



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Thien Ho, District Attorney of Sacramento County
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
901 G Street
Sacramento, CA, 95814
Email: daoffice@sacda.org

RE: Support of Prosecution of Adrian Cruz

Dear District Attorney Ho,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our supporters in California, I am writing in support of the prosecution of Adrian Cruz. Following incredible stakeout work by a Sacramento County animal control officer, Cruz was arrested and charged with animal cruelty on June 2 for allegedly beating a cat to death and attempting to do the same with at least two other cats.

Alley Cat Allies would like to offer support to the prosecution of this case and urges the pursuit of the maximum allowable sentence for this heinous and premeditated offense. Given the known statistics for high recidivism rates in violent offenses of this kind, we would also support recommendation of a lifetime ban on owning or possessing an animal.

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. 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 seek appropriate punishment in this case. 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. 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 to discuss how we can help.

Sincerely,


Calley Gerber
Alley Cat Allies

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