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The Safe Transportation of Dogs and Cats Act Signed into Law by Governor Newsom

July 1, 2022 – Sacramento, CA – Today, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 1781, the Safe Transportation of Dogs and Cats Act, into law. The new law, authored by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) and sponsored by Social Compassion in Legislation, requires mobile or traveling housing facilities, such as animal control vehicles, to transport dogs and cats in a manner that does not endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to conditions such as extreme temperatures or lack of food or water.

“AB 1781 recognizes the importance of setting safe temperature standards in a state where temperatures can vary from below freezing to well over triple digits,” said **Assemblywoman Rubio**. “As a proud pet owner, I understand the importance of prioritizing the safety and wellness of our furry family members. Following the signing of AB 1781 into law, I applaud Governor Gavin Newsom for his leadership and commitment to animal safety.”

“Governor Newsom is a national leader in the fight against climate change and is acutely aware of the increasing effects of climate change in our day to day lives, including the lives of our dogs and cats,” said **Judie Mancuso, founder and president of Social Compassion in Legislation**. “While not surprised that the Governor signed this important legislation into law, we are thrilled and grateful. With temperatures rising year after year, it is imperative that we ensure animal control, rescue organization, or humane society vehicles are equipped to keep animals alive and comfortable during transport and that’s exactly what this law will do.”

With 2021 being the hottest year on record and temperatures in California ranging from below freezing to well over 100 degrees, animals being transported inside animal control or other mobile housing facility vehicles can be at risk of severe injury or death. Yet, currently, there are no minimum standards in California for climatic conditions while transporting dogs and cats in these vehicles. The new law closes that gap.

“On behalf of Social Compassion in Legislation, our supporters, and animal advocates across the state, we thank Assemblymember Blanca Rubio for her steadfast leadership in advancing this

important legislation since we first approached her about this policy issue in 2018,” said **Nickolaus Sackett, Director of Legislative Affairs with Social Compassion in Legislation.**

AB 1781, the 20th sponsored bill by Social Compassion in Legislation to be signed into law, was drafted in response to several animal control directors, local county veterinarians, animal control associations, as well as the input from a forum of over 45 statewide representatives of shelter directors, managers, volunteers, and the animal rescue community that met in Southern California to discuss legislation that could better shape how animal control agencies care for animals.

Social Compassion in Legislation was the catalyst and sponsoring organization behind former State Senator Liz Figueroa’s SB 1806, a bill signed into law in 2006 which made it illegal to leave animals in unattended vehicles under conditions such as extreme heat or cold, which could inflict suffering on the animal. The new law is a continuation of the organization’s work to protect animals in transport.