



October 14, 2026

District Attorney's Office, Delaware County, Pennsylvania
Attn: Domenique M. Aguirre, District Attorney
Christopher M. Downey, Assistant District Attorney

Dear District Attorney Aguirre and Assistant District Attorney Downey,

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, animal abusers escape punishment because our judicial system lacks clear standards for recognizing the signs and implications of animal cruelty. When these acts are overlooked, abusers avoid convictions that reflect the severity of their crimes. This failure ignores cats' sentience and capacity for suffering, and it overlooks the well-documented link between animal cruelty and other forms 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. Research has found that violence against animals is predictive of, and often co-occurring with, violence against humans¹. To protect us all, animals and people, it is critical to enforce our animal cruelty laws.

That is why we would appreciate your office's efforts to seek and secure appropriate punishment in this case. Alley Cat Allies is available to assist with any animal cruelty cases at no cost. Our 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 do not hesitate to contact me at dlopez@alleycat.org to discuss how we can help.

Sincerely,

Daniel López, Director of Cruelty Prevention and Justice
Alley Cat Allies

¹ Arnold Arluke et al., The Relationship of Animal Abuse to Violence and Other Forms of Antisocial Behavior, 14-9 Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 963 (1999); Tia Hoffer et al., Violence in Animal Cruelty Offenders, New York: Springer Briefs in Psychology/Behavioral Criminology (2018).