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February 27, 2018

2018/2019 State Budget - Department of Agriculture & Markets

Dear Chairman Magee and Honorable Committee Members,

The Humane Society of the United States, The New York State Humane Association and the New York State Farm Bureau joined to support A.7207/S.5320, signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2015. The law requires the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to create training materials on animal cruelty prevention for New York's law enforcement agencies statewide.

The HSUS recognizes that the Department of Ag & Markets may lack the financial resources needed for meaningful implementation of this law. Our organization supports the allocation of **\$100,000** for the Department's budget for these training purposes.

The Domestic Animal Health Permit (DAHP) process, if fully applied, could provide a solid revenue source for the Department for purposes of funding the aforementioned law. Currently, the Department lacks necessary resources for inspectors to ensure compliance with DAHP permit requirements:

- *Any person who buys livestock (Cattle, Swine, Horses, Deer, Camelids, Sheep, Goats or Poultry) as a business practice, not including breeding, feeding or dairy*
- *Anyone who is a dealer, or conducts an auction where livestock are sold*
- *Anyone who transports poultry*
- *Anyone who represents a buyer or seller in a transaction*
- *Horse Rescue Organizations*
- *Anyone who brokers horses, even if the horse never come to the premises of the organization*
- *Anyone who brokers horses, even if there is no compensation for services*

Enacting full compliance with DAHP requirements could ensure the necessary finances to fund a statewide program to create training materials and provide resources for law enforcement, as per the intent of A.7207/S.5320.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony with the committee.

Sincerely,

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