**Schenectady Police Department**

**Animal Control**

531 Liberty St

Schenectady NY, 12305

(518) 382-5200 ext. 5655

**WHAT CONSTITUTES ANIMAL CRUELTY**

AGM definition of “torture” and “cruelty” Includes every act, omission, or neglect, whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted.

**Simple/Gross Neglect**

These are the crimes of animal cruelty that are *passive*, or *crimes of omission*. The animal suffered because someone failed to provide the animal with appropriate care.

**Examples**

* Suffers from a lethal disease from failure to vaccinate
* Suffers from health issues that could be resolved by visiting a veterinarian
* Cannot move freely because the dog has severe matting and/or overgrown nails that affect the dogs gait as a result of not being seen by a groomer or veterinarian
* Denied adequate food, water, shelter
* Unsanitary and/or unsafe living conditions

**Intentional Abuse and Torture**

These are the crimes of animal cruelty that are *active*, or *crimes of commission*. The animal suffered because someone took action which caused harm to the animal.

**Examples**

* Non accidental injuries such as but not limited to blunt force trauma, burns, drowning, strangulation, shooting, stabbing, and fractures
* Deliberately denying access to food and water, such as keeping the animal in a crate and never providing sustenance
* Training your dog to fight or participating in dog fighting

**\*What to keep in mind to avoid animal cruelty charges\***

An animal’s primary welfare needs can be met by safeguarding the following Five Freedoms:

* Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
* Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
* Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
* Freedom to Express Normal Behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.
* Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.