



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: Animal Abuse Protocol

Section: Animal Care Services

Number: CVM 55.6.3.05

Pages: 2

Date: October, 2014

Replaces Policy Dated: 2012

To Be Reviewed Yearly by: AHC Director

Source:

Cross Reference:

ANIMAL ABUSE PROTOCOL

The Animal Health Center follows Mississippi statutes regarding cruelty to animals (MS ST § 97-41-1 and 97-29-59). Concerns such as starvation, refusal of basic humane care, non-hygienic environments, mishandling and infliction of injury are addressed.

Training: MSU-CVM provides extensive training on the issue of animal cruelty. All veterinary students and technician students receive a lecture on the relationship of animal cruelty to human interpersonal violence. Included in the training are topics such as:

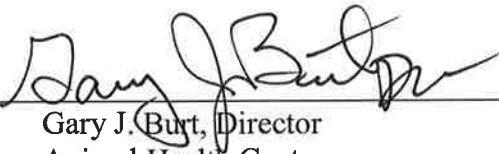
1. motivations of animal cruelty
2. the cat as an animal victim
3. definitions of animal cruelty
4. relationship of cruelty to human violence (domestic violence, child abuse, serial killers)
5. the AVMA position on animal cruelty/abuse
6. distinguishing cruelty from neglect/ignorance
7. various state laws mandating reporting of animal/child abuse
8. importance of education and intervention programs

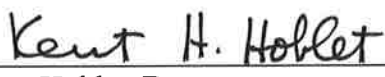
Sharon Grace, MS, DVM, DABVP, DACVIM, provides training on this subject. She also speaks nationally on the subject of animal cruelty.

Written Protocol: A written protocol has not been developed. With most cases seen being tertiary (referral) in nature, very few cases of animal cruelty or abuse are ever seen at MSU-CVM. However, a well-defined hierarchy for reporting suspected animal abuse does exist within the AHC. When suspected cases are seen, the standard protocol for handling these cases is:

1. The clinician in charge consults with the service chief for the area.
2. The clinician and/or service chief contact the Director of the Animal Health Center, as well as the Dean's Office.
3. If the situation warrants, law enforcement (either police or sheriff) are notified.

In the event that suspected spousal or child abuse would come to the attention of the clinician, the Animal Health Center Administration Office should be notified immediately, and city or county social services (as appropriate based on location) should be contacted.

Approved:  9-24-14
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Date

Approved:  9/29/14
Kent Hoblet, Dean
College of Veterinary Medicine
Date