

June 3, 2026

Via email to [Eckenrodec@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:Eckenrodec@co.delaware.pa.us)  
Cierra Eckenrode  
Assistant District Attorney  
Delaware County District Attorney's Office  
RE: Support for the Prosecution of Lauren Carter

Dear Assistant District Attorney Eckenrode,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and its supporters in Pennsylvania, I am writing in support of your prosecution of Lauren Carter. Carter was arrested and charged with two counts of misdemeanor of the second degree for cruelty to animals after video footage appeared to show her pouring bleach onto scoops of cat food left for cats in the City of Chester, while at least one cat was nearby. According to authorities, Carter admitted that she poured bleach on cat food on two occasions in April.

Alley Cat Allies offers support to the prosecution of this case and urges the pursuit of the maximum sentence: two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. The strongest possible penalty in this case will set a critical standard against animal cruelty throughout Pennsylvania. Bleach is highly toxic and, if a cat had ingested it, she would have suffered chemical burns in her mouth and throat and faced potential life-threatening damage. Poisoning is a particularly heinous crime, subjecting the known and unknown victims to extensive suffering.

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.

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. It is also a grave failure to grasp the role of cruelty to cats in the greater landscape of violence in our society.

As you know, 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.

We 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 sets a standard for future investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty. Alley Cat Allies can provide legal assistance at no cost for this case. Its team includes experts in animal cruelty prosecutions who can research legal issues, provide information regarding veterinarians and other expert witnesses, assist with pleadings, and more.

Please contact me at [cgerber@alleycat.org](mailto:cgerber@alleycat.org) or contact Alley Cat Allies at 732-939-7948 to discuss how we can help.

Sincerely,

Calley Gerber  
Attorney  
Alley Cat Allies