting this critical legislation.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: **SB273-DOC-OC-02-27-08**
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SB273-DOC-OC-02-27-08 Dept. Affected: Corrections
 Title "Act relating to cruelty to animals and promoting an RDU Administration and Operations
exhibition of fighting animals." Component Office of the Commissioner
 Sponsor Senator Wielechowski
 Requester Senate Judiciary Component Number 694

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contract	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation should have no fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections.

Prepared by: Sharleen Griffin, Director
 Division: Administrative Services
 Approved by: Dwayne Peeples, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Corrections

Phone (907) 465-3339
 Date/Time 2/27/08 7:50 AM
 Date 2/27/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: SB273-LAW-CRIM-02-22-08
 Bill Version: SB273
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: LAW
 Title An Act relating to cruelty to animals. RDU Criminal
 Component Criminal Justice Litigation
 Sponsor SENATOR(S) WIELECHOWSKI
 Requester SENATE JUDICIARY Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 SB 273 would raise from a class A misdemeanor to a class C felony the crime of cruelty to animals, except for negligently failing to care for an animal and causing its death. The department does not expect a significant fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

Prepared by: Robert Meiners, Administrative Services Manager
 Division: Administrative Services Division
 Approved by: Talis Colberg, Attorney General
Department of Law

Phone 907-465-5427
 Date/Time 2/22/08 7:45 AM
 Date 2/22/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: SB 273
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: Alaska Court System
Title: Cruelty to Animals RDU: Trial Courts
Component: Trial Courts
Sponsor: Senator Wielechowski
Requester: _____ Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 Gr/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Senate Bill 273 would elevate from misdemeanors to felonies certain cruelty to animal cases and cases related to the promotion of fighting animals. Because of the small number of these cases that come before the court system, we do not anticipate any fiscal impact from the passage of SB 273.

Prepared by: Doug Wooliver, Administrative Attorney
Division: Alaska Court System
Approved by: Stephanie Cole, Administrative Director by Doug Wooliver

Phone 907-463-4750
Date/Time 2/26/2008 @ 10:15am
Date 2/26/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 273
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SB273-DOA-OPA-2-20-08 Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title "An Act relating to cruelty to animals and promoting an exhibition of fighting animals." RDU Legal and Advocacy Services
 Component Office of Public Advocacy
 Sponsor Senator Wielechowski
 Requester _____ Component Number 43

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

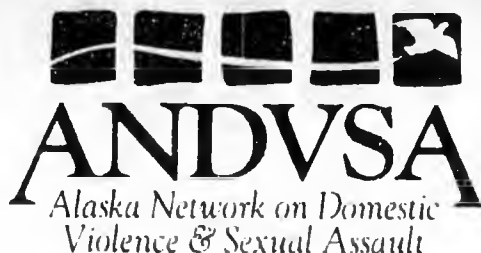
ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill elevates the crime of cruelty to animals from a misdemeanor to a class C felony under certain statutory subsections. Although elevating the level of an offense from a misdemeanor to a felony can have a fiscal impact on OPA, with the information currently available, this bill is not expected to have an impact on the agency.

Prepared by: Joshua P. Fink, Director
 Division: Office of Public Advocacy
 Approved by: Rachael Petro, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administration

Phone 907-269-3501
 Date/Time 2/20/08, 11:00a m
 Date 2/20/2008

Juneau Office
130 Seward St #209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Sitka Office
PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

March 14, 2008

Senator Wielechowski
State Capitol, Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

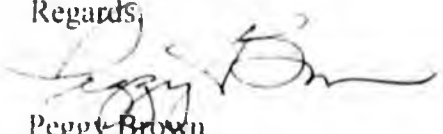
On behalf of the nineteen member domestic violence and sexual assault programs throughout the state that comprise the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, thank you for introducing SB 273. In addition to bringing Alaska up to speed with the 43 other states that have animal cruelty laws on the books, this bill would allow prosecutors to charge with a class A misdemeanor those who use cruelty to animals to threaten, intimidate, or terrorize another person.

Senator, you are well aware of the many published studies that substantiate the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence, and we thank you for introducing an amendment that is reflective of that connection. Studies re-published by American Humane and the National Coalition to End Domestic Violence indicate that over 70 percent of pet owners who enter domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets. Although Alaska-specific studies on this subject have not been conducted, anecdotal evidence from shelter advocates indicates a similar prevalence in our state.

We would also like to make it clear that classifying these acts of cruelty to animals as class C felonies does not constitute a disparity, because we understand that what is a class C felony when done to an animal under this bill is a class A felony when done to a person under existing law.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Domestic Assault fully supports legislation that gives prosecutors tools to ensure victim safety. Please let us know if we can provide further support, and thank you for sponsoring this bill.

Regards,



Peggy Brown
Executive Director

cc: Grace Danborn, Policy Research Associate

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, AWRC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC
Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRC Kotzebue MFCC
Nome BSWG Palmer AFS Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV



City of Kodiak
KODIAK POLICE DEPARTMENT
Animal Control

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Senate Bill 273

I am for stronger punishment for Animal Cruelty offenders. Far too often animals are treated inhumanely in heinous acts of cruelty and they are let off with little more than a slap on the wrist. If we can get Senate Bill 273 passed I believe it would be a step forward in keeping animals safe. There is a link where people who abuse their animals also have other abuse problems in their lives. By making cruelty have a stronger penalty it may discourage future crimes of a different kind as well as discourage them from ever inflicting cruelty on another animal.

Thank You,
Animal Control Officer Amy Wagner

217 Lower Mill Bay Rd
Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-8000



March 5, 2008

Senator Bill Wielechowski
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wielechowski,

As Alaska residents and members of the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association Executive Board we lend unanimous support to Senate Bill 273.

We know the association between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence are nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow. This bill will help guarantee such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as a crime with serious consequences.

Innocent animals need strong voices like yours to speak for them. Thank you for your efforts and work on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Myra Wilson DVM
Secretary
Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association

Katherine Pustay

From: Fetko, Dee Ann [FetkoDA@ci.anchorage.ak.us]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2008 8:17 AM
To: Katherine Pustay
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 273 - Letter from Animal Control Advisory Board

Katherine,

Here is the letter from the Animal Control Advisory Board. Thank you.

DeeAnn Fetko
Grants and Contracts Supervisor
Municipality of Anchorage
Department of Health & Human Services
(907) 343-4634 phone
(907) 249-7659 fax
fetkoda@muni.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephanie & Neil Koeniger [mailto:slknrk@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:42 PM
To: katherine.pustay@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: George Doty; Mary Troll; Sandy Traini; Laura Bain; Lori Hackenberger; Patty Ginsburg; Kayla Epstein; Fetko, Dee Ann
Subject: Senate Bill 273

Hi Katherine-

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 273. I understand that this bill may be coming up for hearing on February 27th. I am not available to testify on this bill on that date but did want you to have these written comments for the hearing.

Having read the bill, my understanding is that it would make dog fighting a Class C felony. It would also make repeat offenses on other abuse activities a Class C felony instead of the current Class B misdemeanor status. I have reviewed these proposed changes with the other members of the Municipal Animal Control Advisory Board and we support both proposed changes.

It has been acknowledged for many years now by both most law enforcement agencies throughout this country, as well as many social service agencies, that there is a direct correlation between individuals who abuse animals and their abuse of other people. This type of behavior cannot and should not be condoned. Elevation of these offenses to felony status reinforces that position and, while it may not stop the offenses, should be a significant deterrent to them.

We encourage Legislative passage of this Bill. In our efforts to discourage criminal behavior in Alaska this is a positive step. Support should be a "no brainer".

Please feel free to share these comments with the sponsor of the bill as well as any other legislators who may be interested in them and also make them available for tomorrow's hearing on this bill. While I have schedule conflicts which preclude my testifying, I would be happy to do so if it comes up later. I also am available electronically to answer questions any of them may have concerning my support and/or to provide additional input should they so desire.

Thank you for your attention to this input. Also please extend our thanks to Senator Wielechowski for advancing this proposed legislation.

We will follow its progress with interest.

Neil Koeniger, Chair
Animal Control Advisory Board
Municipality of Anchorage

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee on Monday, March 3.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link® between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences.

As an Animal Control Commissioner at our local Division of Animal Control since 1996, I have been exposed directly to first hand knowledge concerning incidents - educating me as to how limited we are legally to our efforts to gain justice for the voiceless. Even when the carcass of the animal-victim is brought forth, with background information and photographs that leave it absolutely evident of the abuse inflicted, and yet, because of the weakness of the laws or lack there-of, we are not able to gain a conviction of any sort against these abusers - short of a menial fine. The fine is paid, animal returned to owner, only to have further animals suffer at the hands of [many times] the same known abuser, again, fined and released.

What message does this send to our society?! As those who care remain horrified first at the act and/or level of abuse and secondly, the lack of seriousness by current Animal Abuse Laws given to the horrible crime.

We are the only hope for justice that these unconditional loving and defenseless creatures have. Please help give us the support necessary to help make the difference needed so desperately.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Ann Fortune
PO Box 72596
Fairbanks, AK 99707-2596

My name is Kiki Stirling. My husband and I have been rescuing and rehabilitating dogs in the interior for the last ten years. We've only recently become an official entity, and are in the process of building an animal refuge here in Fairbanks. Domestic animals in this state have little regard or protection, and along with our nationally high rape rate, domestic abuse rate, and murder rate, we are one of the worst animal welfare states in the union. These aren't things to be proud of.

It takes on average, a year for a dog to become rehabilitated when it's been either horribly abused physically, or mentally, or severely neglected. I realize that this bill doesn't include definitions of, or punishments for neglect, but neglect is as big a problem in Alaska as abuse is, and in many cases, the line between them is barely visible.

A guy in Fairbanks went on a rage one night in an apartment, and started beating his black lab with a pipe. Neighbors who tried to intervene were threatened. The cops were called, and he was charged with disorderly conduct or something, but wasn't charged for the abuse of the dog.

The dog, who lived, was brought to a rescue group, who spent hundreds of dollars to save this dog's life. He's currently living his life in a good home, minus a good chunk of his skull and one eye. Why does the man who's capable of doing this walk away without consequence? Can you imagine doing something so horrific? You look at your dogs, cats, horses etc., can you imagine them going through something so traumatizing? Look at your neighbors' animals. How many are well taken care of, well loved, and how many are not?

Animal shelters and law enforcement need to be able to prosecute animal abusers. There'll never be an end to abuse, torture, and neglect if there aren't laws that are strong enough, or can't be enforced.

Kiki Stirling
Thistledown Animal Rescue
Box 80724 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Hello,

I just wanted to voice my support for SB 273.

This felony cruelty bill is very important to the animals of Alaska. We have one of the weakest cruelty laws in the nation and probably per capita more dogs than most other states.

I have sired dogs. I understand the "farm animal" mentality that is so prevalent up here (which I totally don't agree with but that is for another day!) But what bothers me the most is that a person in Alaska can starve to death dogs (I have one that I took from the shelter that came in almost dead with 2 puppies while 6 of her kennel mates died of starvation on their chain--the owner is not being prosecuted at all...not even charged!!!) and there are rarely any follow ups and rarely are these people prosecuted.

This really needs to change and I pray that the Senate will do the right thing and keep progressing forward on this bill.

Thank you.

Carol Kleckner

P O Box 82856

Fairbanks Alaska 99708

907-479-0430

Dear Senator Hollis French,

One subject that will be presented to the Senate Judiciary committee hearing this Wednesday, Feb 27th will be about a change to our state animal cruelty laws. That change would add a Felony provision to the law. As the law stands now, animal cruelty can only be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

Strong animal cruelty laws are a first step towards stemming both future human and animal violence. As I am sure you know, there is a strong correlation between animal cruelty and human violence. A felony cruelty provision will provide a much needed tool that can be used in our courts to help protect both animals and people.

Alaska is now one of only seven states that does not have Felony cruelty laws, yet several cases of animal cruelty are discovered every year in the state. While several cases make the headlines in our major Alaskan newspapers, many more cases occur outside the state's major areas. I know as the Animal Control Officer for Valdez for the last 19 years that I have seen several cases that I would have liked to see prosecuted under a Felony law. I also know as a professional that there are other cruelty cases that do not deserve to be prosecuted in that manner. I think it is important to know that professional, trained law enforcement people do know the difference.

I am asking for your support in seeing this important bill is passed on to the Senate floor; and in seeing this bill go all the way in 2008.

Thank you,

Animal Shelter Facility Manger

Shana Anderson

Valdez Alaska

03/03/2008

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO SHOW THAT I SUPPORT SENATE BILL 273. I STRONGLY FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MANY INSTANCES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY THAT OCCUR UNNOTICED OR IGNORED IN THE STATE OF ALASKA. I HAVE TAKEN IN A FEW ANIMALS THAT WERE MISTREATED AND I WISH I COULD PROVIDE A GOOD HOME FOR MORE, BUT CANNOT DUE TO FINANCES. I THINK THAT IF THERE WAS SOME SORT OF PUNISHMENT OR REPERCUSSION FOR THE HORRIBLE THINGS THAT PEOPLE DO TO ANIMALS THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN LESS OFTEN.

SINCERELY,

KRISTINA LIVINGSTON
P.O. BOX 83796
FAIRBANKS, AK
99708



Jill A. Buckley, Esq.
Senior Director Legislative Services
& Mediator Training
P.O. Box 43
Plymouth, MA 01963

Phone: 508/833-2000
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www.aspcanet.org

February 18, 2008

Senator Bill Weilechowski
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Letter of Support for SB 273—Cruelty to Animals & Animal Fighting

Dear Senator Weilechowski:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and our 1500 Alaska members and donors, I am writing to express support for SB 273, a bill that will make certain acts of cruelty to animals, including promoting an exhibition of animal fighting, a felony in the State of Alaska.

We must ensure the penalty scheme of our animal cruelty statutes punishes the perpetrators sufficiently to deter the commission of the crime. By doing this, we will not only protect our companion animals but perhaps break the cycle that leads these individuals to harm other people.

Thank you for introducing this important humane legislation.

Sincerely,

Jill A. Buckley

Jill A. Buckley, Esq
Legislative Services



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877

Testimony by Allie Phillips, J.D. and Tracy Coppola, J.D.
Of the American Humane Association
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
In support of SB 273 – Felony Animal Cruelty
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

The American Humane Association, the nation's oldest non-profit organization with 130 years dedicated to protecting animals and children from abuse and neglect, would like to thank Chairman French for the opportunity to submit the following testimony in enthusiastic support of Senate Bill 273, sponsored by Senator Bill Wielechowski.

Alaska has one of the weakest animal cruelty laws in the nation¹. The beautiful state of Alaska is not immune to horrific acts of torture and cannot afford to ignore them. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, is accused of slamming her cat unconscious against a tree. He is only charged with a misdemeanor for his crime. In 2006, an 18-year-old Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. In addition to other related felony charges related to weapon offenses, he only received a \$100 fine for beating the dog.

These are just some of the examples why animal cruelty must finally be taken seriously in Alaska. Despite the escalating level of egregious animal cruelty acts and the nationally recognized danger these acts pose to society, Alaska's law lacks felony penalties for these acts. By doing so, it also attracts individuals who seek venues wherein they can abuse animals without facing any serious punishment.

For the welfare of both humans and animals, the law must treat all acts of violence against animals in a way that accurately reflects their magnitude. The strength of an animal cruelty law directly corresponds with how acts of animal abuse are investigated and prosecuted. For this reason, American Humane supports legislation that seeks to increase penalties for animal cruelty offenses.

By making certain forms of animal cruelty Class C felonies punishable up to five years in prison and/or a \$50,000 fine, Senate Bill 273 would ensure such actions will be more properly investigated, prosecuted, and treated as crimes with serious consequences. This is consistent with other states' felony cruelty laws and is a moderate bill.

SB 273 will make it a felony to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, killing/injuring an animal by use of a decompression chamber, intentionally killing/injuring a pet or livestock by the use of poison, and promoting animal fighting

¹ Currently, only seven states—Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah—penalize aggravated animal cruelty offenses as mere misdemeanors.

exhibitions. In addition, intentionally participating in an animal fight as a spectator for the second time would also become a felony offense.

Protecting animals from abuse is not just an animal welfare issue, it is also a societal issue of how to keep communities safe from violence. The Link® between animal cruelty and human violence is an internationally recognized fact. A growing body of research demonstrates the undeniable link between those who are cruel to animals and then progress toward human violence. Deliberate and brutal abuse of companion animals rarely occurs in isolated instances. Instead, animal abuse is often part of a vicious cycle of violence that often escalates to human abuse. Thus, strict enforcement against animal cruelty is necessary for a safe society.

Many studies in psychology, sociology, and criminology have demonstrated that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty. The FBI has recognized the connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Other research has shown consistent patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of more common forms of violence, including child abuse, spouse abuse, and elder abuse. In a nationwide study, over 71 percent of battered women reported that their abusers had harmed, killed or threatened animals. More than 75 percent of those incidents occurred in the presence of the women or their children.²

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations, and join the 43 other states by voting for passage of Senate Bill 273.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Phillips, J.D.
Director of Public Policy

Tracy Coppola, J.D.
Legislative Analyst

² Ascione, F.R., Weber, C.V., & Wood, D.S., *The Abuse of Animals and Domestic Violence: A National Survey of Shelters for Women Who are Battered* (Society and Animals, 1997, p. 205-218).



Animal Legal Defense Fund

JURISDICTIONS WITH FELONY ANIMAL ABUSE PROVISIONS (AND YEAR FIRST ENACTED)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Alabama (2000) | 27. New Mexico (1999) |
| 2. Arizona (1999) | 28. New York (1999) |
| 3. California (1988) | 29. North Carolina (1998) |
| 4. Colorado (2002) | 30. Ohio (2003) |
| 5. Connecticut (1996) | 31. Oklahoma (1887) |
| 6. Delaware (1994) | 32. Oregon (1995) |
| 7. Florida (1989) | 33. Pennsylvania (1995) |
| 8. Georgia (2000) | 34. Rhode Island (1896) |
| 9. Hawaii (2007) | 35. South Carolina (2000) |
| 10. Illinois (1999) | 36. Tennessee (2002) |
| 11. Indiana (1998) | 37. Texas (1997) |
| 12. Iowa (2000) | 38. Vermont (1998) |
| 13. Kansas (2006) | 39. Virginia (1999) |
| 14. Kentucky (2003) | 40. Washington (1994) |
| 15. Louisiana (1995) | 41. West Virginia (2003) |
| 16. Maine (1999) | 42. Wisconsin (1986) |
| 17. Maryland (2001) | 43. Wyoming (2003) |
| 18. Massachusetts (1804) | |
| 19. Michigan (1994) | |
| 20. Minnesota (2001) | <i>Territories, Districts &</i> |
| 21. Missouri (1994) | <i>Possessions:</i> |
| 22. Montana (1993) | District of Columbia (2001) |
| 23. Nebraska (2002) | Puerto Rico (2004) |
| 24. Nevada (1999) | Virgin Islands (2005) |
| 25. New Hampshire (1994) | |
| 26. New Jersey (2001) | |

JURISDICTIONS WITHOUT FELONY ANIMAL ABUSE PROVISIONS

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Alaska | <i>Territories, Districts &</i> |
| 2. Arkansas | <i>Possessions:</i> |
| 3. Idaho | American Samoa |
| 4. Mississippi | Northern Marianas |
| 5. North Dakota | Guam |
| 6. South Dakota | |
| 7. Utah | |



PETS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHY IT MATTERS

Pets are not immune to domestic violence. Batterers frequently threaten, injure, maim, or kill their partners' or children's pets in conjunction with domestic abuse. Because victims understand the extent of the harm that their abusers will likely inflict upon their pets, many hesitate to leave violent relationships out of concern for the safety of their pets. When batterers abused victims, victims see the animal cruelty as part of a long history of violence aimed at them and their families.¹ Recognizing this, an increasing number of shelters have added kennels or instituted "safe haven" animal foster care programs in an effort to protect victims, their children, and their pets.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets.²
- One study found that 87% of batterer-perpetrated incidents of pet abuse are committed in the presence of their partners for the purpose of revenge or control.³
- Studies show that up to 76% of batterer-perpetrated pet abuse incidents occur in the presence of children.⁴
- 13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.⁵
- Women in domestic violence shelters are 11 times more likely to report animal abuse by their partner than women not experiencing violence.⁶
- 85% of domestic violence shelters report that they commonly encounter women who speak about pet abuse incidents.⁶
- 52% of victims in shelters left their pets with their batterers.⁶
- Criminals and troubled youth have high rates of animal cruelty during their childhood, perpetrators often were victims of child abuse themselves.⁷
- Investigation of animal abuse is often the first point of social services intervention for a family experiencing domestic violence.⁸

THE LINK BETWEEN PET ABUSE AND DV

- Similar to domestic abuse, abusers demonstrate power and control over the family by threatening, harming, or killing animals.⁸
- Domestic violence victims whose batterers abuse their pets report more than twice as many incidents of child abuse as compared to domestic violence victims whose batterers have not abused their pets.¹⁰
- Batterers threaten, harm, or kill their children's pets in order to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse.¹¹
- Abusers harm pets to punish the victim for leaving, or in attempts to coerce her/him to return.¹⁷
- Abusers may harm pets to retaliate for acts of self-determination or independence.⁹
- Animal abusers are more likely to be domestic violence abusers, to have been arrested for other violent crimes and drug-related offenses, and engage in other delinquent behavior.¹
- Many abusers have a history of animal abuse that precedes domestic violence toward their partner.¹²
- Animals may sometimes be used as weapons against domestic violence victims.⁶

THE ROLE OF PETS

- Family pets are commonly viewed as family members and companions.
- 55% of domestic violence victims and their children report that their pets are very important sources of emotional support, thus violence toward pets may be especially devastating and viewed as another form of family violence.¹³
- A large majority of women residing in domestic violence shelters report being emotionally close to their pets and experience distress when their animals are abused.⁶
- Studies show that a vast majority of children who witness pet abuse become distressed and emotionally distraught.⁶
- Women without children are more likely to postpone seeking shelter out of concern for their pets' safety as compared to women with children, 33.3% versus 19.5%.⁶

BARRIERS TO SEEKING SERVICES

- 65% of women who report prior pet abuse continue to worry for their pets' welfare after entry into a shelter.⁶
- Up to 40% of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave.¹⁴
- Only 12% of domestic violence programs can provide shelter for pets and 24% provide referral services to local animal welfare organizations.¹⁵
- Victims of domestic violence have been known to live in their cars for as long as four months until an opening was available at a pet-friendly safe house or shelter.¹⁶

TIPS FOR VICTIMS WITH PETS⁹

- Some shelters allow pets and many others have established "safe haven" foster care programs for the animal victims of domestic violence.
- If it is not possible to take the animals when the victim leaves the home, try to arrange temporary shelter for the pets with a veterinarian, trusted friend or family member, or local animal shelter.
- When vaccinating pets against rabies and licensing them with the town or county, it is important that registrations are in the victim's name. This will serve as proof that the victim owns the pets.
- Prepare the pets for a quick departure: collect vaccination records, pet license, medical records, and other documents.
- Ask for help from animal care and control officers or law enforcement if pets need to be retrieved from the abuser. Never reclaim animals alone.

IF YOU NEED HELP

For more information or if you need help, please contact the
American Humane Association at 303-792-9900.
National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.
National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.
National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.

SOURCES

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NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

Protecting our companions

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Kodiak law enforcer supports tougher animal cruelty punishment in

text size: [-] [+]

Alaska

Article published on Friday, Feb 01st, 2008

By MISTY MAYNARD

Mirror Writer

Alaska is among seven states identified recently by the Humane Society of the United States as having the weakest laws to punish those convicted of animal cruelty or neglect.

In the information released, HSUS deputy manager Dale Bartlett said the states identified have been "hard on animals and soft on crime for far too long."

"It's past time for them to listen to their humane-minded constituents and to pass felony animal cruelty legislation to protect both the animal and human members of their communities," he said.

Other states identified include Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Utah and Mississippi. Of the seven identified, Utah and Mississippi are expected to consider felony animal cruelty bills when their legislatures meet this year.

According to the press release, of the seven, Alaska has the strongest penalties, though it lacks a felony animal cruelty law. State statute carries maximum penalties of one year in jail and \$10,000 in fines. Judges may also prohibit a convicted animal abuser from owning an animal for up to 10 years.

Local codes

The Kodiak Island Borough and City of Kodiak have animal cruelty codes. The Kodiak Police Department animal control officer, Amy Wagner, enforces the codes.

Both codes outline the basics for animal care, requiring a pet owner to provide food, water and adequate shelter to protect the animal from the weather. Additionally, animals cannot be overcrowded, and clean bedding should be provided.

Structures, coops, pens and yards must also be maintained.

A violation of the code will result in a citation and a mandatory court appearance. If found guilty, a person faces a fine. The amount of the fine is set by the magistrate.

In 2007, the police department received about 1,200 calls for animal control, Wagner said Wednesday afternoon. Only 70 of those calls concerned some kind of animal cruelty, five of those 70 calls resulted in citations, and in only three of the five cases was the animal permanently taken from the home.

"We get a lot of welfare check calls," Wagner said, "which is good."

Sometimes the calls simply inform police an animal appears not to have any food, or does not have adequate shelter. Rarely are there cases of actual, severe abuse warranting charges.

Every call is followed up, Wagner said.

Wagner and her supervisor at the police department, Sgt. Kyle Valerio, both said in many cases a visit with

"There are different levels of all crimes," he said. "It's definitely time animal cruelty (laws) should be stepped up, depending on the level of cruelty."

Valerio said cruelty to animals has a proven link to other crimes.

"People that abuse animals abuse people, too," Valerio said.

Kodiak Animal Shelter

Whenever an animal is abandoned or picked up by Wagner, it is taken to the Kodiak Animal Shelter, operated by the Humane Society of Kodiak. The Humane Society of Kodiak is not affiliated with HSUS.

The shelter strives to be 100 percent no-kill for friendly, adoptable animals. Animals that are euthanized are those too ill or injured to receive care, too vicious, or possessing behavioral problems that cannot be corrected.

Some of the animals at the shelter remain there a year or more before they find homes.

In 2007, the shelter had 192 cats come in, and 444 dogs. Shelter manager Kathy Daquilanea said the shelter has had a large increase in the number of dogs.

The shelter also sometimes gets other animals, including rabbits, rodents and birds.

The adoption rate for animals is high, with 181 cats adopted in 2007, and 428 dogs.

Daquilanea said she rarely sees abuse cases come into the shelter. In fact, in her 13 years working at the shelter she remembers only five serious cases.

"Kodiak people are, for the most part, really good with their pets," she said.

What she does consider cruel, though it may not involve any kind of physical injury, is when an animal is picked up, obviously healthy and cared for, and the owner never comes looking for it. Or, if someone decides they no longer want an animal and drop it off at the shelter without leaving information such as name, age, medical history and notes about whether an animal is good with children or other animals. That kind of information is important when trying to find the animal a home, Daquilanea said.

A recent shelter acquisition is an older black Lab picked up in the 400 block of Hillside Drive at the end of December.

The dog, called "Girlie" by shelter staff, is healthy and wore a collar, though she had no identifying tag.

"She obviously belonged to somebody," Daquilanea said. "But nobody's called."

the owner is all it takes.

Sometimes the owner is not aware of the code, or is unaware that the shelter provided is not adequate. Sometimes, Wagner said it is a case of miscommunication. For example, different members of a family thought one of the others was giving the dog water, while none actually were. Most of the time, the owners are apologetic and quick to fix any wrong, Wagner said.

Some of the more severe cases of abuse or neglect involve horses, which require more care than other domestic animals. Wagner said some horses are free-range horses, and may thrive in the summer, but find foraging for food in the winter difficult.

Some of the biggest problems Wagner sees come from pets permitted to roam free. Especially when dogs are unrestrained and unsupervised, there can be problems. Dogs will "pack up" and run down deer or other animals, such as geese or chickens, Wagner said, killing the animals. The animals may be perfectly friendly and obedient when around their masters, but the hunting instinct is strong, Wagner said. Many people do not realize dogs running wildlife can be shot on the scene.

Abandonment of pets is also a problem at times. Because of the transient population in Kodiak, people are often moving in and out. When they move out, sometimes animals are left behind. When that's the case, Wagner tries to bring the animals to the local shelter. When animals are abandoned in the villages, they are also sometimes shipped in to the city shelter.

While there haven't been many cases of severe animal cruelty in Kodiak, that doesn't mean there will not be. Valerio said he supports a felony cruelty law.

The dog had a wound under its collar that festered and had to be treated.

Another shelter animal was Rosie, a 10-week-old mixed breed puppy that was healthy when she came in except for an untreated infection on her face that left it scarred. The infection was easily treated with antibiotics.

Rosie was never claimed by her previous owner, but was adopted out earlier this month.

Mirror writer Misty Maynard can be reached via e-mail at mmaynard@kodiakdailymirror.com.

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Report: Alaska among states with weakest animal abuse laws

Associated Press - November 13, 2007 1:14 PM ET

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (AP) - The Animal Legal Defense Fund says in a new report that Alaska is among five states with the weakest animal abuse laws in the nation.

Along with Alaska, Utah, Arkansas, Kentucky, and North Dakota round out the report's list of the five "best states to be an animal abuser."

Getting top grades as the best states for animals are California, Illinois, Maine, Michigan and Oregon.

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Group says Alaska is haven for animal abusers

By Grace Jang, CBS 11 News Reporter
KTVA

Article Last Updated: 11/13/2007 07:51:41 PM AKST

Alaska is one of the worst states when it comes to cracking down on animal cruelty. There is some discouraging news for animal lovers after a national study has found that people who abuse animals here in Alaska will most likely get away with it, because our laws are not tough enough.

As CBS 11 News found out: there's a link between pet abuse and other crimes. Studies show those who abuse animals are more likely to hurt people, such as is seen in domestic violence cases. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has found our state has some of the worst laws on the books when it comes to punishing animal abusers.

"So it's important from a community safety perspective that the courts are able to look at the mental health of offenders," said the director of Legislative Affairs for the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Stephan K. Otto, Esq.

Animal rights activists say how we treat our animals is a reflection of how we treat each other.

"Seventy percent of animal abusers had committed at least one other criminal offense. And that 40 percent of them had committed violent crimes against people," said Otto.

Animal lovers in Alaska say the new study shows it's time for action.

"I've seen a lot of cats and dogs and animals getting hurt by people who do it on purpose," said pet owner, Myriah Prater.

"Alaska is a very big state and Anchorage is a small part of it, but we would definitely lend our support in a movement that made it a felony," said Scott Gower of Animal Care and Control.

The ALDF urges Alaskans to contact their lawmakers for stronger animal cruelty laws.

"More than 63 percent of all U.S. households have a pet living with them. And while animals don't vote, those who love them do. And so we think protecting animals is good politics," said Otto.

The California-based organization is also asking states to keep better records of animal abuse cases and asking the FBI to keep track of the worst ones.

If you'd like more information on this new study on laws against animal cruelty, click below:



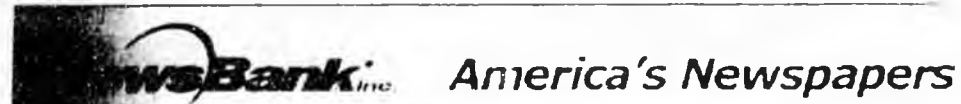
To contact Grace, call 907-273-3186.



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**IN BRIEF****Anchorage Daily News (AK) - January 21, 2008****Author: Staff****STATEWIDE****Animal laws get low rank**

Alaska has made The Humane Society's top seven states for the weakest laws against animal cruelty. The animal welfare organization issued its list Thursday. It ranked the seven from the best to the worst.

Alaska ranked first for having the strongest penalties for animal cruelty among the seven worst states. The group says animal cruelty in Alaska carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Utah and Mississippi also made the list. Mississippi had the weakest animal cruelty laws with penalties capped at six months and \$1,000.

The group says Alaska also is one of the states that has no felony animal cruelty provisions.

-- The Associated Press

STATEWIDE**Alaska leads in dog bites**

State epidemiologists say Alaska led the nation in dog bite injury deaths and hospitalizations from 1991 to 2002.

During that period, nine people died and 288 were hospitalized for injuries.

Among Alaska regions, the Interior had an annual rate of 4.6 injuries per 100,000 people.

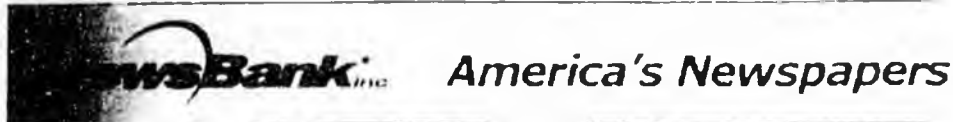
The information comes from the state's dog bite fatality database and the Alaska Trauma Registry.

State officials say they're trying to educate the public about how to avoid an injury through more school field trips to animal shelters and public service announcements.

Experts say it's best to extend the back of the hand -- slowly and with no eye contact -- when approaching an unfamiliar dog.

-- The Associated Press

Edition: Final**Section: Main****Page: A9****Record Number: 1605501201/21/08****Copyright (c) 2008, Anchorage Daily News**

**State animal abuse laws rank low****Anchorage Daily News (AK) - November 14, 2007****Author: The Associated Press ; WIRE**

Alaska is among the five worst states to live in -- for animals, according to a new report ranking all 50 states.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund said in the report that Alaska has some of the weakest animal abuse laws in the nation, along with Arkansas, Kentucky, North Dakota and Utah. The five are dubbed as the five "best states to be an animal abuser."

California, Illinois, Maine, Michigan and Oregon topped the list as the five states with the strongest commitment to protecting animals.

The Cotati, Calif.-based organization said it sifted through more than 2,800 pages of statutes and tracked 14 areas of law.

Alaska got low marks, the group said, because it has no felony animal cruelty laws, inadequate animal fighting provisions, insufficient systems for helping to offset the expense of caring for abused animals. The state has no mandates in place for counseling or mental health evaluations for people convicted of violations involving animals, the group said.

BARKING MAD? If this story has got your hackles up. go online to voice your opinion. Also, see what other Alaska dog owners are saying about their canine companions, and look at pictures and videos.

adn.com/dogblog

Caption: Photo 1: 14BOSSSES-SE_111407.jpg

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Page: B2

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*****SPAM***** CSSB273

Carol [busface1999@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 12:00 PM

To: Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Representative_Nancy_Olson@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Mark Neuman; Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.stae.ak.us; Rep. Woodie Salmon

Cc: Rep. Bob Lynn

3/31/08

Members of the CRA Committee:

The above reference bill was referred to your committee last Friday after it passed the House. It is very important that this bill pass out of your committee ASAP. The bill deals with an urgently needed change to our very weak animal cruelty law. The main change in this bill is to make some animal cruelty a Class C felony.

I would like to see some amendments to this bill: Section 1 (a) (4) "intentionally kills or injures a pet or livestock [by the use of poison] **unless the killing or injuring can be proven to be in defense of life.**

Next change: Sec 3 (f) Cruelty to animals under (a)(1), (3), **(a) (2), (5)** or (4) of this section is a class c felony. [Cruelty to animals under (a) (2) or (5) of this section is a class A misdemeanor]. What I'm asking for is to include all cruelty to animals as a class c felony. The majority of animal abuse in Alaska are done intentionally. The new sentence 5 in Section 1 (a), if you remove the last part of the sentence as I've suggested, will finally give our law some teeth. Alaska is only one of six states that does not have a felony level penalty for animal cruelty, and are the worst offenders!

Please amend and pass this bill ASAP.

Thank you.

Carol Jensen
10821 Baronik St
Anchorage, AK 99516
Email: busface1999@yahoo.com
Phone: 907-244-1979 (days)

Please support S.B. 273 to increase penalties for animal cruelty

dfmsd@uaa.alaska.edu [dfmsd@uaa.alaska.edu]

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 11:51 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative LeDoux,

Animal cruelty is bad for animals - and for our communities. Numerous studies show the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Please support S.B. 273 to strengthen the animal cruelty law in Alaska.

Alaska is one of just six states in the entire country with no felony-level penalties for the most egregious acts of intentional animal cruelty such as burning, poisoning, and torture. S.B. 273 would make it a felony to torture or poison an animal.

Animal cruelty is a precursor to other violent criminal acts. Increasing penalties for perpetrating such cruelty is imperative to protecting animals and our society.

Please support S.B. 273 when it comes before you for your consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Margie Draskovich
3511 Tugidak Court
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please support S.B. 273 to increase penalties for animal cruelty

slmorrison9@yahoo.com [slmorrison9@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 1:49 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative LeDoux,

Alaska is one of only six states in the entire country with no felony level penalties for egregious acts of animal cruelty. Animal cruelty is often linked to human violence -- strong penalties for animal cruelty can protect both animals and our communities.

S.B. 273 would strengthen Alaska's animal cruelty law by making it a felony to torture or poison an animal.

Intentional cruelty is a sign of psychological distress and often indicates that an individual either has already experienced violence or may be predisposed to committing acts of violence. Strong penalties must be available for egregious acts of animal cruelty.

Please help protect animals and society by strengthening Alaska's animal cruelty law. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan Morrison
PO Box KZB
Kodiak, AK 99697

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Jeanette Gann [jeanette.gann@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:02 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link® between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jeanette Gann
718 5Th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of April Warwick [awarwick@ak.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please make laws to protect the defenseless animals from cruel people who abuse and kill them.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. April Warwick
5716 Kennyhill Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504-3724

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Greg Brown
[brown_greg@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Greg Brown
19400 Beardsley Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Arlene Jasper
[oregon@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:02 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Arlene Jasper
917 W 12th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501-4312

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Jane Smith [fnjes@uaf.edu]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:02 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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I volunteer at the animal shelter and I have seen a number of animals come through the shelter that have been horrible abused or neglected by their owners. These people need to be held accountable.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jane Smith
1601 Drouin Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5953

Support SB 273 Animal cruelty is a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Megan Premer
[premermr@muni.org]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:02 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Megan Premer
4161 E. 20th Ave., #27
Anchorage, AK 99508-3504

Please Support SB 273

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Amy Morgan
[amy.morgan@ccsjuneau.org]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/cr a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amy Morgan
326 4th St Apt 1004
Juneau, AK 99801-1176

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Tina Brown
[zerobridgewon@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tina Brown
19400 Beardsley Way
Juneau, AK 99801-8219

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Colleen Sweany
[whitebear@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 11:02 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link® between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences. I live in AK also. please vote for the senate bill 273.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Colleen Sweany
124 W Arctic Ave Apt 7
Palmer, AK 99645-6252

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Jonathan Galin [galin@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link[®] between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences. Alaskans as Stewards of our animals have a moral and legal responsibility to have strong FELONY laws against inhumane treatment of animals.

My family and Alaskan friends I've discussed this with strongly support this legislation.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Galin
4120 Woronzof Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Victoria Faeo
[victoria@cbpp.uaa.alaska.edu]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 11:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Victoria Faeo
3211 Providence Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508-4614

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of SANDRA QUINONES
[sandraleta@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 11:33 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. SANDRA QUINONES
330 Villa Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504-1348

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Deanna Didrickson [swc961@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 12:02 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Deanna Didrickson
860 S Woodcrest
Wasilla, AK 99654

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Kathy Franz
[catpaw41@earthlink.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:32 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathy Franz
1569 Northfield Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6014

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Alicia Little
[coachali@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 12:33 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link® between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alicia Little
PO Box 3427
Palmer, AK 99645-3427

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Tanya Kukahiko [tkukahiko@ounalashka.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 2:03 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Miss Tanya Kukahiko
53 Jack London Dr
Unalaska, AK 99685

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Tracy Davis
[tracydavis@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 2:33 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tracy Davis
17407 Charity Ln
Eagle River, AK 99577-7591

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of James Klaich [jklaich@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 5:09 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Klaich
320 Wedgewood Dr Apt G10
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1639

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Mark Eimer
[1maxdaddy@clearwire.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 5:09 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Eimer
6631 Lunar Dr
Anchorage, AK 99504-4550

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Pamela Nelson
[snowpawz@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 5:09 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pamela Nelson
3241 Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801-1917



Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Janice Weiler [joplinjan13@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 5:09 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused



Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Skylar Arend
[quantumfox@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 7:09 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Skylar Arend
16300 Sandpiper Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516-5053

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Richard Kapus Jr
[rlkjr@gci.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 8:39 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 3, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Kapus Jr
2415 Hemlock Ave Apt 608
Ketchikan, AK 99901-5863

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Dana Foster
[dragongr181@charter.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:39 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 4, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dana Foster
432 7th St Apt D
Ft Richardson, AK 99505-1117

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Nancy Moore
[nmoore@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 11:10 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 4, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Miss Nancy Moore
PO Box 399
Palmer, AK 99645-0399

Animal Cruelty Bill

Shana Kraft-Anderson [sanderson@ci.valdez.ak.us]

Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 9:39 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Dear Representative LeDoux,

We are asking your support of SB 273, which would add felony provisions to our present State Animal Cruelty laws. Alaska is one of only 7 states where Animal Cruelty laws do not carry these options. With time running out on the 2008 session, please consider this bill important enough to pass through your committee quickly. As you can see from letters already sent in, there is strong support in the state to see this happen.

Thank you,

Animal Shelter Facility Manger

Shana Anderson

Valdez Animal Shelter

Valdez Alaska

907-835-4560

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Joanna Dulowska
[vada@onet.eu]

Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 10:59 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 4, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Miss Joanna Dulowska
Debowa
Grudziadz, AK 86300

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Edy Newsom
[edypathways@gci.net]

Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 5:00 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 4, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences. I believe that you understand the importance of reducing animal cruelty in Alaska, and I hope that you will vote to make this Bill a law; it is the right thing to do.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Edy Newsom
717 Barrow St
Anchorage, AK 99501-3632

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Dominik Zurawski
[www.ligo@wp.pl]

Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 5:00 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 4, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dominik Zurawski
kole12
Grudziadz/Poland, AK 86300

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Marleen Thibodeau [mfthibodeau@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 9:00 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 5, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marleen Thibodeau
1933 Yankovich Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6540

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Luke Gilson [djgilb@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2008 1:01 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 5, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Mr. Luke Gilson
3127 Princeton Way
Anchorage, AK 99508-4436

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of dolores kulik [grzly@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2008 1:02 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 5, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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It is unconscionable that AK is one of only 7 states that are inhumane through negligence. I know I misquote, but you know the gist of it: All it takes for a guilty man to go free is ten good men to do nothing.
Please do something.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. dolores kulik
3531 Heartwood Pl
Anchorage, AK 99504-3902

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Paula Beneke [pbeneke@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 06, 2008 12:04 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 6, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link® between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Beneke
2101 W 29th Ave Unit 11
Anchorage, AK 99517-1909

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Sue Davies [Ishpaws@gci.net]

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 12:37 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 7, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sue Davies
1871 E 53rd Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507-1604

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Patricia Brackebush
[wwfuel@bristolbay.com]

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 11:09 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 8, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link[®] between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patricia Brackebush
PO Box 212
Naknek, AK 99633-0212

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of karen dupont
[booboo@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 12:09 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 8, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

Alaska's weak animal cruelty law has a tremendously detrimental impact on children and animals. The Link [B](#) between animal abuse and other forms of societal violence is nationally recognized. Threats or actions against companion animals are strong indicators that violence against human family members will follow.

Introduced by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, SB 273 will make it a felony punishable by up to five years' incarceration and/or a \$50,000 fine to knowingly inflict severe pain or suffering on an animal, to kill or injure an animal by use of a decompression chamber, to intentionally kill or injure a pet or livestock via poison and to promote animal fighting exhibitions. Intentionally participating as a spectator at an animal fight for the second time would also become a felony offense. SB 273 will help ensure such actions will be properly reported, investigated and prosecuted as crimes with serious consequences. I believe it is the right thing for our State to implement tougher penalties for animal cruelty. I urge you to consider supporting this legislation.

Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. karen dupont
PO Box 877411
Wasilla, AK 99687-7411

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Nora Conner
[n_conner@gci.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 11:42 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 9, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nora Conner
733 Fischer Ave
Anchorage, AK 99518-1848

Support SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony

American Humane [info@americanhumane.org] on behalf of Leslie Law [lunchlaw@alaska.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2008 8:42 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Apr 9, 2008

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
AK

Dear Rep. LeDoux,

As an Alaska resident and a supporter of the American Humane Association, I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 273 as it comes before your committee.

Alaska remains one of seven states without a felony law regarding animal cruelty. Because of this, even the most horrific acts of torture to companion animals are virtually ignored. Last November, a Fairbanks man, following an argument with his wife, was accused of slamming her cat against a tree until it was unconscious. He was only charged with a misdemeanor. In 2006, an Anchorage man was convicted of beating his brother's dog. He only received a \$100 fine.

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Please help ensure a more humane Alaska for future generations by voting for SB 273.

Sincerely,

Ms. Leslie Law
19928 Cohen Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8210

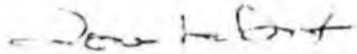
April 7, 2008

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Alaska State Capitol Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative LeDoux:

Thank you for supporting SB 273 to make animal cruelty a felony. Words do not express my gratitude for a bill long overdue. If I can help with this effort please contact me. I am available to help with mail outs, phone calls, etc. Thank you for making the world a better place to live.

Sincerely,



Jaci LeDoux
PO Box 3966
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-260-6333
907-301-2193 cell
jaciledoux@yahoo.com

Letters written to:
B. Wielechowski & A. Fairclough

Gabrielle, I introduced myself to you at the book store when I was in Kodiak. I've cheered for Matt in football. He is a great player. I finally met him when by accident he sat behind me at a basketball game. I introduced myself and I will never forget, he asked me if any one calls me "duck"...and they do...I have a duck collection because of my name.

Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Mark Neuman
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2008 10:46 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: SB 273 Animal Cruelty Bill

From: Shana Kraft-Anderson [mailto:sanderson@ci.valdez.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 9:41 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Animal Cruelty Bill

Dear Representative Neuman,

We are asking your support of SB 273, which would add felony provisions to our present State Animal Cruelty laws. Alaska is one of only 7 states where Animal Cruelty laws do not carry these options. With time running out on the 2008 session, please consider this bill important enough to pass through your committee quickly. As you can see from letters already sent in, there is strong support in the state to see this happen.

Thank you.

Animal Shelter Facility Manger

Shana Anderson

Valdez Animal Shelter

Valdez Alaska

907-835-4560

*****SPAM***** SB 273

g ashman [acinak02@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 10:39 PM

To: Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Cc: Rep. Bob Bush

To: Members of House Community & Regional Affairs
Committee

cc: House Representative Bush

I am writing to express my support for SB 273 "An Act relating to cruelty to animals and promoting an exhibition of fighting animals."

It is my understanding that this bill has been passed by the Senate, and will be discussed at your Committee meeting on April 10. I encourage you to support this bill, thus recognizing the seriousness of animal cruelty and making it a felony in most instances. This is in line with many other states.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
Gina Ashman
PO Box 243585
Anchorage, AK 99502
Resident of district 27 N

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Sonya Hymer

From: Rep. Mark Neuman
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2008 10:46 AM
To: Sonya Hymer
Subject: FW: SB 273 Animal Cruelty Bill

From: Shana Kraft-Anderson [mailto:sanderson@ci.valdez.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 9:41 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Animal Cruelty Bill

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Thank you.

Animal Shelter Facility Manger

Shana Anderson

Valdez Animal Shelter

Valdez Alaska

907-835-4560

*****SPAM***** SB 273

g ashman [acinak02@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 10:39 PM

To: Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Cc: Rep. Bob Buch

To: Members of House Community & Regional Affairs
Committee

cc: House Representative Buch

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Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
Gina Ashman
PO Box 243585
Anchorage, AK 99502
Resident of district 27 N

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