DRAFT FOR COUNTY REVIEW

Oneida County Department of Emergency Services. Editable draft. Suggested placement: Emergency Services

Animal Cruelty Response and Resources

Protecting Animals in Our Community

Oneida County is committed to the humane treatment of animals and strong enforcement of New York State animal cruelty laws. In 2026, the County appointed Jamie Dreimiller as a dedicated Animal Cruelty Coordinator to improve response, coordination and support across law enforcement, shelters and the public.

The coordinator works in conjunction with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement agencies, County departments and the public to enforce Article 26 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law.

The position serves as the central liaison, building and managing a robust network of local shelters, rescue organizations, veterinary clinics, foster homes, transporters and humane handlers. The goal of the new model is to ensure rapid, cost-effective and standards-compliant care, including assessment, removal, transport, sheltering, veterinary treatment and foster placement.

Key elements of the role include:

- Coordinating assessments, removals, transport, and placements in full compliance with Ag & Markets Law §§ 373 and 374.
- Developing standard operating procedures for consistent, countywide responses.
- Launching public education campaigns on cruelty prevention, responsible ownership and reporting procedures.
- Providing 24/7 emergency availability and ongoing support to law enforcement, including documentation and expert testimony when needed.

The coordinator is not a police officer. Reports are investigated by law enforcement, which can request assistance from the coordinator. The coordinator cannot make an arrest or order an animal removed.

How to report animal cruelty or neglect

Immediate danger: Call 911. Severe injury, extreme heat or cold without shelter, or an imminent threat to life. Stay on the line. Do not try to intervene.

Non-emergency cruelty or neglect: Call the Oneida County Sheriff's Office at 315-736-0141, or the local police department if you are in a city or village that has one.

Stray, loose, or barking dog: Call the dog control officer for the municipality. A found dog, a dog at large, a license question, or a local dog ordinance is not a cruelty investigation. Shelters do not pick up strays.

Tips for reporting

- Exact location, description of the animal or animals, number of animals, and the specific concern.
- Photos or video taken from a public place are helpful. Do not enter the property to get them, and do not post them while a report is being investigated.
- Anonymous reports are accepted. A callback number helps the investigator ask a follow-up question.

Law enforcement agencies

For an emergency, call 911. For a non-emergency cruelty or neglect report, call the police department that covers the address. Towns and villages without their own department are covered by the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. New York State Police may also be the responding agency.

Agency	Covers	Non-emergency phone
Oneida County Sheriff's Office	Oneida County	315-736-0141
New York State Police, Troop D	Oneida County	315-366-6000
Utica Police Department	City of Utica	315-735-3301
Rome Police Department	City of Rome. Also 315-337-3311.	315-339-7780
Sherrill Police Department	City of Sherrill. Dispatch 315-363-3200. Message line 315-363-6221.	315-363-3200
New Hartford Police Department	Town and Village of New Hartford	315-724-7111
Whitestown Police Department	Town of Whitestown, outside villages with their own departments	315-736-1100
Whitesboro Police Department	Village of Whitesboro	315-736-1944
Yorkville Police Department	Village of Yorkville	315-736-8331
Oriskany Police Department	Village of Oriskany	315-736-2049
New York Mills Police Department	Village of New York Mills	315-736-6623
Kirkland Police Department	Town of Kirkland and Village of Clinton	315-853-3311
Camden Police Department	Village of Camden	315-245-1222
Boonville Police Department	Village of Boonville	315-943-2050
Vernon Police Department	Village of Vernon	315-829-2550

Recognizing animal cruelty

Common signs include:

- Severe malnutrition, dehydration, or visible signs of starvation
- Untreated injuries, wounds, infections, parasites, hair loss, or severe matting
- Lack of adequate shelter from extreme heat or cold
- Animals that are constantly chained or tethered, or confined in unsafe or unsanitary conditions
- No access to clean water, overcrowding, or exposure to hazardous environments
- Signs of physical abuse, animal fighting, or excessive fear or aggression caused by mistreatment
- Hoarding situations where too many animals are kept to receive proper care

If an animal is in immediate, life-threatening danger, including a severe injury or no food or water during extreme weather, call 911.

Cruelty and neglect take many forms. A single concern does not always meet the legal definition under Agriculture and Markets Law Article 26. A pattern of neglect or abuse may warrant investigation.

Article 26 text: Article 26, Agriculture and Markets Law (PDF)

Law enforcement investigates each situation under New York State law. In some cases animals remain in place while evidence is gathered, owners are offered resources, or legal proceedings move forward.

Dog control officers

Dog control is separate from a cruelty investigation. Call the dog control officer for a stray, a loose or barking dog, a license question, or a local dog ordinance. If no one answers, call the town or city clerk. Villages usually use the town officer.

Municipality	Also covers	Contact	Phone
City of Rome		Kim Vaughn / Stephanie Gibilaro	315-337-6260
City of Sherrill		Sherrill Police	315-363-3200
City of Utica		Chris Collver, through Utica Police	315-735-3301
Annsville	Taberg area	Clayton Conover III	315-371-5429
Augusta	Oriskany Falls	Anne Brown	315-418-6512 (leave a message)
Ava		Jerrome Alexander	315-335-7161
Boonville	Village of Boonville	Amanda Reed	315-335-0719
Bridgewater		Jamie Dreimiller	315-822-6808 ext. 3
Camden	Village of Camden	Clayton Conover III	315-245-0787
Deerfield		Andrea Kasczki or Angela Brennan	315-520-1606 or 315-975-7255
Florence		Clayton Conover III	315-245-0787
Floyd		Jerome Alexander	315-865-4208 or 315-335-7161
Forestport		Craig Jenks	315-223-1356
Kirkland	Village of Clinton	John Treen, New Hartford Police	315-733-6666
Lee		Ann Marie Dolan	315-709-2378
Marcy		James Griffiths	315-939-0415
Marshall		Rich Bennett	315-796-5789
New Hartford	Village of New Hartford; part of New York Mills	John Treen, New Hartford Police	315-733-6666
Paris	Clayville	Russell Jones	315-737-7707
Remsen	Village of Remsen	Colleen O'Leary	315-570-7644
Sangerfield	Waterville	Anne Brown	315-418-6512 or 315-280-8087
Steuben		Ed Kurish	315-525-4696
Trenton	Barneveld, Holland Patent, Prospect	Colleen O'Leary	315-570-7644
Vernon	Vernon village, Oneida Castle	Clayton Conover III	315-371-5429
Verona		Brenda Burleigh	315-540-2450
Vienna	Sylvan Beach	Clayton Conover III	315-371-5429
Western		Jerome Alexander	315-865-4208 or 315-335-7161
Westmoreland		Mike Smith	315-886-6394
Whitestown	Whitesboro, Yorkville, part of New York Mills. Oriskany: local police.	Russell Jones	315-737-7707

Shelters, rescues, and other help

Article 26 covers more than dogs. Cats, horses, livestock, and other animals can be part of a cruelty or neglect case. These organizations can help with adoption, foster care, surrender by appointment, or care after law enforcement is involved. They do not replace a 911 or Sheriff's Office report, and most cannot pick up a stray or seize an animal.

Placement after a seizure is arranged through law enforcement and the Animal Cruelty Coordinator. Capacity changes. Call before you transport an animal.

Shelters in Oneida County

Organization	Animals	Contact
Anita's Stevens-Swan Humane Society of Oneida County	Dogs and cats. Shelter, adoption, surrender by appointment, rabies clinics.	5664 Horatio Street, Utica. 315-738-4357. anitas-sshs.org
Humane Society of Rome	Dogs and cats. Adoption and shelter care. Does not pick up strays.	6247 Lamphear Road, Rome. 315-336-7070. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
City of Rome municipal shelter	Dogs held through Rome dog control. Not an open surrender shelter.	725 Black River Boulevard, Rome. Dog control 315-337-6260.
City of Utica animal control	Dogs held through Utica dog control. Not an open surrender shelter.	315-735-3301.
New Hartford Municipal Animal Shelter	Dogs and cats held by animal control. Not an open surrender shelter.	315-724-7111

Rescues serving Oneida County

Organization	Animals	Contact
CPV Rescue & Sanctuary	Cats	cpvrescuequestions@gmail.com 315-381-3605
Kindred Spirits Dog Adoption, Inc.	Dogs	csiddon@gmail.com
Paws for the Cause Rescue	Dogs	pawsforthecauserescue00@gmail.com 315-820-8011
K9 Rescue and Rehab	Dogs	lisa@k9rescueandrehab.org 617-943-9521
Rover's Do Over	Dogs	roversdoover.com. roversdoover@gmail.com
Purrs and Whiskers	Cats	purrsandwhiskerscny.org 315-404-2694
Wanderers' Rest Humane Association	Dogs and cats. Madison County shelter that also serves Oneida County. Call before a surrender.	7138 Sutherland Drive, Canastota. 315-697-2796. wanderersrest.org

Other Article 26 help

Need	Who to call	Phone
Bite, scratch, or possible rabies exposure, including a bat in the house	Oneida County Health Department. Daytime and after hours.	315-798-5064
Livestock care questions, before a situation becomes a cruelty call	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County	315-736-3394
Injured or orphaned wildlife	DEC-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or DEC Region 6. Wildlife is not a dog-control call.	DEC Region 6: 315-785-2263
Help finding a local program	211 Mid-York	211
Horses and other large animals after a seizure	No open county large-animal shelter. Placement is arranged case by case through the Animal Cruelty Coordinator and law enforcement.	Report the concern to 911 or the Sheriff's Office first.

Central New York SPCA no longer provides cruelty investigation or response for Oneida County. Do not call a shelter to investigate a cruelty complaint.

How the public can help

- Provide clear, timely reports with good documentation.
- Support responsible pet ownership and spay/neuter programs.
- Contact state legislators to advocate for updates to Article 26 that could streamline enforcement and strengthen penalties.
- Do not enter a property, confront an owner, or remove an animal. That can interfere with an investigation and can put you and the animal at risk.

Frequently asked questions

Is a thin animal automatically a cruelty case?

No. Article 26 covers unjustifiable physical pain and failure to provide necessary sustenance, including food, water, and shelter. Age, illness, and a recent change in ownership can explain a thin animal. A concern can still be reported. Reporting it does not mean the animal will be removed that day.

Why wasn't the animal removed after I called?

Removal is a law-enforcement decision, and only when the legal standard is met. The coordinator cannot seize an animal or override that decision. Some reports are referred for follow-up, some become investigations, and some do not meet the Article 26 threshold. Animals may remain in place while evidence is gathered, resources are offered, or a case moves through court. Open cases are not discussed in detail.

Who do I call, the police or the dog control officer?

Police or the Sheriff's Office for cruelty, neglect, an animal being hurt, or a bite. The dog control officer for a stray, a loose or barking dog, or a license question. When in doubt and the animal is in danger, call 911.

What about a dog bite?

Get medical care first. A bite that breaks the skin should be reported to the local police or the Sheriff's Office and to the Oneida County Health Department, which handles rabies exposure and the required observation period. A bite is not automatically an Article 26 case.

What about cats, livestock, or wildlife?

Cats and livestock can be part of an Article 26 report to law enforcement. A dog control officer's authority is generally limited to dogs. Injured wildlife should go to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

I found a dog and want to keep it. Can I?

No. Report a found dog to the dog control officer so the owner can reclaim it and holding rules are followed.

Can I surrender my own dog to the county?

The county does not operate an open surrender shelter. Contact the dog control officer or a local shelter or rescue. If you are struggling to feed or house an animal, say so when you call.

Will my name be released?

The county does not publish caller names. A callback number helps the investigation. Do not expect a play-by-play of an open case.

Related

- Emergencies: 911
- Oneida County Sheriff's Office, non-emergency: 315-736-0141. 6065 Judd Road, Oriskany.
- Oneida County Emergency Services: 120 Base Road, Oriskany. 315-765-2526.