



HUMANE ADVOCATE



Types Animal Neglect:

There are two general categories of animal neglect: simple neglect and gross, willful, cruel or malicious neglect.

- Simple neglect (failure to provide basic needs) is not always a criminal act. Often it is resolved by the intervention of local animal control or humane agencies through education on how to provide proper animal care and by offering resources to help them do that.
- Willful, cruel or malicious neglect is more than simply failing to provide adequate care. It implies that the neglect was intentional and done knowing that the animal was being harmed. Therefore, willful neglect is considered more serious and is often prosecuted.

Signs of Animal Cruelty or Neglect:

While direct violence is the most obvious form of animal abuse, animal neglect is a more common type of abuse. Thousands of dogs die each year due to neglect. If you see any of the signs below, do not hesitate to call your local animal control. You can report suspected cruelty or neglect anonymously.

Physical Signs of Animal Cruelty or Neglect:

- Collar is tight or embedded into the skin around their neck.
- Open wounds that aren't being treated.
- Many signs of old wounds either treated or not.
- Untreated skin conditions causing visible hair loss, bumps, rashes or scaly skin.
- Emaciated appearance. Bones are easily visible.
- Extreme flea or tick infestations.
- Signs of inadequate grooming – severely matted fur, overgrown nails and overall dirty appearance.
- Inability to stand or walk normally, including limping or weakness.
- Signs of illness – heavy, colored discharge from eyes or nose, blood in stool or urine or repeat vomiting and/or diarrhea.
- Observation of a person hitting or otherwise physically abusing an animal.

Environmental Signs of Animal Cruelty or Neglect:

- Pets are outside for long periods of time without adequate food, water or shelter.
- No adequate shelter during inclement weather – includes shelter from the heat or cold.
- Pets are kept in areas scattered with feces, garbage, broken glass or other objects that could harm them.
- Pets are housed in a kennel or cage that doesn't allow for them to stand, turn around or any other normal movement or are kept with too many animals in a kennel or cage that these movements are restricted.
- Too many animals on one property. This can be a sign of animal hoarding.
- Excessive barking or whining. Some barking or whining is normal, but if it's incessant and goes on for more than a day it could point to their needs not being met.