



Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy
Animal Protection Unit – Frequently Asked Questions
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www.waynecounty.com/prosecutor/animalprotection.htm

ANIMAL ABUSE & PROTECTION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I do if I learn of a crime involving animals?

Report it to the police in the city where it happened. If it happened in Detroit, report it in the district where the abuse happened. Depending on the circumstances, you may have the opportunity to remain anonymous.

How do I report a case of animal abuse?

To report an animal abuse case the following steps must be taken:

1. The crime must be reported in the city where the crime occurred. If the crime happened in Detroit, it should be reported in the district where the crime occurred. For general complaints of animal neglect or cruelty you may want to call your local animal control unit or the Michigan Humane Society. After you report a crime, a police investigator will contact you regarding the report and do the following:

- Complete the necessary investigation;
- Determine whether a warrant request should be submitted to the Prosecutor's Office.

2. When a warrant request is received by the Prosecutor's Office, one of the Animal Protection Unit's Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys will review the warrant and do the following:

- Determine whether the offender should be charged with a crime, and if so, which crime(s);
- If the prosecutor authorizes the warrant, the case begins.

What kind of services can the Animal Protection Unit provide to local police departments?

The Animal Protection Unit can provide training to investigators and responding officers regarding animal abuse crime scenes. Our seminars are designed to inform officers on how to properly identify and preserve evidence at crime scenes involving animal cruelty and animal fighting. Particularly, our seminars focus on identifying unique documentation of animal fighting and breeding, recognizing specific injuries that are consistent with animal fighting and drafting search warrants to be inclusive of all relevant evidence of animal fighting.