

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

April 22, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE: (970) 725-3446

Ms. Bonnie Roesnik, District Attorney
Grand County Office
416 Byers St., P.O. Box 168
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451

Dear Ms. Roesnik:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our more than 165,000 members and supporters in Colorado, I am writing to you regarding Rodney Culverwell and Kenneth Wolgram, two Moffat County ranchers who have reportedly been charged for illegally killing thirty-four elk. Poaching is a serious crime and I urge you to investigate these allegations, and, if warranted, to aggressively prosecute these cases.

According to published media reports, after an extensive investigation by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the elk carcasses were found on both suspects' property in late February. Culverwell is charged with 18 counts of felony willful destruction of wildlife and 18 counts of illegal possession of wildlife. Wolgram is charged with 16 counts of willful destruction and 16 counts of illegal possession.

Wildlife officials estimate that for every wild animal killed legally—tens of millions of animals per year—another is killed illegally. All too often poachers are not caught. For this reason, The Humane Society of the United States asks you to send a strong message to all poachers to think twice before robbing Colorado's citizens of valued wildlife. We urge your office to pursue this case vigorously. Strong, carefully considered sentencing that includes meaningful fines and the permanent revocation of hunting licenses is the most effective available tool for reducing recidivism.

As part of a comprehensive nationwide program to combat poaching, The HSUS established a reward program offering \$2,500 for the identification, arrest and conviction of suspected wildlife poachers and supports efforts to increase penalties for poachers. Additionally, The HSUS has years of experience in assisting with the prosecution of animal cruelty and other related cases, and we would like to offer our assistance in this case, as well, if you should feel it would be helpful. Should you need expert testimony or written statements regarding the implications of poaching and wildlife abuses, for example, please feel free to contact me at 720-379-7520 or htarry@humanesociety.org.

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

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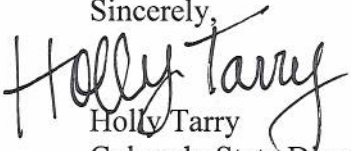
Andrew Weinstein

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David O. Wiebers, M.D.

Printed on recycled paper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Tarry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Holly Tarry
Colorado State Director

The Humane Society of the United States

cc: Jeremy Snow, Deputy District Attorney