



**OREGON
HUMANE
SOCIETY**

Oregon Animal Law

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Who Are the OHS Investigators?



- Special Agents commissioned by the Governor to investigate and enforce Oregon's animal cruelty laws.
- Team of veterinarians who provide forensic analysis.
- 20 combined years of law enforcement experience.
- Authority to arrest suspects via cite and release.
- Salaries paid entirely through private donations made to OHS.

Animal Advocacy



- Many Oregon animal protection laws on the books proposed by OHS.
- Ongoing legislative efforts
- Current bills in progress:
 - SB 298: Restrictions on placing victimized pets.
 - SB 304: Pets in foreclosure.
 - SB 2470: Puppy protection act.

Where We Work



- Authority to enforce animal cruelty laws in the entire state of Oregon.
- Currently accept cases from the public in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties.
- Accept cases from, and provide investigation and veterinary assistance to law enforcement agencies in the entire state.

What We Do



Enforce Oregon's animal cruelty laws, including those pertaining to:

- Animal Neglect
- Animal Abuse
- Animal Abandonment
- Animal Fighting
- Animal Theft



Animal Neglect



Animal neglect in the second degree:

- Intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence failing to provide minimum care for an animal in one's custody or control.

Animal neglect in the first degree:

- Intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence failing to provide minimum care for an animal in one's custody and control and the failure to do so results in serious injury or death to the animal.

Animal Neglect



Minimum Care:

Care sufficient to preserve the health and well-being of an animal and, includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Enough food to maintain growth and body weight.
- (b) Access to sufficient potable water. Ice or snow is not adequate.
- (c) Access to shelter that protects from wind, rain, sun, and snow. Shelter must have bedding to protect against cold and dampness.
- (d) Vet care necessary to relieve distress from injury, neglect, or disease.
- (e) Access to an area with enough room for exercise, suitable air temperature, and free from excess waste.

Livestock



Oregon laws differentiate care standards between “livestock” and “domestic animals”

Minimum care requirements for livestock:

- (a) Enough food to maintain growth and body weight.
- (b) Access to sufficient potable water. Ice or snow is not adequate.
- (c) Vet care necessary to relieve distress from injury, neglect, or disease.
- (d) For livestock that cannot walk or stand without assistance:
 - Humane euthanasia; or
 - Immediate and ongoing care to restore the animal to an ambulatory state.

Animal Neglect



Animal Abuse



Animal Abuse in the second degree:

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing physical injury to an animal.

Animal Abuse in the first degree:

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing serious physical injury to an animal, or cruelly causing the death of an animal.

Animal Abuse



Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree:

- A person commits the crime of aggravated animal abuse in the first degree if the person:
 - (a) Maliciously kills an animal; or
 - (b) Intentionally or knowingly tortures an animal.

Animal Abuse



Animal Abuse



Lucy today

Animal Abandonment



- Intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence leaving a domestic animal at a location without providing for the animal's continued care.
- It is specifically written in the law that it is still a crime to abandon an animal at or near an animal shelter, vet clinic, or other place of shelter.
- OHS investigated more than 100 cases of abandonment in 2008.

Animal Fighting



- Involvement in animal fighting, participation in animal fighting, and possessing animal fighting paraphernalia are all separate crimes.
- Most crimes involving animal fighting are Class C felonies in Oregon. Penalties for a Class C felony are up to five years of imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$125,000.
- Being a spectator at a cockfight is still a misdemeanor in Oregon.

Animal Fighting



The Link



A correlation between animal abuse, family violence and other forms of community violence has been established.

OHS routinely encounters cases involving:

- Child neglect and abuse
- Domestic violence
- People suffering from mental health issues

“Animal abusers are not only dangerous toward their animal victims but also may jeopardize human welfare.”

- U.S. Dept. of Justice Juvenile Justice Bulletin

How You Can Help



- Report animal cruelty.
- Get the word out.
- Be a responsible pet owner.
 - Spay or neuter your pets.
- Support local animal shelters.
 - Donate your time by volunteering.
 - Donate items: food, blankets, toys.
 - Adopt your next animal from a shelter.
 - Support legislation.



Report Animal Cruelty



What to report:

- Detailed account of incident/situation.
- Detailed description of animal.
- Detailed description of suspect, including (if known):
 - Name
 - License plate number
 - Address
 - Physical Description
 - Phone number
- Exact street address of where the animal/suspect may be found.
- Your name and phone number, which OHS will keep confidential. You may also remain anonymous.

Report Animal Cruelty



- A report can be made to any law enforcement or animal control agency.
- In Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, a report may be made to Oregon Humane Society by calling:

(503)285-SPCA ext 214

or by visiting:

www.oregonhumane.org

OHS Medical Team



- The OHS Medical Team provides medical and surgical care for all OHS animals. This includes spay/neuter, dental cleanings, soft tissue and orthopedic surgeries, and treatment of illnesses.
 - 4 Veterinarians
 - 3 Certified Veterinary Technicians
 - 5 Veterinary Assistants
 - 1 Medical Coordinator
 - 2 Foster Care Coordinators
- Our Veterinarians and Vet Techs combined have over 90 years experience working in the veterinary field



Animal Medical & Learning Center



- The nation's first Animal Medical & Learning Center is a one-of-a-kind partnership with Oregon State University (OSU) that provides state-of-the-art medical care for our shelter animals while educating a new generation of veterinary students.



Student Experience



- The medical center receives a steady flow of students from the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- All students are required to complete a two-week rotation at the AMLC
- OSU has a full-time faculty member, Dr. Kirk Miller, to oversee students.
- Students complete 40 spay/neuter surgeries on average and treat about 50 animals during the two-week rotation

Animal Medical & Learning Center



- The 4,000 square ft. medical center includes exam and surgery rooms, digital imaging equipment, a laboratory and a pharmacy.
- It directly adjoins our shelter so medical care for animals is just a short walk away!



Facts and Figures



- Spay and neuter surgeries since opening: 9,854
- Essential and emergency surgeries : 1,134
- Medical consults for in-shelter pets: 1,400
- Animals fostered: 1,221
- Number of foster care hours contributed: 121,352
- Number of Investigations cases seen by the OHS Medical Team: +300

Investigations Support



- Staff Veterinarians at OHS support Investigations by:
 - Examining animals in the field
 - Exam & care of neglected and abused animals
 - Evidence collection
 - Reports for law enforcement agencies and courts
 - Expert testimony
 - Collaborating with law enforcement agencies on animal and human crimes

