

# DEFINITIONS

**Cruelty, Torcher and Torment:** Every act, omission, or neglect by which unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering caused, permitted, or allowed to continue when there is a reasonable remedy of relief.

**Serious Physical Harm:** Harm that results in any of the following...

1. Unnecessary or unjustifiable substantial risk of death
2. Partial or total permanent incapacity
3. Acute pain of a duration that causes suffering or prolonged pain
4. Depriving the companion animal of good, wholesome food and water that proximately causes the death of the companion animal

**Negligent Cruelty:** Negligent cruelty implies that the companion animals suffering is not always intentional but is brought on by lack of care from its caretaker. For example, things like, not getting your dog vet care, failing to provide your dog with adequate food and water, failing to groom your dog, and allowing its collar to become imbedded are all examples of what can be and has been prosecuted in Holmes County as neglect. It is very important that you monitor your dogs closely to insure they stay healthy.

# COMMON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

1. "I would like to report a Puppy Mill."
2. Dogs have no food or water, are flea ridden, have some form of skin condition and are living in their own feces and urine.
3. I purchased a sick puppy and am worried the breeder is neglecting his/her dogs.
4. The dogs at this breeder's residence are unsocialized and housed in very small cages.
5. The breeder won't return my calls because I started asking questions.

Cruelty and neglect complaints are investigated by the HCDW. In response to these complaints, a kennel inspection is completed covering the following areas: **waste disposal/ventilation, grooming, cleaning, storage, vet care, socialization, and space.**



"As a department we want to help you follow all proper licensing laws and want to see you provide proper care and socialization to your dogs. Providing quality care benefits not only the dog and yourself, but also the community." *Jonathan Beam, Holmes County Dog Warden*

## Holmes County Dog Warden

5387 County Road 349

Millersburg Ohio, 44654

Phone: 330-674-6301

Email:

[holmescountydogwarden@gmail.com](mailto:holmescountydogwarden@gmail.com)



## Holmes County Appointed Humane Agents

Dog Warden: Jonathan Beam

Deputy Dog Warden: Vincent Schlauch

Deputy Dog Warden: Michael Dewitt

# STATE CRUELTY LAWS

As a kennel owner, operator, or employee it is important to understand Ohio's cruelty laws and how they apply to operating a kennel. Both high volume and low volume kennels are subject to Ohio's cruelty laws as they are stated in section 959.131 of the Ohio Revised Code. The code states as follows:

**No person who confines or is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall knowingly or negligently do any of the following:**

- Torture, torment, needlessly mutilate or maim, cruelly beat, poison, needlessly kill, or commit an act of cruelty against the companion animal.
- Deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance or confine the companion animal without supplying it with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water if it is reasonably expected that the companion animal would die or experience unjustifiable pain or suffering as a result of deprivation or confinement.
- Impound or confine the companion animal without affording it during the impoundment or confinement with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or excessive sunlight if it is reasonably expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.
- **No person shall knowingly cause serious physical harm to a companion animal**

**Unacceptable**



## Penalties

Fine: \$1,000-  
\$2500

Jail Time: 180  
days in jail to 12  
months in  
prison.

**Acceptable**

