



BEWARE ANIMAL ABUSERS: BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING!



FBI NOW TRACKING ANIMAL ABUSE

The FBI has announced that the Bureau will now start tracking incidences of animal abuse. A crime against an animal will now be recorded in an individual category and not simply be itemized as a miscellaneous crime. The FBI stated that by separating animal abuse crimes from other crimes, it will allow these statistics to be available for review and analysis. Hopefully, such analysis will draw more attention to animal cruelty and help encourage greater law enforcement attention to these types of crimes.

Crimes against animals will now be classified as distinct Group A offenses, similar to how other major crimes such as arson, assault, and homicide are handled. The new policy requires the reporting of all incidences of abuse as well as arrests.

One of the factors that led to this decision to add animal cruelty to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) was the overwhelming evidence of the link between cruelty to animals and crimes against humans. The FBI now recognizes the seriousness of crimes against animals, not only for the harm inflicted upon the animal victim, but also the harm inflicted upon society as a whole.

The pattern of violence towards animals as a precursor of violence towards humans, has long been recognized as evidenced by countless psychological studies over the past decades. In a collaborative effort to combat animal abuse and domestic abuse, several agencies in Milwaukee, including the District Attorney's Office and the Wisconsin Humane Society, instituted a billboard campaign to encourage viewers to take action to stop two forms of abuse with one phone call.



The billboards demonstrate the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence and some warn that a child will be next if the animal abuse is not reported. The Milwaukee District Attorney's Office is hoping that this campaign will be copied and spread nationwide.

The FBI defines animal cruelty as:

Cruelty to Animals: Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care if sick or injured; transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death; causing an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or injure an animal. This definition does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.

In Missouri, one local group is working to educate the public and public service providers about the link between animal abuse and interpersonal abuse. For more information and resources, visit the KC Caring for All Network (KC CAN) on Facebook.