

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**CONTACT:**

Michael DeFina, Media Relations Officer

(617) 293-3530

[mdefina@arlboston.org](mailto:mdefina@arlboston.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Massachusetts House Passes PAWS II**

*Historical animal protection legislation closer to becoming state law*

Late Wednesday afternoon, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed H.4565 – An Act to Protect Animal Welfare and Safety in Cities and Towns (PAWS II). The measure passed unanimously 145-0.

“The Animal Rescue League of Boston is thrilled with the outcome of this vote and offers heartfelt congratulations to the House of Representatives, particularly Representative Lou Kafka for sponsoring this bill, Committee of House Ways and Means Chairman Jeffrey Sanchez, and Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo for their continued efforts to further protect animals throughout the Commonwealth,” said ARL President Mary Nee.

Because the Senate and House passed differing versions of the bill, PAWS II will likely head into conference committee to be reconciled before being sent to Governor Charlie Baker.

PAWS II is a far-reaching piece of animal protection legislation and includes the following provisions:

- Mandated cross-reporting of suspected animal cruelty between human and animal welfare agencies
- Prohibit discrimination against dog breeds
- Ensure landlords check vacant properties for abandoned animals
- Prevent the automatic euthanasia of animal fighting victims
- Prohibit the drowning of animals
- Ensure efficient law enforcement of animal control laws

- Prohibit sexual contact with an animal

PAWS II extends from the original PAWS Act which was passed in 2014 on the heels of the horrific 2013 discovery of a tortured dog in Quincy who would forever be known as Puppy Doe.

Along with increasing cruelty penalties and strengthening Massachusetts law, PAWS I also created the Animal Cruelty and Protection Task Force, who examined areas of Massachusetts animal law that were lacking or needed updating. PAWS II is the culmination of the task force's work and recommendations.

**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 2017, ARL served more than 18,000 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](http://www.arlboston.org); and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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