

Be proactive about animal abuse

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By East Peoria Times-Courier editorial board
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East Peoria, Ill. -

The cages are always full at the Tazewell Animal Protective Society, according to the shelter's executive director Angela Blackman.

And while it is not always easy to tell, many of these animals come to the shelter suffering from neglect and abuse.

The entire month of April is national Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month.

Although it is difficult to imagine how someone could harm an innocent cat or dog, it happens more than one would think, according to Blackman.

Even if you do not have an animal of your own, there are ways to take action by supporting upcoming laws in the House and Senate. Your support can help strengthen the fight against animal abuse.

Do not just sit back and let these laws slip by. Write or call your Illinois State Representative and Senator and ask them to support these bills:

Senate Bill 3594 and House Bill 5772: Requires that information about an animal's history be disclosed to consumers for any dog or cat available for sale at a pet store.

Senate Bill 2580: Requires standards to ensure the use of humane forms of tethering. The bill would prohibit a person from tethering a dog by using a log or tow chain.

House Bill 4722: Requires the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze so as to render it unpalatable. Every year thousands of animals are poisoned after ingesting antifreeze.

House Bill 5771: Requires that dog breeders provide humane standards for their animals.

Along with supporting these bills, residents should take simple actions and be on the watch for signs of animal cruelty locally.

Signs of neglect include patches of missing hair, extremely thin bodies and tick or flea infestations, among

others, according to Blackman.

Many animals are up for adoption at the shelter, according to Blackman. But, people need to think seriously about the time they will be able to devote to an animal. See story on Page 1. Adoption is not always the answer.

To report animal cruelty, contact the Tazewell County Animal Control at 477-2270, and to report cruelty by an animal breeder, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 301-734-7833.

Do not just sit back and allow animal cruelty to continue. Make every month Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month.

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