



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND**

STOP THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

The Animal Cruelty & Violence Intervention Act of 2019

SUPPORT SB 580 (WILK)

WHAT WILL THIS BILL DO?

Requires people convicted of serious animal abuse crimes to undergo a mandatory mental health evaluation and possibly ongoing treatment. People convicted of less serious crimes may be ordered to enroll in humane education courses.

SB 580 GIVES JUDGES THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO REHABILITATE PEOPLE CONVICTED OF ANIMAL ABUSE AND PREVENT THE ESCALATION OF DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR, TO PROTECT ANIMALS – AND HUMANS – FROM FUTURE VIOLENCE.



WHY DOES CALIFORNIA NEED SB 580?

Animal abuse is among the most misunderstood and undercharged crimes in our society. There are limited sentencing options – primarily fines, limited jail time, and forced animal surrender – and judges have little power to ensure animal abusers receive appropriate treatment or education. None of these options adequately address the underlying causes of animal cruelty nor do they do anything to attempt to end the cycle of violence and prevent future acts of violence against animals and humans.

For some forms of animal cruelty, such as hoarding, the rate of recidivism is nearly 100%. Mental health evaluations and treatment are critical components of any long-term solutions.



The link between animal cruelty and violence towards humans is well-documented. Both the National Sheriffs' Association and the FBI recognize that animal cruelty is a reliable indicator of future violence towards people – there is a strong correlation between elder abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and animal cruelty.



SB 580 is authored by Senator Wilk, co-authored by Senator Bates, Assemblymember Boerner Horvath, and Assemblymember Mathis, sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and supported by:



