



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

**ASSEMBLY BILL 829 (WALDRON)
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 829 (Waldron).

AB 829 requires a court to consider ordering a defendant who has been granted probation after conviction of specified animal abuse crimes to undergo a mental health evaluation, and requires the defendant to complete mandatory counseling as directed by the court, if the evaluator deems it necessary.

AB 829 would apply to defendants convicted of one or more of the following offenses:

- Sexual contact with an animal;
- Willful poisoning of an animal;
- Animal cruelty;
- Keeping an animal in specified places without proper care; and
- Intentionally causing injury or death to a guide or service dog.

There is no denial that there is a link between animal abuse and crimes against persons. One of the best ways to reduce the likelihood of escalating criminal activity is to get individuals mental health treatment.

Mental health evaluations for animal abusers is an important tool that should be available to courts. They are crucial for rehabilitation of animal abusers and will have a significant impact on the reduction of recidivism rates among animal abusers as well on preventing these abusers from escalating to human victims.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney