

May 5, 2026

Via email to Gonzales.Joe@Bexar.org
Joe Gonzalez, Bexar County Criminal District Attorney
Bexar County Courthouse
100 Dolorosa
San Antonio, TX 78205

Dear District Attorney Joe Gonzalez,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our supporters in Texas, I am writing in support of the prosecution of Ryan Berlanga. Berlanga was arrested and charged with animal cruelty for allegedly strangling a kitten to death in a San Antonio apartment complex.

Alley Cat Allies would like to offer support to the prosecution of this case and urges the pursuit of the maximum sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Given the known statistics for high recidivism rates in violent offenses of this kind, Berlanga should also be issued a lifetime ban on owning or possessing an animal.

Working with the San Antonio Police Department, Alley Cat Allies issued a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the kitten strangulation case. The reward resulted in a critical tip, following which Berlanga turned himself in.

Alley Cat Allies is the leading advocacy organization with a mission to protect and improve the lives of all cats and kittens. Since our founding in 1990, we have worked in communities large and small to develop humane, evidence-based policies for cats and take strong action, including in court, against incidents of cruelty to cats.

As you know, far too often our judicial system does not adequately recognize the implications of cruelty to animals and, as a result, does not work to ensure the abusers receive a punishment that reflects the severity of the crime. To underestimate the depravity of animal cruelty and the harm it causes is to fail to recognize cats as sentient beings with inherent value who suffer and feel pain, and deserve neither. It is also a grave failure to grasp the role of cruelty to cats in the greater landscape of violence in our society.

The link between animal cruelty and child abuse, domestic violence, and adverse mental health and community health outcomes is well established, and research has found that violence against animals is predictive of, and often co-occurring with, violence against humans. To protect us all, animals and people, it is critical to enforce our animal cruelty laws.


That is why we greatly appreciate your efforts to pursue animal cruelty charges in this case and to seek appropriate punishment.

Again, Alley Cat Allies offers continued support and assistance to ensure this case concludes in a manner that brings justice to the victim and sets a standard for future investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty.

Alley Cat Allies can provide legal assistance at no cost for this case. Our team includes experts in animal cruelty prosecutions who can research legal issues, provide information regarding veterinarians and other expert witnesses, assist with pleadings, submit amicus curiae briefs in support of the prosecution, and even sit second chair to assist with trial.

Please contact me at cgerber@alleycat.org or contact Alley Cat Allies at 732-939-7948 to discuss how we can help.

Sincerely,


Calley Gerber
Consulting Attorney
Alley Cat Allies