



## ANIMAL ABUSE &... CHILD MALTREATMENT

### Cross Reporting in CT

#### RECOGNIZING ANIMAL CRUELTY & STEPS TO MAKING AN ANIMAL CRUELTY REPORT



#### PHYSICAL SIGNS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

- OBSERVED PHYSICAL ABUSE BY AN OWNER, CARETAKER, OR CHILD
- EXTREMELY THIN ANIMALS
- ANIMALS SHOWING EXTREME FEAR OF THEIR OWNER
- OPEN WOUNDS OR MULTIPLE HEALED WOUNDS
- OBSERVED LIMPING OR CAN'T WALK OR STAND
- OBSERVING A COLLAR EMBEDDED IN ANIMALS NECK OR SO TIGHT IT IS CAUSING A WOUND
- LOSS OF HAIR, SCALY SKIN, BUMPS OR RASHES
- SEVERELY MATTED FUR, OVERGROWN NAILS, OR FILTHY COAT
- HEAVY DISCHARGE FROM EYES OR NOSE
- VISIBLE SIGNS OF CONFUSION OR EXTREME DROWSINESS
- FLEA, TICK OR OTHER EXTERNAL PARASITE INFESTATION

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

- ANIMALS LIVING IN FILTHY CONDITIONS (FECES, GARBAGE, BROKEN GLASS, ETC.)
- KEPT OUTSIDE (CHAINED) FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME WITHOUT ADEQUATE FOOD, WATER OR SHELTER
- REGULARLY LEFT ALONE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER
- KEPT OUTSIDE IN INCLEMENT WEATHER WITHOUT ACCESS TO ADEQUATE SHELTER
- KEPT ONLY IN A CRATE AND NOT LET OUTSIDE
- HOME IS OVERCROWDED WITH ANIMALS IN CAGES/KENNELS
- KEPT IN CAGES THAT ARE TOO SMALL TO ALLOW THEM TO STAND OR TURN AROUND



REMEMBER: when there are signs of child maltreatment or IPV in the home, pets should be considered at risk for animal cruelty

#### STEPS TO MAKING AN ANIMAL CRUELTY REPORT

- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO) - IF YOU HAVE REASONABLE SUSPICION TO BELIEVE THAT AN ANIMAL IS SUFFERING FROM HARM, ABUSE OR NEGLECT, FIRST CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER. IT IS VITAL TO MAKE A VERBAL REPORT FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.
- FILE AN ELECTRONIC DCF 736 FORM AT: [HTTPS://PORTAL.CT.GOV/DCF/CHILD-ABUSE-AND-ANIMAL-CRUELTY/HOME](https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/CHILD-ABUSE-AND-ANIMAL-CRUELTY/HOME) THIS FORM WILL ASK YOU FOR DETAILED THE OWNER'S INFORMATION, THE ANIMAL'S DESCRIPTION, THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF HARM TO THE ANIMAL, HOW YOU LEARNED OF THE SUSPECTED CRUELTY, THE SUSPECTED PERPETRATOR, ANY REPORTED PREVIOUS HISTORY OF ANIMAL CRUELTY, AND YOUR DCF CONTACT INFORMATION.
- SUBMIT YOUR REPORT TO [ACR.ANIMALCONTROL@CT.GOV](mailto:ACR.ANIMALCONTROL@CT.GOV) WITHIN 48 HRS



[WWW HTTPS://PORTAL.CT.GOV/DCF/PAWSFORKIDS/HOME](https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/PAWSFORKIDS/HOME)

### Agency Creates Cross-Reporting Card for Caseworkers

The Connecticut Department of Children & Families, which is one of only a handful of state child protective services agencies where employees are mandated reporters of suspected animal abuse, has created a handy card that caseworkers can reference when they encounter situations that suggest animal maltreatment.

The attractive cards are laminated. The top of the cards features lists of the common physical and environmental signs of animal cruelty. The bottom of the card provides details of the procedures by which DCF employees are to contact their local animal control officer and file an electronic form with the Department of Agriculture.

The cards also note that "when there are signs of child maltreatment or IPV [intimate partner violence] in the home, pets should be considered at risk for animal cruelty."

The cards could serve as a template for other state CPS agencies and could similarly be modified to help animal control and humane officers recognize and respond to suspected child abuse and neglect.

### Link Training in Connecticut



The National Link Coalition's Phil Arkow (left) was a featured speaker at a Connecticut DCF training on The Link. Joining Phil were DCF officials Jody Hill-Lily, Diane Rosell and Jackie Ford; Senior Asst. State's Attorney Tom O'Brien; UConn law professor Jessica Rubin; and Renee Dinino from I ♥ Radio.