

# Animal abuse

## Senators try to toughen punishment

By TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

People who torture, neglect or mistreat an animal face tighter laws and stiffer penalties — including mental health treatment — under two bills before the state Senate.

"The thrust of my bill is an animal in a neglected state," said Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, sponsor of one measure.

"There is a correlation between extreme cases of animal abuse and human abuse," said an aide to Sen. Virgil Smith, D-Detroit, sponsor of the second. "Ownership (of an animal) is not a factor. Both (animal and human abusers) come from dysfunctional families."

The Judiciary Committee last week sent both bills to the Senate floor after hearing heartbreaking testimony from humane society and county animal control officers.

"Leslie Williams is a striking example of what animal abusers are capable of," said Gary Tiscornia of the Michigan Humane Society. Tiscornia said he is a resident of Milford, where Williams performed one of his four 1991-2 serial killings.

Tiscornia told of dogs and cats starved to death, with owners put on probation; puppies whose collars became embedded in their necks as they grew to adulthood; a neglected cocker spaniel whose leg rotted off; a dog shotgunned to death for "chewing up a few things" in a house; a cat named Chico hit on fire whose owner escaped with a misdemeanor charge; and a German shepherd struck by 20 blows from a hatchet and thrown down a sewer whose assailant got only 90 days in jail.

Walter Rodabaugh, Lapeer County animal control officer, told of a woman who was paid to care for six horses but neglected all and let two starve to death.

"We supplied \$5,000 of treatment at county expense. The woman got the horses back at no cost," he said.

Rodabaugh told of an owner who let an 88-pound Doberman pinscher waste away to 28 pounds. After the county spent \$1,000 restoring the dog to health, the owner was neither fined nor required to make restitution, Rodabaugh said.

A man who used a baseball bat on a 15-pound dog was later sent to prison for child abuse. "GD 605 would have let us give that man some treatment. That's what he needed," Rodabaugh said.

Bouchard's bill would amend the penal code to prohibit a person from wilfully and cruelly killing, maiming, mutilating or sexually assaulting an animal. A violator could get a year in prison, be fined \$1,000, ordered to perform 240 hours of community service and be prohibited from owning an animal.

Bouchard noted his bill also covers transporting an animal with its feet tied together (except for taking it for medical care); failing to provide a rack so the animal could stand or lie down; abandoning an animal; and allowing an old, diseased or disabled animal to suffer unnecessary torture or pain.

A Senate Fiscal Agency analysis there was no way to determine how many more convictions, more jail time and more fine revenue would result from Bouchard's bill. In 1992 eight persons were convicted of feloniously destroying an animal.

Smith's bill would expand the list of animal cruelty violations. Exposing an animal to poison would be covered. The bill would apply to "an animal" and owners. Current law covers "any horses, cattle, or other beasts of another." The bill would not apply to lawful hunting or farming.

### The Formalwear

Featuring Designer Tuxedos From Just \$229.99

Save up to 40% on tuxedos and dinner jackets from Giorgio Armani, Hugo Boss, Michael Angelo, Christian Dior, Lowe & Asher, Tella Uomo, Bill Blass and Lubiam. Designer and famous-maker formal shirts reduced up to 35%. Choose from our large assortment of designer accessories specially priced at 80% off. All sale merchandise is entirely new and not from our rental collection. Alteration service is available.

Now Through October 10th.

**President Puxedo**

31 MICHIGAN LOCATIONS  
CALL 1-800-837-TUXS  
FOR THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU.

**BEST TRAIN**  
For Kids ages 2-8

**BRIO**

Starter Set \$39.95  
Special Price (Reg. \$50)

JOIN THE BRIO ENGINEERS CLUB  
Purchase 8 items & Receive the 100th Train FREE

The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop

3547 W. 12 Mile • Berkley  
(313) 543-3115 • M-Sa: 10a-3p, Fr: 10a

**SWIM POOL COVER SALE**

w/7 Year Warranty

**Above Ground\***

POOL SIZE	REG. COST	SALE
18'	\$56	\$42
18'	62	47
24'	100	75
24'x18'	84	63
32'x16'	104	78

**Below Ground\***

POOL SIZE	REG. COST	SALE
32'x18'	\$110	\$83
38'x18'	140	105
40'x20'	170	128

**Heavy Duty Vinyl WATER BAGS**

10' Double Tube \$6.99

**SINCE 1965 POOLS**  
a go-go inc.

396-4577 • 730-5333  
396-4026 • 636-3131

WEST EAST

## THE SPORTS AUTHORITY

# YOUR HOCKEY HEADQUARTERS!

**CCM RAPIDE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY SKATES**  
For beginners, durable leather laces, soft, comfortable non-slip split suede leather linings, \$1,000 carbon steel blade.

**55.96**

CCM RAPIDE BOYS' ICE HOCKEY SKATES \$52.96

**CCM/MASKA HELMET WITH MASK**  
Added protection with mask and helmet. Comes in junior and senior sizes.

**74.96**

**VICTORIACVILLE HOCKEY GLOVES**  
15" nylon glove featuring horizontal and vertical back ribs for more flexibility. Compare at \$65.00

**44.96**

**ROLLERBLADE BLADE RUNNER PRO 2000 ADULT INLINE SKATES**  
Easy lock/open buckle and lace system, molded polymer boot foam, padded inner boot, 70mm 65A durometer wheels.

**79.96**

**CCM REPLICIA JERSEY**  
Official NHL replica jersey, medium weight, double-knit embroidered crest. Sizes S-XXL. \*Teams vary by store.

**54.96**

**COOPER SUPER PRO HELMET**  
Newest helmet innovation for superior comfort and protection. Comes in youth and adult sizes.

**64.96**

**CCM 12 1/2" GLOVES**  
Exclusive textile construction for lightweight protection.

**29.96**

**ROLLERBLADE PRO 3000 ADULT INLINE SKATES**  
3 quick latch ratchet buckles, vented cool shell, high cut cuff, foam padded inner boot, 70mm 65A durometer wheels.

**99.96**

**KOHO HOCKEY PANTS**  
Nylon pants with outstanding lightweight protection. Junior and senior sizes available.

**39.96-44.96**

**CANADIEN 6001 HOCKEY STICK**  
Mid-split flex fiberglass reinforced shaft and new "lower" core fiberglass blade.

**22.96**

**EASTON HOCKEY GLOVES**  
11 1/2" length leather palm with nylon corded construction. GX99

**34.96**

**KOHO STREET HOCKEY HELMET**  
Sport utility helmet with foam liner. \*Comes in junior and senior sizes.

**24.96**

**CCM/MASKA POWERLINE SHOULDERPADS**  
Molded PU caps, high-density foam, protective chest pads. Comes in youth and adult sizes.

**19.96-24.96**

**LOUISVILLE YZERMAN HOCKEY STICK**  
Kevlar blade with graphite fibers for strong reinforcement. TPXW0VZ.

**14.96**

**KOHO ULTRA FIBRE HOCKEY STICK**  
Specially designed rounded fiberglass reinforced shaft.

**24.96**

**EASTON TS499 HOCKEY STICK**  
Aluminum, straight wall shaft with stiff flex design. Comes in junior and senior sizes.

**27.96-37.96**

**COOPER TS PRO HOCKEY GLOVES**  
Pro quality 15" leather construction, pre-curved fingers and back, dura soft palms.

**89.96**

**VICTORIACVILLE STREET/ICE HOCKEY STICK**  
Reinforced Lexan® blade with strong web shaft. Youth and adult sizes. ABS scabbard.

**9.96-12.96**

**VICTORIACVILLE, KOHO, CCM, COOPER, EASTON, JOFA SHINGUARDS AND ELBOW PADS FOR BEGINNING TO ADVANCED PLAYERS.**  
Youth and adult sizes.

**9.96-47.96**

**THE SPORTS AUTHORITY**

**PRICE GUARANTEE**

...means just that! If you ever find a lower competitor's price, we'll match it! (Hassle Free!)

United States on all local purchases and clearance items. Management reserves the right to limit quantities.

<b>WATERFORD</b> 277 Summit Dr. (in Summit Crossing) 735-5020	<b>MADISON HEIGHTS</b> John R Rd. (south of Ardmore) 735-0133	<b>LIVONIA</b> Plymouth Road (west of Ardmore) 622-2750	<b>CLINTON TOWNSHIP</b> Gratiot Avenue and Quim (14 1/2 Mile Road) 781-8400	<b>UTICA</b> M-59 (Hall Road) and M-53 254-8650
--	--	--	--	---

**STORE HOURS** MON-FRI 10AM-9PM SAT 9AM-9PM SUN 10AM-6PM

**THE SPORTS AUTHORITY**