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January 21, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger & Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairperson Clippinger and Judiciary Committee,

The Frederick County State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland State's Attorney's Association support HB89 **Criminal Law - Crimes Relating to Animals - Conviction and Sentencing**. The MSAA Special Victims Committee discussed this bill and agree that these offenses should not merge and each animal should be considered a separate victim.

Animal cruelty indicates a propensity for violence that can extend beyond animals to humans. We have reviewed hundreds of psycho-sexual evaluations and PSIs which all show correlations between animal abuse and other forms of violent behavior, including domestic violence and sexual assault.

We ask for a favorable report of HB 89.

Sincerely,

Joyce King
Chief Counsel
Co-Chair MSAA Special Victims Committee