

ANIMAL WELFARE INVESTIGATIONS

Indiana State Board of Animal Health



Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH)

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Objectives:

- Understand BOAH's role
- Understand new regulations, beginning July 1, 2024
- Animal Investigations Academy



BOAH Online Reporting Form

<https://www.in.gov/boah/animal-care-and-welfare/>

BOAH / ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE

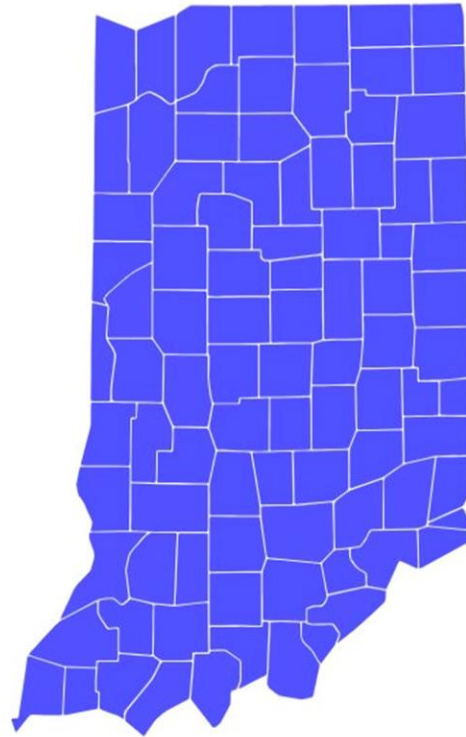
Animal Care and Welfare

**Want to report animal neglect/abuse in Indiana?
Select a county to find the contact information for making a report.**

Animal welfare concerns involving dogs, cats and other pets should be reported to local animal control and law enforcement agencies. BOAH does not have the authority to investigate concerns related to dogs, cats or other pets.

Animal welfare concerns involving livestock, horses and poultry should be reported to local animal control and/or law enforcement agencies. Livestock, horse and poultry concerns, including carcass disposal, may also be reported to BOAH (see below).

Scroll down for detailed information about Indiana's abuse and neglect laws.



Or select a County:





**What is
the role of
BOAH
in animal
welfare
investigations?**

Indiana Code Enforcement

BOAH's role: Assist Law Enforcement

- IC 15-17-3-13(30) Assist law enforcement agencies investigating allegations of cruelty and neglect of animals.
- **Upon request** by official law enforcement agency
 - Will **accompany** a LE or animal control officer to property
 - Will provide **veterinary opinion** on the animals and circumstances prior to submission to prosecutor
 - Will **testify at trial** if needed



Impoundment and Bond Process

BOAH's Role: Confiscation Evaluation

- IC 35-46-3-6(e) Whenever **charges are filed**, the court shall appoint the state veterinarian (or designee) to:
 - **Investigate** condition of the animal and circumstances relating to the animal's conditions; and
 - Make a **recommendation** to the court regarding confiscation
- IC 35-46-3-6(f) State Veterinarian or designee appointed by court shall:
 - Make **recommendation** to court concerning whether confiscation is necessary to protect the safety and well-being of the animal
 - If confiscation is recommended, recommend a manner for handling the confiscation and disposition in **best interest of the animal**



Statutes and Rules:

BOAH Livestock & Poultry Standards of Care

- **IC 15-17-3-23 Livestock & poultry standards of care**
 - Sec. 23. The board may adopt rules to establish standards governing the **care of livestock and poultry**. The board shall consider the following when adopting the standards:
 - (1) **Health and husbandry** of the livestock and poultry.
 - (2) Generally accepted **farm management practices**.
 - (3) Generally accepted **veterinary standards** and practices.
 - (4) The **economic impact** the standards may have on:
 - (A) livestock and poultry farmers;
 - (B) affected livestock and poultry sector; and
 - (C) consumers.



What BOAH Cannot Do

- Have any additional authority to **enter property** based on animal welfare concerns than law enforcement has
- **Conduct laboratory tests**, including sample collection in non-disease investigations
- **Provide treatment** to animals
 - When treatment is advised, a private veterinarian may be used
- **Impound animals**
- **Transport, house, provide care or financial support** for impounded animals





Commercial Dog Breeder & Broker Program

Commercial Dog Breeders

- Register with BOAH annually
 - Initial inspection, then complaint-driven only
- Meet minimum standards of care, housing



Commercial Dog Breeders

IC 15-21-1-4

- **Breeders:** >20 sexually intact females 12+ months of age
 - Some exemptions
- Starting July 1, 2024:
 - **Greater than 19** sexually intact females 12+ months of age **AND**
 - Sells dogs resulting from the breeding of dogs to:
 - A dog broker,
 - A pet store, or
 - The general public



Commercial Dog Brokers

IC 15-21-1-5

- **Brokers:** USDA licensed, sells 500+ dogs annually
- Starting July 1, 2024:
 - A person who:
 - Is a Class B licensee under 9 CFR 1.1 OR
 - Sells at least 500 dogs in a calendar year





**New Requirements,
beginning
July 1, 2024**

IC 15-21

New Registration Requirements:

IC 15-21-3

- Retail pet stores
- Animal care facilities
- Animal rescue operations



Retail Pet Stores

IC 15-21-5

- Defined as a commercial enterprise that sells dogs from a place of business at which the seller, buyer, and dog are physically present.
- Must:
 - Register with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health
 - Post notice of BOAH registration (IC 15-21-2-2.5)
 - Microchip each dog before sale and include applicable registration information
 - Require the buyer to commit to spay or neuter the dog
 - Provide to the buyer the dog's origin and health information



Animal Care Facilities

IC 15-21-3

- Defined as an Animal Control Center, Animal Shelter, Humane Society, or another Animal Impounding Facility that has as its purpose the humane treatment of animals.
- Must:
 - Register with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health
 - Post notice of BOAH registration (IC 15-21-2-2.5)



Animal Rescue Operations

IC 15-21-1-2.5

- Defined as a person or organization that accepts, during one year:
 - More than 12 dogs OR
 - More than 9 dogs and 3 un-weaned litters of puppies
- That are available for adoption and are maintained in a private residential dwelling or private foster homes
- Must:
 - Register with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health
 - Post notice of BOAH registration (IC 15-21-2-2.5)



How do I Register my Facility?

- For registration, go to:
<https://www.in.gov/boah/forms/registration-of-animal-care-facilities/>
- Or scan the QR code →





Animal Welfare Investigations: Applicable Laws

Offenses Relating to Animals (ORA): *IC 35-46-3*

- Only Law Enforcement (LE) has authority to enforce Indiana Code
- Only LE has the authority to impound animals
- Neglect, abandonment, abuse, torture, mutilation, killing, bestiality, and animal fighting, as defined in the state statute, is a crime
 - Must be treated as a criminal case
 - Same legal procedures as other criminal investigations
 - Adequate evidence collection
 - Proper search and seizure
 - Appropriate care of impounded animals



ORA Definitions

IC 35-46-3-0.5

- Neglect includes:
 - Failing to provide reasonable care for or seek veterinary care for an injury or illness to a dog or cat that seriously endangers the life or health of the dog or cat, or
 - Leaving a dog or cat outside and exposed to:
 - Excessive heat without a means of shade or
 - Excessive cold if the animal is not provided with straw or another means of protection from the cold
 - Regardless of whether the animal is restrained or kept in a kennel

Penalties

IC 35-46-3

- Most penalties under the 'Offenses Relating to Animals' code are misdemeanor-level offenses
- Felony-level offenses:
 - Purchase or possession of animals for fighting
 - Abuse or killing of an animal associated with domestic violence
 - Torture or mutilation of an animal
 - Improper livestock disposal

Water: Unacceptable

Algae



Frozen



Food: Unacceptable

Livestock



Companion Animal



Tethering: Unacceptable



Tethering: Unacceptable



Shelter: Unacceptable



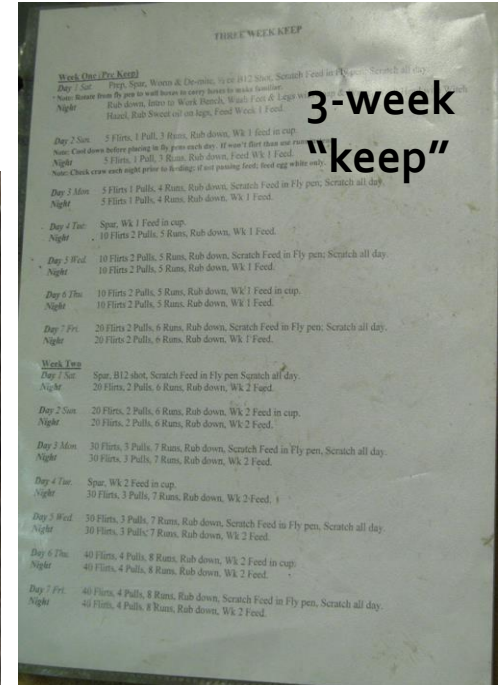
Animal-Fighting Paraphernalia



Drowning Barrel



Heavy Chain



3-week "keep"



Awards



Sparring Muffs



Animal Investigations Academy

Animal Investigations Academy

- Who the Academy is open to:
 - Animal Control Officers
 - Law Enforcement
 - Prosecutors
- How to request access:
 - Contact BOAH at: animalhealth@boah.in.gov



Animal Investigations Academy

Topics

- Module 1:
 - Unit 1: Authorities
 - Unit 2: Basic Investigative Techniques
 - Unit 3: Occupational Health & Safety
 - Unit 4: Public Relations
- Module 2:
 - Unit 1: Criminal Law
 - Unit 2: Warrants
 - Unit 3: Impoundment
 - Unit 4: Bonding



**BOAH IN Animal Care Resource Center**

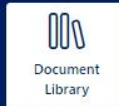
Private group

+ New Page details Analytics

Welcome to the Indiana Animal Care Resource Center.

This site is designed to offer training, reference documents and materials, guidance, and opportunity to connect for animal welfare professionals, including animal control officers, law enforcement and prosecutors. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) offers this information as credible sources that can be helpful in investigations and other aspects of handling cases of animal neglect, abuse, hoarding, and fighting.

Training & Resources

Training
ModulesDocument
LibraryStatewide
Directory

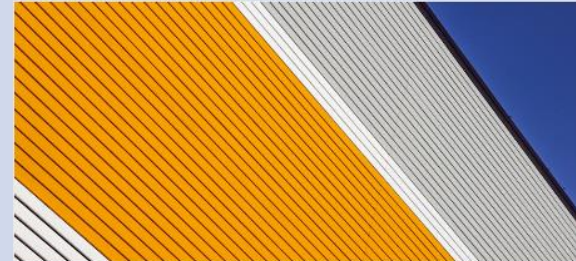
News & Updates

+ Add



IACS issues plea for Hoosier adopters, fosters ahead of bitter cold

1-9-2024



Public Reporting of Animal Abuse & Neglect

Online Interactive Map To help direct the public to the correct agency to report suspected cases of animal neglect and abuse, BOAH offers an online interactive map: <https://www.in.gov/boah/animal-care-and-welfare/>. By clicking on the...

Questions?



Want more info?

Resources:

<https://www.in.gov/boah/current-information/hot-topics/animal-care-and-welfare-resource-materials>

BOAH Central Office:

317-544-2400

www.boah.in.gov

animalhealth@boah.in.gov

