

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In support of H-7970

April 19, 2024

House Judiciary Committee Members
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear House Judiciary Member:

On behalf of our supporters, members, and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you consider voting in favor of House Bill H-7970 by Representatives Lima, Knight, Costantino, Solomon, Baginski, J. Brien, Fenton-Fung, Hull, Biah, and DeSimone

The proposed legislation would create a custody procedure for pets in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal and is scheduled for consideration April 24, 2024.

Defenders of Animals, Inc., is in favor of creating a custody procedure for pets in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal. Creating a custody procedure for pets in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal is extremely important and necessary.

It is important to establish which party assumed most of the responsibility for tending to the animal's needs, feeding, walking, grooming, and veterinarian visits, and which party spent more time on a regular basis with the animal. There are many issues to consider, and they are all crucial not only to the family pet but also to all the parties involved.

Very sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

Dennis Tabella
Director