

# **DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.**

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**February 3, 2026 In Favor of H-7133**

House Judiciary Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members:

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

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the members and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you consider voting in favor of House Bill H-7133 introduced by Representative John J. Lombardi and cosponsored by Representatives Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, and Stewart.

We feel that it is extremely necessary to permit the family court to award custody of household pets to the plaintiff in domestic abuse complaints including the enforcement remedy of a restraining order or other injunctive relief.

Presently, 15-15-3 awards the plaintiff custody of the minor children of the parties, and we feel that it is crucial to the welfare of the household pets that they be afforded the same consideration since their safety would likewise be in jeopardy. Your utmost consideration to support this legislation would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
*Dennis Tabella*  
Dennis Tabella  
Director