

2016: Animal Rights Legislation

Rep. Ilana Rubel

District 18 – Southeast Boise

Idaho's Existing Law

- Animal Legal Defense Fund ranks Idaho in the bottom tier – 47th in the nation
- U.S. Humane Society ranks Idaho 49th
- Section 25-3502 - Animal cruelty is 3rd offense felony
- Prior offenses are misdemeanors

Ag-Gag

- Made videotaping / photographing animal cruelty in agricultural facility a felony
- Created more severe penalty for reporting than committing animal cruelty



Patches

- Sept. 2015 – Shetland pony dragged, severe injuries, euthanized



HB399

- Principal points –
 - No impact on production animals
 - Create 2nd-offense felony for torture of companion animal
 - Define companion animal to include equines
 - Create 1st-offense felony if committed in presence of minor
 - Allows law enforcement to take custody of animal
 - Perpetrator can be ordered to participate in counseling / prevention programs

Status

- Printed, referred to House Ways & Means
- Food Producers oppose, leadership will not allow hearing

HB524

- Does not explicitly include equines in definition of companion animals
- Weakens protections for production animals – “cruelty” does not extend to overworking or overloading animals, abandonment must be “knowing”
- Creates 2nd-offense felony for torture of companion animals, 1st-offense felony if inflicted bodily injury on human within previous 10 years

HB524 Provisions cont.

- Like HB399, Court may order psychological counseling, education regarding animal cruelty
- Like HB399, safety of animal can be considered in mental health assessment

HB524 Status

- Passed House 62-5-3
- Reported out of Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee with Do Pass recommendation
- Full Senate vote expected within a week
- Still opposed by Farm Bureau but other members of Food Producers support it

Questions?