



OHIO
ANIMAL
ADVOCATES

RECOGNIZE

Physical Signs.

- Observed physical abuse by an owner, caretaker, or child
- Extremely thin animals
- Animals showing extreme fear of their owner
- Open wounds or multiple healed wounds
- Observed limping or inability to walk/stand
- Observed collar embedded in animals' neck or collar so tight it is causing wounds
- Loss of hair, scaly skin, bumps or rashes
- Severely matted fur, overgrown nails or filthy coat
- Heavy discharge from eyes or nose
- Visible signs of confusion or extreme drowsiness
- Flea, tick or other external parasite infestation

RECOGNIZE

Environmental Signs.

- Animals living in filthy conditions (feces, garbage, broken glass, etc.)
- Kept outside (chained) for long periods of time without adequate food, water, or shelter
- Regularly left alone for long periods of time without food or water
- Kept outside in inclement weather without access to adequate shelter
- Kept only in a crate and not let outside
- Home is overcrowded with animals in cages/kennels
- Kept in cages that are too small to allow them to stand or turn around

OHIO CROSS REPORTING HOW TO RECOGNIZE & REPORT ANIMAL ABUSE

REPORT

Animal Cruelty.

IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT OR IPV IN THE HOME, PETS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT RISK FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY.

If you have reasonable suspicion to believe that an animal is suffering from harm, abuse or neglect, **contact the agency in your county responsible for taking reports of animal cruelty** (It is vital to make a verbal report for immediate action). In many Ohio counties, a humane society is responsible for humane enforcement. In some counties, the dog warden, police, or sheriff is responsible or may be the backup for the humane societies. **To find your animal cruelty reporting agency:**

ohioanimaladvocates.org/reportcruelty

Recognizing & Reporting Child & Elder Abuse in Ohio

IN CHILDREN:

- **Neglect** can be physical or emotional such as failure to meet the child's basic requirements for physical development, such as supervision, housing, clothing, medical attention, nutrition or support.
- **Abuse** can be physical, sexual, or emotional and can be displayed in various ways. Refer to the Lucas County government website for possible signs.

<https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/1286/Recognizing-Reporting-Child-Abuse-Neglec>

IN ELDER:

- **Neglect** can be abandonment; **Abuse** can be physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional; **Exploitation** can be seen as "financial exploitation" by caregivers or improper acts of any person who uses an older adult's resources for their own personal benefit, profit, or gain by, among other things, deception, threat, or intimidation.

[https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/Newsletters/Consumer-Advocate/December-2018-\(1\)/New-Ohio-Law-Expands-the-Definition-of-Elder-Abuse](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/Newsletters/Consumer-Advocate/December-2018-(1)/New-Ohio-Law-Expands-the-Definition-of-Elder-Abuse)

Who do I call if I suspect this is happening?

Reports of elder abuse can be made to local adult protective services or by calling **1-855-OHIO-APS (1-855-644-6277)** 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Reports of child abuse can be made by calling **855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453)**, an automated phone directory that will link callers directly to a child welfare or law enforcement office in their county.

What information do I need to make a report?

Whether you suspect child or elder abuse, be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Name, age, & address of the individual and their caregiver/guardian.
2. The name of the person you suspect is abusing and their address if available.
3. Any information regarding the suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 - a. This can be physical observations, something that was said to you by the child/elder, any information regarding previous suspected incidents, or information that may help discover the cause or scope of the suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The more you know, the better!
 - b. **Note:** You have the option of giving your name or reporting anonymously. Giving your name can help the investigator clarify information.

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Preparation for Before Calling to Make a Report

Child/Elder Name: _____

Child/Elder Age: _____

Child/Elder Address:

Parent/Guardian Name & Address:

The Name of the Suspected Abuser (may be same as parent/guardian):

Location/Date/Time of Observed Suspected Abuse/Neglect:

The Reason you Suspect the Child is Being Abused/Neglected:

Any Other Helpful Info:
