

The Feel Good Bill Named Happy – HR3501



By Laura Bruzas Community Member May 1, 2010 at 9:48 p.m.



Happy

If you knew me, you'd know that I have a shelter-adopted canine companion named HAPPY that brings me boundless joy. He also puts a big dent in my household budget occasionally. I remember the time I took him to the local vet because he wouldn't stop scratching. I thought it was fleas but the vet said no and proceeded to take tests and prescribe costly remedies including, but not limited to, prescription shampoo and skin lotion. They didn't help. More than \$300 dollars later, it ended up that the not-so-friendly fearless flea was the cause after all.

Wouldn't it be great if animal lovers like you (I'm assuming you are one, too, based on the fact that animal guardianship is currently at its highest level, with 71.4 million households in the U.S. having at least one animal according to the American Pet Products Association) and I could claim our pet's expenses on our tax return? After all, pets do more than poop and pee. They bring us boundless joy, help relax us, get us outside for daily walks which include fresh air and sunshine, introduce us to new friends and neighbors, and give us unconditional love — all things proven to be good for our health.

Now, thanks to one very progressive and compassionate Congressman named Thaddeus McCooter (R-MI), there is an effort to pass a bill that would make animal care expenses tax deductible. Referred to as the Humanity and Pets Partnered through the Years or the HAPPY Act, Bill HR3501 just might stand a chance if animal lovers get behind it and contacted their members of Congress and voiced their support.

For more information on this Bill as well as an update on its status, go to <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h3501/show>

La Grange resident Laura Bruzas founded <http://www.HealthyDining.org> a community education and outreach effort that promotes food choices that foster good health, conservation and animal compassion in 2003 and is the official Green Your Library blogger for *American Libraries* magazine <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/greenlibrary> .