

How to Investigate Animal Abuse Cases

1. Make sure that you obtain information from the person reporting the abuse: If possible,
 - Obtain the name, address and telephone number of the reporter
 - Obtain names, phone numbers and addresses of any other potential witnesses
 - Ask what the reporter observed about the animal
 - Ask what the reporter observed about the abuser and his environment, including:
 1. date and time of abuse
 2. type of abuse
 3. any weapons used
 4. the name and addresses of any children or other persons who were forced to observe the animal abuse
2. Call the police department in your jurisdiction and ask for a police officer to be dispatched to investigate the animal abuse charge. If it is an emergency and the animal and/or people are in immediate danger call 911. If you are in Denver you can call 311 for an animal control officer to be dispatched to investigate.
3. Call the District Attorney's Office.
4. If it is safe for you to do so, make sure that the animal is kept in a safe place until the detective and/or animal control person arrives to take the animal to a shelter. If the animal is in need of immediate veterinarian care, take it to a veterinarian and ask the veterinarian to observe and document carefully [for investigators] any treatment that was needed resulting from the animal abuse.