

Veterinary response to suspected animal abuse and neglect

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March 6, 2021



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ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



**Agriculture
and Land**

Outline

- Violence Link
- Effective veterinary response to animal abuse and neglect
 - Recognize warning signs
 - Document
 - Report
- How to be prepared in veterinary practice

THE LINK: animal abuse & violence towards people

- Intimate partner violence, abuse of children, elders, animals.
- A way of maintaining power & control:
 - A warning. “Next time it could be you.”
 - Leverage. Fear for the pet keeps the family member from disclosing abuse.
- Children abusing animals—may be acting out of their own experience

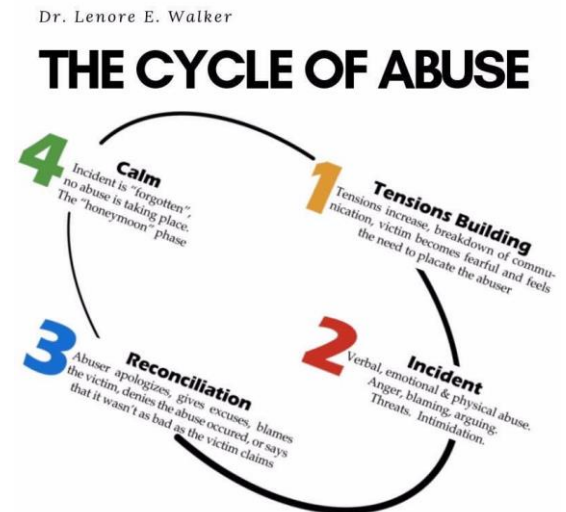
Implications

- Women delay leaving abusive situations because of fears for animal's safety (pets or farm).
- Many women's shelters have arrangements with local animal shelters or veterinary hospitals to provide temporary housing.
 - Eg [SAFE PET programme Ontario](#)

[McIntosh Sue C. 2004. The Links Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence, as Reported by Women Entering Shelters in Calgary Communities.](#)

How vets may become involved

- Suspect abuse in patient
- Part of response team
- Assist humane associations/law enforcement with investigations
- Factual or expert witness
- Provide foster care for pets of women escaping abuse



EFFECTIVE VETERINARY RESPONSE

Recognize abuse and neglect

- Physical abuse
 - non-accidental injury – NAI
 - Inappropriate training methods
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
 - Inappropriate training
 - Withholding social interaction
- Neglect
 - Lack of food, water, shelter, veterinary care
- Fighting animals or training them to fight

Warning signs – combination of factors

- **History**

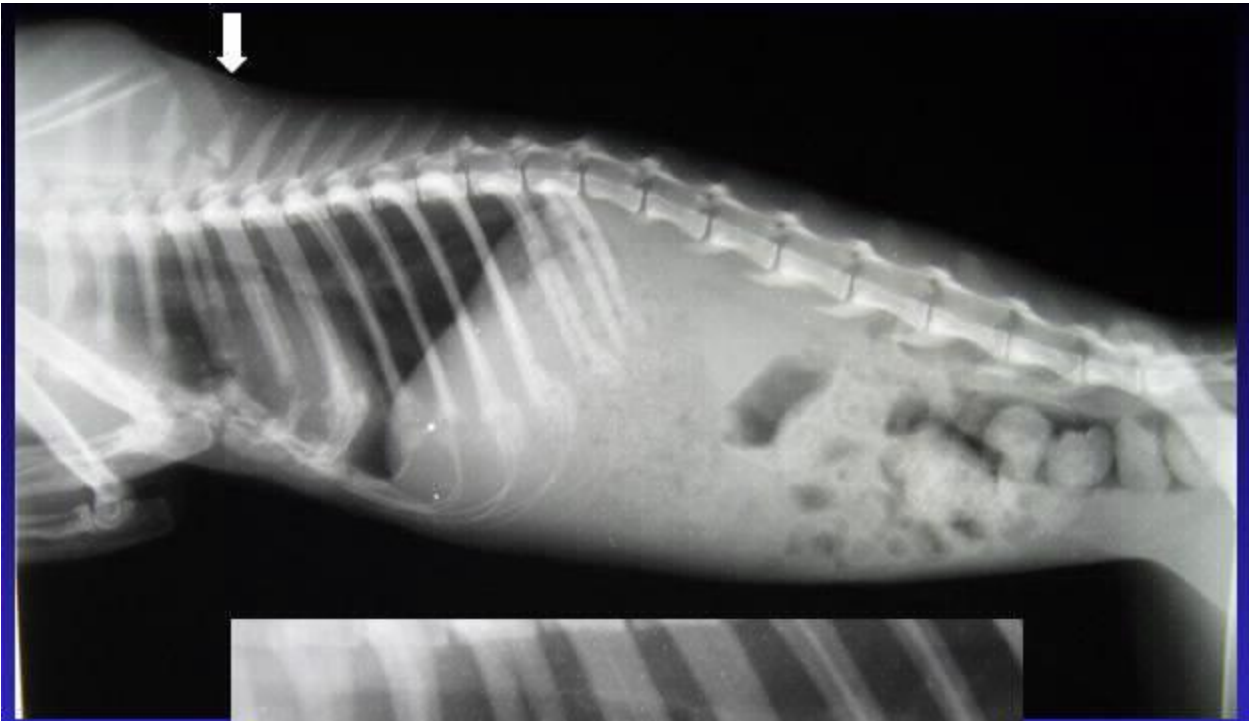
- Vague or implausible, discrepant
- Account of the incident doesn't fit the injury
- Owner evasive about how the injuries occurred
- Delay in seeking treatment
- Ask lots of questions – eg. Who has access?
- Previous injuries? Previous animals?
- Comments by other family members

- **Behaviour**

- Animal may be fearful, poorly socialized

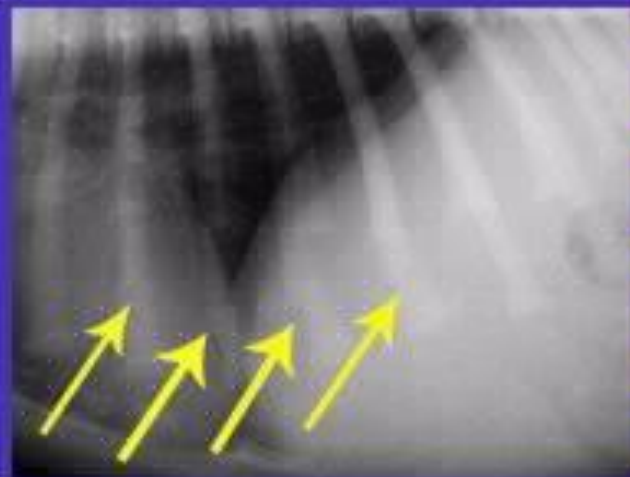
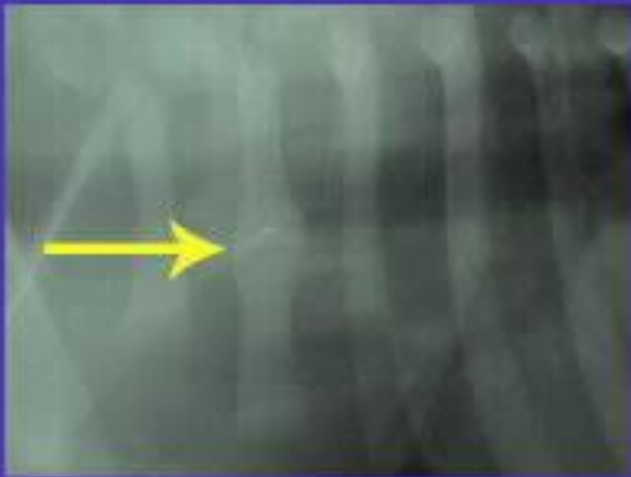
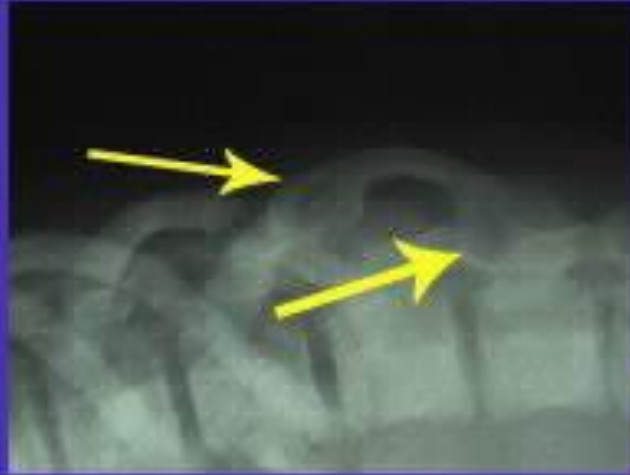
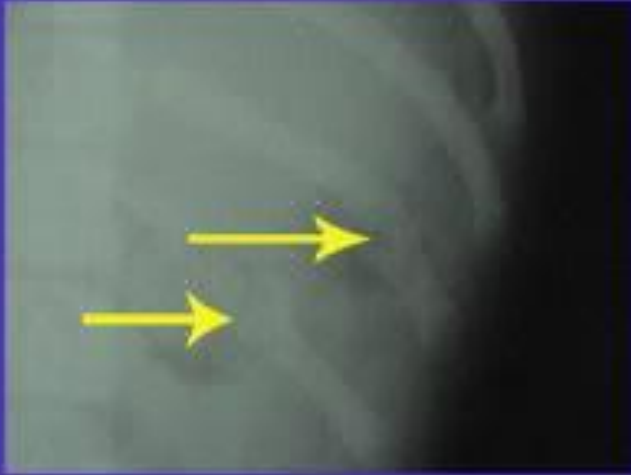
Warning signs—suspicious injuries

- Unexplained traumatic injuries
- Old fractures; different stages of healing (cardinal sign of abuse)
- Bruising (if shaved, or at necropsy)
- Ocular injuries (haemorrhage)
- Burns and scalds
- Stupor from alcohol or drug ingestion
- Old healed or untreated wounds
- Dogs for fighting – may be declawed or debarked
- Vaginal or anorectal injuries (sexual abuse)



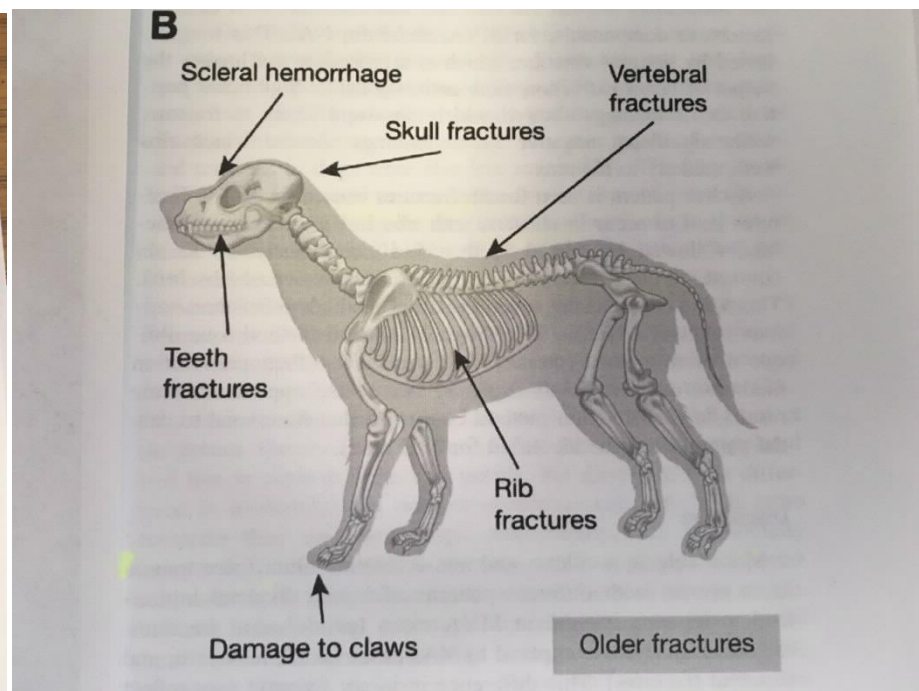
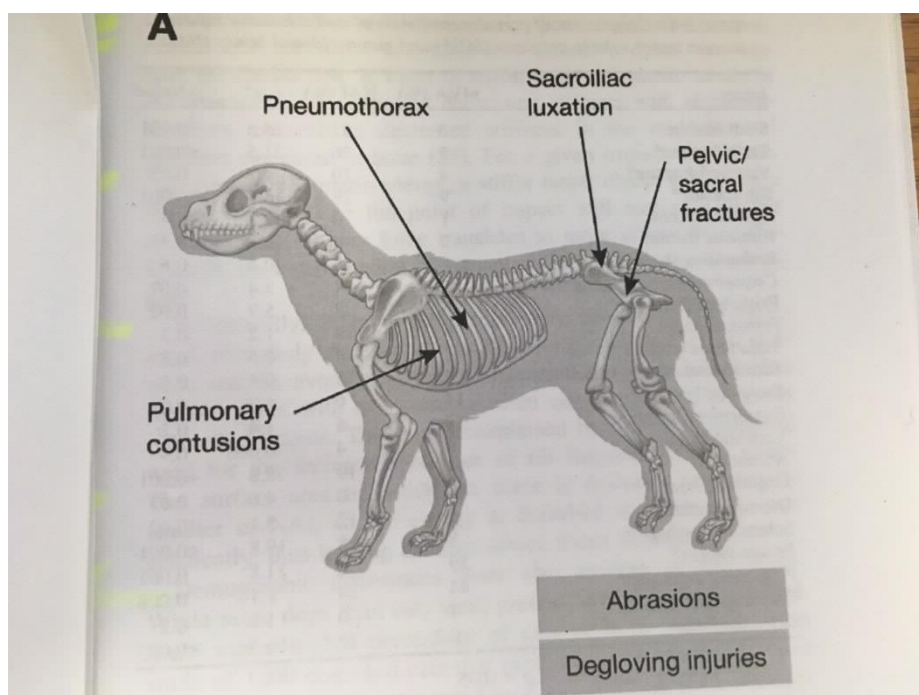
©2005, M. Merck

3 month-old, female Pit Bull - multiple rib fx's



©2003, R. Reisman

Sites of significant skeletal and soft-tissue injuries in 426 MVA cases and 50 NAI cases



MVA

NAI

Intarapanich NP et al. 2016. Characterization and comparison of injuries caused by accidental and non-accidental blunt force trauma in dogs and cats.

[J. Forensic Science 61\(4\):993-999](#)

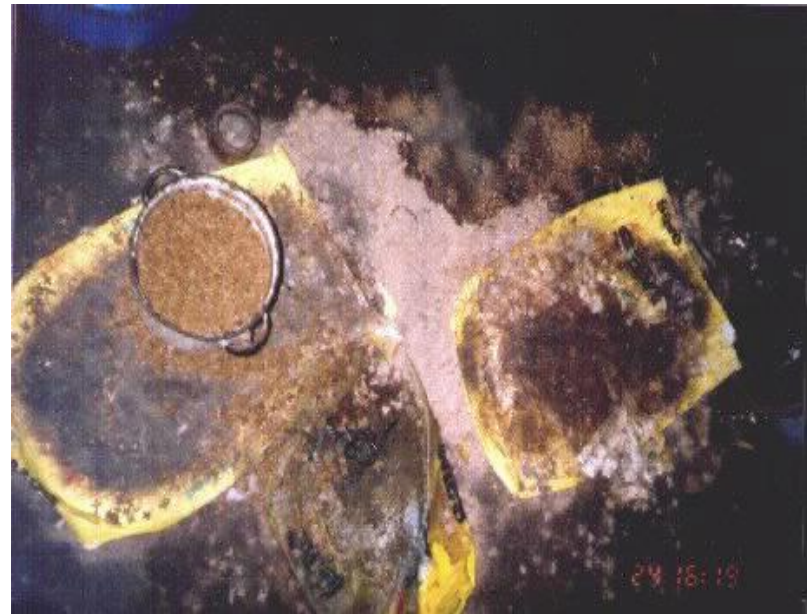
Neglect

- Majority of cases
- Malnourishment
- Embedded collar
- Severe matting, overgrown nails, hooves; maggots
- Heavy parasite infestations
- Failure to provide vet care



Animal hoarding

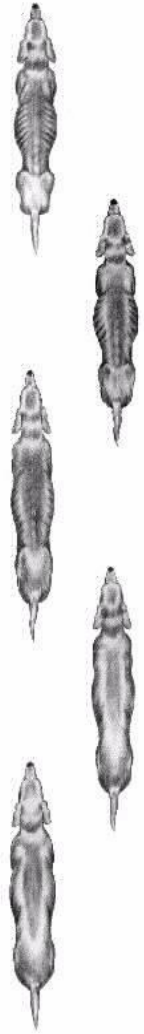
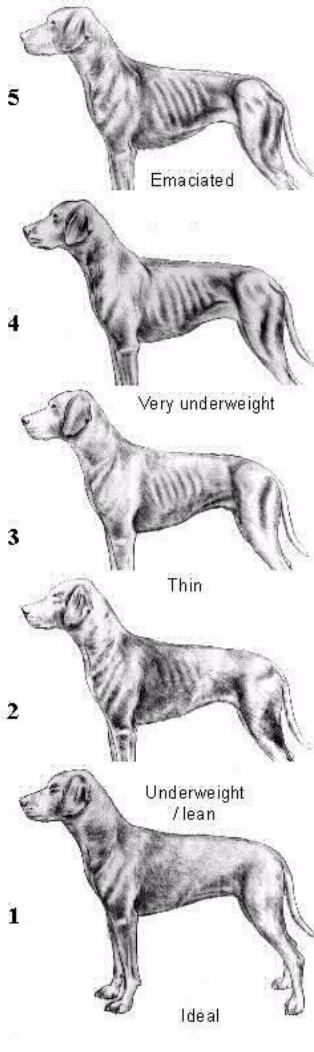
- Accumulates large number of animals that overwhelms ability to provide minimal standard of care
- Fails to acknowledge deteriorating conditions of animal & env't
- Does not recognize negative effects on health & well-being of the hoarder & others in the household
- HoA Research Consortium
 - Practical info—interventions
 - Research and publications



Tufts Animal Care and Condition* (TACC) scales for assessing body condition, weather and environmental safety, and physical care in dogs

*Patronek, GJ. In: Recognizing and reporting animal abuse - a veterinarian's guide. Denver, CO: American Humane Association, 1997.

I. Body condition scale (Palpation essential for long-haired dogs; each dog's condition should be interpreted in light of the typical appearance of the breed)



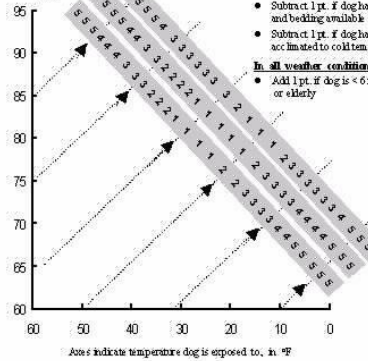
- All bony prominences evident from a distance
 - No discernible body fat
 - Obvious loss of muscle mass
 - Severe abdominal tuck and extreme hourglass shape
-
- Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, and pelvic bones easily visible
 - No palpable body fat
 - Some loss of muscle mass
 - Prominent abdominal tuck and hourglass shape to torso
-
- Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible, pelvic bones becoming prominent
 - Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat
 - Obvious waist and abdominal tuck
 - Minimal loss of muscle mass
-
- Ribs easily palpable with minimal SQ fat
 - Abdominal tuck evident
 - Waist clearly visible from above
 - No muscle loss
 - May be normal for lean breeds such as sighthounds
-
- Ribs palpable without excess SQ fat
 - Abdomen tucked slightly when viewed from the side
 - Waist visible from above, just behind ribs

Body condition scale adapted from Laflamme, DP. Proc. N.A. Vet Conf 1993, 290-91; and Armstrong, P.J., Lund, EM. Vet Clin Nutr 3:83-87, 1996. Artwork by Erik Petersen.

II. Weather safety scale

Read score off diagonal bars, by dog size:

V. Large / Giant
Medium / Large
Small



Arrows indicate temperature dog is exposed to, in °F
To determine the score, draw a line up from the current temperature and parallel to the dotted line, and read score on bars. Common sense must be used to take into account the duration of exposure to any given temperature when assessing risk; even brief periods of high heat can be very dangerous, whereas a similar duration of exposure to cold temperatures would not be life-threatening.

- In warm or hot weather:**
- Subtract 1 pt. if water is available
 - Subtract 1 pt. if dog is in a shaded or protected from full sun
 - Add 1 pt. if dog is brachycephalic
 - Add 1 pt. if dog is obese
- In cool or cold weather:**
- Add 1 pt. if dry dog
 - Add 2 pts. if dog out in rain/sleet
 - Subtract 1 pt. if dog is a northern or heavy-coated breed
 - Subtract 1 pt. if dog has good shelter and bedding available
 - Subtract 1 pt. if dog has been acclimated to cold temperatures
- In all weather conditions:**
- Add 1 pt. if dog is < 6 months of age or elderly

III. Environmental health scale

- 5 **Filthy** - many days to weeks of accumulation of feces and / or urine. Overwhelming odor, air may be difficult to breathe. Large amount of trash, garbage, or debris present; inhibits comfortable rest, normal posture, or movement and / or poses a danger to the animal. Very difficult or impossible for animal to escape contact with feces, urine, mud, or standing water. Food and / or drinking water contaminated.
- 4 **Very unsanitary** - many days of accumulation of feces and / or urine. Difficult for animal to avoid contact with waste matter. Moderate amount of trash, garbage, or clutter present that may inhibit comfortable rest and / or movement of the animal. Potential injury from sharp edges or glass. Significant odor makes breathing unpleasant. Standing water or mud difficult to avoid.
- 3 **Unsanitary** - several days accumulation of feces and urine in animal's environment. Animal is able to avoid contact with waste matter. Moderate odor present. Trash, garbage, and other debris cluttering animal's environment but does not prohibit comfortable rest or normal posture. Clutter may interfere with normal movement or allow dog to become entangled, but no sharp edges or broken glass that could injure dog. Dog able to avoid mud or water if present.
- 2 **Marginal** - As in #1, except may be somewhat less sanitary. No more than 1-2 day's accumulation of feces and urine in animal's environment. Slight clutter may be present.
- 1 **Acceptable** - Environment is dry and free of accumulated feces. No contamination of food or water. No debris or garbage present to clutter environment and inhibit comfortable rest, normal posture and range of movement or pose a danger to or entangle the animal.

"Environment" refers to the kennel, pen, yard, cage, barn, room, tie-out or other enclosure or area where the animal is confined or spends the majority of its time. All of the listed conditions do not need to be present in order to include a dog in a specific category. The user should determine which category best describes a particular dog's condition.

Interpretation of the TACC Score from scales I - IV:

The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC) score is assessed from the number of points read off either the **Body Condition**, **Weather Safety**, **Environmental Health** or **Physical Care** Scales. When multiple scales are evaluated, the highest score on any scale should be used to determine the risk of neglect. Multiple high scores are indicative of greater neglect, risk, or inhumane treatment than a single high score.

Score	Body condition, physical care, environ. health scales	Weather safety scale
≥ 5	Severe neglect and inhumane treatment. An urgent situation that justifies an assertive response to protect the animal.	Potentially life-threatening risk to animal. Immediate intervention to decrease threat to the animal required (provide water, shelter).
4	Clear evidence of serious neglect and / or inhumane treatment (unless there is a medical explanation for the animal's condition). Prompt improvement required.	Dangerous situation developing. Prompt intervention required to decrease risk (e.g. provide water, shade, shelter, or bring indoors). Warn owner of risk and shelter requirements.
3	Indicators of neglect present. Timely assessment, correction of problems and/or monitoring of situation may be required.	Indicators of a potentially unsafe situation, depending on breed, time outdoors. Inform owner of risk and proper shelter requirements.
2	A lapse in care or discomfort may be present. Evaluate, and discuss concerns with owner. Recommend changes in animal husbandry practices, if needed.	Risk unlikely, but evaluate the situation, and if warranted, discuss your concerns and requirements for proper shelter with the owner.
≥ 1	No evidence of neglect based on scale(s) used	No evidence of risk

Disclaimer: The TACC score is intended to be a simple screening device for determining when neglect may be present, or prioritizing the investigation of reported animal care by owner, and as a system for investigative agencies to use to summarize the case experience. The TACC score is not intended to replace definitive assessment of any animal by a veterinarian or law enforcement agent. A low TACC score does not preclude a diagnosis of abuse, neglect, or a dog requiring veterinary care upon a careful examination of the animal and its living situation.

IV. Physical care scale

- 5 **Terrible** - extremely matted haircoat, prevents normal motion, interferes with vision, perineal areas irritated from soiling with trapped urine and feces. Hair coat essentially a single mat. Dog cannot be groomed without complete clipdown. Foreign material trapped in matted hair. Nails extremely overgrown into circles, may be penetrating pads, causing abnormal position of feet and make normal walking very difficult or uncomfortable. Collar or chain, if present, may be imbedded in dog's neck.
- 4 **Poor** - substantial matting in haircoat, large chunks of hair matted together that cannot be separated with a comb or brush. Occasional foreign material embedded in mats. Much of the hair will need to be clipped to remove mats. Long nails force feet into abnormal position and interfere with normal gait. Perineal soiling or irritation likely. Collar or chain, if present, may be extremely tight, abrades skin.
- 3 **Borderline** - numerous mats present in hair, but dog can still be groomed without a total clip down. No significant perineal soiling or irritation from waste caught in matted hair. Nails are overdue for a trim and long enough to cause dog to alter gait when it walks. Collar or chain, if present, may be snug and abbing off neck hair.
- 2 **Lapped** - haircoat may be somewhat dirty or have a few mats present that are easily removed. Remainder of coat can easily be brushed and combed. Nails in need of a trim. Collar or chain, if present, fits comfortably.
- 1 **Adoptable** - dog clean, hair of normal length for the breed, and hair can easily be brushed or combed. Nails do not touch the floor, or barely contact the floor. Collar or chain, if present, fits comfortably.

All of the listed conditions do not need to be present in order to include a dog in a specific category. The user should determine which category best describes a particular dog's condition. This scale is not meant for assessment of medical conditions, e.g., a broken limb, that clearly indicate a need for veterinary attention.

Animal hoarding – warning signs for vets

- Rarely see animals for repeat visits
- Rarely see diseases of old age
- Problems of poor preventive health
- May travel long distances, visit multiple vets
- Animals may be bathed or perfumed
- Always willing (eager) to take in more animals
- +/- Sanctuaries/rescues

Collecting & documenting evidence

- Ask lots of questions
- Perform thorough physical exam
- Can't hold/treat animal without owner's permission or until authorized by investigating agency
 - If permission for x-ray, can take whole body rads
- Document! Document! Document!!
 - written record of injuries; photographs/video (MS or neuro deficits), relevant conversations
- Work with investigating agency
- May be called to testify

EFFECTIVE VETERINARY RESPONSE

Report abuse and neglect

- Vets typically have not reported abuse
 - Often not straightforward
 - Fear for animal's safety, personal safety
 - Uncertainty
 - Breach of confidentiality?
 - What if I'm wrong?
 - Process?
 - Time demands



"But They Said They Were Sorry": Veterinarians' reasons for not reporting animal abuse*

Carol Morgan DVM

Introduction:

- Veterinarians have the opportunity to intervene in cases of animal abuse yet many fail to report abuse.

Objectives:

- To explore how veterinarians make decisions regarding animal welfare. The project did not examine abuse specifically however participants expressed concerns regarding their experiences with animal abuse.

Method:

- Open-ended interviews with 41 veterinarians practicing in Western Canada
- Interviews were audio taped, transcribed and analysed with QRS N6

Results:

- 20 participants cited cases of animal abuse but only 2 contacted authorities
- Of the 2 reporting veterinarians, both cited instances where they failed to report abuse (e.g. recurrent multiple fractures to a dog purportedly caused by children)
- Reasons cited for failing to report included
 - Difficulty in recognizing or defining abuse
 - Lack of confidence in responsible authorities
 - Personal concerns - personal safety, litigation or complaints to professional body, unwilling to commit time
- Veterinarians viewed favorably clients exhibiting concern for the animal or remorse for the abuse
- Some veterinarians viewed reporting abuse as punitive to the client rather than a means of protecting the animal

Conclusion:

- Veterinarians are less likely to report instances of animal abuse if their clients express concern or remorse

Implications:

- Veterinarians may lack the necessary skills to assess and evaluate the motivations and abilities of their clients relating to animal care in abuse situations
- Strategies to improve reporting of animal abuse should take into account the perceptions of veterinarians about client remorse

Unreported Abuse/ Neglect Case:
"this client had a horrible history of neglect and downright abuse of their animals...they brought me this dog that so-called had it's paw stuck underneath the door. It had an open fracture that was about 5-7 days old, a horrible fracture...this may sound silly, but she sounded contrite and sincerely apologetic"

Unreported Abuse Case:
"the dog came in with busted ribs and the dog is scared shitless of the owner, I am sure he kicked him. So are you going to report him to the SPCA?...the guy trusted [me], he felt guilty so that's why he brought the dog in. Or his wife was concerned because the dog was in pain and the puppy didn't deserve that, or whatever. The point is they brought it in for care, 80% of the people wouldn't even bring him in for care, only the 20% that care bring him in, even though they have inflicted the pain."

Unreported Abuse Case:
"he woke up and the 7 week old kitten was clawing at him and he picked the kitten up and threw it against the wall and broke its leg...he was under severe stress himself...I ended up having to euthanize the kitten because he had absolutely no money...I didn't feel that reporting him to the SPCA was in anybody's best interest. I almost felt like this guy was suicidal...he brought the kitten to us to try and get it looked after and he was really upset"

Unreported Severe Neglect Case:
"one lady was extremely eccentric...brought this little guinea pig in and the hind legs were...open stumps with shavings packed in...I tried to explain that the guinea pig needed to be put down. [She said] 'Oh no, I'm just going to take him home'...it's really hard...most of the time the client genuinely cares for the animal, they are just misguided. If you call the authorities on them and have them rip the animal out of their care, then you feel terrible because that person thinks you're the meanest person on earth"



Addressing suspected abuse—report?

- Report suspicions
 - Humane organization will inspect
 - + / - charges; provides opportunity for education about proper & legally required animal care
- Some (neglect) cases may be handled through education—**follow-up essential**
- Mandated reporting
- Child protection/DV fields—intervention is critical to break cycle of violence

Educate or report? Consider:

- Number, duration, severity of animal's problems
- History – makes sense in light of injuries?
- Animal's previous medical records
- Records on any other animals for this client?
- If there is evidence of abuse – REPORT
- If conditions do not improve (borderline)–
REPORT
- If there are children involved, report to child & family services.

Duty to report

- Veterinary Oath
 - **Promote** animal health and **welfare**
 - **Prevent and relieve animal suffering**

- PEI Vet Professionals Act
 - Bylaws



- Animal Welfare Act ('17)
 - Veterinarians' obligation to report
 - 8. (1) A veterinarian shall, without delay, report to the Director any event that the veterinarian believes on reasonable grounds is a contravention of sections 3 to 6.
 - 13. ...even if requires disclosure of confidential info...
 - Protection from liability
 - 44. No action or proceeding may be brought against the following persons for anything done or omitted to be done, in good faith,... by..(d) veterinarian.

When will I know all is not right?

Neglect signs

National Farmed Animal Care Council

Codes of Practice

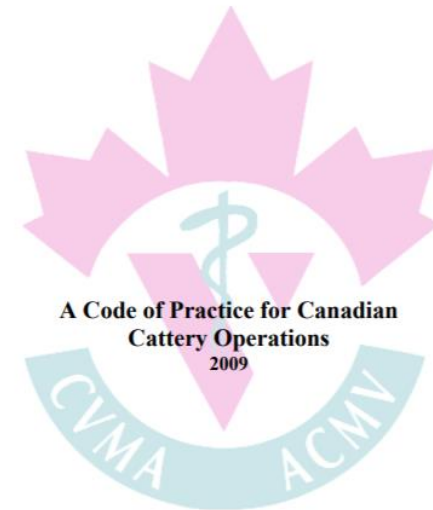


A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations

Third edition | 2018



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES



**A Code of Practice for Canadian
Cattery Operations
2009**

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

First Edition: 2009

Husbandry: Hoof Trimming

Helpful
background info

REQUIREMENTS



Recommended
Practices

5.5

Hoof Trimming

Hoof care is an important aspect of animal management. Hoof health can affect an animal's performance, disease resistance and welfare. Hooves should be regularly checked for disease and excess growth (46).

Hoof trimming is done:

- to prevent lameness
- to create a flat sole surface, removing trapped mud and feces and reducing the possibility of infection
- to promote proper hoof growth in young animals.

Hoof growth is influenced by both animal factors (e.g. breed, structure and shape of hoof, colour of the hoof) and environmental factors (e.g. soil moisture and characteristics [terrain], diet, housing). The need for and frequency of, hoof trimming will vary depending on the specific conditions.

REQUIREMENTS

Hooves must be inspected regularly and trimmed as required to maintain hoof health and sheep well-being.

Hoof trimming must be performed by, or under the supervision of competent personnel, using accepted techniques.

Personnel trimming hooves must have the ability to identify signs of footrot and other diseases.

Trimming equipment must be clean and well-maintained. Equipment must be disinfected between flocks and between sheep within a flock where warranted because of the presence of disease.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

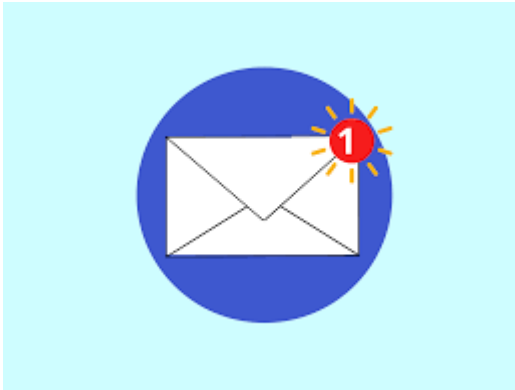
- avoid hoof trimming immediately before shearing to reduce the chance of injury to sheep and shearers
- avoid hoof trimming during periods of stress (e.g. late gestation, hot weather)
- trim hooves when they are soft (e.g. due to heavy dew or rain).

Educate vs Report

- Severity of issues
- Length of issues
- No client/old client, nature of relationship
- Difficult conversations
 - \$ and mental health
- Discussion with colleagues
- Add as routine part of “health visit”

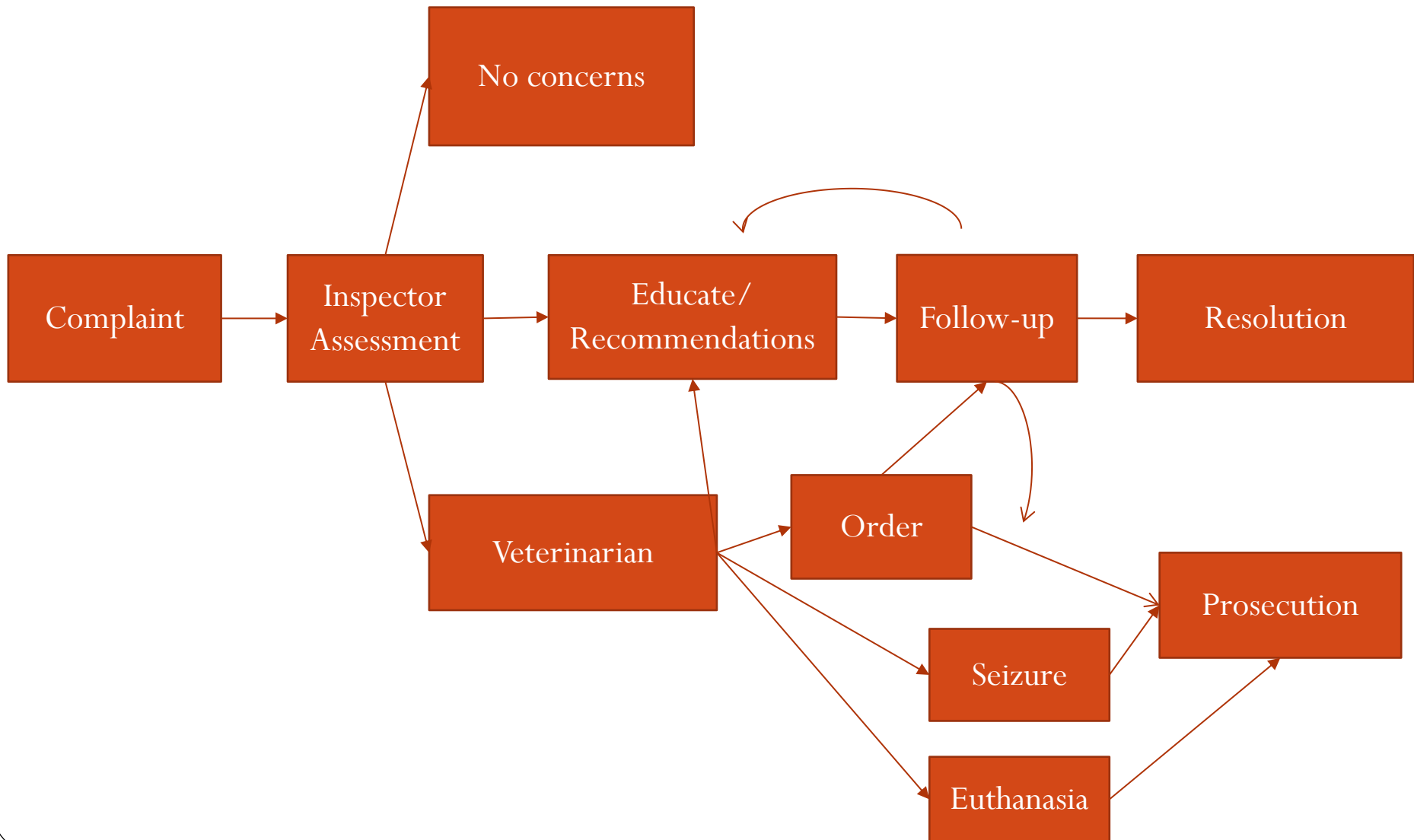


In PEI how do I report



CONFIDENTIAL

What happens next.....



If only I knew

- Difficult conversations
- Conflict resolution
- Importance of documentation, documentation, documentation
- Mental health awareness and first aid



• CVMA Animal Abuse

- The Link – Animal Abuse, Child Abuse & Domestic Violence
- Recognizing Animal Abuse
- Reporting Animal Abuse
- Collecting and Documenting Evidence
- Veterinarians as Expert Witnesses
- Building a Safe and Humane Community
- **Veterinary Forensics:**
www.veterinaryforensics.com
- **Hoarding** <https://vet.tufts.edu/hoarding/>

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Past Chair, Animal Welfare Committee, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Animal abuse is an important social issue affecting animals, families and communities. Both to protect an animal victim and because the abuse may be a sentinel for other violence that is occurring within or outside the family, it is crucial that veterinarians deal effectively with instances of suspected animal maltreatment.

BEFOREHAND

1. Know the laws on animal protection, both national and local.
2. Find out your veterinary association's regulations concerning confidentiality and the reporting of abuse. Is reporting of abuse mandatory? Is immunity provided for good faith reporting?
3. Know to whom abuse should be reported – generally the local humane authority (SPCA, animal control, humane society).
4. Discuss the issue in your practice. Educate staff about warning signs of animal abuse.
5. Establish a written clinic policy regarding reporting of abuse. Include important phone numbers – animal protection, police, social services for concerns about child abuse.
6. Develop a follow-up strategy for cases that are not reported (e.g. neglect cases that may be remedied by client education, or cases of illness or injury that are vaguely suspicious). Designate a staff member to determine if veterinary recommendations are followed – for rechecks, improved husbandry, etc.
7. Discuss in your practice signs that may indicate abuse or neglect in children or adults.
8. Find out if the women's shelter in your community asks abused women about pets in the home, and what arrangements the shelter is able to make for those animals if they are in danger. Consider providing temporary housing for such animals.

Addressing suspected abuse

Some cases, particularly of neglect, may be handled through client education. Cases of evident abuse or ongoing neglect should be reported to the appropriate authority. Studies in the child protection field have shown that intervention is critical to breaking the cycle of violence for animals or people subject to abuse.

If you suspect abuse:

1. Gather as much information as possible in a non-confrontational manner. Ask how did this happen. When? Who was involved?
2. Perform a thorough physical exam. Meticulously record your findings. Begin collecting evidence, including photographs, as soon as you suspect abuse.
3. Remember that you may not hold or treat an animal without owner permission, or until an investigation is underway and you are authorized by the investigating agency. But if you have owner permission to take an x-ray, for e.g., you can expand to take whole body radiographs to help you rule out abuse.
4. In deciding **whether to educate or report**, consider:
 - the number of problems, their duration and severity
 - the history – does it make sense in light of the injuries?
 - previous medical records for this patient, or for any other animals of this client
 - the client's attitude – concerned, or indifferent
 - attitudes of, or comments by, other family members

RECOGNIZING ABUSE

Animal abuse includes physical (non-accidental injury), sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, and staged animal fights. The majority of abuse arises from neglect. **Suspicious are generally raised by a combination of factors.** No single feature is diagnostic of abuse.

Some warning signs of abuse and neglect

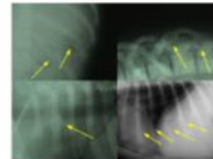
1. History

- vague or doesn't fit with the injuries
- client appears unconcerned
- children/other adult may give conflicting information about how the injuries occurred, or the story may change over time (discrepant history)
- history of previous pets with suspicious injuries, or that died or disappeared at a young age (< 2 years)

2. Suspicious injuries

- unexplained traumatic injury/ies
- multiple fractures, especially in different stages of healing
- bruising (may only be detected by shaving or, on necropsy, under the skin)
- repeated injuries – old healed or untreated wounds, may be in various stages of healing (typical in breeds used for dog fighting)
- eye injuries, especially subconjunctival or scleral haemorrhage
- stupor or bizarre behaviour due to ingestion of drugs or poison
- internal injuries
- vaginal or anorectal injuries (sexual abuse)
- burns, scalds

Multiple fractures in different stages of healing are a cardinal sign of abuse. These x-rays are from a 3-month old female pit bull. The 2 top and left bottom photos show old healed fractures (evident callus) while the bottom right photo shows recent fractures. used with permission, R. Reisman, ASPCA



3. Neglect

- extreme malnourishment
- embedded collar
- severe matting, overgrown nails or hooves
- heavy ectoparasite infestations
- untreated illness or dental disease
- overall filth; maggots

These latter signs may also be seen in cases of **animal hoarding**. Hoarders, or collectors, typically accumulate many more animals than they can provide adequate care for, and fail to recognize the deteriorating environmental conditions and the impact on the health of the animals and other household members. These owners typically bring in a constantly changing parade of pets, whom they may perfume or bath to conceal odour, and they are always willing to take in more animals.

See also: www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/

REPORTING AND DOCUMENTING ABUSE

The goal is to initiate an investigation to determine the facts of the situation. Reporting *in good faith* means that a reasonable suspicion of abuse exists according to your professional judgment, based on the historical findings and physical examination of the patient. A report that does not lead to charges may still have a positive impact on the situation.

Reporting abuse

1. Contact the appropriate humane authority in your jurisdiction to report your concerns.
2. If the animal and/or people involved are at immediate risk, call the police.
3. If there are children involved, report your concerns to Social Services.

Collecting and documenting evidence

1. Work with the investigating agency to develop and document the case.
2. Preserve and document the evidence.
 - perform a detailed physical exam, or necropsy
 - record detailed history, including any additional information that may have been told to other staff
 - perform CBC, chemistry panel, U/A, etc.
 - take whole body radiographs to look for fractures in various stages of healing
3. Maintain the chain of custody of the evidence. Notify anyone else involved (e.g. laboratory) that this is a forensic investigation.
4. Take lots of good quality photographs and/or video and label appropriately. (Videos are good for musculoskeletal injuries or neurological deficits.)
5. Maintain thorough, legible medical records as legal documents throughout the treatment period.
6. Store all records securely (medical records, lab reports, x-rays, etc.). It can take 1-2 years before a case comes to trial. See also www.veterinaryforensics.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CVMA-ACMV website:

[ANIMAL ABUSE](#)
[CRUAUTÉ ENVERS LES ANIMAUX](#)

- The Link – animal abuse, child abuse and domestic violence
- Recognizing abuse
- Reporting abuse
- Collecting and documenting evidence
- Veterinarians as expert witnesses
- Building a safe and humane community

EFFECTIVE VET RESPONSE—Be prepared

- Discuss warning signs of neglect & abuse. Include NAI in diff dx. list
- In your jurisdiction, find out:
 - client confidentiality- veterinary act/by-laws
 - Reporting mandatory? Under vet act or a.w. legislation
 - Phone number(s) for reporting
- Develop & implement follow-up strategies re client education (neglect)
- Work with other agencies—SPCA, investigators, family protection—to protect animals & people