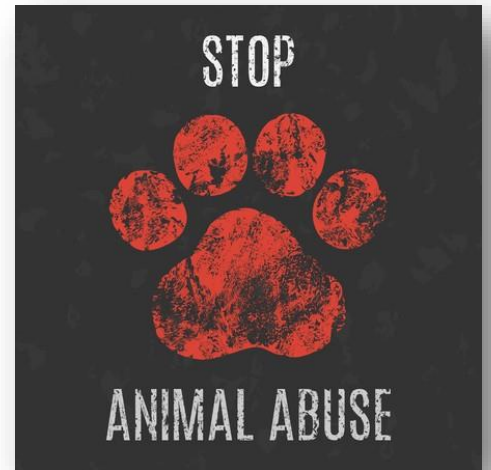


Animal abuse and cruelty has to stop

Animal abuse is one of the most important topics for us to discuss, but it's also one of the most difficult to talk about.

In many cases, abuse isn't as obvious as one might think. As an example, a dog owner who leaves the animal outside in 100-degree temperatures without water or shade all day is abusing that dog.

Animal abuse also often takes place far from the public's eyes. You wouldn't know if your neighbour was abusing an animal unless he or she brought the activity outside where you could see it. That's why we need to understand animal abuse and fight against it at every opportunity. If nobody speaks up or stops the abuse, I guess I have to!



What Is Animal Abuse?

Animal abuse is the treatment of any animal that causes physical damage. What you need to know right now is that animals are just like us human beings. They experience fear, pain, and other negative emotions just like they experience joy, love, and happiness. Any person who abuses a single animal should be brought to justice. That's why most governments around the world have laws against animal cruelty.

What Animals Are Most Abused?

Ranking at the top of the list, of course, are household pets like dogs and cats. Animal cruelty can involve physically abusing an animal or abandoning the animal. But in the end, it doesn't matter what animal got hurt. Everybody who has the audacity to lay hands on an animal or abandon it, should be brought to justice.

Fighting

Animal fighting has been a sport for many years. Dogs are the most victims of these "sporting" events.

An animal fight involves putting two or more animals in a small space together. One of the

animals must kill the other to "win."

Fighting is considered animal abuse and often goes hand-in-hand with other crimes. The important thing to realize is that these animals don't want to the fight, and they must be brutally trained so they'll react aggressively when faced with another animal. Some dog breeds, such as the American pit bull, are part of the most targeted for dog fighting.



Animal Experimentation

Animal experimentation involves using animals, from rabbits and rats to monkeys and dogs, to test products on their way to market. Several industries rely on animal testing to do their research, including medicine, beauty, and food.

There's nothing illegal about animal experimentation, which is why many people don't consider it animal abuse. However, witnessing it for yourself would likely convince you otherwise.

There are smarter, healthier, and cruelty-free ways to test consumer products.



Factory Farming

Animals in factory farming, such as cows and chickens, live through horrific animal abuse from the moment they're born. They most live their short lives in cages, often packed in with other animals of their species, and injected with hormones.

I already decided to only eat organic meat, because in my opinion not one single animal should go through such horrible experiences.

Beating



Anyone who physically injures an animal on purpose is guilty of animal abuse. For one thing, the animal experiences pain. Abused animals often become aggressive as a result. They might try to run from the abuser, but if that doesn't work, survival instinct kicks in. The animal doesn't want to hurt anyone but must fight back to stay alive.

How Can We Stop Animal Abuse and Cruelty?

There's no one way to stop animal abuse. However, when more people get involved in the fight against animal cruelty, abusers get exposed.

What can you do?

Decide what you value and believe in, then walk the path. The more engaged you are in animal rights issues, the better you can do for our fellow animals. Remember that animals have feelings and emotions. They might not express themselves the same way we do, but they need us to help them.