



February 27, 2009

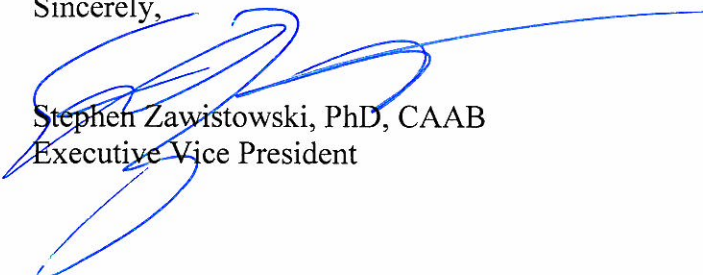
***MEMO OF SUPPORT FOR
Re: A bill to prohibit pound seizure***

On behalf of more than 12,000 Minnesota supporters of the ASPCA, I am writing to urge you to support and cosponsor the proposed amendment to Minnesota Statutes, Section 35.71, which would prohibit pound seizure in Minnesota. This crucial legislation will prohibit the transfer of live or dead dogs, cats or other animals from animal shelters and pounds for the purpose of research, experimentation, testing, or medical instruction or demonstration.

The majority of animal control agencies and shelters in the United States no longer sell pets for research. At least 30 states already have laws prohibiting this practice, and for good reason. Selling shelter animals to research facilities undermines the public confidence in our shelter system. Individuals and families should be able to bring pets they can no longer care for to animal shelters knowing that they could be placed into another loving home or at least be afforded the dignity of humane euthanasia. Failure to assure this disposition of the animal and knowing their pet may be the subject of research could discourage pet owners from surrendering pets to shelters, and will lead to an increase in pet abandonment. This will only aggravate the stray and pet overpopulation problem that already exists.

Therefore, the ASPCA respectfully urges you to support and cosponsor the proposed amendment to Minnesota Statutes, Section 35.71, which would prohibit pound seizure in Minnesota. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you have about the bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen Zawistowski, PhD, CAAB
Executive Vice President