



## AMERICAN HUMANE

*Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877*

September 10, 2009

Congressman Thaddeus McCotter  
Longworth House Office Building, Room: 1632  
Independence and New Jersey Avenues, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for HR 3501 (HAPPY Act)**

Dear Congressman McCotter:

On behalf of American Humane, the nation's only non-profit organization dedicated to protecting both children and animals from maltreatment, we thank you for introducing House Resolution 3501, the Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years (HAPPY) Act.

American Humane's support for the HAPPY Act reflects its 130-year+ history of progressively advocating at the federal, state and local levels for laws that protect children and animals from harm, as well as celebrating the distinct bond people share with their pets as loving members of their families.

By amending the Internal Revenue Code to allow individuals a deduction up to \$3500 a year for pet care expenses—including veterinary care—the Act would significantly address the current economic challenges facing many pet owners today. Due to today's difficult economic climate, animal shelters are taking in significantly more animals than ever before. Tragically, this often leads to many healthy animals having to be euthanized to lack of shelter space. It is our hope that, in doing so, the HAPPY Act will also prevent relinquishment of pets to shelters and encourage adoption of homeless animals.

Please let us know how we can help you pass this critical bill.

Sincerely,

Allie Phillips, J.D.  
*Vice President of Public Policy*

Tracy Coppola, J.D., M.S.E.L.  
*Legislative Analyst*