

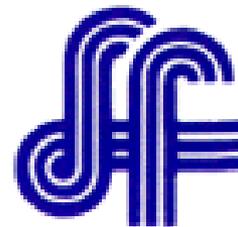
# Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Partners in Crime

## A Training Presentation for Law Enforcement Officers

(Revised July 2015)



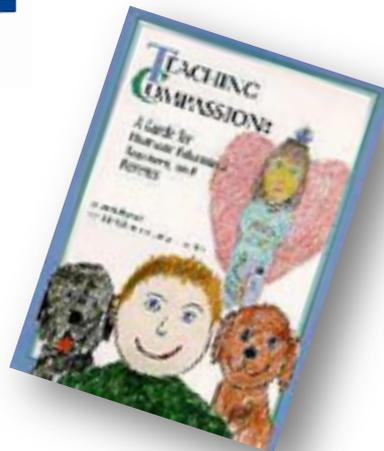
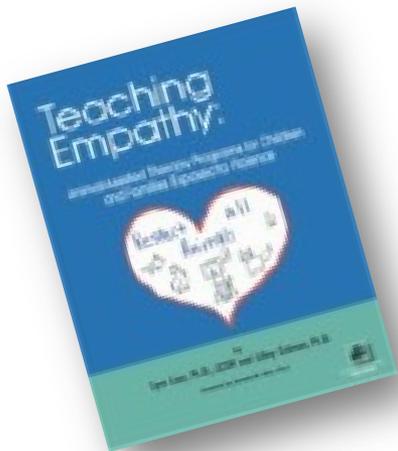
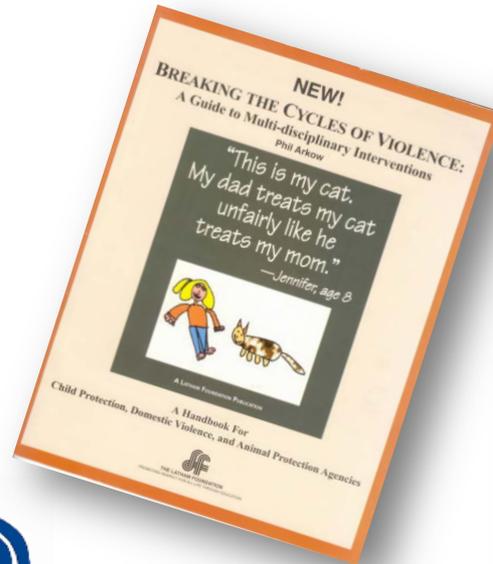
By Phil Arkow, Chair  
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The Latham Foundation  
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The Latham Foundation

For the Promotion of Humane Education

# About The Latham Foundation



**The Latham Foundation  
steps in humane education**

[www.latham.org](http://www.latham.org)

## **Objectives: You will understand...**

- **The significance of animal abuse as a predictor and indicator of domestic violence and other forms of family violence**
- **Your state statutes affecting animal cruelty and domestic violence**
- **Techniques for investigating and gathering evidence in animal abuse/domestic violence cases**
- **Law enforcement and criminal justice system strategies**
- **Resources for additional information and training**



## Why Should Law Enforcement Officers Care About Animal Cruelty?

- Animal cruelty is a crime
- Animal cruelty cases affect human safety
- Offenders often have histories of multiple forms of aggression
- Motivations are similar
- Animal abuse rarely occurs in isolation
- Dealing with the same perps
- Early intervention can prevent violence from escalating



# The National Law Enforcement Perspective on Animal Abuse



“Over the last decade, social scientists and law enforcement agencies have begun to examine cruelty to animals as a serious human problem closely linked to domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and other violent crimes. [Preventing animal cruelty] cannot undo generations of abuse, but can be an effective means of breaking the cycle of family violence from one generation to the next.”

*-- International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2000*



“A strong connection has been made between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse. The evidence shows that a batterer’s first victim is usually an animal followed by a child or person. It’s up to law enforcement and prosecution to bring these criminals to justice.”

*-- National Sheriffs' Association, 2013*



# The National Law Enforcement Perspective on Animal Abuse



**FBI**

**Cruelty to animals is a trait that shows up in the records of serial rapists and murderers -- the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior.**

**“A lot of what we do is threat assessment. Something we believe is prominently displayed in the histories of people who are habitually violent is animal abuse.”**

*-- FBI Special Agent Alan Brantley, Behavioral Science Unit*

**When asked how many serial killers had a history of abusing animals, Special Agent Brantley’s response was, “The real question should be, how many have not?”**

*-- Humane Society of the US*



# The National Law Enforcement Perspective on Animal Abuse



"One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it."

*Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)*



**“Animal abuse has received insufficient attention as one of a number of ‘red flags’ - warning signs or sentinel behaviors that could help identify youth at risk for perpetrating interpersonal violence and youth who have themselves been victimized.”**

*-- US DOJ OJJDP, 2001*

**“The topic of animal cruelty may seem unimportant in the face of events like the Boston bombing, school shootings, and other recent tragedies, but we know there’s a history of animal cruelty in the backgrounds of many perpetrators of violent acts. Understanding this link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence is critical to the Department.”**

*-- US DOJ Office of Justice Programs, Working Group on Animal Cruelty, 2013*



## Why Should You Care? Animal Abuse Exposes Other Crimes



Animal abuse can identify people engaging in other criminal activities

- 35% of search warrants executed for animal abuse or dog fighting investigations resulted in seizure of either narcotics or guns.
- Of 22 offenders arrested for animal abuse violations, 18 had priors for battery, weapons or drugs. 5 had subsequent arrests for felony offenses.



*“An important part of our anti-violence strategy includes strict enforcement of the dog fighting statutes. Dog fighting is directly connected to the violent world of gangs, drugs and weapons.”*



# Why Should You Care?

## Animal Abuse Exposes Other Crimes



Of 200 animal abuse offenders:

- a history of animal abuse was a better predictor of sexual assault than previous convictions for homicide, arson or firearms offenses
- 61.5% had also committed an assault; 17% had committed sexual abuse; 8% had arson convictions. 99% of cruelty offenders had committed other crimes.
- animal cruelty offenders averaged 4 different types of criminal offenses (particularly sexual assault, domestic violence and firearms offenses). All sexual homicide offenders reported having been cruel to animals.

(Gullone & Clarke, 2008)



# **Why Should You Care?**

## **Animal Abuse Is a Lethality Assessment**

**Nashville, Tenn.: 3 top indicators that a woman will be killed by her batterer**



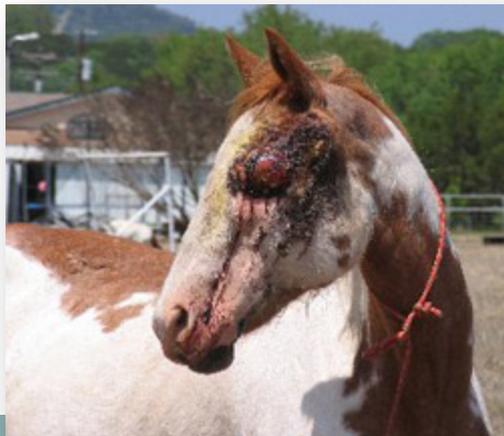
- **Suicide threats?**
- **Access to weapons?**
- **Threats to mutilate or kill pets?**

**DV cases increased 12,000 to 18,000 (UP 50%)**  
**DV fatalities decreased 30 to 6 (DOWN 80%)**

# Why Should You Care?

## Plain View Violations, Witnesses Talk

- Incidents often occur in plain sight
  - neighbors more likely to report cases
  - easier investigations
- Witnesses or victims more comfortable talking
- Inflicts pain and suffering on human and animal victims



# Why Should Law Enforcement Officers Care About Animal Cruelty?

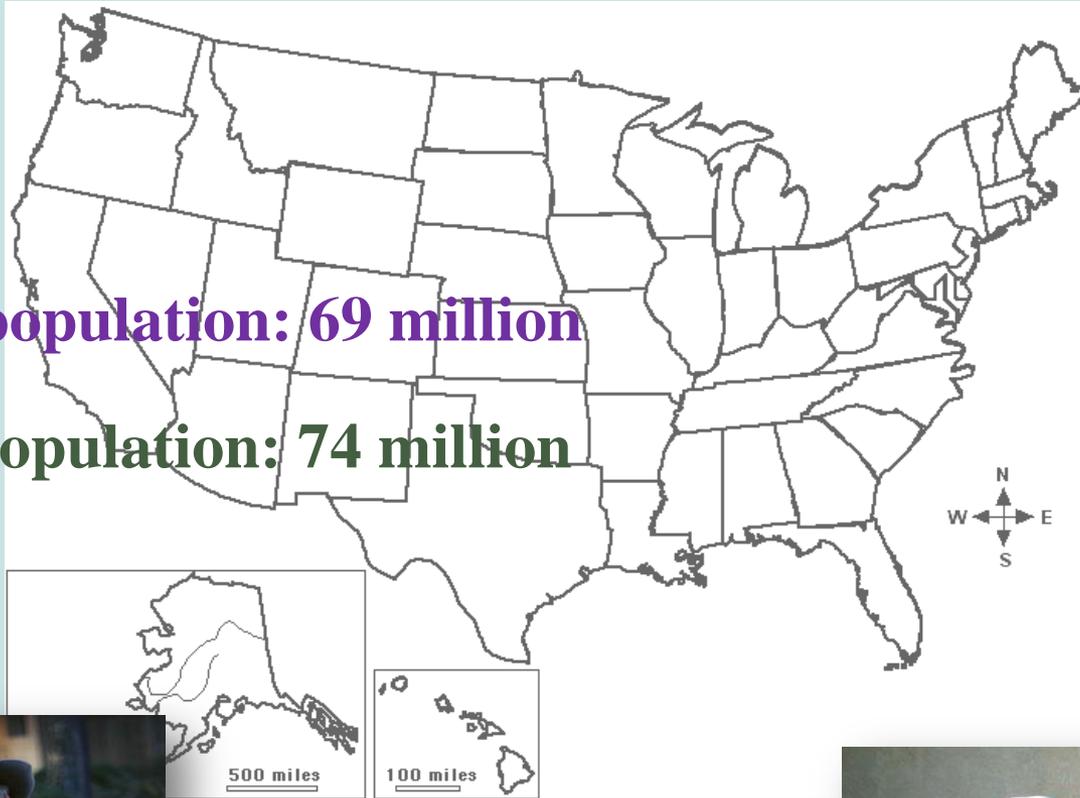
- Animal cruelty needs to be taken as seriously as any human violence case ... predictor and indicator to other crimes
  - Old Attitude: “It’s just an animal...”
  - New Attitude: “Who will the offender harm next?”
- These crimes destabilize communities
  - Investigations uncover other family violence, drugs, weapons, etc.
- Animals feel and react to pain as humans
- Animals are protected under the law
- *You will get negative press*



# What is the Role of Pets in American Families?

**Dog population: 69 million**

**Cat population: 74 million**



# What is the Role of Pets in American Families?

- More American homes have pets than have children
- There are more dogs in the US than people in most European countries
- There are more cats in the US than dogs
- We spend more money on pet food than on baby food
- A child in the US today is more likely to grow up with pets than with a father



# What is the Role of Pets in American Families?

*Who cares for all these pets?*

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN!



**67.7%** of households with children younger than 6 have pets

**74.6%** of households with children older than 6 have pets

**Female is the primary caregiver  
in 74.5% of pet-owning households**

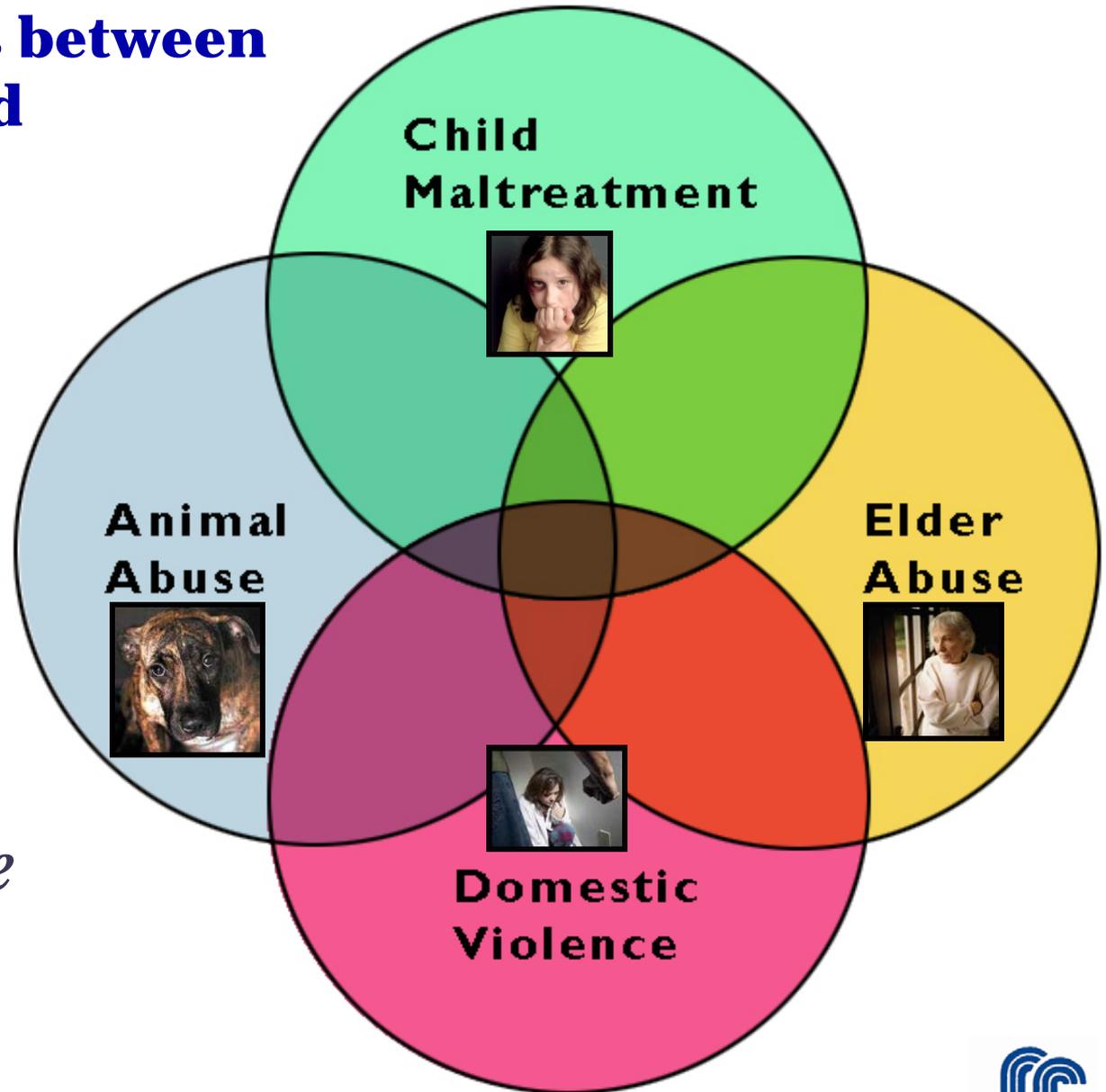
AVMA: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics  
Sourcebook, 2007, 2012



# The Intersections between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence

*“When animals are abused, people are at risk;*

*When people are abused, animals are at risk.”*



# What Are the Most Common Intersections?

Domestic  
Violence

1. Abusive partner harms, kills or threatens pets to humiliate, intimidate, or force partner into compliance and silence.
2. Battered women remain in home for fear that partner will kill pets or farm animals, or because there is no one to care for them.

Child  
Sexual  
Abuse

3. Abuser kills, harms or threatens pets to coerce children into sexual acts or silence.

Juvenile  
Offenders

4. Children act out aggression, relieve boredom, imitate parents' behavior, or rehearse for interpersonal violence.  
*(A sign of conduct disorder at 6.5 years.)*

Hoarding

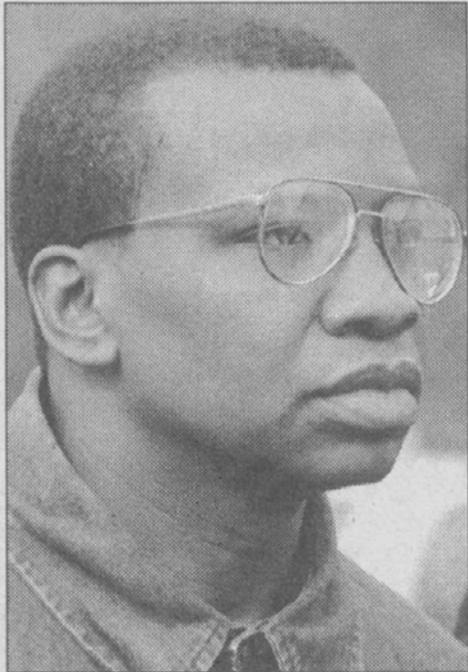
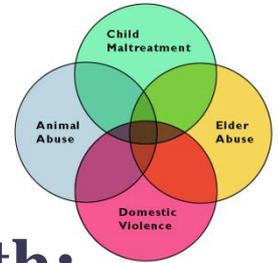
5. Mentally ill persons, often elderly, hoard pets.

Animal  
Fighting

6. Adults and youths participate in dog fights.



# Case Study #1: Animal Welfare Investigators Are First Responders



**The Rev. Javan McBurrows** of  
Third Christian Church in the city

**“A 4-year-old is beaten to death;  
a pastor and family vanish”**

*-- Philadelphia Inquirer - Jan. 11, 1999*

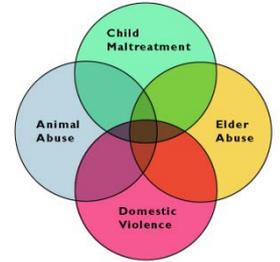


AKIRA SUWA / Inquirer Staff Photographer

**Authorities yesterday condemned** the Rev. Javan McBurrows' home in North Hills, Upper Dublin T  
on the church's answering machine. In Montgomery County, where in... and forth in front of his



# Case Study #2: There's More Than One Way to Get a Lowlife Off the Streets



## Case Study #3: Animals Are Harmed to Control Domestic Violence Victims

# Family violence often begins with pet abuse

By Sandy Bauers  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

As Sandra Ruotolo explained to the judge, she was thinking of her dogs when she pulled the trigger.

For 13 years, she said, her husband had battered her. But on a March night in 1991 in their Juniata Park home, he not only whipped her with a vacuum-cleaner cord, he also punched one of her four German shepherds. If Ruotolo left him, he warned, he would find her and slit their throats in front of her.

Later, as her husband slept, she loaded a .38-caliber pistol and pointed it at herself. A moment away from suicide, however, she saw her eldest female dog and was seized by the thought that "if I die, Duchess, what's going to happen to you?"

So, she told the judge, she "walked into the bedroom and shot him."

Ruotolo is serving 10 to 20 years for third-degree murder.

Diane Hall, counseling director at Women Against Abuse in Philadel-

phia, remembers the case with regret. Ruotolo had contacted the agency about going into a shelter. But Ruotolo would not leave her dogs, and the shelter could not take them.

That tragic scenario might play out differently today, as social-welfare experts home in on a link between family violence and animal abuse. A batterer's first target, researchers have found, often is a pet, which then may be systematically threatened, tortured or killed in order to control human victims — to keep a wife from fleeing or to enforce a child's silence.

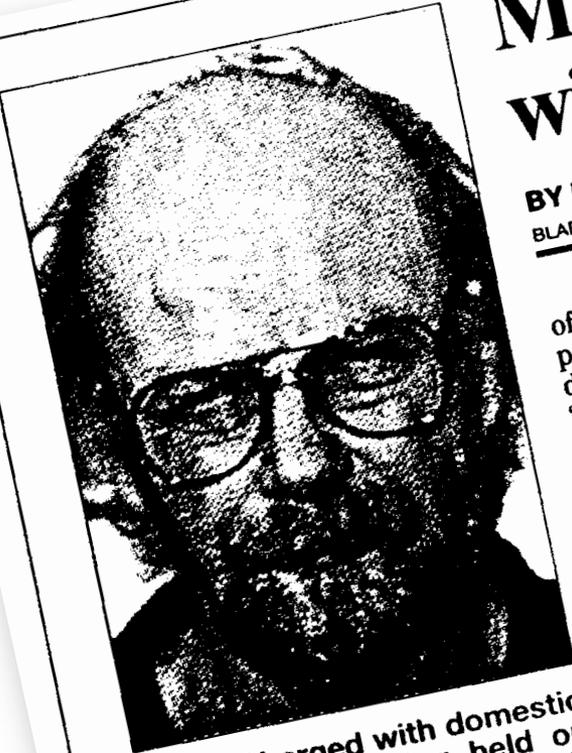
Recognition of an animal's precarious place in what is called the "cycle of violence" already has led to changes in the way police and protective agencies — for people and animals — deal with domestic rows. This month, for instance, the Pennsylvania SPCA in Juniata Park inaugurated a program, PetNet, that provides foster care for the pets of

See **ABUSE** on A24

**Area agencies  
are homing in  
on the link  
between the  
two types of  
abuse.**



# Case Study #4: “Just When You Think That You’ve Seen Everything...”



Davis: Charged with domestic violence, he's being held on bond in the Lucas County jail.

## Man who allegedly beat wife, killed kitten is held

BY ROBIN ERB  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

An East Toledo man accused of killing his wife's kitten by putting it in an oven set at 500 degrees and then telling her "Your dinner's ready" appeared in court yesterday on animal cruelty and domestic violence charges.

Dennis Davis, 56, of Main Street, was ordered held in the Lucas County jail in lieu of \$8,500 bond by Judge Mary Trimboli of Toledo Municipal Court. "Just when you think they've found every way possible to manipulate someone,

somebody comes up with something new," said Sam Nugent, chief prosecutor. "This is quite brutal, quite unnerving."

"I've never had anything like this," Kevin Warner, a Toledo Humane Society investigator, said.

The case began about 3:30 p.m. Jan. 9, according to a police report filed by Roberta Davis, 41, who told officers that she is seeking a divorce from her husband.

Ms. Davis, who did not call police at the time but went to the downtown police station

See KITTEN, Page 18 ▶



# Case Study #5: Animal Abuse as Coercion and Control in Stalking



*Crystal Brown, 17, plays with her puppy, Diesel, in her St. Paul, Minn., home. Soon after her dog Chevy went missing, she received its head in a box – on Valentine’s Day.*

# History of the Animal Abuse/ Human Violence Connection

Fire setting



Animal  
abuse



The Cycles  
of Violence  
- 1970s

Bed wetting



# History of the Animal Abuse/ Human Violence Connection



David Berkowitz  
“Son of Sam”



Albert DeSalvo  
“Boston Strangler”



Jeffrey Dahmer

## The “Tangled Web” of Serial Killers - 1980s

The Rogues’ Gallery continued into the 1990s...  
and beyond...



Ted Bundy



Lee Malvo



Donald Rader  
“The BTK Killer”

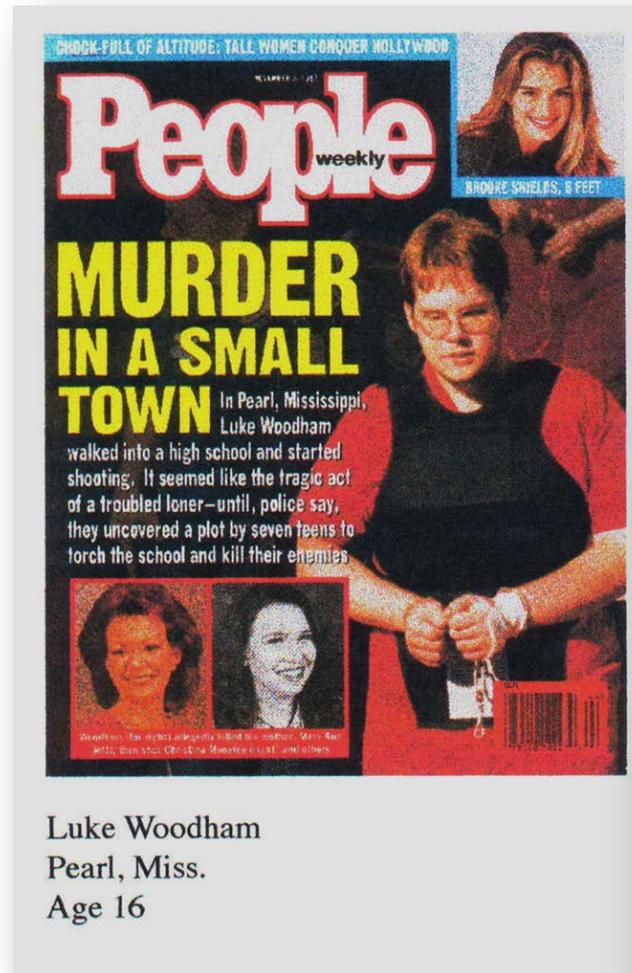


Brian David  
Mitchell

Not every  
abuser  
becomes a  
psychopath...  
but he is worth  
watching and  
intervening

# History of the Animal Abuse/ Human Violence Connection

## The School Shooters – 1990s



Luke Woodham  
Pearl, Miss.  
Age 16



Andrew Golden  
Jonesboro, Ark.  
Age 11

43% are also torturing animals

# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

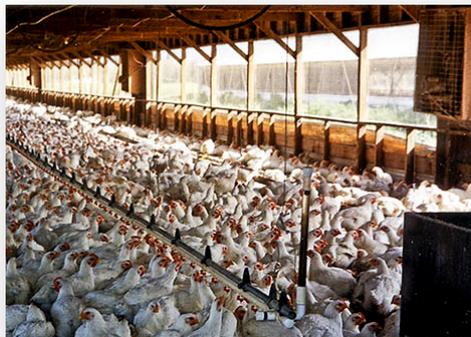


**cruelty** the infliction of pain or distress unnecessarily.  
**c. to animals** an offence under the Protection of Animals Act or similar legislation. The definition of unnecessary varies between countries and from time to time in the one country. Under the impetus of a great body of community compassion the threshold has been greatly lowered in recent times. Determination of the prevailing standard of cruelty can only be decided by the courts.  
It is now taken to include, besides physical assault and surgery without anesthesia, deprivation of food, water and shelter. The worst kinds of cruelty are susceptible to the heaviest penalty, under the classification of aggravated cruelty.

# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## What we're NOT talking about...

- Institutional usage
- Animal rights causes



# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## Common Situations: Simple Neglect



# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

Common Situations:

Gross Neglect – Hoarding. “Puppy Mills”



# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

Common Situations:

Gross, Willful, Cruel or Malicious Neglect



# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## Common Situations: Intentional Abuse & Torture

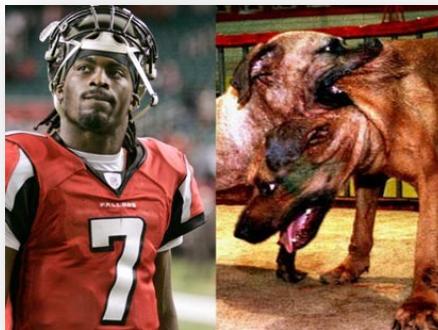


Dog was hit in the face with a hammer to “teach him a lesson”

*Most dangerous: persistent, severe, without remorse or restraint*

# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## Organized Abuse: Blood Sports



**DOG FIGHTING IS A FELONY!**

**Dog fighting is a child welfare issue**

- Children present at dog fighting events are exposed to extreme brutality, violence and cruelty
- Youth reports have revealed that a past history of cruelty to animals is linked to aggressive behavior directed toward other human beings

**Dog fighting affects the community**

- Dog fighting is part of the cycle of violence
- It breeds contempt for other living creatures and demonstrates children and adults no reverence and cruelty
- Dog fighting is frequently associated with a criminal subculture including illegal weapons and narcotics as well as other violent crimes including child abuse and domestic violence

**Dog fighting is cruelty to animals**

- Dogs are often beaten and severely abused in order to train them for dog fights. They usually spend most of their lives being caged or confined with minimal human interaction or care.
- The injuries sustained by the dogs participating in dog fights are frequently severe and often fatal
- Dogs who may survive the fight often die of blood loss, shock, dehydration, exhaustion or infection after expending hours or even days of intense suffering

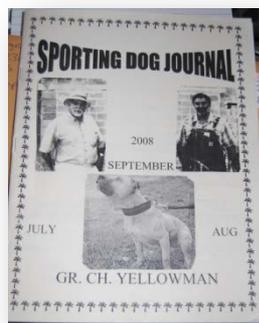
**Dog fighting is a felony offense**

- Those convicted under the state law may be imprisoned for a maximum of 11 years and may be fined up to \$10,000.
- Attending a dog fight as a spectator is also a criminal offense.

**Dial 911 if you witness a dog fight in progress.  
Dial 311 if you suspect dog fights or animal abuse.**

# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## Organized Abuse: Dog Fighting

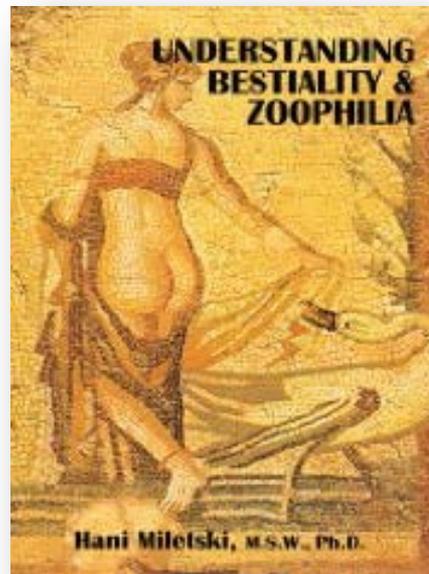
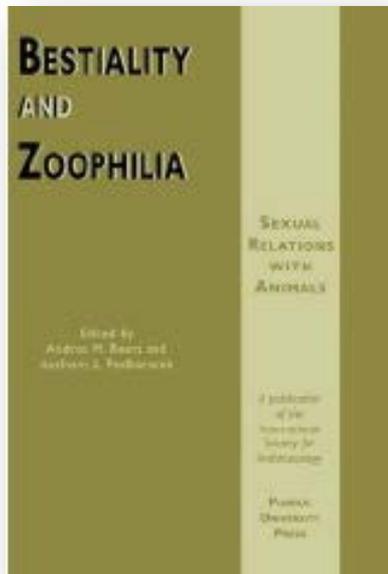


## Cock Fighting



# Defining and Identifying Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## Animal sexual abuse



# The Animal Abuse/Human Violence Connection: Other Relevant Terms

## Domestic violence or domestic abuse

Acts or threats of:

- Physical, sexual, emotional, and/or verbal interpersonal violence
- Destruction of property
- Date rape
- Stalking
- Cruelty to animals to intimidate a victim  
(AZ, CO, IN, ME, NE, NV, TN)

DV may be: man → woman,      woman → man,  
                  man → man,      woman → woman

May include:

**Criminal mischief**  
**Sexual assault**  
**Criminal restraint**

**Harassment**  
**Burglary**  
**Kidnapping**

**Assault**  
**False imprisonment**  
**Terrorist threats**

**Criminal trespass**



# **The Animal Abuse/Human Violence Connection: Other Relevant Terms**

## **Child abuse and neglect**

Acts or failure which leads to:

- Death
- Serious physical or emotional harm
- Sexual abuse or exploitation



**Physical abuse: non-accidental injury**

**Child Sexual Abuse**

**Emotional abuse: injury to psychological capacity or emotional stability;  
substantial change in behavior; anxiety, depression, withdrawal, aggression**

**Neglect: failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision**

*The first child abuse cases were prosecuted by humane societies!*

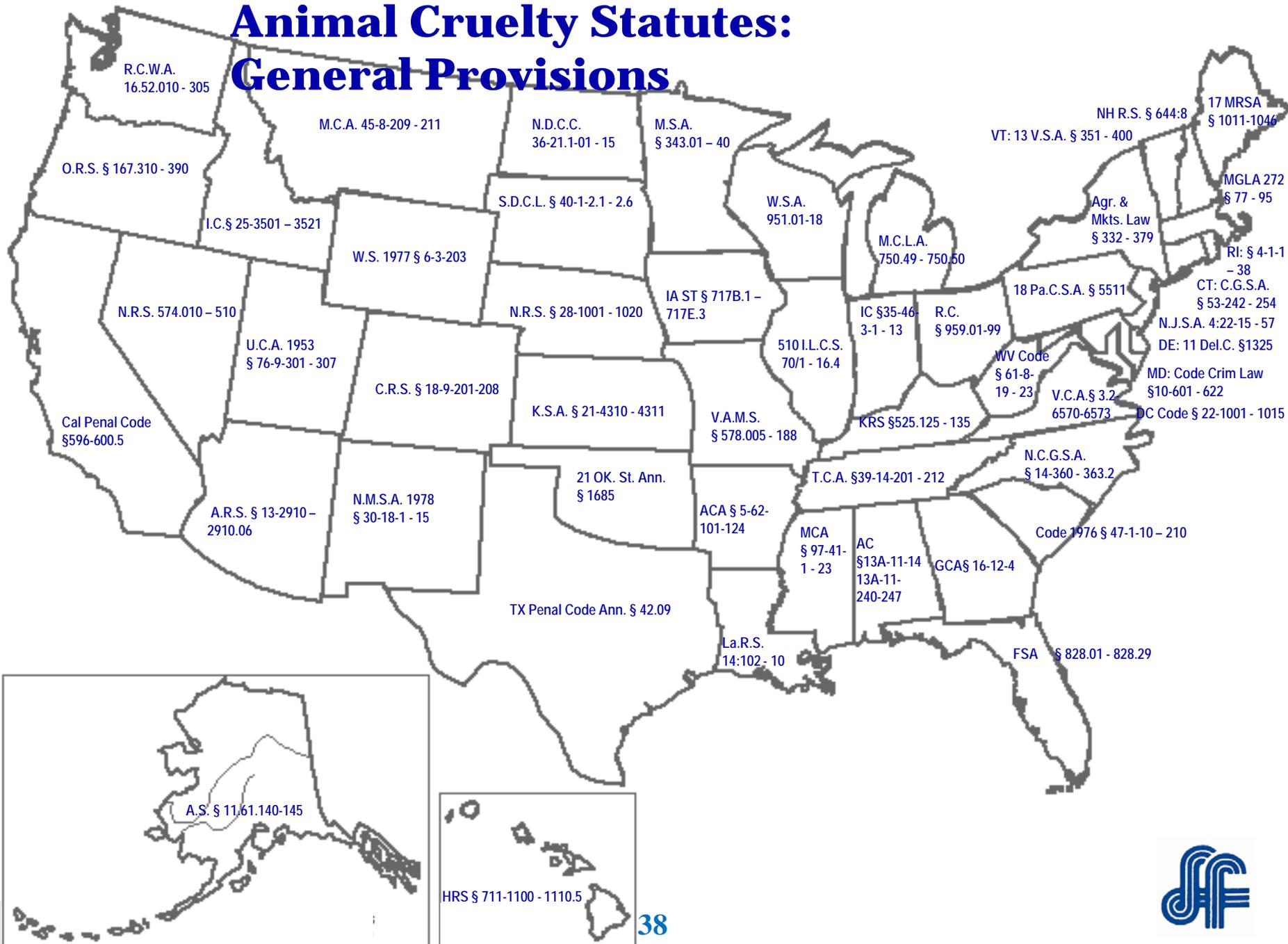
# The Animal Abuse/Human Violence Connection: Other Relevant Terms

## Elder abuse

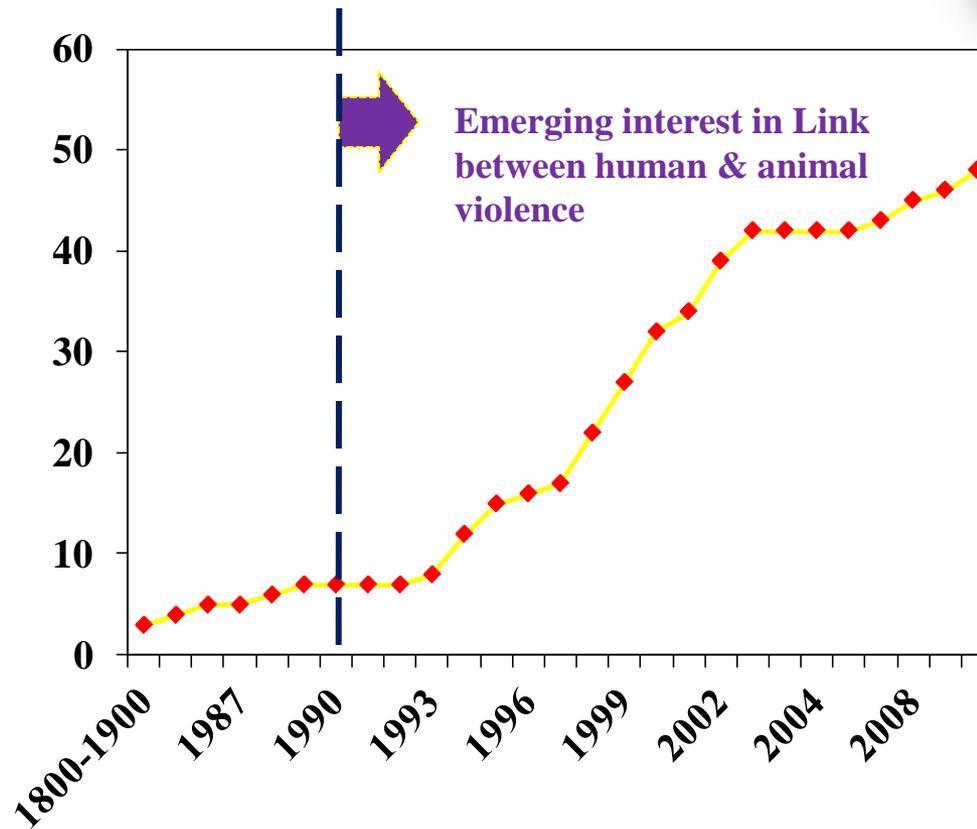
- **Domestic elder abuse**: by family member, spouse, friend, caregiver. May include:
  - Physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse;
  - Neglect;
  - Abandonment;
  - Financial or material exploitation.
- **Institutional elder abuse**: In residential facilities for the elderly.
- **Self Neglect/Hoarding**: May indicate elder unable to care for himself/herself. Public health, mental health, code enforcement, and APS often involved.



# Animal Cruelty Statutes: General Provisions

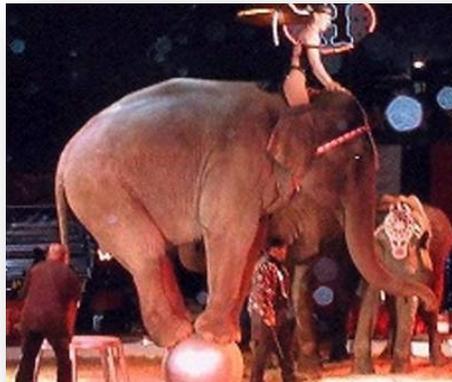


# Animal Cruelty Statutes: Felony Provisions



# Animal Cruelty Statutes: Exceptions

- Branding cattle
- Properly conducted scientific experiments
- Shooting game birds
- Fishing, trapping & hunting
- Legitimate dog training or sports (weight pulls, dog sleds, tracking, obedience, guide dogs)
- Raising livestock in accordance with state standards
- Killing Norway or brown rats or house mice, bird pests
- Food production practices



# Animal Cruelty Statutes: Animal Fighting



- Illegal in all 50 states
- Federal felony
- Particular concern for humane and law enforcement officers

## Common prohibitions:

- Possess, keep, train, promote, purchase or sell a fighting animal
- Cause or allow an animal fight for amusement or gain
- Is present and witnesses, encourages or assists an animal fight
- Permits a place owned or controlled by him to be used for an animal fight
- Gambles on the outcome of an animal fight

## **Animal Cruelty Statutes: Miscellaneous Laws**

**It may be illegal:**

- **To abandon a domesticated animal**
- **To carry an animal in or on a vehicle in a cruel or inhumane manner**

**Offenders convicted of cruelty may be required:**

- **To undergo mental health evaluation or psychological counseling**
- **To perform community service**
- **To make financial restitution for animals and cost of their care**
- **To not keep animals for specified period**



# Who Enforces Animal Cruelty Laws?

- Law enforcement officer, Animal Control Officer (ACO), or agent of state, county or local humane society or SPCA
- All law enforcement and humane society/SPCA/ACO should work together



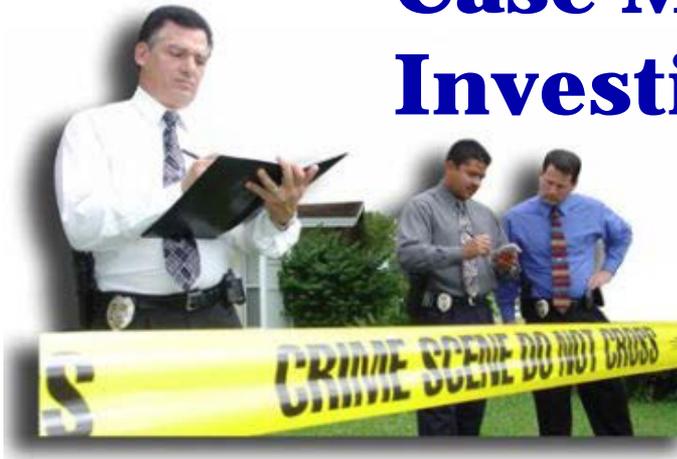


## **Case Management: Probable Cause**

**... a well-grounded belief based on identifiable, specific and objective facts that would cause a person of reasonable caution at the time to believe that a person is violating, is about to violate, or has violated the law.**



# Case Management: Investigating Cruelty & Neglect



Follow same basic procedures:

- Securing the scene
- Search & seizure
- Preservation of evidence
- Interviewing
- Detail findings
- Write report
- File charges

Bring in outside support

- SPCA or humane society
- Animal Control Officer
- Animal shelter
- Veterinarian





# Case Management: “Animal CSI” – Veterinary Forensics

Immediate first aid



## Forensic Veterinarians

- Necropsy
- Expert witness
  - Document animals' condition
  - How conditions could have been prevented
  - Determine cause of death, sequence of injuries, pre/post-mortem timing
  - Expert opinion whether caused by humans
  - Identify and preserve physical evidence (bullets, knives, ligatures, etc.)

The victim's  
veterinarian:  
- Document  
prior history



# **Case Management: Common Signs of Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse**

## **1. PHYSICAL INJURIES TO ANIMALS**

- **Open wounds, cuts or bruises on body**
- **Bruising or bleeding to anus or genital region**
- **Burns, scalds, patches of missing fur**
- **Fractures, limping, inability to walk or stand**
- **GSW, dart, bow & arrow wounds**
- **Recreational drugs given to pets**
- **Collar has grown into neck**

Arkow, P.: *Breaking the Cycles of Violence: A Guide to Multi-Disciplinary Interventions.*  
(Alameda, CA: Latham Foundation, 2003)





# **Case Management: Common Signs of Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse**

## **2. POOR ANIMAL WELFARE**

- **Thin body, emaciated, ribs prominent**
- **Flea or tick infestation**
- **Extremely matted fur, overgrown nails**
- **Dehydration**
- **Absence of adequate food or water**
- **Animals kept outdoors with inadequate shelter**
- **Injury or illness not receiving veterinary care**
- **Abandonment: caregiver has left**

Arkow, P.: *Breaking the Cycles of Violence: A Guide to Multi-Disciplinary Interventions.*  
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# Case Management: Common Signs of Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Filth and poor sanitation
- Animal feces and/or urine
- Odors
- Excessive number of animals  
(hoarding behaviors)
- Dead animals on property
- Inadequate lighting, ventilation, temperature
- Animals housed in parked cars or trucks



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(Alameda, CA: Latham Foundation, 2003)





# **Case Management: Common Signs of Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse**

## **4. OWNER'S BEHAVIORS CAUSE CONCERN**

- **Witness sees owner hitting or beating animal**
- **Owners yelling or threatening physical harm**
- **Unable to afford human or animal food**
- **People eating animal food**
- **Living in isolation, poor personal hygiene**
- **Sexual abuse of animals**
- **Dog- or cock-fighting paraphernalia**
- **Ritualistic, religious or satanic sacrifice**

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# Case Management: Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

1. Perpetuates the landscape of terror
2. Demonstrates the abuser's power
3. You're next!
4. Removes a source of comfort
5. Prevents her from leaving
6. Reinforces the idea that there's no safe place for her to go

71% of pet-owning women entering a shelter reported their husband or boyfriend killed, harmed or threatened an animal.

41% of batterers have histories of animal cruelty.

Animal-abusing batterers are more dangerous, and employ more forms of domestic violence.





# **Case Management: Interviewing and Investigating**

## **Animals at a Domestic Violence Scene**

- **Follow S.O.P.**
- **Be on alert for abused or aggressive animals**

- **Location of human & animal victims**
- **First aid for humans (and animals)**
- **Document victim/witness statements (including animal care)**
- **Describe human and animal injuries**
- **Separate victim and suspect**
- **Observing animals' care may help describe parties' relationship with each other**



# Case Management: Interviewing and Investigating

## Animals at a Domestic Violence Scene

- Document history of different types of abuse
- Are there court or restraining orders?
- Any children or animals at risk?
- Did children witness the incident?
- Document info about living & dead animals, history and abuse
- Photograph animal conditions & injuries

The job isn't over until the paperwork is done...



*“If it isn't in the report,  
it DID NOT HAPPEN!!!”*





# Case Management: Interviewing and Investigating

## Animals at a Domestic Violence Scene

- People love to talk about their animals...
- Victims more willing to talk about animal incidents...
- *If he's hurting the animals,*  
• *she WILL BE NEXT*



# Case Management: Animal Housing Options



Impounds  
Short- or long-term housing  
Particular challenges:



- Large numbers
- Pit bulls
- Horses and livestock
- Exotic animals
- Wildlife



**18% - 48% of  
battered women  
fear for their  
animals' welfare**





# Case Management: Animal Housing Options

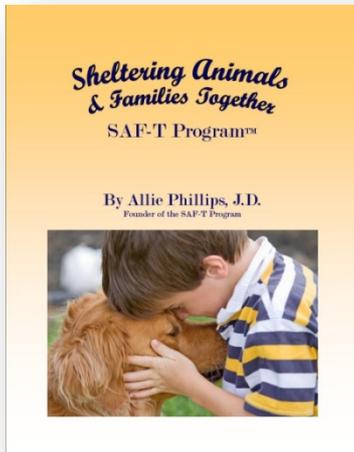
## Options for animals: cruelty seizures

- Surrender for adoption
- Declare abandoned
- Impound on premises
- Euthanasia



## Options for domestic violence survivors:

- “Safe Haven” referrals
- On-site “SAF-T” housing





# **Case Management: Risk Assessment**

## **Assessment of Dangerousness in Perpetrators of Animal Cruelty**

- **Victim vulnerability (size, age, harmlessness)**
- **Number of victims**
- **Severity of injury**
- **Use of fire**
- **Repetitive injuries (multiple wounds) on individual victims**
- **Multiple forms of injuries (e.g., stabbing and burning)**
- **Victim was bound or physically incapacitated**
- **Duration of abuse**
- **Act was committed with high risk of detection...**





# Case Management: Risk Assessment

## Assessment of Dangerousness in Perpetrators of Animal Cruelty

- Other illegal acts were committed
- Individual was the instigator with multiple perpetrators
- Animal cruelty was used to threaten, intimidate or coerce a human victim
- Animal mutilation or postmortem dismemberment
- Animal was sexually assaulted; mutilated genitals; sexual arousal
- Perpetrator documented the act of abuse

*Most dangerous: persistent, severe,  
Without remorse or restraint*

-- Created by Dr. Randall Lockwood



# Animal Abuse Case Management: Challenges in Cruelty Cases

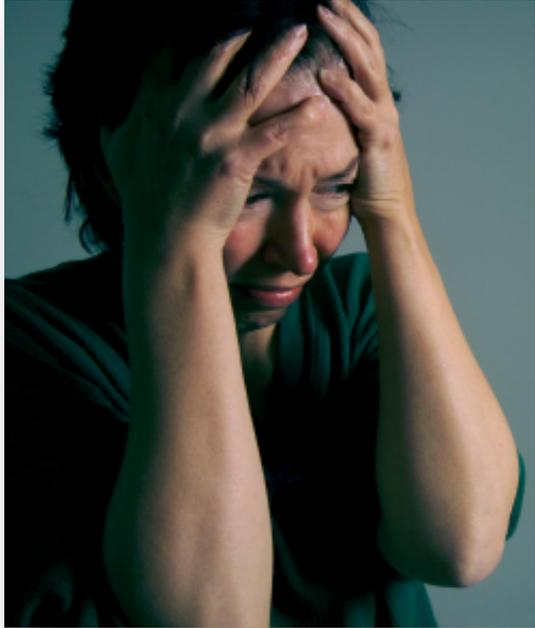
## 1. Legal Concerns

- No “standing” of animals
- History of laws
- Lower priority of cases
- Proving intent of perp
- Terminology of statutes
- Lack of witnesses
- Trivialization



*“No battered woman ever ran back to an abuser to protect her toaster.”*

# **Animal Abuse Case Management: Challenges in Cruelty Cases**



## **2. Emotional Issues**

- **Victim's emotional state**
- **Fear for self, children, animals**
- **Fear for suspect**
- **Immobilization and shock**
- **Hopelessness/Helplessness**
- **Self-blame**
- **Isolation**

# **Animal Abuse Case Management: Responding to the Challenges**



- **Explain that they're safe and you're there to help**
- **Are there any animals needing help?**
- **Can someone look after her pets?**
- **Women's shelters may offer foster care**
- **Include pets in protection orders**
- **Has there been any cruelty?**
- **SPCA /Animal Control can corroborate**
- **Charge with animal cruelty**



# Animal Abuse Case Management: Responding to the Challenges

Open and maintain lines of communication with animal organizations:

- **Animal Control**
  - [www.nacanet.org](http://www.nacanet.org)
- **Animal shelters and specialty groups**
  - World Animal Net: [www.worldanimal.net](http://www.worldanimal.net)
- **Veterinarians**
  - State Veterinary Medical Associations
  - [www.IVFSA.org](http://www.IVFSA.org)
- **Pet resources for domestic violence survivors**
  - [www.safeplaceforpets.org](http://www.safeplaceforpets.org)
  - [www.alliephillips.com](http://www.alliephillips.com)
- **Resources on animal abuse's Links with human violence**
  - [www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)
  - [www.sheriffs.org](http://www.sheriffs.org)



# **Animal Abuse Case Management: Responding to the Challenges**

**Open and maintain lines of communication  
with human and social services agencies:**



- **Domestic Violence**
  - **Women's shelters**
  - **State and national coalitions against domestic violence**
  - **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence ([www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org))**
  
- **Child Abuse & Neglect**
  - **County Child Protective Services (CPS)**
  - **Child Welfare Information Gateway ([www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov))**
  
- **Elder Abuse**
  - **County Adult Protective Services (APS)**
  - **National Center on Elder Abuse ([www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov))**



# Animal Abuse Case Management: Responding to the Challenges

## Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT)

- DVRT's help victims with:
  - Emotional support
  - Information on domestic violence
  - Community resources
  - Safety plans
- Decrease trauma experienced by victims and their children
- Increase victims' ability to make educated decisions about options
  - Awareness of community services
  - Assist victims with the legal process

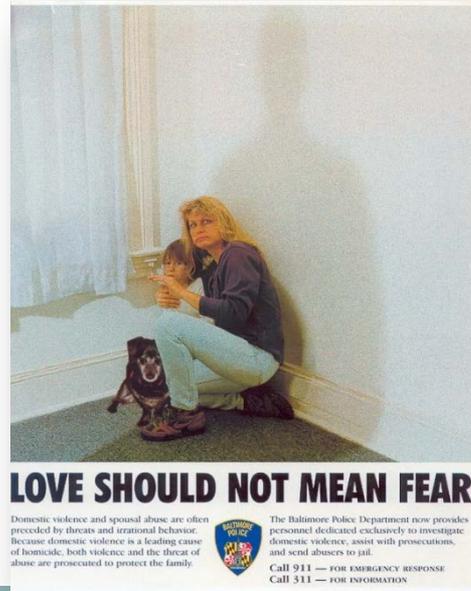


*Invite Animal Care & Control  
agencies to join DVRT...*

# Animal Abuse Case Management: Responding to the Challenges

## Other opportunities for collaboration:

- Training for the Criminal Justice System
  - Prosecutors
  - Judges
  - Probation & Parole departments



- Include pets in DV safety plans

- Create statewide database of cruelty cases

# **Conclusion:**

## **Why Do People Abuse Animals?**

- 1. Ignorance of animals' needs**
- 2. Inability to empathize with animals**
- 3. Have poor coping skills (release their frustration and anger when under stress)**
- 4. Perpetrators are socialized to abuse**
- 5. To demonstrate power & control**
- 6. Do not believe animals worthy of moral consideration)**
- 7. Cultural norms condone it**
- 8. To retaliate against animal**
- 9. To retaliate against a person**
- 10. Way to express one's aggressiveness**
- 11. To shock people for amusement**



# Research – By the Numbers

- **13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.** (HSUS, 2001)
- **18% - 48% of battered women don't escape to protect pets or livestock.**  
(Ascione, 2007)
- **63% of aggressive inmates had deliberately hurt animals as a child.**  
(Schiff, Louw & Ascione, 1999)
- **70% of animal abusers also have other criminal records.** (Arluke & Luke, 1997)
- **71% of women in shelters reported their batterer injured, killed or threatened pets for revenge or psychological control.** (Ascione, 1998)
- **88% of families investigated for physical child abuse also had abused or neglected pets.** (DeViney, Dickert & Lockwood, 1983)
- **97% of DV victims whose batterers also abused pets report emotional violence; 91% report physical violence.** (Simmons & Lehman, 2007)

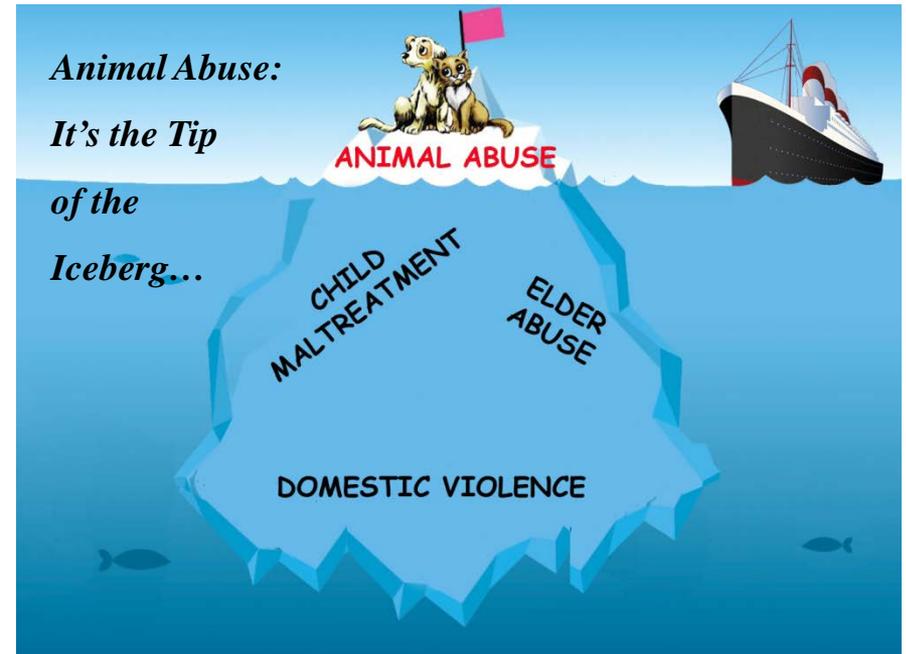


# Conclusion: What You Can Do

1. Take reports of animal cruelty seriously. Animal abuse is a crime in itself and often just the tip of the iceberg.

2. Be familiar with anti-cruelty laws and recognize that animal investigations often uncover other serious crimes.

3. Get to know animal care and control officers in your area and work with them.



# Conclusion: What You Can Do

4. Be aware of the role of pets in family disputes.
5. People often talk more easily about their pets than about people -- use that to your advantage.



# Conclusion: Why Should Law Enforcement Care About Animal Cruelty?

- Because you care
- Because it's a crime



- Because it's another way to get a lowlife **OFF THE STREET!**

# Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Partners in Crime

A Training Presentation for Law Enforcement Officers



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