

ASPCA Form Letter Submitted by 48,116 citizens

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for proposing an amendment to the federal animal fighting sentencing guidelines. I urge you to update the guidelines by increasing the offense level of animal fighting to level 16 to ensure higher sentences. This change would better reflect the severity of the crime, and will lead future prison sentences to be more in line with the maximum of 5 years prescribed by Congress in 2008.

I also ask that you create specific offense characteristics that account for fighting ventures conducted on an exceptional scale and harming a large number of animals, the egregious neglect and cruelty that occurs in these cases, and the violence of these criminals.

Federal judges rely heavily on the sentencing guidelines. Your action is critical to ensuring that these crimes are sentenced appropriately.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Public Affairs

From: Teresa [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 6:28 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Animal cruelty

I was just reading an article by the ASPCA that said people who engage in dog fighting usually only serve about 6 months of a up to 5 year sentence. Some no time at all. Please increase the punishment for these offenses. Plus community service. Thank you, Teresa Cruise

Sent from my iPhone

Public Affairs

From: Dorianne Almann [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 5:05 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Re: Strengthening Sentencing Guidelines for Animal Fighting

The Honorable Patti B. Saris
Chairperson
U.S. Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, NE, Suite 2-500
Washington, DC 20002-8002

Dear Commissioner Saris:

I understand your Commission is set to update its animal fighting sentencing guidelines in the next few months.

The current guidelines recommend a sentence of six to 12 months for federal animal fighting cases where defendants have no or minimal criminal history. A wrist slap, at best!

Compassionate, thoughtful people shudder and wince at the cruelty of pitting animals against each other in fights to the death for entertainment and financial gain. The suffering the animals endure, the illegal material sometimes injected into them, their often inhumane living conditions--none of these things should be tolerated, accepted, or excused.

Furthermore, animal fighting has broader implications than animal welfare; the practice is often connected with drugs, firearms, and illegal gambling.

I write to urge

1. the Commission to increase its sentencing guideline's base level for animal fighting so as to better reflect the increased statutory maximum passed by Congress and
2. that the seriousness of the offense be increased when many animals are involved.

I appreciate your consideration of my request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dorianne Almann

Dorianne Almann

Public Affairs

From: KMR [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: animal fighting sentencing

Dear US Sentencing Commission,

I urge you to please increase the offense level of animal fighting to insure higher sentences that will reflect the severity and cruelty of the crime and lead to prison sentences that are in line with the five year sentence prescribed by Congress. The suffering inflicted on these animals by their handlers is barbaric and needs a more appropriate response in our justice system.

Karen McDaniel
[REDACTED]

Public Affairs

From: nora coyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 5:52 PM
To: Public Affairs
Subject: dog fighting punishment

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to ask you to please make dog fighting a high priority and ensure that anyone involved in it in any way be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. These people are sadistic torturers and a danger to society. This needs to be addressed and taken much more seriously.

Sincerely,

Nora Coyle
[REDACTED]