



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**THE GENERAL COURT**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Therese Murray  
Senate President  
State House, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo  
Speaker of the House  
State House, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Murray and Speaker DeLeo:

We are writing to request your immediate assistance in securing the passage of a comprehensive animal welfare bill before the current legislative session ends.

We were all deeply troubled to read last year about the tragic case of "Puppy Doe", a dog that was euthanized after enduring unthinkable acts of abuse. According to news reports, "Puppy Doe" was discovered abandoned in a Quincy park, suffering from a stab wound to her eye, along with a dislocated shoulder, elbow, wrist and ankle. She had also been burned and starved, and her tongue had been split to look like a serpent.

The "Puppy Doe" case has brought renewed attention to the state's laws against animal abuse and cruelty, and has raised questions about how we can do more to prevent similar atrocities in the future. Although animal welfare legislation has cleared the Judiciary Committee and is currently pending before the House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, we are concerned that more animals will be subject to abuse and neglect unless we act quickly to get a comprehensive bill to the Governor's desk and signed into law this session. This bill, at a minimum, should include increased penalties for cruelty to animals as well as a task force to explore methods for preventing animal abuse.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you both to achieve this critical goal before formal sessions end.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Tarr  
State Senator

Robert L. Hedlund  
State Senator

Donald F. Humason, Jr.  
State Senator

Mark C. Montigny  
State Senator

Richard J. Ross  
State Senator

John F. Keenan  
State Senator



Angelo D'Emilia  
State Representative



Nick Collins  
State Representative



Timothy Madden  
State Representative



Sal DiDomenico  
State Senator



Cynthia Stone Creem  
State Senator



James Arciero  
State Representative



Bruce J. Ayers  
State Representative



Tom Calter  
State Representative



Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.  
State Representative




Anthony Petrucci  
State Senator



Carole Fiola  
State Representative



Shaunna O'Connell  
State Representative



Jennifer Benson  
State Representative



Kevin Kuros  
State Representative



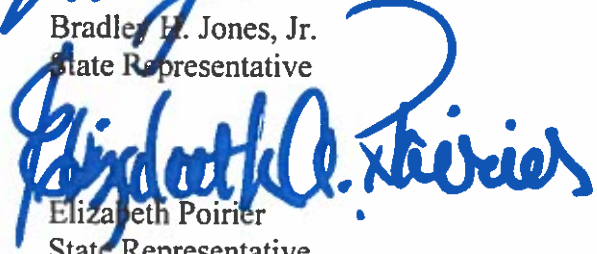
James J. Lyons, Jr.  
State Representative



Bradley H. Jones, Jr.  
State Representative



Brad Hill  
State Representative



Elizabeth Poirier  
State Representative




Kate Hogan  
State Representative


Lenny Mirra  
State Representative



  
Diana DiZoglio  
State Representative

  
Paul Heroux  
State Representative

  
Marc T. Lombardo  
State Representative

  
Leah Cole  
State Representative

  
Kenneth Donnelly  
State Senator

  
Anne Gobi  
State Representative

  
James Cantwell  
State Representative

  
Cleon H. Turner  
State Representative


  
Daniel Ryan  
State Representative


  
Michael J. Rodrigues  
State Senator

  
James L. Dwyer  
State Representative

  
Colleen Garry  
State Representative

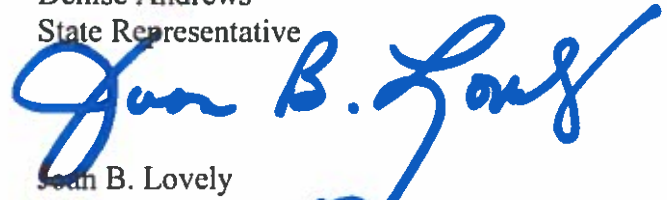
  
Mike Rush  
State Senator

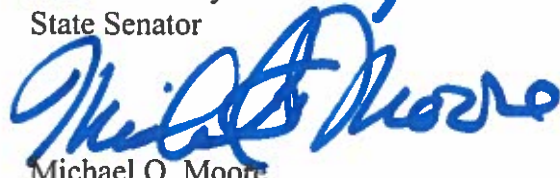
  
David T. Vieira  
State Representative


  
Tackey Chan  
State Representative

  
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.  
State Representative

  
Denise Andrews  
State Representative

  
Joan B. Lovely  
State Senator

  
Michael O. Moore  
State Senator

  
Kimberly Ferguson  
State Representative

Mark Cusack  
State Representative

Susan Gifford  
State Representative

Chris Walsh  
State Representative

Steven Howitt  
State Representative

James E. Timilty  
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Richard T. Moore  
State Senator

Smitty Pignatelli  
State Representative

Ryan Catman  
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Stephen DiNatale  
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Liz Malia  
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Sheila C. Harrington  
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Shawn C. Dooley  
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Ann-Margaret Ferrante  
State Representative

Lori A. Ehrlich  
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Kathleen O'Connor Ives  
State Senator

Frank A. Moran  
State Representative

Gale D. Candaras  
State Senator

Nicholas A. Boldyga  
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Josh Cutler  
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Donald Wong  
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George Peterson  
State Representative



Kay Khan  
State Representative