



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 *N/A*

Judge candidate's opinions about legislative matters are not permitted under the Judicial Code and the ethical responsibilities of Judges and Judge candidates similarly prevent me from having an advisory opinion. The law of our Commonwealth is to be interpreted and applied by judges that have discretion under the law and to the extent discretion may permit forfeiture for lesser crimes (i.e., misdemeanor charges) than felony offenses in the future then would be something a judge should or could properly consider under the circumstances.

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

Under the rule of law, it would be of consideration to factor "forfeiture as a penalty" following a conviction as a consequence of the prohibited conduct and certainly if the forfeiture could best protect the animal, enhance the Court's sanction, or deter the criminal conduct (ex. Remove any profit motive from the illegal conduct) that would be within the judge's lawful discretion.

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 **Yes**, if the circumstances warrant the penalties based on the law and the duties as a judge.

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 **Yes.** Courts should act in the best interests of pets in these household safety matters and safeguard the pets in custody and protection issues under domestic abuse and violence cases.

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

As a prosecutor, at multiple times, I participated in criminal investigations and prosecutions of animal cruelty cases (ex. dog fighting); and I attended trainings to understand the nature of these abuses and the consequences of the actions on our communities.

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

If elected Judge of Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County, I would interpret and apply the laws in areas of protecting animals from abuse with balance and reverence and I would act to safeguard the animals' rights to quality health, welfare, and safety.

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.