



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Attorney Aronberg Appointed to National Law Enforcement Council on Animal Cruelty

The Animal Wellness Foundation (AWF) and Animal Wellness Action (AWA) have announced the formation of a National Law Enforcement Council, co-chaired by former Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson and former Oregon District Attorney Josh Marquis, dedicated to enforcing our federal, state, and local laws against animal cruelty.

The FBI's homicidal triad includes early-age acts of animal cruelty. In homes where a man harms a spouse or a girlfriend, he will often turn his violent instincts toward a child or an animal. "There is a documented link between animal cruelty and domestic violence," said State Attorney Aronberg, who has personally prosecuted cases of felony animal cruelty in Palm Beach County. "Those who engage in this despicable crime demonstrate a lack of empathy for the suffering of others, which will often manifest itself in other violent crimes," said Aronberg. State Attorney Aronberg, who is active in animal rescue charities and has received a national award from the Pegasus Foundation for his work in fighting animal cruelty, said that he was "honored to have been chosen for this task force, as our state and federal laws are still inadequate in this area."

The Animal Wellness National Law Enforcement Council (NLEC) is focusing at the moment on enforcement of our federal anti-cruelty statutes, including laws against animal fighting, and offering assistance to law enforcement authorities as needed. The NLEC is also urging increased funding for anti-cruelty enforcement at the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and also advocating for the passage of the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act (S.479/ H.R.724) led by U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL), which would create a national anti-cruelty statute to crack down on perpetrators of acts of malicious cruelty with a

federal nexus.

The NLEC includes a number of prosecutors who have distinguished themselves in their public advocacy and continue to advocate for safer communities for people and animals, including former Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth.

The Animal Wellness Foundation is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization with a mission of helping animals by making veterinary care available to everyone with a pet, regardless of economic ability. Animal Wellness Action is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty.

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