



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Representative Tommy Brann Earns Michigan Elected Official's Friend of Homeless Animals Award *Michigan Pet Alliance Honors Animal Welfare Organizations, Shelters, Volunteers*

September 6, 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan – Today, Michigan Pet Alliance (MPA) proudly announces that State Representative Tommy Brann, Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the recipient of the Michigan Elected Official's Friend of Homeless Animals Award.

"This annual award honors an elected official who works diligently to pass legislation that supports Michigan's homeless pets," said Joe Dobesh, MPA CEO. "In this award category, Representative Brann was a standout nomination for introducing and supporting animal welfare bills that would make a real difference in our state. We greatly appreciate elected officials who represent both their two- and four-legged constituents."

Representative Brann has led the charge in the Michigan House of Representatives to bring accountability to the animal testing industry by sponsoring Teddy's Law, HBs 4881/4882. This critical piece of legislation would require animal testing facilities to file the same one-page report that animal shelters are required to submit, disclosing how many animals enter their facilities and how they leave. It would also require adoptable animals be released to find forever homes in lieu of euthanasia.

"Animal welfare is a top priority for Michiganders," said Representative Brann. "Our laws need to reflect the will of the people. Animals are more than pets; they are our companions. My wife and I have always rescued our companions. As a legislator, I will continue to advocate for enhanced animal welfare laws."

Teddy's Law is currently pending before the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee, awaiting a vote. In June, the animal welfare community celebrated as Envigo announced it would close its medical dog breeding facility in Virginia, demonstrating how advocacy for the voiceless creates change and, in this case, saved 4,000 dogs. We need the same outcome here. Michigan Pet Alliance supports the immediate passage and enactment of Teddy's Law to bring additional accountability to such breeding facilities in Michigan.

"Education and advocacy are pillars of our mission, to speak with one voice to improve lifesaving and standards of care for our state's pets," said Deborah Schutt, MPA chairperson. "Representative Brann's actions in the Michigan House demonstrate that he is a friend to animals and we appreciate his passion."

Rep. Brann has been married 47 years to his wife Sue.

2022 award categories and recipients:

Karen Brocklehurst Volunteer of the Year

Anne Grzywacz, Ph.D., CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA, St. Clair Shores

Fundraising Program: \$2,000 grant

Paws for Life Rescue, Troy

Community Outreach Program: \$3,000 grant

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance, Douglas

Elected Official's Friend of Homeless Animals Award

Representative Tommy Brann, Kent County

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Best Friend to Dogs Award

Jennifer Clarkson, Bloomfield

Best Friend to Cats Award

Cheryl Phillips, Northville

On-Site Cat Training Grants: \$1,000 value to each

Little Traverse Bay Humane Society, Harbor Springs
Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter, Gwinn

Grant awards are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Humane Society of Macomb Foundation. For more information on the 2022 awards program and recipients, visit www.michiganpet.org.

Michigan Elected Official's Friend of Homeless Animals Award

Every year, this award is bestowed upon a person or organization that has gone above and beyond to save, care for, home or advocate for Michigan's homeless cats.

Michigan Pet Alliance

Michigan's only professional trade association of animal welfare organizations, the mission of Michigan Pet Alliance is to work in collaboration and to speak with a single voice to eliminate abuse and neglect of Michigan's companion animals and to save all healthy and treatable homeless companion animals through training, technical assistance, education and advocacy. For more information, please visit MichiganPet.org and follow @MichiganPetAlliance on Facebook.

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