

Sidharth Malhotra

22 May 2018

His Excellency Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi 110 011

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of my friends at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India to request that stronger penalties be enacted for cruelty to animals.

Our nation's primary animal-welfare legislation, The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, is woefully outdated. Currently, the penalty for cruelty to animals is just Rs 10 to Rs 50 for a first offence and up to Rs 100 or three months in prison for a subsequent offence – barely equivalent to a slap on the wrist.

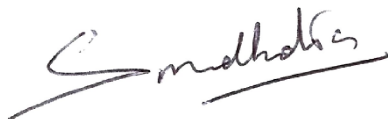
As a result, the newspapers are filled with reports of disturbing and egregious animal abuse in our country, including incidents in which dogs were poisoned, cows were burned with acid, and cats were beaten to death. This does significant damage to our reputation as a nation that respects animals.

Discouraging violence against animals is important for humans, too: a lack of respect for other species can translate into insensitivity and cruelty towards fellow humans. In fact, psychologists, sociologists, and law-enforcement officials abroad have extensively documented that when children hurt animals, it is often an early warning sign of future acts of violence towards humans.

If those guilty of cruelty to animals received jail time and significant fines – as well as counselling and a ban on contact with animals – it would help ensure that our duty under Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India to show animals compassion is better upheld and respected and that society at large is protected from violent behaviour.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached via Sachin Bangera of PETA India at SachinB@petaindia.org.

Yours faithfully,



Sidharth Malhotra