




ANIMAL CRUELTY PREVENTION



How to Report a Tip

 **Call** 713.222.TIPS (8477)

 **Text** TIP610 plus your tip to CRIMES (274637)

 **Use our Mobile App**
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston

 Go to crime-stoppers.org

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.



Whether you are an animal lover or not, the reality is that animals are a big part of our community.

Did you know?

- It is illegal to sell live animals on the roadside, parking lots, swap meets, flea markets and similar events.
- Dog fighting and animal cruelty are felony offenses.
- In Texas, animal abandonment is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$4,000 (Texas Penal Code, Sec 42.09 Animal Cruelty).
- In Texas, you cannot chain your dog on a short leash in extreme weather or from 10 pm to 6 am.
- Children 10 years of age and older can be charged with animal cruelty for brutality against animals.
- There is supporting evidence that links childhood animal cruelty with aggression toward humans as adults.
- 43% of the perpetrators commit animal cruelty before schoolyard massacres.
- 71% to 83% of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partners also abused or killed the family pet.
- Pet abuse was found concurrent in 88% of the families under supervision for the physical abuse of their children.



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is either deliberate abuse or simply the failure to take care of an animal.

In Texas, laws apply to domesticated animals, such as house pets and livestock defined as "domesticated living creature(s) or any wild living creature previously captured", and are subject to a person's care and control.

Even if not charged criminally, perpetrators can be charged civilly for the following:

- Torturing or seriously overworking an animal.
- Unreasonably abandoning an animal in their custody.
- Transporting or confining an animal in a cruel manner.
- Causing one animal to fight with another.
- Killing, seriously injuring, or poisoning an animal belonging to another owner.
- Using a live animal as a lure in dog racing training or dog coursing on a racetrack.
- Failure to unreasonably provide necessary food, care, or shelter for an animal in their custody.

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Signs of abuse:

- Pets with open sores, healed wounds or an injury or illness that is not being treated.
- Pets that are extremely thin or emacipated. Are the bones visible?
- Pets that are covered in fleas, ticks or other parasites.
- Pets with heavy discharge from their eyes or nose.
- Pets whose collar or chain is so tight that it has become embedded in their neck.
- Pets kept outside in inclement weather without adequate shelter.
- Pets left in unsanitary environments without food or water.
- Pets kept in kennels or cages that are too small to stand, turn around or make normal movements. They are sometimes crowded in with other animals.



Staying safe around animals:

- Be polite and kind to animals.
- Pet animals gently.
- Do not pet service animals.
- Ask the owner if it is ok to pet the animal and approach slowly.
- Refrain from approaching unattended animals.
- Do not surprise dogs or touch a sleeping dog.
- Do not bother an animal that is eating.
- Do not stare an animal in the eyes.
- If a dog approaches you, stand still with your head down and arms by your side. Do Not Run!
- If a dog knocks you down, lie still and quietly with your knees to your chest and your hands over your ears.
- If you are bitten, clean the wound immediately and contact animal control.
- Learn to recognize when an animal is scared or anxious:
 - Ears are erect or back.
 - Body is stiff.
 - Tail is stiff or moving rapidly.
 - Body is crouched with head down.
 - Growling.
 - Hair standing on end.



Keeping your animal safe:

- Spay and neuter your pets.
- If you keep your pets outside, make sure they have plenty of water.
- During hot months, make sure to provide plenty of shade.
- During cold months, make sure your pets have a warm place to lay such as a towel or blanket.
- Never leave animals unattended in a car.
- Ensure your animal has a name tag with a current phone number.
- Vaccinate your pets annually and make sure your pet wears a current rabies tag.
- Microchip your animal.
- Train your pet, especially around children.

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Dog fighting

is a sadistic “contest” in which two dogs—specifically bred, conditioned, and trained to fight—are placed in a pit (generally a small arena enclosed by plywood walls) to fight each other for the spectators’ entertainment and gambling.

Dog fighting is a felony offense in which you can be charged for the following:

- Causing a dog to fight with another dog for money or without.
- Participating in the earnings of a dog fight.
- Operating a facility used for dog fighting.
- Using or allowing others to use any real estate, building, room, tent arena, or other property for dog fighting.
- Owning or training a dog with the intent that the dog be used for dog fighting.
- Attending a dog fight.



Finding a stray or lost pet:

Help keep animals and citizens safe when you come across a stray or lost pet!

- Approach the animal carefully. If it appears friendly, take it in and give it water and food. If the animal is unfriendly, it may be injured or sick, call the SPCA at 713-869-SPCA.
- Take the animal to a vet to check for a microchip and to be checked out.
- If there is no microchip, post the animal as found online on various animal sites.
- If no one claims the animal, use facebook and other online outlets to promote it. Take flattering pics and include as much information about the pet as you have.
- If someone is interested, ask a few questions to ensure the animal is going to safe place.
- If no one takes the animal, and you cannot take it in yourself contact local shelters for assistance.



Help prevent animal abuse and neglect:

Keep your eyes and ears open -
report abuse and neglect.

Call Crime Stoppers at
713-222-TIPS

if you have any information on
ongoing criminal activity.



Committed to animal safety!

At Crime Stoppers, we take safety of our four-legged community members very serious.

Animal cruelty prevention is an important part of our Safe Community Program. In our constant efforts to educate about animal cruelty and dog fighting, raise awareness about what is considered “animal cruelty” and prevent the suffering of animals we are partnering with several groups including Houston PetSet, Barrio Dogs, Unity for a Solution and others. Working together we can keep Houston and our animals safe!

For more information visit our website www.crime-stoppers.org