

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



*****NEWS RELEASE/PHOTO OP*****

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FOR RELEASE ON:

June 4, 2019

Joint Committee to Hear Testimony on Animal Protection Bills

Owner of dog fatally wounded at South Shore Kennel set to testify

On Tuesday, the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government will convene to hear testimony on more than a dozen bills, including a number of animal protection bills. The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) will be providing testimony; along with Scituate resident Tracey Siciliano, whose dog suffered brutal, and ultimately fatal injuries while at a boarding facility on the South Shore.

The public hearing will take place at the Massachusetts State House at 11 a.m., in Hearing Room A-1.

ARL's testimony will focus on **S.114/H.1774 – An Act Protecting the Health and Safety of Puppies and Kittens in Cities and Towns**. This bill has several components including:

- Prohibit the sale of puppies and kittens under eight weeks of age;
- Update laws relating to kennel licensing;
- End the roadside sale of animals; and
- **Require the establishment of state-wide rules and regulations used for boarding and daycare facilities.**

Currently boarding and daycare regulations are mandated by the city town where they are located, however it's ARL's belief that state-wide, streamlined regulations are needed.

In 2016, Tracey Siciliano’s three-year-old Goldendoodle “Ben” suffered fatal injuries after being attacked by a dog belonging to the owner of a Hanover kennel facility, which has since closed. In addition to the dozens of attack wounds, Ben was also suffering from heat stroke. The owner was found “not-guilty” for negligence, due in part to a lack of regulations.

“I believe that regulations and enforcement might have prevented Ben’s death or, at a minimum, regulations could have persuaded a jury to hold the kennel owner responsible for his actions,” Siciliano said. “I urge the legislature to enact this law so that no other family ever has to experience the pain my family has endured from having lost our beloved Ben.”

ARL will also be testifying in favor of **S.989, H.1822 – An Act Enhancing the issuance of Citations for Cruel Conditions for Animals**. This bill amends MA General Law Ch. 140 Section 174E to include all domestic animals. Currently the law only allows citations for dogs.

This amendment would allow an effective response to problematic and escalating issues including hoarding, and farm animal cruelty situations i.e. the 2016 Westport cruelty case.

Citations provide officers a tool to achieve corrective action before a situation rises to a violation of the animal cruelty statute.

With more than 90 animal-related bills filed for this legislative session, this hearing is critical to help move these important animal protection bills forward in the legislative process.

**** Legislative Fact Sheets Are Attached****

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 2018, ARL served 17,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government grants or public 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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