

## Are there penalties for animal cruelty?

A person who is found guilty of committing either deliberate cruelty or neglect is liable for a financial penalty (250 penalty units or approximately \$41,000) or 12 months' imprisonment. In addition, a person who commits an act or acts of cruelty on any animal, which results in the death or serious disablement of the animal, is liable to a financial penalty (500 penalty units or approximately \$82,000) or imprisonment of 2 years or, in the case of a body corporate, 1,200 penalty units. Prosecution can also result in control orders around the types and/or numbers of animals people are allowed to keep and/or criminal conviction.

## What happens when you make a report to the Inspectorate?

- All reports are investigated. However, more urgent reports are prioritised.
- You are protected under the Privacy Act and your details will not be passed on and will remain confidential.
- It does help having someone to contact, especially if the Inspector requires more information such as the location of the premises/animal(s) etc.
- Confidentiality applies both ways and as a result, you will not necessarily receive updates or outcomes with respect to the case.



 [rspcavic.org](http://rspcavic.org)

 03 9224 2222

 3 Burwood Highway  
Burwood East VIC 3151



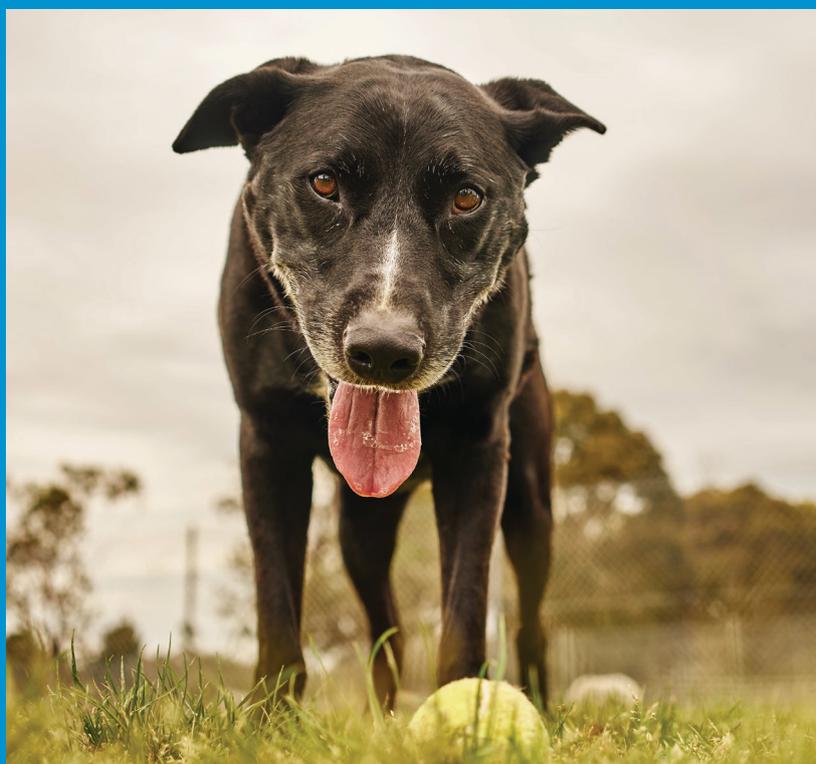
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) ABN 56 749 449 191 | ACN 131 965 761

## How to contact RSPCA Victoria's Inspectors

-  If you believe an animal's life is at immediate risk, please call us now on 03 9224 2222.
-  You can make an online report 24 hours a day at [rspcavic.org/report](http://rspcavic.org/report)



# What is animal cruelty and how to report it



In Victoria, animal cruelty is defined by law (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986). However, community expectations around how animals should be treated sometimes differ from what is considered cruelty or neglect by the law.

### Deliberate cruelty

includes beating, overworking, abusing, wounding or carrying out procedures such as ear cropping or tail docking.

### Neglect (or failing to provide adequate care)

includes not providing the basics such as clean water, food or shelter. It is also considered neglect if an owner fails to take their sick or injured animal to the vet.

## Reporting animal cruelty or neglect

Different agencies and levels of government look after different types of reports.

Type of report	Who to contact
<b>A barking dog</b>	<b>Your local council</b>
<b>Stray animals</b>	<b>Your local council</b>
<b>Abandoned animals/animals that have been left behind</b>	<b>RSPCA Victoria Inspectors</b> are able to investigate abandoned animals ☎ 03 9224 2222 🌐 <a href="https://rspcavic.org/report">rspcavic.org/report</a>
<b>Large numbers of livestock</b> (e.g. cows, pigs, sheep)	<b>Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)</b> ☎ 136 186 📧 <a href="mailto:aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au">aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Small numbers of livestock</b> (e.g. cows, pigs, sheep – less than 10 per species)	<b>RSPCA Victoria Inspectors</b> ☎ 03 9224 2222 🌐 <a href="https://rspcavic.org/report">rspcavic.org/report</a>
<b>Less than 50 chickens</b>	<b>RSPCA Victoria Inspectors</b> ☎ 03 9224 2222 🌐 <a href="https://rspcavic.org/report">rspcavic.org/report</a>
<b>More than 50 chickens</b>	<b>Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)</b> ☎ 136 186 📧 <a href="mailto:aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au">aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Dogs in hot cars</b>	<b>Victoria Police</b> ☎ 000 – If you find a pet left in a hot car, please call Victoria Police immediately.
<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)</b> ☎ 136 186 🌐 <a href="https://wildlife.vic.gov.au/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife">wildlife.vic.gov.au/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife</a>
<b>Sick or hurt animals</b>	<b>RSPCA Victoria Inspectors</b> ☎ 03 9224 2222 🌐 <a href="https://rspcavic.org/report">rspcavic.org/report</a>
<b>Underweight pets / pets with not enough food, water or shelter</b>	<b>RSPCA Victoria Inspectors</b> ☎ 03 9224 2222 🌐 <a href="https://rspcavic.org/report">rspcavic.org/report</a>

Please note all contact details are accurate as of 1 July 2021 and may be subject to change.