

How to Identify Cruelty to Animals

April has been designated by the ASPCA as Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. The ASPCA urges its supporters and all who love and care about animals to participate and help spread the message that animal cruelty is not unacceptable under any circumstances.

For those of us who love animals, this message is very important. Far too many animals are treated cruelly without any kindness or compassion – without the awareness that animals are sentient, intelligent beings deserving of our respect, appreciation compassion and proper care and nutrition.

All of us can help decrease animal cruelty by being aware and knowing who to contact if we suspect animal abuse. According to the ASPCA, there are also many ways that we can recognize or identify cruelty to animals.

- 1). Dogs who are left outside chained or tethered in all kinds of weather – extreme heat and intense cold.
- 2). Dogs who are repeatedly left alone without food or water.
- 3). Dogs who have flea or tick infestation
- 4). Wounds on the body.
- 5). Emaciated or starving animals.
- 6). Witnessing an owner beating, choking or kicking an animal.
- 7). Dogs or other animals who are limping.
- 8). Dogs/Cats with patches of missing hair.
- 9). Animals with scars or open wounds
- 10). Dogs or cats that have been hit by a car or truck and are debilitated but have not received veterinary care.

Animals are deserving of our care and compassion. It is very important to be aware of cruelty in our own neighborhoods and communities and to take action when we find that it is occurring.