



2013-02

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ADVOCATES FOR THE
ADDITION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY TO THE
UCR AND NIBRS**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association is concerned with the link between the treatment of animals and the early identification of violent criminals, and;

WHEREAS, animal cruelty is often one of the first symptoms of a child at risk for developing antisocial and aggressive behavioral disorders, appearing at a mean age of 6.75 years, and;

WHEREAS, consistent findings show that animal cruelty is part of the cycle of violence in families and communities, and;

WHEREAS, women residing at domestic violence shelters are nearly 11 times more likely to report that their partners had hurt or killed pets than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence, and;

WHEREAS, there is a scientifically proven connection between animal cruelty and child abuse, domestic violence, other interpersonal violence, and juvenile delinquency, and;

WHEREAS, an ongoing study by the Behavioral Analysis Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the characteristics of animal cruelty offenders has found that 50% of such offenders had a history of interpersonal violence and 17% had a history of sexual violence, and;

WHEREAS, many of the nation's most infamous criminals were found to have abused animals in their past, including serial killers Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer, and school shooters from Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kentucky, and Mississippi, and;

WHEREAS, a survey regarding the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) found that a majority of States (84.6%) reported that if animal cruelty crimes were reported in the UCR, this data would be "somewhat useful to extremely useful" for law enforcement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association advocates for the training and resources necessary for law enforcement to further develop knowledge and awareness of the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and gang violence by mandating the collection of animal cruelty data in the Uniform Crime Report and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).