

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

CONTACT:

Michael DeFina, Media Relations Officer

(617) 293-3530

mdefina@arlboston.org

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ARL-Boston President to Give Testimony in Support of Important Animal Welfare Legislation

On Tuesday, October 17, Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) President Mary Nee will address the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, in support of several key pieces of legislation to further protect animals in Massachusetts.

The committee hearing is slated to run from 1-3 p.m. at the Massachusetts State House, located at 24 Beacon St. in Boston.

Specific pieces of legislation that Nee will address include:

- S. 1145 and H. 416 – An Act enhancing the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals
- S. 1159 and H. 2419 – An Act to protect animal welfare and safety in cities and towns (PAWS II)

S. 1145 and H. 416 stem from a 2016 case involving a 70-acre tenant farm in Westport, MA. With 1,400 animals being rescued, it's the largest animal cruelty case ever in the Northeast and ARL was at the forefront of the coordinated rescue effort and law enforcement investigation.

“S.1145 and H.416 allows humane law enforcement to tackle misconceptions head-on by giving them and animal control officers an additional tool, and the people who own the animals a possible solution,” Nee said.

S. 1159 and H. 2459 are wide-reaching bills that come from recommendations from the Animal Cruelty and Protection Task Force, which was formed with passage of PAWS I in 2014. One element that President Nee will be addressing directly is mandated cross-reporting.

“This bill requires that the Department of Children and Families employees or contractors, the Department of Elder Affairs investigators, and the Disabled Persons Protection Commissions investigators to report animals abuse,” Nee said. “The bill would also add animal control officers and special police officers that investigate animal cruelty as mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse and abuse against disabled persons.”

ARL Law Enforcement Lead Investigator Lt. Alan Borgal will also be addressing the Committee on another element of PAWS II, which would prohibit the drowning of animals as a violation of law. Many are surprised to learn that animals, particularly wildlife, are being drowned – a cruel and inhumane death.

Both President Mary Nee and Lt. Alan Borgal are available for interviews following testimony.

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2016, ARL served more than 17,800 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government funding and rely solely on the generosity of individuals to support programs and services that help animals in need.

For more information please visit us online at www.arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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