



# Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

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## **LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana sheriffs, the highest constitutional law enforcement officers in this state, should not be confronted with dangerous big cats kept in unsafe and abusive circumstances as domestic pets in this state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, tigers, lions and other exotic "Big Cats" who are kept in people's homes and backyards as domestic pets pose a serious and completely unnecessary risk to public safety, law enforcement and first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriffs/Deputy Sheriffs should not be exposed to respond to extremely high-risk incidents when private owners are not able to control and manage their dangerous big cats. Many of these big cats are frequently housed in dilapidated cages that are unlikely to hold and contain them during natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and tornadoes; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of big cats are owned as pets or maintained in ill-equipped roadside zoos and traveling exhibits in the United States. Since 1990, there have been over 775 dangerous incidents in America involving big cats – tigers, lions, cougars in which 5 children and 20 adults have been killed and scores of people have been mauled.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association recognizes that the private ownership of big cats in America is a serious public safety problem which requires the passage of the "Big Cat Public Safety Act" to ensure big cats only live in secure facilities that can properly provide for them and do not diminish public safety.