



# NDA

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## ***OTHER FORMS OF – AND FACTS ABOUT – ANIMAL CRUELTY, “TAKING POINTS”***

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***There are many other forms of animal cruelty that prosecutors, police and others within law enforcement should aggressively pursue.***

***FACT: Dog fighting and cock-fighting is taking place across America. Dog fighting is banned in all 50 states and cock-fighting is banned in 48 states – (Louisiana and New Mexico legislatures have yet to ban these blood sports).*** However, these fights do not carry a felony charge in all states. *The* fights can be well-organized and take place in facilities equipped with a pit and space for spectators, or at neighborhood schoolyards, dead-end streets in the middle of town, or in rural area barns and other like places. It is important that prosecutors work with police to investigate and prosecute those who organize and participate in these blood sports. ***These fights not only promote and foster animal abuse, but create an environment that spawns other crimes such as drug trafficking and drug use, gun trafficking, money laundering and other types of both high and lower level criminal activity. The dangers associated with dog and cock fighting are notorious and frequently children are present at these events.*** Additionally, with cock-fighting, there is the added new fear of spreading “avian flu.” Prosecutors and police need to commit themselves to ending these cruel and illegal blood sports and the criminal activities associated with them.

***FACT: The Internet is being used to show and promote animal cruelty that reaches to the level of criminal activity.*** For example, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, “***The Federal Government’s “Crush Act”*** provides punishment ranging in severity from a fine to five years in prison, for the display of acts of cruelty and sexual abuse intended for commerce. ‘Crush’ videos generally depict women, in stiletto heels, stepping on small animals such as kittens and rodents.” Prosecutors should alert federal agents if they are aware of Internet activity that depicts cruelty to animals, that is criminal in nature, and is being created and disseminated in their jurisdictions.

***FACT: Many Puppy Mills thrive because of they are owned and operated by people who practice animal abuse and torture.*** They keep bitches in cages all of their lives, and breed them from the onset of their first heat until they die from over-breeding. The dogs are rarely let out of their cages. They are kept in filthy conditions. They lack adequate food and water. And, they receive virtually no affection or veterinary attention. Puppies born at Puppy Mills are stuffed into unheated and non-air conditioned trucks. Many die before they reach their destination – Pet Shops. A large number of these puppies are sick and die in the Pet Shop or after they’ve been purchased by unsuspecting customers. ***Prosecutors and police who live and work in jurisdictions that have Puppy Mills should be alert to the welfare of the dogs being housed within them. If animal abuse and cruelty is occurring – the Puppy Mill should be shut down and the owners should arrested and prosecuted.*** If you take the local TV and print media with you – you’ll be a local, if not national, hero.

***FACT: Animal hoarding, or people to take in large numbers of animals (from a few dozen to hundreds of animals), while believing that they are helping “stray” animals – ultimately end up keeping them in deplorable and squalid conditions – without adequate food, water and medical care.*** If there are children or elders in the home – the animal hoarding is a danger to them as well as the animals. In many instances, when the hoarding is discovered, a large number of the animals have been dead for long periods of time. Those animals that are alive usually need a great amount of medical care and many are beyond help and must be euthenized. ***Reports of animal hoarding should be investigated and prosecuted, whenever possible.***