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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cole ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/08  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 443  
SHORT TITLE Animal Cruelty Task Force SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$160.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB309

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)  
Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 443 appropriates \$160 thousand from the General Fund to the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of an animal cruelty task force.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$160 thousand contained in this bill is a Recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2009 Fiscal Year shall revert to the General Fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Animal cruelty is considered one of the more destructive ills in society; often linked with sociopathic behavior, cruel and abusive behavior toward animals reflects a severe lack of moral responsibility and social conscience. It can be inflicted in a wide variety of ways and can be rooted in a variety of causes. In turn, this disturbing and malicious behavior gravely infects and poisons our social fabric. Animal cruelty is sometimes linked with other criminal behavior such

as gang activity, drugs, and violent anti-social behavior. Research has shown that people who behave cruelly toward animals are more likely to behave similarly toward humans.

**Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty:**

71% of abused women report that their batterers have threatened to hurt/kill their pets and have done so.

32% of battered women with children report that their children have hurt or killed pets.

25%-48% of battered women delay leaving an abusive situation for fear of what will happen to her pet if left behind.

40% of battered women report that they have been forced to participate in sexual acts with animals as part of their domestic terrorization.

**Sex Offenders and Animal Cruelty:**

48% of rapists have committed acts of animal cruelty as children or adolescents.

30% of child molesters have committed acts of animal cruelty as children or adolescents

15% of all active rapists also rape animals.

**Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty:**

80% of homes in which animal control agencies found abused/neglected pets there had been previous investigations by child welfare agencies of physical abuse and neglect.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Duplicates SB309

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

According to the AGO, The enforcement of the Animal Cruelty laws often take the combined resources of several agencies. For example a sting operation involving an illegal cockfighting operation might involve hundreds of offenders who are present at the cockfighting event to either bet on the outcome or who have roosters who are fighting. In order for law enforcement to have a successful operation it may take as many as 100 law enforcement personnel to arrest, secure and surveill all of the offenders. Often times the law enforcement personnel come from local departments with limited budgets for overtime and as a consequence have a difficult time participating in operations requiring most if not all their people used to participate in the operation. The result of not enacting this bill could act to the detriment of conducting these operations.

EO/bb