Animal Maltreatment

In order to detect animal cruelty, you have to suspect it.

- **DISENGAGED CLIENT**
  The client might exhibit a lack of concern for the animal’s welfare, refuse treatment, workups, grooming, or decline euthanasia.

- **PRESENTING CONDITION**
  The animal might present with a poor body condition, severely matted fur, a foul odor or have indications of being confined to filth such as "white" fur appearing yellow.

- **ANIMAL FIGHTING**
  Dogs used in fighting have characteristic bite & scar patterns, including the head, neck & legs. The dog might be missing body parts, such as an chunks of lip or ear.

- **LACK OF CARE**
  Animals confined without adequate sanitary food or water; or in inclement weather without access to adequate shelter; crated for prolonged periods.

- **NON-ACCIDENTAL INJURY**
  Condition not consistent with the history, injuries are too severe to support the story, or the story changes with each telling.

- **NOT ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS**
  Consider the Good Samaritan possibility. They may find an animal and bring it to the clinic, or the presenter may also be a victim. Let the investigators sort out the details.