

Reporting Neglect or Abuse

Quick Tips for Reporting Animal Cruelty or Neglect

In McDonough County, contact the McDonough County Animal Control Officer, 837-2989, and/or the McDonough County Sheriff at 309-833-2323

It's important to provide the Animal Control Officer or Law Enforcement Officer with a concise, written, factual statement of what you observed, giving dates and times whenever possible.

If possible:

- 1) Keep a diary of the incidents you observe including dates, times, observations, and anyone else with you during these incidents (for corroboration).
- 2) Photograph or video tape the location, the animals in question and the surrounding area. However, please do not put yourself in danger! Do not enter another person's property without permission, and exercise great caution around unfamiliar animals who may be frightened or in pain.
- 3) If you can, provide law enforcement with the names and contact information of other people who have firsthand information about the abusive situation.

Remember, when you report animal cruelty, it's a good idea to keep a careful record of exactly whom you contacted, the date of the contacts, copies of any documents you provided to law enforcement or animal control, and the content and outcome of your discussion. This will make following up much easier.