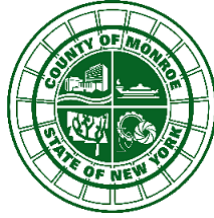


Monroe County Clerk of the Legislature

Nayeliz Santiago
Clerk



Isabela Mulcahy
Deputy Clerk

Hugh Smyth
1st Asst. Deputy Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media
FROM: Nayeliz Santiago, Clerk of the Legislature
DATE: July 27, 2026
RE: Matter of Importance – File No. 26-0244

Matter of Importance:

26-0244 - Enacting a Local Law Amending Part IV, General Local Laws of Monroe County to Add a New Chapter Entitled, 'Monroe County Animal Abuse Registration Act – As a Matter of Importance – County Executive Adam J. Bello, President Yversha Román, and Legislators Jackie Smith, Michael Yudelson, Sean McCabe, and Paul Dondorfer

This referral was not made to committees at the preceding meeting of the Legislature on July 14, 2026, but has been determined by Yversha Román, President of the Legislature, to be of sufficient importance to warrant referral between Legislative meetings, pursuant to Section 545-24 (C) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature.

Attachments



Office of the County Executive

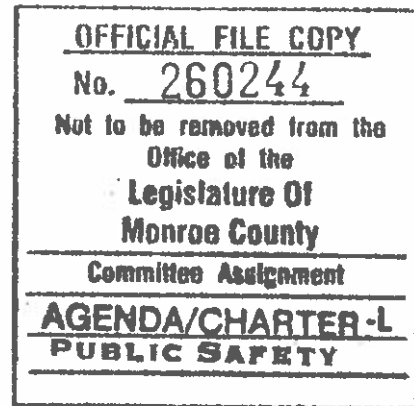
Monroe County Legislature

ADAM J. BELLO
MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JACKIE SMITH
LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 2

July 27, 2026

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, NY 14614



Subject: Enacting a Local Law Amending Part IV, General Local Laws of Monroe County to Add a New Chapter Entitled “Monroe County Animal Abuse Registration Act”

Honorable Legislators:

Establishing an animal abuse registry in Monroe County is an important step toward protecting animals and promoting public safety. Research has demonstrated a troubling connection between animal cruelty and other forms of violent or abusive behavior. By creating a registry, Monroe County would strengthen its ability to identify individuals convicted of animal abuse, enforce applicable restrictions, and help prevent repeat offenders from acquiring additional animals.

The proposed registry would also promote greater accountability. Individuals convicted of animal cruelty would know that the consequences of their actions may extend beyond the completion of a criminal sentence. Requiring offenders to register would help reduce opportunities for repeat abuse and reinforce the principle that the mistreatment of animals carries serious and lasting consequences.

In addition, the registry would provide law enforcement, animal control agencies, shelters, rescue organizations, and other authorized entities with a valuable resource for identifying individuals with a documented history of animal abuse. Access to this information would support more effective enforcement and help prevent animals from being placed in the care of known offenders.

The Monroe County Animal Abuse Registration Act represents a practical and responsible approach to addressing repeat animal cruelty. Its adoption would strengthen existing protections, improve coordination among relevant agencies and organizations, and demonstrate that Monroe County will take meaningful action to safeguard animals from further harm.

The specific legislative actions required are:

- 1) Schedule and hold a public hearing on the proposed Local Law.
- 2) Adopt the Local Law as attached.

This is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(26) ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environment Quality Review Act.

This action will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Respectfully Submitted,



Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive



Jackie Smith
Monroe County Legislator
District 2



Yversha Román
Monroe County Legislature
President



Michael Yudelson
Majority Leader
District 13



Sean McCabe
Republican Leader
District 6



Paul Dondorfer
Monroe County Legislator
District 9

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. ____

LOCAL LAW NO. ____ OF 2026

**ENACT A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED “MONROE COUNTY ANIMAL ABUSE
REGISTRATION ACT”**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as
follows:

Section 1. Part IV, General Local Laws of Monroe County, is hereby amended to add a
new chapter to include the following Local Law:

CHAPTER 387, MONROE COUNTY ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRATION ACT

§ 387-1 **Title.** The Chapter shall be known as the “Monroe County Animal Abuse
Registration Act.”

§ 387-2 **Legislative intent and purpose.** The Legislature hereby finds that:

- A. Animal cruelty is a serious problem, resulting in the abuse of animals each year;
- B. While the State of New York has criminalized the cruel treatment of animals, animal abuse
and cruelty continues to occur in Monroe County and throughout New York State;
- C. People who have abused animals in the past are likely to do so in the future, and studies
show that there is a near-100% recidivism rate for certain types of abuse, including animal
hoarding;
- D. Individuals who abuse animals are statistically more likely to commit violent acts against
humans and, in particular, the Legislature also determines that a strong correlation has
been established linking individuals who abuse animals with incidents of domestic
violence;
- E. Animals in need of homes need to be protected from potential abusers;
- F. It is in the best interest of the residents of Monroe County and their animals that an online
registry be established identifying individuals residing in Monroe County convicted of
animal abuse crimes that will prevent these individuals convicted of animal cruelty from
adopting, purchasing, or otherwise obtaining an Animal as hereinafter defined, from any
Animal Shelter as hereinafter defined, or professional, licensed and/or accredited “Pet

Dealer,” as hereinafter defined, located in Monroe County, involved in the exchange of animals by adoption, sale, or other means.

Therefore, the purpose of enacting this Chapter is to establish an online registry for individuals who are convicted of animal abuse and neglect crimes.

§ 387-3 Definitions. As used in this Chapter:

Animal – Any living mammal (except a human being), bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish.

Animal Abuse and Neglect Crime – The commission of the following crimes against an animal as set forth in the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (hereinafter “AGM”) and New York Penal Law (hereinafter “PEN”) as they may be amended from time to time or any conviction of a crime based upon a reduced charge when the original offense was a charge listed below:

AGM § 351 Prohibition of Animal Fighting

AGM § 353 Overdriving, Torturing and Injuring Animals; Failure to Provide Proper Sustenance

AGM § 353-A Aggravated Cruelty to Animals

AGM § 353-B Appropriate Shelter for Dogs Left Outdoors

AGM § 353-C Electrocution of Fur-Bearing Animals Prohibited

AGM § 353-D Confinement of Companion Animals in Vehicles: Extreme Temperatures

AGM § 353-E Companion Animal Grooming Facilities; Prohibited Practices

AGM § 353-F Companion Animal Piercing and Tattooing Prohibited

AGM § 355 Abandonment of Animals

AGM § 356 Failure to Provide Proper Food and Drink to Impounded Animal

AGM § 357 Selling or Offering to Sell or Exposing Diseased Animal

AGM § 359 Carrying Animal in a Cruel Manner

AGM § 360 Poisoning or Attempting to Poison Animals

AGM § 361 Interference with or Injury to Certain Domestic Animals

AGM § 362 Throwing Substance Injurious to Animals in Public Place

AGM § 365 Clipping or Cutting the Ears of Dogs

AGM § 366 Companion Animal Stealing

AGM § 366-A Removing, Seizing or Transporting Dogs for Research Purposes

AGM § 368 Operating Upon Tails of Horses Unlawful

AGM § 369 Interference with Officers

AGM § 380 Use of Elephants in Entertainment Acts

AGM § 381 Prohibition of the Declawing of Cats

PEN § 130.20(4) Sexual Misconduct

PEN § 195.06 Killing or Injuring a Police Animal

PEN § 195.06-A Killing a Police Work Dog or Police Work Horse

PEN § 195.11 Harming an Animal Trained to Aid a Person with a Disability in the Second Degree

PEN § 195.12 Harming an Animal Trained to Aid a Person with a Disability in the First Degree

PEN § 242.05 Interference, Harassment or Intimidation of a Service Animal

PEN § 242.10 Harming a Service Animal in the Second Degree

PEN § 242.15 Harming a Service Animal in the First Degree

Animal Abuse Offender – Any person convicted of an Animal Abuse and Neglect Crime.

Animal Abuse Registry – The online registry established by this Chapter for registering any person residing in Monroe County convicted of an Animal Abuse and Neglect Crime.

Animal Shelter – Any public or privately owned organization located in Monroe County, including, but not limited to, any duly incorporated humane society, pound, animal protective association, or animal rescue group which maintains buildings, structures, or other property for the purpose of harboring animals which may be stray, unwanted, lost, abandoned, or abused and seeks to find appropriate temporary or permanent homes for such animals.

Conviction – An adjudication of guilty by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether upon verdict after trial, plea of guilty, or nolo contendere/Alford plea.

Companion Animal or Pet – Any dog or cat or any other domesticated animal normally maintained in or near the household of the owner or person who cares for such domesticated animal. It shall not include a Farm Animal.

Farm Animal – Any ungulate (hoofed mammal), poultry, species of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, horses or fur bearing animals (as defined in the Environmental Conservation Law § 11-1907) which are raised for commercial or subsistence purposes. Fur bearing animals shall not include dogs or cats.

Pet Dealer – Any person or entity located in Monroe County who engages in the sale or offering for sale of more than nine animals per year for profit to the public. Such definition shall include breeders who sell or offer to sell animals; provided that it shall not include any breeder who sells or offers to sell directly to the consumer fewer than twenty-five animals per year that are born and raised on the breeder's residential premises.

Service Animal – Any animal that has been partnered with a person who has a disability (as defined in Executive Law § 292(21)) and has been trained or is being trained, by a qualified person, to aid or guide a person with a disability.

§ 387-4 Establishment of an Animal Abuse Registry. A registry is hereby created which shall contain the names and residence information of individuals who are convicted of Animal Abuse and Neglect Crimes. The registry shall include the name of the crime for which such individuals

have been convicted and the date of conviction. The Monroe County Sheriff is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a publicly accessible registry for such individuals. All fees collected by the Monroe County Sheriff associated with the registration shall be used for the maintenance and administration of the registry.

§ 387-5 Registration requirements.

- A. All persons eighteen (18) years of age or older who reside in Monroe County and have been convicted of an Animal Abuse and Neglect Crime on or after the effective date of this Chapter must register with the Monroe County Animal Abuse Registry within ten (10) days of their release from incarceration or, if not incarcerated, from the date of judgment of conviction. This section shall not apply to youthful offenders or persons whose convictions or adjudications include sealed records.
- B. Each person required to register with the Animal Abuse Registry shall submit:
 - i. Their name and any aliases that they may be known by;
 - ii. Their residential address;
 - iii. Their date of birth; and
 - iv. A photograph using a clear image of their face which is not changed by using computer software, phone apps or filters, or artificial intelligence; not less than 2" x 3" or a digital image commonly known as a digital photograph.
- C. Every person required to register with the Animal Abuse Registry shall update their registry information annually, and within ten (10) days of any change of address and/or any official change of name.
- D. Every person required to register pursuant to this Chapter shall remain on the Animal Abuse Registry for ten (10) years following their release from incarceration or the date the judgment of conviction was rendered, whichever is later. Any currently or previously registered Animal Abuse Offender convicted of a subsequent Animal Abuse and Neglect Crime shall be placed on the registry for life following the second conviction.
- E. Any person who is required to register with the Animal Abuse Registry and who fails to do so shall have his or her name listed on the registry website by the Monroe County Sheriff with a notation that the individual has failed to register until such time as the registration is completed.
- F. Following notification to the Monroe County Sheriff, or their authorized agent, of a successful appeal of a conviction of an Animal Abuse and Neglect Crime by an individual that has been required to register pursuant to this Chapter, the registration information for that individual shall be removed from the Animal Abuse Registry within five (5) days

after verification of the successful appeal by the Monroe County Sheriff, or their authorized agent.

- G. Every person required to register with the Animal Abuse Registry shall pay an annual fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) to the Monroe County Sheriff. All such fees shall be used to pay the administrative and maintenance costs of maintaining the registry.
- H. The Monroe County Sheriff is hereby authorized and empowered to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the Animal Abuse Registry.

§ 387-6 Sharing of registration information.

- A. The Monroe County Sheriff, or their authorized agent, shall make the Animal Abuse Registry available to the Monroe County Child Protective Service and Department of Human and Health Services, and is authorized to make the Animal Abuse Registry available to any state, regional, or national government-operated registry of individuals who are convicted of animal abuse and/or neglect crimes for the purpose of sharing information.
- B. The Monroe County Sheriff, or their authorized agent, is authorized to accept files from any state, regional, or national registry of individuals who are convicted of animal abuse and/or neglect crimes.
- C. The Monroe County Sheriff, or their authorized agent, is authorized to make the registry information available within a reasonable amount of time to any other animal registry.

§ 387-7 Animal Shelters and Pet Dealers prohibited from transferring animal ownership to Animal Abuse Offenders. No Animal Shelter, or professional, licensed, and/or accredited Pet Dealer located in Monroe County shall sell, exchange, or otherwise transfer the ownership of any animal to any person listed as an Animal Abuse Offender on the Animal Abuse Registry. Prior to the sale, exchange, or other transfer of ownership of any animal, the Animal Shelter, or professional, licensed, and/or accredited Pet Dealer located in Monroe County is required to examine the Animal Abuse Registry to confirm that the name of the potential owner of the animal is not listed.

§ 387-8 Fees and penalties.

- A. Any Animal Abuse Offender required to register with the Animal Abuse Registry who fails to so register shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by incarceration for a period of not more than one (1) year and/or a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each day that the Animal Abuse Offender fails to register. For purposes of this Chapter, each day that the Animal Abuse Offender fails to register after the date set for registering shall be deemed a separate offense.

- B. Any Animal Shelter, or professional, licensed, and/or accredited Pet Dealer located in Monroe County who sells, exchanges, or otherwise transfers the ownership of any animal to any person listed as an Animal Abuse Offender on the Animal Abuse Registry shall receive a fine of Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a first offense, One-Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for a second offense, and One-Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for each subsequent offense.

§ 387-9 Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this chapter shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, or section thereof directly involved in the proceeding in which such adjudication shall have been rendered. This chapter shall not supersede any applicable state or federal laws or regulations with regard to the subject matters set forth herein.

Section 2. **Effective Date.** This local law shall take effect ninety (90) days after filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and the Monroe County Charter.

_____ Committee; _____, 2026 - CV: _____
File No. 26-____.LL

ENACTED: Date: _____, 2026 Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LOCAL LAW: _____