

# Animal Cruelty Resources

Cats are covered under the [Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute 13-2910](#).

**If you are witnessing an act of animal cruelty, please call 911 and report it immediately.**

Common signs of animal cruelty include:

- Sores, cuts, bruises or nicks on the animal's body
- Animal has bruising, bleeding or other apparent injury to his/her anus and/or genital regions
- Patches of missing fur
- Tick or flea infestation
- Extremely thin body
- Limping/inability to walk
- Witness an individual hitting or beating an animal
- A house with an excessive amount of cats
- Individuals yelling or threatening physical harm to animals

If you suspect animal cruelty, please take the following steps:

- Gather all evidence you are safely able to. This may include pictures, vehicle license plate numbers, tainted food bowls and bodies of deceased animals you suspect did not die of natural causes. If there is a body, it is best to leave the body where it is to avoid speeding up the decomposition process. If it is in a location that will be difficult to find again, you should create a landmark near the body so it is easy for investigators to locate.
- Immediately contact the non-emergency police department number for your city, which you can find on the [Arizona Humane Society website](#).
  - Please be sure to always be polite, calm and respectful when you make contact
  - Although it can be difficult, try not to be emotional
  - Report what you know to be fact

If you live in Phoenix, Scottsdale or Tempe, you may also contact the Arizona Humane Society at 602.997.7585 ext. 2073 ("0" after hours). Follow the same guidelines as above for reporting.

## Helping Cat Colonies in Potential Crisis

If you believe a cat colony in your area is facing a potential crisis, you can help by taking the following steps:

- Try to find a contact at the business or community that you can speak with to gather facts. Remain calm and respectful and try to determine the exact situation from your contact.
- Offer information and assistance with Trap-Neuter-Return
- Explain why Trap-Neuter-Return is the most humane and effective way to control the cat populations living on the streets in our community
- Rally people that live in the complex or are affiliated with the business that are feeding and/or caring for the cats to step up and become the cat management team
- Provide training on best practices for managing the colony starting with fixing **all** the cats in the area.
- If you're feeding cats, make sure the first thing you do is get them all fixed A.S.A.P. before a problem arises. Call 602.265.7729 to schedule a TNR appointment.

The [Spay Neuter Hotline](#) is happy to provide resources to assist you in educating individuals and the community as a whole about TNR. We can provide information to you that you can give to others explaining

TNR, how our program works, Best practices for colony management and tips for starting a TNR project in the community.

Remember, the best way to get people on board with TNR is to show them that it works!

Please remember if you feed outdoor cats, you should get them fixed.

For additional information on outdoor cats, visit [somanycats.org](http://somanycats.org) or [adlaz.org](http://adlaz.org).