



## **House Bill 384 will leave animals in the hands of their abusers.**

**HB 384 has been placed on the House Calendar for perfection.** It could come before the full body for debate as early as Monday, April 3. The animals need you to take action **today** to stop this bill. **Please call your state representative as soon as possible and ask them to vote NO on HB 384.**

**This dangerous bill blocks public health officials from applying for warrants to seize animals.** In Missouri most animal control agencies are housed under the public health department. Despite being trained in spotting animal cruelty and neglect, these officers will no longer be able to apply for warrants, having to jump through hoops to get police officers or sheriffs departments to do the work when those agencies are already overworked with limited resources.

**HB 384 also requires the disposition hearing for the animals be held in 10 days instead of the current time period of 30 days.** Ten days is simply not enough time, especially in large scale cruelty and neglect cases like hoarding or puppy mills, to get results on tests performed on the neglected animals. Many times blood tests and cultures have to be sent off to labs and it can take days or even weeks to see the results. Moving the disposition hearing from 30 days to 10 eliminates the ability to build a strong case against the abuser.

This bill also bars a judge from requiring the accused to cover the cost of care of the animals seized unless the owner is found guilty of abuse or neglect. If our nonprofit animal shelters know they may not be reimbursed for providing vaccines, medical care, food and water, and boarding for the abused and neglected animals then they'll stop taking them in. ***If there's no one to take in the animals then law enforcement will be forced to leave them in the hands of their abusers.***

**Please contact your state representative today and ask for a NO vote on HB 384.** The capitol switchboard number is **(573)751-2000**. If you're not sure who your state representative is you can [find that information here](#) along with their contact info.