



## **“What To Do If You Suspect Animal Abuse”**

**By Kit Belcher, Executive Director  
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**Animal Abuse is a very difficult challenge in our area. If you suspect animal abuse, what should you do?**

**First of all, you MUST report it to the local law enforcement agency that serves the community where the animal is located. The law enforcement does have the authority to seizure animals and initiate legal action. A Humane Society cannot seize animals unless they have a certified investigator acting on behalf of the organization by which they have been certified. Often times, televised programs creative public awareness of this issue, however, with new awareness also comes new expectations. Humane Societies in larger metro areas, as well as the ASPCA units have law enforcement officers and investigators on staff which manage animal neglect and abuse cases. Small or rural humane societies are very limited as they do not have either the financial resources or staff to help with investigations. Therefore, they are strictly limited to sheltering and adopting cats and dogs, helping to locate lost animals and finding owners, educating and assisting the public with spaying and neutering their pets in an effort to reduce the pet over-population.**

**At Beltrami Humane Society, we frequently receive your calls to report animal neglect or abuse. If so, we will refer you to the Minnesota Federated Humane Society. This organization works specifically on animal neglect and abuse cases throughout the state of Minnesota. Their direct telephone number is: (651) 646=6281, Ext. #113. The role of Beltrami Humane Society is to assist the Minnesota Federated and local law enforcement with animal neglect and abuse cases by sheltering as many seized animals as possible and than networking with other area shelters to find space for these animals. We also will inform the local law enforcement of calls we receive, however, it is much more efficient if you, the individual who has witnessed the neglect or abuse, contact the**

law enforcement directly. This helps them substantiate the neglect or abuse and enables them to take quick action in cases that may otherwise mean extreme immediate danger to an animal. As a community, lets take care of our animal population, they are depending on us! Our shelter features this week are “Captain and Shadow”. “Captain is a chocolate lab” while “Shadow is a black lab”. They are both females. These two labs have been together all of their lives as littermates. We would like to adopt these two special labs together. They are both spayed and have had all of their vaccinations. They are 8 years old. They are house-trained, spoiled, and love toys. They are very well mannered and love to go for long walks. They both have chocolate brown eyes and do pretty well around most anyone. Their owner could no longer keep them due to health reasons.

You can see these two littermates at 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN. Hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. Visit our website photo gallery at [www.beltramihumane.com](http://www.beltramihumane.com) or see our pets on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Pets of the month are posted at Pamida, you can hear about our Pet of the Week on KKBJ Mix 103 (early show) or check out a few of our pet photos at the end of the pet aisles at Walmart. We are participants of the “Very Best Pet Network”.

Support your local humane society by becoming a Member. The Beltrami Humane Society receives NO city, county, state or federal funds. Your Annual Membership contribution will help us to ensure that we can provide care to homeless animals throughout the year. You will receive our newsletter, voting right (see by-laws), and an invitation to the annual meeting. Your membership card and a receipt will be sent to you promptly. Membership levels include: Individual Lifetime (\$250-\$1000), Family Annual (\$40-\$100), Individual Annual (\$25-\$100), Junior Annual [16 & under] \$5 and a Business Sponsorship (\$150-\$1000).

Thank you to all of you who participated in our Annual “Furr Bowl!” A great time was had by all! Thanks also for all your support of the special animals at Beltrami Humane Society.

Shelter Wishes: Peat rock or gravel for the outdoor dog/puppy yards, \$\$ for Vaccinations/Medications for incoming animals, walking leashes, fleece scraps to make kennel blankets, kitty toys.

