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Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

PRESS RELEASE

Senator Perez Urges for Collective Response Against Animal Cruelty

Hagåtña, Guam – On January 11, 2021, Senator Perez expressed outrage after the recent attack against Tyson at the hands of his owner, and by the growing number of accounts of violence towards animals in news and social media.

“The abuse that Tyson experienced at the hands of his owner is tragic and horrific,” Senator Perez stated. “As a society, the protection and respect for non-human life is our responsibility as stewards of our island. The life of animals, and pets who entrust themselves to our care, are part of this, and we cannot tolerate these horrible acts of violence.”

Senator Perez is urging for a government-wide initiative to strengthen animal welfare laws, and in her last term introduced the PAWS Act (Bill 185-35), which overhauls animal welfare laws to allow for easier prosecution including removing ownership as defense for animal cruelty.

The PAWS Act received an outpouring of community support and was passed unanimously by the 35th Guam Legislature. However, Bill 185-35 now awaits Governor Leon Guerrero’s signature before becoming law.

“We cannot allow more pets to be subjected to abhorrent and wanton violence. If we, as a society, continue to be dismissive about these acts of abuse, we are making a statement that any act of abuse, human or otherwise, is acceptable,” Senator Perez stated. “I look forward to our *Maga'håga*’s commitment to ending animal abuse in signing the PAWS Act.”

Pursuant to the Organic Act, the Governor has 30 days after the passage and transmission to her office to sign bills into law, in the case when the legislative term ends.

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