REPORTING ANIMAL CRUELTY

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."
Albert Einstein

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The notes below are offered as guidance to members of the public wishing to report cases of cruelty to animals.

The telephone number of the nearest SPCA will be found in the telephone directory under "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals"" or "SPCA".

Members of the public sometimes witness acts of cruelty to animals and, appalled by what they see, phone the SPCA to report them.

Often however, the information that they are able to give, is not enough to enable the Inspector assigned to the case to investigate it thoroughly, and even if legal action is warranted, lack of information impedes successful prosecution.

So, what should you do if you see or learn of cases of cruelty?

Well, quite obviously each case is different, and specific action does not necessarily apply in every case; but, in general terms, here is what you should do:

- Firstly, if the cruelty is something that can be stopped immediately, then stop it. If, for example, a horse or a dog is being unmercifully beaten, intervene if you can safely do so.
- Of course, the sort of person who would mistreat an animal this way would be quite likely to vent his anger on anyone who interferes, and members of the public should use discretion.
- Few occasions arise when a camera is readily available, but if there should be one, photographs are useful evidence.

You will then want to phone the SPCA

Before doing so, be ready to give as much of the following information as possible:

- Your own name, address and telephone number. This is necessary for record purposes and also enables the Inspector to inform you of the result of his/her investigation.

It is stressed that the policy of the SPCA is to treat all complaints in strict confidence. Names of complainants are divulged to nobody unless such complainant has no objection.

- The name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the person(s) involved.
- The date, time and place of the offence.
- The names, addresses and telephone numbers of any witnesses.
- The registration number and description of any vehicle involved.
- State whether you would be prepared to testify in a court of law.

Then give a detailed description of what you saw, as factually and unemotionally as you are able. This is important, for emotion clouds coherence, and important details may be omitted.

And finally, don't be afraid to get involved in any legal proceedings which may ensue.

After all, if you feel strongly enough to report the matter in the first place, you should be prepared to assist us to do whatever has to be done to set the matter right and bring offenders to justice.

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AANMELDING VAN DIERE MISHANDELING

"Die wêreld is 'n gevaarlike plek, nie noodwendig oor die mense wat bose dinge doen nie, maar díe wat dit raaksien en niks daaraan doen nie."
Albert Einstein

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Die aantekeninge hieronder word gegee as riglyn aan lede van die publiek wat gevalle van dieremishandeling wil aanmeld.

Die telefoonnommer van die DBV in die telefoongids kan gevind word onder "Diere-beskermings vereniging" of "DBV".

Lede van die publiek is soms getuie van diere-mishandeling en omdat dit hulle ontstel skakel hulle die DBV om dit aan te meld.

Die inligting wat hulle verstrek is egter dikwels nie voldoende om die Inspekteur wat die aangeleentheid moet ondersoek, in staat te stel om dit deeglik te doen nie en selfs waar regsoptrede nodig is, kan gebrek aan inligting suksesvolle vervolging bemoeilik.

Wat staan u dus te doen wanneer u gevalle van mishandeling sien of daarvan hoor?

Dit is vanselfsprekend dat elke geval verskil en spesifieke optrede is nie noodwendig op elke geval van toepassing nie, maar algemeen gesproke, moet u die volgende doen:

- Indien moontlik moet die mishandeling onmiddellik gestop word. Wanneer 'n perd of 'n hond byvoorbeeld genadeloos geslaan word, moet u tussenbeide tree as dit veilig is.
- Die soort mens wat 'n dier op hierdie wyse mishandel kan natuurlik maklik sy woede uithaal op enigeen wat inmeng en lede van die publiek moet diskreet optree.
- 'n Kamera is selde byderhand, maar indien u wel een by u het, kan foto's as nuttige bewysstukke dien.

U moet natuurlik die DBV skakel

Voordat u dit doen moet u u voorberei om soveel van die volgende inligting te verstrek as wat u moontlik kan:

- U eie naam, adres en telefoonnommer. Dit is noodsaaklik vir verslaghoudingsdoeleindes en dit stel ook die Inspekteur in staat om u in te lig oor die uitslag van sy ondersoek. Dit moet beklemtoon word dat dit die beleid van die DBV is om alle klagtes streng vertroulik te hanteer. Name van klaers word hoegenaamd nie bekend gemaak nie tensy die klaer geen beswaar daarteen het nie.
- Die naam (name) and adres(se) van die betrokke persoon (persone).
- Die datum, tyd en plek van die oortreding.
- Die naam (name) and adres(se) van getuies.
- Die registrasienommer en beskrywing van enige voertuig wat betrokke is.
- Meld of u bereid sal wees om in die hof te getuig.

Verstrek dan 'n breedvoerige beskrywing van wat u gesien het en doen dit so feitelik en onemosioneel as wat u kan. Dit is belangrik aangesien emosie kan veroorsaak dat u onsamehangend praat en belangrike besonderhede kan sodoende oor die hoof gesien word.

In die laaste plek moet u nie bang wees om in enige regsprosedures wat mag volg, betrokke te wees nie.

As u per slot van sake sterk genoeg oor die situasie voel om dit in die eerste plek aan te meld, behoort u bereid te wees om ons by te staan in wat gedoen moet word om die aangeleentheid reg te stel en die oortreders te straf.