

# Lunch + Legislation #14

## What's Up With...

### Bills + Laws Named for Animals



And why it's important

---

**RESCHEDULED:** Mon. Dec. 6-13, 12:00pm,  
via Facebook Live



**Attorneys  
for Animals**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ANIMAL ADVOCACY

# Teddy's Law (*pending, MI House*)

## HB 4881 and HB 4882, aka "Beagle Bills"

Research facility would be required to:

- \*\*offer retired dogs, cats to rescue or shelter for adoption before euthanizing
- \*\*report to MDARD

Both bills: bipartisan, awaiting hearing in Regulatory Reform

---



# Desmond's Law (CT—enacted 2016)

1st “Courtroom Animal Advocate Program” allows judge to appoint law student or lawyer advocate to represent interests of animal in criminal prosecutions related to treatment, welfare, custody of animals

MI: similar bill last 2 legislative sessions, not currently

Desmond was beaten, starved, strangled and killed; his owner admitted to the violence but got “accelerated rehabilitation” (expungement) and no jail time.

---



# Sterling (*pending, MI Senate*)

## **SB 50 and SB 51**

Makes knowingly providing an animal to another individual who intends to abuse or mistreat the animal a 4-year felony

Adopted under false pretenses; found stabbed to death shortly thereafter in Utica park, winter 2019

Sentenced 3-6 years: Judge: “Words are inadequate to express the depth and breadth of your cruelty.”

Awaiting hearing in Senate Judiciary

Note: Sterling’s name not used; *should it be?*

---



Photo: Michigan Humane

---

# Goldie's Act (pending, US House)

Goldie, aka “female Golden Retriever #142” according to records, was emaciated from April to July 2021 at an Iowa puppy mill, but USDA inspectors never took her from the property. She was eventually euthanized.

**H.R. 6100**, introduced Dec. 1, 2021, strengthens Animal Welfare Act:  
USDA:

- \*\* have access to facilities at all reasonable times
- \*\* make inspections at least once a year
- \*\* record all violations
- \*\* confiscate animals in poor condition
- \*\* turn over inspection records to local authorities

Unusual: bills in Congress often have acronyms (PAWS, SOAR, AFTER, PAST, PREPARED, AARF etc.) instead of individual names

---



Image: USDA records

# Goddard's Law (OH – enacted 2016)

Variation on a theme: Dick Goddard was a local meteorologist and animal advocate who pushed for felony penalties for some animal abuse cases

Still used by media, eg, Dec. 2, 2021 report mentions suspect charged under “Goddard’s Law”



# Logan's Law (MI – enacted 2016)

Logan was believed to have been sprayed with battery acid by a stranger

Intended as animal abuse registry bill

As passed, requires shelters to check state police records before adoption to ensure potential adopter has no animal crimes history

Powerful lobby/name recognition

But irony

---



# Call to Action:

HBs 4881, 4882

SBs 50-51

---

Advocate to get hearings on these bills in House Regulatory Reform and Senate Judiciary Committees



# Thank you.



- Comments, questions, ideas for future episodes? [Info@attorneysforanimals.org](mailto:Info@attorneysforanimals.org)
- Missed an episode? [Check out our library.](#)
- ***Next Lunch + Legislation: Monday, January 3, 2022, noon***



**Attorneys  
for Animals**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ANIMAL ADVOCACY