

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 286

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the link between violence against animals and violence against humans and urging greater emphasis upon identifying and treating individuals who are guilty of violence against animals, which is a crime in its own right in all 50 States, in order to prevent violence against humans and urging research to increase understanding of the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 1998

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. FURSE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MANTON, Mr. OLVER, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mrs. MORELLA, and Mr. SHAYS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the link between violence against animals and violence against humans and urging greater emphasis upon identifying and treating individuals who are guilty of violence against animals, which is a crime in its own right in all 50 States, in order to prevent violence against humans and urging research to increase understanding of

the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans.

Whereas an urgent need exists to prevent violence, especially among juvenile offenders and in domestic situations;

Whereas a strong correlation between animal abuse and violence against humans has been documented by criminal profiling experts associated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who have identified cruelty to animals as one of the three traits often found in the “homicidal triad” which indicates the characteristics of a violent personality;

Whereas a disproportionately high number of violent killers in the prison system admit to having abused animals, and virtually every serial killer and many violent killers have a history of abusing animals;

Whereas many of the recent cases of school violence have involved students with a history of animal abuse;

Whereas individuals who deliberately abuse animals are more likely to abuse their spouse and their children or otherwise be involved in violent crimes;

Whereas some experts believe that abusing animals may increase or fuel the desire to commit violence against humans in certain disturbed individuals;

Whereas animal cruelty is violence and should be recognized as such when assessing an individual’s propensity to commit future acts of violent crime;

Whereas intentional animal abuse is an early warning signal that individuals, including young people, could perpetrate violent crimes against other individuals; and

Whereas laws against cruelty to animals have been enacted in all 50 States and provide penalties for the purposeful torture and killing of animals, and the enforcement of these animal abuse laws provide law enforcement officials with an opportunity to bring potentially violent offenders into the criminal justice system before they commit more serious crimes against humans: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes that individuals who abuse ani-
4 mals are more likely to commit more serious violent
5 crimes against humans;

6 (2) urges social workers, teachers, mental
7 health professionals, and others to be aware of the
8 connection between animal cruelty and human vio-
9 lence and to evaluate carefully and to monitor close-
10 ly individuals who have a history of abusing animals
11 because this may indicate a propensity to commit vi-
12 olence against other humans;

13 (3) urges appropriate Federal agencies to en-
14 courage and support research to increase the under-
15 standing of the connection between cruelty to ani-
16 mals and violence against humans in order to utilize
17 instances of animal abuse to identify and intervene
18 with potentially violent individuals, and urges Fed-
19 eral agencies which are undertaking research on vio-
20 lent crime and its causes to incorporate examination

1 of the link between violence against animals and vio-
2 lence against humans;

3 (4) urges local law enforcement officials to treat
4 cases of animal cruelty seriously both because such
5 cruelty is a crime in its own right in all 50 States
6 and because it is a reliable indicator of the potential
7 for domestic and other forms of violence against hu-
8 mans; and

9 (5) commends the fine work of local animal
10 control officials and humane investigators who en-
11 force laws against animal abuse and urges these pro-
12 fessionals to work more closely with local law en-
13 forcement personnel to identify and prevent potential
14 violence against humans.

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