

# A COMMON LANGUAGE

## FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRUELTY

---

### LET'S AGREE ON THIS:

**“People who fight dogs engage in animal cruelty.  
It is a human action.”**

**“The victim of the crime of dog fighting is the dog.”**

**The victims of dog fighting suffer, just as other  
canine victims of cruelty suffer.**

**All victims of cruelty are deserving of our  
compassion.**



“... THE QUESTION IS NOT, 'CAN THEY  
REASON?' NOR, 'CAN THEY TALK?' BUT,  
'CAN THEY SUFFER?'”

**Jeremy Bentham,**

Introduction to the Principles of  
Morals and Legislation, 1780

We must treat victims of cruelty as individuals and not portray them as a collective burden.

We must never suggest that dogs seized in fight busts are anything less than dogs who are victims of cruelty.

What we say about these dogs will color public perceptions about all dogs called “pit bulls.”

**We must make humane and compassionate care of the victims a priority while we continue to prosecute the people who fight dogs. To do otherwise is to criminalize the victim.**

