

HOUSE No. 1319

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Katherine Clark, Peter J. Koutoujian

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:
An Act to Protect Animals in Domestic Violence Cases.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Katherine Clark	32nd Middlesex
Peter J. Koutoujian	10th Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex
Jennifer Benson	37th Middlesex
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	10th Hampden
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Lori Ehrlich	8th Essex
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester
Carolyn Dykema	8th Middlesex
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	16th Suffolk
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	34th Middlesex
Theodore C. Speliotis	13th Essex
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Geraldo Alicea	6th Worcester
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Kenneth J. Donnelly	Fourth Middlesex
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	5th Essex
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Denis E. Guyer	2nd Berkshire

Michael Brady	9th Plymouth
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Michael F. Rush	10th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
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AN ACT TO PROTECT ANIMALS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3 of chapter 209A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “minor” in line 6 the following words;
; ordering the possession, care and control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either party or a minor child residing in the household to the plaintiff. The court may order the defendant to refrain from abusing, threatening, taking, interfering with, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming, or otherwise disposing of the animal;

SECTION 2. Section 6 of said chapter 209A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following paragraph:

(8) assist the abused person in locating temporary shelter for any animals in the household, the safety of which may be threatened by remaining in the household;

SECTION 3. The department of corrections shall study the feasibility of expanding the service dog training program at MCI Framingham to accommodate dogs who need foster care placement due to domestic violence.

SECTION 4. Section 3 of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Expenses incurred for veterinarian services as the direct result of injury to, or death of, an animal in a case of domestic violence, shall be compensable in accordance with this chapter; provided, however, that when claiming compensation for such expenses, the claimant must demonstrate an out of pocket loss or legal liability for payment of such expenses.