

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.

INVESTIGATIONS

When puppy buyers or citizens contact the Holmes County Dog Warden's Department to report welfare concerns at a kennel or to file a complaint on a kennel our office conducts thorough investigations to make sure breeders and kennel operators are treating their dogs humanely and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 959. It is extremely important to not only know USDA and ODA regulations but also Ohio's Cruelty Laws and how they apply to you as a dog breeder.

Common Complaints

1. Buyer purchases sick puppy and is concerned for other dogs at facility.
2. Puppy purchased is dirty, smells awful, and has parasites.
3. Dogs in kennel are not groomed, kennel is dirty, unclean, and caller is concerned.
4. Caller wants more info on breeder prior to purchasing puppy. Kennel license search is done and if no license is found it becomes a complaint.

More information on the complaint process can be found at www.holmescountydogwarden.com.

Holmes County Dog Warden

5387 County Road 349

Millersburg Ohio, 44654

Phone: 330-674-6301

Email:

holmescountydogwarden@gmail.com



Holmes County Appointed Humane Agents

Dog Warden: Jonathan Beam

Deputy Dog Warden: Michael Dewitt

Deputy Dog Warden: Sierra Parks

Deputy Dog Warden: Jessica McConville

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**

Max Penalties

Fine: \$1,000-\$2500

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