

THE SILVER LINING



A message from the President

As we step into 2026, I want to once again share our vision and goals for the year ahead. 2025 was an exceptionally difficult year for animals, both nationally and here in Connecticut, with neglect and cruelty continuing to rise. While those realities are heartbreaking, they also fuel our determination. Bikers Against Animal Cruelty is an organized nonprofit of compassionate motorcycle enthusiasts and animal lovers who advocate against animal cruelty and neglect, promote responsible pet ownership, and help defray the cost of emergency veterinary care for domestic and ownerless victims of abuse. With a dedicated membership and committed board, we are pushing forward with renewed energy and purpose to make 2026 our most impactful year yet.

In This Issue

President Message.....2
Member Loss.....3
Trainers Corner.....4
Events.....5
CT State Law.....6
In Memoriam.....7
Cases.....8
Contact Us.....10
Resources.....11
Donations.....12

continued on next page

A message from the President (*cont'd*)

The need for organizations like ours continues to grow, and the data makes that clear.

The reality we are facing:

- The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection reported that 2023–2024 saw a 36.6% increase in animal cruelty crimes, and that reflects only what was reported
- An estimated 10 million animals are abused annually in the United States
- Animal cruelty is strongly linked to broader patterns of violence and neglect, often appearing early and escalating over time

These numbers are alarming—but they do not stop us. The problem is significant, and that is exactly why we remain focused, motivated, and committed to doing the work. Every individual has the ability to make a difference, whether by standing up against cruelty, supporting local shelters and rescues, practicing responsible pet ownership, or contributing time or resources in any way they can. Every effort matters, and every contribution helps. In 2026, we are continuing to strengthen our spay and neuter efforts, expand education around responsible pet ownership, and working more closely with rescues, shelters, and animal welfare organizations to better collaborate, share resources, and increase our collective impact.

Every member of BAAC is a dedicated volunteer. We do this because the cause matters deeply to us, and because the true reward is seeing animals given a second chance at life through the care they receive. We are incredibly grateful to the individuals and businesses who continue to support our organization—your generosity directly helps animals in crisis. With many events planned for 2026, all proceeds go directly toward emergency veterinary care to help support the rescues and shelters who take these animals into their care.

Event details will be updated on our website as they become available, and we look forward to meeting others who are just as passionate about contributing to animal welfare as we are. We encourage you to follow us on social media, visit our website, attend our events, and consider donating or purchasing merchandise. Your support makes this work possible, and for that, we are truly thankful.

With strength, determination, and gratitude,

Jennifer French, President, Bikers Against Animal Cruelty



CHERISHED MEMBER

It is with the heaviest of hearts B.A.A.C. shares this post. One of our most cherished members took his final breath today. Bob Smyth was filled with love and compassion for animals from a very young age. That compassion and love, generosity, and unparalleled devotion to animals only grew as the years went on. Saying Bob loved animals would be an understatement. He fed skunks and raccoons who showed up in his back yard. He had countless dogs of his own and helped thousands of animals - cats, dogs, horses, you name it...over the years. He was a tireless member of BAAC. He did it all - helped at events, collected and delivered shelter supplies, and he did this not just for us, but several other animal organizations as well. His last Facebook post will tell you all you need to know about him - he was looking for people to donate blankets to the Simon Foundation. Even when he knew his time was limited - he still dedicated it to helping animals. We are all better off because of Bob. This self proclaimed hippie, music and animal lover left a legacy behind. We all hope the minute he got to heaven every single animal there greeted him with wagging tails and slobbering kisses. Eventually he'll get to the people up there because knowing Bob - it's the animals first. He's loved and missed and in his own words - 'see you on the other side'.



TRAINERS CORNER

"Fix that stubborn dog"

When is your dog not listening? Where is your dog not listening? Why is your dog not listening? Can you answer these questions? You may know or guess the where and when but the why often leaves dog owners guessing.

Now, the first thing we need to do to help a "stubborn" dog is, STOP labeling them as stubborn! When I see a dog not offering a behavior the owner insists the dog knows, I ask more questions, look at the body language of the dog, look at the environment we are in etc. Often I learn the dog actually has not fully understood the behavior, let alone generalized the behavior to other contexts. This is especially true when we think about the three D's: distance, duration and distractions.

I may learn that the environment the dog is in is causing them to have an emotional reaction. In this case, the dog's fight or flight system may have activated and the nervous system may be in survival mode. It is prioritizing and putting energy where it needs to go in that moment.

I look at motivation, competing motivators and reinforcers. From the dogs' point of view; why should they do "this" when they can do "that" which may be more functional or more reinforcing to them in that moment.

I look at genetics. I question, what is this dog purpose bred for, if known. If not known, I still observe the dogs' behaviors and body language to understand as best as possible what the functions of behavior, or lack of, are in that moment. Understanding and applying behavior analysis helps.

In summary, there are many contributing factors why our dogs will not perform behaviors: environmental and innate. We need to observe, gather all the subjective info and have an understanding of how behavior and learning works. It is important to understand the dog is likely being guided by pure, innocent innate animal behavior, survival, the environment, and what their DNA has coded for etc. They do not do things "out of spite" or "stubbornness". These labels are often linked to human personality traits.

Dogs and behavior need understanding, not "corrections". You can help by meeting their needs as a species.

Need help? Email us: fromtheirperspective@hotmail.com

Jen Zatorowski, UW-AAB. CPDT-KA, Certified Mantrailing Global Instructor
From Their Perspective, LLC. Animal Training and Behavior Consulting.



TO SAY NOTHING, TO DO NOTHING, STOPS NOTHING

WWW.BIKERSAGAINSTANIMALCRUELTY.ORG

2026 EVENTS

We would be grateful if you would spread the word about these events and encourage your friends and family to join us! Whether we are hosting or attending as a vendor, we would love to see you and have your support! The more participants we have, the greater the impact we can make and that means the more animals that get help!

We will be **HOSTING** the following events:

B.A.A.C. Photo Kissing Booth!

February 7th

More details to come!



B.A.A.C. Rally

Date: August 8th

Time: 11a-5p

Location: Martin Bishop Field Guilford, 111 Long Hill Road, Guilford, CT

We will have our **BOOTH** at the following events:

Cars 4 Paws

Date: June 7th

Time: 10a-3p

Location: Southington Drive-in, 995 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, CT

Army's Legacy Car Show

Date: August 23

Time 9a to 3p

Location: Southington Drive-in, 995 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, CT

Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services Open House

Date: September 19th

Time: 1p to 4p

Location: Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, 1269 Main St., Glastonbury, CT

Help Us, Help Them!
We can't do it without you! Please
support your local animal welfare and
animal rescue groups.

CT ANIMAL CRUELTY LAW [CGS § 53-247]

Connecticut's primary animal cruelty statute is comprised of five distinct crimes:

1. cruelty to animals
2. malicious or intentional cruelty to animals
3. animals engaged in exhibition of fighting
4. intentionally injuring
5. killing police animals or dogs in volunteer canine service and rescue teams

Under Connecticut law, a person commits animal cruelty if he or she, among other things:

- tortures
- cruelly beats or kills
- deprives of necessary sustenance
- unjustifiably injures an animal.

A person is also guilty of this crime if:

- when confining an animal, they fail to provide the animal proper care or to supply it with wholesome air, food, and water or
- when having custody of an animal, they inflict cruelty upon it or fail to provide it proper food, drink, or protection from the weather.

Animal cruelty is punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both for a first offense and is a class D felony for a subsequent offense. Intentional and malicious animal cruelty is a class D felony for a first offense and a Class C felony for a subsequent offense (CGS § 53-247).

Read the full statute at www.cga.ct.gov

Keep in mind, pets are fully reliant on their owners, they trust wholeheartedly that they will be fed, sheltered, kept safe, and loved. They trust unconditionally and are devoted to their owners.

Putting your pet in dangerous situations is irresponsible. While these situations may not stem from malicious intent, they can still be considered cruelty. Examples include walking your pet on hot pavement, driving without securing them, hiking beyond their age or ability, exposing them to loud sounds despite sensitive hearing, failing to provide food as they become emaciated, or forcing them into water to swim despite visible fear. As the owner, you have the ability to think critically and must take a moment to make the best decisions for your pet.

Remember, pets can't communicate their pain, ask for help, or refuse like we can. They depend entirely on you. Apply your judgment and act responsibly. Consider their well-being first.

If you wouldn't want something done to you, don't do it to them!

IN MEMORIAM



Minerva



Madison

"If it should be that I grow weak and pain should keep me from my sleep then you must do what must be done, for this last battle can't be won. You will be sad, I understand, but don't let grief then stay your hand. For this day more than all the rest, your love for me must stand the test. We've had so many happy years what is to come can hold no fears. You don't want me to suffer so, the time has come please let me go. Take me where my needs they'll tend, but please stay with me till the end. To hold me close and speak to me, until my eyes no longer see."

~ *Final Journey, LLC - an in-home pet euthanasia service*

TO SAY NOTHING, TO DO NOTHING, STOPS NOTHING

WWW.BIKERSAGAINSTANIMALCRUELTY.ORG

4TH QUARTER CASES



4TH QUARTER CASES

B.A.A.C. helped with urgent medical care this past quarter by donating funds to the treating veterinary clinics to help twelve animals who were victims of animal cruelty and neglect. Many of these animals suffered more than we can imagine from neglect, cruelty, and/or abuse at the hands of humans. Their stories are deeply moving and hard to imagine.

Additionally, through our Speuter Program, we assisted ten families with the cost of spay/neuter surgery.

Thanks to our supporters, B.A.A.C. was able to donate over \$7,000.00 this past 4th Quarter (*October, November, December*), split between urgent medical care for cruelty cases and the Speuter Program.

B.A.A.C. sends donations directly to the medical facility providing care, so the funds reach exactly who they are intended for. We never give donations to other organizations or to individuals.

We are grateful to the animal rescue and animal welfare organizations for giving these animals care, love, and, most importantly, a well-deserved second chance at life. These animals can now close their eyes to sleep in a safe place, with a full belly, a happy heart, and without fear. That is priceless and a life that all animals should always have.

Please support these angels on earth by volunteering, donating, or following them on social media. Sharing their posts about their needs and successes can make a difference.

- Norwalk /CTHUS
- West Hartford Animal Control
- Lil To The Rescue
- Middletown Animal Control
- All About the Dogs Rescue
- Woodbridge Animal Control
- Harwinton Animal Control
- The Great Divide
- New London Animal Control
- Leah to the Rescue
- Army's Legacy
- Mona's House
- Hisses to Kisses Chance For Love
- Tristan TNR
- Halfway Home Rescue

CONTACT US:

Jen F. - President.....President@bikersagainstanimalcruelty.org
Vice President.....Vicepresident@bikersagainstanimalcruelty.org
Joe C. - Treasurer.....Treasurer@bikersagainstanimalcruelty.org
Sheila C. - Secretary.....Secretary@bikersagainstanimalcruelty.org

REPORT CRUELTY/NEGLECT:

Humane Society of the U.S. (Dog Fighting).....1-877-TIP-HSUS
(Reward of up to \$5,000.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a dog fighter.)
Humane Society of the U.S. (Puppy Mill).....1-877-645-5847
Animal Cruelty on TV or Film.....1-818-501-0123
We Tip Hotline (abuse/neglect).....1-800-78-CRIME

For immediate help: Dial 911 and/or your local law enforcement, Animal Control Officer, Humane Society, CT Court Appointed Animal Advocates, Department of Agriculture (for Connecticut). If these fail, go to your local media outlet and blast the information, put the pressure on, save a life! Do not give up!

Complete the '**Suspected Animal Abuse**' form at ct.gov - Dept of Agriculture - Report Animal Abuse and email to agr.animalcontrol@ct.gov

Know the laws in your State, sadly, what is seen as cruel to some isn't always against the law. That distinction is vast. Therefore, document ALL details of a possible case, these details can be a very powerful tool in proving cruelty, neglect, and abuse and can be a great asset in the prosecution of an animal abuser.

RESOURCES:

If you suspect your pet may have come in contact with or ingested a potentially poisonous substance, immediately contact your local veterinarian or the

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435 or (855) 764-7661 - fees apply in order to fund call centers.

Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement: <https://www.aplb.org>, local groups available at 211.org or dial 211.

Animal Cruelty Free Product lists: CrueltyFreeKitty.com, Ethicalelephant.com, LeapingBunny.org and ASPCA.org.

TO SAY NOTHING, TO DO NOTHING, STOPS NOTHING

WWW.BIKERSAGAINSTANIMALCRUELTY.ORG

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE



Help us support the mission we hold so close to our heart....

MAKE A DONATION

We are always in need of donations:

Cleaning supplies, pet food, pet toys, blankets, towels, litter, beds, pet toys, leashes/collars, and anything else that can improve the lives of shelter pets!

Bring your donations to any of our events, or reach out using the contact info above. Or reach out directly to your local animal shelter and volunteer or donate!

JOIN OUR TEAM

Interested in becoming a member?

Visit our website for an application, meet us at an event or 'contact us'. We have riding members and non-riding members. Members help at events, attend fundraisers, court hearings, fundraise and spread awareness and education. We have many different areas of interest such as Public Relations, Education, Merchandise, and more!

TO SAY NOTHING, TO DO NOTHING, STOPS NOTHING

WWW.BIKERSAGAINSTANIMALCRUELTY.ORG

WILL YOU HELP US HELP THEM?

By making financial contributions towards urgent medical care B.A.A.C. has been able to help hundreds of animals across the United States who came to harm at the hands of human. But we can't do it without your support.

We offer **Five** ways you can help us help them:

1. ONLINE DONATIONS

Visit us at www.bikersagainstanimalcruelty.org

2. CHECK DONATIONS:

Checks Payable to B.A.A.C. or Bikers Against Animal Cruelty, Inc.

Mail To: Bikers Against Animal Cruelty, Inc., PO Box 68, North Haven, CT 06478

3. CREDIT CARD DONATIONS:

Complete the following information and mail this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

CC#: _____ Exp: _____

Code: _____ Signature: _____

4. IN PERSON:

Visit us at an event! We post on Facebook the events we host and attend throughout the year.

5. ONLINE STORE

Purchase B.A.A.C. Merchandise on our website for yourself or as a gift!

We thank everyone for their amazing support, without your compassion for these vulnerable souls, we would not be able to help these victims.

~ B.A.A.C. is a licensed 501(c)(3) non-profit -monetary donations are tax deductible ~

**Thank you for your support!
Together we will do great things for them!**

TO SAY NOTHING, TO DO NOTHING, STOPS NOTHING

WWW.BIKERSAGAINSTANIMALCRUELTY.ORG