

on behalf of imperiled animals, wherever they're at risk -- in laboratories, in the wild, and in our towns and cities.

And with the support of over 60,000 members, ALDF attorneys have sent a ringing message to criminals who prey on helpless animals: Animal abuse has no place in a civilized society!

Cruelty to animals has reached epidemic proportions across the country. Every day brings heartbreaking reports of abuse:

Cats and dogs tortured in cult rituals... horses starved, slaughtered and sold for food.... companion animals viciously attacked by feuding neighbors or mutilated by depraved individuals looking to satisfy their sadistic needs.

I wish I could tell you these horror stories are isolated incidents. But animals are victimized by sick, cruel people every day, in virtually every community across the country . . .

. . . and all too often, the perpetrators of these crimes get off scot free. Usually, they're never even charged!

Why? Because local prosecutors lack either the expertise, resources, or desire to bring animal abusers to justice.

District Attorneys are public servants, paid by tax dollars. We at ALDF think it's time they did their job of protecting animals by enforcing local anti-cruelty laws!

There are anti-cruelty laws on the books in all fifty states. But these laws aren't worth the paper they're written on unless they're enforced.

ALDF's ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CRUELTY campaign takes direct aim at the lack of expertise and aggressiveness on the part of District Attorneys. Here's how we work within the system to put animal abusers behind bars:

** ALDF compels Aggressive Enforcement by helping local District Attorneys prosecute cruelty cases. ALDF donates legal research, briefs, and expert witnesses, at no charge to the local prosecutor.

** ALDF conducts intensive Training Seminars for District Attorneys to teach them how to better enforce their local anti-cruelty laws.

** ALDF drafts Model Legislation on the state level to make animal abuse a felony offense punishable by jail terms.

Our bold and innovative approach to animal justice lets animal abusers know that their criminal acts of cruelty will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law!

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