



**PAWS**  
PUBLIC ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

## Ohio Companion Animal Torture Bill HB60 Goddards Law

Thank you Chairman Hite, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Gentile, and committee for giving me the opportunity today to address you on the importance of HB 60, Goddards Law.

My name is Amy Beichler, I have served as the executive director of PAWS Ohio for 12yrs. In that time, I have been involved with numerous rescues of companion animals that have suffered and/or died due to individuals who have intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taken an action that mistreats or kills a companion animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming or poisoning.

The causal link between animal abuse, abuse towards domestic partners, children, and the elderly has long been documented by various agencies, some of whom will provide you with testimony today.

On January 1, 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI) began to collect data on four specific areas of animal abuse,

**A = Simple/Gross Neglect (failure to provide food, water, shelter, veterinary care, or intentionally or knowingly withholding food or water)**

**I = Intentional Abuse and Torture**

**F = Organized Abuse (dog fighting and cock fighting)**

**S =Animal Sexual Abuse (bestiality)**

this was prompted by the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Animal Welfare Institute; **to identify with precision when and where crime takes place, the form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. Armed with this information, law enforcement agencies can better define and articulate the resources they need and then apply these resources where they would be most effective. (see attached)**

As a member of society and executive director of PAWS Ohio, I welcome the importance that is placed on collecting data to better protect those suffering, both human and animal. The state of Ohio needs to be **proactive rather than reactive**. Too often in the state of Ohio those who perpetrate egregious acts of animal cruelty on a first offense do not appear on

the “radar” of law enforcement until harm has come to a member of society. HB 60 provides us with the ability to do just that. HB 60 also allows us to partner with the FBI and provide them with data that, in the end, could make a difference concerning violence against children, as well as our adult population.

I would like to speak, for a moment, about our K-9 police dogs/equines killed in the line of duty here in Ohio. Please take note, where there is a K-9 officer taking fire or being attacked with various weapons, there is a K-9 police handler at equal risk. I am hoping we can increase the penalty of up to 10 years for killing a K-9 police officer here in the state of Ohio as the Federal Law Enforcement Animal Protection Act of 2000 does for a federally employed K-9.

**Sec. 1368. Harming animals used in law enforcement**, signed into law in 2000 with a possible amendment to HB60

- (a) Whoever willfully and maliciously harms any police animal, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be fined under this title and imprisoned not more than 1 year. **If the offense permanently disables or disfigures the animal, or causes serious bodily injury or the death of the animal, the maximum term of imprisonment shall be 10 years.**(b) In this section, the term ‘police animal’ means a dog or horse employed by a Federal agency (whether in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch) for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of criminal offenders.(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT- The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

‘1368. Harming animals used in law enforcement.’

I would like to again thank Chairman Hite and this committee for the attention you have given to HB60, Goddards Law. I welcome any questions.

## **FBI ADDS ANIMAL CRUELTY TRACKING BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2016**

Animal Cruelty Category Added to National Incident-Based Reporting System, NIBRS

01/01/2015

Mollie Halpern: The FBI this year prepares to collect data on animal cruelty crimes through its National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS. I'm Mollie Halpern of the Bureau with FBI, This Week.

NIBRS is a collection of detailed crime statistics that law enforcement agencies from across the country provide to the FBI. Unit Chief Amy Blasher says the **Bureau partnered with the National Sheriffs' Association and the Animal Welfare Institute to make the change...**

**Amy Blasher: They believe that animal cruelty was an early indicator of violent crime, and that's really what led the discussions with our law enforcement partners throughout the country.**

Halpern: The FBI will collect data on four types of animal abuse...

Blasher: Examples of which would be organized abuse, which would include dog fighting and cock fighting, and animal sexual abuse.

Halpern: Implementing the change is a year-long process.

Blasher: We do a lot of outreach to our partners so they understand the change and how they can ready their systems to collect the data.

Halpern: Data collection will begin in 2016 and will be available to the public the following year.

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### **Offense code and data values for animal cruelty offenses and arrests**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), beginning January 1, 2016, the national UCR Program will add the offense of animal cruelty to the NIBRS as a Group A offense and as a Crime Against Society with an **offense code of 720 Animal Cruelty**. In association with this change, Data Element 12 (Type Criminal Activity/Gang Information) will expand to include four data values about the type of abuse. The four types of abuse (and their codes) will be:

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**A = Simple/Gross Neglect (failure to provide food, water, shelter, veterinary care, or intentionally or knowingly withholding food or water)**

**I = Intentional Abuse and Torture**

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**S = Animal Sexual Abuse (bestiality)**

The definition of animal cruelty will be:

Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care

if sick or injured; transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death; causing an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or torture an animal. This definition **does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping.**

Changes will be forthcoming in 2015; the national UCR Program will begin to collect these data on January 1, 2016.

**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM** As compared to UCR's traditional Summary Reporting System currently used in the annual [\*Crime in the United States\*](#) report—**which is an aggregate monthly tally of crimes—the NIBRS is a more comprehensive accounting of crime occurring in a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction. When used to its full potential, the NIBRS can identify with precision when and where crime takes place, the form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. Armed with this information, law enforcement agencies can better define and articulate the resources they need and then apply these resources where they'd be most effective.**

When the UCR Program studied several years of NIBRS data to examine the effect of agencies switching to the system, most figures stayed the same—especially for the single-offense incidents—but slight increases occurred for agencies that had several multiple-offense incidents. For NIBRS submissions, all of the offenses in an incident were reported—not just the most serious one as is done in the Summary Reporting System. So when agencies switch to the NIBRS, it may seem like crime within their region has increased, but that perception of an increase is due to the greater level of reporting specificity in NIBRS data compared to that for summary data.

New in the NIBRS this year: This latest report includes information about new collection standards—and new data—including a revised rape definition, the addition of human trafficking offenses and gender and gender identity bias categories, and the revision of sexual orientation bias types and race and ethnicity categories.

**This year—at the request of the National Sheriffs' Association and the Animal Welfare Institute—an animal cruelty offense category will be added to the NIBRS and will include four separate types of abuse:**

- a. simple/gross neglect**
- b. intentional abuse and torture**
- c. organized abuse (dog fighting and cock fighting)**
- d. animal sexual abuse.**

**This new category was implemented during 2015, and data collection began January 2016.**