THE LINK TO OTHER VIOLENT CRIME

For more than 30 years, researchers and professionals in a variety of human services and animal welfare disciplines have established significant correlations between animal abuse, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of violence. According to the Humane Society of the United States, a study determined that in families under supervision for physical abuse of their children, animal abuse also existed within the home 88% of the time. The mistreatment of animals is no longer seen as an isolated incident that can be ignored: it is often an indicator or predictor crime and a “red flag” warning sign that other family members in the household may not be safe.

For example, in one study 71% of domestic violence victims reported that their abuser also targeted pets.

RESOURCES

Emergencies: Call 911

Non-Emergency

Elk Grove Animal Care: Call 311 or
8901 Elk Grove Florin Rd
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 687-3023

Folsom Animal Care:
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 461-6040 or
(916) 355-7200

Front Street Animal Shelter:
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 808-7387

Galt Animal Care:
774 Rachel Drive
Galt, CA 95632
(209) 745-6302

Rancho Cordova
Animal Care:
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 851-8852

Sacramento City
Animal Care:
2127 Front Street
Sacramento, CA 95818
Call 311 or
(916) 264-5011
TDD: (916) 08-8563

Sacramento County
Bradshaw Animal Shelter:
3839 Bradshaw Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 368-7387

Sacramento SPCA
6201 Florin Perkins Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 383-7387

With an increased prevalence of animal cruelty and the link between violent crimes against people, it’s important we address animal abuse throughout the county. The formation of the regional Sacramento Animal Cruelty Task Force and our Animal Cruelty Unit will result in consistent and skilled vertical prosecution of these offenders.”

- District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert

District Attorney
Anne Marie Schubert
Sacramento County
District Attorney’s Office
sacda.org
Owning animals is a responsibility. Animal cruelty laws and ordinances require humane care, i.e., proper ventilation, protection from the elements and dangerous conditions, reasonable medical care, and appropriate food and water.

WHAT IS ANIMAL CRUELTY?

In California animal cruelty is an act or omission, or neglect, whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering is caused or permitted. This includes:

- Killing
- Stabbing
- Shooting
- Torturing
- Beating
- Poisoning
- Burning
- Drowning
- Not Providing Care
- Neglect/Omissions
- Mutilating
- Hoarding

MARIJUANA EXPOSURE

With the legalization of marijuana, there is a significant rise of intoxicated pets. Exposure to edibles and cannabis concentrates is common and have higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Many of these products contain chocolate, which is also toxic to dogs.

Common sign of pets ingesting marijuana are “drunkenness” (uncoordinated, dazed, sedated), depression or urinary incontinence. About 25% of pets become stimulated (agitated, vocal and high heart rate). Animals that ingest edibles can be more affected, developing low blood pressure, heart rates and body temperatures or become comatose. Some dogs have died after eating cookies or brownies made with marijuana butter.

SACRAMENTO ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE

This regional team works to educate, prevent, investigate and successfully prosecute acts of animal abuse and cruelty.

Members include law enforcement, animal control agencies, veterinarians, and nonprofit organizations engaged in the prevention of animal cruelty.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S ANIMAL CRUELTY PROSECUTION UNIT

This new unit vertically prosecutes felony and misdemeanor animal abuse cases. These cases are investigated and submitted by local animal control and law enforcement officers.

Most investigations begin with citizen complaints of suspected animal abuse.

REPORTING ANIMAL CRUELTY

- Call 911 in an emergency (such as to rescue a dog in a hot, locked car).
- Call animal control or law enforcement for non-emergency animal abuse and neglect, which needs to be reported quickly.
- Take a photo or video if it is safe to do so. DO NOT enter onto the perpetrator’s property.
- Provide as many details as possible—who, what, where, why, when and how.
- Provide the name and address of other persons who may have also witnessed the abuse.
- Do not share the story or photos on social media, it could hinder the investigation or prosecution.

CONSEQUENCES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

Animal abuse is a crime and can be charged as a felony or misdemeanor. Convictions result in local jail or state prison commitments.

Additionally, convicted persons incur various fines and fees, and are prohibited from owning, possessing, maintaining, residing with, or caring for animals from 5 to 10 years.