

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Nicole Notario-Risk <notarini@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2014 12:04 AM
To: Rep. Amanda Price
Cc: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: Your support needed for SB 354
Attachments: WMNAP SB 354 Letter of Support.pdf

Chair Price and Members of the House Committee on Local Government,

The West Michigan Network for Animal Protection (WMNAP) is a strategic collaborative of six animal welfare organizations in Kent County. Together, we represent and care for 95% of the homeless animals in our county. We work to increase adoptions and reduce euthanasia through education, advocacy, and spaying and neutering. Our ultimate goal is to increase positive outcomes for homeless and at-risk animals in our community.

Because of this, we ask for your support of SB 354, known as “Grant’s Bill,” to require humane euthanasia in Michigan animal shelters. Grant’s bill requires that shelters euthanize dogs and cats via an injection of sodium pentobarbital, which is referred to by euthanasia by injection/EBI. Performed by trained staff, EBI is painless for the animal and takes effect quickly. It is also cost efficient.

Gas chambers have proven to be ineffective and often cannot be used humanely for most animals that require euthanasia. Typically, it is the injured, old, sick, pregnant or very young that require euthanasia. Animals being gassed can only be gassed one time, and it can take 25+ minutes for the animal to die; these minutes can be agonizing for the animal to endure.

There is a human element as well: gas chambers also pose a danger to shelter staff. Carbon monoxide is toxic and can lead to accidental poisoning. Berrien, Branch, Cass and Van Buren Counties, still using gas chambers, also have EBI back-up systems and/or are trained in EBI. Because they are primed to transition to a more humane method of euthanasia, voting yes on SB 354 will not negatively affect their organization; in fact, it would promote humane treatment of animals marked for euthanasia, presents efficiency, and keeps staff safe.

On behalf of Michigan’s homeless pets and employees who are tasked with performing euthanasia, we ask that you vote yes for SB 354.

Sincerely,

The members of West Michigan Network for Animal Protection

Kent County Animal Shelter

Humane Society of West Michigan

Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (C-SNIP)

Vicky's Pet Connection

Carol's Ferals

Reuben's Room Cat Rescue

(Letter attached.)