

# 7 WARNING SIGNS OF POTENTIAL ANIMAL CRUELTY



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## Subtle signs that may indicate an animal is at risk

During Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month this April, we want to help the public better understand the importance of reporting suspected animal cruelty to local authorities.

While most members of the public recognize that punching, kicking, burning, choking, or hitting an animal with an object are acts of animal cruelty, there are some more subtle signs to watch for that could indicate mistreatment, neglect, or abuse:

1. Howling or barking for a sustained period of time or hearing an animal cry in pain with higher pitched, more persistent vocal sounds than usual.
2. Singed, matted, chronically or excessively dirty hair or fur.
3. Wounds, unusual scars, hair loss, frequent limping often on different legs, or signs of improper nutrition such as weight loss or prominent visible ribs.
4. Animals kept caged or tied with little room to move for long periods of time or without regular interaction with people.
5. Lack of protection from the weather or feces- or debris-strewn living areas for animals.
6. Collars, leashes, or halters so tight they visibly dig into the animal's face or neck.
7. A large number of animals coming or going from a property.

**Animal Rescue League of Boston**  
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