



## 2021 Judge's Survey

1. Libre's Law (Act 10 of 2017) expanded animal protections and increased penalties for animal abusers. Felony violations *require* forfeiture of an animal, while lesser convictions *allow* for forfeiture.

- Would you include forfeiture as a penalty for misdemeanor convictions?

(Check one)     Yes  No

- In 50 words or less, please explain your position, including offenses for which you would consider forfeiture as a penalty.

Any animal owner assumes the responsibility for the caretaking and well-being of their pet, and neglecting that responsibility must be dealt with as seriously as though the defendant were the abusive parent of a child. I am familiar with the animal cruelty statutes, and would certainly consider forfeiture for violations of 18 Pa.C.S. 5532-5543.

2. Multiple studies have shown a link between animal abuse and future domestic violence abuse.

- Will you impose penalties for animal abuse that fit the serious nature of these crimes?

(Check one)     Yes  No

3. Many domestic abuse victims stay with their abusers out of fear for the safety of household pets.

- Will you include custody and protections for household pets as part of the resolution for domestic abuse cases?

(Check one)     Yes  No



4. In 50 words or less, please give an example of how you have fought for animals in the past.

I have always been an advocate for humane treatment of animals, including being adamantly against the practices of certain large “pet mills.” In addition, I have fought for custody of animals in the contexts of divorce and PFA matters but also for transfers of custody in criminal cases.

5. In 50 words or less, please explain how you intend to help protect animals if elected.

Again, I would consider animals to be analogous to children where neglect and abuse are concerned. Individuals harming animals will be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law, as there cannot be any justification or excuse for harming defenseless animals that rely upon the defendants care and support.

HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh is committed to working with local officials throughout Western Pennsylvania. We welcome the opportunity to begin a dialogue with you. Please feel free to contact us.