



## Report Abuse – Signs of Animal Abuse

[Ohio Revised Code Section 959.13 | Cruelty to animals](#)

1. **Poor body condition / noticeable trauma.** This may include severe matting and a filthy coat, open sores or obvious wounds, flea or tick infestation, is underweight with bones clearly visible. Other signs are limping or inability to walk, or congested eyes or ears. Obvious physical distress and in need of veterinary care.
2. **Lack of food or water.** No obvious sources of food and/or water on numerous visits. Signs of aggression or lethargy may be due to starvation and thirst.
3. **Lack of shelter.** The animal is contained in an area fully exposed to inclement weather or constant sun without providing relief. Ohio law defines shelter as a man-made enclosure, windbreak, sunshade, or natural windbreak or sunshade that is developed from the earth's contour, tree development, or vegetation.
4. **Lack of sanitation.** Feces and/or debris cover the animal's living area.
5. **Abandoned.** An 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 observant. Some animals whine to express anxiety when left alone, but howling, barking, or calling out for several hours is sending a signal that should be investigated if possible.
6. **Tied or caged.** An animal has little room to move, and/or is unable to stand or turn.
7. **Chained or padlocked.** This may translate to a chain or and/or padlock around or embedded into an animal's neck and includes regular collars as well.
8. **Fight training.** Evidence of this can include training implements, syringes, gaffs and steroids. Also evidence is signs of trauma, such as scars, open wounds, infections or even missing body parts. In roosters feathers are shaved, spurs are removed and dried blood may be present. Visit the [HSUS Facts About Cockfighting](#) for more.
9. **Abnormal animal behavior.** An animal may be very aggressive or severely shy (e.g., cowering, hiding, fear-biting), even with or *especially* with its owner.
10. **Overpopulation.** This can be a sign of animal hoarding when the property both inside or out contains multiple animals in a small space with filthy living conditions.