



A Guide to Reporting Suspected Animal Cruelty or Neglect in New York State

ANIMAL LAW COMMITTEE

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Reporting Suspected Animal Cruelty and Neglect in New York State: Why It's Important and Who to Contact

Reporting suspected animal cruelty or neglect is critical.

If you witness or suspect animal cruelty or neglect or see an animal in danger, reporting it to the authorities is critical: it could save the animal's life.

Reporting cruelty and neglect not only helps prevent animal suffering and ensure that the animal receives prompt medical attention. Your report may help in other ways, as animal abuse is often linked to violence against people — including child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence — and to other crimes.

It's crucial that you timely report. The longer it takes between observing abuse or neglect and reporting it, the more challenging it becomes for law enforcement to locate the animal/person in question, the more likely it is that your observations may vary from the observations of law enforcement, and the more likely it is that the animal will continue to suffer.

What constitutes animal cruelty and neglect.

Whether particular conduct constitutes animal cruelty or neglect is ultimately a legal determination made by law enforcement or a court or jury. A person reporting suspected animal cruelty or neglect doesn't have to prove cruelty or neglect, but should report if they reasonably suspect that an animal is being abused or neglected.

The New York State Attorney General provides the following examples of animal cruelty and neglect:

- Animal fighting
- Inadequate or improper shelter or care
- Animals being kept in filthy or unsanitary living conditions
- Abandonment
- Performing unauthorized surgery on an animal
- Maiming or killing of an animal
- Failure to provide food, drink or medical treatment
- Animal hoarding

How to report suspected animal cruelty or neglect.

For crimes in progress or emergencies, **call 911** or go to your local police precinct.

For other suspected animal cruelty or neglect:

- Anywhere in New York State:
 - Call the New York State Attorney General’s Animal Protection Initiative helpline at (866) 697-3444
 - Submit an Animal Cruelty Complaint Form to the Attorney General at <https://ag.ny.gov/online-complaint-form-animal-cruelty-and-animal-welfare/>
- In New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island):
 - Call 311
 - Submit a report to 311 at <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02224>
 - Call NYPD’s Crime Stoppers tip line at (800) 577-TIPS
 - Submit an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers at <http://nypdcrimestoppers.com/>
 - Download and submit a tip through the Crime Stoppers mobile app, available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/services/see-say-something/crimestoppers.page>
- Outside of New York City:
 - Contact your county’s local police and (where available) local SPCA/animal control. Contact information for each New York State county follows on the next page.

What information to provide.

When reporting, give as many details as you can: describe the perpetrator, what you observed, and how many times you observed it; provide dates and approximate times if possible, as well as the address where the alleged cruelty or neglect took place. Pictures and video evidence are also helpful if you can safely and legally obtain them.

Don’t worry if you can’t “prove your case.” The job of law enforcement is to investigate suspicious activity. Your report, even if lacking some details, can still be useful evidence to help law enforcement determine the facts and any need for further action.

Keep a record of what information you reported, along with the date you reported it, and the officer or official to whom you spoke. Check back after a reasonable amount of time. If you don’t get a satisfactory response, contact them again.

You can report anonymously.

You can report suspected animal cruelty or neglect anonymously. That said, a successful outcome is more likely to occur if you’re willing to give your name and, if needed, testimony. Law enforcement often is understaffed and underfunded. A case is more likely to be pursued if the person reporting gives their name and indicates a willingness to help, including by testifying. If you do ask to remain anonymous, law enforcement will do everything possible to protect your identity.

Contact Information for Police and SPCAs/Humane Societies in New York State (by County)

County	Police Number	SPCA / Humane Society Number	Website
Albany	(518) 487-5400	(518) 434-8128	http://www.act.albanycountyda.com/reportanimalabusestopdomesticabuse
Allegany	(585) 268-9600	(585) 593-2200	https://spcaallegany.org/post.php?pid=56
Bronx	(718) 993-3880	(212) 788-4000	http://animalallianceny.org/feralcats/tnr-colony-care-resources/community-cats-and-the-law/report-animal-cruelty-crime/
Broome	(607) 778-1911	(607) 724-3709	http://bchumanesoc.com/about-us/animal-cruelty/
Cattaraugus	(716) 938-9191	(716) 372-8492	https://www.spcacattco.org/
Cayuga	(315) 253-1222	(315) 253-5841	http://www.human-services.org/animals
Chautauqua	(716) 753-4232	(716) 665-2209	https://spca.pets.com/getinvolved/investigatingcruelty/
Chemung	(607) 735-8600	(607) 732-1827, ext. 203	https://www.chemungspca.org/
Chenango	(607) 334-2000	(607) 334-9724	https://chenangospca.org/
Clinton	(518) 565-4300	(518) 643-2451	http://www.ncspca.org/cruelty
Columbia	(518) 828-0601	(518) 828-6044	https://www.hudsonvalleyspca.com/humane-law-enforcement
Cortland	(607) 756-2811	(607) 753-9386	http://www.countyacresanimalshelter.org/crueltyinformation.html
Delaware	(607) 746-2336	(607) 563-7780	https://www.hsdcoho.org/cruelty-investigations
Dutchess	(845) 486-3800	(845) 452-7722	https://www.hudsonvalleyspca.com/humane-law-enforcement
Erie	(716) 858-7618	(716) 875-7360	https://yourspca.org/report-cruelty/
Essex	(518) 873-6970	(518) 873-5000	https://www.ncspca.org/cruelty
Franklin	(518) 483-3304	(518) 891-0017	http://www.fchsmo.org/Services_Resources/AnimalCruelty.html

County	Police Number	SPCA / Humane Society Number	Website
Fulton	(518) 736-2100	(518) 725-0115	https://www.pawsforyou.org/page7.htm#animalcontrol
Genesee	(585) 345-3000	(585) 343-6410	https://www.lollypop.org/humane-law-enforcement/
Greene	(518) 943-3300	(518) 828-6044	https://cghs.org/
Hamilton	(518) 548-3113	(518) 725-5956	http://www.hamiltonhumane.com/resources/report-abuse
Herkimer	(315) 867-1167	(315) 866-3255	https://www.herkimerhumanesociety.org/
Jefferson	(315) 786-2700	(315) 782-3260	https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/DogControl
Kings	(718) 488-3545	(212) 788-4000	http://www.humanesocietyny.org/
Lewis	(315) 376-3511	(315) 376-8349	http://lewiscountyhumanesociety.org/
Livingston	(585) 243-7100	(585) 234-2828	https://www.adoptapet.com/humane-society-of-livingston-county/
Madison	(315) 366-2318	(315) 697-2796	http://wandersrest.org/links/madison-county-towns-cities-villages/
Monroe	(585) 753-4178	(585) 223-1330	https://www.lollypop.org/
Montgomery	(518) 853-5500	(518) 842-8050	http://www.mc-spca.com/
Nassau	(516) 573-6600	(516) 843-7722	https://nassaucountyspca.org/
New York	(212) 487-9734	(212) 876-7700	https://www.nyshumane.org/contact-nysha/
Niagara	(716) 286-4547	(716) 731-4368	http://www.niagaraspca.org/
Oneida	(315) 736-8364	(315) 336-7070	https://www.ocgov.net/node/6625
Onondaga	(315) 435-3044	(315) 454-4479	http://cnyspca.org/make-a-report
Ontario	(585) 394-4560	(585) 396-4590	http://www.ontariocountyhumanesociety.org/
Orange	(845) 291-4033	(845) 564-6810	https://www.hudsonvalleyspca.com/humane-law-enforcement

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Orleans	(585) 589-5527	(585) 752-2588	http://www.orleanscountyny.gov/animalcontrol
Oswego	(315) 349-3302	(315) 297-4900	https://www.oswegocountyspca.org/
Otsego	(607) 547-4271	(607) 547-8111	https://sqspca.org/
Putnam	(845) 225-4300	(845) 520-6915	https://spcaputnam.org/how-you-can-help/report-cruelty/
Queens	(718) 298-7550	(718) 486-7489	https://www.aspca.org/nyc/adoptable-cats/queens-a22248117
Rensselaer	(518) 462-7451	(518) 434-8128	https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Rensselaer-County-Humane-Society-152771238128849/
Richmond	(718) 815-8407	(212) 244-7722	https://www.aspca.org/nyc
Rockland	(845) 638-5400	(845) 354-3124	https://www.hvhumane.org/
Saratoga	(518) 885-6761	(518) 798-3500	https://saratogacountyny.gov/shelter/
Schenectady	(518) 393-8300	(518) 755-9517	http://countyspca.com/
Schoharie	(518) 295-8114	(518) 296-8390	https://schoharieanimalshelter.org/the-animals/
Schuyler	(607) 535-8222	(607) 594-2255	http://schuylerhumane.org/
Seneca	(607) 582-6555	(315) 946-3389	https://www.flspcaofcny.org/
St. Lawrence	(315) 379-2222	(315) 393-5191	https://www.stlawrencevalleyspca.org/
Stephen	(607) 622-3901	(607) 622-5363	https://littleshelterthatcould.com/learn/about-us/
Suffolk	(631) 854-8200	(631) 382-7722	https://suffolkspca.org/
Sullivan	(845) 794-7100	(845) 796-3120	http://www.sullivanspca.org/
Tioga	(607) 687-1010	(607) 565-2859	http://www.sullivanspca.org/
Tompkins	(607) 257-1345	(607) 257-1822	http://spcaonline.com/

County	Police Number	SPCA / Humane Society Number	Website
Ulster	(845) 338-3640	(845) 331-5377	https://www.ucspca.org/
Warren	(518) 743-2500	(518) 793-4048	http://www.spcauny.org/
Washington	(518) 746-4623	(518) 793-3500	http://www.spcauny.org/
Wayne	(315) 946-9711	(315) 946-3389	https://www.hswaynepets.org/
Westchester	(914) 864-7700	(914) 941-2896	http://www.spca914.org/
Wyoming	(585) 786-8989	(585) 591-3114	https://www.wyomingcountyspca.org/
Yates	(315) 536-4438	(315) 536-6094	https://www.yateshumane.org/