



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

Animal Care and Welfare Handbook



ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE HANDBOOK

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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

Law enforcement partners,

Keeping animals healthy and ensuring they are raised in conditions where they can thrive is a cornerstone of our mission at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Our team of veterinarians, inspectors and support staff work tirelessly to uphold basic standards of care for all production livestock and companion animals within our state's borders – but we can't do it alone.

There are more than 42 million livestock in Iowa, according to the 2022 US Census of Agriculture, outnumbering people 13 to 1. Iowa is home to about 1,850 state-licensed companion animal facilities as of 2024. We rely on regulatory partners like you to respond quickly and effectively when disease outbreaks and animal welfare situations arise.

Every animal species has unique housing, nutrition and veterinary needs. This handbook outlines science-based standards of care to help your team objectively evaluate animal welfare complaints and concerns. The handbook defines your agency's regulatory authority in responding to cruelty and neglect scenarios. It also recommends protocols your agency can adopt to ensure a more timely and efficient response.

If you would like additional guidance regarding your agency's role in responding to animal welfare cases, please contact the Department at animalwelfare@iowaagriculture.gov. Thank you for sharing our commitment to preserving animal health and welfare in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Naig".

Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

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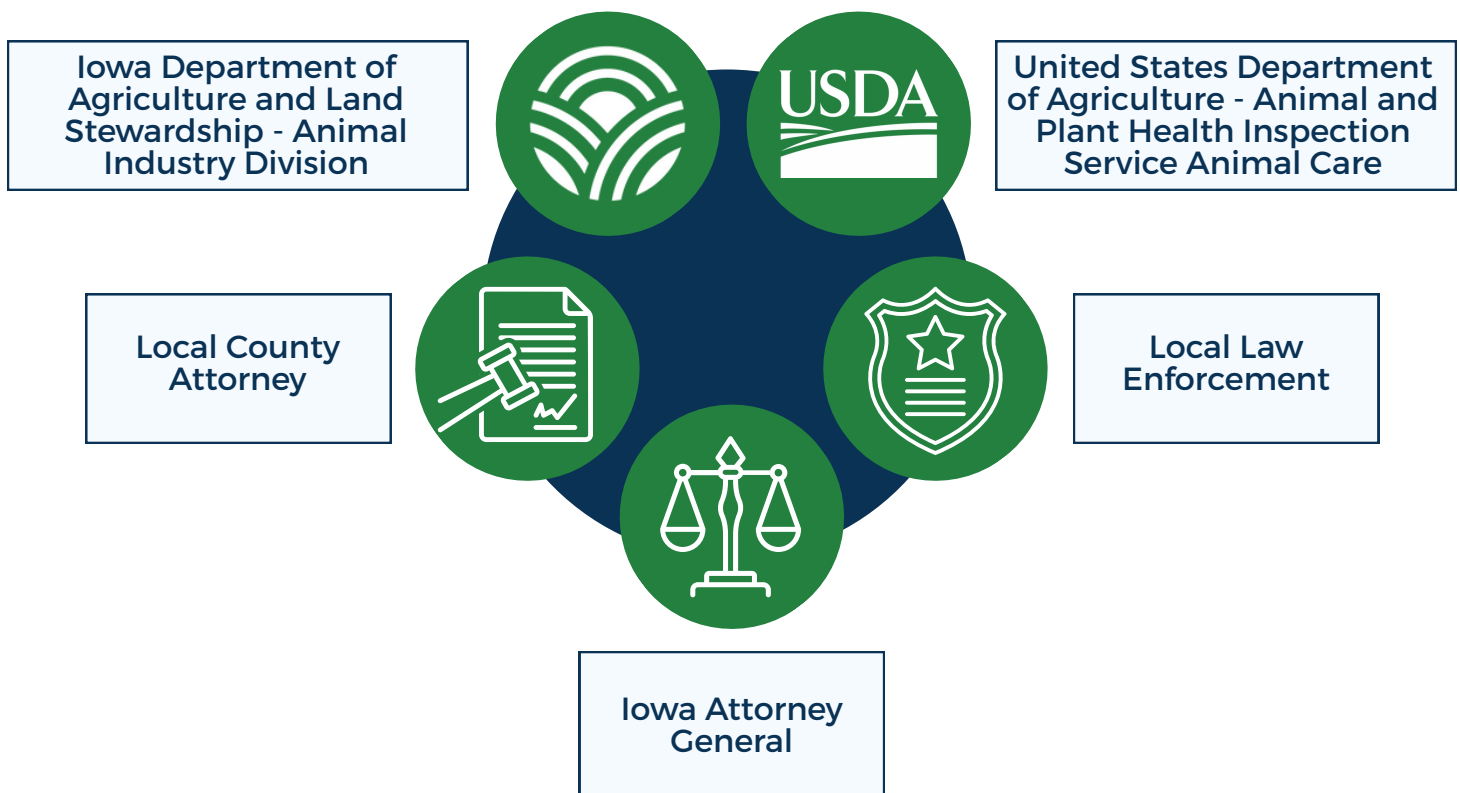
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CHAPTER 1

IDENTIFICATION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

One of the best ways to be prepared to investigate an animal-related complaint is to know the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies that deal with animals. Being proactive by networking and establishing communication and relationships with local resources--before undertaking welfare investigations--is worth the time and effort.

When an animal-related complaint is received, the following groups can assist in Iowa:



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP - ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION



The Animal Industry Division within the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) oversees several critical programs related to animal health and welfare including:

1. Regulatory authority

- The division ensures compliance with standards and guidelines to protect the health and well-being of both animals and the public by maintaining the regulatory authority on reportable animal diseases, dead animal disposal in Iowa Code chapter 167, and the animal admission regulations for the state of Iowa.

2. Commercial animal welfare licensing and inspection

- The division oversees licensing for commercial animal welfare establishments. This includes commercial breeders, pet shops, boarding kennels, dealers, rescues, research facilities, commercial kennels (boarding, grooming and training facilities), public auctions, dog daycares, animal shelters and pounds, as defined in Iowa Code chapter 162 and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 67.
- They also conduct inspections of authorized commercial establishments at least once annually. Inspections are unannounced and occur during normal business hours, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

3. Animal disease traceability

- The division promotes animal disease traceability through animal admission requirements and certificates of veterinary inspection, which help track animals and manage disease outbreaks.

4. Health requirements for livestock exhibition

- The division establishes health requirements for livestock exhibitions, ensuring the safety and well-being of animals during events.

WHEN TO CONTACT THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION AT IDALS:

1. If a veterinary consultation is needed for an animal neglect determination, IDALS employs district veterinarians who can provide no-cost evaluations of animals for signs of neglect. This service is limited to evaluating the animals and does not include providing veterinary care or treatment. While IDALS veterinarians have the capability to review photos and videos provided by law enforcement as part of animal welfare complaint investigations, an on-site visit will provide a more comprehensive determination that considers a more thorough assessment of the animal's surroundings and overall conditions in their proper context, and may be necessary to meet certain legal requirements to address neglect in animals.
2. If it is suspected that the complaint relates to a licensed or permitted commercial facility, the inspection history and complaint records on facilities defined in Iowa Code chapter 162 and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 67 can be provided.
 - a. IDALS Animal Welfare Inspection database: <https://bit.ly/iowa-animal-welfare-licensing>.
3. If the complaint includes failure to dispose of dead animals.



515-281-6358

515-242-0247 After hours emergency line

<https://iowaagriculture.gov/animal-industry-division>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE ANIMAL CARE



The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) oversees the Animal Care program, which works diligently to protect animals and prevent cruelty through inspections, regulations, and emergency response efforts. Their responsibilities include:

1. **Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations enforcement:** This legislation sets standards for the humane care and treatment of animals exhibited to the public, sold as pets, used in research, or transported commercially. APHIS enforces these regulations.
2. **Licensing, inspection, and outreach:** Through licensing and inspection, APHIS ensures animals receive care meeting Federal standards. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) applies to several types of regulated businesses:
 - a. **Animal dealers:** These businesses must comply with the AWA standards and include pet breeders, medical research suppliers, and other dealers who handle animals.
 - b. **Exhibitors:** Ensuring the humane treatment of animals in exhibitions, this includes zoos, circuses, and other entities that display animals to the public.
 - c. **Research facilities:** With their own specific welfare requirements within the AWA, these include private and federal laboratories using animals for research.
 - d. **Transporters:** To ensure proper care during transportation, airlines, railroads, truckers, and other carriers transporting animals are regulated.
3. **Emergency programs:** APHIS collaborates with other government agencies to provide disaster relief for pets and animals during emergencies.

Commercial facilities in Iowa that are registered and licensed by USDA APHIS under the Animal Welfare Act are still required to submit an application for a permit with the State of Iowa as defined in chapters 162 and 67 and discussed above.

The Animal Care program within the USDA APHIS has regional Animal Care inspectors that perform routine inspection of licensed facilities. Complaints on USDA licensed facilities in Iowa may be investigated by USDA APHIS Animal Care and/or IDALS. USDA APHIS Animal Care inspectors and IDALS inspectors work collaboratively regarding complaints on licensed facilities.

All USDA APHIS Animal Care facilities are listed publicly on the following website:

aphis.my.site.com/PublicSearchTool/s/inspection-reports
970-494-7478

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT



Local law enforcement agencies, which may include but are not limited to the county sheriffs' department, municipal police, animal control officers, and the Iowa State Patrol, depending on the local jurisdiction, may have the legal authority to be actively involved in animal cruelty and neglect investigations. Additionally, they are well-trained and equipped to assist with the application and execution of search warrants. They can also provide safety and personal protection to non-law enforcement stakeholders who may sometimes find themselves in potentially dangerous situations during animal-based complaint investigations.

LOCAL COUNTY ATTORNEY



Local law enforcement is encouraged to coordinate with their local attorney's office as soon as possible in the process. In most instances, this will be the local county attorney, but a city or municipal attorney may be involved if an investigation is conducted within municipal limits. For the purpose of simplicity in this Handbook, we will refer to a county attorney, as this is the party that will more than likely be participating in any animal welfare investigation. However, the reader is encouraged to review any local legislations (e.g. municipal codes) that may be implicated.

Because the county attorney will have prosecutorial discretion of any charges that may develop, it is best practice to seek his or her advice at the onset of the investigation to allow the attorney to help develop the case that he or she may ultimately try.

The county attorney may provide guidance on warrants, collection of evidence necessary for the specific offense, seizure and disposal of any animal, and overall processes.

IOWA ATTORNEY GENERAL



Animal welfare investigations can be very fact specific and county attorneys may not have the familiarity with the type of case. The Office of the Iowa Attorney General can offer guidance to the local county attorneys regarding building and preparing a strong case. The Office has attorneys on staff that have many years of experience with animal welfare cases and with IDALS regulatory authorities. The Office can provide county attorneys guidance on animal welfare investigations, correct order of processes, and other legal issues, including templates for drafting certain legal filings.

A division with the Office of the Iowa Attorney General, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorneys Training Coordinator (PATC), is a great resource for county attorneys, especially for general criminal investigations and prosecution resources. Specific to this handbook, attorneys are encouraged to review the Iowa Criminal Law Handbook offered through the Office and the PATC for consultation on information related to warrantless entry and search and seizure in general. The PATC may also be able to offer templates for petitions and other filings, especially for animal welfare cases where the general Office may not have as many resources.

PATC Contact

Ian A. McConeghey
Prosecuting Attorneys Training Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
Hoover State Office Building
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Main Phone: (515) 281-5164
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Email: ian.mcconeghey@ag.iowa.gov

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Fax: (515) 242-6771
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CHAPTER 2

PRE-PLANNING AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING BEFORE AN ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Proactive preparedness is essential for local law enforcement personnel to effectively address animal welfare complaints. Before any issues arise, it is important to assess the animal facilities in the area, anticipate potential challenges and identify temporary animal housing facilities. Local law enforcement agencies should also build comprehensive contact lists and relationships with key stakeholders.

This preparation ensures that responders are equipped to collaborate seamlessly with local resources at every stage of an investigation. It also involves familiarizing oneself with local laws, regulations, and support systems to respond efficiently and confidently. By establishing these foundational elements, law enforcement can enhance their ability to protect animal welfare and foster trust within the community.

Here are more details to equip investigating personnel early, before an animal welfare complaint is received.

1 Understand the Local Animal Demographics

- Conduct a thorough assessment to identify the types of animals commonly found in your jurisdiction. This includes livestock, companion animals, exotic species, and wildlife.
- Familiarize yourself with state and federal licensed commercial facilities operating in your jurisdiction.
- Familiarize yourself with the typical husbandry practices, seasonal challenges, and potential risks associated with different animal species in your area.

2 Establish Emergency Housing Resources

- Develop a contact list for potential facilities for temporary or long-term housing of animals, including shelters, sanctuaries, barns, fairgrounds, and boarding facilities.
- Identify facilities that specialize in specific species and ensure they have the capacity to handle unexpected influxes.
- Build partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions or regions to access additional resources during large-scale incidents.

3 **Build a Network of Veterinary Professionals**

- Create a directory of local veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, and animal health specialists, including those with expertise in livestock, exotic animals, and wildlife.
- Arrange regular meetings with veterinary professionals to discuss their willingness to aid in animal welfare investigations, procedures for handling animal welfare complaints, and emergency scenarios.
- Identify mobile veterinary services that can respond on-site to animal welfare cases when transportation is not immediately feasible.

4 **Engage with the Community**

- Establish collaborative relationships with local animal shelters, rescue organizations, agricultural extension offices, and humane societies.
- Develop agreements or memoranda of understanding outlining mutual support, roles, and responsibilities in responding to animal welfare complaints.
- Engage with advocacy groups and community leaders to understand cultural practices and ensure effective communication.
- Foster relationships with community members who have expertise in animal care, such as farmers, trainers, breeders, and veterinarians.
- Attend local agricultural fairs, pet expos, and community events to build trust and raise awareness about animal welfare issues.
- Create opportunities for open dialogue to encourage reporting of animal welfare concerns and to provide education on responsible animal ownership.

5 **Enhance Interagency Coordination**

- Collaborate with other local agencies, such as public health, emergency management, and agricultural departments, to address multi-faceted animal welfare concerns.
- Develop standardized protocols and share resources, including training opportunities and best practices for addressing animal welfare issues.
- Participate in joint exercises or simulations to practice coordinated responses to hypothetical animal welfare scenarios.

6 **Educate and Train Personnel**

- Provide law enforcement officers with specialized training to recognize signs of animal abuse, neglect, and cruelty, tailored to the species they are likely to encounter.
- Offer training on animal handling, transportation, and first aid to ensure officers can respond appropriately while minimizing stress to animals.
- Regularly update training to include emerging trends, legal changes, and evolving best practices in animal welfare.

7 **Develop Response Plans and Resource Directories**

- Create a comprehensive animal welfare response plan that includes step-by-step procedures for addressing complaints.
- Maintain a resource directory that includes contact information for all relevant partners, facilities, and professionals. Ensure it is readily accessible to officers and updated regularly.
- Establish a clear chain of command and communication protocols for addressing animal welfare investigations.

These steps not only prepare law enforcement agencies for effective responses but also strengthen community relationships, build trust, and ensure a collaborative approach to safeguarding animal welfare.

CHAPTER 3

IOWA ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTES

This chapter is intended to provide a quick reference guide to the most commonly utilized statutes in Iowa that may be applicable to animal welfare responses. The information for each statute has been generalized to a certain extent for simplicity so please consult the statute in its full text. Please be aware that each Code chapter is unique and contains its own distinctive exceptions and exemptions that should be noted.

Cites to Iowa Code have been provided within this Handbook for an easy reference. Iowa Code can be accessed in its entirety at the Iowa Legislature's site: www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode.

Generally, the following statutes may be applicable:

- A Iowa Code chapter 717 – Injury to Livestock** *(Criminal)*
- B Iowa Code chapter 717B – Mistreatment of Animals** *(Criminal)*
- C Iowa Code chapter 162 – Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments** *(IDALS Administrative and Limited Criminal Penalties)*
 - Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-67 – Animal Welfare
- D Iowa Code chapter 167 – Use and Disposal of Dead Animals** *(IDALS Administrative and Criminal)*
 - Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-61 – Dead Animal Disposal

For most of these statutes, violations and offenses may be charged for each individual animal or dead animal that was neglected, abused, tortured or not properly disposed of. However, the exception to this is livestock neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor. Under Iowa Code section 717.2(3), livestock neglect that results in serious injury or death and punishable as a serious misdemeanor, can only be punished under a single count “when care or sustenance is not provided to multiple head of livestock during any period of uninterrupted neglect”¹. This provision is unique to this chapter.

	Iowa Code chapter 717	Iowa Code chapter 717B	Iowa Code chapter 167
Animals it is generally applicable to:	“Livestock”: cattle, goats, horses, donkeys, sheep, hogs, poultry, ostriches, rheas, emus, and farmed deer	“Animal”: Non-human vertebrates, dogs, cats <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes dogs and cats in commercial establishments• DOES NOT include livestock	Dead animals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not include animals slaughtered by licensed slaughterhouse

¹ See State v. Wells, 629 N.W.2d 346, 353 (Iowa 2001).

Offense	§717.1A - Livestock Abuse	§717B.2 - Animal Abuse
Penalty	Aggravated misdemeanor	Serious misdemeanor - abuse that causes injury other than serious injury or death of animal Aggravated misdemeanor - intentional neglect which results in serious injury or death of animal Class "D" felony - serious injury or death of animal AND prior animal welfare conviction
Multiple offenses?	Yes	Yes

Offense	§717.2 - Livestock Neglect	§717B.3 - Animal Neglect
Penalty	Simple misdemeanor - Livestock neglect without serious injury or death of livestock Serious misdemeanor - Intentional neglect which results in serious injury or death of livestock	Simple misdemeanor - Animal neglect without injury, serious injury or death of animal Serious misdemeanor - Animal neglect with injury but not serious injury or death of animal Aggravated misdemeanor - Animal neglect with serious injury or death of animal
Multiple offenses?	Yes, a <i>simple</i> misdemeanor can be charged for each animal neglected. No, only a single count of a <i>serious</i> misdemeanor can be charged <i>IF the neglect occurred during any period of uninterrupted neglect.</i>	Yes

Offense	§717B.3A - Animal Torture	§717B.8 - Animal Abandonment <i>*only applicable to cats and dogs</i>
Penalty	Aggravated misdemeanor Class "D" felony if commits torture AND prior animal welfare conviction	Simple misdemeanor-Animal abandonment without injury, or death of animal Serious misdemeanor - Animal abandonment that causes injury but not serious injury or death of animal Aggravated misdemeanor - Animal abandonment that causes serious injury or death of animal
Multiple offenses?	Yes	Yes

Offense	Iowa Code chapter 167 - Dead Animal Disposal <i>A person who has been caring for or owns an animal that has died must dispose of the animal within 48 hours.</i>	
Penalty	Dead animals Does not include animals slaughtered by licensed slaughterhouse	
Multiple offenses?	Yes, penalties can be multiplied by the number of animals	

A

Iowa Code chapter 717 – Injury to Livestock

In 1994, Iowa's animal cruelty laws specifically excluded livestock from the definition of animals, making it necessary to address livestock in a separate chapter. Iowa Code chapter 717 exclusively addresses livestock and provides exemptions for practices consistent with customary farming practices, the practicing of veterinary medicine, research facilities, people acting on court order, and reasonably protecting property from destruction by stray livestock.

1. Livestock Abuse (section 717.1A)

A person is guilty of livestock abuse if they intentionally injure or destroy livestock owned by another person. This includes administering drugs or poisons to the livestock or disabling the livestock using a firearm or trap.

A person guilty of livestock abuse commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

Iowa Code chapter 717	§717.1A Livestock Abuse
Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	"Livestock": cattle, goats, horses, donkeys, sheep, hogs, poultry, ostriches, rheas, emus, and farmed deer
Penalty	Aggravated misdemeanor
Elements of the offense	• Intentionally
	• Injures or destroys livestock (in any manner)
	• Livestock is owned by another person
Includes:	+ Intentionally administers drugs or poison to livestock + Intentionally disables the livestock by using a firearm or trap
Does NOT include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting with the consent of the person owning the livestock (unless the action is livestock neglect as provided in §717.2) • Carrying out a court order • A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine • If another law permits the act • Reasonably protecting the person's property from damage from stray livestock • Reasonably protecting a person from injury or death from stray livestock • A research facility
Multiple offenses?	Yes

2. Livestock Neglect (section 717.2)

A person who impounds or confines livestock commits the offense of livestock neglect if they intentionally:

- Fail to provide livestock with care consistent with customary animal husbandry practices,
- Deprive livestock of necessary sustenance, or
- Injures or destroys livestock by any means which causes pain or suffering in a manner inconsistent with customary animal husbandry practices.

Livestock neglect is a simple misdemeanor but can be escalated to a serious misdemeanor if there is intentional neglect of the livestock that results in serious injury or death.

As noted earlier, under Iowa Code §717.2(3), livestock neglect that results in serious injury or death and punishable as a serious misdemeanor, can only be punished under a single count “when care or sustenance is not provided to multiple head of livestock during any period of uninterrupted neglect”. Multiple charges can only result when separate incidents of neglect are demonstrated. Investigators should diligently document the timing of events, locations, and the similar/dissimilar condition of the livestock when investigating neglect that could result in multiple charges.

• Iowa Code chapter 717	• §717.2 Livestock Neglect	
• Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Livestock”: • cattle, goats, horses, donkeys, sheep, hogs, poultry, ostriches, rheas, emus, and farmed deer 	
• Penalty	• Simple misdemeanor	• Serious misdemeanor
• Elements of the offense		• Intentionally
	• Impounds or confines livestock	• Impounds or confines livestock
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to provide livestock care consistent with customary practices <u>OR</u> • Deprives of necessary sustenance <u>OR</u> • Injures or destroys livestock (in any manner) which causes pain or suffering inconsistent with customary practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to provide livestock care consistent with customary practices <u>OR</u> • Deprives of necessary sustenance <u>OR</u> • Injures or destroys livestock (in any manner) which causes pain or suffering inconsistent with customary practices
		• Results in serious injury or death
• Does NOT include:	• A research facility	
• Multiple offenses?	• Yes	• Generally, no.

Iowa Code §717.2A Rescue (Seizure) of Neglected Livestock

Unless neglected livestock is voluntarily relinquished, it may be necessary for a local authority to seize the animals. Even for neglected livestock that are intended to be left on site and supervised by the local authority, it is still recommended to seize the livestock in place to allow for the authority to oversee the care of the animals. The most important elements of seizure of livestock is to (1) have facilities and care lined up prior to seizing any animals, (2) follow the statutory process and in the proper order, and (3) have a relationship with one or more licensed veterinarians that can provide animal condition determinations. Iowa Code §717.2A allows for the “rescue” of livestock under three different scenarios:

- Immediate rescue of livestock when the livestock have been determined to be abandoned or that no person is able or willing to care for the livestock, and the livestock is permanently distressed by disease or injury to a degree that would result in severe and prolonged suffering. §717.2A(1)(c)(3).
- If a criminal proceeding has NOT commenced against the owner or the person caring for the livestock, §717.2A(1)(c)(1).
- If a criminal proceeding HAS BEEN commenced against the owner or the person caring for the livestock §717.2A(1)(c)(2).

All three situations require a statement by a licensed veterinarian as to the animals’ condition. Because a local veterinarian may have a conflict if the animal’s owner is a client, it is important to have relationships with more than one veterinarian. Determining an animal’s condition may be difficult or impossible from pictures alone. It is very helpful to have the veterinarian observe the animal(s) in person and any conditions that exist for the animal. Additionally, IDALS veterinarians can also be a resource. IDALS veterinarians are able to provide these required statements and any consultations necessary if a local veterinarian is not available. If the local authority is concerned that a local veterinarian may not be willing to participate, IDALS encourages local authorities to coordinate with IDALS early on in the process to enable IDALS veterinarians to respond timely.

Also of note, while it may be necessary for criminal purposes to prove neglect for each individual animal to obtain a conviction, it is not necessary to prove the same for each animal to seize or rescue a group of animals. To seize a group of animals, it is only necessary to show that some animals are neglected and the other animals in the group or herd are at risk of neglect².

Additionally, local authorities must be careful to follow the processes for rescuing neglected livestock. Failure to follow the proper processes may impact the local authority’s ability to recover costs incurred for the livestock³.

Iowa Code chapter 717	§717.2A Rescue of Neglected Livestock
Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	“Livestock”: cattle, goats, horses, donkeys, sheep, hogs, poultry, ostriches, rheas, emus, and farmed deer
Who can initiate process?	Law enforcement officer
Requires search warrant?	Generally, yes. See Iowa Code §717.2A(1)(b).
Allows:	Law enforcement to enter property to rescue neglected livestock

² See *Grundy County v. Moeller*, 1999 WL 823640 (Iowa Ct. App. 1999) (unpublished opinion) (holding that the county did not need to provide evidence that each dog was neglected when all animals were at risk).

³ See *Linn County v. Andrews*, 2007 WL 2376614, 4–5, Iowa Ct. App. 2007 (unpublished opinion) (the Court disallowed the costs of the rescue of the neglected livestock since rescue procedures were not complied with).

Option #1: Immediate rescue of livestock §717.2A(1)(c)(3)

Available when:	Local authority must have determined: 1. Livestock is distressed by: a. disease that results in severe and prolonged suffering OR b. injury that would result in severe and prolonged suffering. AND 2. Livestock is: a. abandoned OR b. that no person is able or willing to care for the livestock.	A licensed veterinarian can help local authority determine if livestock is injured or diseased.
Steps	Details	Practice Tips
1. Obtain written statement from licensed vet	Written statement providing that, in the veterinarian's opinion, the livestock is neglected and is permanently distressed by disease or injury to a degree that would result in severe and prolonged suffering.	*Vet's statement should include statement on any suffering of the livestock due to injury or disease. *Make sure this statement is secured before moving forward with the actual rescue or seizure. *IDALS vets can provide determinations if local vet is unwilling.
2. Receive search warrant	No notice of intent to rescue is required	
3. Rescue livestock	Local authority must provide care for the animals but can contract for the care.	* It is beneficial to have an individual assessment of each animal performed by a veterinarian as the initial veterinary statement is assessed more on the entire group of livestock. A veterinarian should note if any individual is permanently or severely suffering (due to disease or injury). *Local authority must keep accurate records of all costs associated with caring for the livestock.
4. Post notice of livestock rescue	The notice should state that the livestock has been rescued by the local authority pursuant to Iowa Code §717.2A	
5. File for disposition of livestock	File a petition for disposition with the district court.	

Option #2: If criminal proceeding has NOT commenced §717.2A(1)(c)(1):

Steps	Details	Practice Tips
1. Obtain written statement from licensed vet	Written statement providing that, in the veterinarian's opinion, the livestock is neglected.	<p>*Having the vet on site or as close to on site as possible will help facilitate the vet's determination. Pictures may not be sufficient.</p> <p>*Make sure this statement is secured before moving forward with the actual seizure.</p> <p>*IDALS vets can provide determinations if local vet is unwilling.</p>
2. Provide written notice to owner or caregiver	Deliver notice to the last known address of the person by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good faith effort to personally serve notice OR 2. Certified Mail 	
	Notice must include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and address of the local authority. 2. A description of the livestock subject to rescue. 3. A statement informing the person that the livestock may be rescued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 717 within one day following receipt of the notice by the person. 4. Specify a date, time, and a location for delivery of the response to the notice. 5. A statement informing the person that in order to avoid rescue of the livestock, the person must respond: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the notice in writing, AND b. have a signed statement from a licensed veterinarian which states: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In the opinion of the veterinarian, the livestock is not neglected, OR ii. The person is taking immediate measures required to rehabilitate the livestock. 	
3. Receive search warrant	If no response by the next day, by end of normal office hours, proceed to receive search warrant for seizure.	*Make sure the time and date provided in the notice correspond to this provision.
4. Rescue livestock	Local authority must provide care for the animals but can contract for the care.	<p>*It is beneficial to have an individual assessment of each animal performed by a veterinarian as the initial veterinary statement is assessed more on the entire group of livestock. A veterinarian should note if any individual is permanently or severely suffering (due to disease or injury).</p> <p>*Local authority must keep accurate records of all costs associated with caring for the livestock.</p>
5. Post notice of livestock rescue	The notice should state that the livestock has been rescued by the local authority pursuant to Iowa Code §717.2A.	
6. File for disposition of livestock	File a petition for disposition with the district court.	

Option #3, if criminal proceeding HAS BEEN commenced §717.2A(1)(c)(2):

This option is more uncommon as a search warrant has likely already been obtained to gather evidence used to support the criminal charge and the livestock have been rescued under option #1 or option #2. However, this may become necessary if additional livestock need to be seized.

Steps	Details	Practice Tips
1. Obtain written statement from licensed vet	Written statement providing that, in the veterinarian's opinion, the livestock is neglected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Having the vet on site or as close to on site as possible will help facilitate the vet's determination. Pictures may not be sufficient. *Make sure this statement is secured before moving forward. *IDALS vets can provide determinations if local vet is unwilling.
2. Receive search warrant	No notice of intent to rescue is required.	If livestock was not seized under the initial search that initiated the criminal charges, a separate search warrant to rescue the livestock will be required.
3. Rescue livestock	Local authority must provide care for the animals but can contract for the care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *It is beneficial to have an individual assessment of each animal performed by a veterinarian as the initial veterinary statement is assessed more on the entire group of livestock. A veterinarian should note if any individual is permanently or severely suffering (due to disease or injury). *Local authority must keep accurate records of all costs associated with caring for the livestock.
4. Post notice of livestock rescue	The notice should state that the livestock has been rescued by the local authority pursuant to Iowa Code §717.2A.	
5. File for disposition of livestock	File a petition for disposition with the district court. Disposition of livestock is a civil matter and cannot be combined with any criminal proceedings.	

Following the seizure of the animals, it is suggested that each animal undergoes an assessment by a veterinarian that is memorialized in a written record. These records/assessments can be crucial in determining the disposition of the animals by the court. Particularly, animals that are distressed by disease or injury to a degree that would result in severe and prolonged suffering, should be prioritized. The court can offer these suffering animals immediate disposition, rather than having to potentially wait through any continuances.

Iowa Code §717.5 - Disposition of Neglected Livestock

For any livestock rescued under Iowa Code §717.2A, the local authority must be prepared to file for disposition of the livestock as soon possible. It should be noted that the use of “disposition” or “disposal” within these contexts is meant to encompass sales, transfers, rehoming or humane euthanasia of the livestock. The local authority is responsible for the care and maintenance until the animals are disposed of. Any animals seized cannot be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of without the approval of the court. The local authority should have disposition identified for each animal or groups of similar animals. Specifically, for animals that have been identified by a veterinarian as permanently distressed or severely suffering, the local authority should be prepared to provide immediate disposition (most commonly humane euthanasia) once the court approves of the disposition.

Costs of Care

Local authorities should keep track of expenses related to the seizure and care of the neglected livestock. Iowa Code §§717.5(3)(a)(1) authorizes the local authority to seek recovery of:

- Costs of maintaining the neglected livestock,
- Costs for disposing of the neglected livestock, and
- Reasonable attorney fees and expenses related to the investigation of the case.

Generally, if the local authority is able to sell the livestock, the local authority’s costs can be subtracted from the sale proceeds with any remainder being returned to the livestock owner⁴. However, if the sale proceeds are not sufficient to cover the expenses of the local authority, the court may order the person owning the neglected livestock to pay the associated expenses⁵.

If more than one person has a divisible ownership interest in the livestock the amount required to be paid shall be prorated based on the percentage of interest in the livestock owned by each person. Additionally, if the livestock owner is a landowner, the local authority may submit the moneys owed to the clerk of the county board of supervisors who will then report the amount to the county treasurer to be collected in the same manner as property taxes⁶.

A local authority is not required to file a petition for disposition for livestock that has been voluntarily relinquished. However, if the local authority desires to recover any costs related to its involvement, a petition for disposition would be required.

⁴ Iowa Code §717.5(3)(c)(1): “Moneys owed to the local authority from the sale of neglected livestock that have been rescued by a local authority pursuant to section 717.2A shall be paid to the local authority before satisfying indebtedness secured by any security interest in or lien on the livestock.

⁵ Iowa Code §717.5(3).

⁶ Iowa Code §717.5(3)(C)(2).

Iowa Code chapter 717	§717.5 Disposition of Neglected Livestock	
Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	“Livestock”: cattle, goats, horses, donkeys, sheep, hogs, poultry, ostriches, rheas, emus, and farmed deer	
Allows:	Livestock that has been rescued by law enforcement pursuant to §717.2A to be disposed of and for the costs to care for the livestock to be ordered.	
Who can initiate process? *	Local authority, person owning or caring for the livestock or the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. For this process, this person is called the petitioner. *The party that files the petition for disposition should be the same party who took legal control or authority of the livestock (for example, the local authority would file the petition for livestock rescued pursuant to §717.2A.)	
Steps	Details	Practice Tips
1. File a petition for disposition with the court	County attorney will file the petition with the relevant court. Petition should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request to the court for a hearing on the matter as soon as possible but no later than 10 days from the date of filing. • Request for relief including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If any animals are permanently distressed or severely suffering, a request for immediate disposition of those animals. ◦ Request for the disposition of the livestock (through a sale barn, auction, other method). ◦ Request the livestock owner pay any fees incurred by local authority. See Iowa Code §717.5(3). 	*County attorneys may contact the Iowa Office of the Attorney General or the Prosecuting Attorneys Training Coordinator for petition templates or guidance on drafting the petition. *The petition should be filed as soon as possible after taking control of livestock to limit the period of time the local authority has to care for the animals. *Utilize the veterinary assessments conducted on each animal following the seizure in support of any requests for immediate disposition for suffering animals.
2. The court must schedule a hearing within 10 days of the filing of the petition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The court can order any permanently distressed or severely suffering animals to immediately be disposed. • The court can consider any motions for continuance. 	

3. Hearing continuances	<p>The hearing may be continued for up to 40 days at the request of the livestock owner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The owner must post a bond or other security to be granted a continuance (the court will determine the amount of the bond/security but should be sufficient to cover the cost of the livestock care during the continuance). <p>A subsequent continuance may be granted as well with a new bond or security.</p>	
4. Court determines livestock disposition	The Court will determine if all or any livestock can be disposed of by the local authority.	
5. Court orders payment of costs	The Court can order cost to be paid to the local authority.	
6. Dispose of livestock	Local authority must keep records of all dispositions, including any sale proceeds from the animals.	
7. File final report with the court	County attorney should file final report to account for all animal dispositions, costs incurred, and any proceeds received.	If proceeds do not cover costs, request the court order the costs to be assessed against any property owned by the livestock owner as a property tax. See Iowa Code §717.5(3)(c)(2).

Iowa Code §717.3 - Livestock in Immediate Need of Sustenance

A thoughtful reader of Iowa Code chapter 717 is likely to notice section 717.3 which provides that IDALS may initiate action for livestock that are in need of food or water (sustenance). While this provision may look ideal for certain situations, there are two main limitations. First, it should be noted that the definition of “livestock” for this section is limited to cattle, sheep, swine or poultry. Horses are not included. Secondly, because the role of supervision and maintenance of seized animals is generally provided to the local authority, unless the local authority is particularly unable to respond in extreme circumstances (such as a mass neglect situation in livestock facilities), the local authority is generally better situated to respond. IDALS does exercise discretion as to whether to initiate action and only assumes responsibility in very limited circumstances. Additionally, IDALS does not have the same cost recovery mechanism as a local authority and must consider the balance of funds within the livestock remediation fund before responding.

B Iowa Code chapter 717B – Mistreatment of Animals

The main animal cruelty provisions are contained in chapter 717B. This chapter defines “animal” as any nonhuman vertebrate. However, it excludes livestock, game, fur-bearing animal, fish, reptile, or amphibian unless a person owns, confines, or controls the game, fur-bearing animal, fish, reptile, or amphibian, and any nongame considered a “nuisance.” There are separate prohibitions against animal abuse, animal neglect, animal torture, abandonment of a cat or dog, and injury to a police service dog. Exclusions under the various sections include veterinary care, hunting, animal husbandry, and scientific research, among others. Under both the animal abuse and animal torture sections, a first offense results in an aggravated misdemeanor and graduate subsequent convictions to felony status. Additionally, a person convicted of animal neglect, animal abuse, or animal torture may be ordered by the court to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo any treatment that the court determines to be appropriate. More serious offenses may make this evaluation mandatory.

Only animal abuse, animal neglect, and animal torture are summarized in this handbook. Please refer to the full code for the other relevant sections. **NOTE:** Each offense section has specific exclusions related to commercial facilities. If it is believed that the animal is maintained as part of a commercial establishment⁷, it is advisable to consult with IDALS.

⁷ A commercial establishment is an animal shelter, boarding kennel, commercial breeder, commercial kennel, dealer, pet shop, pound, public auction, or research facility. See Iowa Code §162.2(9).

1. Iowa Code section 717B.2 - Animal Abuse

A person commits animal abuse when the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly acts to inflict injury, serious injury, or death on an animal by force, violence, or poisoning. Criminal penalties for animal abuse, based on the degree of serious injury and/or death and subsequent convictions can include serious misdemeanor, aggravated misdemeanor, or class D felony.

Iowa Code chapter 717B	§717B.2 Animal Abuse		
Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	“Animal”: Non-human vertebrates, dogs, cats Includes dogs and cats in commercial establishments, DOES NOT include livestock		
Penalty	Serious Misdemeanor	Aggravated Misdemeanor	Class D Felony
Elements of the offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally • Knowingly or • Recklessly 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By force • Violence or • Poisoning 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflicts injury (but not serious injury or death) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflicts serious injury or death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflicts serious injury or death
			Previous conviction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal abuse pursuant to §717B.2, • animal neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor or aggravated misdemeanor pursuant to §717B.3, • animal torture pursuant to §717B.3A, • other animal offenses (see Iowa Code §717B.2(5)).
Does NOT include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable euthanasia with the consent of the owner if the animal is in pain or is suffering • Carrying out a court order • A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine • If another law permits the act • Hunting, trapping, or fishing of wild animals • Reasonably protecting the person’s property from damage from wild animals or unconfined animal • Reasonably protecting a person from injury or death from wild animals or unconfined animal • Local authority acting reasonably to destroy a suffering animal if owner is not present or unable to care for the animal • A research facility • An action required by a commercial establishment <i>*Please consult IDALS</i> 		
Multiple offenses?	Yes	Yes	Yes

2. Animal Neglect (section 717B.3)

This section encompasses both negligent and intentional actions related to the care and treatment of animals.

Specifically, the following six (6) criteria:

- **Insufficient food or water**

- Negligent animal neglect occurs when a person fails to supply a confined animal with sufficient food or water. This lack of basic sustenance can lead to suffering and harm.

- **Inadequate shelter**

- Ventilated shelter is reasonably sufficient to provide adequate protection from the elements and weather conditions suitable for the age, species, and physical condition of the animal so as to maintain the animal in a state of good health to the extent that the animal's health or life is not endangered. The shelter must protect the animal from wind, rain, snow, or sun and have adequate bedding to provide reasonable protection against cold and dampness. A shelter may include a residence, garage, barn, shed, or doghouse.

- **Unsanitary conditions**

- Sanitary conditions free from excessive animal waste or the overcrowding of animals to the extent that the animal's health or life is not endangered.

- **Failure to provide veterinary care**

- Veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person to relieve an animal's distress from a list of specific conditions.

- **Failure to provide grooming**

- Grooming, to the extent it is reasonably necessary to prevent adverse health effects or suffering.

Criminal penalties for animal neglect, based on the degree of serious injury and/or death and subsequent convictions can include simple misdemeanor, serious misdemeanor, aggravated misdemeanor, or class D felony.

Iowa Code chapter 717B	§717B.3 Animal Neglect			
Animals it is generally applicable to:	“Animal”: Non-human vertebrates, dogs, cats Includes dogs and cats in commercial establishments DOES NOT include livestock			
Penalty	Simple Misdemeanor	Serious Misdemeanor	Aggravated Misdemeanor	Class D Felony
Elements of the offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owns OR Has custody 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confines the animal⁸ 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to provide any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Potable water (not ice or snow) Conditions free from excessive waste Conditions free from overcrowding Reasonably adequate shelter Necessary grooming Reasonable veterinary care 			
	Neglect without injury	Causes injury (not serious injury or death)	Causes serious injury or death	Causes serious injury or death
Does NOT include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An animal in a commercial establishment when the commercial establishment is in compliance with the standard of care requirements in §162.10A(1). ***Please consult IDALS A research facility 			
Multiple offenses?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

⁸ See State v. Liendo, 797 N.W.2d 624 (Iowa Ct. App. 2011) (unpublished opinion)(the Court held that an animal being kept in a house or building without the ability to leave was sufficient to be considered impounded or confined); see also State v. Wilson, 772 N.W.2d 268 (Iowa Ct. App. 2009) (unpublished opinion)(in holding that the defendant was guilty of animal torture rather than neglect, the Court finding that holding an animal while it was killed did not constitute impoundment or confinement necessary for neglect, especially considering that it was inappropriate to convict for both torture and neglect for the same act).

3. Animal Torture (section 717B.3A)

A person commits animal torture if they intentionally or knowingly inflict severe and prolonged or repeated physical pain that causes serious injury or death to the animal. There are specific sections regarding the exclusive original jurisdiction of a juvenile court in a proceeding concerning a child who is alleged to have committed animal torture. A person who commits animal torture is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. A person who commits animal torture is guilty of a class "D" felony if the person has previously been convicted of committing animal abuse pursuant to section 717B.2, animal neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor or aggravated misdemeanor pursuant to section 717B.3, animal torture pursuant to this section, injury to or interference with a police service dog pursuant to section 717B.9, bestiality pursuant to section 717C.1, or an act involving a contest event prohibited in section 717D.2. Specific and detailed sections are included in the code regarding dispositional proceedings (717B.4) and the rescue of threatened animals.

Iowa Code chapter 717B	§717B.3A Animal Torture	
Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	"Animal": Non-human vertebrates, dogs, cats Includes dogs and cats in commercial establishments DOES NOT include livestock	
Penalty	Aggravated Misdemeanor	Class D Felony
Elements of the offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally or Knowingly 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflicts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> severe and prolonged or repeated physical pain 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes serious injury or death 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous conviction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> animal abuse pursuant to §717B.2, animal neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor or aggravated misdemeanor pursuant to §717B.3, animal torture pursuant to §717B.3A, other animal offenses (see Iowa Code §717B.2(5)).
Does NOT include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out a court order A licensed veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine If another law permits the act Hunting, trapping, or fishing of wild animals Reasonably protecting the person's property from damage from wild animals or unconfined animal Reasonably protecting a person from bodily harm or death from wild animals or unconfined animal Local authority acting reasonably to euthanize a suffering animal if owner is not present or unable to care for the animal A research facility authorized pursuant to Iowa Code §162.2 An action required by a commercial establishment ***<i>Please consult IDALS</i> 	
Multiple offenses?	Yes	Yes

C Iowa Code chapter 162 - Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments

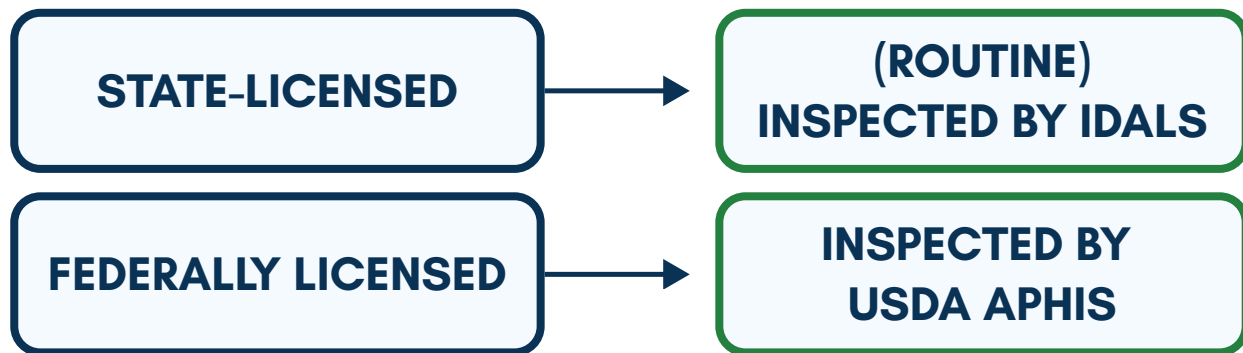
The purpose of this chapter is to ensure animals in commercial establishments are provided with humane care and treatment. Although this chapter focuses primarily on the administrative regulation of commercial establishments by IDALS, this chapter does offer two additional benefits:

- Creates a standard of care for the majority of animals in commercial establishments,
- Provides for a criminal penalty of a simple misdemeanor if a person operates a commercial establishment without authorization issued or renewed by IDALS. Each day operating without authorization is a separate offense. See Iowa Code §162.13(1).

This chapter is NOT applicable to livestock, or any other agricultural animal used in agricultural production. It is especially important to watch defined terms in this chapter. Additionally, because this chapter addresses several different types of establishments, including both federal and state facilities, it is important to recognize the differences.

Federal Licensees (State Permittees)

A federal licensee is a dealer⁹ or exhibitor¹⁰ that has been issued a license by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act. Federal licensees operating within the state also have to be authorized by the State of Iowa. Federal licenses are issued a permit by IDALS to operate and are referred to as permittees.



⁹ Under the Animal Welfare Act, a dealer (federal licensee) means any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of: Any dog or other animal whether alive or dead (including unborn animals, organs, limbs, blood, serum, or other parts) for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, exhibition, or use as a pet; or any dog at the wholesale level for hunting, security, or breeding purposes. This term does not include: A retail pet store, as defined in this section; and any retail outlet where dogs are sold for hunting, breeding, or security purposes. 9 C.F.R. §1.1.

¹⁰ Under the Animal Welfare Act, an exhibitor means any person (public or private) exhibiting any animals, which were purchased in commerce or the intended distribution of which affects commerce, or will affect commerce, to the public for compensation, as determined by the Secretary. This term includes carnivals, circuses, animal acts (including free-flighted bird shows), zoos, and educational exhibits, exhibiting such animals whether operated for profit or not. This term excludes retail pet stores, horse, dog, and pigeon races, an owner of a common, domesticated household pet who derives less than a substantial portion of income from a nonprimary source (as determined by the Secretary) for exhibiting an animal that exclusively resides at the residence of the pet owner, organizations sponsoring and all persons participating in State and country fairs, livestock shows, rodeos, field trials, coursing events, falconry, purebred dog and cat shows, bird fancier shows, and any other fairs or exhibitions intended to advance agricultural arts and sciences, as may be determined by the Secretary. 9 C.F.R. §1.1.

State Authorizations

In addition to the state permit issued to federal licenses, IDALS also issues (1) certificates of registration and (2) state licenses to commercial establishments. Cumulatively, all permits, certificates and licenses issued by IDALS are referred to as “authorizations”. IDALS maintains a database of commercial facilities (including the authorization/facility type) online, along with records of their recent inspections.

Facility types and authorizations are summarized below:

Iowa Code chapter 162			
Facility Type	Applicable To: <i>*Entire chapter DOES NOT apply to livestock or any other animal used in agriculture production</i>	Facility Description	Facility Authorization Type
Animal shelter	Dogs and cats	Facility operated by an incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or other nonprofit organization	Certificate of registration
Boarding kennel	Dogs and cats	Facility that provides shelter and care for consideration for animal not owned by the proprietor	State license
Commercial breeder	Dogs and cats	A person who owns or harbors 4 breeding animals (males or females or combo thereof) is a commercial breeder	State license or permit (as a federal licensee)
Commercial kennel	Dogs and cats	Facility offering grooming, boarding, or training services	State license
Dealer	Dogs and cats	Facility that buys for resale, sells, or exchanges animals	State license or permit (as a federal licensee)
Pet shop	Dog and cats and other vertebrate animals, (including rabbits, rodents, nonhuman primates, birds), excluding fish	Facility where animals not born and reared on the facility's premises are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the public, at retail. <i>Minimum sales volumes apply for vertebrate animals.</i>	State license
Pound	Dogs, cats, or other animals	Facility operated by or under contract of a state political subdivision (municipalities, towns, cities)	Certificate of registration
Public auction	Dogs and cats	Facility that auctions animals to highest bidder	State license or permit (as a federal licensee)
Research facility	Dogs and cats	School or college of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, or osteopathic medicine, or hospital, diagnostic or research laboratories, or other educational or scientific establishment	Certificate of registration

Standard of Care

The major standard of care for commercial establishments is provided in Iowa Code §162.10A. This §162.10A standard of care is applicable to the majority of authorizations for dogs and cats, and for vertebrate animals in research facilities and pet shops.

Iowa Code chapter 162	Iowa Code §162.10A		
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate feed • Adequate water • Housing facilities • Sanitary control • Grooming practices, if such lack causes adverse health or suffering • Veterinary care 		
Applicable to:	Animals	Maintained in Facility Type	Authorization
	Dogs and cats	Commercial breeder Dealer Public auction	Federal License/State Permit ¹¹
	Dogs and cats	Boarding kennel Commercial breeder Commercial kennel Dealer Pound Public auction	State License
	Dogs and cats	Animal shelter	Certificate of Registration
	All vertebrate animals (including dogs and cats)	Research facility Pet shop	Certificate of Registration

NOTE: If there is a question as to whether a commercial facility is in compliance, especially for the standard of care, please consult IDALS. Additionally, IDALS can provide inspection and complaint records on a commercial establishment authorized pursuant to chapters 162. Recent inspection reports are available on IDALS Animal Welfare Inspection database https://data.iowaagriculture.gov/licensing_lists/animal_welfare/. The standard of care in §162.10A is further defined in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-67. However, because IDALS cannot adopt rules that are more restrictive than Animal Welfare Act for animal care for federal licensees, the majority of Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-67 does not apply to federal licensees/state permittees and the standard of care in Code §162.10A remains the baseline.

¹¹ See 21 IAC §67.15.

Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-67 – Animal Welfare

This administrative code chapter provides detailed guidelines for state licensees and state certificates of registration. These establishments include animal shelters, boarding kennels, commercial breeders, dealers, pet shops, pounds, public auctions, and research facilities. Recall that federal licensees are generally excluded from this chapter. Key areas covered include:

Housing and Care

- Requirements for housing facilities, primary enclosures, and general care (including food, shelter, and water).
- Guidelines for veterinary care, transportation, and record-keeping.

Specific Requirements

- Dedicated sections with individual, specific requirements for various types of establishments, such as boarding kennels, commercial kennels, animal shelters, pounds, dealers, dog day cares, in-home facilities, rescues, research facilities, and foster oversight organizations.

Licensing Procedures and Euthanasia

- Detailed information on licensing procedures.
- Separate sections covering acceptable forms of euthanasia.

NOTE: A state licensee or state certificate of registration that is in compliance with the standard of care requirements provided in Iowa Code §162.10A AND all related rules is not subject to neglect as defined in § 717B.3. A federal license/state permittee that is in compliance with the standard of care requirements provided in Iowa Code §162.10A is NOT subject to neglect as defined in § 717B.3. Commercial establishments (state or federal) found to be NOT in compliance with the defined standards are subject to penalties as defined in §717B.3. No commercial establishments are exempt from abuse or torture penalties as defined in §717B.2 and §717B.3A.

Iowa Code section 717B.5 - Rescue of Threatened Animals

The rescue of threatened animals and their disposition is required to move fairly quickly under Iowa Code chapter 717B which makes it imperative that the local authority is prepared ahead of time. For example, this Code chapter requires that the local authority must file its disposition petition with the court within 10 days of rescuing the animals.¹² Additionally, the court will schedule a hearing on the disposition of the animals within 10 days of the filing of the disposition petition, unless a continuance is granted.¹³

¹² See Iowa Code §717B.5(3).

¹³ Iowa Code §717B.4(1).

Costs of Care

Local authorities should keep track of expenses related to the seizure and care of the threatened animals. It is also important to note, especially for planning purposes, that the local authority must provide for the care of any animals rescued, regardless of its ability to recover reimbursement of the costs.¹⁴

Iowa Code §§717B.4(3)(a) authorizes the local authority to seek recovery of:

1. Costs of maintaining the threatened animals,
2. Costs for disposing of the threatened animals, and
3. Reasonable attorney fees and expenses related to the investigation and prosecution of the case.

Generally, if the local authority is able to sell any of the animals, the local authority's costs can be subtracted from the sale proceeds with any remainder being returned to the animal's owner.¹⁵

If a bond or other security was posted as a condition of continuance in the case, the local authority may subtract its expenses from that bond or security.¹⁶

If the sale proceeds or bond/security are insufficient to cover the expenses of the local authority, the court may order the responsible person owning the threatened animal to pay the associated expenses.¹⁷

If more than one person has a divisible ownership interest in the animals, the amount required to be paid shall be prorated based on the percentage of interest in the animal owned by each responsible person. Additionally, if the owner of the animals is a landowner, the local authority may submit the moneys owed to the clerk of the county board of supervisors who will then report the amount to the county treasurer to be collected in the same manner as property taxes.¹⁸

A local authority is not required to file a petition for disposition for animals that have been voluntarily relinquished. However, if the local authority desires to recover any costs related to its involvement, a petition for disposition would be required to have any eligible costs considered for reimbursement by the court.

Iowa Code chapter 717B	§717B.5 Rescue of Threatened Animal
Animals it is <i>generally</i> applicable to:	"Animal": Non-human vertebrates, dogs, cats Includes dogs and cats in commercial establishments DOES NOT include livestock
Animal must be:	A "Threatened Animal" An "Animal" that is abused as provided in §717B.2, neglected as provided in §717B.3, or tortured as provided in section §717B.3A.
Who can initiate process?	Generally yes. See Iowa Code §717B.5(1)
Allows:	Law enforcement to enter property to rescue a "Threatened Animal"

¹⁴ See Iowa Code §717B.5(4).

¹⁵ Iowa Code §§717B.4(3)(c): "If any moneys are realized from the disposition of a threatened animal, the moneys shall be used to offset the local authority's dispositional expenses before satisfying indebtedness secured by any security interest in or lien on the threatened animal."

¹⁶ Iowa Code §§717B.4(3)(b).

¹⁷ Iowa Code §§717B.4(3).

¹⁸ Iowa Code §§717.4(3)(d).

Steps	Details	Practice Tips
1. Consult with veterinarian	Law enforcement is only required to consult with a veterinarian to determine whether the animal is a threatened animal (rather than having to receive a written statement as is required for livestock.)	*Although not required, a written statement from a veterinarian regarding the condition of the animal as a threatened animal is still helpful for potential disposition proceedings. *IDALS vets can provide consultations or determinations if local vet is unwilling.
2. Receive search warrant	No notice of intent to rescue is required	
3. Rescue threatened animal(s)	Local authority can contract for care of animals	*It is beneficial to have an individual assessment of each animal performed by a veterinarian as the initial veterinary consultation is assessed more on the entire group of animals. A veterinarian should note if any individual is permanently or severely suffering (due to disease or injury). *Local authority must keep accurate records of all costs associated with caring for the animals.
4. Provide notice of rescue	Notice must state that animal was rescued by the local authority pursuant to Iowa Code §717B.5 Notice can be provided by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written notice of rescue delivered to last known address by USPS 2. Written notice of rescue delivered by personal service 3. Posting a notice of the rescue in a conspicuous location where animal was rescued 	
5. File for disposition of animal(s)	Iowa Code §717B.5(3) requires the petition for disposition must be filed within 10 days of the rescue of the animals	*This requirement to file within 10 days of <i>the rescue</i> of the animals is unique to chapter 717B and is not required for rescue of livestock under chapter 717. Both chapters do require a hearing within 10 days following the <i>filing of the petition</i> .

Following the seizure of the animals, it is suggested that each animal undergoes an assessment by a veterinarian that is memorialized in a written record. These records/assessments can be crucial in determining the disposition of the animals by the court. Particularly, animals that are distressed by disease or injury to a degree that would result in severe and prolonged suffering, should be prioritized. The court can offer these suffering animals immediate disposition, rather than having to potentially wait through any continuances.

Iowa Code section 717B.4 - Disposition of Rescued Animals

For any animals rescued under Iowa Code §717.5, the local authority must be prepared to file for disposition of the livestock as soon possible but at least within 10 days, which the statute requires. See Iowa Code § 717B.5(3). It should be noted that the use of “disposition” or “disposal” within these contexts is meant to encompass sales, transfers, rehoming or humane euthanasia of the livestock. The local authority is responsible for the care and maintenance until the animals are disposed of. Any animals seized cannot be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of without the approval of the court. The local authority should have disposition identified for each animal or groups of similar animals. Specifically for animals that have been identified by a veterinarian as permanently distressed or severely suffering, the local authority should be prepared to provide immediate disposition (most commonly humane euthanasia) once the court approves of the disposition.

Iowa Code chapter 717B	§717B.4 Disposition of Threatened Animals
Animals it is generally applicable to:	“Animal”: Non-human vertebrates, dogs, cats Includes dogs and cats in commercial establishments DOES NOT include livestock
Animal must be:	A “Threatened Animal” An “Animal” that is abused as provided in §717B.2, neglected as provided in §717B.3, or tortured as provided in section §717B.3A.
Allows:	Threatened animals to be disposed of and for the costs of care for the animals to be ordered (including if the threatened animal has been rescued pursuant to §717B.5 or if the animal has not been rescued ¹⁹).
Who can initiate process?*	Local authority

¹⁹ See City of Dubuque v. Fancher, 590 N.W.2d 493, (Iowa 1999) (The Court ruled that rescue of threatened animal was not a prerequisite to disposition, and therefore, neither was compliance with rescue procedure for purposes of disposition of the rescued animals).

Steps	Details	Practice Tips
1. File a petition for disposition with the court	<p>County attorney will file the petition with the relevant court (county where animal(s) is maintained). Petition must be filed <u>within 10 days of rescue of the animals</u>, and should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request to the court for a hearing on the matter as soon as possible but no later than 10 days from the date of filing of the petition. • Request for relief including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If any animals are permanently distressed or severely suffering, a request for immediate disposition of those animals. ◦ Request for the disposition of the animals (sale, relinquishment to shelter or non-profit, euthanasia). ◦ Request the owner of the animals pay any fees incurred by local authority. See Iowa Code §717.5(3). 	<p>*The Iowa Office of the Attorney General or the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinator may be able to provide some guidance on the process and drafting the petition.</p> <p>*The petition should be filed as soon as possible after taking control of animal to limit the period of time the local authority has to care for the animals.</p> <p>*Utilize the veterinary assessments conducted on each animal following the seizure in support of any requests for immediate disposition for suffering animals.</p>
2. The court must schedule a hearing within 10 days of the filing of the petition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The court can order any permanently distressed or severely suffering animals to immediately be disposed. • The court can consider any motions for continuance. 	
3. Hearing continuances	<p>The hearing may be continued for up to 30 days at the request of the animal owner or caretaker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner must post a bond or other security to be granted a continuance (the court will determine the amount of the bond/security but should be sufficient to cover the cost of the animal(s) care during the continuance). <p>A subsequent continuance may be granted as well with a new bond or security.</p>	
4. Court determines animal disposition	The Court will determine if all or any animals can be disposed of by the local authority.	
5. Court orders payment of costs	The Court can order costs to be paid to the local authority.	
6. Dispose of animals	Local authority must keep records of dispositions, including any sale proceeds from the animals.	
7. File final report with the court	County attorney should file final report to account for all animal dispositions, costs incurred, and any proceeds received.	If proceeds do not cover costs, request that court order the costs to be assessed against any property owned by the livestock owner as a property tax. See Iowa Code §717B.4(3)(d).

D Iowa Code chapter 167 – Use and Disposal of Dead Animals

This chapter addresses the use and disposal of dead animals. Specifically, all dead animal carcasses (including livestock included in Iowa Code chapter 717 and animals in Iowa Code chapter 717B) must be disposed of within 48 hours after death and that a person who has been caring for or who owns an animal that has died shall not allow the carcass to lie about the person's premises.

Failure to dispose of a dead animal within the prescribed timeframe is subject to either a civil penalty or criminal charge of a simple misdemeanor. Each animal can constitute a violation. Civil penalties can range from \$100 to \$1,000 for each violation. Rules related to dead animal disposal are contained in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-67.

CHAPTER 4

RESPONDING TO AND INVESTIGATING ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINTS

Effective responses to animal welfare complaints require investigators to navigate several critical steps with precision and care. This includes:

- 1 Understanding the Entire Process**
Investigators must be fully prepared to manage the investigative process from start to finish, including conducting initial assessments, securing search warrants when necessary, and handling the seizure and care of animals.
- 2 Planning and Responding**
A successful investigation hinges on leveraging established relationships and partnerships to respond effectively. Investigators must plan for animal care, temporary housing, evidence collection, and the involvement of veterinary professionals before initiating on-site assessments.
- 3 Building a Strong Case**
Thorough documentation, including high-quality photographs and videos, detailed reports, and expert witness statements, is essential. Additionally, investigators must have a clear understanding of legal doctrines such as pressing circumstances and the plain view doctrine to ensure that evidence collection aligns with legal standards.

By mastering this process, investigators can ensure that each case is handled effectively, animals receive proper care, and legal outcomes are based on a solid foundation of evidence. This approach not only strengthens the case but also reinforces public trust in the investigative process.

Section 1: Receiving Initial Animal Welfare Complaints

Complaints related to animal welfare can arise through various channels. Most of these complaints pertain to potential violations of Iowa Code chapter 717 or 717B, which address the injury and mistreatment of animals. Additionally, animal welfare investigations may originate from responses to dead animal complaints (Iowa Code chapter 167 or Iowa Administrative Code chapter 21-67).

Initial complaints often use language such as:

- “The animals are not being adequately fed or watered.”
- “The animals lack appropriate shelter.”
- “The animals are living in unsanitary conditions.”
- “The animals have injuries and aren’t getting up (due to lack of veterinary care).”
- “There is a dead animal (or multiple dead animals) that has been in the same spot for several days.”

Prompt reporting and thorough investigation are crucial to ensuring the well-being of animals.

Even when complaints are received anonymously, it is crucial to take them seriously and conduct thorough investigations. While some people withhold their names due to fear of reprisal from neighbors, most anonymous complaints are legitimate. Although completely anonymous tips are generally considered less reliable than those from known individuals, they can still hold value if they are detailed, demonstrate specialized knowledge, and can be partially corroborated by investigators. In cases where anonymity is necessary, investigating personnel should work closely with the local county attorney and/or the Office of the Iowa Attorney General to properly document and justify the need for confidentiality.

Regardless of whether the complaint is anonymous or not, asking some basic questions can be helpful. Based on the responses, investigating personnel can determine potential violations of laws, assess the urgency of the situation, and prepare for the investigation. Here are some suggested questions to gather more information from the initial report of an animal welfare complaint. This is not an exhaustive list but can be used as a guide.

1. **Individuals involved:** Obtain the name and address of the person/people involved in the alleged abuse or neglect, if possible. Do you have any indications if they know of animal welfare complaints? Is there an indication they will move the animals before investigating personnel arrive?
2. **Types and quantity of animals:** What types of animals are involved in the complaint, and how many are there?
3. **Reason for concern:** What is the nature of the animal welfare complaint? What led you to believe the animals are being abused or neglected?
4. **Location:** Where are the animals located or confined? Is it an apartment, house, barn, field or pen?
5. **Visibility:** Can the animals be seen from the roadside, a public vantage point, or a neighboring property?
6. **Last sighting:** When was the last time you saw the animals?
7. **Weather conditions:** What were the weather conditions at the time of the animal welfare concern? (Extreme heat, cold, or other weather events?)
8. **Sworn statement:** Are there people willing to sign a sworn statement about what was reported and witnessed?
9. **Additional witnesses:** Do you know of other witnesses I can interview?
10. **Explicit directions:** Provide explicit directions to the location of the complaint. In rural areas, details about the house (color, one or two stories), road, and landmarks are especially important.
11. **Licensed facility:** Is this related to a licensed facility (including commercial establishments defined in Iowa Code 162 and USDA Animal Care facilities)?
12. **Visible dead animals:** Are there any visible dead animals?

Section 2 – Investigation Procedures

When investigating animal welfare complaints, it is crucial to keep in mind the lawful principles and procedures of proper investigations from the outset. Investigations should consider entry, search, and seizure procedures. For more information and guidance on investigation processes and evidence collection, please consult the Iowa Criminal Law Handbooks offered through the Iowa Attorney General's office.

Section 3 – Preparing for Animal Welfare Investigations

Thorough preparation for animal welfare investigations is crucial to ensuring positive outcomes for all stakeholders, including the animals. Take a moment to pause, plan, and consider these fundamental questions. It can significantly enhance the response to an animal welfare complaint, the investigation process, and, if necessary, the subsequent trial:

- Has there already been contact with the owners?
- Is it anticipated the owners will be difficult and/or move the animals?
- How will scene and investigator safety be maintained?
- How will investigating personnel access the property and animals for assessment?
- How will investigating personnel document the scene and animals?
- If animals are seized, what provisions need to be made for applying for and obtaining a search warrant?
- If animals are surrendered or seized, what will be done with the animals? (where will they go, who will care for them?)
- Are there state and/or federal animal health requirements that must be addressed before animals are moved from their current locations (Ex. Is there disease status confirmation/testing that must be done? Are the animals moving out of state?)
- If the animals will be cared for in place, what resources will be needed to do that, who will do it, and who will pay for the feed and veterinary care?
- If the complaint needs further investigation and follow-up, what are the capabilities, parameters, and resources available for longer-term monitoring of animal care/health?
- If the animals need veterinary care/treatment, who will be responsible for that and how will it be paid for?
- Is there a need for subject matter expertise? If so, what kind is needed and when?

Contacting Owners

When conducting investigations, personnel should make reasonable efforts to communicate with the owner and request permission to examine the animal(s) whenever possible. If the owner is not at home and direct observations suggest animal welfare concern, consider leaving a notice for the person to contact the investigating personnel upon their return. If no call is received, investigators should return later when they expect the person to be present and proceed with the complaint investigation.

Preparing for the Owner's Reactions

Owners' responses to an animal welfare investigation can vary widely, influencing the course of the investigation and the actions required by investigating personnel. Understanding and anticipating these responses is critical for a swift and effective process. Investigators must be prepared to adapt to scenarios ranging from full cooperation to outright obstruction.

Examples of Possible Owner Responses

Example Response	Owner's Behavior	Investigator Considerations
Cooperative Owner (Assistance Needed)	Owner allows access to the animal(s) and requests resources or support but does not wish to surrender them.	Assess the condition of the animals, provide resources or referrals, and monitor compliance.
Cooperative Owner (Voluntary Surrender)	Owner allows access and voluntarily surrenders the animal(s).	Document the surrender agreement, arrange transportation and care, and ensure proper record-keeping.
Cooperative Owner (No Surrender)	Owner allows access but refuses to surrender the animal(s).	Evaluate the situation, gather evidence, and determine whether further action or monitoring is necessary.
Uncooperative Owner (Access Granted)	Owner is initially uncooperative but eventually allows access.	Approach with caution, document interactions, and proceed with the investigation while ensuring safety.
Uncooperative Owner (Access Denied)	Owner outright refuses access to the animal(s).	Follow legal protocols to secure access (e.g., obtaining a search warrant) while documenting refusal.
Uncooperative Owner (Potential Relocation)	Owner moves or threatens to move the animal(s) before the investigation.	Act swiftly to prevent relocation (if legally possible) and document any evidence of animal movement.
Uncooperative Owner (Denying Inspection)	Licensed commercial facility denies access to inspection personnel.	Follow applicable regulatory and legal procedures, document non-compliance, and escalate if necessary.

Property and Animal Access and Safety

Before initiating an animal welfare investigation, careful planning is essential regarding how investigative personnel will lawfully access the animals and the property. When evaluating an animal-related complaint, investigators can make observations from locations where they have a legitimate right to be while performing their duties. If owners refuse access to the property or animals, alternative observations can occur from neighboring properties (with permission), adhering to the principles of the plain view doctrine. Thoroughly documenting all animal observations and their acquisition methods is crucial. Investigating personnel should prioritize safety for both investigators and animals, anticipating potential hazards such as aggressive animals or unsafe structures. Coordination with law enforcement or legal authorities may be necessary. Always maintain detailed records of interactions, observations, and responses.

Planning for What to Do with the Animals

The safety and welfare of animals are paramount throughout the investigative process, making advanced planning for managing animals during welfare complaints crucial. Collaboration with local resources—such as animal control, shelters, veterinary hospitals, and rescue groups—is essential to ensure the animals' needs are met. These partners can provide veterinary care and necessary resources on the current property, at their private facilities, or at public locations such as fairgrounds. Investigative personnel must ensure comprehensive care provisions are in place prior to removal of the animals.

Building strong relationships with partner groups in advance is vital for conducting effective animal welfare investigations. Pre-planning efforts should include discussions on available space for housing large numbers and various species of animals to reduce the need for relocation across state lines or to multiple sites. Plans should also address provisions for caring for animals in all weather conditions. Additionally, if animals must be moved across state lines, investigators must be aware of inter-state animal health movement requirements. Consultation with the local or county attorney is also advised, as relocating animals across county and/or state lines may affect jurisdictional authority over the animals.

Consider the following scenarios that require advance planning for animal care:

1. On-property care:

- Animals may remain on the property, cared for by the owner or external parties. Law enforcement will need to provide or arrange for oversight of the care.
- Ensure access to food, water, and veterinary care (which may need to be brought in).
- Investigating personnel should weigh the ease of leaving the animals in place vs. the logistics and resources required to move the animals to another location when considering this option.

2. Voluntary surrender:

- Owners willing to surrender animals voluntarily need arrangements for off-site housing, feeding, and veterinary care.

3. Emergent circumstances and seizure:

- If animals need immediate attention and/or animals are seized via a lawfully obtained search warrant, meticulous planning is vital.
- Animals should not be removed until housing, feed, care, and veterinary oversight are secured.
- Investigating personnel must also meet all state and local animal health requirements before removal.
- Seizure generally requires a legal process, including a disposition hearing, during which the animals cannot be sold, dispersed, or rehomed; they can only be cared for in their temporary environment.

Authorities should be aware that the process for disposition of animals in welfare investigations can move quickly but can also be delayed and require longer care. Animals cannot be sold, transferred, or rehomed until a court issues a final decision on their disposition. To initiate this process, a petition must be filed with a court of competent jurisdiction with a hearing on the petition to occur within 10 days of its filing. However, the hearing may be delayed if the opposing party requests continuance and provides a bond or other security in an amount determined by the court. During this period, the local authority is often required to continue providing care for the animal(s).

After the disposition hearing, the court may take additional time to deliberate and issue a final decision. Although the timeline can vary depending on the specifics of the case and the species of animals, the local authority should be prepared to care for the animals for up to 20 days, and in some instances even longer. In some situations, the court may order the animals to be returned to their owners. Regardless of the outcome, the local authority remains responsible for the animal care and the associated costs until a final decision is reached. Given these potential scenarios, investigators should plan for an extended duration of animal care following any seizure.

Animal Health Requirements

State and federal regulations mandate specific animal health requirements for different species. Some animals must be confirmed disease-free before relocation to another state. Diagnostic testing of animals can be time-consuming, potentially delaying their relocation and increasing the need for on-site animal care provisions. Investigating personnel should always consult with state and federal animal health officials to understand any special health requirements as part of their planning.

Planning for Animal Welfare Expertise and/or Expert Witnesses

Not everyone is expected to be an expert in animal care, health, or production. Therefore, investigating personnel may need assistance from individuals with expertise in these areas. People with relevant knowledge, whether through experience, training, or both, who can aid in determining the facts of an animal welfare investigation include:

- Veterinarians
- Animal welfare scientists
- Animal scientists
- Veterinary technicians
- Reputable animal trainers or behaviorists
- Reputable animal breeders
- Farriers (blacksmiths/horse shoers)
- Wildlife rehabilitators

Investigating personnel may also need to utilize commonly recognized animal welfare assessment tools, such as body condition score charts. Several of these resources are provided at the end of this handbook.

Investigators might consider involving subject matter experts at various stages, including initial observations, applying for and/or executing a search warrant, after the animals have been seized, and as expert witnesses during trials. Planning and contacting these experts in advance will enhance the quality of the animal welfare investigation.

When to obtain a search warrant

The timing for obtaining a search warrant in animal welfare investigations can vary depending on factors such as the ability to contact the animals' owners, examine the animals, and ensure the safety of investigating personnel. Investigators must be prepared for the process to move quickly once initiated. It is recommended that law enforcement consult with the local county attorney before examining animals or contacting owners to ensure proper legal procedures are followed. County attorneys are encouraged to consult the Iowa Criminal Law Handbook offered through the Iowa Attorney General's Office for information on warrantless entry and search and seizure in general.

Local authorities are encouraged to contact IDALS if there are concerns related to a commercial establishment. IDALS is authorized to enter and inspect commercial facilities as part of routine inspections or in response to complaints. This authority may be useful for at least the initial investigation. However, IDALS administrative authority is not a replacement for a search warrant. Obtaining and executing a search warrant remains the responsibility of local law enforcement.

Scenarios where investigating personnel may apply for a search warrant before the first examination of the animals include (but are not limited to):

- Situations where the animals are objectively in very poor condition and are likely to be seized.
- Situations where investigators anticipate that confronting the owner first will result in the removal of the animals before an initial assessment can be conducted.
- Instances where owners have denied access to the property by investigating personnel and/or inspectors.

Section 4 – Considerations for Arriving on Scene

In addition to planning for various owner reactions, animal care and search warrants, it is important for investigation personnel to plan for the first moments arriving on scene.

Evidence Gathering

Animal welfare investigations should follow all the same basic evidence gathering procedures as any other investigation and evidence must be obtained lawfully. All evidence needs to maintain the chain of custody. Local county attorneys and/or the State Attorney General's office can provide recommendations on evidence that is best practice for animal welfare investigations. Always keep in mind plain view doctrine when arriving on scene. Some general suggestions:

- Always bring a camera and utilize body cam footage if applicable. Ideally, camera and/or video should be capable of generating a date and time stamp. Retain two copies of video/photos if possible.
- Note the names, addresses, and phone numbers of witnesses for follow-up contact.
- Note the conditions of the property, and document them, if possible:
 - What buildings are on the property?
 - Are there any sounds coming from the buildings?
 - What is the condition of any animal in plain view on the property?
 - Is the property well kept?
 - Are there any bad smells coming from the property?

Photographic and Video Evidence

Photographic evidence is one of the most compelling tools that investigating personnel can use to document animal welfare complaints. The importance of photographs cannot be overstated. The goal is to provide the judge and jury with clear, specific examples of the animal welfare violations that prompted the complaint. Since animals cannot typically be brought into the courtroom—and even if they can, their physical condition is likely to have improved by the time the case goes to court—it is crucial to present photographs that accurately depict the condition of the animals and their surroundings on the day they were assessed.

Investigators should prioritize capturing photographs and videos at the scene before removing the animals, as this evidence provides critical context by documenting the animals' current environment and conditions. Whenever possible, all photo and video documentation should be completed on-site to ensure the conditions are accurately recorded. If needed, additional photos or videos can be taken later at a veterinarian's office. It is important to include a summary statement identifying the individual taking the photo or video evidence, as well as the general location and subject matter being documented. This ensures the evidence can be formally admitted in legal proceedings.

If exigent circumstances demand the immediate removal of animals to a veterinarian, personnel should ensure photos are taken promptly upon arrival at the vet's office. In such cases, it's essential to assign someone to remain at the original location to fully document the conditions in which the animals were initially found.

The following guidelines for taking photographs and video may be useful:

- **Capture multiple angles:** Take pictures and videos of the animal(s) from the front, back, and both sides. Take close-up photos or zoom in on specific details that indicate neglect, such as overgrown toenails, hooves, skin infections, and sores. Also, take full-body shots to help investigating personnel remember how the close-ups fit together.
- **Document the surroundings:** Photograph the animal's environment, including food and water bowls (noting their condition and location), bedding, cages, animal waste, food bags, and restraints such as tie-outs and chains. Video also allows for the capture of any movement issues the animals may have, offering a more dynamic representation of their health or discomfort. The slow, consistent movement of the video camera helps keep details clear. Narrate what is observed while taking video.
- **Include all animals:** Be sure to document all animals, including deceased ones, to provide a complete account of the situation.
- **Identify each animal:** For cases with multiple animals or where individuals/carcasses look alike, assign an ID number to each animal. Hold a large ID number written on paper in clear view before photographing or recording each animal. On video, verbally state the ID number at the start of the video for easy reference and pan to any identifying characteristics to support later identification.

Images from an animal welfare case showing the entire facility, including close up images of the environment.

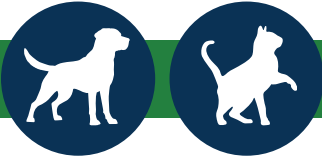


CHAPTER 5

ANIMAL CARE STANDARDS

This section provides general care guidelines for various types of animals commonly involved in welfare complaints. While these guidelines are not explicitly included in Code or Administrative Rule, these guidelines offer guidance on the application of the standard of care. While some cases of neglect and/or cruelty may be obvious even to an untrained eye, others may be more subtle. These guidelines outline the generally accepted, minimum conditions necessary to ensure basic care, detailing what to look for in the animals' appearance and their environment that may indicate neglect and/or cruelty. If investigative personnel observe these signs, it is crucial to call a veterinarian to examine the animal(s).

It is important to note that animal care practices can vary significantly between breeds and individual animals, depending on various factors. These guidelines are intended to provide investigating personnel with a foundation for making informed decisions about the care and health of animals under investigation. However, not all of these are mandates of state law. Divergence from these recommended practices does not necessarily constitute a violation of animal welfare statutes. Familiarity with the following animal care practices will better prepare investigators to recognize these issues.



DOGS AND CATS

Basic Animal Care Practices

FOOD

- Dogs should be fed at least once a day with high-quality dog food that provides adequate nutrients in sufficient quantity to maintain a healthy body condition. (*Reference: Nestle Purina Body Condition System for Dogs*)
- Cats should be fed at least once a day with high-quality cat food that provides adequate nutrients to support a healthy body condition. (*Reference: Nestle Purina Body Condition System for Cats*)

WATER

- Water must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. The frequency of providing water should be appropriate to the species, age, condition, and size of the animal as well as the environmental conditions.
- Access to a supply of potable water in an amount reasonably sufficient to satisfy the animal's basic hydration level to the extent that the animal's health or life is not endangered. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.

CLEANING AND SANITATION

- Sanitary conditions free from excessive animal waste or the overcrowding of animals to the extent that the animal's health or life is not endangered.
- Dogs and cats must be kept in clean living conditions, free of excessive waste, with regular cleaning and removal of waste. Excessive waste endangers the health and/or life of the animal.
- Indoor cats must have access to litter pans with appropriate litter material. Litter pans should be cleaned regularly to prevent the buildup of urine and fecal matter and to control odors.

SHELTER

- **Outdoor weather considerations:** In cold weather, factors such as breed, coat type, body condition, size, age and health status of the dog or cat must be considered. Short-haired, thin-haired, lean, young, old, or small dogs or cats are especially vulnerable to the cold and should only be outside briefly, as necessary, to relieve themselves. Dogs or cats should be acclimated to the weather conditions if housed outdoors.
- **Shelter access:** Dogs and cats kept outdoors should have access to shelter to allow them to get out of the elements. Dog houses should be appropriately sized—large enough for the dog to enter and move around but not so large that it cannot retain body heat in cold weather. The breed, physical condition, and age of the dog are important factors when determining the adequacy of a doghouse.
- **Ideal shelter qualities:** A shelter should:
 - Provide ventilation and protect from the elements, including wind, rain, snow, and sun.
 - Have adequate bedding to protect against cold and damp conditions.
 - Be reasonably sufficient to maintain the dog or cat in good health under typical weather conditions.
 - Types of shelter can include a residence, garage, barn, shed, or doghouse.
 - Tethering (chaining) a dog is not addressed in Iowa state law, but Iowa Code 162 prohibits prolonged tethering except for short exercise periods. Always check local laws regarding tethering restrictions.

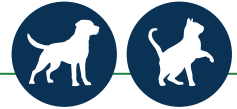
Dog (Canine) Terminology

Female	Bitch
Male	Male
Young	Litter of puppies
Act of giving birth	Whelping

Cat (Feline) Terminology

Female	Queen
Male	Tom
Young	Litter of kittens
Act of giving birth	Queening

DOGS AND CATS



GROOMING

- Routine grooming for dogs and cats may include brushing, nail trimming and other care appropriate for the breed to help maintain their overall health and comfort. Grooming is necessary to prevent adverse health effects. For example, matting can be painful and lead to skin wounds and infection.

VETERINARY CARE

- Although not required by law, dogs and cats should receive an annual veterinary exam to monitor their health, receive preventive vaccinations, and undergo testing for diseases as recommended.
- **Rabies vaccination - dogs:** According to Iowa Code Title IX, chapter 351, all dogs 6 months and older must be vaccinated against rabies. It is unlawful to possess a dog over 6 months old without this vaccination. Local ordinances may have stricter requirements, so check city or county laws regarding rabies vaccination timelines.
- **Rabies vaccination - cats:** While Iowa state law does not mandate rabies vaccinations for cats, check local city or county laws, as they may require rabies vaccinations for felines.

Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty - What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- | | |
|---|---|
| • listless | • fleas or ticks |
| • dull hair coat | • vomiting |
| • thin (ribs showing, sunken-in flanks) | • discharge from the eyes or nose |
| • hair loss and scabs | • lameness |
| • matting | • bare ear tips and other body areas, which could indicate sarcoptic mange, frostbite or other skin disease |
| • feces or urine on hair coat | • overgrown or ingrown nails |
| • diarrhea | |
| • cough | |

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- overturned water bowl (water should ideally be in spill proof container)
- frozen or dirty water
- lack of water (can be determined by offering fresh water and observing the reaction)
- lack of adequate food (is there food available on the property)
- lack of adequate shelter from elements
- ground covered with fecal matter
- strong odor of urine

BEHAVIOR

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • depressed | • shy |
| • lack of response to attention | • constant scratching |
| • excessively fearful | • biting at body |
| • aggressive | • repetitive behaviors (circling, spinning) |
| • excessive vocalization | • ingestion of objects |

If any of the elements above are present, call a veterinarian to examine the animals.



HORSES

Basic Animal Care Practices

NOTE: Feed and water requirements for horses will vary considerably depending on the age of the animal, its size, amount of exercise or work that it performs, and physiological status (e.g. whether pregnant or lactating, etc.)

Reference: American Association of Equine Practitioners Care Guidelines for Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities

CARE CONSISTENT WITH CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

- **Shelter:** Although Iowa Code 717 does not define specific shelter requirements for livestock, horses should have access to shelter that allows them to escape adverse weather if they choose. This may include natural or man-made structures as appropriate to customary animal husbandry practices. Shelters should allow for adequate air circulation to manage humidity while preventing drafts.
- **Stalling and turnout:** Horses may be kept in box stalls or straight “tie stalls.” Horses housed indoors should ideally receive regular exercise, though some medical conditions may necessitate indoor stalling without turnout. Indoor stalls should provide natural light and sufficient space to prevent overcrowding. They should be well ventilated and cleaned regularly to minimize ammonia and feces build up.
- **Hoof care:** Horses require routine hoof care, with trimming approximately every 6 to 12 weeks. Shoeing may be necessary depending on the horse’s foot health, activity, and the surfaces it encounters.
- **Dental care:** Horses’ teeth should be checked annually and floated as necessary to prevent discomfort and ensure effective chewing.
- **Parasite control:** Each horse’s deworming regimen should be tailored to its environment and needs. Owners should consult with a veterinarian to establish an effective deworming schedule.

FEED

- High-quality forage is the foundation of a horse’s diet. Horses should be fed a forage-based diet that provides adequate nutrients in sufficient quantity to maintain a healthy body condition. (*Reference: Kentucky Equine Research Body Condition Score Chart for Horses*)
- A typical, 1000-pound horse requires about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a standard 40-pound hay bale daily, while ponies or small breeds may need approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of a bale and draft horses require more. Mold-free hay and feed are essential to prevent illness.
 - **Special dietary needs:** Horses with medical conditions, older horses, or those in active work may need tailored diets. Owners should seek veterinary guidance to address any specific nutritional needs.
 - **Access to grazing and hay:** Horses have a natural need to graze or chew on hay, ideally spending 18 hours a day on this activity. Whether indoors or outdoors, hay should be available to support digestive health and prevent gastrointestinal issues. Hay may also be offered as cubes.
 - **Grain:** Horses may be given grain or other supplements to meet their nutritional needs. This may decrease the amount of hay needed.
 - **Salt and mineral supplements:** Some horses may need supplemental salt or trace minerals, typically provided through white salt or red mineralized salt blocks or additives to the grain as recommended by a veterinarian.

Horse (Equine) Terminology

Female	Mare
Young female	Filly
Male	Stallion
Young male	Colt (Sometimes colt is used to refer to young horse regardless of gender)
Castrated male	Gelding
Act of giving birth	Foaling

HORSES



WATER

- Fresh, clean, potable water must always be accessible, ideally in spill-proof containers. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.
- Dehydration poses serious risks for horses, potentially leading to gastrointestinal complications and other health issues.

Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty – What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- thin (ribs and vertebrae prominent)
- halter and other harness or saddle sores (check to see if halter has grown into the horse's head)
- halter should not be kept on constantly
- excessive hoof length (possibly with tips of hooves turned up)
- a hoof which is spongy on the bottom side and has a foul odor
- bite wounds from other horses
- skin problems
- discharge from the eyes
- labored breathing
- lameness or inability to rise

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- lack of fresh water or food available
- no provision for protection from extreme conditions
- overcrowding
- no place to lie down
- excessive manure and urine build-up
- standing on muddy ground with no dry areas
- **NOTE:** Insufficient manger/feeder space for the number of horses can result in a competitive situation which causes the weakest animals to be excluded from the food source.

BEHAVIOR

- head down and unresponsive
- inactive
- indifferent to surroundings and visitors
- excessively fearful
- excessive rolling on the ground or biting at their sides
- lying on the ground and unwilling to rise
- reluctance to move
- displays excessive aggression toward other horses
- signs of lameness, founder or laminitis such as odd standing behavior (not putting weight on one leg), lying on the ground excessively, standing with weight on hind quarters, etc. These can indicate an urgent need for veterinary care.

If any of the elements above are present, arrange to have a veterinarian examine the animals.



CATTLE

Basic Animal Care Practices

NOTE: Feed and water requirements will vary considerably depending on the age of the animal, its size, breed, work purpose (ex. milk production), and physiologic status (e.g. whether pregnant or lactating, etc.)

Reference: Beef Quality Assurance National Manual & National Milk Producers Federation Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Animal Care Manual Version 4

CARE CONSISTENT WITH CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

- **Shelter:** Although Iowa Code 717 does not define specific shelter requirements for livestock, cattle should have access to shelter that allows them to escape adverse weather if they choose. This may include natural (such as trees or windbreaks) or man-made structures as appropriate to customary animal husbandry practices. Shelters should allow for adequate air circulation to manage humidity while preventing drafts.
- **Bedding:** Confined cattle should have dry bedding, which can include sand, sawdust, shredded paper, straw, or packed manure (if dry). In winter, sufficient bedding should be provided to insulate against cold ground surfaces.
- **Hoof care:** Hoof trimming may be necessary depending on the age, breed and environment to prevent lameness and/or overgrowth.
- **Veterinary care:** Vaccination and deworming schedules should be developed in consultation with a veterinarian to maintain herd health.

FEED

- **Forage and mixed ration:** Cattle should have access to high-quality forage or a mixed ration, or they should be able to graze on sufficient pasture. Supplemental grain should be added to their diet when necessary, such as during lactation, gestation, growth phases, cold weather, or when forage or pasture quality is poor. Cattle should be fed a forage-based diet that provides adequate nutrients in sufficient quantity to maintain a healthy body condition. (References: Kansas State University's Body Condition Scoring Guide for beef cattle, and the National Milk Producers Federation's FARM Body Condition Scoring system for lactating cows)
- **Minerals and salt:** If not provided through a complete ration, a trace mineral lick and/or salt block should be made available to cattle to meet their mineral needs.

WATER

- Fresh, clean, potable water must always be accessible, ideally in spill-proof containers. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.

Cattle (Bovine) Terminology

Female	Cow
Young female	Heifer (has not yet had a calf; often considered less than 2 years of age)
Male	Bull
Castrated male	Steer
Young animal, either sex	Calf
Act of giving birth	Calving

CATTLE



Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty – What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- rough or patchy hair coat
- sunken eyes
- change in behavior
- change in respiration
- change in feed or water consumption
- discharge from the nose or eyes
- sunken in sides/abdomen
- change in manure consistency
- lameness
- inability to rise
- **Note:** Dairy cows are by nature “bony” in the hip area and may normally appear thin during early stages of lactation; however, one sign of an emaciated dairy cow may be a protruding back bone and sunken eyes.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- no dry place to lie down
- no water or food
- overcrowding
- strong ammonia odor (not just a manure odor) due to lack of ventilation
- **Note:** Insufficient manger/feeder space for the number of cattle can result in a competitive situation where the weakest animals can be excluded from the food source.

BEHAVIOR

- Loud and frequent bellowing from many of the animals in a group may occur when cattle are hungry/thirsty, and feed/water has not been provided.

If any of the elements above are present, arrange to have a veterinarian examine the animals.



SHEEP

Basic Animal Care Practices

NOTE: Feed and water requirements will vary considerably depending on the age of the animal, its size, breed, work purpose (ex. milk production), and physiologic status (e.g. whether pregnant or lactating, etc.)

Reference: The American Sheep Industry Association – Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program

Sheep (Ovine) Terminology

Female	Ewe
Male	Ram
Castrated male	Wether
Young animal, either sex	Lamb
Act of giving birth	Lambing

CARE CONSISTENT WITH CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

- **Shelter:** Although Iowa Code 717 does not define specific shelter requirements for livestock, sheep should have access to shelter that allows them to escape adverse weather if they choose. This may include natural (such as trees or windbreaks) or man-made structures as appropriate to customary animal husbandry practices. Shelters should allow for adequate air circulation to manage humidity while preventing drafts.
- **Parasite control:** Parasitism is a significant health concern for sheep, especially during the grazing season. Routine deworming is discouraged due to limited medication options and increasing parasite resistance. Instead, owners should work with veterinarians or extension agents to create a strategic deworming protocol suited to their specific situation.
- **Vaccinations:** Sheep can be vaccinated annually for rabies and clostridial diseases, including tetanus, as part of a proactive health management program.
- **Hoof care:** Hooves should be trimmed as necessary to prevent lameness and abnormal growth.
- **Shearing:** Sheep must be sheared at least once per year to prevent matting and maggot infestation (flystrike). During the grazing months, regular monthly checks are recommended to monitor parasite loads.
- **Tail docking and castration:** When tail docking and/or castration are required, these should be done in the first week of life to minimize pain and stress.

FEED

- **Forage and grazing:** As ruminants, sheep require good-quality forage or mixed rations and should have access to adequate grazing pastures to maintain optimal body condition. (Reference: Purina Body Condition Scoring of Sheep). Any prepared or textured grain mixes should be formulated specifically for sheep, without added copper, which is toxic to them. Fermented feeds can be used with caution, as sheep are more sensitive to listeria than cattle.
- **Mineral supplements:** Sheep should have access to a loose trace mineral supplement formulated specifically for them, which includes essential nutrients such as selenium, iodine, and salt.
- **Special feeding for wethers:** Grain and concentrate feeds should be carefully limited for wethers, which are particularly susceptible to urinary calculi, a condition that blocks urination.

WATER

- Fresh, clean, potable water must always be accessible, ideally in spill-proof containers. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.
- For ewes lambing in individual pens (or “jugs”), water should be removed during active labor and then reintroduced immediately after lambing to ensure hydration.

SHEEP



Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty – What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- too thin – NOTE: with an unshorn (unclipped) sheep, you must feel the body of the animal to determine if it is underweight
- maggots near genital area or skin folds
- discharge from the eyes or nose
- excessive hoof length – look to see if sides of hoof have overgrown and curled under the bottom of hoof
- limping
- animal “walking” on knees
- swelling under the jaw (“bottle jaw”) can be an indication of parasitism
- horns growing around into face or skull

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- lack of food and/or water
- no provision for shelter in extreme conditions
- overcrowding or insufficient feeding area may cause the less aggressive sheep to be excluded from the food source
- overcrowding in an unventilated barn can lead to pneumonia

BEHAVIOR

- dull, minimally responsive
- drooping head
- fleece or hair loss in breeds that do not shed
- straining to urinate (saw-horse stance)

If any of these elements are present, call a veterinarian to examine the animals.



GOATS

Basic Animal Care Practices

NOTE: Feed and water requirements will vary considerably depending on the age of the animal, its size, breed, work purpose (ex. milk production), and physiologic status (e.g. whether pregnant or lactating, etc.)

Reference:

American Dairy Goat Association Goat Well-Being
Kentucky State University Goat Production Basics

Goat (Caprine) Terminology

Female	Doe
Male	Buck
Castrated male	Wether
Young animal, either sex	Kid
Act of giving birth	Kidding

CARE CONSISTENT WITH CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

- **Shelter:** Although Iowa Code 717 does not define specific shelter requirements for livestock, goats should have access to shelter that allows them to escape adverse weather if they choose. This may include natural (such as trees or windbreaks) or man-made structures as appropriate to customary animal husbandry practices. Shelters should allow for adequate air circulation to manage humidity while preventing drafts.
- **Sanitation:** Goats should be kept in sanitary conditions, including dry and clean bedding, to prevent health issues. Young goats, or “kids,” are particularly vulnerable to unsanitary conditions and should always have a dry, clean place to rest.
- **Hoof care:** Hooves should be trimmed regularly to prevent lameness and abnormal growth.
- **Vaccinations:** Goats can benefit from annual vaccinations for rabies and clostridial diseases, including tetanus.
- **Parasite control:** Parasitism is a significant health risk for goats, especially during the grazing season. Routine deworming of all animals is not advised due to limited medication options and increasing parasite resistance. Instead, regular assessments of parasite loads are recommended at least monthly, particularly during the grazing months, to determine if treatment is needed.

FEED

- **Forage and Grazing:** As ruminants, goats need a forage-based diet and should have access to good-quality forage, supplemented with grains as necessary. Dairy goats typically have leaner body conditions than meat breeds, so dietary needs may vary. Fermented feeds can be provided with caution to avoid spoilage, as goats are more sensitive to listeria than cattle. (Reference: Purina Body Condition Scoring for Goats).
- **Mineral Supplementation:** Goats should have access to trace mineral supplements that include selenium, iodine, and salt to meet their nutritional needs.
- **Special Considerations for Wethers:** Grain and concentrates should be limited for wethers, as they are particularly susceptible to urinary calculi, a condition that obstructs urination.

WATER

- Fresh, clean, potable water must always be accessible, ideally in spill-proof containers. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.
- During the kidding process in small pens (or “jugs”), water should be temporarily removed during active labor and then promptly provided after kidding to support recovery.

GOATS



Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty – What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- too thin (normally should feel slight padding over bony areas)
- excessive hoof length (look to see if sides of hoof have overgrown and curled under the bottom of hoof)
- limping
- animal “walking” on knees
- swelling under the jaw (bottle jaw) can be an indication of parasitism
- horns growing around into the face or skull

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- overcrowding or insufficient feeding area may cause the less aggressive goats to be excluded from the food source
- overcrowding in an unventilated barn can lead to pneumonia
- wet conditions with no dry bedding or dry areas to lie down
- filth

BEHAVIOR

- dull, minimally responsive
- not interested in surroundings (well-cared for goats are typically very friendly and curious)
- drooping head
- hair loss
- straining to urinate (sawhorse stance)

If any of the elements above are present, arrange to have a veterinarian examine the animals.



PIGS

Basic Animal Care Practices

NOTE: Feed and water requirements will vary considerably depending on the age of the animal, its size, breed, work purpose, and physiological status (e.g. whether pregnant or lactating, etc.) Swine have mandatory disease programs. Contact IDALS at 515-281-6358 for specific information on disease testing and reporting requirements.

Resource: National Pork Board Pork Quality Assurance Plus® Education Handbook

Pig (Swine) Terminology

Female	Sow
Young female	Gilt (female that has not yet given birth)
Male	Boar
Castrated male	Barrow
Young weaned pig, either sex	Shoat
Act of giving birth	Farrowing

CARE CONSISTENT WITH CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

- **Shelter and environment:** Although Iowa Code 717 does not define specific shelter requirements for livestock, pigs should have access to shelter that allows them to escape adverse weather if they choose. This may include natural (such as trees or windbreaks) or man-made structures as appropriate to customary animal husbandry practices. Shelters should allow for adequate air circulation to manage humidity while preventing drafts.
- **Access to shade:** In summer, providing shade is essential to prevent pigs from suffering heat exhaustion, as they are unable to sweat and regulate their body temperature effectively. To help them cool off, pigs need access to a cooling method, such as a lawn sprinkler or a designated cooling area. Although outdoor pigs benefit from occasional mud wallows to cool themselves, constant exposure to mud can lead to health issues and is not ideal. Therefore, pigs should have access to a clean, dry area in addition to their wallow to support their health and comfort.
- **Sanitation:** Clean, dry bedding should be maintained to promote health and comfort. Regular cleaning of pens is essential to manage waste and prevent illness.
- **Parasite control:** Internal and external parasites can be an issue for pigs. A veterinarian should be consulted to develop a parasite control program tailored to specific conditions and geographic location.
- **Hoof care:** Hoof trimming may be necessary to prevent overgrowth and discomfort, especially for pigs housed on hard or uneven surfaces.

FEED

- Pigs are omnivores and should be provided with a balanced diet that meets their nutritional needs to maintain optimal body condition. Commercially formulated pig feed is recommended to ensure they receive adequate protein, energy, vitamins, and minerals. (*Reference: National Pork Board Pork Quality Assurance Plus® Body Condition Scoring for Pigs*)
- Iowa code prohibits the feeding of garbage to pigs unless properly treated. Reference Iowa Code chapter 163.
- Fresh, clean, potable water must always be accessible, ideally in spill-proof containers. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.
- Pigs are especially susceptible to salt toxicity without sufficient water.

PIGS



Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty – What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- A droopy/straight tail can indicate ill health (happy, healthy pigs have a tightly curled tail)
- thinness
- excessive scratching (usually indicates presence of lice)
- limping

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- sloppy manure- and/or trash-laden pens
- lack of ventilation
- no dry areas for them to be dry and clean
- overcrowding can lead to disease and sickness in pigs, and will prevent the weaker ones from gaining access to food sources
- lack of a muddy area for outdoor pigs to wallow, especially in summer months

BEHAVIOR

- dull, minimally responsive
- listless, not interested in surroundings
- drooping head

If any of these elements are present, call a veterinarian to examine the animals.



POULTRY: CHICKENS, DUCKS, GEESE, TURKEYS, GUINEA FOWL

Basic Animal Care Practices

NOTE: Poultry have mandatory disease programs. Contact IDALS at 515-281-6358 for specific information on disease testing and reporting requirements.

CARE CONSISTENT WITH CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

- **Shelter and protection:** Poultry should have access to a shelter that protects them from weather and predators. Coops should be draft-free in winter and well-ventilated in summer. In hot weather, fans can prevent heat exhaustion, while heat lamps can keep the coop above 32°F in winter to protect birds from frostbite.
- **Litter and dust bathing:** A 6-inch layer of shavings or sawdust on the coop floor helps absorb droppings and provides a dust-bathing area. Caked or wet litter should be removed regularly to keep the coop clean and dry. Note: Newspaper is not recommended for brooders, and hay is preferable for ducklings. The American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) Paw Scoring System is a useful reference for evaluating injury from litter build up/ammonia burns.
- **Ventilation:** Proper ventilation minimizes ammonia odor, moisture, and disease.
- **Predator protection:** To prevent predation, keep poultry penned with sturdy fencing, and close the coop door each evening after birds roost.
- **Disease prevention and biosecurity:** Check the flock daily for signs of disease or parasites. For disease prevention, maintain strict biosecurity:
 - avoid contact with other flocks
 - quarantine new birds for 30 days
 - disinfect any shared tools or supplies

FEED

- Poultry should always have access to a complete, balanced diet specific to their species and life stage. Supplement their diet with oyster shell or coarse-ground limestone for calcium and grit for digestion.

WATER

- Poultry should always have access to fresh, clean, potable water must always be accessible, ideally in spill-proof containers. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.
- Daily cleaning of water containers is recommended to prevent contamination.

Chickens Terminology

Female	Chickens
Male	Rooster
Young	Chick

Ducks Terminology

Female	Duck
Male	Drake
Young	Duckling

Geese Terminology

Female	Goose
Male	Gander
Young	Gosling

POULTRY: CHICKENS, DUCKS, GEESE, TURKEYS, GUINEA FOWL



Potential Signs of Neglect/Cruelty – What to Look For

APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL

- thin (feel the breastbone to see if it is prominent)
- unkempt feathers (healthy birds keep their feathers clean)
- frostbitten combs and wattles (red skin under chicken's chin)
- feather picking
- abrasions because of overcrowding

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- overcrowding – this can be fatal in chickens
- too hot or too cold for safety of birds
- lack of ventilation for indoor birds

BEHAVIOR

- dull, minimally responsive
- not interested in surroundings
- depressed
- open mouth breathing if respiratory diseases are present, if conditions are too hot, or when stressed

If any of the elements above are present, call a veterinarian to examine the animals.

RESOURCES FOR ANIMAL CARE STANDARDS AND BODY CONDITION SCORING



Nestle Purina Body Condition System for Dogs and Cats

<https://bit.ly/purinainstitute-body-condition-system>



American Association of Equine Practitioners Care Guidelines for Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities

<https://bit.ly/aaep-rescue-and-retirement-guidelines>



Kentucky Equine Research Body Condition Score Chart for Horses

<https://bit.ly/ker-body-condition-chart>



Beef Quality Assurance National Manual

<https://www.bqa.org/resources/manuals>



National Milk Producers Federation Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Animal Care Manual Version 4

<https://bit.ly/4iXtOsl>



Kansas State University Guide to Body Condition Scoring Beef Cows and Bulls

<https://bit.ly/3YAmfke>



National Milk Producers Federation Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Body Condition Scoring Lactating Cows and Calves

<https://bit.ly/4kenez5>



The American Sheep Industry Association - Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program

<https://bit.ly/4d8OvQR>



Purina Body Condition Scoring of Sheep

<https://bit.ly/43ls3Rh>



Purina Body Condition Scoring of Goats

<https://bit.ly/4mcQjwA>



National Pork Board Pork Quality Assurance Plus® Education Handbook

<https://bit.ly/4jJ6KPj>



National Pork Board Pork Quality Assurance Plus® Body Condition Scoring for Pigs

<https://bit.ly/4jJ6KPj>



American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) Paw Scoring System

<https://bit.ly/AAAP-paw-scoring-system>