Evidence Of Animal Crimes

- Determined by the type charges and scene
- Any type of evidence can be found at any type of scene
- Collect it or leave it?
Animal Evidence

- Crime Scene
- Transport
- Medical Exam
- Shelter

Chain Of Evidence

• Cage/Room/Space is assigned a # prior to the animal being removed or the living conditions changed (adding food/water)
Animal Evidence

The animal is documented in the environment

Animal is then removed for Intake/Inventory

Animal Evidence

• Each animal is given a unique ID # and tagged with that #
  • One identification picture is taken
  • Photo board used to capture necessary information.
Animal Evidence

Documentation of Animal Inventory

• Will be a record of the property removed
• Genuine # of animals
• Chain of evidence

Animal Evidence

Transport Manifest

• Records:
  • Every animal placed on vehicle.
  • Origin and the time driver leaves
  • Destination and the time of arrival
Animal Evidence

Medical Exams document the degree of abuse. Also provides info for sheltering:
- General Medical Exam
- Treatment Outlined
- Intake Vaccinations

Animal Evidence

- If possible, be available to assist the veterinarian with examination photographs and evidence collection.
- Evidence collection from an animal by the veterinarian may include:
  - Hair mats
  - DNA
  - Nails
  - Photographs
  - Blood, fecal or other biological samples
- Photographic documentation should also be done of the animals as they progress and change.
Deceased Remains

- Documented as evidence
  - Photographed before altering environment
  - Assigned an evidence # - NOT an intake #
  - Will be on scene sketch

- Animals deceased at scene, euthanized as a result of their condition or that subsequently die should be sent for necropsy.

Deceased Remains

- Necropsy to determine natural or unnatural death
- Bone marrow fat testing can be done to assess nutritional condition of deceased animal – used in conjunction with other findings to diagnose starvation
  - Bovine and Equine
  - Long bone with least decomposition
  - Less than 48hrs post-mortem preferred – up to 60 days post-mortem
Skeletal Remains

- Remains analyzed for trauma and disease

Deceased Remains

Evidence Collection

- **Entomology** can be used to help determine post-mortem interval

- **Botany** can be used to help determine post-mortem interval or be examined for possible poisonous plants
Deceased Remains

Other Consideration
- Were any bodies disposed on property?
- Is the decomposing carcass a health concern for the community or for other animals?

Forensic Analysis

- Most local and state crime laboratories won't accept animal evidence
- Evidence must go to academic institution or private laboratory
Strength and Endurance

- Chains should be collected and weighed so comparison can be made to body weight of animal carrying it
- Length should be documented if confinement is an issue
Strength and Endurance

Strength and Endurance
Strength and Endurance

Breeding
Sparring Paraphernalia

Medical: Supplements and Wound Care
Medical: Supplements and Wound Care

Photos: Document all sides of medication and supplement bottles.

Weighing Devices
Breaksticks

Fighting Paraphernalia
Fighting Pits

Blood and Trace Evidence

- Phenolphthalein and Hexagon OBTI
- DNA testing
- Canine CODIS
- Hair – classification
Blood and Trace Evidence

Phenolphthalein

Animal Fighting Evidence
Blood and Trace Evidence

Phenolphthalein

Hexagon OBTI

CANINE CODIS
Fighting Dog Combined DNA Index System

Dog fighting is illegal in every state. It is a violent and highly excitable enterprise that is extremely difficult for law enforcement and forensic professionals to investigate. Over the past few decades, agencies have come together to establish the first nationwide canine database to curtail the crime of dog fighting.

- What is a Canine DNA Index System?
  - The ASPCA, along with other law enforcement agencies, has been developing a canine DNA database. The database will serve as a repository for DNA samples generated from investigations involving allegations of dog fighting.
  - The database will allow DNA samples from cases involving different dog fighting organizations, crimes, and operations. DNA will be used to identify the source of a DNA profile as well as to identify an individual dog associated with a dog fighting operation.

- Why can you print DNA samples using canine DNA?
  - We can print DNA samples using canine DNA because canine DNA is often found at crime scenes and on objects associated with dog fighting, such as clothing, bedding, or vehicle interiors.

- Canine DNA Index System (CODIS)
  - CODIS is a national network of DNA databases that are used to identify and track individuals. The system is maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and is used by law enforcement agencies across the United States.

- How does canine DNA index work?
  - Canine DNA index works by collecting DNA samples from crime scenes or other locations where dog fighting was suspected. The DNA samples are then compared to a database of DNA profiles stored in the CODIS network. If a match is found, further investigation can be conducted to identify the individual associated with the DNA profile.

- Canine DNA index system (CODIS) access:
  - Access to the CANINE CODIS database is limited to law enforcement agencies that are authorized to submit DNA samples.

- What can happen if someone is found to be involved in dog fighting?
  - Penalties for involvement in dog fighting can vary depending on the jurisdiction and the severity of the crime. In some cases, penalties may include fines, imprisonment, or both. Additionally, individuals who are found to be involved in dog fighting may have their dogs seized and placed in a holding facility until the case is resolved.
Documents & Other

Documents & Other
Animals

Living conditions
- Space
- Cleanliness
- Comfort

Animals
Documenting Scar Evidence

- Purpose is to show distribution
- Only fighting scars and/or injuries
- Ball Point Pen:
  - Blue = healed
  - Red = fresh or healing
- Doesn’t have to be exact number

Animals
Animal Hoarder
• Person who maintains a higher-than-usual number of animals.
• Beyond capacity to properly house or care for them

Puppy Mill
• Commercial breeding operation
• Care and health of the animal is often disregarded.
Living Conditions

- Amount and quality of food/water
- Excessive feces/urine
- Diseased feces/vomit
- Comfort – blanket, newspaper, enrichment, etc.
Living Conditions

Living Conditions
Living Conditions

- Is there an adequate amount of food and water?
- Is it fresh/potable?
- Is the food appropriate for the age and medical condition of the animals
Hoardings and Puppy Mills

General condition of property

Veterinary Supplies and Records
**Hoardings and Puppy Mills**

**Medication**

- Are supplements present?
- Are ‘substitute’ medications present?
- Labor inducing medications?

**Other Documentation**

- Financial Records
- Solicitation of donations
- Inappropriate use of donations
- Registration papers
- Employee and payroll records (staff count to number of animals)
- Sale receipts
Crimes beyond animal cruelty

- Consumer fraud (marketing and selling sick dogs)
- Environmental crimes (waste)
- Employee safety (ammonia levels indoors)
- Unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine
- Unlawful lottery (marketing trick: win free dog)
- Tax evasion/fraud
- Civil nuisance abatement

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