



*Hoarding house with 13 dogs; owner charged with animal cruelty*

### How to spot a hoarder:

- Keeps an abnormally large number of animals
- Fails to provide minimal nutrition, veterinary care, shelter or sanitation
- Fails to recognize the devastating impact of this neglect
- Can't stop himself/herself from repeating this behavior.

## Companion Animal Hoarder Defined

### Definition Per Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act

A person who (i) possesses a large number of companion animals; (ii) fails to or is unable to provide what he or she is required to provide under section 3 of this Act; (iii) keeps companion animals in a severely overcrowded environment; and (iv) displays an inability to recognize or understand the nature of or has a reckless disregard for the conditions under which the companion animals are living and the delirious impact they have on the companion animals' and owner's health and well-being.



## OFFICER CHECKLIST FOR ANIMAL HOARDING ENCOUNTERS

*Kane County Animal Control  
(630)232-3555*



## What Should Officers Do Upon Arrival?

- Contact your local animal control
- Review 510 ILCS 70/2.10, 510 ILCS 70/3.04, 510 ILCS 70/3, 510 ILCS 70/3.01
- Take photographic evidence
- Wear gloves, masks, booties, (respirators and HAZMAT suits if available)
- Take inventory of number of animals seen
- Close all doors/windows to prevent animals from escaping
- Inform animal control of owner's information
- Preserve all evidence including deceased animals

## What Should Officers NOT Do Upon Arrival?

- Do not remove any animals
- Do not allow animals to escape
- Do not FEED OR WATER animals
- Do not play or pet animals
- Do not remove or tamper with locations of deceased animals
- Do not try and capture animals

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*"I would NEVER hurt an animal, I love them and saved them from awful conditions"-  
Animal Hoarder*

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Cat hoarder's bathroom

## Three categories of Animal Hoarding:

The Overwhelmed Caregiver:

- Initially provides adequate care for animals
- Overwhelmed caregiver may be socially isolated
- Usually willing to accept intervention.

The Rescuer Hoarder:

- Develops a compulsion to rescue animals.
- Often working with a network of enablers

The Exploiter Hoarder:

- Takes in animals to serve his/her own needs and is indifferent to any harm caused to the animals.