



Humane
Society
of Chittenden County

Where Best Friends Meet

November 6, 2013

Burlington City Council

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express the Humane Society of Chittenden County's support of a proposed city ordinance that matched Vermont Statue Title 13 §386.

HSCC is a private, independent 501(c)(3) in South Burlington serving Chittenden and Grand Isle counties with a mission to foster compassion for animals and end animal suffering. We've been around since 1901. We shelter 30 dogs and 80 cats at a time. HSCC employs a professional, highly-dedicated staff of 15—and we depend heavily on the help of about 250 volunteers, whose donated hours equaled 9 full-time staff positions last year! We accept animals on an appointment-only basis to ensure we have enough room to allow our residents to stay as long as they need to until they find new homes. We take in about 800 dogs, cats, and small animals a year.

We are the only shelter in Vermont that employs a humane investigator on staff. JoAnn Nichols responds to about 100 reports of animal cruelty a year. Primarily, she's able to resolve issues through education—but in cases of intentional cruelty or neglect, JoAnn works with local law enforcement to remove the animal from the home.

Most pet owners are unaware of the very real danger of leaving their pets unattended in their cars for short periods of time. While education and outreach play an important role in the prevention of unnecessary suffering of confined pets, an ordinance that mirrors the state statute would give law enforcement another resource when dealing with these situations.

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www.chittendenumane.org

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One caveat: Animals removed from cars should be sent immediately to a veterinarian for evaluation, as their condition may not be evident but may be severe. Once evaluated and treated they should be taken to Lucky Puppies for sheltering, as the Humane Society of CC is regularly near capacity and we have an approximate two week waiting period for in-take.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


Nancy Cathcart
President & CEO

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