

Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania

Reply to:
Anne Irwin
Bucks County SPCA
P.O. Box 277
Lahaska, PA 18931

May 26, 2009

Thomas Caltagirone, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Caltagirone:

I am writing on behalf of the 60 member organizations of the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania to ask you to support HB 1411 and report it out of committee. The bill would ban live pigeon shoots and the use of other launched or tethered live animals as targets to be shot at. The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania was founded in 1906 and is now the oldest federation of its kind in the country. One of its original goals at the first meeting in Harrisburg was to ban live pigeon shoots (“the release of animals to be ... shot at”). More than 100 years later this is a legislative goal that we still all believe in.

HB 1411 is a clear and reasonable bill, which will outlaw live pigeon shoots, or the kind of live turkey shoot which took place in Lancaster 2 years ago, where turkeys were tethered to straw bales and shot at. The bill is carefully worded so that it will not have any effect on sport hunting allowed by the Game Commission. As humane societies our primary goal is not the prosecution of cruelty, but the prevention of cruelty. It is currently possible to file some cruelty charges in connection with pigeon shoots or turkey shoots after the fact, for failure to provide veterinary care for injured birds. By the time those charges are filed animals have suffered. This law would prevent cruelty by making it clear that these events cannot be held at all. Thank you for taking our views into consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Anne Irwin
President, and Legislative Chairman

cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee