



**THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REVIEW  
MAURICE CHALMERS, DIRECTOR  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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**TITLE:**

A Local Law establishing an Animal Abuse Registry and requirements and prohibitions related thereto.

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION:**

The proposed Local Law would establish an animal abuse registry in Nassau County. This law will require Nassau County residents convicted of animal abuse crimes, as defined in the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law and the New York State Penal Code, to register with the County on an annual basis. Pet store owners, breeders, pet dealers, and animal shelters will be required to check prospective pet owners against the Animal Abuse Registry. This Local Law imposes fines on any pet store owner, dealer, breeder, or shelter that sells or transfers ownership of an animal to an individual appearing on the Animal Abuse Registry. The Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NCSPCA) will administer and maintain the database, but ultimate responsibility for implementation of this Local Law rests with the Police Commissioner.

It is important to note that this proposal only applies to animal abusers convicted on and or after the effective date of this law. This Local Law would apply only to those animal abusers aged 18 and older. Persons required to register with the Animal Abuse Registry must do so within five days of their conviction. Individuals incarcerated as a result of animal abuse must register with the Animal Abuse Registry within five days of their release. Upon initial registration, individuals must provide the Animal Abuse Registry with the following information:

- Name,
- Alias,
- Residential Address,
- A photograph of his or her head and shoulders from the front.

Registrants are required to update the Animal Abuse Registry in the event of a change of residential address. Registrants remain on the Animal Abuse Registry for five years and must pay an annual \$100 renewal fee to the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD). In the event of a subsequent conviction, registrants remain on the Animal Abuse Registry for ten years. The NCPD will hand over the fee revenue to the NCSPCA who will use the fee revenue to administer and maintain the Animal Abuse Registry.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This local law would take effect immediately.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

The proposed law will not have an impact on the local economy.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

NCSPCA will create the Registry website at no cost to the County. The County could generate some revenue from the penalties associated with this proposed law. Individuals failing to register or renew with the Animal Abuse Registry would face a Class A Misdemeanor charge, a fine up to \$1,000 and/or up to one year in jail.

The following penalties apply to any animal shelter, pet store, dealer, or breeder who knowingly sells or transfers ownership of an animal to an individual appearing on the Nassau County Animal Abuse Registry: \$500 fine for the first violation; \$1,000 fine for the second violation; \$1,500 fine for the third and/or subsequent violations.

According to the District Attorney’s Office, there were 19 animal related convictions (i.e. dogfighting, animal neglect, etc.) in 2011 and 2012 combined. Many of the cases from 2013 are still pending.

The tables below illustrate the fee and fine schedules:

Fees (Passed to NCSPCA) Registrants	
Annual Renewal	\$100

Fines (Held by NCPD)			
Registrants		Pet Vendors	
Failure to Renew/ Update Information	Class A Misdemeanor charge, up to \$1,000 fine, and/or up to one year in jail	1st Violation	\$500
		2nd Violation	\$1,000
		3rd Violation	\$1,500
		Subsequent Violations	\$1,500

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

District Attorney’s Office

**PREPARED BY:**

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