

By Mr. Minahan of Wakefield, petition of Esther P. Nowell and Alfred A. Minahan, Jr., for legislation to further regulate the protection of dogs. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE PROTECTION OF DOGS.

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

1 Section 77 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as most recently
2 amended by section 2 of chapter 921 of the acts of 1977, is hereby
3 amended by adding the following paragraph:

4 Any police officer or public health officer or traffic enforcement
5 officer having probable cause to believe that any animal is being
6 subjected to any unnecessary suffering of any kind, may, if such
7 suffering takes place in his presence, take such animal into his
8 custody upon either public or private property without a warrant. If
9 in the opinion of the officer care and treatment is necessary said
10 animal shall then be placed in the care of a duly incorporated
11 humane society or licensed veterinarian or if said animal has become
12 disabled beyond recovery, for humane killing. If said animal has
13 obviously recovered from such suffering, it may in the discretion of
14 the officer be returned to its owner. The owner or other person or
15 persons responsible for such suffering shall, in addition to the
16 penalties set forth in the preceding paragraph, pay all costs of the
17 care, treatment or humane killing of said animal.

