

If you or someone you know has a problem with animal hoarding, please contact your local Animal Control or the Wichita/Sedgwick County Hoarding Coalition for help today.

**City of Wichita Animal Control (within city limits)**  
**316-350-3360**

**Sedgwick County Animal Control (unincorporated areas)**  
**316-660-7070**

If you live in a town or city outside of Wichita, contact your local Animal Control or Police Department.

For more information and resources, visit:

[www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)  
[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

The Wichita/Sedgwick County Hoarding Coalition seeks to provide intervention, education, and decluttering and follow-up support for hoarding behavior.

### REFERRAL INFORMATION

Individuals 60 years of age and older contact:

**Central Plains Area Agency on Aging**  
**316-660-5144**

Individuals 59 years of age and under\* contact:

**Adult Protective Services**  
**316-337-6791**

*\*Consumers must be disabled and seen as someone who is unable to protect their own best interests.*

To find out more, please email us at:

[hoardingcoalition@sedgwick.gov](mailto:hoardingcoalition@sedgwick.gov)

# What is Animal Hoarding?



Central Plains Area Agency on Aging  
Butler, Harvey & Sedgwick Counties



Wichita/Sedgwick County  
Hoarding Coalition

# What causes animal hoarding?

Not much is known about why people become animal hoarders. Some may have a variant of obsessive-compulsive disorder, attachment disorders, personality disorders, paranoia, delusional thinking, depression or other mental illnesses. A traumatic event or loss may be a triggering event for some, while others see themselves as “rescuers” of stray animals.



## What is Animal Hoarding?

- Accumulation of a large number of animals
- Failure to provide minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care
- Failure to act on the deteriorating condition of the animals (including disease, starvation and death) or the environment (severe overcrowding and extremely unsanitary conditions)
- Failure to act on the negative effect of the collection on their own health and well-being and that of other household members

## Signs of Animal Hoarding

Identifying a person who hoards animals can be difficult. Here are some signs to look for:

- They have numerous animals and may not know the total number of animals
- Their home is deteriorated (dirty windows, holes in the wall and floor, extreme clutter)
- There is a strong smell of ammonia, floors may be covered with dried feces, urine, vomit, etc.
- Animals are emaciated, lethargic, and not well socialized
- Fleas and vermin are present
- Individual is isolated from community and appears to be in neglect him/herself
- Individual insists all animals are happy and healthy—even when there are clear signs of distress and illness



Animal hoarding is defined by three related issues:

1. More than the typical number of companion animals
2. Inability to provide even minimal standards of care
3. Denial of the inability to provide minimal care and its impact

Animal hoarding results in considerable suffering of the animals (from neglect) and the individual (illnesses due to worsening conditions in the home). See back panel for helpful resources.

Information from  
[www.asPCA.org/fight-cruelty/  
animal-hoarding](http://www.asPCA.org/fight-cruelty/animal-hoarding)  
[www.ocfoundation.org/hoarding](http://www.ocfoundation.org/hoarding)