SENATE . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John F. Keenan

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 protecting animal welfare in cities and towns.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
John F. Keenan	*Norfolk and Plymouth*	
Kris Macdonald		
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*	*1/28/2021*

SENATE . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

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An Act protecting animal welfare in cities and towns.

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

1   Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby

2   amended by inserting after section 77C the following section 77D:-

3   (a) A person who by willful, wanton, reckless, or negligent act causes the unnecessary or

4   unjustified death of a cat or dog shall be liable in damages for the fair monetary value of the

5   deceased animal to the owner of the animal, including, but not limited to, damages for the loss of

6   comfort, protection, companionship, other special damages, services of the deceased animal to its

7   owner; reasonable afterlife expenses of the deceased animal; court costs and attorney's fees; and

8   other reasonable damages resulting from the willful, wanton, reckless, or negligent act. Non-

9   economic damages shall have a cap value of $30,000.00.

10   (b) Damages under this section for unnecessary or unjustified death sustained by an

11   animal shall be recovered in an action of tort by the aggrieved, commenced within three years

12   from the date of death or from the date when the aggrieved knew, or in the exercise of reasonable

13   diligence, should have known, of the factual basis for a claim of relief.