NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes
Animal Cruelty and Abuse Committee
NSA 2019 Winter Conference
Sunday, February 10th, 1:00 to 3:00, Washington, DC
JW Marriott, Room: Commerce
Co-Chair: Sheriff Robert Pickell, Genesee County, MI
Co-Chair: Sheriff William Bohnyak, Orange County, VT
Staff Liaison: Chelsea Rider, NSA/NLECAA (c. 817-876-2696)

I. Call to Order - 1:00 PM

II. Roll Call – Sign in Sheet – Self Introductions

III. New Business

1. **Nazmia Comrie** (Senior Program Specialist with the COPS Office) spoke about the projects and resources created by NSA in conjunction with the COPS Office, including the most recent project, *Animal Cruelty as a Gateway Crime*.

2. **April Doherty** (Paralegal, Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office; Co-Chair, NCOVAA) spoke about the importance of working with other agencies and organizations in your community to tackle animal cruelty crimes.

3. **Michelle Welch** (Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General – Virginia) gave an overview of conducting animal fighting investigations based on her extensive work in Virginia.

4. **Dr. Mary Lou Randour and Julie Palais** (Animal Welfare Institute) discussed their work on collecting NIBRS and what they've found so far.

5. **Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM** (Forensic Veterinary Investigations, LLC) spoke about the veterinarian's role in animal cruelty investigations and how to best work with local vets.

6. **John Thompson** (Executive Director, National Animal Care and Control Association) gave parting comments on the work he did while with NSA and what he hopes to accomplish at NACA.

7. **Sheriff Dave Mahoney** (Dane County, Wisconsin) mentioned the resolution being discussed by the NSA Domestic Violence and Crime Victim Services Committee and suggested the Animal Cruelty and Abuse Committee take up a vote to support the resolution. Committee voted unanimously to support.

IV. Adjournment – 3:00 PM