

REPORTING ANIMAL ABUSE PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY

We are writing this information here to aid the good hearted and caring animal people, which often cause more damage than good by reporting animal cruelty to the wrong authorities.

In social media

When you see animal abuse, do not create a social media post or tweet and only use it to complain about the issue. That doesn't do anything good for no one. Take immediate action, and do it properly. Here below we will provide you with some few tips about how you can help the animals effectively and demand justice for them.

If you see in social media that an individual or a group of people are abusing one or more animals, (usually is the abuser and someone recording the video or taking pictures), do not ask the owner of the social media website to remove it. By doing that (e.g. in Facebook), all the evidence get's removed and the culprit (s) walks away without any punishment, ready to continue his/her animal cruelty spree.

What was achieved? Nothing good for the animals abused!

Many countries already count with local special branches to deal with local animal abuse (e.g. in several cities in Mexico, they are named "animal police"), and those are the proper authorities where you can report animal abuse.

First, copy the pictures, videos and links. Get the name the owner of the page uses, copy the link of the page and check in the section "about" where the person is located and the person's name. Then proceed to contact the local police and other local enforcement authorities sending to them the name of the person if available, pictures, videos, links and time and date of the abuse with your name and contact info.

In the US, you can also contact the ASPCA and AHS. In Canada, also contact the local SPCA. In the UK contact the local branch of the RSPCA. This can be done in any country in the world.

Use Google search engines to check all the above mentioned authorities contact information (phones and emails).

Please, DO NOT EVER report animal abuse/cruelty to INTERPOL!

This is an issue for the police and HAS NOTHING to do with Interpol! THEY DO NOT DEAL WITH ANY ANIMAL ABUSE/WELFARE. **There is a huge misconception** that reporting to Interpol or to the Governor or even the President of a country a random local animal cruelty issue or an animal abuser that will do some good. That is not the case, and it just blocks Interpol emails which are vital to deal with their daily work fighting international crimes with inter-governmental collaboration.

Let me explain what Interpol does: Interpol deals with INTERNATIONAL crimes in collaboration with the governments such as: wildlife crime of endangered and protected animal species (e.g. illegal trade of protected wildlife and e-commerce of protected wildlife). Interpol cooperates with the enforcement authorities of the countries on this type of issues, and also dealing with international drug lords and their drug trade, international terrorist cells, international rings of child sexual abuse/kidnappings, international kidnappings of foreigners, international human slavery rings and so on. So report the issue to the proper LOCAL authorities, and let INTERPOL do their great international work without the hassle of all those mass emails or calls.

Reporting wildlife abuse

If you see a circus, zoo or other forms of abuse to wildlife, take note of the place, date, hour, address and call your local enforcement agency. In the US contact the local USFWS, and in Canada your local wildlife centre and local animal welfare NGO dealing with wildlife captivity and cruelty (e.g. If you are in Ontario, contact Zoocheck Canada or similar NGO's).

Check these links from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies for some more valuable information: http://cfhs.ca/info/animal_cruelty_how_to_report_it/#link_four

Witnessing animal cruelty

Try to get the name and address of the aggressor. If you can only see the aggressor leaving, take note on the car registration number, color of vehicle and model and take pictures if possible or video. Ask the other witnesses to see if they know and can ID the aggressor(s).

If you know the aggressor(s), or there are still there, call immediately the local police and provide the info and address where the incident is taking or took place, for them to take action. Ask others to call too.

Do the right thing and help save the animals in need by acting properly!

Often people think first with their hearts and not with the mind when they see animal abuse (as we all have reacted to that sooner or later), so it is important to understand the implications of those acts and how far can these actions directly affect the authorities and the governments, which on top of that helps to enforce the misconception that AR's are not to be taken serious, and that AR's people act on impulse, not facts. That is the reason why serious AR activists pay the consequences, when they do not succeed to meet with governments for a case of national or international animal cruelty issue. Why? Because the governments don't respect AR and have a general misconception of all AR's people, just because of simple acts like reporting local animal abuse ends flooding them with tons of messages in the form of tweets, emails, letters, phone calls and petitions, which really annoys them. That is the reason why they ignore them in national issues, not even allowing them to have a meeting.

Remember: There is always a proper authority dealing with domestic and wildlife abuse.

Those are the ones to contact LOCALLY. Never do that nationally or federally. It will never help the animals being abused.

Information from the American Humane Association for US residents:

<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/stop-animal-abuse/fact-sheets/reporting-internet-animal-abuse.html> if the abuse happens in internet in the US:

Immediately contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), a partnership between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center, at <http://www.ic3.gov/>. The website will direct you to the page where you can file your complaint. At first glance, it may appear that the website will only consider complaints of Internet monetary fraud. However, IC3 is the proper venue for all Internet crimes, including animal abuse. If you are outside the US, report it there if the abuser is in the US.

How does the law currently handle Internet animal cruelty?

Because communications through the Internet have the ability to cross state lines, the Internet is largely governed by federal law. Improving the federal laws as they pertain to Internet animal abuse is critical. Currently, only a few federal laws address the issue directly:

The Crush Act (P.L.106-152) penalizes the display of acts of cruelty and sexual abuse of animals that is intended for interstate commerce. If convicted, offenders may receive up to five years in prison or a large fine. Two criteria must be met before this statute applies: 1) actual abuse must occur and 2) the website in question must intend to sell the images across state lines. In other words, a website may legally display images of animal cruelty and sexual abuse under this law as long as it is not charging visitors for access or otherwise selling the images. In 2005, the first conviction under this statute occurred in a federal district court in Virginia.

The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act (P.L. 110-27) strengthens the ability of law enforcement to combat animal fighting by providing felony penalties for interstate commerce, import and export related to animal fighting activities, including commerce in cockfighting weapons. Each violation of this federal law is punishable by up to three years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine for perpetrators.

CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society
(Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals)

