

Judiciary: Victoria's Law
Senate Bill 7

Article 1:

Animal advocates from across Pennsylvania rallied for Victoria's Law at state capitol

By: Pennridge Animal Hospital June 22, 2022

Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania animal advocates from across Pennsylvania rallied to show their support for SB234 and HB1299 – both also referred to as “Victoria's Law” - on Tuesday, in the Main Rotunda at the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

Victoria's Law has strong bipartisan support from state residents and legislators alike. Yet it remains stalled in the PA Senate Judiciary Committee chaired by Senator Lisa Baker (PA District 20), and the PA House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee chaired by Representative Dan Moul (District 91).

Victoria's Law is named after Victoria, a German Shepherd who produced a confirmed 150+ puppies through 18 litters in ten years at a Pennsylvania puppy mill. Victoria had an incurable, genetic, neurological condition called Degenerative Myelopathy that she potentially passed down to her 150+ puppies. In February 2019, only sixteen months after her rescue, Victoria had to be humanely euthanized by her adoptive family due to the progression of her disease.

Event speaker, Veterinarian Dr. Beth Mehaffey, said, “So many times these animals come in if they were sick before they were purchased and we'd be trying to save their lives. Just as often they would come in sick right after they were purchased because they were exposed either at the pet store or on the farm where they were bred. Then they become sick and that becomes the problem of the person who has now purchased this dog.”

Special guests included dogs who were rescued from PA puppy mills - Rochelle (Bernese Mountain Dog), Peach (Mini-Australian Shepherd), Otis (Pug) and Ellie (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel). The event ended with a vigil in memory of Victoria and in honor of the many other dogs, cats and rabbits who have lived and are living a life of producing companion pets for profit for the pet store industry.

Victoria's Law (SB234 and HB1299) would end the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet stores across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It would only permit adoption of rescue animals through pet store partnerships and require kennel licensing transparency on all dog sale advertising.

For more info on the Victoria's Law, visit: www.victoriaslaw.org and sign the petition in support of the legislation: <https://www.change.org/p/pennsylvania-bring-victoria-s-law-to-a-vote>

Speakers at the event included:

Stephanie Curson – Revolution Philadelphia member and event organizer

Grace Kelly Herbert – President and co-founder of Finding Shelter Animal Rescue and Victoria's “mom.”

Dr. Beth Mehaffey – Owner/Veterinarian, Pennridge Animal Hospital in Bucks County and founder of Harley's Haven Dog Rescue

Officer Brian Carroll – Erie County Humane Society, Erie County PA

Kelly Craig – Owner and certified trainer at The Distinguished Dog

Reagan and Tucker Robb – Chester County youth whose family adopted dogs from puppy mills

Alyssa Levito – PA teen who chose Victoria's Law as her Girl Scout project

Suzanne Gonzalez – Adoptive parent of dog rescued from PA farm and event organizer

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Article 2:

Pet store owners will be criminals if California's AB485 becomes law

By: Nancy E. Halpern, D.V.M. April 3, 2017

[California AB485](#) will criminalize what has been considered lawful interstate commerce since at least 1966, when Congress first passed the Animal Welfare Act, 7. U.S.C. §2131 *et seq.*

"The Congress finds that animals and activities which are regulated under this chapter are either in interstate or foreign commerce or substantially affect such commerce or the free flow thereof, and that regulation of animals and activities as provided in this chapter is necessary to prevent and eliminate burdens upon such commerce and to effectively regulate such commerce, in order – (1) to insure that animals intended . . . for use as pets are provided humane care and treatment . . ." 7 U.S.C. §2131 (Congressional statement of policy).

Pet stores in California will no longer be able to purchase and sell pets from USDA licensed and exempts breeders and dealers of dogs, cats and rabbits if AB485 becomes law. Instead, pet store would only be able to source from the highly unregulated animal shelters and rescue organizations that distribute pets from random sources, often imported from overseas, and often infected or infested with diseases or pests that unwitting consumers have to contend with and pay for.

Pet stores that have provided a historic and lawful service matching up pet-seeking owners with professionally and purposely-bred pets with the physical and behavioral characteristics perspective owners desire, would be considered criminals under the new California law, upon adoption.

Unfortunately, this is no longer a novel attempt by nonprofit animal rights organizations' decades-long campaign to eliminate professional, purposeful dog breeding, along with animal ownership (replaced with guardianship) and a host of other animal rights' agenda.

The question is, when will consumers realize that their choices in pet purchases have been supplanted by activists who believe that pet breeding (and the intentional breeding of any species) is immoral and should be outlawed.

The public, clamoring for the 9,000,000 dogs needed each year for pet-owners seeking new pets, will soon have their choices severely limited.

What a sad state of affairs for pets and people alike and as we have repeatedly alleged, unconstitutional.