

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

### *Interpersonal violence and abuse*

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, help is available. Look in the front of the SaskTel Direct West phone book for the Abuse Help Lines page for help in your community.

**For emergency assistance: Call 911**

### *Animal cruelty*

If you suspect an animal is being neglected or abused, contact the appropriate authority in your area:

#### **Pets in the following cities:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Regina Humane Society</b><br>306.543.6363 | <b>Moose Jaw Humane Society</b><br>306.692.1517 |
| <b>Saskatoon SPCA</b><br>306.374.7387        | <b>Prince Albert SPCA</b><br>306.763.6110       |

#### **Pets (all other locations):**

**Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan**  
1.844.382.0002 (toll free in SK) or 306.382.0002

#### **Livestock (anywhere in the province):**

**Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan**  
1.844.382.0002 (toll free in SK) or 306.382.0002

#### **Emergency/after hours**

Please contact your local police or RCMP detachment.

## ANIMAL SAFEKEEPING

The Saskatchewan SPCA has received funding under the provincial Community Initiatives Fund to begin work on a new Animal Safekeeping Program. Through discussion, training, and collaboration, the program aims to build partnerships between animal and human service providers, with the goal of helping to protect both humans and animals from violence.

### **For further information on the relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence, please contact:**

**Saskatchewan SPCA**  
1.877.382.7722 (toll free in Saskatchewan) or 306.382.7722

**STOPS to Violence**  
306.565.3199

**Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS)**  
306.522.3515

**Veterinary Social Work Program**  
**Western College of Veterinary Medicine**  
306.966.2852



The Community Initiatives Fund invests in the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents by offering grants for community projects that help support community development, inclusion, leadership and vitality.



Box 37, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3K1  
1.877.382.7722 or 306.382.7722  
www.sspca.ca | info@sspca.ca

SASKATCHEWAN  
SPCA  
theLINK



## Resource Guide *for* **ANIMAL WELFARE PROFESSIONALS**

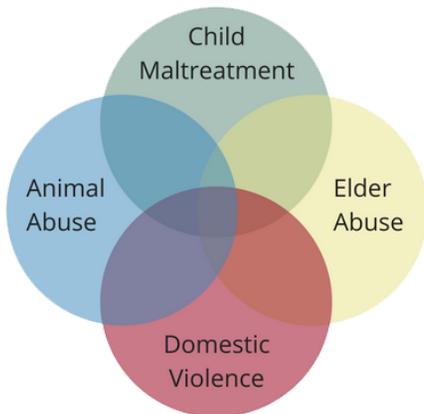
Understanding the LINK  
between **animal abuse** and  
**domestic violence**, and what  
you need to know.

# ANIMAL ABUSE: A FORM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

There is a growing understanding of the interrelationship between domestic violence, animal abuse, child abuse, and elder abuse. This interrelationship is often referred to as “the Link.” According to Phil Arkow, Coordinator of the National Link Coalition, “when animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk” (Arkow, 2013).

Animals may suffer directly from neglect or other forms of cruelty. In addition animals can be used as a tool for the abuser to control and punish the victim. Threats of violence towards a cherished pet could prevent victims from leaving or coerce them into returning to the home. Victims may also be forced to remain silent with threats to harm the animals if the violent behaviour is reported.

Pets are seen as part of the family, making it hard for many victims of abuse to leave the home knowing their pet is left behind. Even in situations where the pet is being cared for in a safekeeping program, there can be a heart-breaking impact on the adults and children in the family as they are deprived of a valuable source of comfort during a time of stress and turmoil.



When acts of violence occur in one of these areas, it is usually not an isolated incident.

**These acts are “linked.”**

Graphic provided by National Link Coalition, [www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)



## WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

According to the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services, abuse is a pattern of verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual behaviours used by one person in order to gain power and control over another person. Domestic violence refers to abuse that occurs in the context of an intimate relationship or family setting.

The following are examples of the types of behaviours in a relationship that are abusive:

- name calling, criticizing, insulting, and ignoring
- refusal to help when a person is sick or injured
- locking a victim out of the home
- controlling the partner’s activities and travels
- withholding access to money
- pushing, shoving, throwing objects

Domestic violence is committed by both women and men.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Do you have animals in the home?
- Are you concerned about their safety?
- Do you have a place to take them to keep them safe?
- Do you need our assistance in doing so?

## ANIMAL SAFETY PLANNING

If someone approaches you for advice on how to protect their animals from violence or abuse taking place in the home, the following ideas may be useful:

- Try to remove the animals from the situation as soon as possible.
  - Ask trusted friends or family members to care for animals temporarily.
  - Contact a kennel to make arrangements to have pets boarded. Kennels will require proof of vaccinations. This information is often listed on veterinary invoices; alternatively, the veterinarian may be able to supply a full vaccination record directly to the boarding kennel, upon request.
  - Talk with local veterinarians, SPCAs/Humane Societies and animal rescues to determine if they can provide animal care.
- Gather supplies that might be useful if you have to leave quickly with your pet: a carrier, a favourite toy, bedding, a collar and leash, medications.
- Prepare a list of things a temporary caregiver should be aware of, including the pet’s daily routine, diet and feeding schedule, medical conditions and treatments, or behaviour issues.
- If animals are being threatened, keep any evidence you may have (such as photos, emails, or voice mail messages) to provide to police.
- Gather receipts or paperwork related to the purchase or care of pets to help prove ownership.