

Amendment to the Pennsylvania Animal Cruelty Law

HB 499, PN 554

Sponsor: Representative Gene DiGirolamo

Date Introduced: 26 Feb. 2008

Summary:

HB 499 increases the penalties for cruelty to animals, amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the PA Consolidated Statutes. Currently, humane societies must provide funds for their care of animals that have been confiscated by state dog wardens or animal cruelty officers. The bill requires that the owner of a confiscated animal pay for the costs of care of that animal while it is confiscated. If the animal is abandoned, the owner must pay for the cost of care of that animal until the animal was abandoned. To avoid liability for the upkeep of the animal, the owner may relinquish ownership at the time of confiscation.