



Animal Legal
Defense Fund

May 5, 2015

RE: ALDF SUPPORTS ICHAT BILLS HB 4353 & 4355

Dear Chairman Kesto & Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Chris Green and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a national organization of attorneys working to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. I also am Chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee.

ALDF enjoys a nationwide membership of over 200,000 contributing supporters, many of whom reside in the State of Michigan. It is on their behalf that I writing to whole-heartedly endorse and support the ICHAT Animal Abuser bills known as Logan's Law and the Animal Adoption Protection Act. The purpose of these vital measures is to prevent convicted animal abusers from adopting any further animals from shelters, rescues & animal control agencies. Currently absolutely no safeguard exists to prevent a convicted animal abuser from simply walking into an animal shelter, and coming right back out with another defenseless animal to torture, sexually abuse or kill.

The issue of animal hoarding is also a grave concern given that in just two hoarding cases in which ALDF intervened in North Carolina, a staggering 500 animals had to be rescued and cared for. And such care is not cheap—in just one recent Ohio hoarding case, the price tag to the local county for rescuing and treating the 170 animals removed *from a single home* was over \$1.2 million! When one considers that 80% of animal hoarders are likely to repeat their behavior, anything a state can do to identify hoarders within their borders only makes sound fiscal sense and strong social policy.

Without a doubt, almost everyone would win from consulting ICHAT for animal adoptions: a) the shelters, who will better ensure their animals are going to good homes; b) the animals, who will be protected from future suffering at the hands of repeat offenders; and c) law enforcement, who will have fewer animal abuse cases to devote tight resources to pursuing, and also gain a new mechanism by which to keep other citizens safe.

While no magic bullet exists that will end all future animal abuse, and no measure is going to be perfectly inclusive, we owe it to ourselves, our animals, and our communities to at least make it as hard as possible for convicted abusers to seek out new victims. I therefore respectfully request that you report these bills with favorable recommendations.

Sincerely,

Christopher Green
Director of Legislative Affairs
Animal Legal Defense Fund

Winning the case against cruelty

170 East Cotati Avenue
Cotati, California 94931

T 707.795.2933
F 707.795.7280

info@aldf.org
aldf.org