

Sheriff Gregory Tony wants you to keep your pets safe.



What is Animal Cruelty?

Animal abuse is a crime and one the Broward Sheriff's Office takes seriously. *According to county code, it is illegal to beat, ill-treat, torment, overload, overwork, abuse, intentionally mutilate or inhumanely kill or fight animals.* Failure to provide fresh, clean water, shelter or proper veterinary care is also a violation.

Animal cruelty laws apply to domestic pets, livestock, farm animals and wildlife. The five major categories of animal abuse commonly experienced by cats and dogs include:

- **Abandonment/Neglect** - Dogs or cats that have been left for days without clean, fresh food and water, or those that are sick or injured and in need of medical care
- **Dogfighting** - Dogfighting and the use of so-called 'bait dogs' to train other dogs for fighting is illegal
- **Malicious Poisoning** - Intentionally placing poisonous food or water in an accessible location for animals to consume with the intent to cause harm
- **Puppy/Kitten Mills** - Producing as many animals as possible for a profit, without regard for their well-being, health or living conditions
- **Physical Abuse** - Animals that are physically beaten, tormented, mutilated or otherwise injured



How You can Help

Aside from food, water and adequate shelter, pets also require love and care. If you think your pet is sick, contact your veterinarian. Have your animals spayed or neutered and make sure they have been vaccinated.

If you witness or suspect abuse, call: **911**

If you witness or suspect neglect, call:

Broward County Animal Cruelty Hotline: 311

Crime Stoppers: 954.493.8477

You can report animal abuse anonymously through the SaferWatch app. Download the app on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

**After 5:00 p.m. on weekends or holidays, or if it involves livestock, farm animals, or wildlife, please contact the Broward Sheriff's Office at 954.764.HELP (4357).*

If you live in one of the following cities, please report animal cruelty issues to that city's animal control department:

Coral Springs **954.346.4422**

Hollywood..... **954.921.3061**

Pompano Beach..... **954.786.4027**

For more information about animal care, abuse, pet safety or other animal-related issues, please visit **broward.org/animal**.

STAY CONNECTED!



@browardsheriffsoffice



Sheriff Gregory Tony
sheriff.org



@browardsheriff



BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME



"Preventing instances of animal abuse and cruelty is a community effort. Together, we can make a difference."

- Sheriff Gregory Tony



Signs of Cruelty or Neglect

- A collar or harness that is too tight or one that has caused discomfort, bruising or injury.
- Open wounds, signs of multiple injuries or an ongoing illness left untreated.
- Untreated conditions that have caused loss of hair, skin irritations, bleeding, bumps or rashes.
- Protruding bones or sagging skin.
- Weakness, limping or the inability to stand or walk normally.
- Heavy discharge from eyes, nose or mouth. Persistent coughing or wheezing that is not being medically treated.
- Fur infested with fleas, ticks or other parasites.
- Inadequate grooming, matting of fur, overgrown nails.
- A tied up animal or one that has been tethered for an extended period.
- Pets left without shelter.
- Unsanitary or dangerous living quarters.
- A kennel, cage or house that is too small.

Tethered Dogs

It is unlawful for a responsible party to tether (chain) a dog except when all of the following conditions are met:

- The tether has the following properties: it is at least five times the length of the dog's body as measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail; it terminates at both ends with a swivel; it does not weigh more than 1/8 of the dog's weight, and it is free of tangles.
- The dog is tethered in such a manner as to prevent injury, strangulation, or entanglement.
- The dog is not outside during a period of extreme weather, including without limitation extreme heat or near-freezing temperatures, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical storms, or hurricanes.
- The dog has access to water, shelter, and dry ground.
- Pulley, running line, or trolley systems are at least 15 feet in length and are less than 7 feet above the ground.



Never leave your pet Unattended in the car!

Keep Your Dog On A Leash

By law, Broward County requires all dogs be leashed except when they are on the owner's property.

Registration and Identification

Make sure your dog or cat is registered as required by Broward County law. Be sure their identification and rabies tags are secured to a properly fitted collar that moves freely around their neck. Consider having a microchip with their name, medical information and ownership implanted in case they are lost or missing.

Vaccinations and Medical Care

As a pet owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your pet is properly vaccinated against distemper, heartworms and parasites.

Pet Tips

- When traveling, your pet should be properly secured with a harness or inside a carrier.
- Store medications, cleaning supplies and insecticides out of reach.
- Keep a pet first aid kit on hand along with emergency phone numbers.
- In the event of emergencies, pre-register your pet with the nearest pet-friendly shelter or animal care agency. Have an accessible carrier available to transport your pet in case of an evacuation.
- Install a notice or decal on your front door or a window advising you have a pet.
- Provide a well-balanced diet, proper grooming and exercise to keep your pet healthy.
- Supervise your pets at all times while outside.
- Ensure your pet always has plenty of fresh water and food available.
- If you do keep your pet outside, make sure it has ample cover to shield it from the elements.



Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do about problems with a neighbor's pet?

If possible, try talking to your neighbor about the problem. If the problem persists, call Broward County Animal Care and Adoption at **954.359.1313, ext. 9249** or your local police non-emergency number.

What should I do if bitten by an animal?

Wild animals and domestic pets can carry several diseases and harmful bacteria. If an animal bites you, a family member or your pet, call 911 and seek immediate medical attention. Report the incident to Broward County Animal Care and Adoption.

What should I do if my pet is lost?

Notify local agencies, including public and private animal shelters. Also be sure to check Broward County Animal Care and Adoption's website at broward.org/animal daily or visit the shelter in person as often as you can.

What if I find a pet?

Report it to local authorities and contact Broward County's Lost and Found at **954.359.1313, ext. 9273**. You can also send an email to foundpets@broward.org. If the animal has a registration tag, you can search for the owner's information at the county's Pet Registration Database at broward.org/animal. You can also take it to the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center located at 2400 SW 42nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.

Responsible
Pet ownership
Starts with
You

