

Responding to a Cruelty Complaint

On Scene Assessment
Assess complaint compared to actual findings on site.

Animals are in mortal danger

Animals are not in mortal danger but conditions are not fully acceptable

Seizure
Obtain and execute search warrant or seizure warrant

Give written notice of terms and conditions
that must be addressed in order to avoid further legal action.
Under title 21, specify what changes must be made, note the problems and give a timeline for follow-up inspection (usually 5 to 20 days). Owner must counter sign the terms and conditions.

DA

Case will fork here and have both criminal and civil proceedings.

Revisit the site in the specified number of days. Compliance must include receipts for supplies, food or relevant veterinary care. This should include care which directly addresses the issues that are noted in the terms and conditions.

Criminal-
Cruelty charges

Civil
Forfeiture/ bond hearing

Non-compliance
No improvement or situation has deteriorated. Move to steps for mortal danger.

Compliance
Sign off on terms and conditions

PLEASE NOTE: Forms or templates are available for all processes seen here in a blue box.