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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 292

**Civil Actions - Tortious Injury to or Death of Pet - Compensatory Damages
(Buddy's Law)**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to share SB 292, **Civil Actions – Tortious Injury to or Death of Pet – Compensatory Damages** also known as *Buddy's Law* with you. This bill raises the amount of compensatory damages for the tortuous injury of a domestic pet from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

It compensates pet owners only for economic damages due to tortuous injury to the pet and provides for the fair market value of the pet before death and the reasonable and necessary veterinary care. Not every case will go as high as \$25,000 but you will see in the testimony from Mr. Larry Sanders that his vet bill exceeded \$25,000 when his family pet Buddy was shot, got an infection and passed.

SB 292 raises the amount of compensation available to pet owners who can 1) prove that the injuries to the pet were caused by another person or another animal within someone's control and 2) that the injuries sustained as a result of the other person's actions resulted in vet bills or a complete loss of life.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 292.