ASPCA Veterinary Professionals Survey

Start of Block: Block 1

Q1

The ASPCA is hoping you will be willing to share your thoughts and experiences related to animal welfare. Your opinion and experiences are critical in helping them develop and implement strategies to best support your animal welfare efforts. They have asked me, Lori Kogan, PhD, a professor from Colorado State University, to design a survey to gather your views and experiences about this important topic. You have been selected to complete a short (~15-20 minute) anonymous survey. All respondents who complete the survey by November 20, 2020 have a chance to enter a raffle to win one of ten $100 Amazon gift cards (one entry per participant). Click here to read prize terms and conditions.

Consent information:

What is involved? You will be asked to complete a series of questions as honestly as possible and there are no right or wrong answers. The questionnaire should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Participation is entirely voluntary. You may quit at any time.

Are there any benefits or risks in my taking part? There are no direct risks or benefits to completing the survey. The survey is voluntary and anonymous, and you may stop the survey at any time by closing the window. Data from the survey will be used for research and to inform future ASPCA animal welfare efforts.

Will my participation be confidential? Yes, all participation will be confidential. The data will be anonymous and will contain no information that could lead to the identity of individuals. Anonymous data will be kept on a password protected computer.

What happens if I change my mind? If you feel you do not wish to continue with the questionnaire, you can close the browser window.

Where can I get more information?

--This research: email Dr. Lori Kogan.
--Participant rights related to this survey email CSU IRB or call (970) 491-1655.
--The ASPCA email Dr. Emily Patterson-Kane or call (646) 581-8730.

Consent -- I have read and understood the information given above. By clicking the arrow to continue, I am agreeing to take part in this research project and that my data will be used for the purpose of this study. I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I may withdraw at any time.
Please note that the term "abuse", as used throughout this survey, includes overt acts of cruelty as well as neglect. "Cruelty" and "neglect" refer to severe and potentially criminal acts that cause animal suffering or death through intentional actions or by failing to provide necessary care or resources.

Q3 Are you currently living in the United States and employed in a veterinary workplace that treats animals?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

End of Block: Block 1
Q5 What is your current primary employment?

- Veterinarian (1)
- Veterinary assistant (2)
- Veterinary nurse or technician (credentialed) (3)
- Veterinary nurse or technician (non-credentialed) (4)
- Hospital/Practice director (5)
- Hospital manager (6)
- Front desk or other administrative position (7)
- Other (please describe) (8) ________________________________

Q4 What US state or territory do you work in?

- ▼ Alabama (AL) (1) ... Virgin Islands (VI) (56)

Q6 How many years have you been working in the veterinary field (round to nearest whole number)?

______________________________
Q7 Are you currently working in:

- Private practice (1)
- Clinical academia (2)
- Shelter medicine (3)
- Other (please describe): (4)

Q8 How do you define your workplace?

- General practice only (no emergency or specialty) (1)
- General practice with emergency (no specialty) (2)
- General practice with emergency and specialty (3)
- Emergency practice (4)
- Emergency practice and specialty (5)
- Specialty practice (6)
- Mobile practice (7)
- Shelter medicine (8)
- Animal welfare organization (9)
- Clinical academia (10)
- Other (please describe): (11)
Q9 Please indicate what type of animals your practice *primarily* serves:

- Mostly or exclusively companion animal practice (e.g., small animals, exotics, pet birds, aquarium fish) (1)
- Mostly or exclusively large animal practice (2)
- Mostly or exclusively equine practice (3)
- Mixed animal practice (4)
- Wildlife or zoo medicine (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

Q11 To which gender identity do you most identify?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Nonbinary (3)
- Other/NA (4)
Q10 Please indicate your legal protection status regarding reporting animal abuse:

- I am a mandated reporter (1)
- I am not mandated to report, but I have immunity from liability for reporting (2)
- Neither (3)
- I don’t know (4)
- Other (please describe): (5)

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Q12 Is your workplace designated as a place where police, humane society, and/or animal control/services bring animals suspected of being abused for veterinary evaluation?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don’t know (3)
- Other (please describe): (4)

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Q13 Have you received any formal/structured training associated with animal abuse?

- No (1)
- Yes (please indicate what/where): (2)

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Q14  Do you feel you have sufficient access to training on recognizing and responding to animal abuse?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
Q15  Please indicate any/all of the following you feel are trustworthy authorities for training/information about recognizing and reporting animal abuse: (select all that apply)

☐ AAFS (American Academy of Forensic Sciences) (1)
☐ AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) (13)
☐ ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) (2)
☐ AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) (3)
☐ HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) (4)
☐ Local/state VMAs (Veterinary Medical Associations) (5)
☐ IVFSA (International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association) (6)
☐ NAFTA (National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America) (7)
☐ NACA (National Animal Control Association) (8)
☐ VIN (Veterinary Information Network) (9)
☐ VetFolio (10)
☐ A university (Please specify): (11)

☐ Other (please specify): (12)
Q16  Do you or your workplace have an established professional relationship with local law enforcement and/or prosecutors concerning animal abuse?  (select all that apply)

☐ I have a relationship with law enforcement (1)

☐ I have a relationship with prosecutor(s) (2)

☐ My workplace has a relationship with law enforcement (3)

☐ My workplace has a relationship with prosecutor(s) (4)

☐ Don’t know about my workplace relationships with law enforcement or prosecutors (5)

☐ None of the above (6)

Q17  Has COVID-19 changed anything regarding your recognition of, and response to, suspected animal abuse cases?

☐ No (1)

☐ Yes (please describe): (2) ________________________________________________________________________________

Q18  Does your workplace have policies/procedures describing how to respond to suspected animal abuse?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

☐ Don’t know (3)
Q19  While working in veterinary medicine, have you ever seen a case in which you suspected animal abuse? (exclude any cases already identified as suspected animal abuse by law enforcement before being brought in or referred)

- Yes  (1)
- No  (2)

Skip To: Q28 If  While working in veterinary medicine, have you ever seen a case in which you suspected animal abuse? = No

Q20  How many suspected animal abuse cases have you ever seen? (please estimate- whole numbers only)

________________________________________________________________

Q37  Have you ever chosen to talk to an owner about suspected abuse rather than report?

- No  (1)
- Yes (please explain why)  (2)

Q21  During the last 12 months, have you seen a case in which you suspected animal abuse? (exclude any cases already identified as suspected animal abuse by law enforcement before being brought in or referred)

- Yes  (1)
- No  (2)

Skip To: Q28 If  During the last 12 months, have you seen a case in which you suspected animal abuse? = No
Q22 How many suspected animal abuse cases have you seen in the last 12 months? (please estimate - whole numbers only)

______________________________________________________________

Q23 For the following questions, please consider only the suspected animal abuse cases you have seen in the last 12 months.

Q24 Please indicate which of the following types of abuse you think you might have identified (select all that apply):

☐ Neglect (emaciated, embedded collars, untreated painful/chronic/acute medical problems, hoarding, etc.) (1)

☐ Physical injury due to abuse (gunshot, blunt force trauma, burns, poisoning, etc.) (2)

☐ Organized animal fighting (dog/cockfighting) (3)

☐ Sexual abuse of animals (4)

☐ Other (please specify): (5)

______________________________________________________________

Q25 Did you report any of these cases to local authorities for investigation?

☐ No (1)

☐ Yes, some cases (2)

☐ Yes, all cases (3)
Q26 Did you tell the client that you had reported/planned to report the suspected abuse?

- Yes, every time (1)
- Yes, sometimes (2)
- No (3)

Q27 Please indicate why you reported this/these cases (select all that apply)

- To protect the animal (1)
- To protect persons in the household (2)
- To protect other animals in the household (3)
- Ethical beliefs (4)
- Professional codes of conduct (5)
- Organizational or corporate policy (6)
- Legal mandates (7)
- Other (please specify): (8)
Display This Question:

If Did you report any of these cases to local authorities for investigation? = No

Or Did you report any of these cases to local authorities for investigation? = Yes, some cases
Q35 On occasions that you suspected animal abuse but did not report, what were the reasons? (select all that apply):

- ☐ I had a negative experience when I reported in the past (1)
- ☐ Was not sure it was abuse (2)
- ☐ Was not sure who committed the abuse (3)
- ☐ Was not sure of the process to report (4)
- ☐ Was not sure how to examine an animal for a criminal case (5)
- ☐ Did not have time or opportunity to report (6)
- ☐ Concern about retaliation by the abuser (7)
- ☐ Concern regarding providing testimony in a court of law (8)
- ☐ Concern about the time it would take if it went to court (9)
- ☐ Concern about the personal monetary cost involved with going to court (10)
- ☐ Concern about harming my reputation (11)
- ☐ Concern about harming the practice’s reputation (12)
- ☐ Concern about and financial or workplace consequences of losing the client (13)
- ☐ Concern about interpersonal conflict (14)
- ☐ Concern about losing future opportunities to assist the animal, client, or others in the household (15)
- ☐ Concern that the animal would suffer as a result of reporting (16)
- ☐ Concern that a person would suffer as a result of reporting (17)
Did not think anything would come of it (18)

Did not know I was allowed to report (19)

Did not know if reporting was mandated (20)

I felt it was better to educate my clients rather than report them (21)

I thought it was accidental or not intentional (22)

I told my boss or practice manager and left it with them (23)

Was unable to report due to hospital policies or the decision of a manager/supervisor (24)

Feeling daunted by the process because I didn’t know what to expect once I started the process (25)

Because the law didn’t allow it (27)

Other (please specify): (26)
Q36 Based on the reasons you selected in the previous question regarding your decision(s) to not report suspected animal abuse, what would you say was your primary/top reason? (select only one response)

- I had a negative experience when I reported in the past (1)
- Was not sure it was abuse (2)
- Was not sure who committed the abuse (3)
- Was not sure of the process to report (4)
- Was not sure how to examine an animal for a criminal case (5)
- Did not have time or opportunity to report (6)
- Concern about retaliation by the abuser (7)
- Concern regarding providing testimony in a court of law (8)
- Concern about the time it would take if it went to court (9)
- Concern about the personal monetary cost involved with going to court (10)
- Concern about harming my reputation (11)
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- Concern about interpersonal conflict (14)
- Concern about losing future opportunities to assist the animal, client, or others in the household (15)
- Concern that the animal would suffer as a result of reporting (16)
- Concern that a person would suffer as a result of reporting (17)
- Did not think anything would come of it (18)
- Did not know I was allowed to report (19)
○ Did not know if reporting was mandated  (20)
○ I felt it was better to educate my clients rather than report them  (21)
○ I thought it was accidental or not intentional  (22)
○ I told my boss or practice manager and left it with them  (23)
○ Was unable to report due to hospital policies or the decision of a manager/supervisor  (24)
○ Feeling daunted by the process because I didn’t know what to expect once I started the process  (25)
○ Because the law didn’t allow it  (26)
○ Other (please specify):  (27)
Q34 Which, if any, of the following have you experienced after reporting suspected abuse? (select all that apply)

- [ ] A decrease in business (1)
- [ ] An increase in business (2)
- [ ] Retaliation via social media or otherwise (3)
- [ ] Positive media coverage (4)
- [ ] Support from clients and/or the community (directly or through social media) (5)
- [ ] Other (please specify): (6)

Q28 Have you ever been asked to submit evidence (usable in a court) for an animal abuse case?

- [ ] Yes (1)
- [ ] No (4)

Q29 Please indicate your comfort level, based on the most recent occasion, submitting evidence for an animal abuse case:

- [ ] Low (1)
- [ ] Medium (2)
- [ ] High (3)
If Have you ever been asked to submit evidence (usable in a court) for an animal abuse case? = Yes

Q30 Please indicate how much time was required to submit evidence for an animal abuse case:

☐ Minimal (1)

☐ Moderate (2)

☐ A great deal (3)

Q31 Have you ever been asked to testify in court in an alleged criminal animal abuse case? (select all that apply)

☐ Yes, and I testified (1)

☐ Yes, but I chose to not testify (2)

☐ Yes, but the testimony was not ultimately needed (3)

☐ No, I have never been asked to testify (4)

Q32 Please indicate, based on the most recent occasion, your comfort level with testifying in court in an alleged criminal animal abuse case:

☐ Low (1)

☐ Medium (2)

☐ High (3)
Display This Question:

If Have you ever been asked to testify in court in an alleged criminal animal abuse case? (select all that apply)

- Yes, and I testified
- Yes, but the testimony was not ultimately needed

Q33 Please indicate how much time was required to testify in court in an alleged criminal animal abuse case was to your other professional or personal activities:

- Minimal (1)
- Moderate (2)
- A great deal (3)
Q38 Please indicate your agreement level with the following statements:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree (1)</th>
<th>Agree (2)</th>
<th>Neutral (3)</th>
<th>Disagree (4)</th>
<th>Strongly disagree (5)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When I think about reporting abuse, I feel I need to be absolutely sure first (1)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting suspected abuse usually helps families (2)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting suspected abuse usually helps the abused animal (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting suspected abuse usually results in hurting families (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting suspected abuse usually results in hurting the abused animal (5)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is not my job to definitively determine if abuse has taken place before I report (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reporting suspected abuse is pointless because nothing ever comes of it when I report.

(7)

I would support the creation of a new veterinary specialty college in the area of the application of veterinary medicine to suspected cases of abuse (e.g., Veterinary Forensic Medicine) (8)

I would feel more comfortable reporting if there were professionals with whom I could consult.

(9)

Training in the area of animal abuse should be a required component of veterinary school (DVM) curriculum.

(10)
Training in the area of animal abuse should be a required component of vet tech training (11)

Q39 Please indicate which of the following laws you would support in your state (select all that apply):

☐ Mandated reporting of suspected animal abuse by veterinarians (1)

☐ Mandated reporting of suspected animal abuse by credentialed veterinary professionals (2)

☐ Permitted reporting of suspected animal abuse by veterinarians (3)

☐ Permitted reporting of suspected animal abuse by credentialed veterinary professionals (4)

☐ Immunity from criminal and civil liability for good faith reporting of suspected animal abuse (5)

☐ Immunity from criminal and civil liability for disclosure of veterinary records associated with suspected animal abuse to authorized agencies (6)
Q40 Please select which one of the following major categories you feel would make the biggest impact in increasing your ability to detect and respond to cases of suspected animal abuse:

- Training relating to any aspects of detection and response (1)
- People within my workplace being more willing or able to support me in these activities (2)
- Reliable access to offsite specialists and partners in areas such as forensics, law enforcement or law (3)
- More certainty that my actions will be effective, safe, or appreciated (4)
Q41 Which aspect of training would you rate as **the most important** in impacting your ability to detect and respond appropriately to cases of suspected animal abuse?

- Discussions with owners about suspected abuse  (1)
- Recognizing signs of abuse  (2)
- How to handle cases once you have detected/suspected them  (3)
- The relevant laws including what acts are criminal, reporting, confidentiality, and liability  (4)
- Assessing a case presented by law enforcement for suspected abuse.  (5)
- Crime scene response  (6)
- Procedural requirements for collecting and preserving evidence  (7)
- Evidence packaging/handling  (8)
- Forensic photography  (9)
- The clinical forensic exam  (10)
- Forensic necropsy  (11)
- Procedural requirements for documenting evidence  (12)
- Authoring a forensic report  (13)
- Providing testimony in court  (14)
- Other (please describe)  (15)

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**Display This Question:**

*If Please select which one of the following major categories you feel would make the biggest impact... = People within my workplace being more willing or able to support me in these activities*
Q42 Which aspect of the workplace environment would you rate as the most important in impacting your ability to detect and respond appropriately to cases of suspected animal abuse?

- More time to work on the case (1)
- More material resources to work on the case (e.g., proper resources for conducting forensic necropsies) (2)
- Workplace guidelines around reporting a case (3)
- More authority and/or autonomy to assess and decide on the response to a case (4)
- Having colleagues willing and able to discuss and assist (5)
- Other (please specify): (6) ________________________________________________

Display This Question:
If Please select which one of the following major categories you feel would make the biggest impact... = Reliable access to offsite specialists and partners in areas such as forensics, law enforcement or law

Q43 Which aspect of off-site specialists and partners would you rate as the most important in impacting your ability to detect and respond appropriately to cases of suspected animal abuse?

- Support from members of the veterinary professions outside your workplace (1)
- Support from the local community (2)
- Being more familiar with people at the agency you would contact if you suspect or want to report a case (3)
- More confidence in your reporting agency to advise and respond appropriately (4)
- More knowledge about external supportive resources other than reporting agencies (e.g., legal, educational, sheltering, diagnostic support) (5)
- Other (please specify) (6) ________________________________________________
Q44 Which aspect of results/impact would you rate as the most important in impacting your ability to detect and respond appropriately to cases of suspected animal abuse?

- More certainty that the abused animal or other animals vulnerable to the abuser are likely to benefit from your actions (1)
- More protection from client retaliation or other adverse consequences from your good faith actions (2)
- More protection from internal adverse consequences from supervisors/colleagues for your good faith actions (3)
- Other (please specify): (4) ____________________________________________

Q45 Please select the statement that best matches your views regarding the animal abuse cases that you have reported or seen/heard of being reported:

- The overall outcomes of the reporting encourage me to make reports in the future (1)
- The overall outcomes of the reporting discourage me from reporting in the future (2)
- I am not influenced by the outcome when it comes to future reporting decisions (3)
- The outcomes were mixed or unclear and did not encourage or discourage future reporting decisions (4)
- Other (please specify) (5) ____________________________________________

Q46 Please share anything else you would like us to know or understand, or any feedback on the survey questions.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Q47 When you are done with this survey and click on the last arrow, you will be automatically directed to a page where you can enter your name and contact information for the Amazon gift card raffle.

End of Block: Default Question Block