

**JOHN R. EVANS, MEMBER**

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative John R. Evans *JRE*

DATE: January 11, 2011

RE: SERVICE DOG LEGISLATION (Former HB 123)

I am planning to reintroduce House Bill 123, from the 2009-2010 legislative session. This legislation would strengthen Pennsylvania's cruelty to animals' statute by establishing that a person who is the owner or co-owner of a dog who kills, maims or disfigures a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog will be guilty of a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to 2 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. The owner/co-owner will also be responsible for any veterinary costs associated with the wounded dog or the replacement costs for a dog that is killed.

Under current law, it is a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor for a person to harass, annoy, injure or interfere with a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or to kill, maim or disfigure a domestic animal, which would include such dogs.

I believe it is imperative to also hold a dog owner responsible for the actions of his dog when the animal behaves violently toward guide, hearing and service dogs.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation by contacting either Juanita Hoffman or Anne Yanikov via e-mail at [jhoffman@pahousegop.com](mailto:jhoffman@pahousegop.com) or [ayanikov@pahousegop.com](mailto:ayanikov@pahousegop.com). Thank you.

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