



# HUMANE ADVOCATE



## TIPS FOR REPORTING ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

### How to Report Animal Cruelty:

Animal cruelty is illegal in every state. If you report alleged cruelty, the responding agency is required to investigate.

- **Make the call!** – Contact your local animal control agency to report the alleged abuse or neglect.
- **Document the details** – When you call, be prepared with as many details regarding the situation as possible. You may even want to write down a concise factual statement with what you observed, giving dates, approximate times, description of the people and animals involved and addresses. Video or photos can further help your case. If there were others who witnessed the alleged abuse, it is also useful to give their name and contact information.
- **Prepare to testify** – Yes, you can remain anonymous. However the case would be much stronger if you are willing to identify yourself and testify to what you witnessed. You need to be the voice for the animal to help build a strong case.
- **Follow up** – It is a good idea to keep a good record of whom you contacted or spoke with, date of contact, copies of any documents you gave them and the content and outcome of your conversations. If you do not receive a response from the officer assigned to the case in a reasonable amount of time, a polite follow-up call is ok. As a last resort and only if you are sure no action has been taken regarding your complaint, call again and ask to speak to a supervisor. If that doesn't work, you can contact local government officials and ask them to act. Please keep in mind that most animal control agencies have limited staff and it may take a while for progress to be made on your complaint.