



Jose Garza, Chief of Police

City of Coalinga

Police Department

270 N. Sixth St.
Coalinga, CA 93210
Phone: (559) 935-1525
Fax: (559) 935-1756
E-Mail: police@coalinga.com

PRESS RELEASE

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Prepared By/Contact Person: Sean Young, Police Commander

GUIDANCE ON REPORTING SUSPECTED ANIMAL CRUELTY AND NEGLECT

The City of Coalinga is reaffirming its commitment to protecting animal welfare and ensuring the safety and humane treatment of animals within the community. Recent situations have highlighted the importance of proper reporting procedures when residents witness or suspect animal cruelty or neglect.

To effectively investigate concerns and take appropriate enforcement action, it is critical that reports are made directly to law enforcement so officers can observe the conditions as they occur. Timely and accurate reporting helps our officers intervene appropriately and strengthens any potential enforcement case. We rely heavily on the community to notify us immediately so that we can protect animals and respond to unsafe conditions in a thorough and lawful manner.

How to Report Suspected Animal Cruelty or Neglect

Residents who witness or suspect animal cruelty, neglect, or unsafe living conditions should follow the steps below:

- Contact the Coalinga Police Department Immediately
- Reports must be made directly to law enforcement so officers can see the animal(s) and property conditions firsthand. This ensures that critical evidence is not lost, making it easier to pursue enforcement and protect the remaining animals. Direct reporting ensures that officers can document violations, conduct welfare checks, and intervene appropriately.
- Non-Emergency Line: (559) 935-1525, option 0
- Provide as **Much Detail as Possible**
- When reporting, residents are encouraged to share:
 - Location of the concern
 - Description of the animal(s)
 - Observed conditions, such as lack of food/water, malnourishment, injuries, or abandonment
 - Photos or video, if safely obtainable
 - Whether the issue is ongoing or has been previously reported

Providing accurate information allows officers and Animal Control to create a documented record and take action under California Penal Code Section 597 and applicable municipal codes.

We appreciate our community's compassion and the efforts of local animal advocates. By reporting concerns promptly and correctly, residents play a vital role in ensuring humane treatment and lawful protection for animals in Coalinga.

For questions or general concerns related to animal welfare, please contact the Coalinga Police Department at (559) 935-1525.