

The New York State Legislature is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the current two-year session, due to end the third week in June, with possible extensions for priority measures. New York, like many other states experiencing gargantuan deficits, is struggling to slash costs, and Governor Paterson's office has introduced a number of bills to cut back programs.

One of the governor's budget-cutting legislative proposals that would dramatically impact companion animals is found in a long and complex measure, S6609/ A9709, Part T, that would decentralize dog licensing, causing it to be addressed entirely at the municipal level. This could result in a number of inefficiencies. An even more disturbing feature is the elimination of New York State's Animal Population Control Program. NYSHA urges animal advocates throughout the state to contact Governor Paterson at [www.ny.gov/governor](http://www.ny.gov/governor) to let him know that it is essential to retain a program to help spay and neuter pets of low-income citizens and animals adopted from shelters. The financial costs in animal care and control alone of leaving New York without such a program would be unfathomable. The other costs – those measured in animal suffering – would be devastating.

On the following two pages are some of the many animal-related bills that NYSHA is also tracking.

| Bill #             | Introduced by          | Subject  | NYSHA's Position |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|------------------|
| S404<br>A2566      | Robach<br>Glick        | Prohibits insurers from breed discrimination   | Support          |
| S751<br>A5512      | Krueger<br>Englebright | Downed animals must be humanely euthanized   | Support          |
| S3155<br>A9400     | Johnson, C.<br>Paulin  | Requires that individuals convicted of certain animal cruelty offenses reimburse the organizations caring for such animals | Support          |
| S3177<br>A427      | Padavan<br>Kavanagh    | Requires training in the humane treatment of animals for the certification of teachers                                     | Support          |
| S3223<br>A6788     | Kruger<br>Glick        | Bans "canned shoots"   | Support          |
| S3926<br>A6287-A   | Stavisky<br>Lentol     | Imposes felony penalty on spectators at animal fights  | Support          |
| S4130-B<br>A7694-B | Addabbo<br>Rosenthal   | Relates to the sale of birds by pet dealers  | Support          |
| S4327-C<br>A7545-C | Valesky<br>Millman     | Strengthens law providing for shelter for dogs   | Support          |
| S5144<br>A6077-A   | Kruger<br>Rosenthal    | Includes wildlife in aggravated cruelty  | Support          |

|                      |                       |   |         |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|---------|
| S5675-B<br>A7978-C   | Thompson<br>Hoyt      | Requires training & certification of dog control officers   | Support |
| S5392-A<br>A7285-B   | Squadron<br>Paulin    | “Puppy mill bill” – Limits intact animals   | Support |
| S5794-A<br>A600-B    | Oppenheimer<br>Cahill | Allows (does not mandate) transfer of animals to other facilities   | Support |
| A6046                | Magee                 | Limits tethering of dogs to six hours a day   | Support |
| *S6412-D<br>*A9449-D | Duane<br>Kellner      | Forces relinquishment of certain animals from a shelter to another facility upon demand   | OPPOSE  |
| S7147<br>A6046       | Addabbo<br>Magee      | Limits tethering of dogs to six hours a day   | Support |
| A8444                | Tedisco               | Requires psychiatric evaluation for those convicted of aggravated cruelty to animals  | Support |
| A3467A               | Rosenthal             | Relates to the rights of students relative to dissection  | Support |
| A9732                | Rosenthal             | Bans tail docking of cattle   | Support |
| **A9781              | Rosenthal             | Removes cruelty statutes from Agriculture & Markets Law and places them in Penal Law  | Support |
| A9912                | Tedisco               | Limits possession of companion animals for violators of aggravated cruelty to animals; removes horses from farm animal definition | Support |

\*S6412-D/A9449-D would have serious unintended consequences for untold numbers of animals if relinquished to facilities lacking proper resources to care for them.

\* \*A9781 is essential for the proper training of police personnel in New York’s statutes on cruelty to animals. Police currently receive minimal instruction in such laws. They would receive more thorough training if the cruelty statutes were in Penal Law.