



## SEATTLE HUMANE SOCIETY DISAPPOINTED IN US SUPREME COURT DECISION

*Decision will allow videos depicting cruelty to animals*

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The Seattle Humane Society is very concerned about the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the 1999 Depiction of Animal Cruelty Act. While we strongly support freedom of speech, we see that the First Amendment is being wrongly used in this case as permission to perpetuate trauma and desensitization of people who view unspeakable acts of cruelty in videos online. The value of this example of freedom of speech does not outweigh the damaging effect these videos have on society.

Research has shown that exposure to violence desensitizes people to the effects of violence--especially children who have access to "crush" videos via the internet. The court's protection of these videos endangers children and adults and may even perpetuate violence and the cycle of abuse.

The Seattle Humane Society urges everyone who opposes the continuation of violence in our society to lobby Congress to pass specific legislation banning the sale of animal cruelty videos showing illegal and immoral acts or cruelty against innocent animals.

*Seattle Humane Society has been awarded the coveted 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Founded in 1897 to bring people and pets together, Seattle Humane Society provides incredible companion animals for adoption 7 days a week, pet workshops and training, a pet food bank, a low-fee spay/neuter surgery program, humane teen club, a visiting pets program and more. Seattle Humane Society is located in Bellevue, at 13212 SE Eastgate Way. For directions and more information, visit [seattlehumane.org](http://seattlehumane.org) or call (425) 641-0080.*

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