INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, O'BRIEN, SIMMONS, HARHAI, HAGGERTY, CARROLL, D. COSTA, PASHINSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, SCAVELLO, MCNEILL, KORTZ, WATSON, ROEBUCK, GOODMAN, WHITE, FARINA, GIBBONS, MOUL, MATZIE, FREEMAN, MURT, DEASY AND FARRY, JANUARY 23, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 23, 2013

AN ACT

Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for animal abuser registry.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 9778. Animal abuser registry.

(a) Registration required.--An animal abuser located within the boundaries of this Commonwealth for more than ten days shall register with the county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser is located before the end of the 11th day. A previously registered animal abuser shall reregister with the county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser is now located no later than ten days after moving to the new location in this Commonwealth.

(b) Information required.--
The animal abuser shall provide the county sheriff with the following information:

(i) Legal name and any other names or aliases that he or she uses or has used.
(ii) Date of birth.
(iii) Social Security number.
(iv) Current address or location.
(v) Place of employment.
(vi) The felony offense he or she was convicted of and the date and location of the offense.

The sheriff shall obtain the following from the animal abuser:

(i) A photograph of the animal abuser and a complete set of his or her fingerprints.
(ii) A description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features on his or her body that would assist in identifying the animal abuser.

Following the initial registration under this section, an animal abuser shall annually renew the registration with the county sheriff prior to December 31 of each subsequent calendar year for a period of 15 years.

Penalties.--An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the registration requirements of this section or who provides false information when complying with the registration requirements of this section is guilty of a felony in the third degree.

Central and local registries.--

(1) The county sheriff shall maintain a local registry of animal abusers in the sheriff's jurisdiction. The sheriff shall be responsible for the following:
(i) Forwarding all registration information to the Pennsylvania State Police.

(ii) Within ten days of receiving an initial registration from an animal abuser, the county sheriff shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any other business within a half mile radius of the animal abuser’s residence or location and provide them with the animal abuser’s registration information except for the Social Security number.

(2) The Pennsylvania State Police shall maintain a central registry of animal abusers required to register under this section. The central registry of animal abusers shall be made available to the public through the Internet and telephone, by written access and in person. All of the information contained in an animal abuser’s registration, with the exception of the Social Security number or any other information protected by law, shall be made available to the public. Records of each registration shall be maintained for the 15-year period that the animal abuser is required to be registered.

(e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Animal abuser." An individual over 18 years of age who has been convicted of a felony violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 5511 (relating to cruelty to animals), 5511.2 (relating to police animals) or 5511.3 (relating to assault with a biological agent on animal, fowl or honey bees) or any other felony violation of a statute protecting animal welfare.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.