



John W. Mays, Executive Director
National Animal Control Association
P.O. Box 480851
Kansas City, MO 64148
Phone: 913-768-1319
Fax: 913-768-1378
naca@nacanet.org

Cruelty/Neglect

Guideline Statement

Animal control agencies should be empowered to issue citations for cruelty violations and include cruelty investigations as part of its regular activities. In those communities where both animal control agencies and humane societies are empowered to investigate and prosecute cruelty violations, the National Animal Control Association believes that the cooperation among these groups will best provide for the protection of animals and the prosecution of people.

Basis for Guideline

In the course of performing other duties, ACO's are often the first to uncover instances of animal cruelty or neglect. Immediate action is often necessary to insure the safety of the animal and/or to protect the integrity of any subsequent legal charges filed. Multi-agency involvement will underscore to the pet owner the legitimacy of the concern and, thus, increase the probability of improving the animal's condition. Obviously, a cooperative stance with other involved humane groups will serve to build a better court case.

Guideline Recommendation

Joint training among all agencies would prove beneficial, as would requiring officers to receive individual cruelty investigations training. Cruelty to animal laws should include at least the very basics of pet ownership responsibility - adequate housing, adequate supply of fresh food and water, prohibition against abandonment, sanitary living conditions, and physical/emotional abuse. Laws should provide for investigators to issue citations, and allow for immediate removal of the animal from harmful situations.

Reviewed/Revised by the NACA Corporate Office - 09/17/02

The foregoing Guideline has been affirmed as duly adopted by the NACA Board of Directors.

John W. Mays

John W. Mays
Executive Director
National Animal Control Association