

# *Sheriff* JOE ARPAIO

(Ret.)

May 29, 2025

Dear Representative:

I wanted to reach out to you to let you know I fully support the passage of Senate Bill 1658 sponsored by Senator Bolick. SB 1658 would finally provide law enforcement with the clear, enforceable standards they need to protect companion animals in critical need. This bill would give law enforcement the tools necessary to hold the bad guys accountable because our current laws are too vague and fail to provide even bare minimum protection in animal cruelty cases.

As Sheriff of Maricopa County, I saw many egregious animal cruelty cases while fighting crime and working to make our communities safer. We seized a lot of animals during my 24-year tenure as sheriff. I always told my deputies if they find people breaking laws against animals, there is always room for them in my jails.

During my time as Sheriff, I established the Maricopa County Sheriff Office's Animal Safe Haven (MASH). This special unit, which was established in 2000 and still exists today, houses animals seized during MCSO investigations, providing care, feeding and shelter for "evidence" animals that have suffered abuse and neglect. The MASH unit heals and rehabilitates neglected and abused animals, nurtures them back to health and adopts them out to loving, forever homes. Much of the animal care is provided by inmates, giving inmates the opportunity to learn to work with animals and develop life skills, while developing empathy, purpose and compassion. Participating inmates gain life-changing opportunities for personal growth and achievement.

In 2006, I worked with the Arizona Humane Society to support Proposition 204, the Humane Treatment of Farm Animals Act on the statewide ballot. I believe all animals deserve to be treated with respect. But to be clear, nothing in this bill impacts farm or agriculture. This bill strictly relates to companion animals, which is very much needed right now given the stark and concerning rise in animal cruelty against pets.

If you don't know by now, I have a real heart for animals. I despise cruelty in any form and have fought and will continue to fight for stronger laws to crack down on animal cruelty.

Let's not allow people to treat animals in a way that causes them to suffer. Please vote yes on SB 1658 when it comes to the House floor for a vote.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Joe M. Arpaio

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheriff Joe Arpaio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



OFFICE OF THE PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY  
BRAD MILLER  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

June 2, 2025

**RE: Statement from Pinal County Attorney Brad Miller in Support of SB1658; Failure to Treat; Animal Cruelty Legislation**

Dear Senator Bolick,

As Pinal County Attorney, I strongly support efforts to strengthen our laws against animal cruelty. Intentional harm to animals is not only morally reprehensible—it often signals deeper behavioral issues that can escalate to threats against people and communities.

Tougher animal cruelty laws give prosecutors the tools we need to hold offenders accountable and send a clear message: cruelty of any kind has no place in Arizona or in a just society. Protecting animals from abuse is not only the right thing to do—it's part of our broader commitment to public safety, compassion, and justice. I urge lawmakers to support this legislation, Governor Hobbs to sign it into law and give communities across our state the legal framework they need to prevent cruelty and promote accountability.

Very Respectfully,

Brad Miller  
Pinal County Attorney



June 3, 2025

The Honorable Steve Montenegro  
Speaker of the House  
House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Vote Request- SB1658 Failure to Treat; Animal Cruelty

Dear Speaker Montenegro:

On behalf of the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) I am writing to respectfully urge that SB1658 Failure to Treat; Animal Cruelty be scheduled for consideration on a House Third Read Calendar at the earliest opportunity. This important piece of legislation is designed to establish clear and consistent standards for the proper care and treatment of all domesticated animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

The development of this bill has been a collaborative effort, over the course of multiple sessions, with significant input and support from County Sheriffs and County Attorneys. Their involvement was key in refining the language and scope of the bill to ensure it is both enforceable and effective. As a result of this thorough vetting process, the AACo Board of Directors has formally endorsed the legislation.

We believe that SB1658 represents a critical step forward in promoting animal welfare and ensuring accountability in cases of neglect or mistreatment. Its timely advancement through the legislative process is essential to realizing these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued commitment to thoughtful and responsible policymaking. Please do not hesitate to reach out if further information or clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Marson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer M. Marson  
Executive Director





May 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Arizona House of Representatives,

On behalf of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, I am writing in support of Senator Bolick's Senate Bill 1658. This legislation aims to establish clear, enforceable definitions for the basic care of companion animals, including food, water, shelter, and medical attention.

Under current law, vague definitions can limit our ability to hold offenders accountable in animal cruelty cases. SB1658 would address some of these shortcomings by providing law enforcement with the legal clarity needed to take action in cases where animals are in need of protection.

This bill represents a vital step forward in combating the growing issue of animal cruelty.

At the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, we operate a dedicated animal crimes unit committed to investigating and prosecuting such offenses. To report an animal-related crime, constituents may call 602-876-1212 during business hours or 602-876-1011 after hours. For any questions regarding this legislation, please feel free to contact us directly at 602-876-1000 ext. 6.

We respectfully urge your support when SB1658 comes before the House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



**MARICOPA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Jerry Sheridan**

Sheriff

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office  
550 W. Jackson, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Office: 602-876-1809

Email: [jerry.sheridan@mcso.maricopa.gov](mailto:jerry.sheridan@mcso.maricopa.gov)

12,000 OFFICERS AND 50 AGENCIES



ONE VISION, ONE VOICE

May 23, 2025

House Republican Caucus  
Arizona Legislature  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Support of SB1658 failure to treat; animal cruelty

Dear House Republican Caucus,  
The Arizona Police Association (APA) represents 12,000 public safety professionals who are the 'boots on the ground' in communities all across our state. On behalf of the APA, I ask that you support SB1658 failure to treat; animal cruelty.

Animals, deserve to live free from abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, animal cruelty remains a problem, with countless animals suffering in silence every year in part because our current legal framework does not go far enough in addressing these atrocities.

By passing stronger anti-cruelty legislation, we can send a clear message that cruelty toward animals is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Furthermore, such legislation will help to ensure that perpetrators of animal abuse are held accountable for their actions, and that the legal system provides real consequences for those who harm animals.

Police officers understand better than anybody that crime occurs in patterns. A person that intentionally, knowingly or recklessly fails to provide medical attention necessary to prevent unreasonable suffering to an animal is oftentimes a person that has committed other crimes as well. There are countless studies that show the linkages between animal cruelty and violence directed at people. Cracking down on this type of abuse is not only the right thing to do on behalf of these animals, but it also helps keep people safer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joe Clure

Executive Director

[Joe.clure@azpolice.org](mailto:Joe.clure@azpolice.org)

O: (602) 491-1820 | C: (602) 885-9114