

San Bernardino County

# BUILDING HEALTHY LINKS

The San Bernardino County Animal Fighting and Cruelty Task Force is a multi-disciplinary collaboration designed to promote community awareness, education and prosecution of animal fighting and abuse in San Bernardino County.

If you would like to report suspected animal abuse or cruelty in San Bernardino County, please contact your local law enforcement agency. Callers wishing to remain anonymous can contact

**WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME**

**Free Fee to Report Any of the Following:**

**Report Animal Abuse**

Horse Abuse

Dog Fighting

Cockfighting

**Dogs Left Alone In Hot Automobiles Call 911**



San Bernardino County  
Animal Cruelty TaskForce  
Building Healthy links  
Coordinator

**Claudia Swing**  
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## Help Protect Our Animals Animal Cruelty is a CRIME!

Please report incidents of animal cruelty  
and help us protect our community's animals

**Report animal abuse  
or cruelty anonymously!**

## UP TO \$1,000 REWARD

WeTip Hotline available  
24 hours a day - 365 days a year

for more information visit  
**wetip.com**



# BUILDING HEALTHY LINKS

THE LINK BETWEEN  
ANIMAL ABUSE  
AND HUMAN VIOLENCE  
IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS MATTER



Over the ages and in all cultures, animals have been woven into the basic fabric of our community and lives. Over 63% of households in the United States currently have at least one companion animal (APPMA National Pet Owners Survey - 2007-2008)

Research supports the notion that healthy human and animal relationships enhance physical and psychological health and teach us how to understand another being and how to express compassion, empathy, and nurturance.

Unfortunately, though animals are valued, protected, and cared for by some; the abuse of animals is committed by others. Some scholars suggest that an individual's mistreatment of an animal parallels unhealthy, and sometimes, even violent, relationships with other humans.

## WHAT IS THE LINK

For the past several decades, there has been documentation of a link with domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse and animal abuse.

**When Animals  
Are Abused  
People Are At Risk.**

**When People Are Abused  
Animals Are At Risk.**



Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over a household member through fear and intimidation often using threats and violence.

Often, companion animals are caught in the cycle of family violence. Among those patterns of perpetrators that commit violent acts against their partners and/or family is the incidence of animal maltreatment and abuse (harming, killing, or threatening them). It has been documented that many women will hesitate leaving an abusive partner because the animals have been threatened with harm.

In some cases, it is not uncommon to see children defend or attempt to protect family members or their companion animals by intervening in domestic disputes, thus placing the children in greater danger.



Animal abuse in the home has also been an indicator of potential child abuse. "Animal cruelty committed by any member of a family, whether parent or child, often means child abuse occurs in that family" (Ward, 2008). There is a family violence cycle: if the family animals are being abused, often the children are being abused and if child abuse is occurring, the family animals may also be abused.

Lastly, the link between animal abuse and abuse of the elderly is also emerging. Studies suggest that abuse in the elderly population may be at the hands of those individuals who also abuse animals. The relationship between animals and elderly persons may be quite special as it represents companionship, comfort, humor, and attention. Considering this strong bond, elderly persons' pets are more vulnerable to abuse if the perpetrator wants to exert control over the elderly person in some way.

Report all forms of abuse: If you see or suspect child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence or animal abuse, REPORT IT. Call your local police department, child protection agency or animal control agency with your concerns. There are a number of reasons why people don't want to report. Apart from not wanting to get involved, believing that the report will do no good, or being afraid of retaliation. Despite these fears and concerns, you may be the only help a victim of abuse can rely upon for their ultimate wellbeing and safety.

**WeTiP - 1-800-78-CRIME**



# MISSION

The San Bernardino County Illegal Animal Fighting and Abuse Task Force is a multi-disciplinary collaboration designed to promote community awareness, education and prosecution of animal fighting and abuse in San Bernardino County.

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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# SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE



# PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

San Bernardino County  
District Attorney's Office  
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department  
and the Rural Crimes Task Force  
San Bernardino County Probation  
San Bernardino County Code Enforcement  
San Bernardino County Animal Control  
and Enforcement  
Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley  
Barstow Humane Society  
San Diego Humane Society  
Riverside County Code Enforcement  
Riverside County District Attorney's Office  
Rialto Police Department  
Redlands Police Department  
Redlands Animal Control  
City of Hesperia Animal Control  
City of Rancho Cucamonga  
City of Montclair  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Fontana Animal Control  
Fontana Police Department  
Colton Police Department  
Southeast Area Animal Control Authority  
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty  
to Animals, Los Angeles  
California Fish and Game  
California Farm Bureau  
City of Adelanto  
Escondido Humane Society



In 2012, District Attorney Mike Ramos formed the Animal Cruelty Task Force which consists of local government agencies and representatives from community organizations dedicated to combatting animal cruelty.



Animal Services Officer tends to an injured fowl recovered from a cockfighting operation in South Fontana.

“One of the ways that a society should be judged is by how they treat their animals. I truly believe that. When you have a community that really cares about the abuse of animals, it means we are a good society. Aside from holding the abusers accountable for their action: we also need to teach our children the responsibilities associated with taking care of our animals.”

- District Attorney Mike Ramos

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Report Animal Abuse or Cruelty  
by contacting local law enforcement  
or

**1-800-78-CRIME**

