Yes! I want to help the animals with a tax-deductible gift!

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Giving Level

$25	$375
$50	$500
$100	$1,000
$250	Other $_____

Amount Enclosed: $ _____

Please send to:

Vermont Humane Federation
PO Box 311
Waterbury, VT 05676

Help us make a difference for Vermont's animals!

Vermont's Cruelty Response System: How does it work?

The Vermont Humane Federation has worked hard to help each county in Vermont better organize their cruelty response efforts through a collaborative approach known as a Cruelty Response System (CRS). The CRS improves communication and cooperation between animal shelters, police, state's attorneys, animal control officers, constables, humane investigators, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, local veterinarians, and animal rescue organizations.

Within each county, an agency, usually the county's humane society, has agreed to serve in a leadership position, ensuring that every complaint of animal cruelty is dispatched to the appropriate investigator for the given town. The humane investigator visits the location, assesses the animal(s) and speaks with the owner. In most cases, the humane investigator can rectify the situation by educating the animal owner about how to provide better care for the animal(s). If the situation does not improve, the police will become involved and a search warrant may be obtained. In some criminal cases, animals may be seized as part of the investigation. The CRS brings all necessary parties together to ensure that animals are safe and true offenders are prosecuted.

For more information about VHF's Cruelty Response System Project, please visit **www.VermontHumane.org**

Animal Cruelty Stops with You!

Animal cruelty is against the law. Speak for those unable to speak for themselves.

VERMONT HUMANE FEDERATION

(877) 9-HUMANE

www.VermontHumane.org

www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com

What is animal cruelty?

Animal Cruelty encompasses a range of behaviors harmful to animals, from neglect to malicious killing. Most cases of cruelty investigated by Humane Officers are unintentional neglect that can be resolved through education. Intentional cruelty or abuse is knowingly depriving an animal of food, water, shelter, socialization, or veterinary care, or maliciously torturing, maiming, mutilating, or killing an animal. Animal Cruelty is prohibited by Vermont Law.

What sort of animal cruelty is covered under Vermont Law?

The most common forms of cruelty under Vermont Law (www.vactf.org) are:
Intentionally killing or attempting to kill any animal belonging to another person without first obtaining legal authority or consent of the owner; Overworking, overloading, torturing, tormenting, abandoning, beating, mutilating, poisoning or attempting to poison an animal; Tying or restraining an animal, either a pet or livestock, in a manner that is inhumane or is detrimental to its welfare; Depriving or failing to provide an animal of adequate food, water, shelter, rest or sanitation, necessary medical attention, or transporting an animal in an overcrowded vehicle. This applies to an animal which a person owns, possesses, or cares for. (Vermont Statute: Title 13, Ch. 8)

Why do these laws exist?

The purpose of the Vermont Cruelty Laws are to prevent cruelty to and neglect of animals. In enforcing these laws, Humane Officers are encouraged to educate the public on requirements of the law and, when appropriate, to seek voluntary resolution of violations.

What is the punishment for breaking the law?

When voluntary resolution cannot be achieved, the first violation of these laws carry penalties of up to one year in prison, a fine of $2,000.00, or both. Second and subsequent convictions are punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years, a fine of not more than $5,000.00, or both.

If you witness animal cruelty or neglect in Vermont, please call the following number for information about how to make a complaint

(877) 9-HUMANE

or visit

www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com

If an animal is in immediate danger, call your local police department.

5 Things You Can Do to Help the Animals

1) Educate yourself about the law at the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force website: www.vactf.org.
2) Report animal cruelty to your local authorities. For contact information by county call 877-9-HUMANE or visit www. ReportAnimalCruelty.com
3) Be outspoken about animal cruelty and neglect. Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors. Write letters to local newspapers.
4) Sign up with your local shelter to foster an animal in the event of an emergency
5) Donate to the Vermont Humane Federation and your local animal shelter. Your support makes the facilitation of humane investigations and proper enforcement possible.