



City of Dallas

Overview of Dallas Police Animal Cruelty Unit

Public Safety Committee
January 14, 2025

Deputy Chief Patricia Mora
Patrol East Group
Dallas Police Department
City of Dallas

Dallas Police Animal Cruelty Unit



- Began operation in 2018.
- Currently, under the Patrol Alpha Bureau and located at the Southeast Patrol Division.
- Responsible for all citizens complaints and offense that occur in the city of Dallas.
- Animal Cruelty Unit is staffed with:
 - 1 Sergeant
 - 5 Detectives



Statistics



YTD	911 Calls	Offenses	Cases filed to DA's Office	Grand Jury Referrals	Seized or Surrendered	Investigations	Arrest	Search Warrants	Civil Seizures Executed
2024	981	144	87	2	1739	319	96	20	17
2023	1073	102	105	1	3893	272	76	60	25
2022	1240	140	62	2	351	392	36	29	8
2021	1093	123	35	1	273	307	30	4	4
2020	685	126	45	2	696	305	30	1	5



Interagency Partners



- **1. Dallas Animal Services (DAS) provides:**

- Transportation
- Housing
- Care/Feeding
- Security
- Veterinary Services (Follow-Up)

- **2. Operation Kindness (OPK) provides:**

- Forensic examinations on all animals suspected of animal cruelty.
- Necropsies on dead animals to obtain evidence for prosecution.
- Veterinarian statements for courtroom testimony for each suspected animal cruelty case



Collaborative Efforts



YTD	Dogs	Cats	Horses	Poultry	Other Non-Livestock	Other Livestock
2024	236	74	1	1278	17	0
2023	119	14	7	3750	3	0
2022	107	44	3	181	14	0
2021	112	129	2	0	29	1
2020	168	67	8	399	47	7



Overview



- Animal Cruelty includes many types of mistreatment from failing to provide essential care to the torture or the malicious killing of an animal.
- Animal cruelty correlates with other acts of violent behavior. Studies have suggested animal cruelty is a sentinel indicator of other types of maltreatment or abuse such as family violence, child and elder abuse or neglect, aggravated assault, murder, illegal drug distribution, and gang violence.



Offenses Investigated



- Cruelty to Livestock Animals (PC 42.09)
- Attack on Assistance Animal (PC42.091)
- Cruelty to Non-Livestock Animals (PC 42.092)
- Dog Fighting (PC 42.10)
- Cockfighting (PC 42.105)
- Bestiality (PC 21.09)



Cruelty to Livestock Animals



- **Intentionally or knowingly:**
- Torture a livestock animal
- Fails to unreasonably provide necessary food, water, or care while in the person's custody
- Abandons unreasonably in the person's custody
- Transports or confines in a cruel or unusual manner
- Administers poison to a livestock animal, other than cattle, horses, sheep, swine, or goats belonging to another without legal authority or the owner's consent.
- Causes one livestock to fight with another
- Uses live livestock as a lure in dog race training
- Trips a horse
- Seriously overworks a livestock animal



Attack on Service Animals



- **Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:**
- attacks, injures, or kills an assistance animal.
- incites or permits an animal owned by or otherwise in the custody of the actor to attack, injure, or kill an assistance animal and, as a result of the person's conduct, the assistance animal is attacked, injured, or killed.



Cruelty to Non-Livestock Animals



- **Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:**
- Tortures or in a cruel manner kills or causes serious bodily injury
- Without the owner's effective consent, kills, administers poison to, or causes serious bodily injury to an animal
- Fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's custody
- Abandons unreasonably an animal in the person's custody
- Transports or confines an animal in a cruel manner
- Without the owner's effective consent, causes bodily injury to an animal
- Causes one animal to fight with another animal, if either animal is not a dog
- Uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training or in dog coursing on a racetrack
- Seriously overworks an animal



Dog Fighting



- **Intentionally or knowingly:**
- Causes a dog to fight with another dog
- Participates in the earnings of or operates a facility used for dog fighting
- Uses or permits another to use any real estate building, room, tent, arena, or other property for dog fighting
- Owns or possesses dog-fighting equipment with the intent that the equipment be used to train a dog for dog fighting or un furtherance of dog fighting
- Attends as a spectator an exhibition of dog fighting



Cockfighting



- **Knowingly:**
- Causes a rooster to fight with another rooster
- Participates in the earnings of a cockfight
- Uses or permits another to use any real estate, building, room, tent, arena, or other property for cockfighting
- Owns or trains a rooster with the intent that the rooster be used in exhibition of cockfighting
- Manufactures, buys, sells, barter, exchanges, possesses, advertises, or otherwise offers a gaff, slasher, or other sharp implement designed for attachment to a rooster with the intent that the implement be used in cockfighting
- Attends as a spectator an exhibition of cockfighting



Bestiality



- **Knowingly:**

- Engages in an act involving contact between:

A.) The person's mouth, anus, or genitals and the anus or genitals of an animal

B.) The person's anus or genitals and the mouth of the animal

- Fondles or touches the anus or genitals of an animal in a manner that is not generally accepted and otherwise lawful animal husbandry or veterinary practice, including touching through clothing
- Causes an animal to contact the seminal fluid of the person
- Inserts any part of a person's body or any object into the anus or genitals of an animal in a manner that is not generally accepted and otherwise lawful



Bestiality (cont.)



- **Cont.**
- Possesses, sells, transfers, purchases, or otherwise obtains an animal with the intent that the animal be used for conduct listed above
- Organizes, promotes, conducts, or participates as an observer of conduct listed above
- Causes a person to engage or aids a person in engaging in conduct described above
- Permits conduct described above to occur on any premises under the person's control



Bestiality (cont.)



- **Cont.**
- Engages in conduct described above in the presence of a child younger than 18 years of age
- Advertises, offers, or accepts the offer of an animal with the intent that the animal be used in this state for conduct described above



Suspected Animal Cruelty (SAC)



Support for DPD Cruelty Unit: DAS provides support to the Dallas Police Department's (DPD) Cruelty Unit for Suspected Animal Cruelty (SAC) through:

- Transport
- Housing
- Care/Feeding
- Security
- Veterinary Services (Follow Up)

• DAS provides Operation Kindness (OPK) necessities for Forensic Examination and treatment through:

- Space
- Tools
- Equipment

• SAC Intake FY23

- **3,477** Total Animals
 - **3,183** Birds
 - **32** Cats
 - **242** Dogs
 - **9** Livestock
 - **11** Other

○ Average Length of Stay

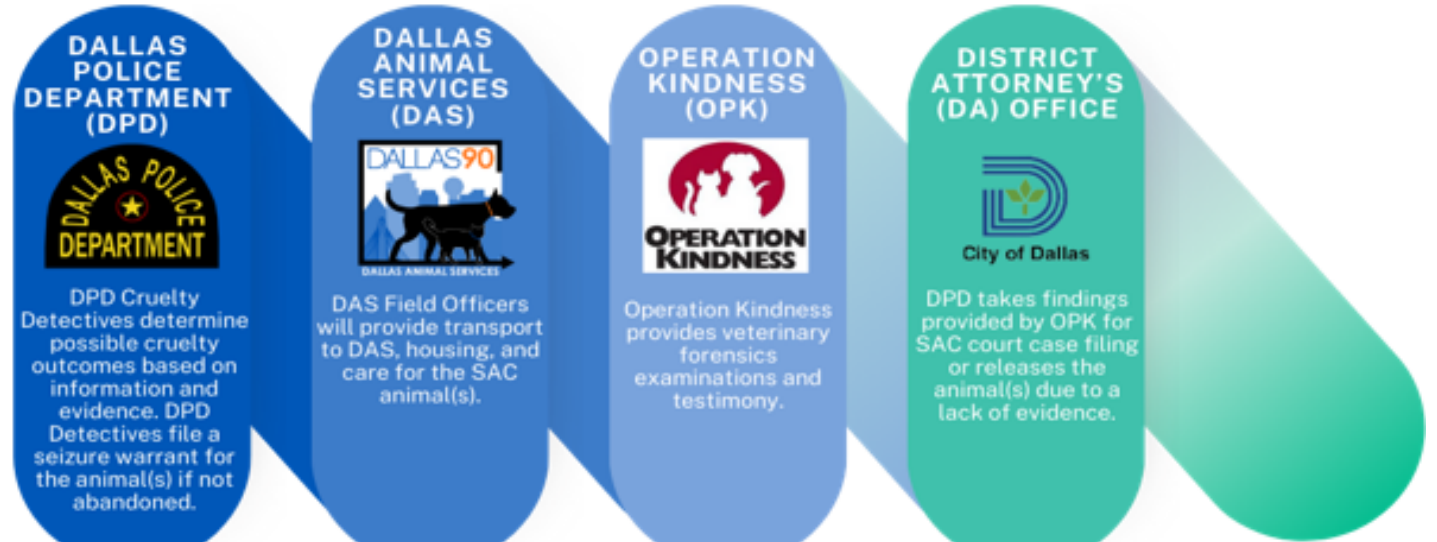
- **12** days

• SAC Intake FY24

- **1,999** Total Animals
 - **1,651** Birds
 - **61** Cats
 - **269** Dogs
 - **2** Livestock
 - **16** Other

○ Average Length of Stay

- **23** days





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