

DOM COSTA, MEMBER
21ST DISTRICT

G-14 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202021
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2021
(717) 783-9114
FAX: (717) 780-4761

6808 GREENWOOD STREET, SUITE 2
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15206
(412) 361-2040
FAX: (412) 361-2043

E-MAIL: DCOSTA@PAHOUSE.NET



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG


COMMITTEES

GAMING OVERSIGHT
INSURANCE, DEMOCRATIC VICE CHAIR
JUDICIARY
POLICY
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DELEGATION

DEMOCRATIC DEPUTY WHIP

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members of the House of Representatives
From: Representative Dom Costa 
Date: September 25, 2012
Subject: **Animal Cruelty Legislation**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation to strengthen our animal cruelty laws. Animal cruelty is a horrific crime and I believe that as lawmakers we have an obligation to enact meaningful protections for animals and ensure perpetrators are prosecuted and penalized.

Specifically, my legislation amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) Pa. C.S. to raise the grading for all summary offenses under Section 5511 (Cruelty to Animals) to a misdemeanor of the third degree. In addition, my legislation raises the grading for the offense of killing, maiming or disfiguring a domestic animal or fowl from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree. Subsequent offenses for killing, maiming or disfiguring a domestic animal or fowl would result in a felony of the third degree.

By increasing summary offenses to misdemeanor offenses, I believe we can better ensure that all offenders are processed through the criminal justice system in a way that will enable us to properly monitor animal cruelty perpetrators in the Commonwealth.

We must do our part and put an end to animal cruelty and I believe that starts with increasing penalties for animal cruelty and maintaining accurate records of these heinous offenses. If you would like to join me in sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Maribel Echevarria at 783-9114 or e-mail MEchevar@pahouse.net.