

**House Judiciary**

**02/24/2026 Upon Adjournment**

**HB26-1131 Custody of Pet Animals**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Victoria Baxter  For  Baxter Family Law	This bill will protect victims of abuse, children, and animals. I've had countless cases where an abuser withholds an animal to exert control and punishment over their spouse. This year, one abuser withheld the parties' senior dog from his wife and child, angry that she'd filed for divorce and sought a protection order. Sadly, the dog's life ended absent the presence of her family " a devastating and irreparable consequence for Wife, child, and the animal. Title 14, as it currently stands, provides no real authority or obligation to judges to intervene in such a scenario. While Wife can use Husband's behavior to demonstrate coercive control or lack of ability to prioritize the minor child, such relief is responsive and does nothing to prevent this kind of harm from happening in the future.