

officer in the normal course of his or her duties could never be cruelty to animals. Well I think my initial impression is that at the very minimum this is too broad. Obviously a police dog is subject to the same kind of cruelty as any other dog or animal and simply because he is being cared for by a police officer doesn't necessarily mean that he doesn't need the same protection in law so it seemed to me that there was really no reason to provide an exception here except the possibility that maybe some types of training that would be normal and customary might be considered cruel in the case of police dogs, but then my eye fell down to subsection 11 on page 5 which already accepts commonly accepted animal training practices, rightly or wrongly. So training couldn't be the reason for making an exception here and since I couldn't see any other reason for making an exception, I'm proposing to strike that language pending some further broadening of my understanding of what is happening here. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein, on the Beutler amendment.

**SENATOR WEHRBEIN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I'm going to oppose the amendment and I'm not going to go to the mat on this necessarily, but the reason is that sometimes the treatment of animals probably by all of us is somewhat subjective of what constitutes abuse and what doesn't. And I checked on this issue and there's been only one report I understand of someone abusing an animal in the process of training in this case. Perhaps this one is in the performance of the normal course of duties, but what would might look like abuse by the casual observer or a layman so to speak in observing the training of animals might somehow be construed to be abuse by them whereas in the professional world it would not be. At the risk of sounding carrying this too far, it might even be in how some treat children and others. Some would consider spanking a child abuse, others do not consider spanking a child an abuse when properly done. And this is a situation where I would understand Senator Beutler's concern, but there is also a risk that someone might normally disciplining a dog in the course of duty might appear to be excessive on someone's mind. I would think slapping a horse, sometimes there's certain ways to correct an improper horse behavior that might look abusive to the casual observer, but in reality it isn't and I think the same could probably be said of dogs. I don't know whether our in-house veterinarian would have any comments on this or not but I would