

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

July 26, 2021

The Honorable Jason Anderson  
District Attorney  
San Bernardino County

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Anderson:

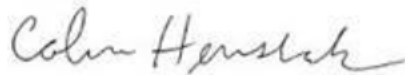
I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to request that your office add cruelty-to-animals charges, as appropriate, to the charges of involuntary manslaughter and unlawfully causing a fire that Refugio and Angelina Jimenez already face in connection with the devastating El Dorado fire near Yucaipa. The suffering endured by animals as a result of it must not be ignored.

While it's well known that a firefighter was tragically killed while battling this fire—which injured 13 other people, destroyed five homes, and burned more than 22,000 acres of forest—catastrophic fires also cause many domestic and wild animals to endure terror, suffering, and prolonged, agonizing deaths. At minimum, the El Dorado fire is known to have killed a dog and 20 chickens and severely burned a young bobcat, who required seven weeks of intensive treatment for her wounds. Countless other animals no doubt also suffered and perished in it.

Cal. Penal Code § 597(b) states that any person who “tortures, torments ... or cruelly kills any animal, or causes ... any animal to be ... tortured, tormented ... or cruelly killed” is guilty of cruelty to animals.<sup>1</sup> Cal. Penal Code § 599b states that “‘torment,’ ‘torture,’ and ‘cruelty’ include every act ... whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable physical pain or suffering is caused or permitted.”<sup>2</sup> Because the Jimenezes are accused of recklessly causing a wildfire that has led to unnecessary and unjustifiable pain, suffering, and death for at least 21 animals, I respectfully ask that investigators and your office add cruelty charges to those that the couple already face, in the same way an [Oregon prosecutor did last year regarding a defendant in a similar case](#).

Thank you for your consideration and for the difficult work that you do.

Sincerely,



Colin Henstock  
Assistant Manager of Investigations

Washington  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

<sup>1</sup>California Legislature, *Cal. Penal Code § 597(b)*, [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=597](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=597).

<sup>2</sup>California Legislature, *Cal. Penal Code § 599b*, [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=599b](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=599b).