



*"To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture"*

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RE: Animal Abuse Registry, Erie County

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this in opposition to Erie County's proposed Animal Abuse Registry Law, Local Law Intro 1-1 dated February 8, 2013. Farm Bureau is opposed to this law for at least two major reasons.

We are grateful that the authors heard our objections about the exemption of farm animals and addressed this issue in the amended proposal. In doing so, however, this proposal re-defines horses as companion animals from their original description as farm animal as per NYS Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 26, Section 350 which states, "Farm animal", as used in this article, means any ungulate, poultry, species of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, horses . . .". We are opposed to any county re-defining this law. We are further opposed to horses being considered as companion animals.

The second point of opposition is to the portions of Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 26 that are included in the law that are contrary to the intent of the law. We don't believe that it is the author's true intent to consider denying someone the ability to buy or sell animals based on violations of (for example) section 359a which involves improper trailering procedures for horses. Violations of this section are punishable by a fine of not more than \$250 according to number 3(a) under this section. Losing the ability to buy or sell animals and gaining the stigma that goes with being an animal abuser hardly seems fair when the "crime" involved is hardly malicious in nature. This may be deemed to be similar to taking away someone's license to drive because their inspection is overdue and their brake lights are not in proper working order.

We feel that the penalties resulting from violations of this law would encompass far more than the intended criminal element. This together with the above-stated opposition due to the improper definition of horses in the proposed law mandates our opposition to the proposal in its entirety.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter.

Best regards,

Timothy Bigham, Area Field Supervisor  
New York Farm Bureau