



MISSOURI SENATE

Jane Cunningham
7th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Jane Cunningham Proposes Measure to Protect Welfare of Dogs Rescued from Dog Fighting

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, welcomed the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation during the group's Lobby Day at the State Capitol today (1/20) — a group that endorses her proposed legislation ([Senate Bill 201](#)) that would provide a disposition hearing within 30 days for animals seized following dog fighting incidents.

Senator Cunningham spoke to alliance members and introduced them to "Hector," a 3-year-old pit bull rescued from convicted former NFL star Michael Vick's dog fighting operation. His owner, Andrew Yori, of Rochester, MN, brought the rescued dog to the state Capitol in support of Sen. Cunningham's proposed animal welfare legislation.

Senator Cunningham's proposal would make the laws regarding the assessment of the health and care of dogs seized from dog fighting rings consistent with other state animal laws. Currently, dogs rescued from dog fighting operations are often impounded until legal cases are settled.

"This bill serves to ensure that these exploited animals receive the quick care they deserve and an accurate assessment of their health so that many can begin the process of recovery and rehabilitation," Sen. Cunningham said. "In the majority of cases, most injured dogs retrieved from these dog fighting operations can be saved, become gentle and loving pets, and be adopted."

For more information on Senator Cunningham's legislation you can visit her website at www.senate.mo.gov/cunningham or contact her Chief of Staff, Lucy LePage at 573/751-1186.

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Sen. Cunningham (right) with Andrew Yori and rescued pet, "Hector," during a visit to the state Capitol on Jan. 20. For a high resolution photo, call (573) 751-3824 or email kdrummond@senate.mo.gov.