

HOUSE No. 2228

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Louis L. Kafka

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:

An Act establishing a public registry of animal abusers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Louis L. Kafka

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

8th Norfolk

HOUSE No. 2228

By Mr. Kafka of Stoughton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2228) of Louis L. Kafka relative to establishing a public registry of animal abusers. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act establishing a public registry of animal abusers.

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

1 Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 77B, the following section:

3 Section 77C: Animal Abuser Registry

4 The animal abuser registry board, known as the board, in cooperation with the criminal
5 history systems board, shall establish and maintain a central computerized registry of all animal
6 abusers required to register known as the animal abuser registry. The animal abuser registry shall
7 be updated based on information made available to the board.

8 1. For purposes of this section, an “animal abuser” means a person over eighteen years of
9 age who has been convicted of a felony violation of Chapter 272: Section 77, Chapter 272:
10 Section 104, Chapter 272: Section 29C, Chapter 272: Section 89, of this state or of the
11 comparable statutes of another state.

12 2. Any animal abuser physically within the boundaries of this state for more than ten
13 consecutive days shall register with the county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser
14 is located before the end of the eleventh day in the state.

15 3. Any previously registered animal abuser shall reregister with the county sheriff for the
16 county in which the animal abuser is located no later than ten days after moving to a new
17 location within the state.

18 The file on each animal cruelty offender required to register shall include the following
19 information, hereinafter referred to as registration data:

20 (a) The legal name and any other names or aliases that the animal abuser is using or has
21 used;

- 22 (b) The date of birth of the animal abuser;
- 23 (c) The current address or location of the animal abuser;
- 24 (d) The place of employment of the animal abuser;
- 25 (e) The animal protection offense for which the animal abuser was convicted; and the
26 date and place of the animal protection offense conviction of the animal abuser.

27 2. When an animal abuser registers with a county sheriff, the sheriff shall obtain:

28 (a) A photograph of the animal abuser and a complete set of the animal abuser's
29 fingerprints; and

30 (b) A description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features on the animal
31 abuser's body that would assist in identifying the animal abuser.

32 3. Following an animal abuser's initial registration pursuant to the provisions of this
33 section, an animal abuser shall annually renew the animal abuser's registration with the county
34 sheriff prior to December 31 of each subsequent calendar year for a period of fifteen years.

35 4. An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the
36 registration requirements, or provides false information when complying with the registration
37 requirements set forth in this section, is guilty of a felony.

38 5. Each county sheriff shall maintain a local registry of animal abusers in the
39 sheriff's jurisdiction required to register pursuant to this section.

40 (a) The county sheriff shall forward all registration information obtained from animal
41 abusers to the State Department of Justice.

42 (b) Within ten days of receiving initial registration information from an animal abuser,
43 the county sheriff shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any
44 other business within a half mile radius of the animal abuser's residence or location and provide
45 them with the animal abuser's registration information, with the exception of the animal abuser's
46 social security number.

47 6. The State Department of Justice shall maintain a central registry of animal abusers
48 required to register pursuant to the provisions of this section. The central registry of animal
49 abusers shall be made available to the public through internet access, telephone access, and
50 written access and in person access. All of the information contained in an animal abuser's
51 registration, with the exception of the animal abuser's social security number, shall be made
52 available. Records of each animal abuser's registration shall be maintained for the duration of the
53 fifteen year period in which the animal abuser is required to be registered.