

Pet guardians must BY LAW care for their pets

Oregon law states that pets must be afforded “minimum care,” which means “care sufficient to preserve the health and well-being of an animal.” Therefore, minimum care includes providing adequate food and fresh water; housing and bedding to keep the animal protected from the elements; veterinary care to relieve distress from injury, neglect, or disease; space for exercise; a comfortable temperature (neither too hot nor too cold); and a clean living space free from feces or other contaminants. If an owner does not give a pet any of these, the owner is guilty of “animal neglect” and *must* be prosecuted.

Animal hoarders never provide minimum care to their animals. United Paws is often called upon to take in animals from hoarding situations and, while we always do, hoarders hitherto have got away with his form of cruelty to animals. As a result, they start hoarding all over again.

You can find the Oregon Statutes relating to pets online (Revised 2009 edition). Most (but not all) regarding “offenses against animals” are to be found in Volume 4, starting at Chapter 167, paragraph 310. [<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/167.html>]

Please note, however, that United Paws has no authority to investigate or prosecute animal abuse or neglect. Animal cruelty is a matter for law enforcement. Please report suspected cruelty to your local police or the sheriff’s department. Thank you.

Sadly, we always have cats rescued from hoarders in our foster care program. Once we’ve taken them to a veterinarian for treatment and tidied them up, they often prove the friendliest pets you could imagine. Please call the hotline, 503 842 5663, if you could give one of these loving beauties a caring, forever home. Who more deserving of a proper home than an animal once forced to exist in filth?