

State Rep. Matt Duffield PSA on Animal Cruelty

LITTLE ROCK , AR, UNITED STATES, October 28, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- They greet us at the door after a long day, offer comfort without judgment, and ask for nothing more than our care in return. For countless Arkansas families, pets are cherished family members, trusted companions, and vital sources of emotional support and unconditional love. Yet every year, animals across the state suffer in silence as victims of neglect, abandonment, and deliberate cruelty. State Representative [Matt Duffield](#) is leading the charge to ensure this moral failing remains in the forefront.



State Rep. Matt Duffield

Animal cruelty isn't just an offense against helpless creatures; it's a crime against the values that define Arkansas as a compassionate society. Studies have consistently shown that those who harm animals are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against humans. Representative Duffield emphasizes that protecting the most vulnerable, whether they walk on two legs or four, is fundamental to maintaining safe, healthy communities across the state.

The Arkansas General Assembly has taken meaningful steps to strengthen animal protection laws, with the District 53 representative being a vocal advocate for these measures. Act 389 of 2017 marked a watershed moment in the fight against animal cruelty, elevating aggravated animal cruelty from a misdemeanor to a Class D felony. This means that those who torture, mutilate, maim, burn, starve, disfigure, or kill animals now face up to six years in prison and fines up to \$10,000. The law also empowers judges to prohibit convicted abusers from owning or possessing animals for up to five years after their sentence: a tool in preventing repeat offenses.

But laws alone cannot solve this problem. They require enforcement, and enforcement requires awareness. That's why Rep. Duffield is calling on every Arkansan to be vigilant. "If you see

something, say something," the Russellville legislator urges. "Pick up the phone and call the police or your local sheriff's office." Many communities also have dedicated animal control officers and humane societies equipped to investigate these cases. A single call could save a life and potentially prevent future violence against both animals and people.

Progress has also come through education and prevention programs. Organizations across Arkansas are working with schools to teach children about responsible pet ownership and the importance of treating all living creatures with respect. These lessons, learned early, can shape a generation that views animal welfare not as an afterthought, but as a fundamental responsibility, something the District 53 representative strongly supports.

Duffield, who has shared his home with dogs and cats throughout his life, speaks from personal experience about the joy, comfort, and companionship these animals bring. "Animals have been a constant part of my life as long as I can remember," he notes, "a source of comfort in troubled times, always a friend and a daily source of joy." For the representative, ensuring animals live free from fear and suffering is not just policy. It's personal.

Animal cruelty has no place in Arkansas. Through strong legislation, vigilant enforcement, and community awareness, the state can create an environment where every animal is treated with the dignity and compassion they deserve. Because, as Representative Duffield reminds us, how we treat the most vulnerable among us, those who cannot speak for themselves, says everything about who we are as a community.

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