

## How to Recognize and Report Animal Abuse

### What is Ohio's Cross-Reporting Law for Animal and Child Abuse?

Passed in 2021, Ohio's Cross-Reporting Law requires social service, caseworkers, counselors, therapists, and veterinary professionals to report suspected animal abuse and neglect to humane enforcement. It also requires law enforcement, dog wardens, and animal care officers to report suspected child abuse to human services.

### Recognize the Signs of Animal Abuse

#### Physical Signs

- Observed physical abuse by an owner, caretaker, or child
- Extremely thin animals
- Animals showing extreme fear of their owner
- Open wounds or multiple healed wounds
- Observed limping or inability to walk/stand
- Observed collar embedded in animals' neck so tight it is causing wounds
- Loss of hair, scaly skin, bumps, or rashes
- Severely, matted fur, overgrown nails, or filthy coat
- Heavy discharge from eyes or nose
- Visible signs of confusion or extreme drowsiness
- Flea, tick, or other external parasite infestation

#### Environmental Signs

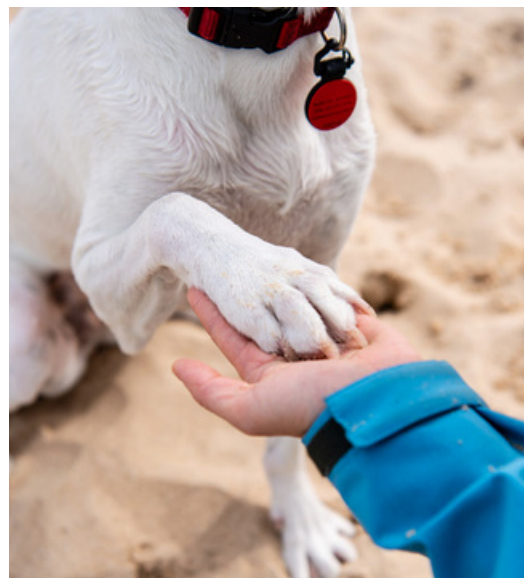
- Animals living in filthy conditions (feces, garbage, broken glass, or other items that could cause harm)
- Kept outside (chained) for long periods of time without adequate food, water, or shelter
- Regularly left alone for long periods of time without food or water
- Kept outside in inclement weather without access to adequate shelter
- Kept only in a crate and not let outside
- Home is overcrowded with animals in cages/kennels
- Kept in cages that are too small to allow movement such as standing or turning around

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**IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT OR INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE IN THE HOME, PETS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT RISK FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY.**

If you have reasonable suspicion to believe that an animal is suffering from harm, abuse, or neglect, contact the agency in your county responsible for taking reports of animal cruelty (It is vital to make a verbal report for immediate action). In many Ohio counties, a humane society is responsible for humane enforcement. In some counties, the dog warden, police, or sheriff is responsible or may be the backup for the humane societies.



### Signs of Child & Elder Abuse

Child neglect may be physical or emotional and often involves the failure to provide for a child's basic needs essential for healthy development. This includes inadequate supervision, unsafe or unstable housing, insufficient clothing, lack of medical care, poor nutrition, or absence of emotional support. Child abuse can take physical, sexual, or emotional forms and may manifest in a variety of behaviors or actions that cause harm to the child. Elder neglect may include abandonment or the failure to provide necessary care. Abuse can be physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional in nature. Exploitation occurs when caregivers or others improperly use an older adult's resources for personal benefit, profit, or gain. This may involve deceit, coercion, threats, or other forms of manipulation.

### How to Report Child & Elder Abuse

Who do I call if I suspect abuse is happening? Reports of elder abuse can be made to local adult protective services or by calling 1-855-OHIO-APS (1-855-644-6277) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Reports of child abuse can be made by calling 855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453), an automated phone directory that will link callers directly to a child welfare or law enforcement office in their county.