

ANIMAL CRUELTY PREVENTION

SAFETY AWARENESS TIPS



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Animal cruelty is deliberate abuse or simply the failure to take care of an animal. Learn what you can do to help prevent animal cruelty, abuse and neglect.

DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated **10 million animals** die from abuse or cruelty every year in the United States.

- veterinarians.org

There are an estimated **600,000 million dogs and cats euthanized** by shelters every year in the US.

- *The Humane Society of the United States, 2024*

Children **10 years old can be charged** with animal cruelty for brutality against animals.

- *Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce*

Around 70% of people who committed domestic violence were also found to be animal abusers.

- *National Library of Medicine*

6.3 companion animals enter animal shelters every year.

- *ASPCA, 2022*

PREVENTION



Understand what animal cruelty is and how to recognize animal abuse and neglect.

- **Definition:** Animal cruelty is deliberate abuse or simply the failure to take care of an animal. Intentional cruelty can range from failing to adequately provide an animal with food, water, shelter, socialization or veterinary care to torturing, maiming, mutilating or killing an animal.
- **Signs:** Pets with an open sore, wound, injury, and/or illness that is not being treated, pets covered in ticks, fleas, and/or other parasites, pets left in unsanitary environments and/or left outside in inclement weather without adequate shelter, pets left in kennels or cages that are small to stand, turn, or make normal movements, and any other act intended to cause harm to a pet resulting in abuse and/or neglect.

Stay informed and spread awareness on factual information. Visit organizations who are dedicated to advocating, preventing, and protecting our furry friends.

CONVERSATION



Having ongoing conversations with your student(s) and loved ones about animal cruelty is critical in raising awareness. Not only should our loved ones know how they can keep their pets safe, but knowing how to stay safe around other animals and what to do if animal cruelty is spotted, is crucial.

Ask your student:

- Is it okay to pet someone else's pet without asking? *No, because the owner may want to give directions before allowing you to pet them.*
- What can you do if you notice other students intentionally harming an animal for fun? *Tell a trusted adult and/or report it to the appropriate authorities.*
- What should you do if a dog tries to attack you? *Lie still and quietly with your knees to your chest and your hands over the ears.*

Ask yourself:

- Are my pet's vaccines and rabies tag current?
- Is my pet well trained to be around children?
- If my pet is outside, are they able to reach their food and water?



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WHERE TO REPORT



Report Anonymously to
Crime Stoppers at
713-222-TIPS (8477)

Report to the Harris County
Animal Cruelty Taskforce
832-927-PAWS or 927paws.org

Houston SPCA
713-869-7722
Houston Police Department
713-884-3131

PARTNERS & RESOURCES



- **Houston PetSet:** A 501(c)(3) umbrella organization dedicated to ending homelessness of companion animals and alleviate suffering. houstonpetset.org
- **Harris County Constable Precinct 5 Animal Crimes Unit:** <https://constablepct5.com/index.php/animal-crimes-unit/>
- **Houston Police Department:** <http://houstontx.gov/police/>
- **BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions:** The City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Facility houstontx.gov/barc
- **Harris County Public Health-Animal Shelter:** Resourced by Harris County Public Health, offers a safe haven to hundreds of lost, neglected and abandoned animals. publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov
- **Houston Humane Society:** A non-profit Pet Rescue, Pet Adoption, and Animal Shelter servicing the Houston, TX area. houstonhumane.org
- To learn about the Texas civil and criminal laws regarding animal cruelty, please visit [Texas State Law Library's Animal Law](#) page

LOCAL OFFICIALS



It is important to be aware of what role each entity plays in the fight against animal cruelty, abuse and neglect. From detainment to conviction, everyone has a role to play.



Officer

Detains individual and contacts DA to see if they will accept charges. If charges are accepted, arrest is made and officer books individual.



District Attorney (DA)

Analyze and gather evidence to determine whether or not there are grounds for prosecution. Gives approval for arrest.



Judge

Oversees court proceedings.



Magistrate

Determines if the individual will be released on bond or detained in jail.



To schedule a presentation, visit us here: crime-stoppers.org/request-a-presentation.