



# Office of the Sheriff

**ANOKA COUNTY  
SHERIFF BRAD WISE**

February 26, 2025

Senator John Marty  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3235  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

***RE: Support for the Office of Animal Protection (SF 1163)***

Dear Sen. Marty:

Thank you for your leadership and support for creating the Office of Animal Protection (SF 1163). The Office of Animal Protection will equip law enforcement leaders with training resources, guidelines for enforcing animal cruelty laws, and strategies for community engagement to prevent animal cruelty.

As the Anoka County Sheriff, I am writing in support of the Office of Animal Protection bill. In Anoka County, we have had several high-profile animal cruelty cases. The public expects the highest of standards in the protection of animals and enforcement of law, as do we. An Office of Animal Protection would have been an invaluable resource and partner as we navigated how to identify and investigate animal cruelty.

Like child pornography, sex trafficking, and other complex crimes, animal cruelty cases often require a multi-disciplinary approach. To effectively investigate these crimes, we need to draw on the expertise of other criminal justice partners. My office takes these crimes seriously, but we acknowledge that additional resources, training, and assistance from the State are needed to properly investigate crimes and support all entities involved in the collection of evidence and care of the animals.

Animal cruelty harms not just animals, but humans too. The link between animal cruelty and human violence is well established. I welcome the fact that the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will be in charge of the Office; their expertise in criminal law will be a trusted resource to our efforts.

The Office of Animal Protection will promote public safety and help ensure that animals and people are fully protected.

Sincerely,

Brad Wise  
Anoka County Sheriff