

Rick Karcich <rmkarcich@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 6, 2019 at 4:59 PM

To: Joann Ginal <joannginal52@gmail.com>

Dear Senator Ginal,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Senate hearing for 19-1092 ... I've attached my testimony and would appreciate it being read onto the record.

"1) Animals need to be treated with respect & dignity. They are ends in an of themselves and not means to our fulfilment.

2) Laws against animal cruelty are becoming like laws against pornography ... we are a nation of laws but we cannot legislate morality ... ultimately how we survive as society depends exclusively on how we treat each other, and especially the 'least among us' ... the ones without voices, the animals in our care.

3) Regarding protecting animals from cruelty, my first recommendation is to remove distinctions between 'pets' & 'livestock' in the eyes of Colorado law. Industrial livestock farming is cruel to animals, damages the environment, reduces food security and has a negative impact on the health of all Coloradoans. We must end support for the intensification and industrialization of factory farming and instead support sustainable farming with strict animal welfare standards.

4) A second recommendation to improve this bill is to provide adequate shelter for all horses in Colorado! Currently there is no requirement that horses have any access to adequate shelter.

5) Another problem with this bill is it is all words and no enforcement. So, a judge hands down a penalty that says "can't own an animal for 10 yrs." There is no provision for an offender database or provision for a shelter, private seller or pet store to check on restrictions and not let an individual get an animal. It's a well-intentioned bill but ultimately unenforceable. In order to improve the deployment of policies aimed at protecting animals and the citizens of Colorado, we must improve the collection & dissemination of data regarding animal cruelty complaints throughout Colorado.

6) I understand America is a nation of laws ... trying to mesh the consistency of laws/norms governing cruelty with values like compassion is where the rubber meets the road ... for me, there are some things that should not be for sale ... i.e., markets where there exists 1) 'voiceless' participants, i.e., horses or dogs or cows etc on their way to slaughter or a cruel existence..., 2) harm to what's good for individuals or society ... Being in a business dealing with animals needs to be embedded in moral norms and it needs to serve a larger social good, like compassion. How can we in Colorado develop a society in which it's easier to be a good person and treat our fellow creatures with respect & dignity?

Thank You!

Respectfully,
-Rick Karcich