



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director

June 9, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to you today in support of legislation you intend to introduce, the *Prevent Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act*. This bill addresses a current gap in federal law regarding animal cruelty.

As you know, there is a documented connection between animal cruelty and other violent crimes. Yet, there is currently no legal recourse for federal prosecutors to take when an animal is maliciously abused on federal property or when the abuse occurs as part of interstate commerce. There is also no federal penalty for the underlying acts of abuse in "crush" videos. Your bill would rectify these issues. Furthermore, your bill would allow the criminalization of acquiring animals over the internet for the purpose of bestiality. By establishing this legal recourse, you are acknowledging the importance of preventing animal cruelty and torture.

In closing, I look forward to working with you to pass the *PACT Act* and working with you on many other important issues in the 114th Congress. If I can be any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jonathan F. Thompson