

DOGFIGHTING AND COCKFIGHTING

It is illegal in New Mexico* for a person to sponsor, arrange, conduct, or participate in a dogfight or cockfight. It is illegal to be a spectator at a dogfight or to own a participating dog or rooster. It is also illegal to train, equip, or sponsor a dog or rooster for the purpose of fighting.

Be very cautious if you suspect dog or cockfighting. These events are often accompanied by other felony criminal activities. Also, realize that those who take part in dog fighting or cockfighting are not concerned about torturing or killing their animals. Therefore, do not intervene, as they may not be concerned about hurting you. If you fear retaliation of any sort, report your concern through APNM'S Cruelty Helpline. You may remain anonymous.

HOARDING

Hoarding is having many companion animals without the ability to provide them with proper food, water, sanitation, shelter, or veterinary care. As a result of living in these conditions, the animals become ill and often die. Also, they are typically not socialized and often become feral and/or aggressive.

Hoarding is a type of compulsive disorder. Hoarders do not see their situation as an outside observer does. They do not understand that they are not properly caring for the animals and do not recognize that the animals are suffering. Hoarders are convinced they are the best possible caregiver for their animals.

* For detailed information, see the statute NMSA 1978 § 30-18-9 at <https://tinyurl.com/yck2v4sp>

Hoarding causes serious health hazards for both the animals and the humans living with them and should be reported to animal welfare, law enforcement, and Child Protective Services (if children are living in the environment). Adult Protective Services can also assist if contacted.

THE APNM ANIMAL CRUELTY HELPLINE

Since 1979, Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) has been challenging historic and widespread animal cruelty through its ambitious initiatives, such as operating the statewide Animal Cruelty Helpline.

APNM's Cruelty Helpline and Case Management system is unlike anything offered in any other state. Most calls are returned within 24 hours. One APNM staff person is devoted entirely to answering these calls.

Approximately 450 cases are reported to the Helpline each year and, in many instances, APNM can simply refer callers to the correct agency for reporting neglect and abuse. In other instances, particularly those in which a caller wishes to remain anonymous, APNM works directly with the appropriate agency to help bring relief to many of the animal(s) affected. Unfortunately, APNM is not able to help bring relief to animals in every case because local and/or state laws do not prohibit activities that are clearly cruel but not yet illegal.



apnm.org

Animal Protection New Mexico is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our federal EIN is 85-0283292.



**IF YOU
SUSPECT
ANIMAL
CRUELTY...**

A Guide for Recognizing and Reporting Animal Cruelty



RECOGNIZE ANIMAL CRUELTY

By law (but with some exceptions*), animal cruelty is defined as any of the following:

- Failing to provide necessary sustenance
- Mistreating
- Injuring
- Tormenting
- Abandoning
- Mutilating
- Poisoning
- Killing without lawful justification

IF YOU WITNESS ANIMAL CRUELTY

1. **Use caution if you intervene.** Anyone who would deliberately hurt an animal could easily turn on you. The retaliation could also come in the form of hurting your own animals or vandalizing your property.
2. **Report it.** Report any concern for an animal to your local animal welfare department or law enforcement. If you are hesitant to report or do not know the proper agency to contact, call APNM's Cruelty Helpline, where you can report confidentially.

APNM CRUELTY HELPLINE

**877-5-HUMANE
(877-548-6263)**

Remember, you may be the only one to witness a case of animal cruelty.

Please report it.

HOW TO GATHER INFORMATION

When reporting a concern for an animal, it's important to document all the details of what you have seen. Use the form to the right as a guideline. **Document as many details as you can.** When you are recording details, think about recording the who, what, where, and when.

WHO: Name or be able to describe the "owner(s)" of the animal(s), the suspect, as well as anyone else who may have also witnessed anything relating to the incident.

WHAT: Provide details of the abuse or neglect you have witnessed. Describe what you saw happen, describe the animal and the injuries he/she received. If your concern pertains to neglect, describe the animal's living conditions.

WHERE: If possible, provide the address of the animal's location, and where on the property the animal can be found. If you know the perpetrator's address (and it's different than the animal's current location), include it as well.

WHEN: Note the time and date of your observation. If applicable, provide the weather conditions and how long the animal has been living in the conditions you feel are neglectful or cruel.

PHOTOS AND/OR VIDEO: If it is safe to do so, you can document the conditions or abuse with photography or video. But do NOT trespass on the property.

**IF THE ANIMAL IS ABOUT
TO LOSE HIS/HER LIFE
CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY**

Date/Time:

Location of incident(s):

Description of animal(s):

Name of "owner" (if known):

Description of suspect (name, identifying information such as license plate):

Description of incident(s):

Description of animal's living conditions (if known):

Names/contact information of other witnesses:

* For detailed information, see New Mexico's Animal Cruelty Statute NMSA 1978, § 30-18-1 through § 30-18-15 at <https://tinyurl.com/yck2v4sp>