

Detecting Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

What Law Enforcement Officers Should Look For:

- ◆ Fearful/cowering animal (e.g. ears back, tail tucked between legs or low)
- ◆ Animal with injuries to include limping, burns, unable to stand up, visible injuries
- ◆ Animal that is afraid of the abuser only
- ◆ Overprotective animal
- ◆ Listless animal
- ◆ Emaciated animal
- ◆ Chained/penned up animal
- ◆ Excessive feces
- ◆ No dog house
- ◆ Unkempt house with feces or urine smell
- ◆ Lots of animals in the house or out in the yard (excessively over the legal limit– animal hoarding)
- ◆ No food visible
- ◆ No water visible
- ◆ Tethered animal tangled around object
- ◆ Bugs present in the home
- ◆ Accumulation of trash, debris, or junk

If you see signs of animal abuse or neglect:

- ◆ **Call Animal Control**
- ◆ If probable cause exists, make an arrest for animal cruelty
- ◆ Write a summons if animal neglect is visible



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What Animal Control Officers Should Look For:

- ◆ Victims are fearful of the abuser
- ◆ Victims can be both adults and children
- ◆ Signs of violence or struggle in the home
- ◆ Abuser does not allow victims to talk or be near you
- ◆ Victims check with the abuser prior to answering questions
- ◆ Abuser answers your questions for victims
- ◆ Animal is protective of victims
- ◆ Victims may seem overly anxious
- ◆ Evidence of physical abuse includes: visible bruising, dressed in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in the summer, scarves or sunglasses indoors)
- ◆ Abuser belittles the victim in front of you
- ◆ Unkempt house with feces or urine smell
- ◆ Soiled or dirty clothing being worn by victims
- ◆ Bugs present in the home
- ◆ Accumulation of trash/debris, junk

If you see signs of domestic violence:

- ◆ **Notify the local police or sheriff's office**
- ◆ Contact CPS or APS if child abuse/neglect or adult abuse/neglect is suspected



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