

**2011 REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S  
ANTI-ANIMAL ABUSE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Submitted to:  
Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and The City Council  
March 15, 2012**

**Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission**

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## **Introduction**

With the creation of the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission – the first of its kind in the country – the City of Baltimore has created a permanent platform to address the disturbing and far too common crime of animal cruelty. Despite continued media reports of animals being burned and beaten on our City streets, Baltimore has made genuine and measureable progress and has become a national leader in the fight against this crime. We are grateful to Mayor Rawlings Blake and to the City Council for their support of this endeavor.

While it may be several years before we see a reduction in the number of animal cruelty cases, the public is more aware of this crime, understands the unquestionable link between animal cruelty and human violence, and the importance of reporting this crime. It is a grassroots, labor-intensive effort, but one that is worthwhile and overdue, not only for the victims of these crimes, but for our safety and protection as well. The Commission has recently been asked to share its experience with other municipalities and we hope that Baltimore will continue to lead by example.

Most significantly, animal neglect and cruelty cases are being investigated and prosecuted zealously. The Bureau of Animal Control, the Baltimore Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, and the State's Attorney's Office – agencies with permanent seats on the Commission -- are pursuing this crime with a renewed vigor and are devoting significant resources to ensure that abusers are held accountable. This, perhaps, will ultimately have the greatest impact in reducing the volume of these crimes. The Commission has also forged relationships with the Department of Juvenile Services, the Baltimore City Public School System, animal shelters, and the veterinary community, and hopes to form liaisons with other groups and agencies as well, as the abatement of this

crime is not the exclusive province of law enforcement officials. Many agencies and citizens can play a crucial role in protecting animals from neglect and violence.

Unlike the original report of the Anti-Animal Abuse Task Force, which listed approximately 45 recommendations for stopping animal cruelty, the Commission has focused its energy during the past year on implementing many of the recommendations proposed in its original report.<sup>1</sup> For example, the Mayor's Office of Information Technology now tracks animal neglect and abuse cases, so that law enforcement officials and the public know the location and frequency of these crimes. In addition, the Commission hosted a two-day AniCare workshop for mental health therapists and other professionals with the goal that convicted animal abusers may receive assessment and treatment from therapists who are sensitive to and understand these crimes. Unfortunately, other initial recommendations have not been implemented due to a lack of funding.

While the Commission's animal welfare experts have focused their efforts on tracking, training, investigating, and prosecuting animal abuse cases, the public members have worked on education and outreach in the community. The Commission partnered with and co-hosted events with other groups that are concerned about this crime and seek solutions to stop it. The Commission is particularly grateful to the Peacekeepers Motorcycle Club for co-hosting a Peace Ride and Rally to stop violence and animal cruelty as well as the Maggie Quille Community Center, whose interns have taken a visible and public stand against animal cruelty by building doghouses of extraordinary quality in Druid Hill.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission submits this Report pursuant to City Code §55-13, which states that the "Advisory Commission must submit an annual report on its activities to the Mayor and City Council."

The Commission is also deeply indebted to Sande Riesett, an advertising executive who has devoted countless hours *pro bono* in creating the *Show Your Soft Side* campaign, an anti-cruelty campaign that features professional athletes and local celebrities in candid photographs with their pets. These photographs have been featured on billboards, bus shelters, light rail trains and kiosks. The Commission has also distributed posters of these athletes to schools, houses of worship, rec centers and businesses throughout the City. This successful campaign has received attention throughout the country and from as far away as Brazil. Ms. Riesett has amassed a team of professionals, including photographers, media, and public relations experts who have also donated their time *pro bono*. Several businesses have either sponsored the campaign or donated media space. While the campaign is geared toward abating the often horrific cases of juvenile-inflicted animal cruelty, it has also energized the public in the fight against animal cruelty and encourages and reminds the public to take this crime seriously.

We have also witnessed great progress in the legislature, both locally and statewide. This past year the City Council enacted legislation that reconstituted Title 10, the provisions concerning Animal Control. The Code contains greater protections for animals throughout and expands the definition of cruelty. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly passed five (5) animal protection bills during the 2011 legislative session, including two (2) bills that the Task Force had recommended in its initial report (protections for animals in domestic violence orders and a ban on future ownership as a condition of probation for convicted animal abusers). Although Maryland still only ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of the strength of its animal protection laws, the state has

advanced from its prior position of 43<sup>rd</sup> and the bottom tier of all states.<sup>2</sup> The recent legislative session underscores not only the state's progress, but the need for continued reform in our state laws.

The persistent budgetary shortfall remains a looming concern. Last year, Animal Control lost several employees and BARCS lost significant funding. Both face further cuts in 2012. Animal Services remains the neglected stepchild of our City government. Moreover, the Health Department is reorganizing the Division of Community and Environmental Health, which has overseen Animal Control as well as funding for BARCS. With this reorganization, it has eliminated the position of an experienced attorney who has been a knowledgeable advocate for Animal Control.

Both Animal Control and BARCS are easy scapegoats in budget negotiations because they are viewed as dealing solely with "animal issues." Although Baltimore is not alone in this regard, it is a myopic view that fails to recognize that these agencies deal with human service and safety issues as well. Animal Control needs adequate funding so that it can restrain dogs running at large, properly investigate neglect and abuses cases, and respond to animal attacks in a timely fashion. BARCS needs adequate funding so that in addition to caring for thousands of surrendered, abandoned, neglected and abused animals each year, it can provide critical services that benefit the public, such as low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and vaccination clinics, which are often the only veterinary care that many animals receive. It must have sufficient funding so that it may be a resource for animals when their owners lose their jobs, or worse, their homes. We can do better and we must do better.

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<sup>2</sup> Animal League Defense Fund State Law Rankings for 2010 and 2011.

Our national partner, the ASPCA, continues to support us and showcase our achievements. Dr. Randall Lockwood travels each month to attend our monthly meetings and has participated in additional meetings with the Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office, and the House of Ruth, where he has provided valuable guidance. In addition, he has made presentations to the District and Circuit Court benches, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the Department of Justice on our behalf. He is a renowned expert who is not only generous with his time, but is also willing to share his expertise with anyone who seeks it. We are lucky to have him on our Commission.

Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals who are on the front line -- the police and animal enforcement officers who respond to these crimes -- and the veterinarians, shelter employees, and rescue workers who care for these battered crime victims. Our City's progress would not be possible without the selfless dedication of these unsung heroes, who are largely responsible for the success of our initiatives.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Caroline Griffin  
February 15, 2012*

**I. THE CREATION OF THE MAYOR'S ANTI-ANIMAL ABUSE ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

The Mayor's original Task Force, which was created on July 8, 2009, following the burning death of a dog named Phoenix, was charged to meet for one year and to make recommendations to eradicate animal cruelty and dogfighting. Recognizing that its work had just begun, the Task Force recommended in its Final Report dated July 30, 2010 that the group "should evolve into a Mayor's Commission on Anti-Animal Abuse, so that the work of the Task Force can continue beyond its one-year term." *Report at p. 40.* The City Council enacted legislation creating the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission in October 2010, and Mayor's Stephanie Rawlings-Blake held a press conference to announce the creation of the Commission on November 3, 2010. The legislation may be found in Art. I, §55-1 of the City Code.

The Commission consists of eight (8) agency representatives (the Director of the Bureau of Animal Control, the Health Commissioner, the Director of Juvenile Services, the Mayor, the President of the City Council, the State's Attorney's Office, the Police Commissioner, and the Baltimore City Sheriff), four (4) permanent non-profit organizations (the Maryland SPCA, BARCS, The Snyder Foundation for Animals, and the ASPCA); a member nominated by the President of the City Council, one (1) City Council member, a judge, a veterinarian, representatives from each City Council district and three (3) at-large members. Art. I, §55-3. Ms. Debbie Dillard-Thomas, the Executive Assistant for the Office of Student Support and Safety for the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS), has been invited to attend our meetings and the Commission believes that BCPSS should have a permanent seat on the Commission as

well. As with all Commissions, members serve for a 4-year term, concurrent with the terms for the Mayor and City Council. Art. I, §55-4.

The Commission has continued the work of the original Task Force, namely, to make recommendations regarding the following: (1) eradicating animal abuse and dogfighting; (2) legislation to protect animals and prosecute abusers; (3) steps to foster improved responses to animal cruelty cases; (4) training for law enforcement officials and animal enforcement officers; and (5) increasing awareness of animal cruelty laws. Art. I, §55-10. Its role has also been expanded, however, to now include monitoring the successes and lessons learned in implementing its recommendations and, most importantly, “provide recommendations to City Agencies for effective and timely investigation by and coordination among City agencies.” Art. I, §55-10(c).

The Interim and Final Report of the Task Force discussed at length the widespread challenges that public officials confronted when investigating and prosecuting animal cruelty cases. There previously existed an oftentimes stunning lack of communication and coordination among City agencies. Animal Control, the Police Department, the State’s Attorney’s Office and BARCS did not routinely discuss animal cruelty cases or share information, a problem that was compounded by employee turnover. Animal Control personnel reported that they did not know whom to call at the Police Department when confronted with a felony crime that required the expertise of a police investigation. On other occasions, the State’s Attorney’s Office or Animal Control did not notify BARCS that an animal abuse or neglect case had been dismissed, leaving animals at the shelter for long periods of time. In addition to imposing stress on these animals for their extended shelter stays, this lack of communication tied up critically

needed shelter space and imposed an unnecessary financial burden on BARCS. One of the greatest achievements of this Commission has been the improved communication among the agencies charged with investigating and prosecuting these cases. The end result is that more abusers are being held accountable for their crimes.

The City of Baltimore has received national attention as a result of the Commission, which is the first of its kind in the country. Although at any given time there may be half a dozen task forces nationally that are addressing crimes against animals, Baltimore has created the first permanent Commission aimed at eradicating animal cruelty and dogfighting. As Ed Sayres, the President of the ASPCA noted following the Mayor's Press Conference:

This is the first anti-animal abuse advisory commission of its kind, and we hope this will be a model for other cities to follow. We have long recognized the dangerous potential for animal cruelty to lead to more serious crimes, and this commission is poised to go a long way toward eradicating crimes toward animals and humans alike.

*Baltimore Mayor Signs Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission into Law*, Huffington Post, November 4, 2010.

Other municipalities are interested in replicating the Baltimore model. The Milwaukee Police Department seeks to create a similar model and contacted Commission member Dr. Randall Lockwood for guidance. Dr. Lockwood traveled to Milwaukee to meet with officials and discuss the Baltimore Commission in June 2011. Unlike Baltimore, Milwaukee plans to create a Sensitive Crimes Unit and intends to assign three (3) police officers to investigate animal cruelty, child abuse and domestic violence cases. A private citizen in Indiana also contacted the Commission Chair for information regarding the creation of a task force/commission in South Bend. Dr. Lockwood and the Commission Chair spoke about the Commission's initiatives to the Anti-Cruelty Working

Group of the Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice in late January 2012 and to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in February 2012.

The Baltimore Commission hopes to share its experiences with officials and municipalities in the years to come. The Mayor's Office has created a page on the City's website where the public may access copies of the Commission's reports, press releases, and other relevant information. See, [www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov) (search: Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission).

## **II. TRACKING AND REPORTING ANIMAL ABUSE**

In its Interim Report dated January 10, 2010, the Task Force set forth several recommendations for the tracking and reporting of animal abuse cases. While the Citistat system had been tracking incidents of "Animals at Risk" and "Animals in Danger," substantiated neglect and cruelty cases had never been catalogued until recently. Accordingly, no one knew the extent of the animal cruelty problem in Baltimore.

Counting cruelty cases is a challenging and labor-intensive process. On a national level, it has proven to be an elusive task. The reasons for this are numerous. As Dr. Lockwood has noted in a journal article, "a major obstacle to the collection of standardized animal cruelty data has been the distribution of enforcement authority across thousands of federal, state and local agencies."<sup>3</sup>

In Baltimore, for example, several agencies and non-profit groups respond to animal neglect and cruelty cases, including Animal Control, the Baltimore City Police Department, BARCS and the Maryland SPCA, but other organizations may rescue

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<sup>3</sup> R. Lockwood, Ph.D., *Counting Cruelty: Challenges and Opportunities in Assessing Animal Abuse and Neglect in America*, F. Ascione R. Ed. International Handbook of Theory and Research on Animal Abuse and Cruelty, W. Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press.

abused animals as well. At a minimum, the Enterprise Geographic Information Services division of the Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT) must collate 311 and 911 calls to Animal Control and the Baltimore Police, respectively, which are maintained on separate databases and computer systems. While some cases invariably fall through the cracks, Baltimore is grasping the extent of these crimes and its efforts have gotten the attention of the Animal Welfare Institute in Washington D.C., whose staff members, Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour, Ph.D, came to Baltimore on November 8, 2011 to meet with Commission members Kevin Usilton and Robert Anderson and Jim Garcia of MOIT to discuss how Baltimore is tracking these crimes.

The map from MOIT, which is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Report, reflects the location of animal neglect and cruelty calls from July 1, 2010 through October 20, 2011. While certain clusters emerge, no region of the City is immune from these crimes. For the fiscal year 2011, MOIT catalogued 102 neglect, 62 cruelty and 18 BCPD calls from the 311 and 911 systems, for a total of 182 neglect and cruelty calls. This figure is somewhat incomplete, as it includes data from the BCPD for approximately 9 months. Moreover, it does not appear to include incidents of neglect or cruelty that are brought to shelters or rescue organizations.

While additional refinements need to be made, Baltimore has made significant progress in tracking and mapping animal cruelty cases. This data will undoubtedly assist law enforcement officials and prosecutors in not only protecting animals from violence, but our citizens as well.

### III. THE ANICARE WORKSHOPS

Maryland law provides that a court may order a convicted animal abuser to participate in and pay for psychological counseling. MD. CODE CRIM. LAW §§10-604(b)(2); 10-606(b)(2). As noted in the Task Force Report of July 10, 2010, however, there is a shortage of mental health therapists who have training and experience in this area.

Effective intervention can prevent recidivism, but involves more than a simple referral to a therapist with experience in anger management. For example, a 60-year old who is convicted of neglect for hoarding animals in her basement requires a different assessment and treatment plan than a 15-year old juvenile who sets a cat on fire. Treatment of animal abusers is not a “one size fits all” model.

While no peer reviewed counseling programs exists, a recognized and respected program is the AniCare Model, which was developed in 1999 as the first psychological intervention program for animal abusers over 17. AniCare Child is the companion program for juveniles. Both use a cognitive behavioral approach, which was adopted from Intimate Justice Theory, a theory that was originally developed for the clinical intervention of perpetrators of domestic violence. *The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse (1999), p. 4.*

The Task Force recommended in its report that mental health professionals should undergo training for assessing and treating animal abusers. That recommendation became a reality, thanks to the efforts of Commission member Karen Reese, who serves as the Executive Director of the Man Alive Lane Treatment Center.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Man Alive is the first medication assisted treatment program in Maryland and the second oldest in the country. The Lane Treatment Center, LLC is the first community-based behavioral health clinic within a

Ms. Reese and the Lane Treatment Center hosted a two-day AniCare Workshop on October 28-29, 2011 in Baltimore. Kenneth Shapiro, Ph.D, the Executive Director of the Animals & Society Institute, together with Megan Rave Lankenau, Ph.D. of the Ross Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders, facilitated the workshop. Dr. Shapiro has conducted AniCare workshops throughout the country.

The first day of the workshop was held at Sheppard Pratt Hospital and focused on *AniCare Child: Assessment and Treatment of Juveniles Who Abuse Animals*. The second day of the workshop was held at the Lane Treatment Center Clinic and focused on *AniCare Adult: Assessment and Treatment of Adults Who Abuse Animals*. A cross-section of professionals attended the workshops, including a psychiatrist, several licensed clinical therapists, case managers from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and the Office of Public Defender (OPD), animal welfare workers from the Snyder Foundation and the Maryland SPCA, as well as members of the Commission. Mental health professionals received six (6) continuing education credits for attending both workshops.

Dr. Shapiro and Dr. Rave Lankenau both live in Maryland and are willing to consult with and advise these mental health professionals if and when they receive referrals from the court.

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medication-assisted treatment program in Maryland. Ms. Reese holds an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame with undergraduate and graduate work in human services administration and psychology. She is licensed by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists in alcohol and drug abuse counseling and is a 2005 Graduate of the Weinberg Fellows Program in Maryland. At the national level, she served as the Mid-Atlantic Community Treatment Program Director for the National Institute of Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network. She was appointed to serve at the Executive Committee Level and was a standing member of the Steering Community and participated in national research studies for the advancement of evidence based practices within a substance abuse clinic. Ms. Reese's volunteer work includes serving on the Board of Recycled Love since its founding in 2004, which, after vetting from the Justice Department, received three (3) of the dogs seized from the Michael Vick dog fighting operation.

Additional caseworkers from DJS and OPD who were not able to attend the workshops participated in an online AniCare webinar on January 17, 2012 through the National District Attorney's Association.

#### **IV. INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES**

##### **A. The Baltimore Police Department**

During the past year, the Baltimore Police Department has devoted significant resources in the fight against animal cruelty. In the fall of 2011, Commissioner Bealefeld met with members of the Commission to express his support and commitment in fighting this crime. For nearly a year, the Commission has been holding its monthly meetings at Police Headquarters, which can be logistical burden for the Department, given the current size of the Commission.

The Commission works closely with the Chief of Patrol's Office. We are particularly grateful to Col. John Skinner – now Deputy Commissioner – who implemented coding and a new database within the Police Department, so that these crimes can be measured, located and researched more easily. Deputy Commissioner Skinner also implemented protocols for assigning animal cruelty cases and helped to increase awareness of these crimes at the patrol level. His successor, Lt. Col. Robert Booker, has continued his work of codifying procedures and creating a city wide sense of urgency in responding to these crimes.

Various officials from the Chief of Patrol's Office meet monthly with a law enforcement subcommittee of the Commission to review cases and develop best practices, including Lt. Col. Robert Booker, Sgt. Michael Nicholl, Sgt. Carla Hamlin, and Police Officer Dorian Salmon. For over a year, Sgt. Hamlin has overseen the assignment

of these cases to patrol officers. Officer Salmon investigates these cases and is now the Animal Abuse Liaison. She is extremely conscientious, hard-working and diligent and works closely with Animal Control, BARCS and the State's Attorney's Office. In the short time that Officer Salmon has worked with the Commission, several defendants have been charged with neglect or cruelty.

Dr. Randall Lockwood will provide training for police officers in April 2012 on recognizing the signs of neglect, cruelty and dogfighting as well as forensics. He has trained police departments around the country, including Chicago, Memphis, Los Angeles, Ft. Lauderdale, Louisville, Reno and the New York State Police. He is also scheduled to conduct a training this spring for the Prince George's County Police Department. Dr. Lockwood recently authored a Dogfighting Toolkit for Law Enforcement with the COPS Office (Community Oriented Policing Services) of the U.S. Department of Justice, which is being distributed not only nationally, but worldwide.

#### **B. Baltimore Sheriff's Office**

Cpt. Sam Cogen of the Sheriff's Office continues to provide leadership to the Commission as well as to the Bureau of Animal Control. As noted in the final Task Force Report for 2010, Cpt. Cogen not only provided basic training to his deputies in animal neglect and cruelty cases, but also instituted a policy requiring them to take enforcement action. Since then, the Sheriff's Office has filed charges in several cases where animals have been abandoned in buildings following an eviction or foreclosure. Some of these animals have not only been emaciated and dehydrated, but have also exhibited injuries consistent with dogfighting.

Cpt. Cogen has also spearheaded the Commission's partnership with Metro Crime Stoppers, serves as our liaison to that organization, and attends their monthly Board meetings.

### **C. Metro Crime Stoppers**

Metro Crime Stoppers of Maryland (MCS) is a volunteer organization that works with law enforcement agencies to resolve felony crimes. MCS is part of an international network of crime fighting organizations and works locally in Baltimore City, Annapolis, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne's County. Members of the public who have information about a felony crime can report anonymously by calling the MCS 24-Hour Hotline, 1-866-7LOCKUP. Callers who provide information leading to the arrest of a suspect may receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Earl Winterling, President of the Board of MCS, spoke to the Commission at its meeting in December 2011 and discussed MCS's willingness to work with Baltimore City to help fight these crimes. While it has always been available to help combat felony cases, Baltimore has never utilized MCS to resolve animal cruelty crimes.<sup>5</sup> The Board of Directors of MCS raises money to pay for rewards, but MCS also has the capacity to create escrow accounts when members of the public donate additional reward funds.

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<sup>5</sup> For the past 17 years, The Snyder Foundation for Animals has worked with Animal Control to offer rewards in animal cruelty cases for information that leads to the conviction (and final judgment) of an animal abuser. While the Snyder Foundation has offered rewards in countless cases over the years, it paid its first reward in 2011 in connection with the beating death of a puppy at the Carroll Park Golf Course, a crime that was perpetrated by 10-year old juveniles. The reward program is only one of many programs that the Snyder Foundation offers and its reward program differs from the MCS program. MSC's guidelines authorize the payment of a reward upon the arrest or indictment of a felon, rather than upon conviction or final judgment, and MCS is authorized to pay rewards to minors who provide information leading to an arrest.

This can be useful in high profile cases, such as the Phoenix case, where the public donated nearly \$28,000 of reward money to help locate the perpetrators of this crime.

MCS has already offered rewards for information in several pending cases and is working with the Baltimore Police and the Sheriff's Office to ensure that information may be transmitted through the Web Tip Information System. Our partnership may prove useful in these investigations, as many animal cruelty cases continue to go unpunished because witnesses do not come forward with information. MCS not only provides an incentive for witnesses to report, but also shields them by providing a cloak of anonymity.

#### **D. Prosecution of Animal Abuse Cases**

The State's Attorney's Office, under the leadership of Gregg Bernstein, has zealously prosecuted several animal neglect and cruelty cases and has assigned these cases to attorneys who have experience in prosecuting animal crimes. The Office has a permanent seat on the Commission and has been represented by ASA Jennifer Etheridge since July 2009. Although the Office has obtained convictions in numerous cases, the following have received significant media attention.

1. The Phoenix Case – State v. Travers and Tremayne Johnson – As is well known, this case -- which was the impetus for the creation of the Task Force -- involved the burning death of dog in broad daylight in West Baltimore. The case was initially tried over two weeks in January 2011 and resulted in a hung jury. The State's Attorney's Office has elected to retry the case, which has been postponed on several occasions, but is scheduled to be retried on March 23, 2012. Defendant Travers Johnson is also awaiting trial on charges of attempted murder and Tremayne Johnson is awaiting trial on

possession of CDS. Prosecutors Janet Hankin and Jennifer Rallo represent the State in the animal cruelty action.

2. The Carroll Park Puppy Beating Case<sup>6</sup> – On May 16, 2010, several golfers and a groundskeeper witnessed the beating death of an 8-week old pit bull puppy at the Carroll Park Golf Course. Police subsequently arrested two 10-year old boys, who were found responsible or “facts sustained” on three (3) counts of animal cruelty. A third juvenile was arrested and plead guilty to one count of animal cruelty.

On April 14, 2011, The Snyder Foundation for Animals, which holds a permanent seat on the Commission, paid a \$3,000 reward to Robert Widerman, a witness who came forward and provided testimony in the case. Mr. Widerman reported the crime and testified, despite lacking knowledge of the reward. Most significantly, while the Snyder Foundation has been offering rewards in animal cruelty cases for over seventeen (17) years, this was the first instance in which a reward was paid in Baltimore for an animal cruelty case. The reward signified a turning point in Baltimore’s fight against animal cruelty, which was announced at a press conference at the Snyder Foundation on April 13, 2011. ASA Jennifer Rallo pursued this case on behalf of the State’s Attorney’s Office.

3. The Mittens Case – ASA Jennifer Rallo also oversaw the juvenile proceeding involving “Mittens,” a nursing cat who was placed under a milk crate, doused with lighter fluid and set alight. The primary suspect, who was a juvenile, plead guilty to felony animal cruelty and Dr. Randall Lockwood provided expert testimony at the disposition hearing.

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<sup>6</sup> The names of the perpetrators in this case and the “Mittens” case cannot be disclosed because they are minors.

Mittens's story was a compelling one that captivated both the public and media. After extinguishing her flames in the snow, Mittens returned to the house of her abuser so that she could nurse her kittens. BARCS Animal Shelter cared for Mittens for several weeks and the story of her abuse was shared at legislative hearings in Annapolis. Mittens made national news, as the ASPCA named her the "Cat of the Year" at an awards ceremony in New York on November 17, 2011. A photograph of Mittens is attached to this Report at Exhibit 2.

State v. Ethan Weibman – In another highly publicized case, Ethan Weibman, a 20-year old defendant from New York, plead guilty in October 2011 to two (2) counts of felony animal cruelty involving the death of one cat and the mutilation of another. Court records reflect that Weibman was a suspect in other animal cruelty cases as well. On February 1, 2012, Judge Chiapparelli ordered Weibman to serve three (3) years in jail (concurrent on both counts), but suspended all but 90 days, followed by three (3) years of probation and a \$5,000 fine. Commission member Jennifer Etheridge prosecuted the case.

## **V. THE ANIMAL ABUSE/HUMAN VIOLENCE LINK**

Animal abuse is both an indicator crime and a predictor crime. By taking this crime seriously, we not only reduce violence against animals, but we ultimately reduce interpersonal and other types of violence as well. Commission members read the monthly newsletter of the National Link Coalition ([www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)), which discusses the latest research in this field and lists webinars and other trainings for professionals and lay people alike.

Recognizing this well-documented link, the Commission has met with personnel from the House of Ruth and has expanded its collaboration with DJS, which holds a permanent seat on the Commission.

#### **A. House of Ruth**

The Commission invited Victoria Deyesu and Sande Riesett, a Board member and consultant to the House of Ruth of Maryland (HRM), respectively, to its meeting in March 2011 to discuss the issues relating to the animal abuse/domestic violence link. In addition, Dr. Lockwood and the Commission Chair met with Ms. Deyesu and Sandi Timmons, the Executive Director of the HRM, in June 2011 to discuss ways in which the Commission and HRM can work together.

Although seventy percent (70%) of domestic violence victims report that their abusers have threatened, harmed or killed their pet, HRM, like most shelters around the country, does not have the capacity to house animals at its domestic violence shelter. Instead, HRM relies on a safe havens program to provide temporary shelter to animals in undisclosed locations.

Although the law in Maryland has been recently changed to permit a judge to grant temporary possession of a pet in a domestic violence case, intake forms at the HRM and at other shelters have not been changed to determine if animals are in need of protection. While this information is often obtained in the initial interview, statistics concerning the demand for safe haven programs in Maryland would be helpful for protecting animals in cases of domestic violence.

The Commission hopes to continue its collaboration with and be a resource for the HRM in the future. HRM joined the Commission on August 20, 2011 at the

Peacekeepers Ride and Rally to stop animal abuse and domestic violence and provided information about its programs to the public.

### **B. Department of Social Services**

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) holds a permanent seat on the Commission and Delmonica Hawkins and Maybelle Purviance attend our monthly meetings. On June 15, 2011, the Commission invited several experts in the field of juvenile justice to discuss juveniles and animal cruelty, including Antonio Rivera, Assistance Attorney General, Robert Shipman, Resource Specialist Supervisor for DJS, Dr. Arleen Rogan, Chair - Professional and Psychological Services for DJS, the Hon. Stephen Sfekas, Baltimore City Circuit Court, and Jennifer Rallo, Assistant State's Attorney.

Given the confidentiality of juvenile records, it is difficult to obtain data regarding animal cruelty and juveniles. Although it estimated that thirty percent (30%) of these crimes are perpetrated by juveniles, the actual figure may be much higher. The Commission recommends that forms at DJS (and other social service agencies) be amended so that caseworkers routinely ask questions regarding animal abuse at intake, so that these offenders can be identified and receive treatment if necessary.

The panel acknowledged that many caseworkers at DJS are not knowledgeable about animal abuse treatment programs and appropriate referrals. Other caseworkers do not appreciate the significance of these crimes. The panel also acknowledged that it is sometimes difficult to find providers who are willing to work with this population, as some mental health professionals elect not to work with animal abuse or sex offenders.

Both Ms. Hawkins and Ms. Purviance attended the Anicare Child workshop at Sheppard Pratt Hospital and referred other colleagues to an online webinar on assessing and treating juveniles who are charged with animal abuse, which has been archived at [www.aspcapro.org/prosecuting-animal-cruelty-webinars.php](http://www.aspcapro.org/prosecuting-animal-cruelty-webinars.php). The Anicare workshop and webinar have provided basic information to the DJS that has not yet been available.

## **VI. LEGISLATION**

The 2011 legislative session in Annapolis proved to be the most productive session for animal protection in a decade. For years, bills languished in committee and by 2010, Maryland had fallen to 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation with respect to the strength of its animal protection laws, according to a ranking of the Animal League Defense Fund (ALDF). The General Assembly passed five (5) animal protection bills last year, including two (2) bills that the Task Force had recommended and supported. As a result of these new laws -- which resurrected Maryland from the bottom tier in the rankings -- Maryland rose to 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation according to ALDF rankings for 2011.

The success on the legislative front is attributable to the work of many groups, particularly, Maryland Votes for Animals (MVFA), a political action committee. Its President, Carolyn Kilborn, spoke to the Commission at its meeting on January 11, 2012. MVFA works closely with the Humane Society of the United States, which lobbies in Annapolis and monitors the voting record of each legislator through a published state ranking. The ASPCA and the Animal Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association also provided testimony in Annapolis during the last session. In just a few short years, the animal welfare lobby has become an organized and recognized force in Annapolis.

Similarly, Baltimore experienced significant legislative progress as well. In December 2011, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake signed legislation reconstituting Title 10, the City Code provisions governing animal control and protection. Assistant Solicitor Michael Schrock of the City's Law Department worked extensively on this project and spoke to the Commission about the proposed changes at its meetings on December 9, 2010 and May 11, 2011. The Legislative Subcommittee of the Commission met with Mr. Schrock throughout 2011 to review and discuss the proposed revisions and the Commission testified in support of its enactment. Councilman Robert Curran, Chair of the Health Committee and the City Council liaison to the Commission, worked for months to ensure passage of the bill.

Below are highlights of the legislative sessions, both in the General Assembly and the City Council.

**A. The Maryland General Assembly**

1. Protective Order for Pets: Domestic Violence – Additional Relief-Award of Temporary Possession of a Pet (SB 747 and HB 407).

This law now allows a court to award temporary possession of any pet belonging to either a person eligible for relief or the respondent in a domestic violence case. The Commission Chair, along with other representatives from animal welfare and domestic violence groups, testified in support of this bill. This was a long-sought victory, as versions of this bill died in the House Judiciary Committee in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 sessions. Governor O'Malley signed this bill into law on May 10, 2011 and Maryland is now one of twenty-two (22) states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, that includes protections for animals in domestic violence cases.

2. Prohibiting Animal Ownership for Animal Cruelty Violators – Criminal Law – Animal Abuse, Neglect or Cruelty - Conditions of Probation (SB115 and HB 227).

On April 12, 2011, Governor O’Malley signed legislation authorizing a court to prohibit a convicted animal abuser from owning, possessing or residing with an animal as a condition of probation, or for five (5) years. This, too, was a significant victory, as a prior bill did not advance beyond a first reading in the House Judiciary Committee. We appreciate the work of Councilman Robert Curran, who testified in support of this legislation.

3. Spay and Neuter Task Force – Establishment of a State-Wide Spay Neuter Fund (SB639 and HB 339).

Governor O’Malley signed legislation on May 10, 2011 that establishes a task force to determine the most appropriate means of creating a statewide spay/neuter fund in Maryland. The Spay/Neuter Task Force, whose members include Commission member Aileen Gabbey of the Maryland SPCA, Darlene Saunders Harris of BARCS and Carolyn Kilborn of MVFA, are charged with collecting information regarding spay/neuter programs in Maryland and best practices in other states. It must also make recommendations for a spay/neuter fund that best serves the needs in Maryland. The Task Force was asked to report to the General Assembly on January 1, 2012, but its work was delayed, due to the late appointment of certain members. Accordingly, the Task Force is seeking an extension of time for its work during the 2012 legislative session.

4. Puppy Mills: Counties – Kennel Licenses – Requirements for Breeders (SB839 and HB 940).

This legislation, which Governor O’Malley signed into law on May 10, 2011, is geared toward determining the extent of puppy mills in Maryland. It requires breeders to

obtain a Maryland state kennel license if they own fifteen (15) or more unspayed female dogs and sell dogs from six (6) or more litters in a year. The bills require each county to report such data to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation annually.

5. Antifreeze Bill: The Engine Coolant and Antifreeze Bittering Agent Act (HB 897).

Commencing January 1, 2012, antifreeze sold or offered in Maryland must contain a bittering agent to deter animals from ingesting it. Governor O'Malley signed this bill into law on May 19, 2011.

**B. The Baltimore City Code**

The reconstitution of Title 10 (Council Bill 11-0766) was an undertaking more than a year in the making. Assistant Solicitor Michael Schrock, with the assistance of Eva Carbot, a law student from the University of Maryland School of Law, researched local laws and best practices from around the country. Mr. Schrock also met throughout the year with Commission members representing the Health Department, Animal Control, and BARCS. Because Title 10 is 65 pages long, this Report will briefly summarize the new Code provisions affecting animal neglect and abuse, as well as the Commission.

Several Code sections under Title 10 have been reorganized and revised Title 10-404 both clarifies the definition of animal abuse and provides specific examples of what constitutes this unlawful conduct. While subsection 1 parallels the Maryland Code in prohibiting a person from overdriving, overloading, torturing, beating, killing or mutilating an animal, additional subsections prohibit an individual from engaging in the following conduct:

(5) Leaving any domestic animal unattended in a parked, standing, or stopped vehicle in a manner that endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the animal;

(6) Confining, tethering, or allowing an animal to remain in outside areas during periods of extreme weather without access to proper shelter;

(7) Hoarding, accumulating, or maintaining a number of animals in a single location, if the number of animals overwhelms a person's ability to provide nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care or the person fails to acknowledge the deteriorating health of the animal or condition of the dwelling or facility.

These provisions provide greater guidance to animal enforcement officers in combating neglect and cruelty. Title 10-224 dovetails amended MD. CRIM. LAW CODE ANN. §10-604 and §10-606 by banning a convicted animal abuser from reapplying for an animal license for five (5) years.

Title 10 provides new protections to the Health Department for the cost of care of impounded animals. These expenses can be significant if an owner seeks judicial review of an administration decision and often went uncollected in Baltimore. Revised Title 10 not only requires an owner to pay all costs of care from the time of impoundment, but requires an owner to *prepay* the estimated costs of caring for the animal for each 30-day period pending judicial review of a decision of the Health Department. Code §§ 10-1010 and 1011.<sup>7</sup>

Finally, pursuant to §10-105, the Health Commissioner may request the Commission to research best practices and make recommendations regarding the regulation and treatment of animals. This provision dovetails similar responsibilities of the Commission as set forth in the original enabling legislation found in Article I, Subtitle 55.

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<sup>7</sup> These expenses are also deemed to be a personal debt of the owner, which allows Baltimore City to collect the debt even if the owner does not own real property.

## **VII. ANIMAL SERVICES IN BALTIMORE**

Animal Control lost several employees and BARCS lost significant funding during last year. Both face further cuts in the coming year. The Commission has recently formed an Animal Services subcommittee to make recommendations regarding future oversight of Animal Control.<sup>8</sup>

### **A. Baltimore City Animal Control**

As noted in its Interim Report dated January 5, 2010, Baltimore City's Animal Control has been chronically underfunded and understaffed, a problem that has been documented since 1999, when it was staffed at nearly 50% below the recommended national standards. *Interim Report*, p. 22. At the time, Baltimore had seventeen (17) animal enforcement officers (AEO) and four (4) Sanitarians. Since then, AEOs have experienced a significant increase in their workloads due to public demand. The Task Force initially recommended that Animal Control employ twenty-five (25) AEOs, two (2) Sanitarians, and four (4) Supervisors to meet minimally acceptable staffing levels.

Animal Control has lost ground even since it issued its Interim Report (2) years ago.<sup>9</sup> During the past year, Animal Control lost a supervisor and two (2) drivers, who were charged with picking up more than 4,000 dead animals a year. AEOs must now pick up these dead animals in the same trucks as live animals, which creates the potential for spreading disease. In addition, it is unable to fund positions for two (2) AEOs.

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<sup>8</sup> The Commission has invited the Health Commissioner, Dr. Oxiris Barbot, to prior meetings, but her schedule has not permitted her to attend. It recently provided dates of its upcoming meetings and hopes that she can provide information regarding her vision for Animal Control and address issues relating to Animal Services in Baltimore.

<sup>9</sup> In January 2010, Animal Control had sixteen (16) AEOs, two (2) drivers, one (1) Sanitarian and three (3) Supervisors.

Animal Control currently has only thirteen (13) AEOs and (1) Animal Bite Coordinator to respond to nearly 32,000 service requests a year, approximately 85 per day, 24-hours a day. The current funding level is not acceptable because Animal Control does not have the staff to provide critical services that are necessary to protect public health and safety and it cannot respond to other important service requests, such as neglect, abuse and running at large complaints in a timely fashion. Both the public and their animals are now at greater risk for bite injuries.

As previously reported, animal control agencies that are unable to respond to animal emergencies not only fail the animals in need, but also develop poor reputations on the part of the public who expect their emergency to be a priority. *Interim Report at p. 23.* Baltimore is no exception, as noted in an op-ed article in The Sun regarding a puppy that was trapped in an abandoned building. According to the writer, Animal Control claimed that it could not respond to the request for three (3) weeks. *Baltimore Sun, No City Should Allow Animals to Starve* (T. Metz, August 1, 2011). While non-profit organizations such as the Maryland SPCA and BARCS continue to shoulder greater burdens with respect to animals in need, there are certain non-delegable services that a City must provide, and animal control services are no exception. Current funding levels compromise not only public health, but public safety as well. The City must provide adequate funding to this beleaguered agency so that it can employ sufficient staff to respond to the 32,000 requests for assistance it receives each year from Baltimore residents.

AEOs also need ongoing training. Most AEOs have attended the East Coast Animal Control Academy, which conducts 90-hour training programs at the Community

College of Carroll County. The Task Force had previously recommended that AEOs receive specialized training in forensics and investigative techniques at the police academy and the Commission renews this recommendation. AEOs should also receive training regarding proper documentation in animal neglect and cruelty cases. Finally, AEOs should receive continuing education in the appropriate handling of animals.

Compounding these problems is a power vacuum. Animal Control has been overseen by the Division of Community and Environmental Health of the Baltimore City Health Department, which is being absorbed into another division as part of departmental reorganization. Baltimore recently lost its Director of Animal Control, Kevin Usilton, who accepted a job in Delaware. Carrie Durham, J.D., was briefly appointed the Interim Director of Animal Control, but Ms. Durham has left the Health Department for other opportunities. The Health Department recently appointed another Interim Director, Patricia Vaults, until a new director can be hired.

The Health Department and the Commission have lost Olivia Farrow, Esquire, whose position as Deputy was eliminated. Ms. Farrow has spent her entire legal career with the Health Department and even served as the Acting Health Commissioner following the creation of the Task Force. She most recently served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Community and Environmental Health. Ms. Farrow provided unparalleled expertise to the Task Force and Commission, particularly to its legislative subcommittee. Her departure is a significant loss to the Commission.

## **B. Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS)**

BARCS is a non-profit organization that was established in 2005 to operate the City's municipal shelter. It has overcome remarkable hurdles in the seven (7) years it has been in existence. Most significantly, BARCS inherited a facility that had euthanized ninety-eight percent (98%) of all animals, nearly every animal that came through its doors.

While BARCS supports the public through several programs, its greatest achievement is that it has adopted thousands of animals each year, has worked with shelters and rescue groups across the country to accept thousands more, and its current euthanasia rate has dropped to thirty-eight percent (38%). BARCS employs a total of fifty (50) full and part-time staff who labor tirelessly to reduce this rate each year.

BARCS is unique in that while it is a 501(c)(3) corporation, it is the only "open admission" shelter in the region, which requires it to accept every homeless animal, every animal surrendered by the public, and every animal brought in by Animal Control, be it a dog, cat, snake or goat. In FY2011, BARCS accepted 11,700 dogs and cats and 730 other species of animals.<sup>10</sup>

Most significantly, BARCS cares for the vast majority of the neglected and abused animals in Baltimore. Because of its fundraising, it has been able to increase medical care and hire two part-time veterinarians, as well as veterinary technicians and other staff members who provide critical care to abused animals such as Mittens. It has also raised money to hire staff to educate the public about responsible pet ownership.

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<sup>10</sup> Many people are not aware that BARCS receives wildlife, exotic animals and farm animals. Attached at Exhibit 3 is a photograph of "Sweet Pea," a pig that was surrendered to BARCS in February 2012.

BARCS is a busy, thriving shelter that serves thousands of City residents each year. It hosts low-cost vaccine clinics for the public, which, for some residents, is the only veterinary care that their animals receive. It also hosts affordable micro-chipping clinics, spay/neuter clinics with Community Cats of Maryland, and dog training classes. As one Commission member has noted, the lobby at BARCS can resemble the waiting room of an emergency room on weekends, when members of the public line up to find lost animals, reclaim impounded animals, seek information or adopt. In addition, City residents line up out the door to surrender animals. The demand for services at BARCS is greater than ever, given that so many citizens are unemployed or have lost their homes through eviction or foreclosure.

BARCS has struggled over the past year to absorb a nearly \$50,000 cut in its grant from the City. Further cuts threaten to eliminate the progress that BARCS has made and will result in greater euthanasia rates for the first time in years. Staffing cuts would result in a drop in education services and fewer adoptions, which are labor-intensive. In addition, the shelter would endure greater burdens for costs of care, supplies, and surgeries. Because BARCS will continue as the only open admission shelter in Baltimore and the last resort for many individuals, euthanasia rates will inevitably increase, which will demoralize not only the remaining employees, but the public as well. The irony of further budget cuts, however, is that expenses will increase over time due to the cost of euthanasia and dead animal disposal.

BARCS is one of the success stories of this City and has brought positive publicity to Baltimore, both locally and nationally. BARCS was one (1) of only five (5) shelters in the country to receive a major grant from Best Friends and PetSmart charities

to increase awareness and advocacy of pit bull terrier type dogs (Shelter Partners for Pit Bulls Project). It received positive national attention on the Today Show and other media outlets when Mittens received the Cat of the Year award from the ASPCA. BARCS will also be featured on national television on April 17<sup>th</sup> on Animal Planet.

Baltimore has made a commitment to stopping animal cruelty and it must make a commitment to support its only open admission shelter as well. BARCS has served tens of thousands of City residents since it was created in 2005. It cares for the majority of animals that are abused in Baltimore. BARCS was hit with a major funding cut last year, even though the grant to BARCS represents less than one percent (1%) of the budget of the Health Department. It can no longer be a scapegoat. At a minimum, the City must maintain the current level of funding for BARCS.

## **VIII. THE SHOW YOUR SOFT SIDE CAMPAIGN**

In September 2011, the Commission launched the “Show Your Soft Side” Campaign, which features professional athletes with their pets in a media campaign that is geared toward abating juvenile-inflicted animal cruelty. The campaign has been widely praised, has received national attention, and media inquiries from as far away as Brazil.

The campaign is the brainchild of Sandra Riesett, an advertising professional who attended a Task Force meeting that focused on the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Ms. Riesett became increasingly more incensed by the many cases of animal cruelty that have been perpetrated by teenagers in Baltimore and offered her professional services to create a world-class anti-cruelty campaign.

During the summer of 2011, Ms. Riesett met with an *ad hoc* committee of the Commission and crafted a campaign that would be both unsentimental and credible to teenagers. Ms. Riesett sought to use role models that would effectively convey the message that strong and powerful men do not hurt animals; rather, they treat them with kindness and respect. What emerged was a campaign featuring professional athletes and their animals with the tagline, “Only a Punk Would Hurt a Cat or Dog.”

Ms. Riesett, with the assistance of Lori Smyth, Promotions Director for 98-Rock, recruited Adam Jones of the Orioles, Jarrett Johnson of the Ravens, and John Rallo, a mixed martial arts fighter and the creator of the Shogun Fights, to launch the campaign. Photographs of these athletes are attached at Exhibit 4.

Ms. Riesett also amassed a team of professionals who similarly donated their time *pro bono*. Professional photographer Leo Howard Lubow has captured the images for the campaign. Ms. Riesett obtained public relations support from Amy Elias and Marianne Ortiz of Profiles, Inc., and media support from Jody Berg, Megan Olson, and Courtney Berg of Media Works, Ltd. Jody Berg, the president and founder of the company, also procured an estimated \$187,000 of donated media space from several companies, including CBS Outdoor, Direct Media, Clear Channel Outdoor, and Eastern Outdoor. Several businesses and individuals have provided financial support and have sponsored the campaign including Eddie’s of Roland Park, Kirk Designs, Inc., Full Moon Marketing, Media Works, the Dyer Kronberger Group at RBC Wealth Management, and Bill Magruder and Azam Khan of Long & Foster.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake launched the campaign at a press conference at City Hall on September 29, 2011, together with Council President Bernard “Jack”

Young, Adam Jones, John Rallo, and members of the Commission. Many members of the animal welfare community attended, along with business leaders, law enforcement officials, and employees of BARCS and Animal Control.

The campaign initially printed 1,500 posters for distribution throughout the City. Posters were given to all schools within the Baltimore City School System. Commission members distributed posters to local businesses, houses of worship, courthouses and municipal buildings as well.

With continued support from Lori Smyth and others, several new athletes and local celebrities have been photographed for the campaign, including Dizzy Grant of the Harlem Globetrotters, football great Qadry Ismail, “L’il Black,” DJ from local radio station 92Q, “Nokio” from the R&B band Dru Hill, Frank Remesch, General Manager of First Mariner Arena, Mike Lookingland of the Baltimore Blast, lacrosse champion Paul Rabil, and Brendan Ayanbadejo of the Ravens.

In conjunction with the campaign, Ms. Riesett, together with 98 Rock and Style Magazine, created a public contest dubbed the Softie of the Year contest. Contestants submitted photographs of themselves with their animals, together with a brief explanation as to why their animal brought out their “soft side.” Style Magazine and 98 Rock selected 10 finalists and the public selected a winner on the Show Your Soft Side Facebook page, which has attracted over 6,000 fans worldwide.

The contest culminated with a private reception on January 10, 2012 that honored the 10 finalists. Several celebrities from the campaign attended, including John Rallo, Nokio and Qadry Ismail. The contest winner, PJ Morrison and his rescue dog Bolt,

currently appear on a billboard at 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Falls Road and will be interviewed on 98 Rock and Style Magazine.

The Show Your Soft Side campaign and the companion public contest have further galvanized the City in its efforts to combat animal cruelty and has solidified Baltimore's role as a leader in the fight against this crime.

While the celebrity studded campaign has had a certain entertainment value, the message, nevertheless, remains a serious one. Animal cruelty continues to plague our City and many of the most disturbing cases of abuse continue to be perpetrated by men who are still minors. The genius of Ms. Riesett's campaign and Mr. Lubow's images is that this campaign resonates with so many people, not only the young men to whom it is directed. Animals enhance our world immeasurably and this campaign reminds us of our responsibility to protect them.

The campaign has garnered significant momentum, but can only continue if individuals and corporate sponsors underwrite the expenses of the campaign. The Commission now has an account at the Baltimore City Foundation and tax-deductible contributions can be made to underwrite the costs of the campaign, as well as other initiatives of the Commission.

Ms. Riesett and her remarkable team have taught us something else: there are many ways to help animals and participate in the fight against animal cruelty beyond the traditional means of donating to or volunteering at a shelter. Philanthropy takes many forms and animal rescues and shelters always need the expertise of professionals that they cannot afford.

In its initial report, the Task Force made several recommendations for a bold and ambitious media campaign to stop animal cruelty. It quickly became apparent, however, that these recommendations were merely aspirational, as the City lacked the resources to underwrite such an expensive endeavor. The creators, sponsors and participants in the Show Your Soft Side campaign have not only made our aspirations a reality, they have left an indelible mark on the fabric of this City that has inspired many to do a better job of protecting animals from neglect and violence.

## **IX. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

While the Show Your Soft Side campaign has been the most visible component of our education and outreach efforts, the Commission has been involved in additional projects, which are outlined briefly herein.

Baltimore City Public School System – The commitment and involvement of the school system is critical to our initiatives, as animal cruelty is both an indicator crime and a predictor crime. Dr. Andres Alonso, Superintendent of the Baltimore City Public Schools, attended the Commission’s monthly meeting on November 9, 2011 to discuss humane education and improved responses to animal abuse in Baltimore City.

Although many citizens have recommended that humane education be incorporated in the public school curriculum, Dr. Alonso advised that the school system already teaches empathy through reading selections in grades K-5 and cautioned that ritualistic programs that are taught once a year are often marginally effective. Dr. Alonso recommended that efforts be targeted to the most at-risk youth, rather than the general population of 85,000 students. The Commission suggested focusing training on guidance

counselors and mental health professionals, as they are natural conduits for disseminating information regarding animal abuse prevention.

Our collaboration with the school system must be ongoing, as problems and opportunities will continue to arise. Debbie Dillard-Thomas, Dr. Alonso's Executive Assistant in the Office of Student Support and Safety, has continued to our attend meetings at the Commission's invitation. She has helped to disseminate the Show Your Soft Side posters to all schools and works as a liaison to both the Commission and the Snyder Foundation for Animals, which employs two full-time humane educators, including Commission member Ann Gearhart. The Commission recommends that the BCPSS have a permanent seat on the Commission.

Citywide Special Education Advocacy Project – Commission member Carolyn Myers of the Ninth District serves on the CityWide Special Education Advocacy Project (CWSEAP), a coalition of advocates, attorneys, community service providers and educators, who seek to improve outcomes for children and adults with special needs or disabilities. Ms. Myers attends monthly CWSEAP meetings and shares our initiatives with the group. She arranged for the Commission Chair to make a presentation at its November 2011 meeting to discuss the Show Your Soft Side Campaign.

Presentations/Trainings – Dr. Randall Lockwood of the ASPCA has made several presentations regarding the Commission's work, the evolution of animal cruelty laws, and the link between animal cruelty and human violence. He spoke to the Circuit Court bench on March 31, 2011, the District Court bench on October 31, 2001, the Anti-Cruelty Working Group of the Office Justice Programs (Department of Justice) on January 31, 2011, and to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council on February 8, 2012.

Community Resources to Help Animals – Many members of the public lack information regarding how to report incidents of animal neglect and cruelty and where to locate affordable resources for animals, such as spay/neuter services. Commission member Aileen Gabbey, the Executive Director of the Maryland SPCA, has prepared a brochure titled, *Community Resources to Help Animals*, which answers many common questions. Commission members have distributed this brochure at community meetings and at public events such as BARCStoberfest. A copy of this brochure is attached at Exhibit 5.

Peacekeepers Ride and Rally – The Peacekeepers are a motorcycle club of law enforcement officials and military veterans who donate significant time and resources to helping children and teenagers. The Peacekeepers sponsor two schools in the City and frequently host toy drives for the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

In the spring of 2011, the Peacekeepers approached the Commission about co-sponsoring an event to bring awareness about animal cruelty and domestic violence. The two groups held a Peace Ride and Rally on August 20, 2011 that started with a police escorted motorcycle ride through the City and ended at the Bluford Drew Jemison Academy on N. Caroline Street, one of the schools that the Peacekeepers sponsor. Music and food were provided to approximately 500 attendees and several rescue and domestic violence organizations provided information to the public. Mayor Rawlings-Blake attended the event, along with several members of the City Council. Members of the Baltimore delegation of the Maryland General Assembly also attended.

The Commission is very grateful to our colleague, Judith Kunst, who chaired the event on behalf of the Commission. This event required several weeks of planning and

preparation. The Peacekeepers are scheduling a national motorcycle ride against animal cruelty in 2012 and the Commission hopes to participate in this event.

Take Animal Abuse Seriously - The Snyder Foundation for Animals has created posters for public officials and the public to sign, pledging not only take animal abuse seriously, but to report it. These posters are being distributed and signed at public events and at schools. The posters contain the logos of several of our partners, including the Mayor, the Baltimore Police Department, the Bureau of Animal Control, and the Peacekeepers Motorcycle Club. The Snyder Foundation hopes to showcase these signed posters publically, either at City Hall or another prominent location.

Maggie Quille Community Center Doghouse Project – The Commission has also worked with the We Can Achieve Program of the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, and their Director, Mr. Adrian Muldrow. Interns of the program have built spacious and well-crafted doghouses for a community project in Druid Hill. They also took a visible and public stand against animal cruelty by donating one of their doghouses to the Commission, which was raffled during the Peacekeepers Rally. BARCS Animal Shelter was the grateful recipient of the doghouse. Mayor Rawlings-Blake commended the interns at a community meeting on August 27, 2011 and members of the We Can Achieve Program joined the Commission for the press conference for the Show Your Soft Side campaign, where they showcased their handiwork at City Hall. We hope to continue our collaboration with the Druid Heights Community in the years to come.

## **X. WHERE WE GO FROM HERE**

The Commission has begun discussing its priorities for the coming year. Our current members have served for approximately one (1) year and public members will need to be appointed or re-appointed, pursuant to §55-4(a)(1). We have already experienced turn-over among our new members. Some members have resigned, citing time constraints; others are deemed to have resigned due to excessive absences.

We look forward to working with a few new public members to fill vacancies. Our group is not an honorary Commission, but rather, a working Commission. Members should not only have some expertise, but also the time and commitment to extend our work into the community. Since the original Task Force was created nearly three (3) ago, we have received no funding for any of our initiatives. We are all volunteers and we have no staff. The Commission has made progress through sweat equity and determination alone, together with the commitment of the Mayor, the City Council and public officials.

We hope to conduct additional training sessions for the Baltimore Police and Animal Control in the coming year. In addition, we hope to expand our collaboration with other agencies, such as the Department of Housing and the Department of Social Services. We have learned that thousands of Baltimore City residents support our mission of eradicating animal cruelty and dogfighting. As always, we welcome ideas and suggestions from business leaders, rescue groups, educators and the faith based community and we encourage the public to visit our webpage on the City's website at [www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov) Search: Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission.

## **XI. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Below are the recommendations that the Commission has made this past year, as well as prior recommendations that have not been implemented.

### **A. New Recommendations**

1. A representative from the Baltimore City Public School System should have a permanent seat on the Commission.
2. The Baltimore Police Department should continue its efforts to train additional patrol officers in recognizing signs of animal neglect, cruelty and dogfighting. Moreover, because patrol officers are responding to more cases, they should also receive training in effective police responses when encountering dogs and responding to dog-related incidents. Dr. Randall Lockwood of the ASPCA will be conducting a training for police officers in April 2012. The costs of implementing this recommendation are negligible.
3. Domestic violence clinics and shelters should amend their intake forms to determine if animals in the household are in need of protection. While this information is often obtained during an initial interview, statistics concerning the demand for safe haven programs in Maryland would be helpful to protect animals in cases of domestic violence. The costs of implementing this recommendation are negligible.
4. The Department of Juvenile Services (as well as other social service agencies) should amend their forms so that caseworkers routinely ask questions regarding animal abuse at intake. This would allow caseworkers to identify offenders and refer them to treatment if necessary. The costs of implementing this recommendation are negligible.
5. In addition to receiving specialized training in forensics and investigative techniques, Animal Enforcement Officers (AEOs) should receive continuing training in the documentation of animal neglect and cruelty cases, as well as the proper handling of animals.
6. Guidance counselors and mental health professionals working in the Baltimore City Public School System should receive training on the link between animal abuse and human violence, as they are natural conduits for disseminating information regarding animal abuse prevention.

### **B. Recommendations Not Yet Implemented**

7. Animal Control and the Department of Social Services - Child Protection Services should enter into an interagency agreement whereby social services employees are required to report suspected cases of animal abuse or neglect. An experienced AEO

or a humane educator could provide the necessary training to social services employees. The costs of implementing this recommendation are negligible.

8. Over time, the City should require other agencies to report suspected animal neglect and abuse, such as the Baltimore Housing Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Transportation.
9. The City of Baltimore needs to clarify how and where to report animal cruelty through a media campaign. In a nutshell, individuals with information regarding animal neglect or cruelty should call 311; individuals who witness dogfighting or cruelty crimes in progress should call 911. A successful media campaign could include signs on Animal Control vehicles, signs on MTA buses, and billboards. Signs should also be posted in public schools. Finally, the City should repair the neon sign above Animal Control's office at 301 Stockholm Street. This sign, which is visible from I-295 and I-395, could direct people to report animal cruelty.
10. AEOs should receive, in addition to their training at the East Coast Animal Control Academy, specialized training in forensics and investigative techniques at the police academy. The costs of implementing this recommendation would be negligible.
11. The City should redirect revenue generated from the issuance of Animal Control citations toward the budget for Animal Control, rather than into the General Fund. This change in funding would provide an added incentive for AEOs and would result in even greater productivity. The costs of implementing this recommendation would be negligible.
12. AEOs should be required to attend the East Coast Animal Control Academy as a condition of employment. Sufficient funding should be provided for this critical training, which would protect officers as well as animals. The costs for attending the Academy are \$1,600 per AEO.
13. BARCS should be properly staffed to have fifteen (15) kennel employees per day to handle cleaning and feeding of the shelter population, which averages 250-300 animals on any given day (with an additional 200 animals in foster care). BARCS currently has only nine (9) kennel employees per day. The annual personnel costs, including benefits for each full-time kennel employee, are \$30,000. Additional positions could be added incrementally as the budget permits.
14. Animal Control should be properly staffed to include a minimum of four (4) Supervisors, twenty-five (25) AEOs, and two (2) Sanitarians. The personnel costs including benefits for these employees are as follows: AEO - \$50,000; Supervisor - \$54,000; Sanitarian - \$62,000. Additional positions could be added incrementally as the budget permits.
15. The City should renew its efforts to relocate BARCS and Animal Control to a larger facility to accommodate not only the current influx of animals, but the increased

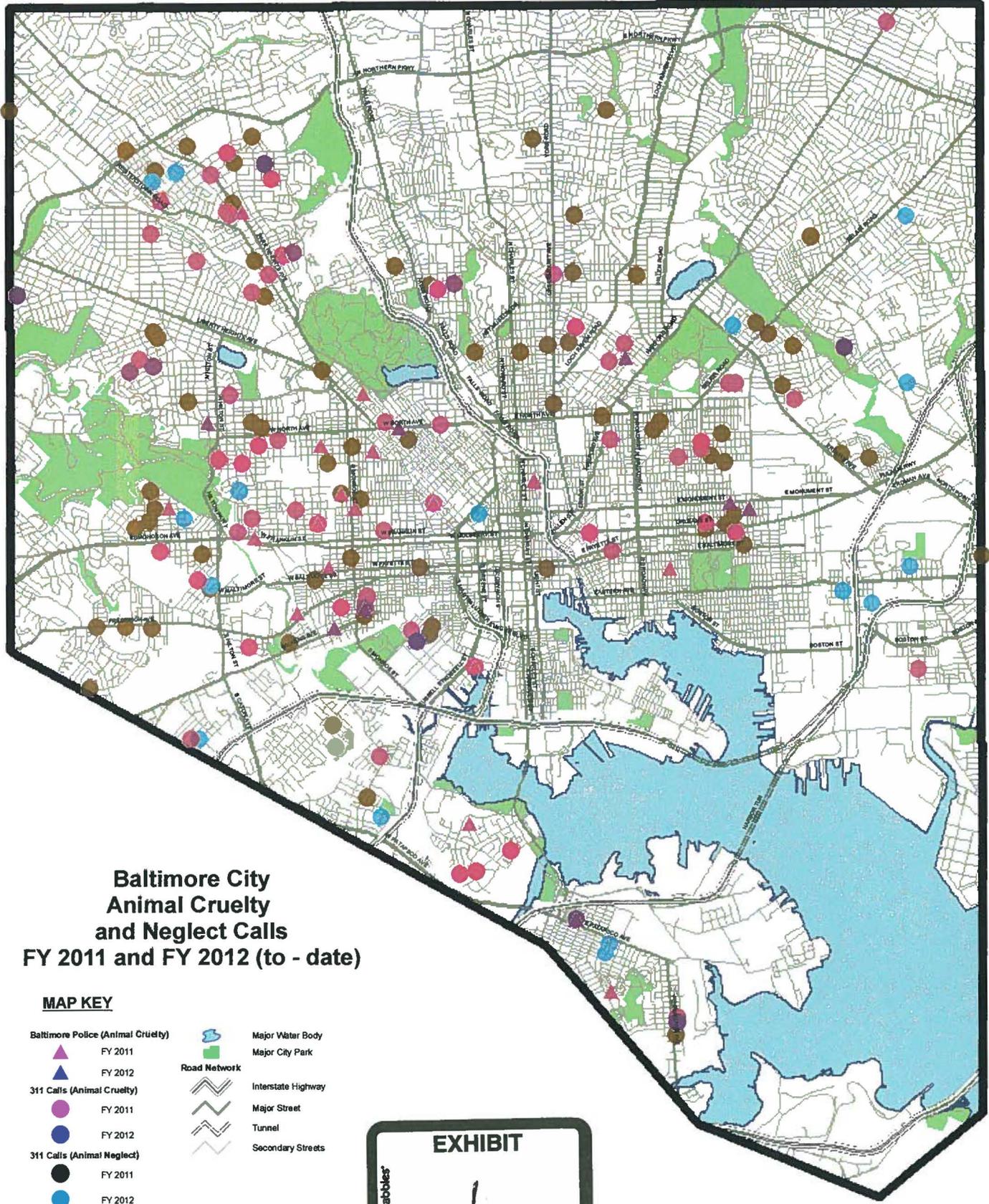
demands that will arise with greater enforcement of Maryland's cruelty laws. Because of the existing high volume of animals at BARCS, the City has no means to assist the community by providing temporary shelter for companion animals in the event of a disaster. Moreover, the current location of these operations on Stockholm Street is problematic. Because the facility fronts the Patapsco River, it would be highly unlikely – if not impossible – to evacuate 250 - 300 animals in the event of a hurricane or flood. The costs of building a brand new shelter with necessary space of 34,567 square feet could cost upward of nine to ten million dollars.

At a bare minimum, the City must identify a location where animals housed at BARCS would be transferred in the event of an evacuation and the City should investigate whether any federal funds from FEMA or other agencies would be available for disaster preparedness planning. In addition, the Department of Transportation should promulgate regulations that would allow citizens to bring companion animals onto public transportation during a declared disaster.

16. Maryland should amend its misdemeanor and felony cruelty laws to provide either a cost of care, restitution, or bonding provision. These provisions require convicted defendants to pay for the costs of impounding an animal due to neglect, abuse, or dogfighting, including their veterinary expenses.
17. Maryland should define or replace the term “cruelly kills” in its felony cruelty statute (MD. CODE CRIM. LAW §10-606 ANN.), so as to avoid any perceived ambiguity in the statute. Maryland should consider replacing this phrase with either “needlessly kills” or “unnecessarily kills.”
18. Maryland should enhance the penalty for being a knowing spectator at an animal fight from a misdemeanor to a felony.
19. Maryland should enhance the penalty for abandoning an animal from a fine not exceeding \$100 to a fine not exceeding \$1,000. Given the low penalty, there is little incentive for the enforcement of this crime, which is rampant.
20. Maryland should enhance the penalty for misdemeanor animal cruelty from a 90-day sentence and a \$1,000 fine to a one-year sentence and a \$2,500 fine, which will bring Maryland more in line with surrounding states. The majority of animal cruelty cases fall under this statute and the penalties for this level of abuse are too low.
21. Maryland should enhance the penalties for felony animal cruelty consistent with the District of Columbia, which may impose a maximum sentence of five (5) years imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine.
22. Maryland should enact a dogfighting paraphernalia statute.
23. District and Circuit Court judges should have access to the names of mental health professionals who have training and experience with assessing and treating

perpetrators of animal abuse, so that courts can readily make referrals to experienced professionals as a condition of sentencing.

24. Humane educators and volunteers should accompany Citizens on Patrol Groups to help neighborhoods identify signs of dogfighting, animal abuse, and neglect. Trained volunteers can initially assist with educating these groups in recognizing signs of these crimes. There is no cost associated with this recommendation.
25. The City of Baltimore should commence a broad public awareness campaign as to the signs of animal neglect and abuse, by disseminating copies of the Commission's laminated bookmark. The City of Baltimore should print 10,000 copies of this bookmark, which can be distributed not only to Citizen on Patrol Groups, but also to City employees, utility companies and students. The costs of producing these bookmarks would be approximately \$2,500.
26. All veterinary technicians and shelter staff at BARCS should receive basic training in the preservation of evidence in cruelty cases. Webinars and CD-ROM-based training are available at no cost.
27. The City should allocate funds to Animal Control/BARCS so that BARCS can purchase necessary equipment for preserving evidence in cruelty cases. BARCS should have a dedicated freezer for preserving bodies until disposition of these criminal cases. The estimated cost for this equipment is \$5,000.
28. The City should allocate funds to Animal Control/BARCS to obtain forensic necropsies and other examinations in cruelty cases. BARCS should have a budget of \$20,000 per year for forensic examinations, including necropsies.
29. The City should allocate funds to implement a no-cost/low cost spay neuter clinic for pit bull terrier type dogs and pit bull mixes. Although the Maryland SPCA and the Baltimore Humane Society provide low cost spay neuter services for these dogs, these programs are insufficient to accommodate the indiscriminant breeding of these dogs in Baltimore. These services should be provided on a sliding scale depending on income and would dramatically curb dogfighting and other crimes against this victimized breed by curbing overpopulation. Although funds of any amount would help abate the problem, the City should allocate \$100,000 annually for this program, which would result in a meaningful reduction in breeding.



**Baltimore City  
Animal Cruelty  
and Neglect Calls  
FY 2011 and FY 2012 (to - date)**

**MAP KEY**

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Baltimore Police (Animal Cruelty)</b> | Major Water Body    |
| FY 2011                                  | Major City Park     |
| FY 2012                                  | <b>Road Network</b> |
| <b>311 Calls (Animal Cruelty)</b>        | Interstate Highway  |
| FY 2011                                  | Major Street        |
| FY 2012                                  | Tunnel              |
| <b>311 Calls (Animal Neglect)</b>        | Secondary Streets   |
| FY 2011                                  |                     |
| FY 2012                                  |                     |



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Mayor



November 2011



EXHIBIT

tabbles

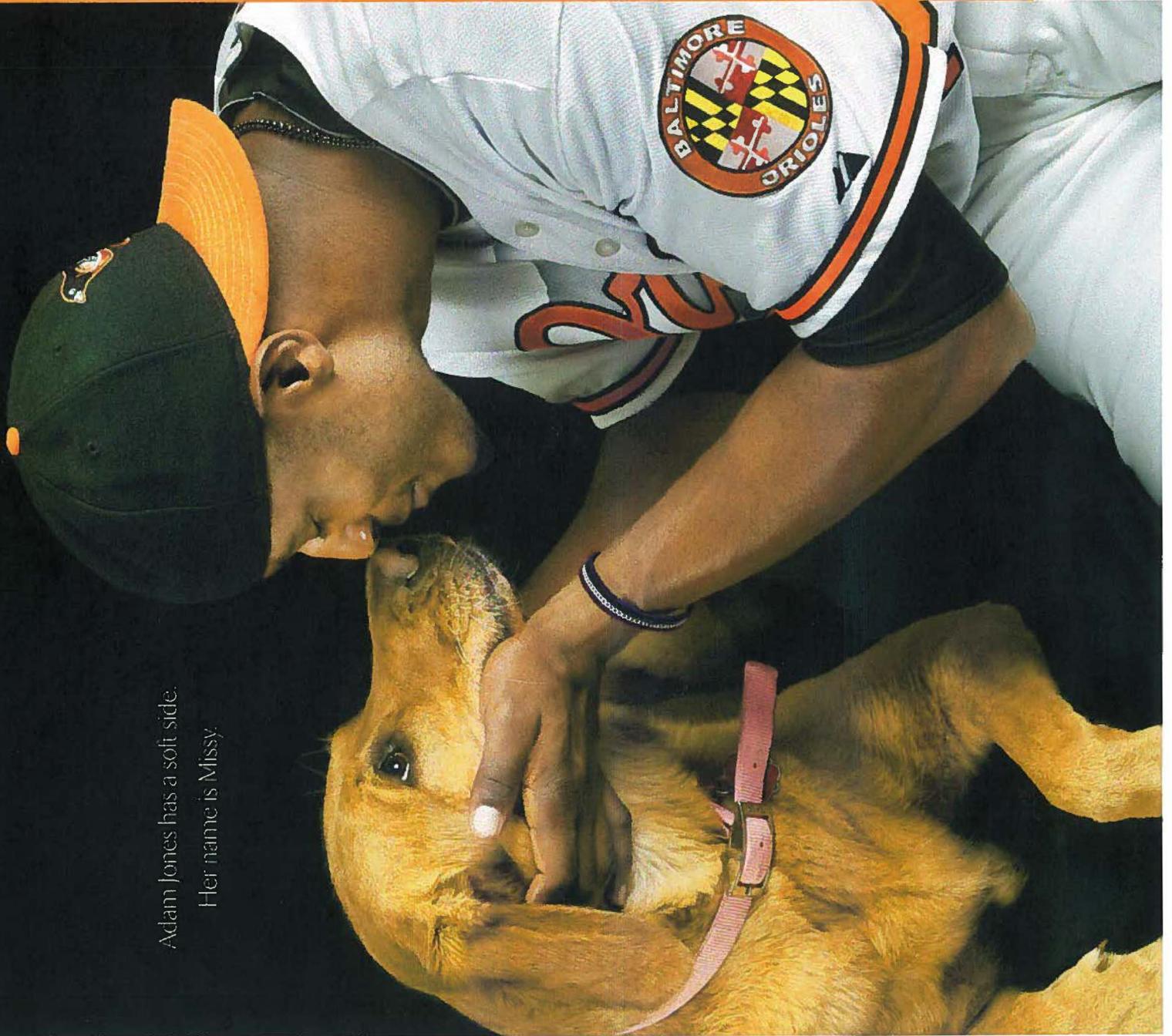
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**EXHIBIT**  
3

tabbles

Adam Jones has a soft side.  
Her name is Missy.



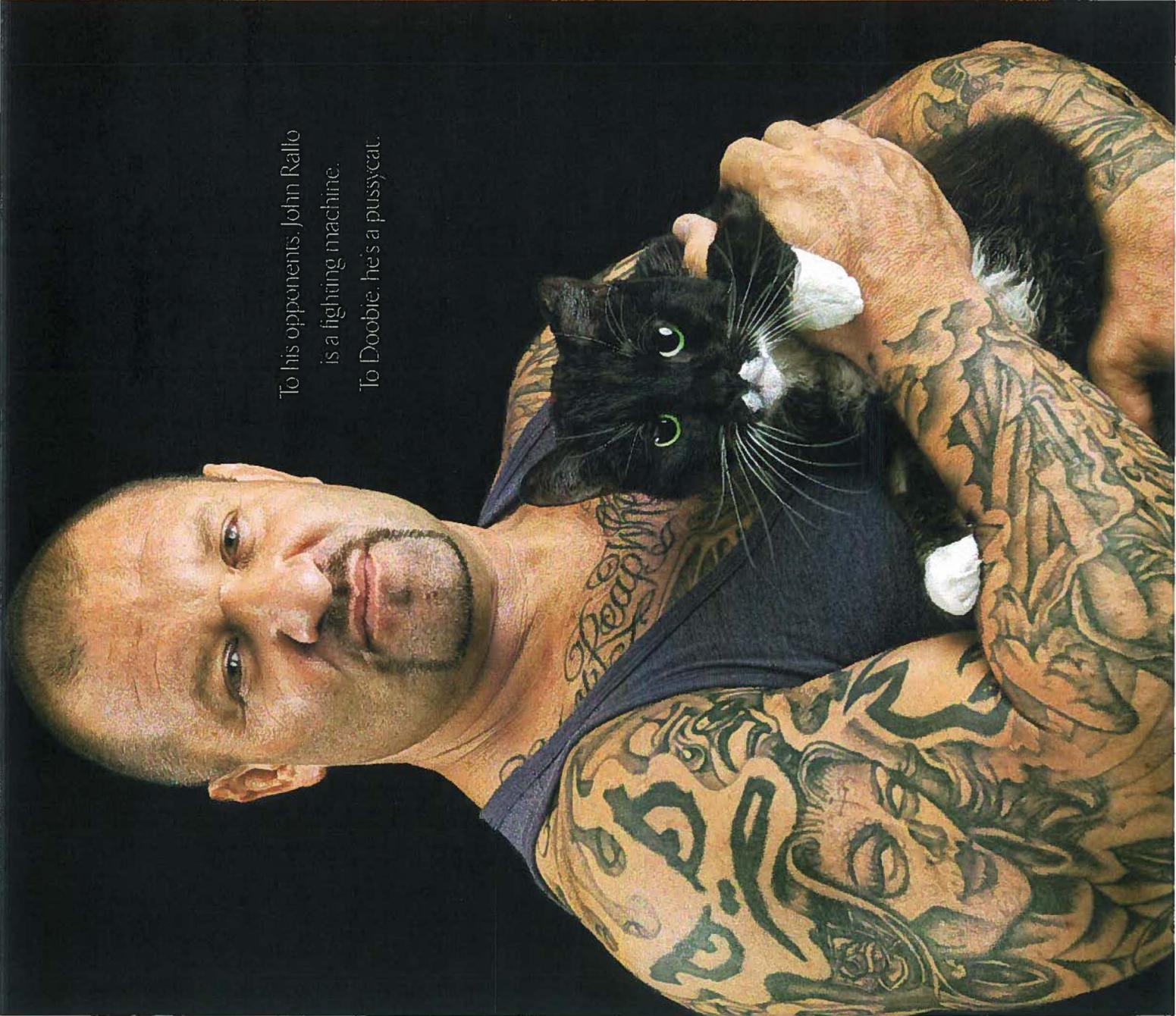
Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.

The Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission



Adam Jones #10 Center Field, Baltimore Orioles  
Photography by Leo Howard Lubow





To his opponents, John Rallo  
is a fighting machine.  
To Doobie, he's a pussycat.

Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.

The Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission



John Rallo, MMA Fighter  
Photography by Leo Howard Lubow



media works



KIRK DESIGNS INC.

Jarret Johnson may be  
a quarterback's worst nightmare.  
But he's 'Fucker's best friend.

Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.

The Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission



Jarret Johnson, Linebacker Baltimore  
Photography by Leo Howard Lubow



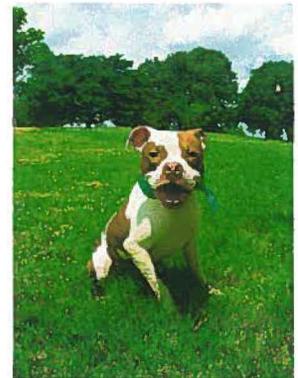
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KISS MY ASS INC

Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse  
Advisory Commission

***Community  
Resources  
to  
Help Animals***



**For more information:  
[www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov)**

Search Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission



**Is animal cruelty a crime?**

Yes! In Maryland, animal cruelty is a crime and, in most cases, a felony. There is a link between animal abuse and human violence.

**What do I do if I see or suspect animal abuse?**

If you witness animal cruelty, call 911 immediately! If you suspect neglect, contact Baltimore City Animal Control at 410-396-4694 or dial 311.

**My neighbor's dog is out in bad weather. What should I do?**

Thank you for caring! Contact Baltimore City Animal Control at 410-396-4694 or dial 311 to report neglect.

**I lost my pet. What do I do?**

Check with local shelters BARCS and MD SPCA at [www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org](http://www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org) or 410-396-4695 and [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or 410-235-8826. Search your neighborhood and put up fliers. Other resources include [www.findtoto.com](http://www.findtoto.com) and [www.dogsfindingdogs.com](http://www.dogsfindingdogs.com). Be sure to put on an ID tag and microchip your pet.

**I found a stray. What do I do?**

If at all possible, please try to hold on to the stray pet and canvas your neighborhood for his owner. That is very helpful to avoid overcrowding shelters. You can also provide a report to local shelters BARCS and MD SPCA at [www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org](http://www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org) or 410-396-4695 and [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or 410-235-8826.

**I'm moving and want to take my pet with me.****Where are pet-friendly apartments?**

Check out [www.mdpetgazette.com](http://www.mdpetgazette.com) for a listing.

**My pet has behavior problems. What do I do?**

Contact the Maryland SPCA for advice and resources at [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or 410-235-8826. Training classes are available, as well.

**There are feral cats in my neighborhood. What do I do?**

Feral cats need help. If you or your neighbors are willing to get involved, there is support! Neutering the cats stabilizes the colony. A program called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the best way to help cats and reduce overpopulation. For more information, contact Community Cats Maryland at [www.communitycatsmd.org](http://www.communitycatsmd.org) or 410-753-9000. Caretaker classes are taught by CCMD at BARCS one evening a month and neuter services are provided by CCMD and MD SPCA.

**I need to get my pet licensed. How do I do that?**

Licensing your pet is mandatory in Baltimore City. BARCS and MD SPCA sell licenses. Contact them at [www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org](http://www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org) or 410-396-4695 and [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or 410-235-8826.

**My pet needs vaccines. Where can I get those?**

Local veterinarians can provide complete medical care for pets. Search Veterinarians in Baltimore at [www.yellowpages.com](http://www.yellowpages.com). BARCS offers monthly rabies clinics. Information at [www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org](http://www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org) or 410-396-4695. The Maryland SPCA operates Hampden Pet Health for basic wellness care. Contact them at [www.hampdenpethealth.org](http://www.hampdenpethealth.org) or 410-400-WELL.

**My pet has a medical emergency.**

Options include Falls Road Animal Hospital at [www.fallsroad.com](http://www.fallsroad.com) or 410-825-9100; Emergency Veterinary Clinic in Catonsville at [www.evccatonsville.com](http://www.evccatonsville.com) or 410-788-7040; or Pet ER at 410-252-8387 or [www.pet-er.com](http://www.pet-er.com).

**I want to get my pet neutered. Who do I call?**

The Maryland SPCA operates a clinic and a referral service to other clinics. Contact them at [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org), 410-235-8826 ext. 140 or its referral service at 855-798-SPAY.

**Where can I adopt a pet?**

Visit local shelters BARCS and MD SPCA! More information is available at [www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org](http://www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org) or 410-396-4695 and [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) or 410-235-8826. You can also try [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) to search for pets available through rescue groups.

**I am worried about the poor treatment of animals in Baltimore. What can I do to help?**

Thank you for caring! There are lots of ways to help!

- Volunteer at your local shelter
- Donate to your local shelter
- Adopt from your local shelter
- Help feral cats in your neighborhood
- Report animal cruelty to 911
- Report animal neglect to 311
- Teach kindness to animals
- Spread the word about the link between animal abuse and human violence

*Please note:* If you are looking to give up your own pet, please try other options before turning to an animal shelter, which is often crowded with homeless pets. Advice is available at [www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org) under 'Re-homing.'

