

Ms. Tiffany Frautschi
MS-FACT
October 22, 2009

Ms. Fraustchi, when I moved to Mississippi, I was astounded by the fact that intentional cruelty to dogs and cats is not a felony in this state as it is in 46 others. This is an embarrassment to our state. The statistics alone should be a wake-up call to the legislators of Mississippi: 100% of sexual homicide offenders had a history of animal abuse, 48% of rapists, 30% of child molesters, and 40% of violent offenders admitted to have started their illustrious criminal careers as animal abusers. We need to get these violent offenders off the street before they move on to humans.

History is replete with serial killers who started out abusing animals: John Malvo, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, and Mississippi's own Luke Woodham, who stabbed his mother to death before going to school, killing two school classmates, and maiming seven others. Prior to those murders, Mr. Woodham repeatedly beat Sparkle, their once beloved pet, with a billyclub, poured lighter fluid down her throat, and then threw a lit match down the dog's throat "as an experiment." The cruelty with which Luke Woodham displayed his own pet defies the imagination.

Because abuse to dogs and cats is only a misdemeanor, these violent people could babysit your grandchildren, take care of your elderly parents, or date your daughter. And not passing a law making it a first-time felony is telling the women and children of Mississippi that you may be out there on your own. The first and foremost job of the legislators in any state is to protect the residents of the state in which they live. It's time for the legislative body of this state to step up to the plate.

Sincerely,

Kim Wolford
Jackson, Mississippi