

# ANIMAL HOARDING AN INFOGRAPHIC



All information on this infographic is thanks to the Animal Humane Society and Amanda Reinisch, author of “Understanding the human aspects of animal hoarding.”

## Definition

Animal hoarding is an accumulation of animals that has overwhelmed a person’s ability to provide minimum standards of care, including nutrition, shelter, sanitation, veterinary care, and socialization, according to the Animal Humane Society. An animal hoarder also fails to act on the deteriorating condition of the animals and their environment and are often unaware of the negative effects of the hoarding on their own health and the health of their family members.

- Considered a special manifestation of compulsive hoarding

## Common Victims

Cats and dogs are the most common, but any animal can be a victim of animal hoarding. Typically, the hoarding pattern begins with a few unsterilized animals that breed and become unmanageable for the hoarder.

## Intentional Breeding Vs Hoarding

Animal breeding and hoarding are not the same. Breeders sell animals for profit, only acquiring them in pursuit of monetary gain. Animal hoarders keep and acquire animals and might feel extreme mental distress about giving them away.

## Types of animal hoarders

- Overwhelmed caregivers: Strong attachment, might be isolated, the situation might be due to changes in circumstances, fewer issues with intervention
- Rescue hoarders: Believe they are the only people who can care for their animals, savior complex, in denial about the dangerous conditions

## The Numbers

- Hoarding is the #1 animal cruelty crisis for companion animals in the US
- Up to 250,000 animals per year are victims of hoarding
- The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium reviewed 71 incidents from across the United States and Canada to determine what characterizes a typical animal hoarding case. 83% involved women (71% involved individuals, who were widowed, divorced, or single); 53% of the animal hoarding residences were home to other individuals including children (5%), elderly dependents, and disabled people (21%).

<https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/resource/animal-hoarding-what-it-what-it-isnt-and-how-you-can-help>