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Well respected Animal Cruelty prosecutor, Belinda Smith has been named Animal Cruelty Specialist and will now be part of the Special Victims' Bureau of the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

"This is a well deserved honor. Belinda has done an excellent job working with animal rights groups, the media, and the public in raising awareness of this important issue in our criminal justice system. We will provide additional support for investigations of animal abusers and help with the growing caseload of animal cruelty offenses. Building on the efforts of Belinda Smith and working in concert with her as point person we hope to pursue stiff punishments on behalf of some of our most vulnerable victims" Mike Anderson said.

This bureau includes the Family Criminal Law Division which has three full-time investigators, and nine other attorneys, three of whom have volunteered to be cross-trained in animal cruelty cases. The goal is to offer more support for these cases so that we can grow this area and maximize Smith's leadership.

Belinda Smith offers, "I look forward to working with the investigators, new administration and additional prosecutors to build on our accomplishments and grow this area of our office in furtherance of our strong commitment to victims of animal abuse."