



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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May 22, 2024
Senator Richard D. Roth
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Senate Bill 902
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Roth:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill 902 (Roth).

SB 902 would create a 10-year prohibition on the possession of firearms for individuals convicted of misdemeanor animal cruelty.

A recent publication by the U.S. Department of Justice stated that "animal cruelty crimes can serve as a precursor to more violent crimes, as a co-occurring crime to other types of offenses, and as an interrelated crime to offenses such as domestic violence and elder abuse." Research has shown that 41% of intimate partner violence offenders had histories of animal cruelty which, in addition to mental health issues, low education levels, and substance abuse issues, ranks as a top risk factor for becoming a batterer.

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence found that of 300 women who had been in abusive intimate relationships, 90.7% of the study group reported that children in the household experienced animal maltreatment through direct exposure to threats and violence against animals, and in some instances, the child tried to protect their companion animals by intervening and putting themselves at risk. Other research has suggested that individuals who commit animal abuse are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against humans. The link is so strong that in 2016, the FBI amended the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to start collecting data on animal abuse.

SB 902 is a common-sense bill which aims to address the proliferation of firearms-related incidence of violence.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tamar Tokat in our Legislative Office at 916-442-0668.

Very Truly Yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney