Show your Support for Animal Cruelty Awareness Month

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 2, 2013

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BUY YOUR T-SHIRT IN SUPPORT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY AWARENESS MONTH

GREAT FALLS, Montana – This April raise awareness for animal cruelty and give a voice to those who can't speak for themselves. Help end animal abuse by purchasing a t-shirt to support *Animal Cruelty Awareness* Month. Shirts are available in white and heather grey and are available in sizes youth through 3X. They can be purchased for $15 at the following locations during the month of April:

- The Great Falls Animal Shelter – 1010 25th Ave NE
- Civic Center (Room 4) – 2 Park Drive South
- April's Plush Puppies – 1127 Wire Mill Road (Black Eagle)
- Petcetera - 1525 10th Ave S, Ste 2

According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), "Animal cruelty can be either deliberate abuse or simply the failure to take care of an animal. Either way, and whether the animal is a pet, a farm animal, or wildlife, the victim can suffer terribly."

While direct violence may be the most well known form of animal cruelty, animal neglect is the most common type of abuse cases animal control officers respond to each year. The HSUS reports a shocking number of animals die from neglect each year. If you suspect neglect, here are some warning signs to look for, as identified by the HSUS:

- Chained dogs – Animals that are chained may die from starvation, dehydration or hypothermia, since their confinement leaves them vulnerable and helpless.
- Proper Shelter – Animals that are not provided proper shelter, and are exposed to the extreme heat or cold.•
- Emaciated Animals – Animals that are not fed and whose bones are clearly visible, may be emaciated. They may also show signs of being lethargic. This is a life-threatening medical condition and can lead to starvation.
- Animals Needing Medical Care – Animals with obvious untreated wounds or other medical conditions.
- Hoarding - Too many animals living on one property.
- Abandoned Animals - Dogs or cats left behind in abandoned or vacant homes, when owners move or leave town.

If you see someone hurting an animal whether beating, hitting or kicking – this is animal abuse and should not be tolerated. If you witness overt violence against an animal or suspect it, you have a right and obligation to speak up. Animals can't speak for themselves. In cases of animal cruelty (violence or neglect) contact the Great Falls Animal Shelter at 454-2276 or an animal control officer at 771-1180.

During the month of April raise awareness about this important issue by donning a t-shirt in support of *Animal Cruelty Awareness* Month. Purchase a t-shirt at one of the participating locations or call Laura McElhinney, Volunteer Coordinator at 771-1180 x 369 for more information.

Supporting Documents

Press Release - Purchase your Animal Cruelty Awareness T-Shirt! (321 KB) (PDF)

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