

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1815**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Tram T. Nguyen, (BY REQUEST)***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act known as the companion animal protection act of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rosemarie Hollandsworth</i>		<i>1/17/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1815**

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By Ms. Nguyen of Andover (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1815) of Rosemarie Hollandsworth, José F. Tosado and Bud L. Williams relative to the protection of animals. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act known as the companion animal protection act of Massachusetts.

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

1 Part I. Definitions

2 Sec. 1(a)

3 (1) "Impounded Animal" means any animal that enters a shelter regardless of whether  
4 the animal is a stray, owner-relinquished, seized, taken into protective custody, transferred from  
5 another shelter or is an animal whose owner requests that the animal be killed.

6 (2) "Rescue Organization" means non-profit organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the  
7 Internal Revenue Code whose primary stated purpose is animal networking and animal rescue.

8 Part II. Holding Periods

9 Sec. 2(a) The required holding period for impounded animals shall be seven business  
10 days, not including the day of impoundment.

11 (b) No shelter or Animal Control Officer may deny an owner the right to reclaim their  
12 lost pet simply because of their lack of ability to pay fees, fines or the cost of vaccinations.  
13 Reasonable payment plans shall be offered to owners.

14 (b) No rescue organization or individual adopter shall be denied an animal adoption or  
15 transfer simply because they brought grievance against an Animal Control Officer or shelter  
16 either verbally, in written statements, through hearsay or court action.

17 (c) Upon taking physical possession of an animal, a rescue organization or shelter shall  
18 assume all liability for the animal while the animal is in their custody and control.

#### 19 Part V. Animal Control Officers and Shelter Record Keeping and Reporting

20 Sec. 5(a) Animal Control Officers shall record on the “Animal Control Officer Animal  
21 and Intake and Data Report” data according to Massachusetts General Law ch. 140, Sec. 151(b).  
22 Final disposition of the animal after transfer shall be added to the required data.

23 (b) Shelters shall post monthly on the “Shelter Animal Intake and Data Report” in a  
24 conspicuous public location within the shelter and on their web site if they have one. (uniform  
25 form to be created)

26 (c) Animal Control Officers shall record at city hall an annual summary form compiled  
27 from the monthly Animal Control Officer Animal Intake and Data Report and on the city or  
28 town’s website when regular site update is scheduled.

29 (d) Shelters shall post an annual summary of their data in a conspicuous public location  
30 within the shelter and on their website if they have one. Shelters shall be required to email their  
31 annual summary data upon request. (uniform form to be created).

32 (e) Shelters shall be required to send an annual summary of the Shelter's Statistic Report  
33 to the MA Department of Agriculture , Division of animal sheltering.

34 (f) A uniform reporting chart shall be employed by all animal control officers and  
35 shelters.

#### 36 Part VII. Surcharges

37 Sec. 7(a) Surcharges shall be imposed as follows and proceeds will be deposited in the  
38 already established "Homeless Prevention and Care Fund of Massachusetts."

39 (1) Voluntary License Check-off - Dog License Forms shall include a line at the bottom  
40 which states: "I would like to give a voluntary donation of \$XX to save more pets' lives."

41 (2) A Surcharge of \$2.00 shall be imposed on the required Massachusetts Rabies  
42 Certificates.