



**OPPOSE SB1037 – An Act Relative to the Ownership
of Pets by Convicted Animal Abusers
Sen. Dean A. Tran (R)**

Referred to Joint Committee on the Judiciary

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

This bill inserts a new Section (77C) in Chapter 272 regarding Cruelty to Animals which would give the courts the ability to prescribe a period of time prohibiting a convicted animal abuser from owning any animal.

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THIS BILL:

Chapter 272 Section 77 very precisely prescribes the punishment (fines of \$5,000-\$10,000 and/or imprisonment of 2.5 to 10 years) for first and second offenders and prohibits anyone convicted of animal abuse from working with animals in any capacity.

This bill gives the court the ability to determine the length of time that anyone convicted of a crime of cruelty to animals they would be prohibited from owning, possessing, keeping or having custody or control over any animal.

Although we abhor animal abuse and agree in concept with this legislation, we disagree with the vagueness in this bill. We fear that allowing the court system to determine a length of time prohibiting a convicted animal abuser from owning an animal could vary too much and may even vary greatly from court system to court system within the Commonwealth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners
Julie Rembrandt Seeley, jrembrandtseeley@charter.net; 978-456-8644
Ms. Luanne Witt, luanne.witt@cagents.com; 508-838-3494

03/08/19

SENATE No. 1037

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Dean A. Tran

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the ownership of pets by convicted animal abusers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/12/2019</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1037

By Mr. Tran, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1037) of Dean A. Tran, Colleen M. Garry and Brian W. Murray for legislation relative to the ownership of pets by convicted animal abusers. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to the ownership of pets by convicted animal abusers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 272 of the general laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 77B the following section: -

3 Section 77C. In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person who is convicted
4 of a crime of cruelty to an animal shall be prohibited by the court from owning, possessing,
5 keeping, or having custody or control over any animal for a period of time determined by the
6 court.