



Stopping Animal Cruelty Around the World

We strengthened protections and stepped up enforcement in 2014, and we closed gaps in the legal framework for animals.

- We helped make South Dakota the 50th state to pass felony penalties for malicious acts of animal cruelty. Before 1986, only four states had done so.
- Forty-one states now have felony cockfighting penalties, and we helped make it a federal crime to attend or bring a minor to an animal fight. Authorities can now crack down on the entire cast of characters in animal fighting. The law was used for the first time in December, when 10 people were indicted in federal court for attending an animal fight in Ohio.
- We're helping other countries increase enforcement of animal cruelty and fighting laws, assisting with the first dogfighting busts ever in Costa Rica.
- The FBI announced it will include animal cruelty offenses in the Uniform Crime Report, which will motivate law enforcement to pay closer attention to cruelty. And we partnered with the National Sheriffs' Association on ICE BlackBox, a free smartphone app that enables people to capture and report video of illegal animal cruelty.



1,400
law enforcement
officials took our
training courses