

MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION



Charlie Sims
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
14 Southgate Road
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

February 23, 2010

David Waltman
Clinic Director
Humane Society of South MS

Dear Mr. Waltman:

The Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Association is in full support of SB-2623 which creates a felony statute for animal cruelty. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has recognized the link between animal cruelty and violence against people since the 1970's when its analysis of the lives of serial killers revealed that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Virtually every serious violent offender has a history of animal abuse in their past. Animal cruelty is a predictor and indicator of violent crimes, domestic violence, and child abuse. People abuse animals for the same reasons they abuse humans (i.e., control, feelings of power, psychological problems).

We feel this important piece of legislation will provide law enforcement with an opportunity to identify and address emerging criminal activity. In addition to providing for the felony statute, it provides for restitution to the animal owner, restitution to the law enforcement agency tasked with investigating, and the opportunity for the court to order psychiatric treatment to the abuser.

Please accept this letter with the full support of the association in getting this piece of legislation passed.

Sincerely,

Charlie Sims

Charlie Sims
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
MLEOA