

# REPORTING ANIMAL ABUSE IN THE VET'S CONSULTATION



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When animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk [1]

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Nowadays, society requires the prevention, early detection and intervention of animal abuse.

The veterinarian may be in a unique position to recognize the signs of not only animal abuse but also human violence [2].

However, the abilities of veterinarians to intervene in these situations as well as their responsibilities have not been well defined [2].

## 2. OBJECTIVES:

- To know the current status of the issue both in the society and the vet field.
- Find out if similar actions have been done in other fields.
- Is a protocol needed to success in the cause?

## 3. ANIMAL WELFARE → THE FIVE FREEDOMS:

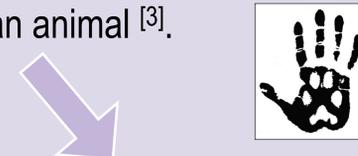


1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST
2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT
3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY AND DISEASE
4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR
5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS

## 4. ANIMAL ABUSE:

Socially unacceptable non – accidental behavior that causes distress, suffering, pain and/or death of an animal [3].

- Physical abuse
- Neglect / abandonment
- Verbal or emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse[1]



Linked to human violence[2]

## 5. MANAGEMENT & PROTOCOL [4,5]:



## 6. DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION:

- a) Risky situation/mild abuse
- b) Suspected maltreatment
- c) Conviction maltreatment

## 7. INTERVENTION

- a) Talk carefully with the owner
- b) Additional test needed?
- c) If animal's danger → take it from the owner

## 8. NOTIFICATION

- a) No immediate notification → follow up
- b) i c) To *Oficina de Protecció dels Animals* and to *Guàrdia Urbana*.

## 9. FOLLOW UP

- a) Medium/long term appointment
- b) Short – term visit
- c) Visit animal's refugee + no other animals owner

## 10. CONCLUSIONS:

- The **development of policies and protocols** within practices is necessary for practitioners to respond effectively to suspected abuse
- Respond to **interpersonal violence** as well
- Form **connections** with other professional bodies
- **Improve education** and the access to resources for veterinarians, veterinary students and society

**FIGHT TO ACHIEVE ANIMAL WELFARE**

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