

July 18, 2011

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Thank you for your correspondence regarding animal welfare laws. It is an honor to serve the Nineteenth Congressional District of New York. Your thoughts and concerns are important to me.

In 1966, Congress passed the original Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which has since been amended six times (1970, 1976, 1985, 1990, 2002, and 2007). The United States Department of Agriculture, the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Animal Care Agency are responsible for administering the AWA, which is generally aimed at assuring the humane care and treatment of animals. The AWA is the primary federal law that regulates the treatment of animals in research, exhibition, and transport. While the AWA is the minimum acceptable standard, there are other laws, policies, and guidelines that may include additional species coverage or specifications for animal care and use.

As a pet owner, I believe all animals should be treated humanely and with dignity. As the nation's policies toward the welfare of animals continue to evolve, I am committed to performing proper oversight of the USDA to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to protect animals when necessary. Should legislation regarding animal welfare or amending the AWA come before the full House of Representatives, I will keep your thoughts in mind.

Thank you again for contacting me. I appreciate hearing your views. Please visit our website at www.hayworth.house.gov for more information, and feel free to contact our office should you have concerns in the future.

Sincerely,
«SigBlock»
Nan Hayworth, M.D.
Member of Congress

NH/AG/EOB