



SOMEBODY HERE NEEDS YOU.

June 18, 2013

The Honorable Rick Jones
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Michigan State Senate
915 Farnum Building, PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Jones,

The Michigan Humane Society works tirelessly to protect animals from suffering due to cruelty and neglect. In keeping with this part of our mission, the organization commends the legislature on taking up bills designed to prevent pets from getting into the hands of convicted abusers. We support both Logan's Law - Senate Bills 377 and 378 - which would create an animal cruelty registry, *and* Senate Bill 386—which would place mandatory animal ownership bans on people convicted of animal crimes.

While both approaches are commendable *and have our full support*, we feel that SB 386 would result in protection for a significantly larger number of animals. However, its effectiveness is dependent on enforcement through probation officers, and it would not offer a centralized registry for animal shelters and others to consult. It could therefore result in animals being unknowingly adopted or sold to abusers.

SB 377 and 378 set up such a registry, but their effectiveness depends primarily on *voluntary* compliance. Animals acquired at pet stores, from breeders, on the internet, through unregistered rescues or from any other source would not be subject to the law. This means 75 percent of acquired companion animals would not be protected from falling into the hands of known animal abusers.

Ideally, one bill would both ban animal ownership by convicted abusers and establish an online registry that could be consulted by all entities with pets to sell or adopt.

Again *our support for all three bills is unequivocal*, however, we respectfully request Michigan lawmakers to combine the best aspects of both approaches and send a message to animal abusers that they will not acquire their next pet in Michigan.

Thank you,

Cal Morgan, President and CEO
Michigan Humane Society

Our Mission: To end companion animal homelessness, to provide the highest quality service and compassion to the animals entrusted to our care, and to be a leader in promoting humane values.

The Michigan Humane Society adopts out over 8,000 animals each year through its three main shelters, eight retail locations in local PetSmart and Petco stores and a series of adoption events. The Michigan Humane Society is not affiliated with any national humane group including the Humane Society of the United States or American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.