



NATIONAL ANIMAL
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

The National Animal Care & Control Association
is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal
welfare and public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.

Jerrica Owen
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Honorable Sandra Eskin
Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety
Food Safety and Inspection Service
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20250-3700

Dear Deputy Under Secretary Eskin,

The National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA) appreciates this opportunity to comment in support of the petition submitted by Animal Partisan on September 2, 2023 (#23-07). NACA is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of animal care and control professionals across the United States. We work to support our members through education, advocacy, and collaboration, aiming to enhance the care and control of animals and ensure the welfare of both animals and the communities they live in.

Animal control officers frequently encounter situations involving farmed animals. These officers are often the first responders to reports of animal cruelty and neglect, including those that occur on farms. However, the enforcement of state cruelty and neglect laws in these cases can sometimes be complex, given the overlaps in jurisdiction between local authorities and federal agencies such as the USDA.

Clarifying the authority of animal control officers to enforce these laws is crucial. This would not only empower officers to act decisively in the best interest of animal welfare but also ensure that cases are handled consistently and effectively. In the past, NACA has encountered instances where the lack of clear jurisdictional boundaries has led to confusion and delays in addressing urgent animal welfare issues. For example, there have been cases where officers were unsure whether they had the authority to intervene in situations involving livestock on small farms, resulting in prolonged animal suffering.

By providing clear guidance on the abilities of animal control officers to enforce state laws in cases involving farmed animals, we can ensure more timely and effective responses to animal cruelty and neglect. This would ultimately lead to better outcomes for the animals and the communities we serve.

Thank you for considering this important issue. NACA stands ready to collaborate with your office to develop and implement the necessary clarifications and guidelines.

Sincerely,

Jerrica Owen
Executive Director
National Animal Care and Control Association