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## **Ollie's Law Coalition to Rally at State House Ahead of Hearing**

*Coalition urges Legislature to take action on regulating Massachusetts boarding facilities*

BOSTON, MA – On Tuesday, September 26, the “Ollie’s Law Coalition” will hold a press briefing on the Grand Staircase of the Massachusetts State House in anticipation of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government’s hearing on the bill that afternoon, and urge legislators to take action to prevent future injuries and fatalities at boarding facilities in the Commonwealth.

A surprise to many pet owners, there are currently no state regulations for boarding and doggie daycare facilities in Massachusetts. During the media briefing and at the hearing that afternoon, a number of Massachusetts residents will speak of their experiences, and how uniform regulations may have prevented the pain and suffering their animals endured while being boarded – in some cases pain and suffering ultimately resulted in death.

We invite and encourage members of the media to attend to help shed light on this issue impacting thousands of Massachusetts pet owners.

### **Media Availability**

**When: Tuesday, September 26 @ Noon**

**Where: Massachusetts State House Grand Staircase**

**Interview Opportunities: Ollie’s Law Coalition members, animal owners**

[\*An Act to Increase Kennel Safety\*](#) (H.2019; S.1309) aka Ollie’s Law, would establish standards regarding animal health and employee safety, allowing pet families to choose the best facility to suit their animal’s needs. The coalition consists of a number of organizations including the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL), the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), Dakin Humane Society, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Boston Dog Lawyers, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, JM Pet Resort, among others.

The Ollie’s Law proposed legislation was born out of tragedy. In 2020, Amy Baxter brought her Labradoodle Ollie to a Western Massachusetts doggie daycare facility, only to receive a text shortly after saying Ollie had been attacked by other dogs. He was severely injured, and sadly died of his injuries two months later.

While the facility was shuttered by town officials, Baxter was stunned to learn that there were no state regulations regarding boarding facilities, and soon took up the fight to help ensure tragedies like this never happen again.

**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 2022, ARL served 20,601 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Animal Rescue League of Boston does not receive government grants or public funding and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at [arlboston.org](http://arlboston.org); and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

**ABOUT MSPCA-ANGELL:**

***The MSPCA-Angell is a national and international leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine and provides direct hands-on care for thousands of animals each year.*** Founded in 1868, it is the second-oldest humane society in the United States. Services include animal protection and adoption, advocacy, humane education, law enforcement, and world-class veterinary care. The MSPCA-Angell is a private, non-profit organization. It does not receive any government funding nor is it funded or operated by any national humane organization. The MSPCA-Angell relies solely on the support and contributions from individuals who care about animals. Please visit [www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [TikTok](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for more information

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