

Chair Kesto & committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I am Lynne Turney Zalenski, from Port Huron, MI. I am a veteran, spent 6 years on the US Air Force side of the house, 21 years on the US Army side of the house assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency and 12 years as a Federal Investigator for Defense Investigative Service - now known as Defense Security Service. I have been involved as a volunteer working in animal rescue & rehabilitation since 1970 - wherever the military & government assigned me throughout the United States & Europe. For 10 years after my retirement I was licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as a state licensed foster home, involved in both puppy mill and hoarding raids, investigations of animal abuse & neglect, fostering, rescue & rehabilitating many abused & neglected pets and placing them in appropriate homes. I also bred & showed AKC American Cocker Spaniels for 14 years so I have seen both sides of the issue of purebreds vs pets.

I just returned June of 2012 to my hometown of Port Huron after a 42 year absence. I became aware of Logan's attack in March 2012 when it occurred via Facebook, while still living in Illinois & became friends with Matt & Nancy Falk. I made trip to Port Huron to meet Matt, Nancy & Logan prior to moving back to Port Huron in June. Since my retirement in Jan 97 I have devoted myself full time to fostering, rescue & rehabilitation & improving laws governing animals. I network with many rescue groups & shelters throughout the United States and Canada. Upon my return to Port Huron I immediately got onboard with Logan's Law as I personally feel it's past time for Michigan to move forward and hold humans accountable for their abuse & neglect of animals & humans. I was disappointed beyond description at the lack of laws protecting animals when I finally returned to my home state. The only location within the United States that has an Animal Abuse registry is Suffolk County, New York. Michigan has the opportunity to be the **first** state with an Animal Abuse Registry.. let's not allow this opportunity to fall by the wayside. Many states are watching our progress and hope to immitate Logan's Law.

Logan's Law has the opportunity to benefit both animals & humans. Law Enforcement investigates domestic abuse/neglect DAILY and animal abuse & neglect is in the news more & more... unfortunately they go "hand-in-hand".... more than the public is aware of. An Animal Abuse Registry would benefit both law enforcement & animal abuse/neglect investigators.

History has proven repeatedly that many serial killers started as animal abusers - baby birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc.. & soon tired of the animals, moved up to bullying & physically hurting other kids and finally other humans became their prey. Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, David Berkowitz, Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold, etc, etc, etc. ALL started with small animals and eventually moved up to humans - serial killers. Animals are no longer just "pets", they are family members. In today's economy more and more folks are opting to not have children.. their pets ARE their children. Are you aware American households spent more money on pet food than on baby food?

There are more dogs in the US than people in most countries in Europe - and more cats than dogs? A child growing up in the U.S. is more likely to have a pet than a "live-at-home father".

Did you know?

The DIRECT correlation of animal abuse/neglect vs domestic abuse/neglect is clearly reflected in the "numbers" put out by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the American Humane Society of the United States, the National Crime Prevention Council, the American Veterinary Medical Association and numerous other agencies, universities, physicians & studies in an attempt to break this cycle of violence involving humans & animals.

Investigation of animal abuse is often the first point of social services intervention for a family in trouble.

71% of pet-owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims.

32% reported their children had hurt or killed animals.

68% of battered women reported violence towards their animals.

87% of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women.

75% in the presence of the children, to psychologically control and coerce them.

13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.

Between 25% and 40% of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave.

Pets may suffer unexplained injuries, health problems, permanent disabilities at the hands of abusers, or disappear from home.

Abusers kill, harm, or threaten children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse. Disturbed children kill or harm animals to emulate their parents' conduct, to prevent the abuser from killing the pet, or to take out their aggressions on another victim.

In one study 70% of animal abusers also had records for other crimes.

Domestic violence victims whose animals were abused saw the animal cruelty as one more violent episode in a long history of indiscriminate violence aimed at them and their vulnerability.

For many battered women, pets are sources of comfort providing strong emotional support: 98% of Americans consider pets to be companions or members of the family.

Animal cruelty problems are people problems. When animals are abused, people are at risk

Battered women have been know to live in their cars with their pets for as long as four months until an opening at a pet-friendly safe house.

Anti-cruelty laws exist in all U.S. states and territories to prohibit unnecessary killing, mutilating, torturing, beating, neglecting and abandoning animals, or depriving them of proper food, water or shelter. Animal cruelty cases may be investigated by a local humane society, SPCA or animal control agency or, in areas where these organizations are not present, by police or sheriff's departments. When an investigation uncovers enough evidence to warrant prosecution, charges may be filed by the local district or state's attorney.

Often, only the most serious cases generate sufficient sympathy and evidence to warrant prosecution, and gaining convictions may be very difficult.

Logan's Law has the ability to help both humans & animals. It's past time to hold animal abusers accountable for their actions & our responsibility as humans to protect pets.

I highly recommend committee members visit the website

www.PET-ABUSE.COM

then click on Michigan. The cruelty data base and the information it contains is totally unacceptable. The manner in which humans neglect, abuse, torture & kill our pets is sickening. Ask yourself, if this was your family pet, how would you explain to your children/grandchildren why any human would do such a thing to their family pet.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

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