



In Collaboration with Heath Mobile Veterinary Services

RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING ELDER ABUSE

How Do I Recognize Elder Abuse?

Physical Signs May Include:

- Unexplained physical injuries – bruises, welts, scars, broken bones, sprains, and dislocations
- Untreated physical injuries – open wounds, broken bones, sprains, and dislocations
- Broken eyeglasses or frames
- Person is dirty and unwashed
- Unsuitable covering or clothing for weather
- Behavior from elder that mimics dementia – rocking, sucking, or mumbling to themselves
- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration

Environmental Signs May Include:

- Unsanitary living conditions:
 - Dirt, bugs, or rodents in house
 - Soiled bedding and clothes
 - Multiple days of uneaten food left on tables, counters, and in sink
 - Overflowing garbage/trash containers
 - Odor of urine, ammonia, fecal matter, decay, decomposition
- Unsafe living conditions:
 - No heat, air conditioning, or running water
 - Faulty electrical wiring
 - Cleaning chemicals, food containers, and medication containers stored together on kitchen table, kitchen counter, etc.
- Caregiver's refusal to allow you to see elder alone
- Unsatisfying responses to questions about elder's welfare
- Threatening, belittling, or controlling behavior of caregiver

Who Should I Call?

- 911 or local law enforcement if life-threatening situation that needs to be dealt with immediately
- Texas Abuse Hotline at 800-252-5400 or on-line at www.txabusehotline.org

What Should I Say?

Be prepared to provide your name, contact information, physical address of property, description of involved parties, and explanation of suspected harm to the victim.