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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Thomas A. Tangretti
DATE: March 1, 2005
SUBJECT: Re-introduction of Legislation:
DOG SHELTER ASSISTANCE FUNDS

In the coming weeks, I plan to reintroduce legislation to provide much needed assistance to dog shelters across Pennsylvania.

Specifically, my proposal, previously House Bill 2054, amends Dog Law to provide funds to qualified dog shelters in the Commonwealth through a minimal increase in the dog licensing fee. These funds will be collected by counties under their existing dog licensing program and distributed to dog shelters deemed eligible by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Each county will receive a portion of the fee to cover their costs to collect and distribute these monies.

These dog shelters fill an important role in our municipalities and counties by accepting unwanted, stray and abandoned dogs. Without this service, these animals would likely be inhumanely destroyed or left loose to starve and possibly cause harm to local residents and livestock. Regrettably, many of these dog shelters are now facing the dual hardship of an increased demand for their services and dwindling financial resources. While a few of these organizations receive minimal compensation from local governing bodies because of their acceptance of stray animals from law enforcement authorities, most rely overwhelmingly on donations to fund their operations.

My legislation will add an additional \$1.50 to the cost of a dog license. Fifty cents of this fee will be provided to the county to administer the program and the remainder of the fee will be placed in a

restricted account to be distributed bi-annually to eligible dog shelters. Counties without an eligible dog shelter shall distribute their share to any eligible dog shelter in another county.

Previous co-sponsors of this legislation include: *Daley, Wilt, Crahalla, Grucela, Cappelli, Corrigan, DeWeese, Gingrich, Haluska, Harris, Horsey, Josephs, Keller, Kirkland, Kotik, Laughlin, Lederer, McCall, Melio, Mundy, Payne, Pistella, Readshaw, Rooney, Santoni, Scavello, Schroder, O'Neill, Walko, Watson, Weber, Youngblood, Fabrizio, E. Z. Taylor, Thomas and Harhai.*

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this consumer protection legislation, please contact Cynthia Clory at 3-5963 or cclory@pahouse.net.