Pennsylvania


Columbia County: First responders answering a medical emergency found 37 dogs, puppies, cats, kittens and a hamster in unsanitary conditions at Jennifer Yost’s Berwick house. They described the site as filthy, with almost completely feces-covered floors. PASPCA took most of them for treatment and adoption; 8 remained in protective custody pending the investigation. Pennsylvania SPCA removes 37 animals, including dogs, puppies, cats, kittens & a hamster from Berwick property over concerns for their welfare | Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (pspca.org); Berwick authorities seize 37 animals living in unsanitary conditions | Crime Reports | northcentralpa.com.

Lancaster County: PASPCA removed 13 dogs from Daniel Esh’s property, leading to new charges. He was previously found guilty of cruelty and prohibited from owning animals; PASPCA could make unannounced inspections. The dogs variously suffered from matted fur, ear infections, conjunctivitis, dental disease and skin and paw inflammation. Relatives Omar and Verna Esh were also charged. 13 dogs removed from property of ‘serial animal abuser’ in Lancaster County, PSPCA says | fox43.com. The Eshes have a 25-year legal history, including a Pennsylvania Attorney General action and their own action claiming that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture targeted Lancaster County kennels. Esh previously sought a religious exemption, apparently that he could not take photographs in his defense due to his Amish faith. 0809 jadwal Kejuaraan Asia (xbqtxrjr.com).

Pittsburgh Steeler Devin Bush faced backlash after posting a video of a cat falling to its death and making a humorous comment about it. Horrifying Devin Bush cat video sparks outrage from Steelers fans on Twitter (msn.com).

United States and Federal


Animal welfare groups seek investigation of Connecticut-based Commerford Zoo’s traveling zoo for Animal Welfare Act violations and seek improved AWA enforcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal is also involved. The actions focus on the conditions of elephants in traveling or “roadside” zoos, particularly after the deaths of Commerford’s Karen and Beulah. Support is also sought for the Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act. Roadside zoo elephants suffered for years before dying, new records reveal (nationalgeographic.com).
The Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act, HR 3277, was introduced by Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi and has 50 cosponsors. It would revise the USDA licensing process, to expand USDA oversight and enforcement powers and allow citizen suits for enforcement. Text - H.R.3277 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. The Act was previously introduced in 2019.

S 1372, the Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2021, introduced by Mark Rubio, with Senators Bill Cassidy, Rick Scott and Mike Braun, would prohibit shark products from nations without shark conservation and management provisions and finning prohibitions comparable to United States laws, with exceptions for law enforcement, subsistence fishing, education, conservation or scientific research. The Commerce Department Commerce must certify other nations, and revise its own regulations to include rays and skates in the Seafood Import Monitoring Program. On April 27, the bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Text - S.1372 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress.

The Shark Sales Elimination Act of 2021, HR 406, introduced by Representative Ted Lieu, would prohibit possession, purchase or sale of shark parts or any product containing them, except parts lawfully taken; penalties would be imposed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. A person could possess a part lawfully taken. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. Text - H.R.406 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Shark Sales Elimination Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress.

Relatedly, Australia reclassified shark “attacks” as “negative encounters” or “bites,” Australia rebrands shark attacks as ‘negative encounters' and 'bites' (msn.com), and research has made discoveries in shark social organization and reproduction. Sharks form years-long 'friendships,' dispelling 'lone shark' myth (msn.com); Scientists at work: Uncovering the mystery of when and where sharks give birth (msn.com).


Other States
Arizona: A Phoenix man, not named because of pending grand jury charges, dumped Buddy, the puppy of 2 roommates who knew the man over 10 years, in the desert, because of frustration with Buddy’s behavior and housebreaking issues. He told the owners he thought they took the puppy with them that night, but had told another roommate he was going to dispose of Buddy. Man facing possible charges after abandoning roommate’s puppy in the desert (kgun9.com).
California: Owners dumped feline Pie, in distressed labor, outside Fresno’s Valley Animal Center in triple-digit heat, after staff recommended taking her to a veterinarian. Dumping is illegal in California. After surgery, a kitten, Cool Whip, survived; her brother died. Story with video: Owners dump pregnant cat at Valley Animal Center while she’s in labor (msn.com); Valley Animal Center – We are their shelter. You are their future.

Florida: Judge Michael Hanzman denied tenant Stacey Karron’s request to return to Champlain Towers South to rescue her cat and any other pets she found before the building’s demolition. Her counsel, Paula Phillips, argued that Ms. Karron, a paralegal and volunteer rescuer, understood the risk, where the structure was already wired for demolition. https://dailycaller.com/2021/07/05/miami-dade-judge-save-cat-surfside-condo-collapse-demolition/. However, feline Binx, presumed lost in the June 24 collapse, was reunited with his family, the Gonzalezes, on July 9. He had been seen in the area; FEMA employees caught him and took him to a shelter. Cat reunited with family after disappearing in Florida condo collapse (msn.com).

Nevada: Tobenna Okobi is charged with willful or malicious torture and killing of an animal, for tying his puppy near his apartment complex’ office in 113º heat; he was also held on a drugs warrant and for carrying a concealed weapon. Las Vegas man charged after dead puppy found hanging from fence (msn.com). Alexandra Evans was charged for leaving her dog, Rio, in her car while she was in a casino. Police rescued Rio, and learned that Evans had warrants. Two weeks earlier, Rio was rescued from Evans’ car while she was shopping. The Animal Foundation took custody; Evans claimed Rio and was cited. Las Vegas woman accused of locking dog in hot car twice within two-week period | News | fox5vegas.com. The media is covering these incidents, assisting Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, which announced it will investigate and pursue such incidents.

Texas: Luis Antonio Campos is charged with animal cruelty, alleged to be the driver who stopped on an El Paso road where his teenage passenger, Moises Soto, got out, unleashed a 10-month-old Husky and returned to the vehicle, which drove off. Soto is also charged with cruelty. Campos claimed the dog was a stray which killed a neighbor’s dog and destroyed his garden, and that he, Campos, did not have Animal Control’s telephone number. Joy Dominguez, a rescuer, happened to be behind them; she took video and reported that roadside dumping is common in the area. The puppy was taken to Pawsitive Rescuers and adopted by the Clappsdale family the next day and named Ninook. Texas Man Arrested for Allegedly Abandoning Husky on Roadside in Heartbreaking Viral Video (msn.com); Teen charged along with 68-year-old man in Horizon dog dump case caught on video - KVIA

International

United Kingdom: The House of Lords is considering amending The Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill to recognize invertebrates as sentient beings capable of feeling pain, so could not be boiled alive, but must be stunned or chilled first; shrink-wrapping or posting live shellfish would also be banned. The 2006 Animal Welfare Act provides for inclusion
upon “sufficient evidence” of sentience in crustaceans and mollusks; the British Veterinary Association cited 10 years of research. Boiling lobsters alive to be banned under new Government legislation | Evening Standard. New Zealand and Norway ban boiling.

Publications and Other Media

Non-Legal News
Carlos Fresco, of London, took Monty, his dog, for a final walk in a wheelbarrow to Pen y Fan Peak in Wales. Monty was suffering from leukemia; he died on June 21. Story with photos: Man takes dying pet dog up favourite mountain in a wheelbarrow (msn.com).