

Cruelty Complaints

The Concord-Merrimack County SPCA investigates reports of animal cruelty on a weekly basis throughout Merrimack County and parts of Sullivan County. Cruelty reports are received to us in a number of ways. Often from neighbors, family members, and/or concerned citizens. Sometimes a police department or child and family service member may be in a home on an unrelated situation and notice the animals are in need of help and will call us. We also work together with other shelters on investigations that are large enough for them to need our assistance and we will call upon them for assistance with our large investigations too.

Animal Cruelty:

- Animal cruelty is an act or acts of violence or neglect to an animal(s).
- Animal cruelty is against the law in every state.
- Animal abuse can also be part of other acts of violence within families and society.

Examples of Animal Cruelty:

- Unintentional Neglect: Leaving dogs tied out for long periods of time without shelter or water. These cases usually can be resolved through educating the pet owner on the proper care and laws about caring for your pet.
- Intentional Cruelty: Knowingly depriving an animal of food, water, shelter or proper veterinary care. Maliciously torturing, maiming, mutilating or killing an animal.
- Animal Hoarding/Collecting: This is an individual who keeps large amounts of animals in their home and neglects to care for them or their home properly. Animal Hoarders/Collectors are usually in “extreme” denial about the situation. They often believe they are “saving” the animals.

When should you report animal cruelty?

- Whenever you witness an act of torture or cruelty or knowingly suspect an animal is being neglected or abused.
- Witnessing unintentional neglect of an animal being left out without proper shelter or water in extreme weather.

If your town has an Animal Control Officer (ACO), you should contact your local police department first. If your town does not, call your local SPCA or Humane Society. (Concord-Merrimack County SPCA-753-6751).

Important Facts

*All domestic animals must be provided food, water, shelter and proper veterinary care. Abandonment, serious neglect, abuse, torture and poisoning are all types of animal cruelty and can carry felony penalties in some cases.

*Animals should not be left in a vehicle on hot or cold days. The temperature in a vehicle could change rapidly in these conditions and the animal could die.

*It is against the law to have a dog ride in the back of a pick up truck loose. If a dog is to ride in the back he must be tethered to the center of the bed of the truck, or in a secure dog crate, or best, in the cab with the owner.

*One of the greatest contributions you can make to animal welfare is to gather a group of people who will work together to stop any form of abuse or neglect. You can make a difference by working with your local state representatives on legislation that improves the welfare of animals. Learn about your local ordinances and what statewide bills are being considered. Write or call on behalf of the animals. To learn more visit www.Give-Us-Shelter.com.

Animal Cruelty investigations are one of many services the Concord-Merrimack County SPCA offers its community. You can become involved by supporting the SPCA by making a donation today. Each gift, large or small, makes a difference in the life of an animal and the community we live in.

Thank you!