

## **Amendment to the Pennsylvania Animal Cruelty Law**

**HB 2532**

**Sponsor: Representative Thomas R. Caltagirone**

**Date Introduced: 13 May 2008**

**Summary:**

HB 2532 will improve the scope of animal cruelty laws, amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the PA Consolidated Statutes. The bill will prevent surgical procedures by parties other than licensed veterinarians, making surgical procedures performed by those with no formal training, often in unsanitary conditions and without anesthetics, such as surgical birth, debarking and tail docking after three days of age, in violation of the cruelty statute.

Additionally, the statutory change would provide clear authority for the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to enforce the animal cruelty statute, within their scope of duties as it relates to dogs, in areas where there are no humane society officers. Currently, in a state dog law warden discovers evidence of dog cruelty during their duties, they can report it to a humane society officer, who can then bring forth appropriate charges. If the warden is working in a county without an appointed humane society officer, they cannot file charges themselves.