



HOW TO REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY IN GEORGIA

Laws that protect Georgia's companion animals are complaint-based. This means any possible crime against a pet that has been witnessed **MUST BE REPORTED** to Law Enforcement for anything to be done. Georgia's pets are legally considered property, but nonetheless they **DO HAVE PROTECTIONS** under 2 categories:

- State Statute
- County or City Animal Ordinances

1) **CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT**, which, depending on where you live should be either:

- the Animal Control Agency responsible for the area where it is occurring, **or**
- the Police or Sheriff's Department for the area in which the situation is occurring.
- If a horse or horses are the issue, log a complaint on the GA Dept. of Ag website.

Equine Program

Tel: (404) 656-3713

Phone hours: M-F from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

CAECompliance@agr.georgia.gov

2) **PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT** with the following:

1. **WHAT** - description or narrative of what you have witnessed,
2. **WHERE** - address of situation,
3. **WHEN** - dates it has occurred, and
4. pictures or video as evidence if you have either or both.
5. list of local animal ordinance violations or state laws being broken, if you know what they are.

Keep a record of your logged complaints (date, time, who you spoke to)

Follow up!

IMPORTANT

Know the local ordinance for your jurisdiction because we find that you having that knowledge as a "reporter" ensures follow-up and accountability by Law Enforcement. You can make them aware that **YOU** know what is being done is in fact against the law and you are going to hold them accountable. See the GA Muni code website or your local government county or city website. <https://library.municode.com/ga>

Know that even if a specific ordinance rule isn't being broken, Georgia has a state animal cruelty statute that covers egregious inhumane situations, punishable by misdemeanor or felony charges, making the lack of a local ordinance rule no excuse for Law Enforcement not to act. Georgia also has a statute that makes abandoning an animal illegal!

Good luck! And thank you for what you are doing for that animal.