

# 11 SIGNS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY + HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE

## POOR BODY CONDITION OR VISIBLE TRAUMA

Severe fur matting, filthy coat, open sores, or obvious wounds. May be flea/tick infested. Underweight with visible bones. May be limping or have abnormal gait, congested eyes or ears. In obvious physical distress.

## LACK OF FOOD OR WATER

No obvious sources of food/water. May be aggressive due to starvation and thirst, and perhaps lethargic as well.

## LACK OF ADEQUATE SHELTER

Animal is fully exposed to inclement weather or constant sun, or is in an unattended vehicle during warm/hot weather. In less than 10 minutes a vehicle's internal temperature can cause death in dogs.

## LACK OF SANITATION

Feces/debris covers the animal's living area.

## ABANDONED

The animal is left in a house, building, or yard that appears empty. Note if a neighbor has moved or stopped visiting a residence where you know animals live. A dog howling/barking for hours may need immediate, lifesaving care.

## ANIMAL IS CAGED OR TIED

Animal has little room to move, and/or is unable to stand or turn around.

## USE OF CHAINS OR PADLOCKS TO SECURE THE ANIMAL

Whether metal or rope, may be embedded into the animal's neck. This includes collars as well. A chained/restricted animal is an abused animal.

## EVIDENCE OF BEING TRAINED OR HAVING BEEN USED TO FIGHT

Training equipment like treadmills or spring poles. Signs of trauma, such as scars, open wounds, infections, even missing body parts such as ears, eyes, partial tails.

## ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

May be aggressive or severely shy, cowering, hiding, fear-biting—even with or especially with its owner.

## TOO MANY ANIMALS ON PROPERTY

May be a sign of hoarding. Note the animals' conditions.

## INDIVIDUAL OBSERVED COMMITTING OVERT ACTS OF VIOLENCE

Person(s) seen hitting, kicking, swinging, or otherwise physically abusing an animal.

## TAKE ACTION!

### 1

#### BE PREPARED

Program the number of your local animal control, police department, or shelter's cruelty reporting line into your phone

### 2

#### SPEAK UP/CALL 911

If you witness overt violence against an animal, call 911 immediately.

### 3

#### DOCUMENT

Take pictures/video with your phone and remain on scene til law enforcement arrives, only if it is safe for you to do so. Be prepared to share details including date, time, number/type of animals, names of any other witnesses.

### 4

#### TESTIFY

A human witness is critical for a strong and prosecutable case.



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