



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

Good News for Animal Lovers

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- [Local Government](#)

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New Law Gives Pet Owners More Rights; Another Takes Aim at Unscrupulous Pet Dealers

Senator Martins explains his support for two new laws that will help protect animals:

As an animal lover, I know first-hand that there's something truly special about the bond between a family and their pets.

But too many times, New Yorkers have brought a new pet home to become part of the family, only to discover that the animal has a serious medical condition. That is why I was pleased to support the expanded "Pet Lemon Law."

In the past, when a pet was diagnosed with a congenital deformity, was ill, or had a contagious infection or disease, state law only gave consumers 14 business days to get reimbursement for veterinary costs. Under the new law, consumers are now protected up to six months and can be reimbursed for reasonable veterinary costs related to treating the animal. Pet shops can also now be required to provide consumers with a refund of the full purchase price, or the option to select another animal of equivalent value.

Another new law I supported protects animals from repeat offenders of the "Pet Dealers Law." In the past, pet dealers often were given only warnings when poor, even abusive, conditions were discovered. Now, if a pet dealer fails three consecutive inspections, the Commissioner of Agriculture must hold a hearing to consider suspending or revoking that pet dealer's license.

New Yorkers love their pets, and these two new laws are another reflection of just how much we care about the health and well-being of these treasured companions.