



Crime Stoppers of Houston in partnership with Houston PetSet February 2020 Report

Did you know that animal abuse in the form of neglect is often one of the first indicators of distress in a household? Pet abuse was found in 88% of families under supervision for physical abuse. With that said, it is our goal to raise awareness and in February of each year, Crime Stoppers of Houston partners with Houston PetSet to focus on animal cruelty awareness and prevention.

Houston PetSet has been a generous supporter of Crime Stoppers of Houston for almost a decade. Because of the December 2019 - November 2020 funding from Houston PetSet, our organization has been able to educate thousands of people through presentations, seminars, press conferences and more.

Safe Community Program

Every year, Crime Stoppers of Houston partners with Houston PetSet as we collaborate on ways to make a difference in the animal community. With that, we are so appreciative of Houston PetSet and their continued support. During the month of February, our program shares anti-animal cruelty safety tips via Enews, email blasts, social media, blogs, our website, and at all community events, presentations and meetings. Just our email blast alone reaches over 8,000 community members. We distribute these tips to encourage and educate community members on animal safety and awareness. We also host seminars, presentations, fugitive sweeps, media interviews, press conferences, and more. Below is our February 2020 community reach:

- 2020:** February 6, 2020 Press Conference – 50 law enforcement officials, animal advocates, media and community members
 - *This press conference reached 6,931 FB members and had 2.5K views!*
- February 19, 2020 Community Discussion -- 55 community members
- 2020 Taskforce Meetings – 30 community partners

Crime Stoppers of Houston, in partnership with Houston PetSet, hosted a free Anti-Animal Cruelty community discussion on February 19th which included panelists from the Harris County Constable Animal Crimes Unit, Houston Humane Society and Animal ER of Northwest Houston. With 55 community members in attendance, participants were educated on animal cruelty laws, legislative bills, statistics, and more.



Anti-Animal Cruelty Community Discussion

February 19, 2020
 6:00 – 8:00pm
 Crime Stoppers of Houston
 3001 Main St
 Houston, TX 77002

Join us for an informative class to learn more about animal cruelty and meet members of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Harris County Constable Pct. 5 Animal Crimes Unit Sgt. Charles Lasham
- Houston Humane Society Executive Assistant Katie Fine and Education Coordinator Chae Namikie
- Animal ER of Northeast Houston Veterinarian Dr. Jonathan Hennessy

And a special appearance by the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce's mascot, Marvell!

DISCUSSION WILL COVER:

- Overview of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce
- What is animal abuse and neglect?
- Update on animal cruelty laws
- Animal cruelty case prosecution
- Community collaboration
- Ways to help end animal cruelty in Harris County

RSVP TO JOIN US:

Small photo@crime-stoppers.org to reserve a seat!

We want to thank Houston PetSal once again for their continued support of our anti-animal cruelty program!



Cruelty-Resistant Taskforce Mascot Marvell

An animal cruelty fugitive sweep was hosted the week of February 6, 2020.

Results: Forty suspects were featured and 10 have been arrested or posted bond.

- <https://mailchi.mp/crime-stoppers/fugitive-friday-2-28-2020>
- <https://mailchi.mp/crime-stoppers/fugitive-friday-2-21-2020>
- <https://mailchi.mp/crime-stoppers/fugitive-friday-2-21-2020>
- <https://mailchi.mp/crime-stoppers/post-press-conference-animal-cruelty>

Animal Cruelty Prevention One-pager (also available in Spanish)

ANIMAL CRUELTY PREVENTION

Whether you are an animal lover or not, the reality is that animals are a big part of our community. Animal cruelty includes a range of things harmful to animals. Get educated on what you can do to help prevent animal cruelty, abuse and neglect.

Did you know?

- Homeless animals outnumber homeless people 5 to 1.
- You are required to have a breeder's permit to breed and sell animals.
- Children 10 years of age can be charged with animal cruelty for brutality against animals.
- Anyone under the age of 18 who is convicted of animal cruelty is required by law to undergo counseling.
- Animal abuse in the form of neglect is often one of the first indicators of distress in the household.
- Pet abuse was found in 88% of families under supervision for physical abuse.

ANIMAL CRUELTY
 is either deliberate abuse or simply the failure to take care of an animal.

Animal cruelty includes a range of things harmful to animals. Intentional cruelty can range from failing to adequately provide an animal with food, water, shelter, socialization or veterinary care to torturing, maiming, mutilating or killing an animal. However, officers report that most cases they respond to are unintentional neglect.

These laws apply to domesticated animals such as house pets and livestock.

In Texas, two types of laws protect animals from cruelty: civil laws and criminal laws.

- In a civil case, if a judge rules that a person or people have been cruel to animals, the judge may take away their animals and/or order them to pay restitution.
- If prosecuted in a criminal case, a person may face penalties including fines, jail or both.

In Texas the following are prohibited by law:

- Torturing an animal.
- Failing to provide food, care or shelter.
- Abandoning an animal.
- Transporting or confining an animal in a cruel manner.
- Killing, seriously injuring or poisoning an animal.
- Causing an animal to fight with another.
- Using a live animal as a lure in a dog race.
- Tripping a horse.
- Injuring an animal belonging to another person.
- Seriously overworking an animal.

HARRIS COUNTY ANIMAL CRUELTY TASKFORCE
 The Greater Houston Area now has a centralized reporting tool for citizens to report suspected animal cruelty.

If you suspect animal cruelty, abuse or neglect, we urge you to report:

- Online at www.927PAWS.org (preferred method)
- By calling 832-927-PAWS

www.crime-stoppers.org | 713.521.4600 | info@crime-stoppers.org

DOG FIGHTING
 Defined as "a sadistic 'contest' in which two dogs—specifically bred, conditioned, and trained to fight—are placed in a pit (generally a small arena enclosed by plywood walls) to fight each other for the spectators' entertainment and gambling."

Dog fighting, in Texas, is a felony offense, and you may be charged with the following:

- Causing a dog to fight with another dog for money or without
- Participates in the earnings of a dog fight
- Operating a facility used for dog fighting
- Using or allowing others to use any real estate, building, room, tent arena, or other property for dog fighting
- Owning or training a dog with the intent that the dog be used for dog fighting
- Attending a dog fight

SIGNS OF ABUSE

- Pets with open sores, healed wounds or an injury or illness that is not being treated.
- Pets that are extremely thin or emaciated.
- Pets covered in fleas, ticks or other parasites
- Pets with heavy discharge from eyes or nose
- Pets whose collar or chain is so tight that it has become embedded in their neck
- Pets left outside in inclement weather without adequate shelter.
- Pets left in unsanitary environments
- Pets that are left in kennels or cages that are too small to stand, turn around, or make normal movements.
- Pets that are in kennels with multiple other animals.

STAYING SAFE AROUND ANIMALS

- Always ask permission from the owner before petting an animal
- Do not corner an animal
- Always remember to pet animals gently
- Do not pet service animals or police dogs known as K9
- Do not approach stray animals
- If a dog approaches you, stand still with your head down and arms by your side. Do not run!
- If a dog knocks your down or tries to attack you, lie still and query with your knees to your chest and your hands over your ears.
- If you are bitten, clean the wound immediately and contact animal control.
- Learn the warning signs of a scared or anxious animal:
 - Ears are erect or back
 - Body is stiff
 - Tail is stiff
 - Body is crouched with head down
 - Growling
 - Fur standing on end

KEEP YOUR ANIMAL SAFE

- Spray and neuter your pets
- If you keep your pet outside, make sure they have adequate shelter and plenty of water
- Never leave animals unattended in a vehicle
- Ensure your pet has a name tag with current contact information
- Vaccinate your pets annually and make sure your pet wears a current rabies tag
- Microchip your animal
- Train your pets, especially around children





Website Posts

- Animal Cruelty Taskforce: <http://www.crime-stoppers.org/our-programs/safe-community-program/harris-county-animal-cruelty-taskforce/>
- Animal Cruelty Resource Center: <https://crime-stoppers.org/animal-cruelty/>
- The Transformational Story of Pepper Blog: <https://crime-stoppers.org/the-transformational-story-of-pepper/>

Media Appearances

- https://mailchi.mp/crime-stoppers/post-press-conference-animal-cruelty?fbclid=IwAR1GoTPucLdl8hWez5aVmSC-tCRFc4lf8nmCncnOdYznjUvwb_9vlvX-2g

CRIME STOPPERS
CALL 713.222.TIPS

MEDIA CONTACT:
Tina O'Neil
tona@crime-stoppers.org
281.222-3983

Crime Stoppers of Houston and Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce host Press Conference to Address Animal Cruelty in Harris County

HOUSTON (February 6, 2020) – Crime Stoppers of Houston and members of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce (927paws.org) hosted a press conference today to bring attention to the issues of animal cruelty in Harris County, and to ask for the public's help to find those who abuse animals.

Speakers included Crime Stoppers Safe Community Manager Sydney Zulkar and Director of Victim Services Andy Kahan, Harris County Precinct 5 Constable Ted Heap, Houston Humane Society Medical Director Dr. Tony Malone, and Houston PetSet Co-founders Tena Faust and Tama Lundquist. The following Taskforce partner agencies were also in attendance: BARC, Harris County Animal Shelter and Animal ER of Northwest Houston. Partner agencies not present who are a critical part of the Taskforce include Harris County District Attorney's Office, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Police Department, and DrumBEAT Marketing. [Click here to watch full press conference.](#) Constable Ted Heap provided an updated on the results and impact of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce since its inception 2 years ago this month.

Animal cruelty is a crime and includes a range of things harmful to animals. Intentional cruelty can range from failing to adequately provide an animal with food, water, shelter, socialization or veterinary care to torturing, maiming, mutilating or killing an animal. However, officers report that most cases they respond to are unintentional neglect.

Throughout the month of February, Crime Stoppers will continue its efforts to educate the community at large through our anti-animal cruelty initiative which educates the public on what animal cruelty is, the signs of abuse, how to properly care for your animal, and how to report it.

Here are some ways the community can get involved:

- Educate yourself. Download free animal cruelty prevention tips available at

- <https://www.fox26houston.com/news/animal-cruelty-cases-on-the-rise-but-so-are-charges-f>

FOX 26 Live News Weather Sports Morning News Contests More

Animal cruelty cases on the rise, but so are charges against abusers

By Kevin Wallace • Published February 19, 2020 • News • FOX 26 Houston

Animal cruelty cases on the rise

Animal cruelty cases are on the rise in Harris County, but so are the number of charges being filed against abusers.

HOUSTON - No doubt animal cruelty is a problem in Harris County.

"Just because you're not seeing it, doesn't mean it's not going on," said Dr. Jennifer Hennessy with Animal ER Northwest Houston.

Kroger FRESH FOR EVERYONE. Nectarines 99¢ with Card. more save



Social Media

Crime Stoppers of Houston
Published by Tania Cruz [?] · February 3 ·

Join us this month to learn what you can do to help end animal cruelty, abuse and neglect. Read our safety tips and share with a friend!

#ForTheAnimals, in partnership with Houston PetSet.

CRUELTY PREVENTION

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Crime Stoppers of Houston was live.
Published by Tania Cruz [?] · February 6 at 10:02 AM ·

LIVE: Animal Cruelty Press Conference

Crime Stoppers of Houston and members of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce (927paws.org) bring attention to the issues of animal cruelty in Harris County, and ask for the public's help to find those who abuse animals. Join us!



Crime Stoppers of Houston
Published by Tania Cruz [?] · February 17 at 4:28 PM ·

Are you signed up for our Animal Cruelty Community Discussion? RSVP now: phollek@crime-stoppers.org

Anti-Animal Cruelty Community Discussion

February 19, 2020
6:00 – 8:00pm

Crime Stoppers of Houston
3001 Main St
Houston, TX 77002

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Harris County Constable Pct. 5 Animal Crimes Unit Sgt. Charles Jantzen
- Houston Humane Society Executive Assistant Katie Fine and Education Coordinator Chae Hamilton
- Animal ER of Northwest Houston Veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Hennessy

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- Update on animal cruelty laws
- Animal cruelty case prosecution
- Community collaboration



Crime Stoppers of Houston
Published by Mailchimp [?] · February 6 at 11:50 AM ·

Post-Press Conference: Animal Cruelty & Harris County, includes Fugitive Photos #onnews https://mailchi.mp/cr.../post-press-conference-animal-cruelty

MAILCHIMP

Post-Press Conference: Animal Cruelty, includes Fugitive Photos

Crime Stoppers of Houston
Published by Tania Cruz [?] · February 19 at 7:01 PM ·

Weren't able to join us? Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce is streaming tonight's Anti-Animal Cruelty Community Discussion. Join us now!

3,010 Views

Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce was live.
February 19 at 6:05 PM

TUNE IN NOW: The Anti-Animal Cruelty Community Discussion at Crime Stoppers of Houston.

Crime Stoppers of Houston added an event.
January 29 ·

WED, FEB 19

Anti-Animal Cruelty Community Discussion

Crime Stoppers of Houston - Houston

Tania, Andy and Ginette

Interested

Anti-Animal Cruelty Task Force

In April 2017, Crime Stoppers of Houston, working with Houston PetSet, Harris County Precinct 5 Constable Ted Heap and other partners, formed Anti-Animal Cruelty Partner Council to bring key partners and agencies together to collaborate on finding solutions to improve the way crimes against animals are reported and responded to in Harris County and the City of Houston. Following Hurricane Harvey, the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce was formed and officially launched in February of 2018 to provide our community a centralized reporting tool where citizens can report suspected animal cruelty, abuse, neglect and abandonment. Our mission is to protect the animals of Houston and Harris County and bring to justice those who abuse, neglect or abandon them through a unified collaboration of agencies. Every day, our Taskforce takes a proactive and comprehensive approach to investigating cruelty against ALL animals. There are two ways you can make a report to the Taskforce: Online at www.927paws.org (preferred method) or by calling call 832-927-PAWS



2019 - 2020 Houston PetSet Partnership Details:

- Name recognition on website
- Name recognition in annual report
- Name recognition at events
- Name recognition during presentations

2020 Animal Cruelty Awareness Plan

1. Promote animal cruelty awareness via email blasts, social media, and media engagements.
2. Animal cruelty awareness tips will be distributed to the Crime Stoppers database of over 8,000 community members.
3. Crime Stoppers of Houston will host an outreach event at the Crime Stoppers headquarters in February on this topic.
4. We will host a press conference while bringing in our key community partners.
5. We will issue a press release to educate the community on this topic.
6. Crime Stoppers will pitch media interviews to promote animal cruelty awareness.
7. Crime Stoppers will fulfill animal cruelty presentation requests among the community.
8. We will post a blog on animal cruelty awareness to our website written by a community partner and/or expert.
9. Crime Stoppers will feature animal cruelty fugitives during this month on our social media sites and send to our media partners.
10. Crime Stoppers will coordinate an animal cruelty fugitive sweep in partnership with the Harris County Criminal Warrants Division, contingent on the Division's ability to execute said sweep.
11. Crime Stoppers will continue to lead the marketing efforts for the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce, including PR media outreach, website content management, and social media marketing. Crime Stoppers will also coordinate all taskforce meetings as necessary to be held at the Crime Stoppers of Houston building.

This program sends a strong message to the Greater Houston area that animal cruelty will not be tolerated.



Our mission is to solve and prevent serious crime in the Greater Houston Area in partnership with citizens, media and the criminal justice system.

www.crime-stoppers.org | info@crime-stoppers.org
713-521-4600 | Tip Line: 713-222-TIPS

