



PAWS
PUBLIC ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Thank you Chairman Brian Hill, Vice Chair Tony Burkley, Ranking Member John Patterson, 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 11 yrs. In that time I have been involved with numerous rescues of companion animals that have suffered and/or died due to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills a companion animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment.

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

Starting in January 1, 2016 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI) will beginning to collect data on four specific areas of animal abuse. (see attached). 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'd 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 the reactive**. Too often in the state of Ohio those that 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 be the difference concerning violence against children, as well as our adult population.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and 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

F = Organized Abuse (dog fighting and cock fighting)

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.

Next 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: simple/gross neglect, intentional abuse and torture, organized abuse (dog fighting and cock fighting), and animal sexual abuse. This new category will be implemented during 2015, and data collection will begin January 2016.

