

How To Report Animal Mistreatment In Portugal

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As immigrants to Portugal it is incumbent on us to accept & integrate into the local culture & it is undeniable that in some cases the local attitude to animals is often different to what we're used to & to some extent we have to work on the principle of it is what it is but in the case of abandoned, neglected or mistreated animals the laws have advanced greatly in recent years & at the time of writing the law makes allowance for what can & cannot happen & with that in mind, Portugal's PSP police force has created a dedicated email and phone helpline for people to report cases of animal neglect etc.

Similar to the GNR's SEPNA (Nature and Environment Protection Service) force, the PSP police force now also has email & phone hotlines to report animal mistreatment & you can now email them at defesanimal@psp.pt or call them on 21POLICIA (217654242) to report such cases.

However, be warned that there are some people & organisations that try to take the law into their own hands or encourage others to do so & as part of that will tell blatant lies that just might get your collar felt by the long arm of the law should you fall for their misinformation.

Despite some claims, it is illegal to enter private land without permission and/or to remove any object whether animate or inanimate from such property & note the words below received in reply to a recent enquiry as a prime example:

"Lieutenant General XXX, Operational Commander, to inform you of the following:

1. In Portuguese criminal law, the entry into a forbidden ground, without the consent or authorization of the rightful person, its owner / owner, may be committing a crime of "Introduction in a place prohibited to the public" provided for and punished by Article 191º of the Portuguese Penal Code with imprisonment of up to 3 months or a fine of up to 60 days, unless the Public Prosecutor has the best opinion to represent the State, prosecute and defend democratic legality and the interests that the law determines.

2. Therefore, in the light of the foregoing, in the event of an abandoned horse suffering negligence on land with owner, you should contact the SOS Ambiente Line, denounce, referring to the exact location, in order for SEPNA / GNR to intervene with the collaboration of a municipal veterinarian fulfilling the legal assumptions for the situation described in order to stop the intent or negligence of the animal."