

How to Report Animal Cruelty in Skagit County

If you witness or suspect animal cruelty, abuse or neglect, you should contact animal control immediately.

Non-emergency: 360-428-3211

Call 911 if you are witnessing cruelty in progress.

What to look for

- Does the animal appear underweight?
- Does the animal have open wounds or other injuries that have not been treated?
- Does the animal have signs of an illness that has not been treated? (Examples include heavy discharge from eyes or nose, rash or bumpy skin, and missing hair.)
- Have you witnessed someone kicking, beating or otherwise harming the animal?
- Does the animal have regular access to food, water?
- Is the area clear of feces, broken glass or other objects that may do harm or cause illness?
- Is the animal's coat extremely matted or the hooves or nails severely overgrown?



Documentation

If you have photographs or videotape, please share them with the animal control officer. Your report should be as detailed as possible. You should note dates, times and circumstances.

Reporting cruelty

- If you are not sure that you are observing animal cruelty or neglect, please report it anyway. An animal control officer will make that determination. Most animal control officers would prefer to receive a report and have it result in an educational opportunity regarding animal care rather than not receive a report and have it result in something much more serious.
- Follow up and report any change observed in the animal's treatment.
- Be aware that an investigating officer is not likely to identify the source of the complaint. You may call in a complaint anonymously, however, if the animal control officer doesn't witness abuse or neglect, they will not be able to pursue the case further without a statement.

Resources

- **Skagit County Animal Control:** <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Sheriff/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Washington State Animal Cruelty Laws:** <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=16.52>
- **Washington State Animal and Livestock Laws:** <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=16>
- **Skagit County Codes:** <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/SkagitCounty/>
- **City Codes:** <http://mrsc.org/Home/Research-Tools/Washington-City-Codes.aspx>