



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

State and Local Government  
Proponent Testimony – House Bill 319  
October 10, 2017

Chairman Anielski, Vice Chairman Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the committee, my name is Corey Roscoe and I am the State Director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization. On behalf of the HSUS and our Ohio members and supporters, I offer Proponent testimony on House Bill 319, designate a shelter pet as the official state pet.

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Dogs and cats share the homes of 65% of U.S. households, providing many benefits to their families such as love, loyalty and an improved sense of well-being. Yet many people are surprised to learn that nationwide, more than 2.4 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters annually due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness.

Shelter animals make great pets. When families choose to adopt, they save a loving animal by making them part of their family and open up shelter space for another animal who might desperately need it.

If more families looking for a pet this year would adopt their new furry friend from a shelter, we could reduce the number of pets euthanized at shelters. Animal shelters and rescue groups are brimming with happy, healthy pets just waiting for someone to take them home. With the help of legislation like House Bill 319, we can spread the word about the benefits of adoption and work to end the senseless euthanasia of homeless pets nationwide.

The Humane Society of the United States is doing our share to help homeless pets:

--We host Animal Care Expo annually, the preeminent education and trade show for animal shelter professionals and volunteers.

--Our award-winning Animal Sheltering magazine is the only print journal devoted exclusively to animal sheltering professionals and volunteers.

--The HSUS partners with the Ad Council and Maddie's Fund on The Shelter Pet Project, the first national public service advertising campaign to encourage pet lovers throughout the country to make adoption their first choice for acquiring a pet.

--We provide assistance during natural and man-made disasters, including on-the-scene leadership in the rescue and care of animals during these crises. We had boots on the ground in Texas, Florida after the hurricanes. We are currently in Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Please pass this legislation to emphasize the importance of animal adoption with the support of state and national animal sheltering leaders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Corey Roscoe  
Ohio Director, State Affairs  
The Humane Society of the United States