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Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 2:51 PM  
To: Jordan Matyas  
Subject: Legislative Update from Springfield

It has been a very busy few months at Illinois' state capitol. Because of your help, we are having a great year in Springfield. The summaries below provide a blurb about each bill - for more information on any particular legislation, feel free to contact me. Thanks so much to all of you for your phone calls and emails to legislators - but remember the fight is not over!

1) Increased penalties for Animal Fighting (HB 69) - This legislation will strengthen the state's animal fighting laws. While dog-fighting and cockfighting are felonies in Illinois, being a spectator at an animal fight is currently only a misdemeanor. HB 69 passed out of the House unanimously. The Senate will be hearing the issue in about two weeks, so you will likely see an alert asking you to call your Senator.

2) Gas Chamber for cats and dogs (SB 38) - The legislation will ban the use of gas chambers in shelters. There is an exception for veterinarians. SB 38 passed the Senate and will now be considered by the House of Representatives. This legislation has been in the works for two years and should become law this year.

3) Cross Reporting (SB 90) - The bill will mandate agency cross-reporting of child and animal abuse. SB 90 has passed the Senate and will be considered by the House soon.

4) Puppy Mills (Chloe's Bill - HB 198/SB 53) - The bill would reform our dog breeding and pet store industries. We negotiated this legislation for days, but in the end, the Senators asked us to take some more time to study this issue. We are creating a task force that will study this issue, if you would like more information on the task force please see the link below or contact me.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=76&GA=96&DocTypeId=SJR&DocNum=56&GAID=10&LegID=47575&SpecSess=&Session=>

5) Horse Slaughter for Human Consumption (HB 583) - This bill would have repealed the state ban on the slaughter of horses for human consumption. HB 583 was defeated. We will continue to fight to retain the ban on horse slaughter in the state.

6) Double Decker Horse Trailer (HB 678) - The bill would ban the use of double-decker horse trailers to transport horses. Unfortunately, HB 678 did not pass the house. The Illinois Farm Bureau lobbied strongly against the legislation. We will continue to fight to ban double-decker trailers.

7) Animal Control Association Legislation (HB 2703) - The legislation was overbroad and would have, among other things, given animal control much more authority, harmfully impacted feral cats and would have other negative consequences. HB 2703 did not pass the legislature because of the enormous opposition to the legislation. The sponsor is committed to bringing a new bill next year and has stated he wants to work with numerous groups over the summer to draft new legislation.

8) Pet Lemon Law - HB 3888 was introduced as a pet lemon law bill. While HSUS generally supports pet lemon laws, we opposed HB 3888 because it was not well drafted to protect consumers and the bill had numerous flaws. The bill did not pass the house.

9) Pet Protection Orders (HB 3918) – The bill will expand civil no contact orders and pet protection orders. HB 3918 passed the House unanimously and will now be considered by the Senate.

10) Spay/Neuter in Animal Shelters (HB 4036) would require an animal shelter or animal control facility to sterilize and microchip all dogs before adoption. HB 4036 passed the House and will now be considered by the Senate.

There are numerous other bills we are monitoring. If you would like information on any other legislation feel free to contact me.

Jordan

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