

Citizens Against Animal Abuse

I represent the numerous people in Montana who are distressed by the abusive treatment many animals in the state are affected by. Animal owners should be capable of adequately caring for their pets and domestic livestock. They should provide food, water, shelter and care to keep their animals safe and healthy. If owners find themselves in a position where they cannot sufficiently support their animals, they should be required to find a new owner of better situation for their animal. One potential requirement would be enough land to accommodate however many animals are concerned. The land issue recently hit close to home concerning horse slaughter houses in Canada. Near the border, Montana citizens keep horses as they wait to be slaughtered. These animals are not only mistreated, but almost completely ignored. They stand, day in and day out, in overcrowded, filthy paddocks waiting to die. We treat even our prisoners with more respect than that.

Animal cruelty has also been linked to such things as:

Serial killers: Many serial killers are known to have tortured and killed animals as children.

Domestic violence: More often than not, in families where the spouse or child is abused the animal suffers abuse as well.

Attacks by strays: Neglected animals are often allowed to breed unchecked. This creates wild, uncared for strays and contributes to animal overpopulation.

This last example could be more easily avoided if spaying and neutering were more available options to the pet owning community.

In conclusion if we, as a state were to require pet owners to register their pets for little or no charge, we could more easily keep track of animals. A more substantial fine could be enacted if monthly check-ups proved an owner to be ignoring the registration. These simple measures can help to create safer communities.

Mary Kate Kopyy