


**PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS**

September 30, 2021

The Honorable Stephanie A. Bridgett
Shasta County District AttorneyVia e-mail: 

Dear Ms. Bridgett:

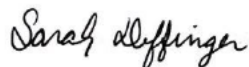
I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to request that your office add cruelty-to-animals charges, as appropriate, to the arson charges that Alexandra Souverneva already faces in connection with the devastating Fawn fire north of Redding.

While it's well known that the Fawn fire has destroyed at least 185 homes and other structures and more than 8,500 acres of land, catastrophic fires also cause many domestic and wild animals to endure terror, suffering, and prolonged, agonizing deaths. For example, your office's recent criminal investigation into the Zogg fire found that dozens of domestic animals—from a bearded dragon to cattle—died in that blaze. We thank you for considering the loss of animal lives in your case against PG&E, but we hope you will consider Souverneva's alleged willful actions as grounds to file cruelty-to-animals charges as victims are identified.

[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. [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.” Because Souverneva is accused of willfully and maliciously starting this wildfire, we respectfully ask that investigators and your office ask wildlife rehabilitators and affected residents to report animals' pain, suffering, and deaths so that cruelty charges, as appropriate, can be added to those she already faces.

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

Sincerely,

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