

ANIMAL CRUELTY HEARTLINE OF EL PASO (ACHE)

Animal Cruelty Heartline of El Paso (ACHE) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the eradication and prevention of animal cruelty in El Paso, Texas. **Mission Statement: To effect change in animal cruelty and neglect issues by educating the public about animal cruelty, neglect and the link between domestic violence and animal cruelty.**

ACHE rehabilitates abused and neglected animals by providing them with temporary shelter and access to quality veterinary care. ACHE actively tracks the prosecution of accused perpetrators of animal abuse and advocates for the enforcement of Texas animal cruelty laws. Founded on the belief that animal cruelty affects the overall quality of life in our community. ACHE works with a variety of local agencies to promote awareness of the issue to encourage citizen participation by reporting suspected cases of abuse.

Frustrated with the lack of local resources to enforce animal cruelty laws, El Paso native, Jessie Miller, took the initiative to investigate suspected cases of animal abuse by filing complaints against pet owners responsible for the offense. Miller was inspired to establish ACHE in September of 2005 after the successful rescue of Maggie, a black Labrador Retriever who was shot in the head three times by her owner and survived as a result of her efforts. Maggie now lives happily with a new family in El Paso and her image inspired ACHE's Logo.

ACHE investigates reports of animal cruelty throughout El Paso County. If abuse is confirmed by law enforcement officers, ACHE works to secure custody of the animal to provide veterinary treatment. Following initial treatment, animals are placed in temporary foster homes throughout El Paso until a permanent, caring home is found.

Although ACHE specializes in addressing issues of animal welfare, its mission is rooted in improving the quality of life throughout the community through education, community advocacy, inter-agency collaboration and legal action. ACHE realizes that animal cruelty is often associated with more serious crimes, as animal abusers are likely to exhibit violent behavior against people. In fact, according to a 1997 survey conducted by the Humane Society of America of the 50 largest shelters for battered women, 85% of women and 63% of children responded that animal abuse had occurred in their household. The same survey also revealed that almost 20% of women had delayed leaving their abusive partners out of fear for their pet's safety. This is why ACHE actively works alongside other community agencies and individuals including the Humane Society, El Paso Police Department Chief Wiles, County Sheriff Leo Samaniego, District Attorney Jaime Esparza, local school districts, the Police Department Domestic Violence Unit doing joint presentations on the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

ACHE seeks to improve the enforcement capacity of understaffed local agencies to effectively combat animal abuse in our community. Other cities in Texas, such as Houston, have organizations similar to ACHE that have grown into sizable agencies, boasting professional investigators and licensed peace officers with the authority to arrest alleged animal abusers. The citizens of El Paso deserve nothing less, and ACHE intends to fill this void. Finally, many pets are unfortunately left behind when their owners are called to serve our country abroad. With the proposed expansion of Fort Bliss over the next five years, it is imperative that our community has the necessary infrastructure in place to respond to the potential influx of animals unexpectedly left behind, due to military service. While ACHE is not currently equipped to respond to all of these critical needs, we believe the community will embrace our mission and efforts, enabling us to rapidly expand. Together, with the help of citizens in our community we can achieve these goals much sooner.

PLEASE ADOPT A SHELTER DOG!

There are many animals suffering cruelty at the hands of their owners. Many of them are left chained, with no food, water, shade or shelter – starving to death in the owner's yard.

Our community animals are waiting for someone to come and rescue them – and to finally take action and say "NO – This is not right".

Please be on the lookout for animal cruelty or abuse in our community – No animal deserves to live a life of cruelty and abuse!

If you are interested in Adopting and giving an animal a second chance in life please call

833-1737

Texas Penal Code

SEC. 42.09 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly:

- (1) tortures or seriously overworks an animal
- (2) fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, shelter or care;
- (3) abandons unreasonably an animal in a cruel manner;
- (4) transports or confines an animal in a cruel manner;
- (5) kills, injures, or administers poison to an animal belonging to another without legal authority or the owner's effective consent;
- (6) causes one animal to fight another;
- (7) uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training or in dog coursing;
- (8) horse tripping.

BEFORE and AFTER PICTURES of Rescued Community Animals.

BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE



AFTER

REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY

**Animal Cruelty
Heartline of El Paso**

(915) 833-1737

Animal Control

(915) 842-1000

El Paso Police

(915) 832-4400

**Sheriff's Department
(915) 546-2280**

DONATIONS

can be mailed to :

**P.O. Box 220109, El Paso
Texas 79913**

**FOSTER HOMES and
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

(915) 833-1737