



Signs of Animal Abuse

1. **Poor body condition and noticeable trauma:** The animal has severe matting and a filthy coat, open sores or obvious wounds. It appears to be flea or tick infested. It's underweight with bones clearly visible. It might be limping or unable to walk at all, or have congested eyes or ears. It is in obvious physical distress and in need of veterinary care.
2. **Lack of food or water:** Every time you see this animal, you notice that it has no obvious sources of food and/or water. It may be aggressive due to starvation and thirst, and perhaps very lethargic.
3. **Lack of shelter:** The animal is contained in an area fully exposed to inclement weather or constant sun.
4. **Lack of sanitation:** Feces and/or debris cover the animal's living area.
5. **Abandoned:** The animal is left in a house or yard that appears empty. If you notice a neighbor has moved or has stopped visiting a residence where you know animals live, be extra vigilant. Some animals whine to express their anxiety when they're left alone, but a dog that is howling or barking for several hours is sending a clear signal that it is in need of immediate, life-saving care.
6. **The animal is tied or caged:** It has little room to move, and/or is unable to stand or turn.
7. **There are chains or padlocks around or embedded into the animal's neck:** This includes regular collars, too. A chained animal is an abused animal.
8. **The animal shows evidence of being trained for or having been used to fight:** This is especially common with Pit Bull Terriers and even roosters. You may see training implements,

treadmills, spring poles, etc. More likely, you'll notice obvious signs of trauma, such as scars, open wounds, infections or even missing body parts, such as ears or partial tails.

9. **The animal's behavior is far from normal:** It may be very aggressive or severely shy (e.g., cowering, hiding, fear-biting), even with or *especially* with its owner.
10. **There are too many animals living on one property:** This can be a sign of animal hoarding.

11. **An owner being overtly violent against the animal, striking or otherwise physically abusing it.**