The Ohio House of Representatives

Rep. Tom Young
37th Ohio House District

Rep. Phil Plummer
99th Ohio House District

HB 417, Regards animal abuse offenses and penalties

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 417, jointly sponsored by Representative Plummer and me.

House Bill 417 enhances Ohio's animal welfare and public safety laws through several key reforms:

1. Respect and Accountability – It prohibits the mistreatment of a companion animal's remains and ensures offenders undergo psychological counseling.
2. Protection from Repeat Offenders – It bars those convicted of felony or misdemeanor animal abuse from owning or residing with dogs for defined periods, and it closes the timing gap for violent felons restricted from keeping dangerous or unneutered dogs.
3. Public Transparency and Safety – It creates both a Do Not Adopt registry for convicted abusers and a statewide Dangerous and Vicious Dog registry to improve enforcement and community awareness.
4. Responsible Ownership and Education – It mandates that all dogs adopted from pounds or humane societies be spayed or neutered and requires peace officers to complete

at least two hours of continuing education on Ohio's animal cruelty laws.

Together, these reforms promote community safety, responsible ownership, and humane treatment of animals. I respectfully urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 417.