

Animal Cruelty

We investigate cruelty and neglect of both large and small animals in Pottawattamie County. We prefer to educate, but have successfully prosecuted when necessary. Every animal has the right to food, water and shelter.

How to Report Animal Cruelty: If you suspect animal cruelty, please call us at (712) 366-1143 to notify us of your concerns. All calls to us are kept strictly confidential. We will send an investigator to the residence and evaluate the situation. If neglect is apparent, a notice will be left and the owners will be given a strict time frame in which they will need to comply. A re-check will occur at the end of the time frame given. If the owners are still in violation, appropriate action will be taken.

Detecting Animal Cruelty – What To Look For

Detecting and reporting animal cruelty are the two most important steps in bringing animal cruelty to an end. But how do you know what constitutes abuse and how do you know what to look for?

These tips can help in detecting intentional (murdering, Maiming, torturing) and negligent (starving, etc.) abuse:

W – Weight

Does the animal look thin or emaciated?

A – Age

Is the animal very old or very young?

T – Temperature

Is the animal outside longer than a 2-hour period in less than 10 degrees F (longhaired) or 32 degrees F (shorthaired) in winter?

Is the animal without shade in the summer?

Is the animal locked in an unvented car with temperatures around or above 70 degrees F?

(Estimated temperature based on precedents set from past cases)

C – Condition

Does the animal have water? Is the animal fed once a day?

Is the collar too tight? Is the chain too short?

Is their cage so small that they can't stand up, turn around, and lie down?

Is the animal's living area unsanitary?

Has the animal been abandoned? (no footprints leading to animal, etc.)

H – Health

Is the animal sick, injured, lethargic, or distressed?

If you answered "Yes" to any ONE of these questions when observing an animal, you should notify Pottawattamie County Animal Control at (712) 366-1143 with an EXACT ADDRESS of where the animal is located. Since our court system relies on tangible evidence to successfully prosecute these cases, our investigators recommend, when safe to do so, to get photos, videos, or samples of abuse at the time it is committed.