

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee SICSA supports Ohio House Bill 351. When abuse of a companion animal occurs, even after death, the grief people experience when losing a pet becomes even more traumatic. Additionally, the link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence is well-documented, and the psychological evaluation and counseling that would be required for offenders of the amended law will provide critical support to the offender and potentially help prevent future crimes and victims.

Research summary and links:

According to the National Institute of Health, "...scientific studies have proven that animal abuse and interpersonal violence can occur simultaneously. It is now recognized that crimes against animals and domestic violence can co-exist and that animal abuse can be indicative of intrafamilial problems."

According to the National Link Coalition, "...animal abuse can be a sentinel indicator and predictor – one of the earliest red flag warning signs of concurrent or future violent acts."

According to the Arizona State University Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, "the co-occurrence of animal cruelty with other forms of violence compounds the harms associated with it."

It is prudent to be vigilant about the potential co-occurrence of various forms of violence and to intervene appropriately to help identify other forms of mistreatment that may also be present.

Ohio House Bill 351 would impose psychological evaluation and counseling requirements on offenders, providing necessary support to the offender and also possibly preventing future crimes and victims.

According to the NIH, "Animal owners who experience the death of a beloved family pet or companion animal may experience feelings of grief and loss that are synonymous with the death of a human."

Jack W. Omer
President & CEO

SICSA
8172 Washington Church Road
Dayton, OH 45458
937-673-1775 - C

