

**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children****Policy and Practice Guidance Document #007
Mandated Animal Abuse Reporting
April 9, 2021****Background**

This Policy and Practice Guidance Document expands upon House Bill 33 signed by Governor DeWine on January 6th, 2021. The bill establishes animal abuse reporting requirements for protective services and social services professionals. This law will become effective April 12, 2021.

Procedure

Social service professionals are required to immediately report maltreatment of a companion animal when that person has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that such maltreatment has occurred or is occurring. "Companion animal" means any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept, including a pet store. A companion animal does not include livestock or any wild animal.

A report of animal cruelty is to be made to the local animal cruelty reporting agency. When in doubt on where to report, contact local law enforcement or the local County Humane Officer. The following links provide contact information for animal cruelty reporting agencies:

1. [Cruelty Reporting Archives: Ohio Animal Advocates](#) – Identifies reporting agencies per zip code.
2. [Cruelty-Report.pdf \(ohioanimaladvocates.org\)](#) – Provides a County List.

The social services professional is to make a report verbally or in writing to the local animal cruelty reporting agency and provide the following information:

1. Name and contact information as a mandated reporter.
2. A description of the companion animal involved.
3. If known, the name of the companion animal.
4. The date the animal was observed.
5. The address where the companion animal is located.
6. The address and telephone number of the owner, or other person responsible for care, of the companion animal, if known.
7. The nature and extent of the suspected abuse.
8. Any other information which may be useful in establishing the existence of the suspected violation involving a companion animal or the identity of the person causing the violation involving a companion animal.

Attachments

1. Tip sheet regarding recognizing animal cruelty and steps for making an animal cruelty report.
2. Resource directory for animal cruelty reporting, low cost spay/neuter services, pet safe haven locations, and pet food pantries.
3. Emergency vet expense resources.

Resources

[National Link Coalition](#) – National coalition addressing the link between animal and human violence.

[Ohio Animal Welfare Federation - Home](#)

[Ohio Animal Advocates: Ohio's Voice for Animals](#)

Contact

If you have questions, you may contact your Technical Assistance Specialist or the OFC Help Desk at 1-866-886-3537 option 4 or HELP-DESK-OCF@jfs.ohio.gov.