

Dear Governor [Governor's Last Name],

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Negative Impact of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture on Animal Shelters and Rescues

We are writing to express our collective deep concern regarding the negative impact that the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture is having on animal shelters and rescues in our state. As a passionate advocates for animal welfare, we strongly believe that immediate attention is needed to address these issues and bring about positive change. We feel compelled to bring to your attention the detrimental consequences that have resulted from certain policies and actions taken by your department.

First and foremost, animal shelters and rescues play a vital role in protecting and caring for our beloved animal companions. They provide a safe haven for abandoned, abused, and neglected animals, and tirelessly work to find them loving homes.

I would like to address the burdensome regulatory requirements imposed on animal shelters and rescues. While it is essential to ensure the safety and welfare of animals, the excessive bureaucratic hurdles imposed by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture often create significant challenges for these organizations. The time-consuming and costly compliance processes divert valuable resources away from the primary mission of providing care, shelter, and finding suitable homes for animals in need. As a result, many shelters and rescues struggle to meet these requirements, impeding their ability to effectively carry out their lifesaving work. Many organizations will no longer work within the state of MA and many outside of MA will not adopt to MA residents.

The regulatory burdens imposed by the Department of Agriculture create unnecessary hurdles for animal shelters and rescues. The complex licensing requirements, bureaucratic red tape, and inspections that often are often result in inconsistent findings, provably false violations and/or focus on minute inconsequential details place an undue strain on these organizations. This not only diverts their limited resources from animal care but also discourages potential adopters and volunteers from getting involved due to the perceived difficulties involved. Consequently, this leads to increased administrative overhead, decreased capacity for animal care, and, in some cases, the closure of shelters and rescues that are unable to comply.

I urge you, Governor, to take immediate action to address these issues and support the critical work being done by animal shelters and rescues in our state. Here are a few suggestions that could make a significant positive impact:

1. Streamline Regulations: Work with relevant stakeholders, such as animal welfare organizations and experts, to review and simplify the licensing and regulatory processes for shelters and rescues. This will

reduce administrative burdens and allow these organizations to focus more on their core mission of animal welfare.

2. Provide proper training of staff and require fair and equitable inspections. Many times the Dept. of Agriculture makes demands that go against best practice guidelines.

4. Collaboration and Support: Foster stronger collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and animal shelters/rescues. This can be achieved through regular meetings, open dialogue, and shared resources, allowing for a more productive working relationship. Collaborative efforts would result in more effective policies, improved animal welfare outcomes, and reduced strain on both the department and the animal welfare community.

Attached is a detailed compilation of many of the concerns that the animal welfare community shares. While many in the community live in fear of retaliation and hesitate to come forward

Governor, the wellbeing of animals in our state is in our hands. By addressing these concerns and implementing the suggested measures, we can create a more compassionate and supportive environment for animal shelters and rescues. I kindly request that you give these matters the attention they deserve and take the necessary steps to rectify the current situation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am confident that your leadership can make a profound difference in the lives of animals and the organizations dedicated to their care. I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this matter further and offer any assistance I can provide.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]