



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Monica R. Martinez

Senator Monica R. Martinez Passes Three Critical Pieces of Animal Welfare Legislation on Animal Advocacy Day

MONICA R. MARTINEZ June 4, 2019

| ISSUE: **ANIMAL WELFARE**

(Albany, NY) Senator Monica R. Martinez (D-Brentwood) passed three critically important pieces of animal welfare legislation on Animal Advocacy Day in Albany.

Alert System for Pet Owners: This bill, S.4577, sponsored by Chair of Committee on Domestic Animal Welfare, Senator Monica R. Martinez, creates an alert system for pet owners requiring them to bring their companion animals inside during extreme and inclement weather conditions.

Consecutive Sentencing for Multiple Accounts of Aggravated Cruelty Against Animals: This bill, S.5807, sponsored by Chair of Committee on Domestic Animal Welfare, Senator Monica R. Martinez, removes the 2-year limit to a term of imprisonment to allow consecutive sentencing when a person is convicted of multiple counts of aggravated cruelty towards animals.

Report of Suspicious Animal Cruelty: This bill, S.3415A, allows mandated reporters of child abuse to also report suspected animal abuse.

There is a recognized connection between the abuse of household pets and abusive, aggressive behavior against other people. Animal abusers have been found to be five times as likely to also harm other humans. Additionally, a 2013 study found that 43% of those who commit school massacres also committed acts of cruelty to animals. To address domestic animal abuse and recognize it as a warning sign for more serious crimes, the Senate Democratic Majority created the Domestic Animal Welfare Committee and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins selected Senator Martinez as its chair.

Senator Martinez has earned a reputation for leading efforts, as a member of the Suffolk County Legislature, to advance protections for domestic animals. The legislation passed by the Senate Democratic Majority builds on those efforts and will expand domestic animal protections throughout New York State.

Chair of Committee on Domestic Animal Welfare and Bill Sponsor, Senator Monica R. Martinez said, "I am committed to elevating and uplifting the rights and protections of those who cannot advocate for themselves by implementing policies that ensure the safety of animals across New York State. By enacting a comprehensive package of animal welfare legislation, we are not only protecting animals, but also fostering a healthier community for all of us."

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