



ANIMAL CRUELTY PREVENTION



How to Report a Tip



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Use our **Mobile App**

Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



Go to [crime-stoppers.org](https://www.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?

- Homeless animals outnumber homeless people 5 to 1
- Each year approximately 2.7 million dogs and cats are killed because shelters are too full and there aren't enough adoptive homes
- Only 1 out of every 10 dogs will find a permanent home
- You are required to have a breeder's permit to breed and sell animals
- Children 10 years of age and older can be charged with animal cruelty for brutality against animals
- 43% of the perpetrators commit animal cruelty before schoolyard massacres
- Researchers determined that between 71% and 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



ANIMAL CRUELTY

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:

- Failure to unreasonably provide necessary food, care, or shelter for an animal in their custody
- 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.



DOG FIGHTING

is a sadistic "contest" in which two dogs - specifically bred, conditioned, and trained - 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 and/or 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

Staying safe around animals:



- Be polite and kind to animals.
- Don't corner dogs.
- Never get in between dogs who are fighting.
- Pet animals gently; Do not pet service animals or police dogs-K9.
- 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.
- Like people need to wear seatbelts, your pet should be properly restrained while in a vehicle by means of a secure harness or carrier.
- 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.

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.

Preventing animal abuse and neglect:



Harris County Animal Cruelty Task Force (HCACTF) is a proactive and comprehensive approach to investigating human cruelty against animals. Concerned citizens can report cruelty online at www.927PAWS.org or by calling **832-927-PAWS**.

Active members of the taskforce include Crime Stoppers of Houston, Harris County Constable Precinct 5, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Police Department, Houston PetSet, Houston Humane Society, ADORE Houston, and Houston K-911 Rescue.