

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Humane Society of Berks County Statement on Michael Vick's signing by Philadelphia Eagles**

As an animal welfare organization, the Humane Society of Berks County is obviously disgusted with the actions which resulted in the animal cruelty felony conviction of quarterback Michael Vick. However, as a Pennsylvania law enforcement agency, we must place our trust in the justice system which has tried, convicted, and now paroled Vick.

Any reasonable person can question or even doubt the statements of remorse and contrition offered by any felon seeking release and we are certainly an organization of reasonable people. It is now time to see if Vick's remorse is genuine. If so, he will prove to be a powerful voice against animal cruelty. We hope this will be the case.

We also hope that Vick will help us to continue shining a spotlight on animal welfare issues in Pennsylvania. In signing with the Philadelphia Eagles, Vick comes to a state which is working to transform its well-earned reputation for being behind the curve on animal welfare and cruelty issues. His injection into this increased awareness and activism may be an added boost to the ongoing efforts of millions of animal welfare advocates in Pennsylvania.

The Humane Society of Berks County also hopes that his presence will remind the public that animal cruelty in PA is combated almost exclusively by charitable animal welfare organizations like the HSBC who rely on donations and special events like the HSBC Walk for the Animals on September 26 and our Furry Friday Walk Kick-Off on August 14. We also hope that the Philadelphia Eagles will consider supporting animal welfare efforts across the Commonwealth. This might offer some assurance to Eagles fans who question the Vick signing and wonder if the eagles "get it".

Ultimately, the HSBC will take a wait and see approach. We can only hope that some good comes out of the tragic death faced by his dogs.

Founded in 1900, the Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is an **independent**, private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws for all of Berks County, the Humane Society provides adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, veterinary services to the general public, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society is located at 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading, and 1201 Ben Franklin Highway E., Douglassville.