NEW!

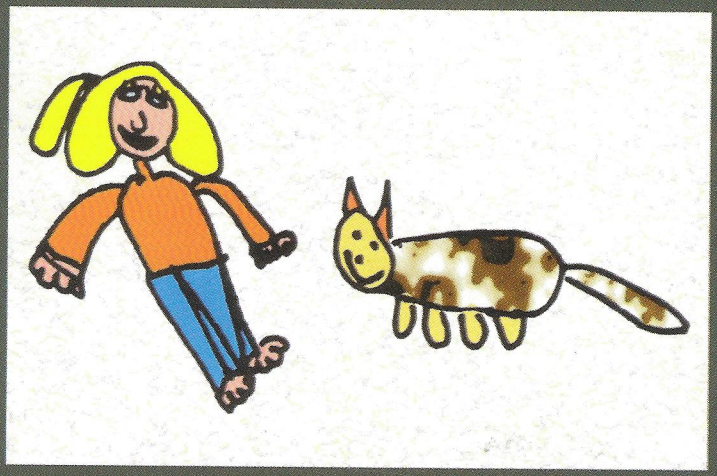
BREAKING THE CYCLES OF VIOLENCE:

A Guide to Multi-disciplinary Interventions

Phil Arkow

"This is my cat.
My dad treats my cat
unfairly like he
treats my mom."

—Jennifer, age 8

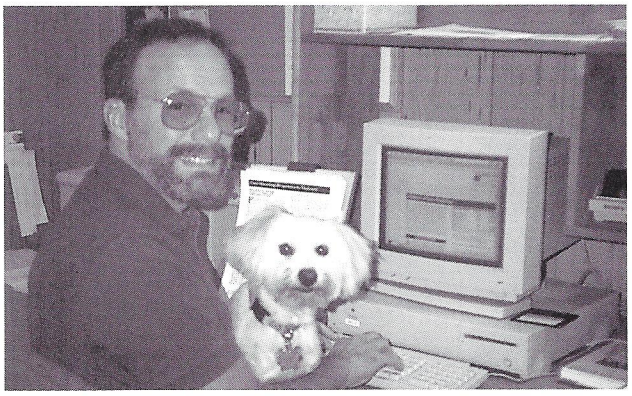


A LATHAM FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

A Handbook For
Child Protection, Domestic Violence, and Animal Protection Agencies

THE LATHAM FOUNDATION
PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

About the Author



Internationally-acclaimed lecturer, author, and humane educator Phil Arkow chairs the Latham Foundation's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project, under whose auspices he cross-trains animal protection, child protection, and domestic violence prevention personnel to recognize and report each others' forms of violence. He is a frequent contributor to *The Latham Letter.*

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Breaking the Cycles of Violence

A Guide to Multi-disciplinary Interventions for Child Protection, Domestic Violence and Animal Protection Agencies

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Eugene
5th Grade

The artwork for this Guide was created by children at the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Safehouse in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in several schools in Sonoma County, California under the auspices of the Humane Society of Sonoma County. These illustrations originally appeared in *Breaking the Cycles of Violence: A Practical Guide,* by Phil Arkow, and *Teaching Compassion: A Guide for Humane Educators, Teachers, and Parents,* by Pamela Raphael with Libby Colman and Lynn Loar, both published by The Latham Foundation.

Preface

Animal protection officers may observe neglected and abused children and victims of domestic violence. Similarly, human services caseworkers may encounter maltreated animals. These experiences reinforce research that is impossible to ignore: people who abuse animals are more likely to abuse humans, and animal abuse often precedes or coincides with interpersonal violence. Animal abuse is clearly linked with other forms of family violence.

Child abuse, domestic violence, and animal abuse are interrelated, and officials in all three fields often confront common perpetrators. All violence directed against vulnerable members of the family — whether two- or four-legged — has human health and safety implications. Compartmentalized interventions could be vastly improved by cross-fertilization of information among various disciplines.

Ironically, although the child protection movement originated in animal protection, it has only been in recent years that officials from these fields have actively sought cross-training from each other's domain. Meanwhile, society clamors to halt the violence enveloping our communities.

The movement to explore these interdisciplinary "links" is a recent occurrence. In 1991 and 1992, the American Humane Association, with support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, convened two invitational national symposiums bringing together, for the first time, leaders from child and animal protection, family violence prevention, and veterinary medicine. Concomitantly, the impact of domestic violence on children was first being researched. Meanwhile, the Latham Foundation and the Humane Society of the United States, among others, were encouraging coordinated community coalitions in response to violence.

This Guide, first published in 1995 and extensively rewritten for this edition, has already done much to help officials establish common goals and terminologies, overcome communications and service gaps, and create collaborations. This Guide provides professionals in the three disciplines with tangible tools to identify, report, investigate and manage multi-disciplinary cases of abuse and neglect. Our goals are:

- To help agencies fulfill their missions better by recognizing related forms of abuse
- To mobilize community forces in a multi-disciplinary attack against all forms of family violence
- To stimulate coordinated community responses to violence by better understanding each field's philosophies, systems and case management techniques.

This Guide is based upon the following premises:

1 - Since pets are so prevalent in our society, with more households having pets than having children, and since pets are commonly perceived as being "members of the family," acts of violence against pets should be considered not in isolation, but rather within the framework of family violence.

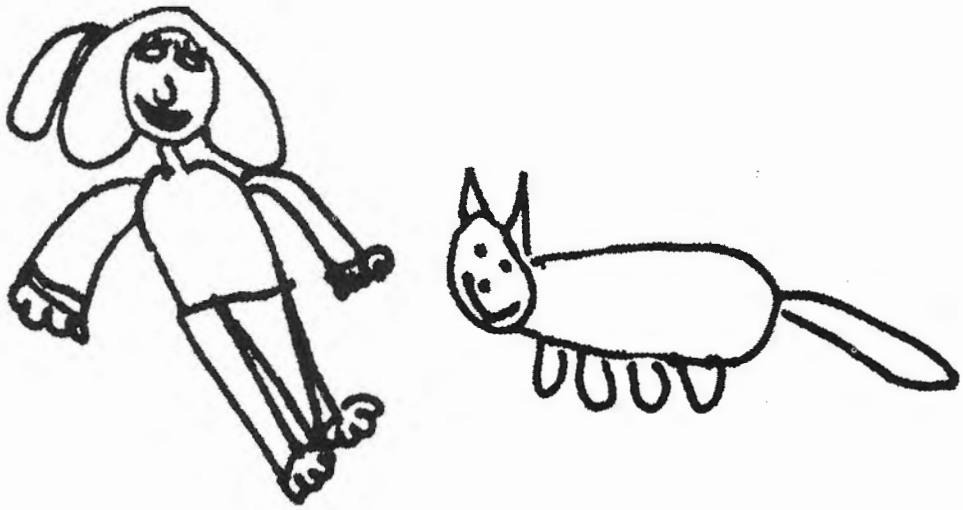
2 - Since laws prohibiting animal cruelty have historically been enacted not to protect animals' inherent "rights" but rather to protect public morals and private property, animal abuse is a human welfare issue.

3 - Multi-disciplinary recognition, responses and interventions offer new insights into the study of violence and new opportunities to prevent family violence.

Animal abuse does not necessarily lead to child abuse or domestic violence, but when we find such links we are no longer surprised. Animal abuse is neither more nor less important a societal issue than child abuse and domestic violence. Rather, a civil society should tolerate no forms of violence against its most vulnerable members.

Updated information will be available at www.latham.org. Ultimately, the true beneficiaries of this project will be the victims. Working together, we can change the landscape of terror facing many people and animals in our communities.

Phil Arkow
Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project
September 2002



"This is me and my cat. My dad treats my cat unfairly like he treats my mom."

– Jennifer, age 8

Table of Contents

"This is a horse. Horses make me feel stupid, sometimes like my dad does."

– Chris, age 7

1 The "Link"
What are the connections between animal abuse and family violence?

"How can I go into a classroom and teach children to be kind to animals when these kids are afraid to walk to school because of drive-by shootings?"

-- Debbie Duel, former educator
Washington (D.C.) Humane Society

Introduction

We live in a violent society. Historically, violence to animals has been viewed as an issue separate from other forms of family violence. However, a compelling body of research is confirming folk wisdom that animal abuse or cruelty* is a part of the continuum of family violence including child maltreatment and domestic violence. *(FIG. 1)*

Pets are truly "all in the family." The American Veterinary Medical Association estimated the U.S. pet population at 52.9 million dogs, 59.1 million cats, 12.6 million birds and 4 million horses. There are more dogs in the U.S. than people in any country in Europe — and more cats than dogs. Americans spend more money annually on pet food than on baby food. Almost 59% of American households owned companion animals in 1996. Significantly, pets are overwhelmingly concentrated in homes with children, and women are the predominant providers of care for these pets. *(FIG. 2)*

Consequently, the child protection services caseworker, domestic violence safehouse administrator or police officer is highly likely to encounter companion animals. The animal welfare or animal control officer must likewise be alert for potential child abuse and domestic violence among his or her clients. Whenever child abuse or domestic violence is suspected, there is a potential for animal abuse as well – and vice versa. Family violence is a matter of power and control, and often the choice of victim is opportunistic. Simply put, whenever one member of the family is abused, all others in the family are at risk.

FIG. 1: ANIMAL ABUSE... Another Form of Family Violence

Animal abuse takes numerous forms in the context of family violence:

AS COERCION AND CONTROL IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- Harming or killing a pet to warn the woman that "you're next"
- Keeping the woman captive in an abusive environment because no one else will care for the animals, or out of fear for what the abuser will do to the animals in her absence
- Forcing the woman to eat from the pet food dish, or engage in sex with animals
- Adverse impact on children who witness animal abuse

AS COERCION AND CONTROL IN CHILD ABUSE
- Harming, killing or threatening pets to secure children's acquiescence and/or silence about sexual abuse
- Harming or killing a pet to punish a child

HOARDING AND COLLECTING
- Individuals, often elderly and/or isolated, in need of social or mental health services who maintain inordinately large colonies of pets

ANIMAL FIGHTING
- Families witnessing and/or participating in illegal dog- and cock-fighting

CHILDREN AS PERPETRATORS
- Children killing pets to rehearse their own suicide
- Killing animals before an abusive adult can do so
- Torturing or killing animals as gang initiation rites or to gain status from their peers
- Transfering abuse directed at themselves upon pets

**State statutes prohibiting animal maltreatment historically have used the all-encompassing term "cruelty to animals." However, researchers today suggest that the terms "animal abuse" and "neglect" should be used, as they model the system widely used by Child Protective Services. "Cruelty" implies that the perpetrator had a malevolent intent, which is difficult to prove in a court of law. "Abuse" or "neglect" denote an objective act of maltreatment that occurred, regardless of the subjective motivations of the perpetrator. The term "animal abuse" will be used throughout this Guide to reflect contemporary thinking.*

FIG. 2: PET OWNERSHIP IN U.S. HOUSEHOLDS, 1969

	No. of households with pets (millions)	% of households with pets	Pet population (millions)
Dogs	31.2	31.6	52.9
Cats	27.0	27.3	59.1
Birds	4.6	4.6	12.6
Horses	1.5	1.5	4.0

% of households with children < age 6 with pets: 70.8%

% of households with children > age 6 with pets: 78.6%

Impact of poverty: % of households with annual income <$12,500 that owned pets: 47.8%

Gender of household member with primary responsibility for pet care:
female 72.2%, male 27.8%

— American Veterinary Medical Association: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook. (Schaumburg, Ill.: 1997)

These links may be demonstrated by *FIG. 3,* in which it is apparent that any one, two, or all 3 forms of family violence may be manifest (Ascione 1999). Similarly, child protection, domestic violence and animal protection organizations may operate independently, in tandem, or as a triad in effecting prevention and intervention strategies.

Animal abuse problems are really people problems. A cohesive, coordinated response may help reduce violence to all vulnerable members of American families (Arkow 1996).

FIG. 3: A CONFLUENCE MODEL OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

A model for the interrelationships among various forms of family violence. Incidents of animal abuse, domestic violence and child abuse can occur independently or in combination with each other, and may be caused by the same perpetrators. Investigators may encounter one, two, or all three forms of family violence.

What does the research show?

A growing and compelling body of research is confirming anecdotal reports and cultural and religious traditions that acts of animal abuse may predict or coincide with serious interpersonal aggression and familial dysfunction (Lockwood & Ascione 1998).

- In a study of 1,624 animal abuse cases across the U.S. in 2000, 21% of cases of intentional animal cruelty also involved some form of family violence. 13% involved domestic violence; in these cases, the perpetrator often forced the victim to witness the animal cruelty. 7% involved child abuse and 1% involved elder abuse. The most common offenses against the animals were shooting (33% of cases), beating (14%), throwing and mutilating (8% each), and burning and poisoning (6% each). (Humane Society of the U.S. 2001)

- 50% of the perpetrators in school shootings during the late 1990's had histories of committing animal abuse. (Verlinden et al. 2000)

- 70% of animal abusers in Massachusetts also had records for crimes of violence, drugs or social disorder. 44% of animal abusers committed their other crimes after the animal abuse; 56% did so before the animal offense. (Arluke & Luke 1997)

- Animal abuse or neglect was observed in 60% of families investigated by the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services for child abuse, and in 88% of families investigated for physical child abuse. The incidence of dog bites was 11 times greater in these families than in the general population. Interestingly, levels of basic pet care, use of veterinary services, and rates of pet sterilization did not differ significantly from the general population. (DeViney, Dickert & Lockwood 1983)

- 71% of pet-owning women entering a shelter reported their partner had threatened, hurt or killed an animal. 32% reported their children had hurt or killed animals. (Ascione 1998). In a later replication study, 54% of battered women reported that their partners had hurt or killed pets (compared with 5% of a non-battered control group) and children's exposure to this animal abuse was 62%. Nearly 25% of the battered women reported that concern for their pets' welfare had prevented them from seeking shelter sooner. (Ascione 2001)

- 68% of Wisconsin women who were battered reported violence had also been directed against their animals. 87% of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women; 75% occurred in the presence of their children. (Quinlisk 1999)

- 56% of pet-owning battered women in Calgary, Alberta reported their abusers had threatened, hurt or killed a family pet. 25% of these women said they delayed their decision to enter a shelter due to concern for the safety of their pet. (McIntosh 2001)

- 83% of officials in women's shelters believe there is a connection between pet abuse and domestic violence, and 63% report that children in the shelters talk about such abuse, but only 27% include questions about pets during intake interviews. (Ascione, Weber & Wood 1997)

Studies have found evidence that acts of animal abuse perpetrated by children may predict future antisocial behaviors. Histories of childhood or adolescent animal abuse have been reported in:

FIG. 4: ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE — COMPELLING CONNECTIONS

Not every child who harms animals will grow up to become a serial killer, but anecdotal evidence points to a long string of violent offenders who committed serious animal abuse in their childhoods:

- **Jeffrey Dahmer,** convicted of killing and mutilating 17 men, as a youth practiced taxidermy on small wildlife. His neighbors photographed the impaled skulls of animals he displayed in his yard — and kept those photos for 17 years – but never reported the incidents to police or social service agencies.

- **Theodore Bundy** spent his youth with a grandfather who assaulted people and tormented animals. Circumstantial evidence linked Bundy to graves with animal bones.

- **Albert DeSalvo,** the "Boston Strangler" who killed 13 women, as a youth trapped dogs and cats in orange crates and shot arrows through the boxes.

- **David Berkowitz,** the "Son of Sam" killer, shot a neighbor's Labrador retriever, claiming the dog compelled him to kill.

- **Carroll Edward Cole,** executed for five of the 35 murders of which he was accused, said his first act of violence as a child had been to strangle a puppy.

- **Patrick Sherrill,** who killed 14 postal co-workers before committing suicide, had stolen local pets and allowed his own dog to mutilate them.

- **Earl Shriner,** serving 134 years for sexually mutilating a boy, had hanged cats, stuck firecrackers up dogs' anuses, and slaughtered chickens.

- **Eric Smith,** 13, charged with bludgeoning 4-year-old Derrick Robie to death in Savona, NY, had choked his neighbor's cat to death with a garden hose clamp four years earlier.

- **Richard Allen Davis,** sentenced to death in 1996 for the kidnapping and murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas in Petaluma, CA., had a long record of violent crimes. He began torturing and killing animals at an early age, dousing cats with gasoline and setting them on fire.

- **Bobby Thompson,** 11, convicted for kidnapping and killing two-year-old James Bulger in Liverpool, England, had shot pigeons with a pellet gun and would chop off their heads while they were still alive. He tried to poke out the eyes of rabbits and once put a cat on a railroad track to chop it in half. By contrast, his accomplice **Jon Venables,** also 11, had been put in charge of looking after their class' pet gerbils during school holidays. On the day James was kidnapped from a shopping mall, the three boys stopped off at a pet store on their walk to the railroad tracks where the toddler was beaten and kicked to death. Their prison rehabilitation program included making bird houses and bird feeders.

- **Russell Weston,** the "Capitol Gunman," was paid by his grandmother to shoot his father's 20 cats. Shortly thereafter the father evicted him from their home in Illinois. Weston drove to Washington, DC, where he went on a shooting rampage in the Capitol that killed two officers and a woman before he himself was shot.

- **Luke Woodham,** 16, convicted of killing two students and wounding seven others in Pearl, MS in 1997, described in his diary, in sickening detail, the torture and killing of his own dog Sparkle. He and an accomplice beat Sparkle savagely with clubs, then stuffed her in several garbage bags. "I will never forget the howl she made. It sounded almost human. We laughed and hit her more," he wrote. Then they doused the sack with lighter fluid and set it on fire before hurling it into a pond. The sight of the sinking bag, he wrote, was "true beauty."

- 25% of aggressive male prison inmates
- 30% of convicted child molesters
- 36% of assaultive women offenders
- 46% of incarcerated sexual homicide perpetrators
- 48% of convicted rapists (Ascione 1993).

This research supports anecdotal stories about mass murderers and serial killers who exhibited the "tangled web" of animal abuse (Lockwood 1986). *(FIG. 4)*

Several studies have identified a close association between physical abuse by one or both parents, animal abuse, and violence toward people among young offenders. Violent offenders' first victims are often animals. These animal abusers are most frequently males, between 15-25 years old, with histories of parental neglect, brutality, and rejection (Lockwood 1989). Surprisingly, many of these youths have reported that they like animals: many have had favorite pets', but about one-third of them lost those pets'. Often, their parents deliberately killed their pets as acts of punishment or intimidation (Robin et al. 1984).

Children subjected to sexual abuse in day care settings may be coerced into silence by threats of or by the killing of animals. While difficult to substantiate, it is impossible to ignore reports of religious animal sacrifices, threats of killing animals to frighten children into secrecy, and forcing children to have sex with animals.

Despite historical and cultural traditions dating back at least 700 years, cruelty to animals was not specifically menioned in psychiatric diagnostic protocols for antisocial behavior until 1987 when the American Psychiatric Association included it among the diagnostic criteria for conduct disorder; however, it was listed in the category of "destruction of property." The 1994 revision clearly listed physical cruelty to animals under a heading of "aggression to people and animals." (American Psychiatric Association 1987, 1994).

Why should Human Services care about animal problems?

Child abuse, domestic violence, and animal abuse are complex challenges too great for any one field to solve individually. They require commitments from a wide range of community leaders. Since pets' are present in more than half of American households, and are disproportionately prevalent in homes with children, including animal abuse as another form of family violence is appropriate. Social scientists and law enforcement agencies are beginning to see animal abuse as a serious *human* problem.

PETS AS LIGHTNING RODS FOR INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Animal protection agencies respond to incidents in which a person with a grievance shoots or kills an offending pet. Cases of neighbors shooting, poisoning, stabbing, strangling or bludgeoning a pet are often complicated by other personal animosities between the killer and the animal's owner. Often, the animal becomes a lightning rod for an interpersonal dispute with origins in something other than the animal's behavior.

Animal People newspaper identified 51 cases that it classified as pet-precipitated explosions of rage that resulted in homicide or attempted homicide. In 25 cases the animal's owner killed or tried to kill someone believed to have harmed, stolen or threatened the pet. In eight cases the pet's owner retaliated against a neighbor for complaining to animal control authorities about alleged biting, barking, running at large, defecating or other violations.

(Clifton, 2002b)

Human services officials who work with families should be cognizant of the animal abuse connections for several reasons:

1. Animal abuse is a serious antisocial behavior committed by children, adolescents and adults.
2. It is a relatively common occurrence in the lives of many children.
3. It has potential negative developmental consequences.
4. It is related to, and may well be a marker of, interpersonal and family violence.
5. The well-being of companion animals is also at risk.
6. Reducing animal violence could help achieve a less violent society (Flynn 2000).

Barbara Boat (1995) has identified five reasons why these links can no longer be ignored:

1. Research and anecdotal reports point to connections.
2. The origins and expression of cruel behavior in children is not well understood, so the study of children's abuse of animals may be a valuable source of information.
3. Society has a lower tolerance for animal abuse than for other forms of maltreatment, which may be used to enhance all forms of a community's response to violence.
4. Child protection efforts can be broadened by initiating cross-training and cross-reporting with other agencies.

5. Since people talk very readily about their pets, asking questions about pet care may be enlightening "red flags" that serve as early warning indicators of abusive environments.

Human services officials should also be concerned about animal well-being because:

1. Caregivers have professional obligations and personal ethics that dictate concern and compassion for victims.
2. Failure to get involved only serves to condone violent behavior.
3. Failure to respond only serves to put others at risk.

If children are living in a home filled with animal feces, if an isolated client refuses to feed herself but has a refrigerator filled with cat food, if cattle are deprived of hay and water, if children tell stories about how their father beat the dog or drowned the kitten, there is a pretty good likelihood that other problems exist. Whether the specific case constitutes "cruelty to animals" will be a matter for the local animal care or control agency and the judicial system to determine, but in the meantime caseworkers should report their suspicions and work in tandem with the animal protection agency to help the people and animals in trouble.

Why is Animal Protection an asset to human services organizations?

Animal protection agents are often first responders and may have an easier time than their human services counterparts in effecting immediate resolutions among families in crisis. *(FIG. 5)* This is because neighbors are more willing to complain about suspected animal maltreatment than about child abuse or domestic violence, and because abused animals may be observed in plain view outdoors while child abuse and domestic violence frequently occur behind the sanctity of the closed door. Shame, guilt, and threats may compromise maltreated children's and battered women's willingness to discuss their situations, but they often talk freely about how family pets are treated. This can

FIG. 5: FROM THE CASE FILES OF THE MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

"Accused wrapped packaging tape around her Alaskan malamute's mouth with a toy inside the dog's mouth and left the dog in the back yard on a hot June day, where it subsequently died of heat stroke.Witnesses said the woman had beaten her children severely and several complaints had been filed with child protective services."

"Accused returned home to find his beagle had destroyed the new venetian blinds. Suspect became enraged, got his shotgun, and shot the dog twice in front of the children. Suspect's wife told interrogators her husband had been under much stress recently because he was under investigation for alleged child abuse."

"Accused failed to provide food, water, and medical treatment for his Doberman pinscher. He had an outstanding warrant for child abuse and failed to appear at arraignment on animal cruelty charges. He was later arrested on drug charges."

Animal Abuse Perpetrated by Children...

"Three juveniles beat their mother's dog almost to death with metal baseball bats. Mother revealed all three had also been arrested for trying to extort money from a 12-year-old boy; when he refused, they severely beat him with metal baseball bats."

"Boy tortured his kitten with an open flame on the stove, causing burns to the pads of the cat's feet, body, head and back. Boy had been removed from his abusive mother's care when he was 9. His mother kept him locked in a closet and would pour human urine on him and beat him about the head with shoes regularly. The mother, an alcoholic prostitute, also had 4 daughters. He was kept in the closet because 'I couldn't make no money on him."

"Accused shot a neighbor's cat in the eye. He has been involved in many cases of assaultive behavior and has been barred from school because he is too dangerous to be around other children."

Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence...

"Accused stomped to death the family cat in front of the wife and children because the cat scratched him. Suspect was intoxicated at the time. He is believed to be under arrest for spousal abuse."

"Accused stabbed his sister's dog so severely it had to be euthanized, because it barked too much. Witnesses refused to testify. He later was arrested for throwing a woman to the ground and attempting to gouge her eyes out; during arrest he stabbed a police officer in the shoulder. Accused also has a record of two other felony convictions."

be a non-threatening starting point to initiate discussion with victims, perpetrators or witnesses.

(Cases of pet neglect are more common than serious animal abuse and less predictive of violence, but may suggest mental health problems, economic deprivation, child neglect, elder abuse, and similar concerns that require referrals to social service agencies.)

Animal protection, domestic violence and child protection investigators may be dealing with the same perpetrators. The issue in all three forms of family violence is the same: power and preying on the vulnerable. The choice of victim is opportunistic.

What are the historical connections between the three fields?

As early as 753 B.C., Roman law gave the husband the power over the person and property of his wife and children, including the right to punish, kill, or sell them. The humane standard for the time was called the "rule of thumb": a husband could beat his wife as long as the stick was no thicker than his thumb. This doctrine was passed down into English Common Law that declared women and children to be *chattel* (the word has the same root as *cattle).* Children were property to be sold or discarded, or chattel to be worked or killed, according to the needs and whims of the parent. Guardianship included control over a child's education and religious training, consent to his or her marriage, right of chastisement, and right of enjoyment of his or her services. Today, women and children have been accorded rights, but animals are still considered chattel property and lack legal standing despite growing animal rights activism.

Several worldwide social reform movements affected family welfare during the latter half of the 19th Century. These included the regulation of child labor, improvement of prisons and asylums, the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, universal education of children, and other social justice reforms. With urbanization and industrialization, the presence of homeless, destitute and delinquent children in major cities created pressure to reform child labor practices. Where children had previously been primarily the responsibility of the family, with other assistance coming from the church or community, reformers now sought to rescue children from undesireable circumstances while reinforcing the moral and social value of the family. With the enactment of child protection legislation and the establishment of children's aid societies and child welfare departments, state and local governments began to regulate and finance child welfare services. Governments began providing jails, reformatories, industrial schools and support to orphanages run by churches and private groups.

DOGFIGHTING AND HUMAN VIOLENCE

Accused dogfighter Jeffrey M. Giller of Macoupin County, IL, was jailed in lieu of posting $300,000 bail on four counts of felony dogfighting involving 17 pit bull terriers, plus $20,000 bail on misdemeanor charges of domestic violence and aggravated assault. Sheriff's deputies noticed the dogs when they went to his property to investigate a domestic violence complaint by a girlfriend.

In Florida, Arthur "Mo Jo" Hutchinson, 45, was charged in November 2001 with four felony counts of dogfighting, cocaine possession with intent to sell, and possession of drug paraphernalia. His criminal record, dating to 1975, included possesion of a sawed-off shotgun, auto burglary, auto theft, grand theft, robbery and aggravated child abuse. He served nine years in the state penitentiary on the child abuse charge. (Clifton, 2002a)

The animal protection movement paralleled these social reforms. The earliest child protection services used an existing animal protection model.

The humane movement was born in England in the 1820's, spread through Europe, and came to the U.S. in 1866 and Canada in 1869 as part of this social welfare awareness. In all countries, a similar pattern was set in which animal welfare was addressed after the concerns of children and women were addressed. A watershed incident occurred in 1874 when Henry Bergh, founder of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, intervened at the request of social worker Etta Angell Wheeler to assist a 10-year old girl, Mary Ellen Wilson, who had been abused by her foster parents. Bergh's attorney, Elbridge Gerry, ingeniously secured a writ of habeas corpus to remove the child from the home and bring the case to court; the girl subsequently came to live with Wheeler's sister, and Gerry and Bergh went on to found the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Despite his own disclaimer, a myth arose that Bergh intervened because Mary Ellen deserved the same protection as an animal. Bergh had, in fact, acted as a humane citizen and not in his official ASPCA capacity (Zawistoski 1992). Re

gardless, the case attracted considerable attention and the twin movements to prevent cruelty to children and animals were born. A fortuitous confluence of related factors — media interest, inadequacies in the child protection systems, other social movements, Darwinism, and the rise in what has been called the judicial patriarchy — combined to launch a rational system of child protection within a larger system of social services (Costin 1991).

Hundreds of independent, autonomous animal protection organizations were formed. For decades, SPCAs and humane societies had dual functions to prevent cruelty, abuse and neglect to both animals and children. Even today, vestiges of these roots remain in some statutes, such as Florida, where humane officers are empowered to investigate for the prevention of cruelty to children, and Ohio, where humane agents may remove a child from parental custody when it is in the child's best interests. In recent years many city- and county-run animal control facilities have also assumed animal abuse prevention responsibilities. At this writing, four states (California, Connecticut, Florida and Ohio) require or permit animal care and control personnel, and two states (California, Colorado) require veterinarians, to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Four states require veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse and 13 states provide immunity from civil and criminal liability for veterinarians who make such reports in good faith.

Over the past 20 years, the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and domestic violence has been consistently identified as a significant social problem. In households where women are abused, a significant number of their children are also victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Studies also indicate that the majority of children from violent families, who are not themselves maltreated, see or hear the abusive behavior directed towards the victim.

The potential harmful short- and long-term consequences to children who witness domestic violence have been well documented (Packard Foundation 1999). These children may suffer severe emotional and developmental difficulties similar to children who are the direct victims of child abuse, neglect and sexual abuse *(FIG. 6)*. Consequently, some states are using child endangerment statutes to permit prosecution of batterers who commit abusive behaviors in the presence of a child. Approximately 16 states now specifically identify children who witness acts of domestic violence as a class of persons in need of legal protection.

FIG. 6: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN...

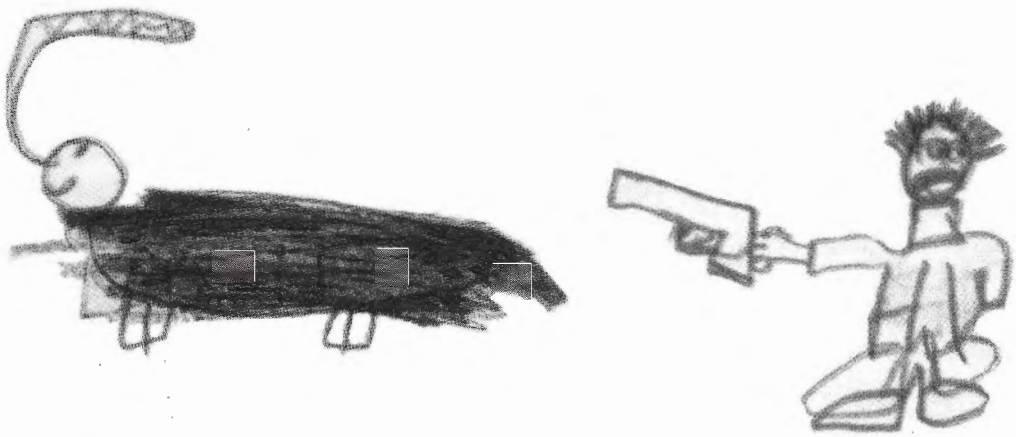
- 70% of men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children.
- 87% of battered mothers report that their children witness the abuse.
- Eight times as many women report using physical discipline on their children while living with a batterer than when living alone or in a non-abusive relationship.
- More than 50% of child abductions result from domestic violence, often perpetrated by men using custodial access to terrorize battered women or to retaliate for separation. Some 30% of abducted children experience mental harm as a result.
- Of children who witness domestic violence, 40% suffer anxiety, 48% suffer depression, 53% act out with their parents, and 60% act out with their siblings. Poor health, low self-esteem, poor impulse control, sleeping difficulties, feelings of powerlessness, and being at-risk for substance abuse, running away and suicide are also reported.
- 15 to 25% of pregnant women are battered.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Woman Abuse... Child Abuse... Caught in the Middle. (Denver, CO: 1993)

In many cities, dog fighting and other animal abuse cases are handled by humane investigators who lack full law enforcement powers. In Chicago, Sgt. Steve Brownstein heads a unique unit of the Police Department that is training hundreds of officers and supervisors to enforce the Humane Care of Animals Act.

"Animal abuse must be made a law enforcement priority," said Brownstein. He believes that when an abuse case is not handled properly, the situation becomes part of a "broken window theory": if one part of a building is left unrepaired, the entire structure will fall into disrepair. "Animal abuse is part of a larger cycle of violence. It's not just about animals – it's also a domestic violence and child welfare issue," he says.

– ASPCA Animal Watch, Summer 2002



"My dog used to be abused by my Mom's old boyfriend. It has a family that takes care of it now. My dog used to look shabby but now her fur looks soft. My dog has a good home now."

– Chris, Grade 4

Pets are truly "all in the family." The American Veterinary Medical Association estimated the U.S. pet population at 52.9 million dogs, 59.1 million cats, 12.6 million birds and 4 million horses. There are more dogs in the U.S. than people in any country in Europe — and more cats than dogs. Americans spend more money annually on pet food than on baby food. Almost 59% of American households owned companion animals in 1996. Significantly, pets are overwhelmingly concentrated in homes with children, and women are the predominant providers of care for these pets. *(FIG. 2)*

2 Incidence
How serious is family violence?

Caregivers in animal and human services contend with an "epidemic" of violence afflicting our schools, inner cities, families, and communities. The following figures will help child protection, domestic violence and animal protection workers understand each field's challenges:

The Scope of Child Maltreatment

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, investigations by state child protective services (CPS) agencies determined that approximately 879,000 children were victims of child maltreatment in 2000.

In 2000, CPS agencies investigated nearly 3 million reports alleging the maltreatment of approximately 5 million children. 56% of these reports came from professionals including educators, law enforcement and justice officials, medical and mental health professionals, social service professionals and child care providers. The remaining 44% of reports were submitted by nonprofessionals including parents, other relatives, alleged victims, and community members.

Neglect is the most prevalent form of child maltreatment. About 63% of victims suffered neglect, 19% physical abuse, 10% sexual abuse, and 8% emotional maltreatment. Some children suffer more than one type of maltreatment. 84% of victims were abused by a parent. An estimated 1,200 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in 2000. An estimated 85% of these fatalities were children 6 years of age or younger. (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 2002)

CPS caseworkers in 1999 investigated only 60% of complaints they received alleging child maltreatment, and only 29.2% of these investigations met criteria that substantiated maltreatment. (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 2001a). The average time from the start of investigation to provision of service was 47.4 days. The average annual workload of CPS investigation and assessment workers was 72 investigations. It has been argued that the CPS system has reached its capacity to respond to the maltreated child population." (Sedlak & Broadhurst 1996)

Approximately 22.3 of every 1,000 children in 1999 were in families receiving services to prevent child maltreatment, yielding a national estimate of 1,563,000 children receiving preventive services. This number may be an undercount. (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 2001a)

It cannot be determined whether incidence of child maltreatment is on the rise or whether reporting systems have improved. Likewise, it is impossible to determine how many cases of child maltreatment are not reported to CPS agencies.

The Scope of Domestic Violence

Violence directed against intimate partners is widespread and has pervasive social, economic and health care costs as well:

- A woman is beaten every 15 seconds in the U.S. by an intimate partner.

- Estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey indicate that in 1996 there were about 1,000,000 rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults in which the victim and offender had an intimate relationship. Intimate relationships include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, and former boyfriends and girlfriends. More than 8 in 10 of these violent crimes involved a female victim.

- Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop reported domestic violence to be the leading cause of injury to women aged 15 - 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings and rapes combined.

- Women who have been seriously assaulted are four times as likely to attempt suicide than other women. (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1993, U.S. Department of Justice 1998, Maxwell & O'Rourke 2000)

- 75% of battered women say that their children are also battered. Between 3.3 and 10 million children in the U.S. are exposed to domestic violence each year. This exposure has significant negative effects on children's behav

ioral, emotional, social and cognitive development. (Packard Foundation 1999)

- A significant number of children in homes with domestic violence either (1) made the call for help to police departments; (2) are a precipitant cause of the dispute that led to violence; or (3) were also physically abused by the perpetrator. Households with domestic violence are significantly likely to have children, particularly young children. (Fantuzzo et al. 1997)

- Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. Almost two-thirds of abused children are parented by battered women. (McKay 1994)

- Intimate partners murdered 1,218 women in 1999. The FBI reports that 30% of murdered women were killed by a husband or boyfriend.

- Women separated from their husbands are victimized by an intimate at rates higher than married, divorced, widowed or never-married women.

- In 1998 women experienced an estimated 876,340 violent offenses at the hands of an intimate.

- About one-half of intimate violence incidents are reported to the police. The most common reasons given by victims for not contacting police were that they considered the incident a private or personal matter, they feared retaliation, or they felt the police would not be able to do anything.

- Injuries sustained by battered women are often as serious as those incurred in 90% of violent felonies, yet domestic violence is usually classified as a misdemeanor.

- 78% of persons incarcerated for domestic violence have a prior conviction history.

- Intimate murder accounts for about 9% of all homicides.

- Among the nearly 52,000 men and women murdered by an intimate between 1976 and 1996, 65% were killed with a firearm.

- Medical expenses from intimate partner violence total $3 to $5 billion annually.

- 22% to 35% of female patients in emergency rooms are there for injuries from abuse. About half of those treated sustain injuries to the head and face. Domestic violence accounts for $1.8 billion in medical bills per year.

- In 1994 about 1.4 million people injured as a result of intentional violence were examined in emergency departments. About a quarter of these resulted from violence by current or former spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends.

- 20% of women killed in the workplace are killed by an intimate partner.

- Abused women have higher rates of miscarriage, stillbirths, premature labor, low birth weight babies, and injuries to fetuses.

- Medical expenses, repairing and replacing broken or stolen property, and lost pay cost victims of intimate violence nearly $150 million a year.

- Businesses forfeit another $100 million in lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity due to domestic violence. Abusers harass 74% of battered women at work, either in person or by phone, causing 20% of them to lose their jobs.

The Scope of Animal Abuse

Reliable statistics of animal abuse do not exist on the national level, and are often difficult to obtain on the state or local level. The Humane Society of the United States (2001) attributes this to the lack of a national tracking system to monitor cruelty cases. The HSUS compiled two studies of high-profile animal cruelty cases in 2000 and 2001 to assess the demographics of animal abusers, the types of animals abused, and the incidence of family violence in these egregious incidents. However, it is impossible to extrapolate reliable national data from these surveys as it is generally recognized that:

- local humane societies and animal control agencies may not keep records of these cases;
- terminologies vary from agency to agency;
- it is not known how many reports are substantiated;
- a variety of maltreatment issues are included under "cruelty to animals." These include hoarding (or collecting), dog- or cock-fighting, intentional cruelty or abuse, inadequate housing involving kennels or dog breeders, neglect, and inadequate care of commercial livestock or zoo ani

mals. The psychographics of these cases may be completely different but they are often all grouped under one catch-all statutory offense. As with child pro-tection, the overwhelming majority of animal abuse in-vestigations involve neglect rather than physical violence.

- Many animal protection groups are not empowered to investigate animal abuse;
- Reporting and enforcement mechanisms vary widely;
- Animal welfare investigations may be conducted by federal agents (such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture), state Wildlife, Health or Natural Resources agents, municipal or county animal control officials, or nonprofit humane society or SPCA agents, and local law enforcement agencies.

Local agencies are inundated with complaints. It is not unusual for medium-sized agencies to average 1,400 investigations per year. Larger communities may investigate 5,000 cases annually.

The HSUS study (2001) of 1,677 intentional cruelty cases showed an extremely high number of incidents were committed by males under the age of 18. The research also shows that a large number of cases also involved domestic violence, child abuse or elder abuse. Among the findings:

- 92% of intentional animal cruelty incidents and 91% of animal fighting incidents were committed by males.
- 20% of animal cruelty incidents were committed by teens; 4% were committed by children.
- Of the animals involved, 74% were companion animals, 14% farm animals, 6% wildlife, 2% exotic, and 4% involved multiple types of animals. In dog-and-cat cases, dogs comprised 67% of the victims while cats comprised 22% (11% involved both or multiple species).
- The most common offenses were beating, torturing, shooting, mutilation, throwing and burning animals.
- Males were the perpetrators in 89% of the animal abuse cases that co-existed with domestic violence, 67% of the cases that co-existed with child abuse, and 50% of the cases that co-existed with elder abuse.
- 75% of the men and 68% of the women involved in these high-profile cases were arrested and charged with cruelty to animals.
- An average of 5.1 companion animals were victimized in each of the intentional cruelty cases and 22.7 companion animals were victimized in the neglect or hoarding cases. 55% of the animals involved were killed or euthanized.

It is difficult to estimate how many acts of animal abuse are committed by children or occur in homes where children and/or women are also being abused. A landmark 1983 study in New Jersey found that in 33% of pet-owning families with a history of physical child abuse, children became the animal abusers, often imitating the violence that they had seen or experienced themselves (DeViney et al. 1983).

A Note About Elder Abuse

Although this Guide and its predecessor are primarily concerned with the links between animal abuse, domestic violence and child abuse, there has been recent interest in the links with elder abuse as well.

The HSUS' Randall Lockwood (2002) noted that the elderly often have strong attachments to their animal companions which make them vulnerable to those who would exploit this bond to exert power, such as to gain control over financial resources. Declining animal welfare may also be an early warning sign of self-neglect or of hoarding. Because elder abuse is the most under-reported form of family violence, with less than 7% of incidents coming to the attention of authorities, advocates for vulnerable adults are beginning to see the need to enlist other professionals, including animal care and control officials and veterinarians, in the effort to identify and respond to aged people in need.

The HSUS and the National Center on Elder Abuse conducted a survey of nearly 200 Adult Protective Service (APS) supervisors and caseworkers in 40 states in 2001. The survey revealed:

- more than 35% of respondents said their clients talked about pets having been threatened, injured, killed or denied care
- more than 45% had encountered intentional abuse or neglect of animals when visiting clients
- more than 92% encountered animal neglect coexisting with a client's inability to care for himself or herself
- more than 75% said their clients' concern for their pets' welfare affected decisions about interventions.

Many clients refused services or housing if their pets' needs were not considered. However, few APS agencies had established working relationships with animal care and control agencies.

- only 35% included questions about clients' animals on intake or assessment forms, less than 25% had policies to report suspected animal abuse, and only 19% had cross-reporting or cross-training with animal protection agencies.

Barbara Boat and Juliette Knight (2000) have noted that by being alert to animal cruelty, human services officials working with the elderly can prevent the suffering of human and animal victims. APS caseworkers may encounter pet neglect, hoarding, clients having difficulty coping with loss or excessive attachment to pets, animal abuse as a control mechanism, and clients whose own care is compromised while they care for their pets. Caseworkers and providers of homemaker services must also consider their own safety when visiting residences where animals are present. Interventions where animals are involved may require creative solutions by caseworkers who are sensitive to animal issues. APS agencies should develop brochures with the theme, "What to do if your client has pets."

ANIMAL ABUSE AS A COERCION TOOL

When an inmate in Sing Sing Correctional Facility refused to give Sgt. Ronald Hunlock some information, Hunlock confiscated a cat and her litter of five kittens that the inmate was caring for in his cell. The guard ordered the inmate to put the box with the cats in the prison's trash compactor; when the inmate refused, Hunlock did it himself. The kittens were crushed to death, the mother cat survived, and Hunlock was convicted of five felony counts of aggravated animal cruelty. The Westchester County, N.Y. District Attorney received over 5,000 letters of support for their prosecution of the case. Sgt. Hunlock lost his job of 21 years and his entire pension, and was sentenced to one year in prison. The cat has been adopted.

– ASPCA Animal Watch, Summer 2002

FELONY PENALTIES GET RESULTS

Six months after Illinois enacted legislation allowing higher penalties for animal abuse and neglect, the State's Attorney's office in Madison County reported that it had already filed more than twice the number of animal abuse and neglect cases than it had during the entire previous year.

As of July 2002, the office had filed five felony charges and eight misdemeanor charges, compared with only six misdemeanors for all of 2001. Officials attributed the increase to an increased awareness among law enforcement agencies that animal abuse is a serious crime, and among a public that is now more knowledgeable about reporting animal abuse.

Madison County State's Attorney William R. Haine said the new law gives police officers and prosecutors more incentive to pursue these cases. "Animal abuse is a pathology," said Haine. "The moral ethic of humanity says [animal abuse] is wrong, and now Illinois state law says it's wrong."

"I think now there's a recognition that everybody cares about it, that in every single department there is someone who will follow through with it," said Amy Maher, assistant state's attorney.

– Trisha L. Howard, "Tougher Law on Animal Abuse Gets Results"
St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 8, 2002

3 Origins What are the Causes of Family Violence?

Are there common causes in family violence?

The factors that have been cited as potential causative factors for violence are extensive. Cathy Widom (1989a) has demonstrated that a history of child abuse and neglect places individuals at risk for later delinquency, adult criminal offending and violent criminal activity, and suggests that there is a higher likelihood of child abuse by parents who themselves were abused as children (1989b). Stephanie Verlinden et al. (2000) identified 31 broad individual, family, school, peer, societal and environmental risk factors, with dozens of possible sub-categories, that may increase the risk of serious violence during adolescence and young adulthood. Compounding these risk factors are situational factors such as substance abuse and the presence of a gun that can exacerbate the risk. The factor that appears to have the most predictive value for violent behavior is an early pattern of aggressive behavior. Lack of parental supervision is one of the strongest predictors of the development of delinquency and violence in children.

The child protection and animal protection fields may note commonalities with the domestic violence field, which conventionally defines family violence as an issue of power and control and a pattern of conduct as opposed to isolated events. The abuse may be physical battering; psychological or emotional abuse; sexual abuse; economic or financial abuse; intimidation, coercion or control; financial control; and other acts which reinforce the abuser's control over the victim through fear and intimidation. Abusers believe they are entitled to this control and that the violence is acceptable and will produce the desired results. Violent abuse, as contrasted with neglect, is purposeful and instrumental. (Maxwell & O'Rourke 2000)

What are the risk factors for animal abuse?

The motivators for intentional animal abuse are much less understood. Stephen Kellert & Alan Felthous (1985) described nine motivations that characterize adult cruelty to animals *(FIG. 7)*.

Ascione, Thompson & Black (1997) suggested 13 developmentally related motivations for children's and adolescents' acts of cruelty to animals:

- curiosity or exploration
- peer pressure (e.g., as an initiation rite)
- mood enhancement (to relieve boredom or depression)
- sexual gratification (bestiality)*
- forced abuse (i.e., the child is coerced into abusing an animal by a more powerful individual)
- attachment to an animal (the child kills an animal to prevent its torture by another individual)
- animal phobias (preemptive attack on a feared animal)
- identification with the child's abuser (e.g., a victimized child may try to regain a sense of power by victimizing a more vulnerable animal)
- post-traumatic play (i.e., re-enacting violent episodes with an animal victim)
- imitation (i.e., copying an abusive adult's "discipline")
- self-injury (i.e., using an animal to inflict injuries on the child's own body)
- vehicle for emotional abuse (e.g., injuring a sibling's pet to frighten the sibling)
- rehearsal for interpersonal violence

Frank Ascione (2001) cited corporal punishment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence as factors in children's lives that have been associated with increased levels of animal abuse. Ascione, Kaufmann & Brooks (2000) recommended that research be conducted to determine if physiological and biochemical processes, histories of child sexual abuse, and a lack of empathy toward other humans may underlie animal abuse.

** Piers Beirne (1997) argued that the 17th century English word "bestiality" should be replaced with a more contemporary nomenclature of "interspecies sexual assault" that might be more relevant in today's criminal justice system. Helen Munro & Michael Thrusfield (2001c) argued that the animal protection field should similarly model Child Protective Services language and replace the archaic "bestiality" with the term "animal sexual abuse."*

FIG. 7: WHY ARE PEOPLE CRUEL TO ANIMALS?

1. **To control an animal**
   Excessive, cruel physical punishment to shape an animal's behavior or eliminate undesirable characteristics. Actions are excessive rather than simply intended to produce a well-behaved animal.
2. **To retaliate against an animal**
   Extreme punishment and revenge for a presumed wrong on the part of an animal. There is delight taken in the retaliatory punishment and the vengeance is intense.
3. **To retaliate against another person**
   Striking back and exacting revenge against someone else by killing, mutilating, or torturing their pet.
4. **To satisfy a prejudice against a species or breed**
   Culturally-based bias against specific types of animals, such as rats, snakes, or cats. Violence or sadism is rationalized by a particular prejudice.
5. **To express aggression through an animal**
   Cruelty toward animals to express violence or aggression toward other people or animals, such as instilling violent behaviors in a dog to make it attack people or other animals.
6. **To enhance one's own aggressiveness**
   Killing or abusing animals to improve one's own aggressive skills (such as using animals for target practice), or to impress others with one's capacity for violence.
7. **To shock people for amusement**
   A perverse way of entertaining one's friends.
8. **Displacement of hostility from a person to an animal**
   Displacing feelings of aggression against an unattainable feared or hated authority figure by being violent against that person's animal. It is often easier in childhood to be violent toward an animal than against a parent, sibling, or adult. This is a way for an abused child to get even for his hurt.
9. **Non-specific sadism**
   The desire to inflict pain, suffering, or death on an animal without any specific provocation or hostile feelings, but rather for the pleasure derived from causing injury and suffering.

Kellert, S.R. and Felthous, A.R.: "Childhood Cruelty toward Animals among Criminals and Noncriminals" *Human Relations* 38 (1985) 1113-1129.

"This is a snake. Snakes make me angry. They will bite my dad and kill him. My dad's in jail because he socked my mom."
– Brandy, age 4

4 Defining and Identifying How do I know when it's abuse?

How are cruelty, abuse, and neglect defined by each discipline?

Child protection, domestic violence and animal protection professionals each have their own statutory and operational definitions of cruelty, abuse, and neglect. The legal definitions may conflict with public perceptions. Interpretation in any specific incident is also dependent upon case law, common sense, sound judgment, local policy and previous experience. The following definitions will help professionals recognize situations which each field generally considers worthy of further investigation.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The 1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides minimum standards for the definition of child abuse and neglect that states must incorporate in their statutory definitions. Under CAPTA, child abuse and neglect means, at a minimum:

> Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

Each state provides its own definitions of "child abuse" and "neglect" that determine the grounds for state intervention in the protection of a child's well-being. (The term "child" means a person who has not attained the age of 18.) Definitions vary among states. For example, some states define child abuse and neglect as a single concept, while others provide separate definitions for physical abuse (e.g., non-accidental physical injury or trauma), neglect (e.g., failure to provide basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter and medical care; reckless disregard for a child's safety; conspicuous inattention to avoidable hazards; abandonment), emotional maltreatment (e.g., acts or omissions that have caused, or could cause, serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders), and sexual abuse.

Many states define abuse in terms of harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare. All states include sexual abuse in their definitions. Some states refer in general terms to sexual abuse, while others specify various acts as sexual abuse. Several states distinguish between failure to provide based on the financial inability to do so, and the failure to provide for no apparent financial reason. The latter constitutes neglect.

In addition to defining the acts or omissions that constitute maltreatment, several statutes specifically define the perpetrators of abuse and neglect: parents, guardians, foster parents, relatives, or caretakers responsible for the child's welfare. A number of states exempt certain acts or omissions from their statutory definitions of child abuse and neglect. For instance, many states carve out a religious exemption for parents who choose not to seek medical care for their children due to religious beliefs.

For each state's specific definitions, see the Web site for the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) at http://www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/stats01/define/index.cfm.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence commonly describes any physical or psychological harm experienced by one person from another with whom an intimate relationship is shared (Jorgensen & Maloney 1999). A variety of terms refer to adult-to-adult violence within a familial context: intimate partner violence, family violence, battering, domestic assault, marital violence, spouse abuse, domestic abuse, and wife beating. Because domestic violence centers around intimacy, violence between boyfriends and girlfriends, ex-spouses, same-sex couples, and others with an ongoing or prior intimate relationship is generally considered in the same category as violence between married partners. A clinical or behavioral definition of the problem is different from and more comprehensive than the legal definition, which varies from state to state.

State definitions may include any assault, battery, sexual assault or battery, stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment,

arson, burglary, criminal trespass, harassment, intimidation or intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty, act or threatened act of violence, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another who is or was residing in the same single dwelling unit. It may include physical harm, the threat of infliction of harm, coercion, control, property damage, or revenge. Common targets harmed by batterers to intimidate a victim include clothing, photographs, wedding gifts, books, pets, or anything else the victim values. The abuser may attempt to gain power over the victim by having complete control over the household finances, degrading the children or threatening to take them away, humiliation, or threatening suicide.

Many states do not specify the amount or extent of violence required by the perpetrator. Under the plain language of some statutes, a single act of domestic violence can suffice.

A majority of states are moving toward greater protection of children by specifically including child victims in their definitions of domestic violence. Approximately 33 states recognize children as a class of persons intended to be protected by domestic violence laws.

A few states exempt certain acts or omissions from their statutory definitions of domestic violence. The most common exemptions are in the areas of corporal punishment and self-defense when such discipline is reasonable.

For state-by-state statutory definitions of domestic violence, see the NCCAN Web site at http://www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/stats01/domviol.cfm.

ANIMAL ABUSE

Defining cruelty to animals (the legal term) or animal abuse (the operational term) is a daunting challenge. While animals experience physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, and while social animals who are deprived of companionship or who experience harsh training regimens may experience emotional abuse, these terms do not appear in statutory or operational language to the degree they do in child protection. Neighbors'concerns for the welfare of animals may not meet the legal definition of maltreatment which varies widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and agency to agency; statutory definitions, operational policies, enforcement standards and prosecution protocols are uneven at best and nonexistent at worst.

FIG. 8: TYPICAL ANIMAL CRUELTY PROHIBITIONS UNDER STATE LAWS

- overdriving
- overloading
- overworking
- torturing
- tormenting
- beating cruelly
- mutilating
- killing cruelly
- depriving of necessary sustenance and water
- failing to provide adequate shelter
- carrying an animal inhumanely in a vehicle
- abandoning an animal
- permitting any of the above to occur

Laws affecting laboratory animal care, humane slaughter, trapping and livestock transportation have their own definitions as well (Animal Welfare Institute 1990).* Certain species may be specifically excluded from legal definitions. Few resources compare these statutes on a state-by-state basis (AWI 1990; American Humane Association 1994a; Frasch et al. 1999). Often, only the most egregious, widely publicized cases provide clear-cut public consensus and commentary to prosecutors or judges.

The U.S. has the world's oldest laws for the prevention of cruelty to animals, dating to 1641 in the Colonial era (AWI 1990). All 50 states have statutes prohibiting animal cruelty, with most states classifying it as a misdemeanor offense. These laws were enacted between 1828 and 1913 primarily to protect draft horses from "overdriving" and "overloading" and similar concerns. Many state laws have changed substantially little since then *(FIG. 8)*.

Due in part to growing awareness of the "Link," more than 33 states in recent years have instituted felony-level statutes for certain forms of cruelty to animals, recognizing that extreme maltreatment or torture transcend the simple destruction of property that is the historical basis for these statutes. Egregious abuse falls in the category of violent crimes whose perpetrators need special attention (Ascione & Lockwood 2001). Five states require, and 12 states permit, persons convicted of torturing animals or of serious animal abuse to undergo psychological counseling or anger management treatment.

** The intent of this Guide is to focus on abuse and neglect of companion animals in the home environment, such as acts of physical trauma or "non-accidental injury" (Munro & Thrusfield 2001a), neglectful inattention, or inadequate housing, and to not discuss such contentious issues as rodeos, fur farming, or intensive livestock husbandry.*

THE FRUSTRATIONS OF TRYING TO ENFORCE ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS

Derek Brehm, 21, was charged with misdemeanor-level cruelty to animals for admittedly shooting a stray cat with a pellet gun, battering the cat with a golf club, and then decapitating it. It took a jury in Waco, Texas only 55 minutes to acquit him after his attorney convinced them that the Texas anti-cruelty statute did not apply to feral cats because it defines "animal" as a domesticated or captured creature. The definition has long been on the books to avoid cruelty charges being brought against hunters and trappers. (Clifton 2002c)

Of 80,000 complaints of animal abuse and neglect filed with the Massachusetts SPCA between 1975 and 1996, only 268 cases (.335%) resulted in the filing of criminal charges. Of these cases that were prosecuted, 44% resulted in convictions. Fines were ordered in 91 cases with a mean of $132 per fine; restitution was ordered in 56 cases with a mean of $99. (Restitution reimbursed guardians for veterinary expenses and did not serve to punish abusers or award punitive damages.) Probation was ordered in 59 cases with a mean of 5.5 months. Jail time was imposed in only 28 cases and the time served was brief (mean of 4.5 months). (Arluke & Luke, 1997)

Frank Ascione (2001) suggested that common key elements of "cruelty" include "socially unacceptable" practices that "intentionally" cause "unnecessary" pain, suffering, distress and/or death. Others might argue that cultural and community standards of "normal" animal husbandry practices vary widely, that it should not be necessary to prove intent, and that the definition of "unnecessary" is hopelessly vague. Although child protection laws also prohibit "unnecessary" actions, the common understanding of those words, as they apply to children, is widely understood by jurors, while the definitions as they pertain to animals rest upon technical legal interpretations (Cohn 1996).

Vague terminology may be problematic. For example, is a wolf-German shepherd hybrid a wild animal, regulated by the Division of Natural Resources, or a companion animal, regulated by Animal Control? "Adequate" shelter may mean different things for a Chihuahua and a husky. If carrying an animal "in or on a vehicle in a cruel manner" makes it illegal to lock dogs in enclosed cars on a hot day, is it illegal for dogs to be untethered in the back of a pickup truck? If pets are personal property, is killing one's own pet cruel if death occurs in a humane manner? Would certain agricultural practices be considered "cruelty" were it not for their economic significance? *(See Sidebar)*

Many words commonly found in state statutes lack consistent interpretation: "abandon," "abuse," "animal," "cruelty," "custody," "intentionally," "knowingly," "malice," "neglect," and "ownership" (Trowbridge 1998). Most definitions of cruelty are so vague and ambiguous that unless the alleged act or omission is extreme and outrageous it is unlikely that it will violate the statute. The use of such imprecise and outdated terms with little additional statutory guidance has left law enforcement and court officials confused, resulting in inconsistent and unpredictable enforcement and prosecution (Lacroix 1999). Consequently, prosecutions are often based on common sense and the circumstances of individual cases. Animal abuse may be compared, in one sense, to pornography: impossible to define, but you know it when you see it. *(FIG. 9)*

Several new definitions have been proposed. Andrew Rowan (1999) argued that "cruelty to animals" describes so many behaviors and motivations that it has lost its potency and that "cruelty" should be reserved for the small subset of cases in which the perpetrator gets satisfaction from causing harm. Careless or unintentional maltreatment where the perpetrator gains satisfaction from dominance would be considered "abuse." "Neglect" would be passive maltreatment.

FIG. 9: EXAMPLES OF ANIMAL ABUSE THAT CASEWORKERS MAY OBSERVE IN THE HOME

- Beating, kicking
- Physical injuries
- Gunshot, bow & arrow or dart wounds
- Lack of medical attention
- Evidence of dogfighting paraphernalia
- Starvation and malnutrition
- No provision for water
- Inadequate shelter for species' or breed's needs
- Severe matting of fur coat
- Infestation with parasites (fleas, ticks)
- Feces or urine throughout home
- Inadequate ventilation or ambient temperature
- Exposure of animals to hazards

*FIG. 10: CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD AROUSE CONCERNS FOR SUSPECTED CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE**

While not the most common form of child maltreatment, physical abuse is the most dramatic. Injuries to the skin and subcutaneous tissues are seen in 90% of abused children. Abusive injuries usually involve fleshy body parts that are not normally injured during accidental falls of childhood: buttocks, abdomen, inner thighs, face, mouth, cheeks, or genitals. (Children who fall and injure themselves accidentally usually have bruises on the bony prominences: chin, forehead, elbow, knee, etc.) Multiple injuries in various stages of healing suggest repeated beatings. Common indicators suggesting abuse include:

PHYSICAL INDICATORS

- Unexplained bruises and welts (especially that reflect the shape of the instrument used, e.g., belt, coat hangar, electric cord, hand)
- Unexplained burns (immersion in hot liquid, or cigarette)
- Unexplained fractures
- Unexplained lacerations or abrasions

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF CHILD

- Wary of adult contacts
- Apprehensive when other children cry
- Behavioral extremes
- Afraid to go home; runaway
- Reports injury by parents
- Anxiety about normal activities
- Complains of soreness
- Destructive to self and others
- Accident prone
- Clothing covers body

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF PARENT(S)

- Seems unconcerned about child
- Sees child as evil
- Alcohol/drug misuse
- Attempts to conceal child's injury or to protect identity of person responsible
- History of abuse as a child
- Discipline not consistent with child's age, condition or behavior
- Explanation of child's injury not consistent with type of injury
- Offers no explanation for child's injury

** No single indicator would confirm abuse or neglect, but identification of several should cause concern.*

Hannelie Vermeulen and Johannes S.J. Odendaal (1993) defined companion animal abuse as the infliction of physiological and/or psychological pain, suffering, deprivation or death of a companion animal by a human whether intentionally, unintentionally, maliciously, irresponsibly, or through ignorance. The abuse is based on the lack of fulfillment of basic needs for the animal's health and well-being. In this definition, abuse is independent of human intention or ignorance, socially sanctioned or rejected norms, and covers both single and repeated incidents.

For a compilation of all states anti-cruelty statutes relating to horses, see http://www.law.utexas.edu/dawson/cruelty/

Identifying Maltreatment: Is it abuse or neglect?

CHILD PROTECTION

The child protection and domestic violence fields have long had diagnostic guidelines to help caseworkers, physicians, law enforcement officials and other interested parties recognize telltale signs that suggest maltreatment. The animal protection field has begun producing similar materials only in recent years.

Guidebooks for medical professionals (e.g., Kessler & Hyden 1991; American Humane Association 1995, 1996) graphically describe stereotypical injuries to assess physical trauma to children. These include:

- slap pattern imprints on cheeks
- imprints of electrical cords or coat hangars on buttocks
- gag marks around wrists or mouth
- immersion burns caused by dipping children in pots of hot water in attempts to toilet-train them
- a constellation of findings known as "shaken baby syndrome"
- spiral fractures of children's limbs
- burns caused by application of lit cigarettes
- physiological and emotional symptoms of sexual abuse *(FIG. 10)*

Child neglect is more commonplace than physical abuse, emotional abuse or sexual abuse. Physical, behavioral and environmental indicators are described in *FIG. 11* and *FIG. 12*.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Abuse in domestic violence may take numerous forms (Maxwell & O'Rourke 2000):

• Physical (spitting, scratching, shoving, pushing, restraining, throwing, slapping, punching, choking, use of weapons). Photographs may help document such incidents, although bruises sometimes take several days to show up.

• Sexual (coerced sex or threat of physical force, violent sex, a kind of sex the victim does not want, sex at a time the victim does not want it). Some victims comply believing it to be their duties as a wife or in hopes the abuse will end quickly, while others find their resistance is punished.

• Psychological (stalking, brandishing weapons, suicide attempts or threats). The perpetrator's threats or intimidations may be against the victim, against others (including pets) important to the victim, or threats of suicide. Attacks on property or pets are not random outbursts of uncontrolled anger: they are perpetrators' attempts to control by expressing the message, "You could be next."

• Emotional (criticize the victim, threaten the children, mock her beliefs or appearance, call her names, challenge her sense of reality; isolate her physically from friends, family, telephone calls, the automobile or the mail). Verbal attacks and humiliations target the victim's sense of self and her vulnerabilities and are part of a pattern of coercive behaviors.

• Economic (controlling the victim's access to money, time, transportation, food, clothing, shelter, or employment; ruining her credit; not listing her as owner on property). Abusers control how finances are spent, forcing the victim to have to ask permission to spend money on basic family needs. As long as the victim is financially dependent on the abuser, she may be forced to remain with him.

• Legal (falsely reporting the victim to law enforcement, threatening deportation, threatening reports to social service agencies who might cut benefits, instituting legal procedures the victim cannot afford to fight). The abuser manipulates the legal system and uses it before the victim can, reducing her to defend herself and her children.

FIG. 11: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD AROUSE CONCERNS OF SUSPECTED CHILD NEGLECT

You should be suspicious of possible child neglect if the following conditions are present in the home and parents exhibit no concern about remedying the situation. No single indicator confirms abuse or neglect, but identification of several conditions should be cause for concern. If adverse conditions are present, notify the appropriate Child Protective Service or law enforcement agency.

SANITATION

- Human or animal feces on floors or walls
- Premises overrun with vermin
- Urine-soaked mattresses
- Unwashed eating utensils not washed

FURNISHINGS

- Inadequate number of beds
- Inadequate privacy or space for number of residents
- Appliances not working
- Cupboards barren of food, or overly full of animal food
- Children eating animal food

UTILITIES

- Heating inoperable in cold weather
- No electricity
- Gas leaks
- Toilets or plumbing systems inoperable

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Garbage rotting in house
- Encrusted or multi-layered dirt
- Bare electrical wires, frayed cords, overloaded sockets
- Exposed heating elements or fan blades
- No railings or stairs
- Abandoned or neglected animals
- Broken glass, jagged or sharp objects
- Unprotected windows accessible to child
- Medicines, cleaning compounds, and hot liquids within child's reach
- Loose boards, holes in walls, major structural repairs needed

*FIG. 12: CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD AROUSE CONCERNS FOR SUSPECTED CHILD MALTREATMENT**

PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF CHILD	BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF PARENT(S)
	NEGLECT	
• Consistent hunger • Inappropriate dress — clothing dirty or wrong for the weather • Poor hygiene • Tired, no energy • Consistent lack of supervision • Unattended medical needs • Abandonment • Lice • Distended stomach, emaciated	• Begging or stealing food • Constant fatigue or falling asleep • States there is no caretaker at home • Frequent school absence or tardiness • Destructive, pugnacious • School dropout • Early emancipation from family Alcohol or drug misuse • Sexual misconduct	• Alcohol or drug misuse • Disorganized, upset home life • Isolated from friends, relatives, or neighbors • Lacks social skills • Long-term chronic illnesses • History of neglect as a child • Lethargic, lacks motivation
	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	
• Speech disorders • Lags in physical development • Failure to thrive • Asthma, severe allergies, ulcers • Substance abuse	• Habit disorders (sucking, rocking) • Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive, cruelty to animals) • Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, inhibition of play) • Behavioral extremes • Inappropriately adult or infantile • Mental/emotional developmental lags • Delinquent behavior	• Children in family are treated unequally • Blames or belittles child • Cold and rejecting • Withholds love • Lacks nurturing skills • Ignores children's problems
	SEXUAL ABUSE	
• Difficulty in walking or sitting • Torn, stained or bloody underclothing • Pain, itching, bruises or bleeding in genital area • Venereal disease • Frequent urinary or yeast infection • Frequent unexplained sore throats Pregnancy	• Inability to concentrate • Frequent absences from school, often justified by caretaker • Abrupt changes in behavior • Depression, excessive crying • Clinging behavior • Lack of self-esteem, low self-image • Reluctance to undress • No participation in physical activities • Afraid to be alone with men • Severe drop in school performance • Seductive or promiscuous behavior • Repeated attempts to run away • Poor peer relationships • Threatened by physical contact • Role reversal, overly concerned for siblings • Self-destructive	• Jealous or overly protective of child • Isolation of child from friends • Frequent absences from home by caretaker • Blurring of generational boundaries • Role reversal of mother and daughter • Rigid, restrictive home environment • Alcohol or drug misuse

** No single indicator would confirm abuse or neglect, but identification of several should cause concern.*

SOURCES: American Association for Protecting Children: *Guidelines for Schools* (Englewood, CO: American Humane Association), and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: *The Educator's Role in Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office)

See *FIG. 13* for common conditions and risk factors for domestic violence. For a list of behavioral characteristics of batterers, battered mates and children in homes with domestic violence, see www.latham.org.

ANIMAL ABUSE

Gary Patronek (1998) developed an objective system to help veterinarians and animal protection officers making visual observations of animals whose well-being may be suspect. The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC) scale is based on an operational, rather than a subjective or motivational, definition of neglect. Numeric scales evaluate body condition, risk from exposure to temperature extremes, and sanitation and grooming as indicators of adequate animal husbandry. The TACC scores are similar to child care rating scales developed for social workers who are assessing infants at risk of neglect. A pdf version of the TACC is available at http://www.hsus2.org/sheltering/magazine/currentissue/jul_aug98/

Helen Munro, a Scottish veterinary pathologist who first published the term "battered pets" (1996), identified a wide range of traumatic physical injuries that should cause veterinarians to suspect non-accidental injury (NAI). These include bruises, fractures, repetitive injuries, burns and scalds, stab and incised wounds, poisoning, asphyxiation and drowning, injuries specifically caused by firearms (2001b), sexual abuse (2001c), and Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (2001d). Risk factors that should prompt investigators to suspect animal maltreatment rather than accidental causes of injuries include (2001a):

- discrepant case histories told by different family members
- history not consistent with the injury
- utilization of several veterinary facilities by clients hoping to evade detection or suspicion
- multiple fractures of differing ages in the same animal
- injuries to multiple animals in the same household
- repetitive history of accidents, deaths or turnover of animals
- awareness from other sources of violence in the home
- low income, substance abuse, or other human factors that put the family at risk
- unusual behavioral signs exhibited by animal

Munro noted that veterinarians are often at a disadvantage as they have not been trained to respond appropriately to discrepant case histories.

Environmental and lifestyle concerns *(FIG. 14)* also prompt investigators to suspect animal maltreatment.

The animal welfare investigator is not expected to know the intricacies of the child protection system, nor is the CPS or domestic violence caseworker expected to be an expert on animal welfare and behavior. But the observation of any of these conditions, and particularly multiple factors, should be "red flag" markers for concern; details should be added

*FIG. 13: CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD AROUSE CONCERNS FOR SUSPECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Certain injuries and behaviors are suggestive of domestic violence. You should be suspicious if you learn of:

- Multiple injuries, abrasions, and contusions
- Injuries to the face and neck, breasts, abdomen, and genitals, suggestive of deliberate assault
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Suicide attempts
- Child abuse
- Animal abuse
- Hesitancy in providing information about an injury, where warranted
- Excessive fear, disorientation, or despression over a minor injury, or minimization of a major injury
- Delayed report of injury
- Increased anxiety in the batterer's presence

RISK FACTORS*

- Financial problems, unemployment
- Divorce or separation during pregnancy
- Drug/alcohol abuse by victim or perpetrator
- Victim or perpetrator was physically abused as a child
- Overly protective or controlling perpetrator
- Suicide attempts by victim or perpetrator
- Mental illness of victim or perpetrator
- Violent behavior by perpetrator toward pets or children

**No single indicator would confirm abuse or neglect, but identification of several factors should cause concern. If adverse conditions are present, notify local law enforcement agency.*

FIG. 14: CONDITIONS THAT ARE HIGHLY SUGGESTIVE OF ANIMAL ABUSE

1. ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS

- Poor physical condition
- inadequate food, water and/or shelter or access to same
- lack of veterinary care
- dehydration
- excessive matting of fur
- parasitic infestation
- abandonment: guardian has departed
- collar has grown into neck

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- filth and poor sanitation
- overcrowding or excessive numbers of animals
- dead animals on property
- inadequate ventilation, lighting or ambient temperature in animal housing areas
- feces and/or urine throughout house
- farm or exotic animals in residential area
- animals housed in motor vehicles

3. CAREGIVER CONCERNS

- caregiver is unable to afford human food or animal food
- person lives in isolation
- evidence of ritualistic, religious or satanic sacrifice
- poor personal hygiene
- people eating animal food
- sexual abuse of animals
- evidence of animal fighting paraphernalia or excessive numbers of pit bull-type dogs

4. PHYSICAL INJURIES TO ANIMAL

- bruising
- fractures
- repetitive injuries
- lesions
- burns and scalds
- ocular injuries
- internal injuries
- recreational drugs administered to pets
- poison
- gunshot, dart or arrow wounds
- malnutrition
- drowning
- asphyxiation
- sexual abuse

to the case file as background information and, where appropriate, cross-reported to another agency so additional investigations and interventions may be considered.

When there are excessive number of animals or their condition is questionable, when a child's injury seems unusual, when a parent seems unable to cope, when crises overwhelm the family, when there have been previous reports of abuse or neglect, when stories conflict or there are multiple or repeated incidents of abuse, when one member of the family appears to be in terror, there is cause for concern. When in doubt, be suspicious and share your information with the appropriate agency.

"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
Anthropologist

5 Systems
Who Handles Abuse Cases?

Child Protective Services (CPS)

Government intervention in child welfare is comparatively recent and arose from the doctrine of *parens patriae,* which vests in the state a right of guardianship of minors. This evolved into the principle that the community, as well as the parent, has a strong interest in the nurturing of children who represent the community's future. Schools, juvenile courts, and social service agencies derive their authority from the state's power to ensure the protection of children as a unique class of citizens.

Raising children is a challenge, especially in an era that includes more teenaged parents and single-parent families, fewer extended families, high rates of homelessness and substance abuse, and dozens of other risk factors. Child protection evolves from the belief that a multi-disciplinary group of community resources should develop and implement programs to strengthen families and prevent the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. This intervention must be sensitive to differences in cultures, religions and values, and recognize that most parents do not intend to harm their children; rather, maltreatment occurs from a combination of psychological, social, situational and societal forces. CPS workers believe that adults have the capacity to change for the better if given sufficient help and resources (DePanfilis & Salus 1992). **Thffewer**

The need for special legal and judicial mechanisms for children's care and protection date from the turn of the last century with the establishment of separate juvenile courts. It was not until 1963, however, that child maltreatment issues prompted the first model statute mandating the reporting of child abuse. Today, every state has statutes requiring the reporting of suspected child maltreatment.

The federal government adopted a direct role in child maltreatment policy with the passage of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in 1974, which allocates federal funds to states for the implementation of programs designed to identify, treat and prevent child abuse. CAPTA also established the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) as the focal point for federal programs to collect, analyze and disseminate data and to help states and communities implement child abuse programs. A 1988 amendment to CAPTA directed the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national data collection and analysis program on child abuse and neglect.

Under CAPTA, each state is responsible for designing and implementing its own department of human or social services to coordinate child protective services administered locally in each county, parish, borough or municipality. These local entities include departments of Social Services, Human Resources, Youth and Family Services, or similar designations which respond to reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. They protect children and rehabilitate families through investigation, assessment, treatment and coordination of services. Child Protective Services (CPS) is the generic term describing the public agency legally mandated to intervene on behalf of abused and neglected children and their families. An independent network of private, nonprofit agencies also help.

The CPS agency maintains a social work orientation, with a focus on protecting the child from further abuse and neglect and maintaining the integrity of the family: where Animal Protection often seeks to *remove* the victim from the household, CPS tends to support the preservation or *reunification* of the family. Removal of a child from the family is used only as a last resort to ensure the child's safety.

CPS agencies provide services to prevent future instances of abuse and neglect of at-risk children and to remedy harm that has occurred *(FIG. 15)*. Preventive services include respite care, parenting education, housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, day care, home visits, individual and family counseling, and homemaker, transportation, crisis and domestic violence services.

Remedial services are based on assessments of the family's strengths, weaknesses and needs, leading to the development of appropriate plans to protect the children. Remedial services may include family-based, in-home, foster care and court services (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 2001b).

FIG. 15: ROLE OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

CPS workers, in their response to reports of child abuse:

- screen referrals to determine which are valid
- investigate reports of abuse by contacting the child, family and alleged abuser
- determine the child's need for medical attention
- contact appropriate law enforcement personnel
- assess and mediate family problems
- establish a therapeutic relationship with family members
- advocate for the child and family
- coordinate services
- provide treatment
- draft reports for the court
- arrange rehabilitative services

CPS work includes:

- ***Intake,*** or the investigation and assessment of a child at risk for abuse or neglect
- ***Child placement services,*** or foster care or alternative care services
- ***Ongoing protective services supervision*** of children and families; and
- ***Adoption services*** for children who cannot return safely home

Most CPS agencies receive reports 24 hours a day through hotlines or referrals to on-call caseworkers. Community child protection systems include public health professionals, physicians, domestic violence shelter staff, educators, self-help groups and animal shelter personnel. Many of these reports come from individuals included in that state's system of "mandated reporters" *(See Chapter 6).*

JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURTS

Juvenile and family courts promote the best interests of children during domestic violence, child abuse or disputes involving alimony, divorce, division of property, custody or child support. Court intervention may be required when families refuse to cooperate, the child is in imminent danger, or families are unwilling to accept services and the safety of the child is a concern.

Court hearings include:

- ***Emergency hearings*** to determine the need for emergency protection of a child
- ***Adjudicatory hearings*** to determine whether a child has been maltreated or some other basis exists for the state to intervene
- ***Dispositional hearings*** to determine the actions to be taken after adjudication
- ***Review hearings*** to review dispositions to determine the need for continued placement, services or other court actions.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Each state has **criminal statutes** defining punishable child abuse and neglect offenses such as sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or child endangerment. Responsibility for investigation and prosecution rests with law enforcement agencies and the district attorney. The law contemplates a cooperative effort and agencies are encouraged to communicate freely and work with each other.

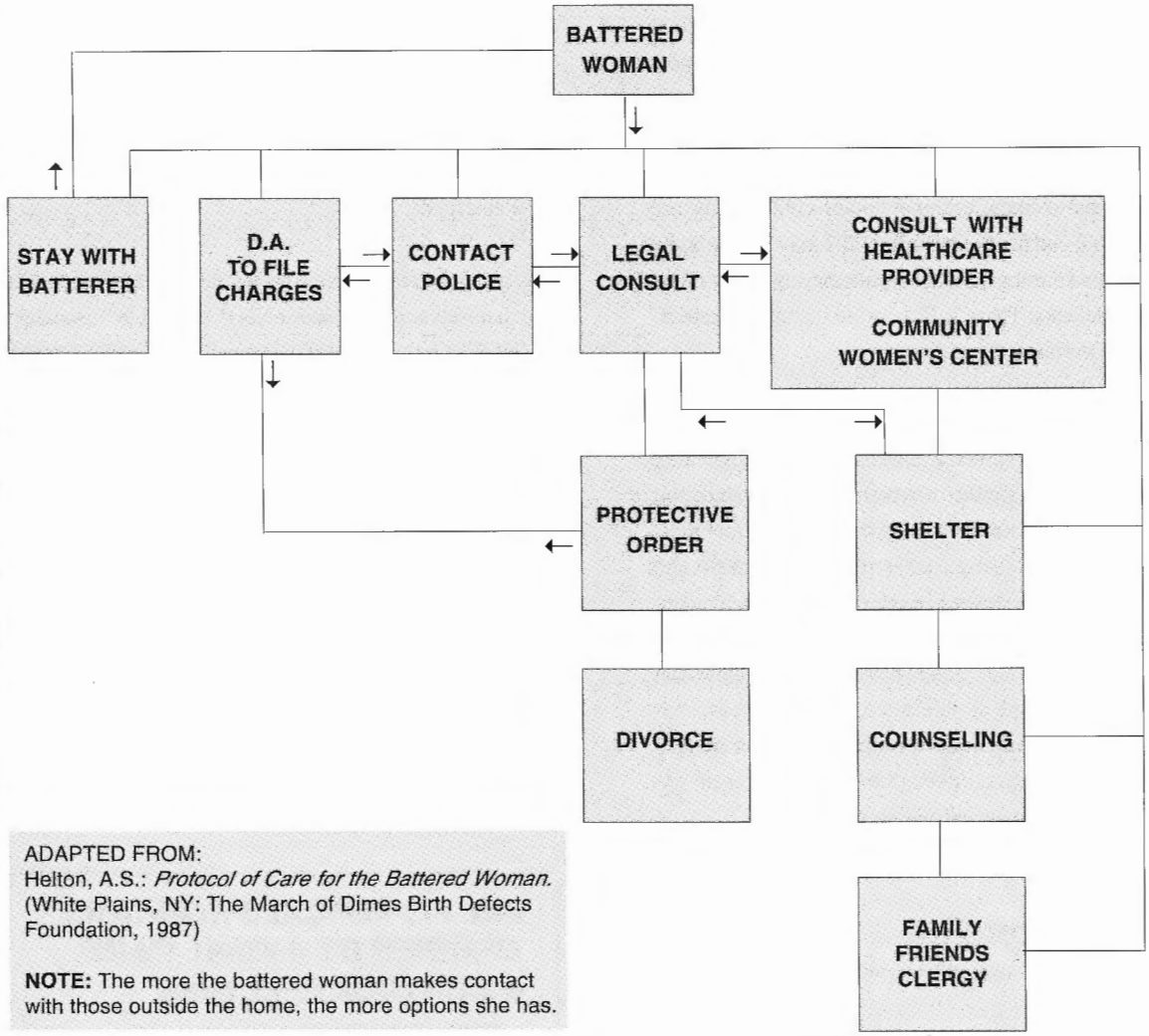
Criminal courts have no authority concerning the child victim. Criminal prosecution aims to punish, deter or rehabilitate the offender rather than ensure the safety of the child. Criminal and civil proceedings may overlap, making coordination important.

Domestic Violence Prevention

In addition to all municipal and county law enforcement agencies which routinely (and often reluctantly)* investigate reports of intimate partner violence, some 2,000 independent, local programs provide services for battered women and their families. Most of these programs operate in urban areas; isolation, communication and transportation challenges, law enforcement constraints, and social, religious and community values create barriers that make it especially difficult for rural victims to seek shelter, despite being at increased risk for domestic violence (Maxwell & O'Rourke 2000, Lembke 1999). In some areas, overcrowded safehouses turn away four women (and their children) for every woman they can accept. In many safehouses, some 50% of the residents are children. Many victims also have pets in need of

** The criminal justice system often resists intervening in domestic violence due to a widely-held belief in family privacy and law enforcement officers' experience that such interventions pose great risks to themselves with little chance of positive resolution of the problems. As early as 1868 a North Carolina court ruled* (State v. Rhodes): *"However great are the evils of ill temper, quarrels, and even personal conflicts inflicting only temporary pain, they are not comparable with the evils which would result from raising the curtain and exposing to public curiosity and criticism the nursery and the bed chamber."*

FIG. 16: A CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF BATTERED WOMEN'S LEGAL OPTIONS



ADAPTED FROM:
Helton, A.S.: *Protocol of Care for the Battered Woman.* (White Plains, NY: The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, 1987)

NOTE: The more the battered woman makes contact with those outside the home, the more options she has.

emergency shelter. Reports have identified pets as deterring from 18% to 40% of women from seeking shelter, out of fear for what will happen to the animals left behind (Ascione 2000). Typical safehouse programs include: emergency shelter; counseling services for victims, children and batterers; advocacy; crisis hotlines; information referrals; educational outreach; and support groups for victims and survivors.

In 1970 there were no shelters for battered women. Today there are more than 1,000 such safehouses founded on the belief that women and children are entitled to a safe environment free from the threat of violence. Domestic violence coalitions have been established in every state. *(For a list of coalitions, see http://cwolf.uaa.alaska.edu/~afrhm1/index.html)*

WHAT ARE A VICTIM'S LEGAL OPTIONS?

Victims of intimate partner abuse generally have two legal recourses: civil or criminal charges. The steps to a civil action are to register a complaint, to have a hearing, and to obtain a court order for various forms of relief. One form of emergency relief is a temporary restraining order that sets constraints to protect the victim's environment and safety but which does not result in a criminal record for, or preclude the filing of criminal charges against, the batterer. Other civil actions include legal separation, child custody and support, and divorce. *(FIG. 16)*

A criminal complaint can be filed by the victim through any law enforcement or prosecuting officer. The sequence is then investigation and, if warranted, arrest, criminal charges, arraignment, hearing and trial. A police officer can make an

arrest when he or she has probable cause to believe that an offense (including violation of a protective order) has been committed. A conviction results in sentencing, which may include probation, jail time and/or fines, and a criminal record. The civil and criminal parts of the justice system may overlap or intersect, making interagency coordination important.

For the battered woman, criminal and/or civil charges are often confusing and hostile remedies. She may be portrayed as having earned the abuse, or her abuser may mount a "crime of passion" defense. There is little or no mandatory reporting of suspected domestic violence.

Arresting domestic violence offenders often results in decreasing incidents of violence. Some states are toughening their legal sanctions against batterers, such as mandating arrests of offenders, rather than just issuing a summons, thereby ensuring the suspect takes the case seriously and giving the victim time to escape the house. Statewide central registries of restraining orders are giving investigators clues to suspects' previous violent histories and accurate data regarding the incidence of domestic violence. Arrests and/or incarceration for violations of restraining orders are also mandated in some states, although there is little or no enforcement of out-of-state restraining orders.

Animal Protection

Unlike CPS, no federal agencies coordinate or standardize animal protection for household pets. Although national laws regulate the shipping of livestock, humane slaughter, laboratory animal welfare, marine mammal protection, interstate commerce in wildlife and environmental issues, no federal laws apply to animal abuse in the home.

State authority is divided among departments. A Division of Natural Resources or Wildlife regulates hunting; a Department of Agriculture, which often supports industrial interests, regulates livestock; a Health Department regulates rabies vaccinations.

Most anti-cruelty laws are enacted on the state level but enforced locally by humane societies or SPCAs or, in their absence or if they lack enforcement powers, by police departments and sheriff's offices. Animal welfare is not a primary concern for legislators.* Some states mandate certification for animal protection personnel or standards for animal shelters, but these are the exception. Meanwhile, an uncoordinated hodgepodge of local ordinances and programs have emerged.

Any group can incorporate under the laws of their state and call themselves a "humane society" or "SPCA" (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) or similar term. The names are synonymous and rarely indicate a branch or affiliation with a national or state group. National organizations may offer technical assistance, but the local group is autonomous and under no obligation to follow their guidance. Adherence to such professional standards as exist is voluntary. Some groups tend toward the idealistic or specialize in single issues; others are pragmatic. They may or may not operate a shelter to house, adopt and, when necessary, euthanize unwanted animals.

In addition to some 2,200 nonprofit animal welfare† agencies who protect animals from people, some 4,400 municipal and county animal control† agencies protect people from

FIG. 17: TYPICAL PROGRAMS OFFERED BY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL SHELTERS

- cruelty investigations
- adoptions
- rescues of abused animals
- subsidization for low-income persons needing veterinary or other animal-related care
- therapeutic interventions to hospitals and nursing homes
- educational programs to schools
- information and referrals
- emergency shelter for animals belonging to the homeless or displaced

** As a peculiar example of the legislative relationship between animal and child maltreatment, the author once testified before a state legislative committee considering a bill to regulate dogs riding untethered in pickup trucks. The committee killed the bill because there was no similar law restricting children from riding in the back of pickups, and the legislators did not want to appear to favor animals over children.*

† "Animal welfare" and "animal control" should not be confused with "animal rights," which describes an activist philosophy which argues that animals have intrinsic rights that should be guaranteed. Animal welfare and animal control groups tend to be more focused on the realities of operating shelters for abused, neglected, stray and homeless animals.

animals by enforcing leash, license, rabies and animal nuisance ordinances. Duties may overlap, including investigating suspected animal abuse. In some cases, nonprofit humane organizations contract with city or county governments to provide field enforcement, dog and/or cat licensing and/or impoundment services. *(FIG. 17)*

Many animal welfare and animal control agencies have been granted governmental powers to enforce animal abuse laws, initiate charges against a violator, and take custody of maltreated animals — but many more do not. Many also function in an educational or advocacy role. *(FIG. 18)*

FIG. 18: ANIMAL PROTECTION AGENCY POWERS

The ability of local agencies to intervene varies and may include powers:

- to file charges for acts of animal abuse
- to take custody, with or without a warrant, of a maltreated animal
- to make arrests
- to carry weapons
- to be deputized as law enforcement officers with regular or specialized powers

LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION

A key distinction between animal protection and the other family violence prevention fields is that since animals are still considered private property, anti-cruelty laws have been enacted not because legislators believe the victims have inherent "rights," but rather to protect personal property and public morals.

The belief in human dominion over other animals, and our responsibilities to protect them, came from biblical sources (e.g. Genesis 1:26). Anthropocentrism was reinforced during the Enlightenment by such figures as Francis Bacon (1561-1626) and Rene Descartes (1596-1650). Popular tradition has long held that people who are cruel to animals are more likely to behave sadistically toward other people. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-74), and English painter William Hogarth (1697-1764) argued that cruelty to animals could have a brutalizing influence on humans and dispose them to inflict cruelty upon fellow human beings.

In recent years, recognition of ecological and environmental concerns, attempts to save endangered species and "charismatic megafauna," appreciation of pets for their therapeutic value, widespread acceptance of pets as "ambassadors of nature" in an increasingly urbanized society, and increasing awareness of the links between animal abuse and human violence have caused many people to reconsider the legal frameworks under which animal protection operates.

Today, the vast majority of pet owners cite "companionship" or "friendship" as their primary reason for keeping pets, rather than more utilitarian values. People do not value their animals primarily as property or objects, but rather as distinctive personalities with whom they have affectionate relationships (Serpell 1996). Future technological advances in xenotransplantation (transplanting animal organs into human species) and in transgenic animals (introducing foreign genes into animals using recombinant DNA technology to alter the basic genetic make-up of a living creature) may erode the legal boundary between humans and other animals (Cassidy 2001).

In the meantime, animal care and control agencies, and the criminal justice system, operate under a unique, disparate body of laws that have emerged over 350 years to codify our responsibilities toward animals, although the "rights" of animals are still in question.

What are the commonalities between child protection, domestic violence and animal protection agencies?

Caregivers in child protection, domestic violence and animal protection have much in common. They often deal with the same perpetrators. Each field conducts law enforcement and court procedures under the same Constitutional provisions. Each is historically understaffed with inadequate resources to respond proactively to caseloads. Each is highly susceptible to political pressures. Each is challenged by a public that wants results but is reluctant to get involved. Each is staffed by caregivers who want to make a difference.

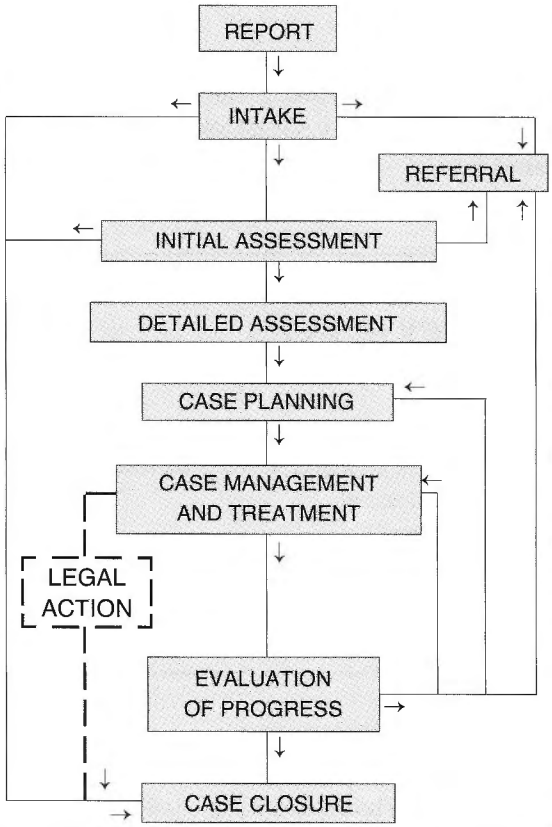
The response systems by which allegations of abuse and neglect are identified, reported, investigated, managed and closed are similar for each domain. The case management

process is similar whether the victim is a child, intimate partner or animal and is summarized in *FIG. 19.* Note that legal action, i.e. the filing of formal charges, is not necessarily an outcome of intervention.

Victims, both humans and animals, also share several common denominators (Maxwell & O'Rourke 2000):

1. Risk of physical and psychological injury
2. Unexplained physical trauma
3. Behavior changes
4. Failure to thrive, withdrawal and passive behavior
5. Hostility and lack of trust
6. Desperation to please anyone showing kindness
7. Still show love for their abuser
8. Run away from their abuser.

FIG. 19: MODEL OF CASE MANAGEMENT FOR ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS



6 Reporting
How do I report suspected abuse?

Mandated and Protected Reporters

In 1962, Henry Kempe and colleagues published a landmark article defining the "battered-child syndrome" (Kempe et al. 1962).The article described deliberate or unreasonably negligent parental behavior causing trauma in children. (At the time, injured children were commonly labelled "easily-bruised" or "accident-prone".) Adding the battered child syndrome to the list of recognized medical diagnoses conferred legitimacy upon persons attempting to intervene on behalf of children, and prompted widespread interest in child maltreatment.

Kempe suggested mandatory reporting requirements for physicians, who were reluctant to consider child abuse as a cause of physical injuries despite obvious circumstantial evidence. The article and ensuing public interest brought about initiatives to develop mandatory reporting legislation.

In 1963, the Children's Bureau, then of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, drafted the first model child abuse reporting statute. Physicians were the focus as the professional group most likely by virtue of their training and experience to diagnose accurately the symptoms of child abuse or neglect. The statute also mandated that criminal sanctions be applied if a physician knowingly and willfully failed to report. Shortly thereafter, the American Humane Association, the American Medical Association, and the Council of State Governments developed their own model reporting provisions.

By 1967, every state had enacted legislation that included physicians as mandated reporters of non-accidental physical injury. Other forms of maltreatment, such as neglect and sexual and emotional abuse, were added later. Mandatory reporting laws were expanded in the late 1960s and early 1970s to include social workers, teachers, and a range of health service professionals (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, 1999). In the 1990s animal protection officials began integrating animal care and control officers and veterinary medicine professionals into the system.

Today, all states have mandatory reporting laws for medical, educational, legal and social services professionals who come into contact with children; some states require all persons to report suspected maltreatment. Reporting laws specify to whom the report is made, the contents of the report, interagency cooperation, investigation procedures, penalties for failure to report, immunity for reporting, and other details.*

Mandatory reporting laws:

- Promote uniformity through a single definition of child abuse and neglect
- Specify the conditions under which the state may intervene in family life
- Encourage a therapeutic and treatment-oriented approach, rather than a punitive one
- Encourage coordination and cooperation among all disciplines involved

It is important to note that the law guarantees mandated reporters absolute immunity and confidentiality: they cannot be sued or sanctioned for making a reasonable report in good faith and with good cause. As a general rule professionals not on the specified list, or the general public, *may* report suspected child abuse in confidence and with immunity (again presuming the report is made in good faith). Veterinarians are considered mandated reporters of suspected child abuse in Colorado and California.

Mandated reporting is not as prevalent in the domestic violence and animal protection fields. While health care providers are mandated reporters of suspected domestic violence in only five states (California, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island), many states require health care professionals to report an injury when a gun or knife is the suspected weapon.

In Minnesota, Arizona, Alabama, West Virginia, Alberta and Quebec, veterinarians are mandated to report suspected ani

**For a state-by-state list of mandated reporters, see www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/stats01/mandrep.cfm. For a summary of mandatory reporting, see www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/sag/manda.cfm*

mal abuse or neglect to humane agents and peace officers. (Arizona, California and Wisconsin require veterinarians to reported suspected dogfighting.) At least 13 states, while not mandating animal abuse reporting, provide civil and criminal immunity for veterinarians who make a report of suspected animal maltreatment in good faith. Some states exempt persons from liability for reporting animal abuse or rendering humane assistance to an injured companion animal.

Florida and San Diego County, Calif., require child protection personnel to report suspected animal abuse to humane authorities. (The State of California encourages CPS social workers to report suspected animal abuse, but does not require it, as the state lacked funding to train its social workers accordingly.)

California, Connecticut, Florida and Ohio require animal care and control personnel to report suspected child maltreatment to CPS officials. Louisiana mandates cross-reporting between animal protection and human welfare agencies when investigations of neglect or violence find evidence that the victims may include both animals and humans.

Should I tell anyone?

Everyone with a conscience, in general, and professional caregivers in particular, have a moral if not a legal obligation to report suspicions of maltreatment to appropriate agencies. However, these individuals may be hesitant to report for several reasons (Arkow 1994, 1999). *(See FIG 20)*

However, failing to report suspected abuse or neglect only serves to condone and perpetuate the maltreatment and places others at risk. Reporting does not require someone to be an expert, or to serve as judge and jury; it merely means that someone with common sense and some professional expertise has reasonable cause to draw a serious matter to the attention of a true expert agency which will investigate the situation further and take such steps as may be appropriate. Cross-reporting is a way for understaffed community service agencies to pool resources and work together more effectively.

Whether making a report because of state mandates, organizational policy or individual concern, the following suggestions can help caregivers address their reservations:

FIG. 20: WHY ARE PEOPLE RELUCTANT TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE?

Many cases of family violence never come to the attention of CPS, law enforcement, or animal protection agencies. There are several reasons for this:

- People don't want to get involved
- Fear of economic reprisal or erosion of client base
- Inadequate training; reporters may not know what signs to look for
- Inexperience in dealing with clients who present misleading or false histories
- People don't want to report an abuser whom they know well
- People may think they can accomplish more by working with the family themselves
- Reporting may jeopardize a professional-client relationship or confidentiality restrictions
- People presume nothing will be done
- People may think a report will subject the victim to even greater risk
- Reporters may be afraid of retaliation
- There may be no local agency to which a report can be made
- People resent governmental intrusion into what they feel are private matters
- People feel the legal headaches and public exposure will not be worth it
- Lack of support from peers or professional associations

In comparison, caregivers who set the standards by reporting convince the public that abuse and neglect are matters worthy of widespread concern.

What if I am wrong?

Nothing happens automatically as a result of a report: children will not be summarily removed, husbands will not be jailed, animals will not be seized. Rather, a report pins down a specific time, location and circumstances in which a responsible adult became concerned about the safety or welfare of a person or animal and requested an assessment by someone more skilled. What happens next depends on what the assessing agency finds.

Don't people have the right to live without government interference?

Petkeeping, marriage, and children are responsibilities, not rights. Freedom from harm and access to basic food, shelter, clothing, medical care and supervision are fundamental values in our society.

What if the perpetrator finds out I made the report?

Although responsible agencies make every effort to keep the identity of reporters confidential, occasionally this information is released or the offender guesses the identity. But if you are worried about your safety, imagine how vulnerable the victim is.

What if all I have is hearsay?

Typically, a report must be made when a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to know, suspect or believe that a victim has been harmed. Actual knowledge of the alleged abuse is not required. When in doubt, report it to an appropriate agency where a professional can evaluate it more closely.

Will anything constructive really happen?

Caseloads have grown to uncontrollable levels in many areas, and caseworkers may be reluctant to accept new reports. Over-reporting may compromise agencies' abilities to screen and prioritize investigations and provide services. However, cross-reporting uncovers instances of abuse not known previously. If no reports are made, nothing constructive will happen.

What will my role be once a report is made?

The investigators will determine whether the referral warrants further action. You may be asked to provide more details. If the case goes to court, you may be subpoenaed to testify. You may be invited to help plan a multi-disciplinary response.

Professional confidentiality concerns

Caregivers are often bound by professional, ethical or legal requirements that treat their interactions with patients or clients as confidential. The discovery of interpersonal violence in a client or patient's history may be morally troubling and professionally problematic.

Under the law, communications in certain relationships, such as between an attorney and client, physician and patient, and clergy and penitent, are often protected by a privilege. Approximately 26 states specify that such communications are privileged and not subject to mandatory reporting. However, there is a strong public policy in many jurisdictions in favor of disclosing allegation of child abuse. Consequently, about half of the states specify that certain privileges do not negate the duty to report, or otherwise permit such reports. Most states abrogate the physician/patient, mental health professional/patient, and husband/wife privileges and a mandated reporter is required to cooperate in the ensuing investigation (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 1999).

An interesting example of how a profession deals with confidentiality is found in the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics, revised in 1999, state (2001, pp. 39-41):

> "Veterinarians and their associates should protect the personal privacy of patients and clients. Veterinarians should not reveal confidences unless required to by law or unless it becomes necessary to protect the health and welfare of other individuals or animals."

These Principles also reaffirm the veterinarian's public health responsibilities which presumably include prevention of child abuse and domestic violence:

> "The responsibilities of the veterinary profession extend beyond individual patients and clients to society in general. Veterinarians are encouraged to make their knowledge available to their communities and to provide their services for activities that protect public health."

These Principles further affirm that "the information within veterinary medical records is considered privileged and confidential. It must not be released except by court order or consent of the owner of the patient."

Because legal mandates and protections regarding veterinary response to suspected abuse have been inconsistent, poorly publicized, and rarely incorporated into basic or continuing education, the AVMA approved the following Animal Welfare Provision in 1999:

> "The AVMA recognizes that veterinarians may have occasion to observe cases of cruelty to animals, animal abuse, or animal neglect as defined by state or local ordinances. When these observations occur, the AVMA considers it the responsibility of the veterinarian to report such cases to the appropriate authorities. Such disclosures may be necessary to protect the health and welfare of animals and people." (AVMA 2001)

Practitioners who are reluctant to report suspected maltreatment, or confused about their responsibilities and liabilities, may be relieved to know that reporting is often the last resort. More frequently, in a non-mandated situation, a professional may provide client guidance or support to help correct abusive and neglectful situations.

How and when to make a report

Every state specifies procedure when reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, including an initial oral report and a follow-up written report. The majority of states require that oral reports be made "immediately" to the specified authority; several states say the report must be made "promptly," and a few specify a limit of 24 or 48 hours. Written reports are required in some states, while other states require them only upon request. Comprehensive, accurate and timely reports are critical to secure evidence, protect the victim, and support prosecutions. *(FIG. 21)*

Allegations may be reported to any appropriate official agency. Several states have specific provisions for reporting a suspicious child death, drug-exposed infants or child pornography (U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 1999).

Reporters need not conduct detailed investigations. They should establish the credibility of the victim and the reasonableness of the suspicion before reporting their concerns. Reports should focus on the specific conditions of the victims, not on questionable lifestyles or behaviors of the perpetrators. Instead, describe the current harm and the likelihood of continuing risk. Do not confuse poverty with neglect. Progressive agencies are modifying their initial assessment

FIG. 21: THE VALUE OF COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS

The more comprehensive a report is, the better the investigating agency will be able to accept the referral and determine whether it is worth following up. Complete reports:

- Help determine if the victim is in immediate life-threatening danger which might require emergency removal
- Help determine the location of the victim and the perpetrator so investigation can be initiated
- Help identify other sources of information which can aid in determining the risk factors for the victim
- Help determine if there are others at risk
- Provide information which might be necessary in a court proceeding

INFORMATION WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

- Specific address
- Name, age, gender of victim
- Specific date and time incident is alleged to have occurred or conditions were observed
- Name and address of person suspected of abuse
- Nature and extent of injuries
- Knowledge of previous maltreatment
- Composition of family
- Employment situation
- Description of home environment
- Name, address, telephone, and occupation of reporter; how reporter came to know about the incident or conditions; any action taken by the reporter
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of other witnesses
- Any other information that may be helpful

forms to include observations of other forms of maltreatment which may then be cross-reported to the appropriate agency. *(See FIG. 22 for an example from Guelph, Ontario).*

Do I have immunity?

CAPTA requires states to provide immunity from prosecution for persons reporting suspected child maltreatment in good faith. These statutes protect reporters from both civil and criminal liability. While these provisions may not prevent the filing of civil lawsuits, they generally prevent an outcome favorable to the plaintiff. In a few states immunity is absolute for mandated reporters but permissive reporters are protected only if reports are made in good faith.

Penalties for failure to report

About 44 states include specific penalties for mandated reporters who knowingly, willfully, intentionally or negligently fail to report suspected child abuse. Typically, sanctions are misdemeanors although there may be felony offenses if the child has died, has been sexually assaulted, or has been a victim of a serious crime. Criminal prosecutions for failure to report are rare. However, the civil liability for mandated reporters who fail to report can be quite significant.

These provisions generally do not pertain to reporting suspected domestic violence or animal abuse.

How reports of suspected abuse are handled

INTAKE: *How urgent is the problem?*

Intake is the point at which reports are received concerning suspected maltreatment. Protection agencies ask two primary questions at this point:

1. Does the information as reported constitute a standard of maltreatment sufficient to warrant further investigation?

2. How urgent or life-threatening is the situation?

To answer these, three factors must be considered:

1. Sufficient information must be gathered from the reporter to allow accurate decision-making.

2. The information must be evaluated to determine if it meets statutory and agency guidelines.

3. The credibility of the reporter must be assessed.

Once the agency determines an initial assessment is valid and further action is warranted, the level of risk to the victim is evaluated to help guide the immediacy of the response. Some agencies have their own guidelines for response times; in some states, response time may be set by law, particularly for CPS. The law enforcement agency may have to obtain a court order, restraining order or search warrant. *(FIG. 23)*

INVESTIGATION: *Is the complaint valid?*

Referrals to agencies originate from many sources: neighbors, relatives, schools, other agencies, hospitals, mandated reporters or the victims themselves. The intake workers' responsibility is to screen the referral, gather as much data as possible, and respond in a timely manner. Reports may be:

- ***Unfounded:*** reporter is uninformed or provides insufficient or inaccurate information. No further investigation is warranted.

- ***Vindictive:*** reporter has an ulterior motive to harass the defendant; no true danger to the victim.

- ***Marginal:*** information may not be sufficient for further action, or extenuating circumstances make the effectiveness of action questionable

- ***Valid:*** further investigation, prosecution, removal of the victim, or other actions are warranted.

In an investigation, conditions are documented and validated to determine whether the report is substantiated. Constitutionally-accorded rules of evidence, and of search and seizure, are followed.*

**An extreme example of how Constitutionality may supersede common sense came in an Oregon case some years ago where an animal control agency lost a prosecution against a man charged with letting his dog defecate in a neighbor's yard. The officers had failed to secure and store the crucial evidence until the case came to trial!*

FIG. 22 Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County
&
The Guelph Humane Society
Initial Intake Check-list

Client Name: _____
Client Address: _____
Client Phone #: _____

Worker Name: _____ Date of Visit: _____

Some direct questions may need to be asked by each sector in order to gather the necessary information to complete this form.

F&CS Worker to Complete

Animals in home ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, list the following types and numbers of each (i.e. 2 dogs, 3 cats, 1 bird) _____
_____
Observation of animals ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, state why (i.e. outdoors) _____
_____
If yes, complete the following:
1. Concern with animal's physical condition
❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, describe _____
_____
_____
2. Appropriate living condition (i.e. housing & environment ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, expand _____
_____
_____
3. Evidence/odor of excrement (i.e. feces, urine)
❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand _____
_____
_____
4. Injuries noted on the animal ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, expand _____
_____
_____
5. Animal behavior problems (i.e. aggressive or withdrawn) ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand _____
_____
_____
6. Other comments, if applicable _____
_____
_____
_____

Report to the Humane Society
❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, list date _____
Name of person receiving report _____
_____

Humane Society Worker to Complete

Children in home ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, list the following:
Names and ages of each child:
_____
_____
_____
Observation of children: ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, state why (i.e. at school)
_____
_____
If yes, complete the following:
1. Clothed appropriately ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, expand _____
_____
2. Appropriate living conditions (i.e. furniture, power, environment, etc.) ❑ Yes ❑ No
If no, expand _____
_____
3. Signs of neglect (i.e. rotting food, insects, safety hazards) ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, expand _____
_____
4. Injuries noted on child (i.e. bruises, cuts, etc.
❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand _____
_____
5. Child behavior problems (i.e. aggressive or withdrawn) ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, expand _____
_____
6. Other comments, if applicable _____
_____
_____
_____

Report to F&CS ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, list date _____
Name of person receiving report _____
_____

FIG. 23: IMMEDIATE CONCERNS WITH AN INVESTIGATION

- Does the victim need protection?
- Are there any other victims?
- Is there a need for medical intervention?
- Are the agency's personnel at risk?
- Has a crime occurred? Who is the alleged offender?
- Are there witnesses or other sources of corroboration?
- Has all physical evidence been obtained and preserved?
- Is there sufficient cause and evidence to charge the suspect?
- Are there other emergency needs affecting the family? Is counseling needed? Should a referral be made to another agency?
- What on-going support services may be necessary? Does the agency have these services, or do they need to be obtained from other agencies or the public?

Investigations must be documented. Clear, objective, factual language must be used, with all contacts and interventions listed, and paperwork dated and signed as necessary. Videos and photographs may be appropriate.

CASE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT: *How shall the case be handled?*

After the initial investigation, there may be more detailed follow-up work or family assessment to obtain a complete picture about the maltreatment and its effects on the victim and other family members. This enables professionals to build a case for potential prosecution and identify strategies to prevent future maltreatment.

Caseworkers look at risk factors, the needs of the entire family, individual and family strengths, necessary changes, and the likelihood that that change will occur *(FIG. 24)*.

Case management may require interagency collaboration. For example:

- an animal shelter may have inadequate facilities to house a large number of confiscated animals and may ask other shelters in the state to assist
- a woman seeking refuge in a safehouse may need foster care for her pets
- animal welfare officers responding to a report of an abandoned dog may find a human body
- an investigation into a dog bite incident may uncover evidence of dogfighting and gambling paraphernalia and illegal drugs
- a woman coming to a domestic violence shelter may describe a frail elder also at risk.

Pre-established lines of communications among agencies can be especially valuable to deal with situations such as these. Open and continuous communication can enhance the formation and coordination of protection teams. Roles and responsibilities should be clarified and consensus should be reached on goals and methods of monitoring progress. *(See Chapter 7).*

EVALUATION: *Are goals being met?*

Assessment is an ongoing process. Evaluation assesses the welfare of the victim, the reduction of the risk of further maltreatment, and the success in meeting the needs of the victim and other members of the family.

FIG. 24: GOALS IN CASE MANAGEMENT

- What goals must be achieved to reduce the risk of maltreatment and meet the identified needs?
- How are these goals to be prioritized?
- What interventions or services will be needed?
- What tasks must be completed for the goals to be achieved?
- What is the time frame?
- How and when will the case plan be evaluated to determine if goals have been accomplished?

Community service providers may coordinate their evaluations through periodic team meetings. These are also opportunities for multi-disciplinary collaboration.

CASE CLOSURE: ***Is it resolved?***

Under ideal circumstances, abuse cases are closed when it has been determined that the risks of maltreatment have been reduced or eliminated: the victim is safe and no longer needs society's intervention. Closure may be accomplished by court action, the threat of court action, counseling, or conditions may resolve themselves over time. At other times a case proves unfounded and is closed. Sometimes the family resists all intervention efforts and nothing can be done.

Records must be maintained after closure, as the perpetrator may surface again, perhaps in another jurisdiction.

"If [man] is not to stifle his human feelings, he must practice kindness towards animals, for he who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

– Immanuel Kant

"I would feel badly if I hurt a deer or any other animal. I shot a bird once. I didn't like it so now I shoot at cans."

– Bobby, Grade 5

7 Community Collaborations How can we work together?

Several years ago, Nashville, TN had one of the highest rates of domestic violence homicide in the U.S. In response, the police department initiated a new screening process for all domestic violence calls, in which officers collected three new pieces of information:

- Was the batterer brandishing or threatening his partner with a weapon?
- Had he threatened suicide?
- Had there been any abuse of family pets?

Abusers with any of these characteristics were referred to special programs. Within one year of instituting the new policy, Nashville's domestic violence homicides dropped 80%, from 30 fatalities per year to six, even though the number of domestic violence complaints increased 50%, from 12,000 to 18,000 per year (Boat 1999)

The dynamics and scope of family violence are complex and multi-dimensional; no one agency or profession alone can address all of the issues. A multi-disciplinary approach is needed to identify and manage these cases. At least 20 states have recognized or mandated the creation of child protection teams consisting of professionals from such disciplines as law enforcement, mental health, education, religion and social work. It is time for animal care and control authorities to be included in these teams.

Violence and abuse are widely known to be cyclical: children often model the behaviors to which they are exposed and repeat the behaviors of their parents. Children raised with a belief in the validity of violence to solve problems may perpetuate antisocial behaviors in their own children's lives. Similarly, people frequently raise animals as their parents did, often with unrealistic expectations and unfortunate consequences.

Multi-agency responses may be effective in helping to break some cycles of violence. These responses may range from informal working agreements to widespread community coalitions. Cross-training and cross-reporting protocols are essential components.

For agencies to work together effectively, there must be agreement on common goals, an understanding of each other's expertise, open communications, written procedures, and opportunities for feedback that assess cases and identify gaps in services. The plan may involve a network, cooperation, coordination, coalitions, and/or collaboration. These terms are not synonymous. *FIG. 25* (Arkow 2000) describes options available to community agencies wishing to work together in a multi-disciplinary approach to family violence.

Interpersonal or interprofessional conflicts may arise, or there may be communications gaps, personality conflicts, philosophical differences, or tensions stemming from frustration, inadequate resources or failure to establish strong and continuing leadership. Some participants may not be convinced of the value of collaboration. There may be legal or administrative barriers to overcome, such as confidentiality restrictions. However, focusing on those areas in which there is consensus enhances each agency's vital role and makes collaboration easier.

Collaboration requires commitments of time, empathy for another agency's perspective, a focus on a higher vision, common goals, and creative options. The process is elaborate but ultimately beneficial for the individuals and agencies — and especially for the victims.

Professionals pursuing multi-disciplinary collaborations may wish to consider these strategies:

FIG. 25: SYNERGY AND SYMBIOSIS IN MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

- **Networking** is an informal, non-hierarchical process of communication with low-key leadership, little conflict, and minimal decision-making. Roles are loosely defined. The network primarily creates dialogue and serves as a clearinghouse for information or to organize action.

- **Cooperation** is characterized by informal relationships that exist without any commonly defined mission, structure or planning effort. Information is shared as needed. Authority is retained by each participant so there is virtually no risk. Resources are separate, as are the rewards.

- **Coordination** is a more formal relationship and understanding of compatible missions. Some planning and division of roles are required. Communication relationships are established. Authority still rests with the individual entities, but there is now some increased risk to all participants. Resources are available to participants and rewards are mutually acknowledged.

- **Coalitions** form to share ideas and to pull resources from existing systems. Leadership is shared; decision-making is formal and involves all members. Communication is frequent and prioritized. Often, the coalition has a specific lifespan to accomplish a specific objective. Roles, timeframes and linkages may be formalized, and an independent budget may be established.

- **Collaboration** connotes a more durable and pervasive relationship. Collaborations bring entities that were previously separated into a new structure with full commitment to a common mission. These relationships require comprehensive planning and well-defined communication channels that operate on many levels. Authority is determined by a collaborative structure. Risk is now much greater because each entity contributes its own resources and reputation. Resources may be pooled or jointly secured, and the products are shared.

1. Establish a task force

A task force or steering committee representing several disciplines should be convened to identify the scope of the community's problem, available resources, goals and objectives of a multi-disciplinary approach, a "laundry list" of potential strategies and outcomes, and a list of the various disciplines that could be included.

For example, outcomes might include:

- a community conference
- an annual week's worth of events to build awareness about family violence
- interagency reporting and cross-training programs
- foster care programs for pets belonging to battered women
- therapeutic opportunities where victims and/or offenders work with animals

Participants might include:

- private and public child protection and advocacy groups
- women's groups, domestic violence shelters, batterers' intervention programs
- victims' advocates
- animal care and control shelters, breed rescue groups, trainers, kennels, veterinarians
- law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, criminal justice system, probation departments, juvenile justice
- social service agencies, mental health agencies, substance abuse programs, health care providers
- religious groups
- news media

This list is limited only by the creativity and energy of the steering committee and the availability of community agency representatives willing to participate actively.

2. Establish lines of communications

Define the roles of potential members and identify task force members who can best secure these disciplines' involvement. Make all members aware of goals and objectives, outcomes, anticipated timelines, responsibilities and commitments.

3. Convene the group regularly

Identify information known and needed. Conduct an inventory of resources and skills available. Develop work structures and timelines. Assign roles and responsibilities. Establish decision-making procedures. Develop a mission state

ment, goals and objectives. Provide training opportunities to acquaint participants with general familiarity of each discipline's operating ordinances, policies and procedures.

4. Develop short- and long-term plans

Develop strategies. Build individual and organizational capacity. Identify and provide necessary resources.

5. Implement plans

Agencies participating in a multi-disciplinary program should address the following issues:

a. **Commitment:** Secure the commitment of all involved to the process as well as the goal — the reduction of violence through the delivery of effective, comprehensive services.

b. **Research:** Assess the resources, financial commitments, personnel, volunteers and services which may be committed by participating agencies. Identify service gaps, legislation needed, responsibilities for costs, and budgets.

c. **Create philosophy and policy statements:** The philosophy statement may identify overarching community concerns and how participating agencies address the issues of violence and the needs of victims. The policy statement flows from the philosophy statement and delineates the manner in which each agency will address a particular aspect of family violence in a concerted effort.

d. **Have clear plans of action:** It will be necessary to create and implement new policies and procedures, and to define composition of teams for effective, multi-disciplinary case management. Program coordinators and media contacts must be designated.

e. **Provide training opportunities for all staffs involved:** Invite representatives from other disciplines to present information about their organizations and procedures to staff, to regional, state and national conferences, and in basic and continuing education curricula.

f. **Modify forms:** New documentation and forms may be required. Currently, most social service, law enforcement and animal protection agencies do not capture information about potential victims outside of their immediate purview. A cross-training/cross-reporting protocol can sensitize interviewers and investigators to be alert for multiple victims in a violent family. This information should be included on reports, referrals, intakes, assessments, and investigations. This information can paint an enlightening picture of day-to-day family life, detect overall patterns of violent behavior, and initiate referrals to other agencies.

An example of a social service agency and animal shelter capturing and sharing information about potential maltreatment outside the caseworker's sphere of expertise is a simple one-page report from the Humane Society and Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County in Ontario, Canada. *(See. FIG. 22)*

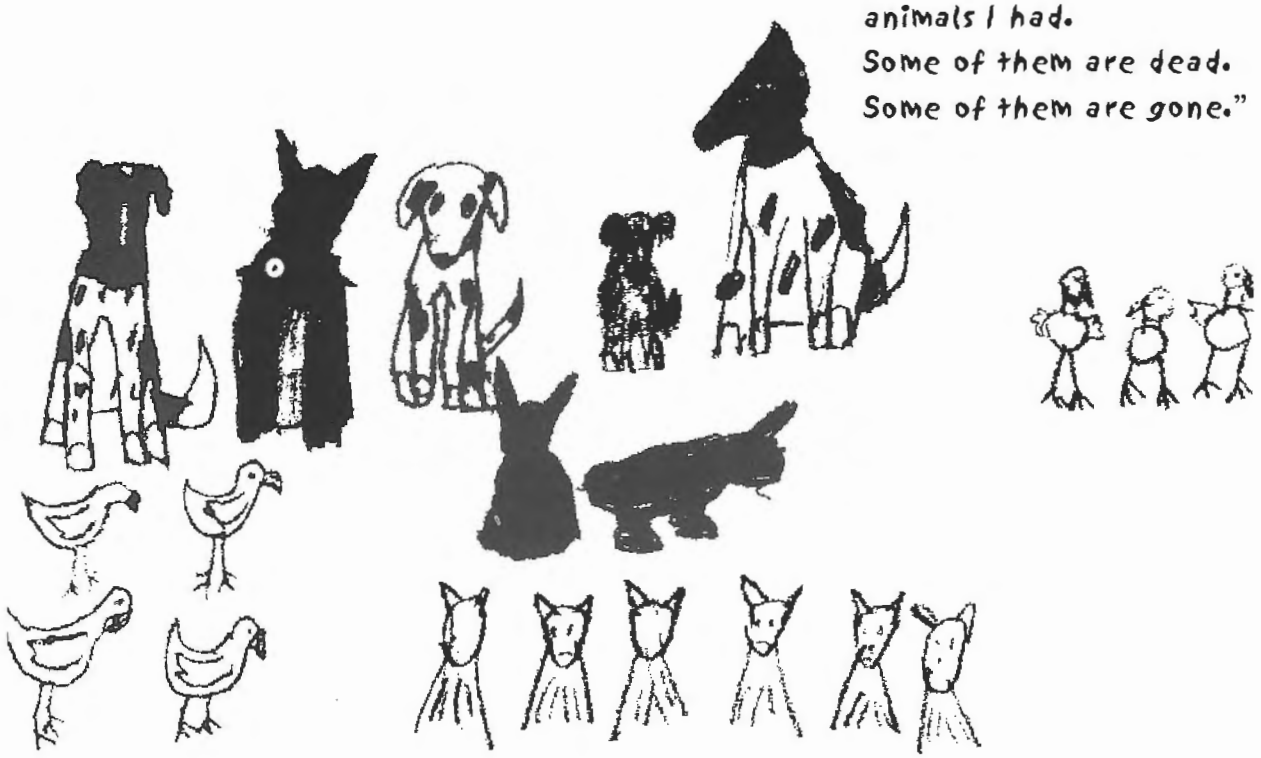
Questions about animal-focused violence or threats should be included in standard screenings and assessments made during CPS investigations and by intake workers at safehouses. Barbara Boat (1999) developed the Boat Inventory on Animal-Related Experiences which helps elicit responses from clients regarding trauma to animals, and support from animals, when compiling case histories.

g. **Acquaint clients with community resources:** Acquaint clients who have pets with the humane, animal control and veterinary resources in your community that may provide foster care, food, medical care, low-cost spaying or neutering, adoption services, and other assistance. Include information about these programs in your community resource handbooks and Web links.

Similarly, animal shelters should provide their clients with a list, handbook or Web links of local human service agencies: shelters for battered women, child protection agencies, legal aid societies, mental health centers, family services programs, crisis hotlines, counseling services, welfare programs, children's advocacy groups, and services for the elderly, homemakers, victims, and military families. Such a list can be carried in officers' vehicles or distributed at the shelter.

6. Monitor progress, evaluate, and recognize accomplishments

Establish a system of reliable feedback, evaluation, and program modification to assess effectiveness and to adjust to shortfalls.


"These are all the
animals I had.
Some of them are dead.
Some of them are gone."

8 Prevention and Treatment How can we reach those who need help?

A wide-ranging array of intervention, prevention and treatment programs combine animal-based interactions with at-risk populations. The growing number of community "Link" programs include:

1. Community coalitions
2. Foster care for pets of women who are battered
3. Mediating aggressive and anti-social behavior of at-risk youth through dog training
4. Animal-assisted therapy with at-risk populations
   a. Residential treatment facilities
   b. Other venues
   c. Therapeutic riding

The following summaries describe some of the more widely-known programs. For details and a more comprehensive list, including guidelines for program implementation, see Frank Ascione's *Safe Havens for Pets: Guidelines for Programs Sheltering Pets for Women who are Battered* (2000) and Debra Duel's *Violence Prevention & Intervention: A Directory of Animal-Related Programs* (2000).

1. COMMUNITY COALITIONS

Colorado Springs, CO - DVERT

The City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, numerous suburban communities, and several military installations along the Front Range of Colorado have high incidence rates of family violence. Each year, police and social service agencies receive between 15,000 and 20,000 reports of domestic violence, of which 3,800 result in arrests; the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region investigates thousands of complaints of animal abuse and neglect.

In 1996 the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) was created to provide a more effective response. Initially, three traditionally adversarial disciplines (law enforcement, prosecution and victim advocacy) began working together to develop and implement domestic violence protocols. As communication began, other local public and non-profit agencies recognized that they were all serving the same populations and that by sharing information at-risk families could receive more comprehensive services.

With the help of grant dollars and federal funding from Community Oriented Policing Services and the Violence Against Women Office, DVERT today organizes a multiple-agency collaboration that identifies and responds to those domestic violence cases with the greatest risk of lethality. The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region is an integral partner in the team which currently includes 36 agencies representing law enforcement, prosecution, child protection, victim advocates, probation, legal services and animal protection.

DVERT's objectives are to increase the safety of victims and their children, to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, and to hold the system accountable for its inaction. Working as a separate entity with 18 full- and part-time staff assigned from 11 of the 36 agencies, DVERT offers two levels of intervention once domestic violence cases are referred. An Intake team gathers background information, attempts to contact the victim and her children, assesses the risk of lethality, and makes recommendations for possible follow-up. Those cases requiring additional intervention are referred to Enhanced Intervention Teams for either short- or long-term case management. The teams provide 24/7 response, criminal investigations, victim relocations, resolution of child protection issues, victim and offender contact, and animal services.

At the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region an Animal Welfare Officer is tasked 20 hours per week to DVERT to:

- accompany detectives and advocates on visits to victims and offenders where animal abuse is indicated
- contact victims to determine if probable cause exists for animal cruelty charges to be filed
- provide victims with educational information, referrals, animal transport, and free 10-day safekeeping of animals
- be present when detectives contact offenders, in order to pursue filing cruelty charges
- investigate and record all allegations of animal abuse
- search for records of domestic violence offenders and

FIG. 26: PRINCIPLES OF A SUCCESSFUL ANTI-VIOLENCE COLLABORATION

1. ***Single Leader*** – to resolve inevitable, imperiling inter-agency conflicts; to establish clear lines of accountability and authority; to reduce confusion for domestic violence victims; to serve as an advocate and representative to provide vision and focus, and to gain community support.

2. ***Support from Top*** – the collaboration director must be supported by the collaboration's top agency officials.

3. ***Communication*** – leadership must communicate and listen to all parners and allow them to take initiative in considering the often contradictory perspectives of different disciplines and in arbitrating inevitable internal conflicts.

4. ***Separate Identity*** – the collaboration must establish its own site and identity, creating its own distinct culture that transcends its participants' individual organizational outlooks. For participants to move beyond their agency loyalties to develop policies and practices jointly, daily contact in a separate site is indispensable.

5. ***Release Control*** – parent agencies must release control of employees assigned to the collaboration. Individuals assigned to a collaboration must be free to develop new approaches that meet the needs of victims and their families most effectively.

6. ***Clear Expectations*** – goals, roles, policies, voting powers and internal relationships must be clearly and formally defined. A Memorandum of Understanding can help effect this.

7. ***Start Small*** – the collaboration must start small, involving only three or four disciplines, and expand its circle of participants gradually as systems emerge. This will help harmonize internal conflicts.

8. ***Continuity*** – there must be continuity in key leadership and management roles.

9. ***Civilian Supervisors*** – supervisory powers must be given to advocates and civilian personnel, not just to law enforcement and prosecution.

10. ***Joint Training*** – all training must be cross-training and involve both law enforcement and civilians.

11. ***Respect*** – members of each discipline must respect the expertise and responsibilities of the others while remaining true to their own training. This respect empowers the disciplines to take initiative.

12. ***Committed Participants*** – not just the right discipline, but the right people from the discipline must be selected. Participants should have commitment, understanding, genuine concern, openness to new approaches, comfort with diverse audiences, sound judgment, and a sense of humor.

– Adapted from DVERT Training Manual
Colorado Springs, CO

addresses in the humane society computer system, and code DVERT addresses in the humane society system to alert officers to potential domestic violence sites

- advise detectives and advocates of known animal hazards at domestic violence addresses
- coordinate DVERT training of animal welfare officers, and provide animal protection cross-training for DVERT personnel
- conduct community education presentations
- attend DVERT team and staff meetings

Results have been encouraging, with increased offender containment, greater agency accountability, better working relationships between agencies, a reduced rate of recidivism among offenders, stiffer penalties for offenders, and increased safety for victims and their families. DVERT officials say successes are largely attributable to the multi-agency approach. DVERT has identified 12 principles that have made their collaboration particularly successful. *(FIG. 26).*

Prior to DVERT, the agencies not only did not speak to each other, but they did not like each other, said Janet Kerr, executive director of the Center for Prevention of Domestic Vio

lence (now T.E.S.S.A). The agencies "were so focused on their own systems, they didn't step back to look at how their behaviors and their actions were re-victimizing victims. As a result we didn't like them and we didn't trust them."

DVERT changed all that. "As relationships of trust began to build on themselves, we began to realize that we all really had the same goal in mind: all of us wanted families in our communities to be safer," said Kerr. (DVERT 2001)

DVERT
705 S. Nevada Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
www.dvert.org • info@dvert.org • (719) 444-7813
Det. Howard E. Black, Program Director

Toronto, ON -- Violence Prevention Initiatives

The Ontario SPCA's agents respond to thousands of cases of suspected abuse and neglect each year throughout a province that is more than twice as large as Texas. In 2001, OSPCA officials issued 1,009 orders to improve animal welfare conditions, received 3,332 removed and abandoned animals and 1,668 surrendered animals, and filed 122 charges for cruelty to animals. These numbers were all up substantially from previous years. Meanwhile, the criminal conviction rate for cruelty charges remained extremely high at 82.2%.

"Increased activity in respect to both the uncovering of animal-cruelty cases and the ultimate laying of charges under the Criminal Code reflects not only a stronger and more proactive investigations operation across the province, but the sad reality that we face a staggering breadth of animal-cruelty instances," said Craig Daniell, Director of Investigations.

The OSPCA strongly believes that by taking animal abuse seriously they can prevent other forms of violence. Since 1997, the Ontario SPCA has been educating Ontarians and taking action on the link between animal cruelty and human violence. As a result of this initiative, staff-level positions (including a Violence Prevention Coordinator) organize several collaborative programs:

- **Family Violence Assistance Program** provides emergency shelter to the animals of women fleeing domestic violence, thereby ensuring that they need not delay leaving the abusive situation out of fear for their pets' well-being.

- **Cross-training** trains those working with animals to recognize human violence, and those working with adults and children to recognize animal abuse and neglect. The OSPCA has begun cross-training with Federal Parole, Children's Aid Society and women's shelters, and is planning cross-training for elder support workers.

- **Youth and Animal Pilot Project (YAPP)** matches hard-to-adopt shelter dogs with young offenders in an intensive 13-week program.

- Provincial and local **community anti-violence coalitions** are designing and implementing prevention and intervention projects, including an **annual Violence Prevention Conference.**

- **Research** activities including two surveys of women's shelters in 1998 and 2000 and on violence in schools. The results were startling: 61% of women's shelter respondents had had pets harmed and/or killed by an abusive partner. 48% had delayed leaving an abusive situation for fear of leaving helpless pets behind.

Ontario SPCA
16586 Woodbine Ave., RR3
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4W1 Canada
www.ospca.on.ca • cdaniell@ospca.on.ca
(905) 898-7122 ext. 242
Craig Daniell, Director of Investigations

Milwaukee, WI – Community Coalition

The Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) launched a community-wide awareness campaign about the link between animal abuse and human violence. Working in cooperation with the District Attorney's office, the Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Task Force on Family Violence, and other community social service agencies, several initiatives have been developed:

- an **animal abuse telephone hotline** for calls regarding abuse and neglect. WHS responds with information regarding laws, warning signs, and action steps the caller can take.

- WHS staff conducted 6 weeks of **in-service training** about the link to 1,800 Milwaukee Police Department officers.

- a partnership with a nonprofit **mediation program** to promote nonviolent problem-solving of community animal complaints.

- an **Advocacy Network** empowers the community by strengthening laws and by devising a response plan for people who witness abuse or neglect.

- WHS **houses animals for victims of domestic violence** so victims can move to a temporary shelter knowing that their companion animals are safe.

- WHS has hosted two **community conferences** about the link.

These activities follow the success of WHS' programs targeted toward at-risk youth. The **PAL Program** (People and Animals Learning) is a three-week day camp for at-risk youth, held twice each summer. Children aged 10-13 feed baby birds in the WHS wildlife rehabilitation department, socialize adoptable cats, and teach obedience commands to adoptable shelter dogs. Working with animals helps PAL kids discover the joy of care-giving and that they have the capacity to succeed. The children are encouraged to share their new perspective on human-animal relationships with others in the community. PAL has been expanded to include severely abused and neglected children in a residential care facility at Milwaukee Psychiatric Hospital. These children gain self-esteem before placement into foster homes. (De Grave 1999)

The **Coatie Project** is a WHS pet therapy program for Milwaukee Public School children. School psychologists use Therapy Dog International certified dogs in small group therapy with troubled children. The program works to change children's negative behaviors and promote cooperation, communication and positive confrontation.

Milwaukee Public School teachers can earn **continuing education credits** for attending a 12-hour humane education workshop, "Children and Animals: A Workshop on Kindness."

Wisconsin Humane Society
4500 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53208
www.wihumane.org • jdegrave@wihumane.org
(414) ANIMALS
Jill De Grave, Director of Education

TUCSON AZ: Cruelty in Common and the Community Service Project

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona developed Cruelty in Common in 1998 to reduce the incidence of juvenile-perpetrated animal abuse. Humane Society personnel offer a series of 90-minute workshops and reference materials for three groups of professionals, and publish a quarterly newsletter for the general public and social service, law enforcement and education professionals. Some 25 agencies from law enforcement, court services and community services are active coalition members. An interagency Rapid Response program addresses school-based reports of animal abuse within 24 to 48 hours, with follow-ups at three- and six-month intervals. An 84-page reference guide, brochures and newsletters are available.

Humane Society of Southern Arizona
3450 N. Kelvin Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85716
www.humane-so-arizona.org
mmyers@humane-so-arizona.org • (520) 327-6088
Marsh Myers, Director of Education

2. FOSTER CARE FOR PETS OF WOMEN WHO ARE BATTERED

Although shelters for battered women have become more readily available over the past three decades, the vast majority do not accept companion animals. This, in turn, has become a significant barrier that prevents from 18% to 40% of battered women from seeking safety. In response, many "Safe Haven" programs have been developed involving animal shelters, veterinarians, breed rescue groups and others who provide temporary foster care for these pets. Some programs are informal, others are highly structured. Length of foster care provided varies greatly.

Many issues must be considered in establishing such programs, including:

- safety of shelter staff and fosterers
- confidentiality
- determining pet ownership (including community property and joint ownership issues)
- procedures for visiting the pets
- pet loss counseling
- financial arrangements
- provision of veterinary services
- provision of pet transportation
- liability
- care and housing of pets belonging to women in post-shelter or transitional housing
- staff training
- publicity
- recognizing and reporting animal abuse.

Those considering developing a foster care program are strongly urged to read a survey of 41 such programs (Ascione 2000) that details these concerns and describes the forms, procedures and policies at many "Safe Haven" programs.

For a list of "Safe Haven" programs, see www.latham.org

3. MEDIATING AGGRESSIVE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR OF AT-RISK YOUTH THROUGH DOG TRAINING

Pioneering programs like the Wisconsin Humane Society's Project PAL demonstrated that violent youth could learn non-violent conflict resolution, gain self-esteem, learn empathy and compassion, and see tangible results of important work by using positive reinforcement training to make unsocialized dogs from local shelters more adoptable. Today, a number of these programs are teaching at-risk youths about patience, self-control, non-physical problem solving, and a philosophy of living that relies on kindness rather than force.

ALBUQUERQUE,NM: Project Second Chance: A Preschool for Dogs

This is a collaboration between the Animal Humane Association and the Youth Diagnostic and Development Center/New Mexico Girls School. Each month, four dogs in need of basic training and socialization are transferred to a kennel at YDDC where they are fostered and trained by four residents who, like the dogs, are serving time for a variety of offenses.

Animal Humane Association of New Mexico
615 Virginia St. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
www.ahanm.org • annb@ahanm.org
(505) 255-5523
Ann Beyke, Director of Program Development

YDDC/NM Girls School
4000 Edith Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
thward@cyfd.state.nm.us • (505) 841-2424
Tamara Herbert Ward, Program Coordinator

OMAHA, NE:
Project HEART
(Humane Education for At-Risk Teens)

The Nebraska Humane Society collaborates with the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility to rehabilitate juvenile offenders and abandoned dogs with low adoption potential. Inmates have been convicted of violent crimes such as burglary, arson, sexual assault and homicide. The dogs live at the correctional facility for six weeks, where the inmate is responsible for the care and training of his dog on a 24/7 basis. In addition to dog training, inmates must research the dog's primary breed; write an essay about its behavior and training; write a letter to the dog's future family describing its personality, likes and dislikes; and make a videotape demonstrating what the dog has learned. Inmates realize they can make a difference and give something positive back to the community.

Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility
2610 N. 20th St. East
Omaha, NE 68110
(402) 595-2000
Matt Gelvin, Assistant Warden

ROHNERT PARK, CA:
High Schooled Assistance Dog Program

The Assistance Dog Institute began offering this program in 1991 to give at-risk teens a way to give back to the community while developing self-confidence and a sense of purpose. Teenagers, most of whom have histories of behavior problems and/or encounters with the law, train golden retriever puppies who will become service dogs. Participating agencies include one school for incarcerated youth and two schools for teens on probation.

Assistance Dog Institute
P.O. Box 2334
Rohnert Park, CA 94927
www.assistancedog.org • assistdog@aol.com
(707) 537-6391
Jorjan Powers, Public Relations Director

WHEATON, IL:
Cooperative Canine Training Program

DuPage County, Ill. started this program in 1995 to bring adoptable shelter dogs to adolescent residents of Interventions, a group home for substance abusers, for nine 90-minute training sessions over a three-week period. The students learn how to become better communicators with people and animals, experience success at a complex task, develop patience and problem-solving skills, and give something back to the community. Students are also required to complete homework assigments.

DuPage County Animal Control
120 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187
www.co.dupage.il.us/humanr/animalm.html
(630) 682-7197
Jennifer Pieper, Public Education Officer

KNOXVILLE, TN: HALT
(Humans and Animals Learning Together)

Students living in centers for substance abuse treatment or behavior/alienation problems teach shelter dogs basic obedience training in a four-week course that increases the adoptability of unwanted dogs. The students improve such living skills as assertiveness, staying on task, communication, increased confidence, reduced stress, and commitment. Several agencies identify candidates for the program, which started in 1987 through a partnership with the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

Nearly 250 troubled teens have graduated from HALT, and each one of these young lives has been affected; more than 125 adult dogs have been rescued from euthanasia, obedience trained and successfully adopted.

H.A.L.T.
P. O. Box 23424
Knoxville, TN 37933
www.vet.utk.edu/halt/index.html • Nhowell@utk.edu
(423) 974-5869
Dr. Nancy Howell

Woodburn, OR:
Project POOCH

Since 1992, the MacLaren School, a juvenile correctional facility, has provided incarcerated young men with an opportunity to learn a skill and learn about their emotions while training adoptable dogs from area shelters and breed-rescue groups. The dogs and inmates are together for six hours a day, seven days a week, and the youths are responsible for all aspects of the dogs' care. They participate in groups. maintain daily journals, and earn high school credits for their work. Project POOCH ("Positive Opportunities – Obvious Changes with Hounds") is an autonomous 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization housed on government property.

Oregon Youth Authority
2630 N. Pacific Highway
Woodburn, OR 97071
www.pooch.org • project_pooch@yahoo.com
(503) 982-4492
Joan Dalton, Project Director

FAIRFAX, VA:
The Shiloh Project

In response to growing reports of animal abuse perpetrated by juveniles, the Shiloh Project was created in 1995 as a highly supervised animal interaction program that provides at-risk youth with repeated opportunities to experience unconditional love from dogs. Six adolescents at a residential treatment center or alternative school are assigned an adoptable dog to train during a four-week session. Educational components include preparing and presenting final projects about animal welfare.

The Shiloh Project
1210 Fairfax Towne Center
Fairfax, VA 22033
www.shilohproject.org • shilohproject@aol.com
(703) 591-3600
Nancy Katz, Program & Executive Director

LOS ANGELES, CA:
TLC (Teaching Love and Compassion)

The SPCA LA created this concentrated, voluntary workshop for at-risk 11-to-13 year olds in 1994. It combines dog training with conflict resolution, anger management, alternatives to violence, and communication skills. TLC programs are offered four times a year to middle school students who work, in opposite-sex pairs, to train dogs in a supportive, collaborative manner. The boys learn not only to work out their differences but to listen to girls and gain greater respect for women. The spcaLA also serves on the Los Angeles Violence Prevention Coalition, conducts an advertising campaign emphasizing the "Link," and produces a quarterly publication that teaches youth about preventing animal abuse and practical ways to deal with conflict and anger.

spcaLA
5026 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016
www.spcaLA.org • spcaLAHE@aol.com
(323) 730-5300 x 255
Mitch Sigal, Director of Humane Education

4. ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY WITH AT-RISK POPULATIONS

In the past 30 years, programs have proliferated in many venues incorporating pets, and to a lesser degree farm animals and wildlife, in therapeutic interventions targeted at populations with physical, social, rehabilitative and emotional needs. These programs, called Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) and Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA) have been described as offering participants:

- a sense of safety and protection
- unconditional regard
- ambassadors from the natural world who provide realistic, daily order and rituals
- non-judgmental companionship
- enhancement of the therapeutic milieu
- tactile gratification and reassurance
- healthy play
- relief from anxiety and social and familial tensions
- development of ego strength.

Animals can be catalysts that help initiate conversation, counter feelings of rejection and alienation, and lower cardiovascular disease risk factors. (Arkow 1998)

Encouraged by these successes, a number of AAT/AAA programs have been expanded to work with victims and perpetrators of family violence. Some of the more widely known of these programs include:

A. RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES

BREWSTER, NY:
Green Chimneys

Since 1948, Green Chimneys has been a residential school for children who have been removed from troubled homes, schools, or community environments. Many children have histories of school failure, chronic truancy, neglect, or sexual, physical or emotional abuse. The school engages children with animals through farm maintenance, caring for disabled wildlife, and therapeutic riding. Taking care of animals teaches children responsibility and lets them know that they count. The goal is the actualization of an environmentally sound philosophy which bonds the children to each other, supportive adults, soil, plants, animals and nature. Green Chimneys attempts to break the cycle of violence by providing a safe and structured living environment for troubled youths and by reintegrating these children back into their families. (Ross 1999)

Green Chimneys
400 Doansburg Road
Brewster, NY 10509
www.greenchimneys.org • info@greenchimneys.org
(845) 279-2995
Sam Ross, Ph.D, Executive Director Emeritus

GREENVILLE, SC:
Crossroads Intensive Treatment Program

Crossroads, a group home located on 14 acres of farm land, provides comprehensive treatment programs for adolescent females who have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse. The integration of children and animals is paramount in Crossroads' mission statement of promoting nururing and humane behavior toward all living things. Therapeutic riding, visits by certified Pet Partners, and a working farm with a wide array of animals are part of the treatment milieu. Violence prevention interventions and activities that focus on nature help residents overcome issues of trust, touch and affection, foster nurturance, and prepare for a future as responsible, caring adults. (Roseberry & Rovin 1999)

Crossroads Group Home
P.O. Box 14939
Greenville, SC 29610
www.crossroadsgrouphome.com • inquiry@crossroadsgrouphome.com
(864) 282-0580
Lorraine Turner, Executive Director

B. OTHER VENUES

SANTA ROSA, CA:
Forget Me Not Farm

In 1992, the Humane Society of Sonoma County, CA, expanded its services by developing an educational program for abused and neglected children to break the intergenerational cycle of violence. Representatives of the humane society, the YWCA of Sonoma County and the San Francisco Child Abuse Council established a collaboration to design and implement a model program to teach gentleness and nonviolent resolution of conflicts to at-risk children and families through gardening and animal care in a non-threatening environment. Eight additional agencies serving at-risk children subsequently participated.

Children who visit Forget Me Not Farm for gardening activities, vegetable harvesting, animal-assisted therapy and educational programs come from:

- YWCA – Women's Emergency Shelter: children residing in the women's safehouse
- Women's Recovery Service: residential treatment facility for women with chemical dependencies
- Sonoma County Dependent Unit – Valley of the Moon School: county emergency shelter for children awaiting foster care or reunification with their parents
- North Valley School: private special education school for youths with histories of abuse, neglect or multiple placement failures
- Sonoma County Mental Health Services: public school children who are receiving special services
- Sonoma County Office of Education: visually impaired public school children with histories of abuse and neglect

Volunteers and animals weekly visit children at A Special Place and Children's Place, therapeutic preschools operated by the YWCA for children who have experienced violence and victimization, and a class of high-risk children at La Tacera Elementary School.

The program staff is augmented by volunteers including master gardeners, landscape contractors, teachers, veterinarians, high school students, therapists and graduate students in psychology. (Rathmann 1999)

Humane Society of Sonoma County
P. O. Box 1284
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 542-5202
Contact: Carol Rathmann, Shelter Manager
(Also available: Video "Garden Therapy" [15 min.], order from The Latham Foundation)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Gentleness Program

For a decade, animal control officers from the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control have been teaching at-risk children and their parents how to gently touch shelter animals during weekly visits to inner-city treatment centers, schools, housing projects and battered women's shelters. Participating families have had histories of abuse and the visits help them move beyond their past. Eight-week sessions are held at a variety of venues to encourage confidence and kindness. Other programs include a "Walk a Dog Home" program, where at-risk youths walk home leisurely with an officer and a dog to facilitate informal conversation and pet contact.

S.F. Dept. of Animal Care & Control
1200 15th St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
www.ci.sf.ca.us/acc/
(415) 554-6364
Capt. Vicki Guldbech, Field Services

SHORTSVILLE, NY: Intergenerational Pet Therapy Project

In traditional AAT/AAA programs, visitors bring certified therapy dogs to nursing homes. Since 1995, K-9 Healers' Intergenerational Pet Therapy Project has been adding another dimension by involving at-risk youths who are identified by local mental health services, CPS, probation, rape and abuse services, churches and schools. The Project enhances each child's use of personal power through learning how to control a dog in a nursing home setting and providing human and canine companionship to nursing home residents. Students gain self-control, self-esteem, empathy, patience and a sense of responsibility. In addition to grooming and training the dogs and talking with the residents, students participate in art projects and evaluations.

K-9 Healers
2874 Tom Campbell Road
Branchport, NY 14418
www.k-9healers.com • deepeace@linkny.com
(607) 522-7818
Gail Furst, President

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA: Pets and Pals

Through the Virginia Beach Public School System and YMCA Early Discovery Program, pediatricians and social services workers identify four-year-olds who are candidates for special services, including AAT, as a means to develop empathy. Participants also include youths aged 8 to 13 who have been removed from school for severe behavioral problems. Youths aged 6 to 11 who live with their mothers in battered women's shelters or who have been referred by the police department attend a weeklong summer camp. This commitment to reducing youth violence is facilitated by the Virginia Beach SPCA.

Virginia Beach SPCA
3040 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
vbspca_director@msn.com • (757) 427-0070
Sharon Adams, Executive Director

WASHINGTON, DC:
People • Animals • Love

This summer camp program for inner-city at-risk youth is a collaboration between PAL and Beacon House Community Ministries. Thirty pre-teens from housing projects participate in the six-week program caring for on-site animals, hearing educational presentations, visiting animal-themed facilities, and camping overnight with indigenous wildlife.

PAL
3201 New Mexico Ave. NW, Suite 350
Washington, DC 20016
www.peopleanimalslove.com • PALemail@aol.com
(202) 895-1395
Susie Wellman, Executive Director

NOVATO, CA:
SHARE Program

The Marin Humane Society and Centerforce, a nonprofit agency providing services to families of prisoners, developed an animal visitation program for children visiting their incarcerated parents at San Quentin penitentiary. Dr. Lynn Loar, LCSW, helped develop the program, which was part of the humane society's Special Human Animal RElationships program.

Marin Humane Society
171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd.
Novato, CA 94949
www.marinhumanesociety.org
share@marin-humane.org • (415) 883-4621 ext. 255
Darlene Blackman, SHARE Coordinator

WHEATON, IL:
Peer Jury
Youth Community Service Volunteers Program

In this alternative sentencing program, courts order first-time, nonviolent youth offenders into community service at the DuPage County Animal Control shelter. The program, operated through the West Chicago Police Department, attempts to promote rehabilitation and decrease repeat offenses by holding youths accountable for their behavior. Offenders appear before a grand jury comprised of their peers who sentence them to work with community agencies that provide positive, constructive service experiences.

DuPage County Animal Control
120 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
www.co.dupage.il.us/humanr/animalm.html
(630) 682-7197 ext. 111
Jennifer Pieper, Public Education Officer

C. THERAPEUTIC RIDING

TEMPLE, NH:
Horse Power

Like most therapeutic riding programs, Horse Power started out helping physically disabled children, but the program was expanded in 1989 to include abused and neglected children. Horse Power is similar to Outward Bound, where kids learn to survive in the wilderness through a structured plan. The ability to ride and care for a horse is a tremendous confidence builder; children in the 10-week program feel that they have gained control not only over their horses, but also over their own lives. Schools, group homes and rehabilitation centers refer participants.

Horse Power at Pony Farm
13 Pony Farm Lane
Temple, NH 03084
www.horse-power.org • boo@horse-power.org
(603) 654-6308
Boo McDaniel, Executive Director

9 National Resources

CHILD ABUSE

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect
330 C St., SW
Washington, DC 20447
(800) FYI-3366 (703) 385-7565
http://www.calib.com/nccanch
nccanch@calib.com
NCCAN is the Federal government's national resource for professionals and others seeking information on child abuse and neglect and child welfare. It is part of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Other major national organizations include:

American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law/
740 15th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 662-1740
www.abanet.org/child

American Humane Association
63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood, CO 80122
(800) 227-4645
www.americanhumane.org

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
PO Box 26901
CHO 3B-3406
Oklahoma City, OK□ 73190
(405) 271-8202
www.apsac.org

Child Abuse Prevention Network
http://child.cornell.edu/

Child Welfare League of America
440 First St. N.W., Suite 310
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-2952
www.cwla.org

Kempe Children's Center
1825 Marion St.
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 864-5252
www.kempecenter.org

Minnesota Higher Education Center Against Violence and Abuse
www.umn.edu/mincava

National CASA Association (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
100 W. Harrison St. North Tower,
Suite 500□
Seattle, WA 98119
(800) 628-3233

National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse
American Prosecutors Research Institute
99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 739-0321
www.ndaa-apri.org/apri

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 784-6012
www.ncjfcj.unr.edu

National Council on Child Abuse & Family Violence
1025 Connecticut Ave. NW #1012
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-6695
www.nccafv.org

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
P. O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850
(800) 851-3420
www.ncjrs.org

HOW TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, you should call your local Child Protective Services (CPS) agency or the CPS agency in the state in which the abuse occurred. These agencies may be found in state departments of human services, social services, family & children's services, or similar titles.

Hotline and reporting numbers are often found in the listings of emergency numbers, community services or government offices ("blue pages") in your local phone book.

For a list of the state agencies and the toll free numbers for the states that have them, please see the Latham Foundation's Web site at www.latham.org. Or call
Childhelp's National Child Abuse Hotline
800-4-A-CHILD (800-422-4453)
TDD: 1-800-2 A CHILD
Childhelp USA is a non-profit agency which can provide reporting numbers, and has hotline counselors who can provide referrals.

Parents Anonymous
675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220,
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-6184
www.parentsanonymous.org

Prevent Child Abuse America
200 S. Michigan Avenue,
17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 663-3520
www.preventchildabuse.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)

P.O. Box 18749
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 839-1852
www.ncadv.org

NCADV Resources include:

- **General Information Packet: Every Home a Safe Home** - a joint project of the NCADV and Soroptimist International of the Americas (www.soroptimist.org)
- **Rural Task Force Resource Packet - Reflections on Rural Realities (1991)** - Compiled by NCADV's Rural Caucus, this 45-page book identifies and discusses the unique issues and barriers faced by rural women and service providers.
- **National Directory of Domestic Violence Programs: A Guide to Community Shelter, Safe Homes and Service Programs** - This directory lists domestic violence programs throughout the country, each with a comprehensive profile of services. Also includes listings for state coalitions and national resource centers.
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Manual** - NCADV publishes a resource manual every two years with guidelines, resource materials, ideas, graphics, statistics, sample documents, writings by survivors and outreach materials for special populations.

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Violence Against Women Office

810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 307-6026
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo

Since its inception in 1995, the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO) has handled the Department of Justice's legal and policy issues regarding violence against women and works closely with other government components to implement the mandates of the Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation. VAWO has awarded more than $1 billion in grant funds to states and territories to train personnel, establish specialized domestic violence and sexual assault units, assist victims of violence, hold perpetrators accountable, and support community partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, and others to address violence against women.

CAVNET (Communities Against Violence Network)

www.cavnet2.org

A Web-based information-sharing network of more than 1,100 professionals and advocates, with a resource bank of over 2,100 documents in many aspects of family violence prevention including animal abuse, elder abuse, violence against gays and lesbians, hate crimes, batterers' interventions, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking.

MinCAVA (Minnesota Center against Violence and Abuse)

www.mincava.umn.edu

This is a portfolio of information and one of the most widely used Web sites for violence-related resources on the internet.

BATTERED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

http://cwolf.uaa.alaska.edu/~afrhm1/index.html

This Web site is devoted to a professional and scholarly examination of the connections between domestic violence and child maltreatment.

OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

Family Violence Prevention Fund
383 Rhode Island St. #304
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-8900
www.fvfp.org

Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute
6160 Cornerstone Court East
San Diego, CA 92121
(858) 623-2777
www.fvsai.org

Institute for Family Violence Studies
FSU School of Social Work
C-3405 University Center
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 644-6303
http://familyvio.ssw.fsu.edu/

National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
125 S. 9th St. #302
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 351-0010

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
6400 Flank Drive #1300
Harrisburg, PA 17112
(800) 932-4632
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/links/pcadvd.htm

STATE COALITIONS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To get help or give help call your State Coalition Office to find the program offering shelter and support nearest to you. For a full list, see the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Web site (www.ncadv.org) or the Latham Foundation Web site (www.latham.org).

ANIMAL PROTECTION

The Latham Foundation

1826 Clement Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 521-0920
www.latham.org

Founded in 1918, Latham is a clearing-house for information about humane issues and activities, the human-animal bond, animal-assisted therapy (AAT), and the links between animal abuse and other forms of violence. Latham specializes in producing affordable books and videos on these topics. Latham productions include:

- the quarterly ***Latham Letter*** with dozens of articles about the "link" since the 1980s.
- ***"Breaking the Cycles of Violence"*** **training manuals and videos**
- ***Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: Linking the Circles of Compassion for Prevention and Intervention,*** edited by Frank R. Ascione & Phil Arkow (West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 1999)
- ***Working with Families in Shelters: A Practical Guide for Counselors and Child Care Staff,*** by Lynn Loar and John H. Weakland.
- Articles and videos on the human-animal bond and AAT.

Humane Society of the U.S./ First Strike

2100 L St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 452-1100
www.hsus.org

HSUS' The First Strike™ campaign was created in 1997 to raise public and professional awareness about the connection between animal abuse and human violence. The campaign works with local animal protection agencies to unite animal protection, social service, law enforcement, veterinary, education and other officials to promote inter-agency collaborations. First Strike also provides research data on the animal-human violence connection to law enforcement and prosecutors in high profile animal cruelty cases. First Strike presses for the passage of well-enforced, felony-level anti-cruelty laws. Training materials include:

- ***Violence Prevention & Intervention: A Directory of Animal-Related Programs,*** by Debra K. Duel (2000)
- ***Animal Cruelty & Human Violence: Making the Connection,*** by Julie Miller Dowling (1998)

American Humane Association

63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood, CO 80122
(800) CARING-5
www.americanhumane.org

AHA has divisions for protecting both children and animals from neglect and abuse. AHA has been in the front lines of advocacy and action for children and animals for more than a century. AHA has published training manuals and held conferences on the "link." The National Resource Center on the Link Between Violence to People and Animals includes a library of over 1,000 resources. AHA Link publications include:

- ***Recognizing & Reporting Animal Abuse: A Veterinarian's Guide*** (1998)
- ***Protecting Children: Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty: Linked in the Cycle of Violence*** (1997)
- ***Guidebook for the Visual Assessment of Physical Child Abuse*** (1996)
- ***A Training Guide for Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse for Animal Control Officers and Humane Investigators*** (1995)
- ***Cruelty Statutes: United States and Canada*** (1994)
- ***Protecting Children and Animals: Agenda for a Non-Violent Future*** (1993)
- ***Handling the Pets of Domestic Violence Victims***
- ***Report on the Summit on Violence Towards Children and Animals*** (1992)

Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

P.O. Box 1297
Washington Grove, MD 20880
(301) 963-4751
www.psyeta.org

PsyETA's focus includes the practice and policy implications of the relation between human violence and animal abuse, and developing the academic field of Human-Animal Studies. PsyETA has published:

- ***AniCare Child,*** a 90-page practitioner's handbook with strategies for assessing and treating childhood animal abuse.
- ***The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse,*** the first professionally developed psychological intervention program for animal abusers over the age of 17.
- ***Beyond Violence,*** a video exploring the human-animal violence links

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

424 E. 92nd St.
New York, NY 10128
www.aspca.org

America's first humane society, the ASPCA operates on both national and local levels. In New York State, Humane Law Enforcement agents inspect, rescue and make arrests to protect animals; they investigate more than 5,000 cases of animal abuse and issue summonses to or arrest more than 300 people per year. Nationally, the ASPCA has been active in "Link" training through shelter outreach, public information and advocacy programs.

Delta Society

289 Perimeter Road East
Renton, WA 98055
(425) 226-7357
www.deltasociety.org

Delta is the leading international resource for the human-animal bond. Delta has been the force to validate the role of animals for people's health and well-being by promoting the results of research and by developing standards of practice for animal-assisted therapy and activities.

OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

American Animal Hospital Association

P. O. Box 150899
Denver, CO 80215
(800) 883-6301
www.healthypet.com

American Veterinary Medical Association

1931 N. Meacham Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173
(847) 925-8070
www.avma.org

Animal Welfare Institute

P. O. Box 3650
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-2332
www.awionline.org

National Animal Control Association

P.O. Box 480851
Kansas City, MO 64148
(800) 828-6474
www.nacanet.org

"I have come to learn how successful humane workers can be in dealing with abusive and negligent adults. They are often more able to resolve their cases than are child welfare workers. Rather than bemoan a society that appears to value its dogs and cats above its children, I would hope my colleagues would look to our animal welfare counterparts as teachers. We need to learn how they have become so good at their work and ask their assistance in a combined struggle against violence and neglect affecting any living creature."

– Lynn Loar, Ph.D.
San Francisco Child Abuse Council

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About The Latham Foundation

An inspired brother and sister from Oakland, California – Milton and Edith Latham – organized the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education in 1918. The Lathams cared deeply about the welfare of all living things and recognized the interrelationship and interdependence of all life. Their four major objectives continue to guide the Foundation's services:

- To inculcate the higher principles of humaneness upon which the unity and happiness of the world depend,
- To emphasize the spiritual fundamentals that lead to world friendship,
- To promote the child's character through an understanding of universal kinship, and
- To foster a deeper understanding of and sympathy with man's relations – the animals – who cannot speak for themselves.

As a private operating foundation Latham works in many non-partisan roles including publisher, producer, facilitator, sponsor, and colleague.

Today, Latham is:

- A clearinghouse for information about:
  - Humane issues and activities
  - The human companion animal bond (HCAB)
  - Animal-assisted therapy
  - The connections between child and animal abuse and other forms of family violence,
- A producer and distributor of affordable videos and publications on the above topics,
- Publisher of the *Latham Letter*, a quarterly magazine about issues and activities in the humane world including the animal abuse/family violence connection, and the American Humane Association.
- Creator and sponsor of the "Search for Excellence" Video Awards.

For further information about Latham's products and services, please visit *www.latham.org* where a section of the web site is devoted to the correlation between family violence and animal abuse: *www.latham.org/cycles*.

THE LATHAM FOUNDATION
PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

Latham Plaza Building
1826 Clement Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 521-0920
Fax (510) 521-9861
www.latham.org
info@latham.org

Torturing of pets could be prelude to human murder

Many mass killers started out by abusing animals

By John Flinn SF Examiner 10-27-88
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

As a boy, Albert DeSalvo, the "Boston Strangler," used to trap dogs and cats in orange crates and shoot arrows through them.

David Berkowitz, New York's notorious "Son of Sam" killer, began his murderous career as a teen-ager by killing a neighbor's [illegible]dor retriever.

Two were already dead and the others were so badly injured that they had to be destroyed, said Kathy Snow of the Santa Clara County Humane Society.

"This has got to be the worst thing I've ever seen, and I've seen some pretty awful things," Snow said. "Not the severity, but just the deliberateness of it."

The Clara County district attorney's office has gotten a warrant to search the apartment where the kittens were found.

In Petaluma, residents are still horrified by the grisly killings two weeks ago of six cats along Middle [illegible] had been shot

larger metropolitan areas, we're seeing acts of violence against animals that involve quite a bit of preparation and forethought," Sakach said.

"What makes these cases stand out is that the person seemed to put quite a bit of thought into how the animal was to be abused."

Sakach said his office had been notified of nearly 1,000 cases last year in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Idaho.

Most animal-abusers are adolescent boys, according to Dr. Randall Lockwood, a Washington, D.C., psychol[illegible]ho works with the Humane

Dog Shot in Domestic Argument

Again, a pet suffered the punishment as a result of a recent domestic fight (between husband and wife) in a Dallas residential area. The drunken husband had left the scene of an argument but returned later and shot the family's dog six times (as it remained helplessly chained to the front porch) The wife called the SPCA to report the incident, but refused (as the only witness) to press charges. The only thing that the SPCA [illegible] do in this case was offer advice

Children's cruelty to cat stuns even veteran officials

By GEORGE BENNETT
Evening News Staff Writer

Sellersburg police are investigating a cruelty to animals case that Clark County Prosecutor Steve Stewart has described as extraordinarily brutal.

Patrolman Michael Stricker was dispatched to 2125 Jefferson Blvd. last Sunday.

Upon arrival, Stricker was directed to a wooded area by a man who said he had overheard a conversation by three juveniles describing certain acts they had done to a cat.

The man then had his daughter, who was not involved in the cruelty incident, to take him to a wooded area behind Indian Oakes Trailer Park where he found a cat buried up to its neck in mud.

[illegible]rthed the cat and

case. The boys' parents were asked to bring them to the Sellersburg Police Department for an interview.

"Sometimes as a prosecutor, you think that you have seen it all. Then you see a report like this one and realize that you haven't. You question how anyone could commit such acts of cruelty, even to an animal."

— Prosecutor Steve Stewart

Judge sees link between animal and people abuse

By CAROL FERM
of the Herald staff

Children who abuse [illegible]nals may grow up to be violent criminals unless they get help, a Whatcom County District Court judge warned teachers at Shuksan Middle School.

"Killing, injuring, maiming or torturing animals ... is frequently a symptom of a deeper problem," said Judge David Rhea. "It's a reasonable predictor of eventual violence to human beings."

Rhea is one of a group of concerned Whatcom County residents includi[illegible] Bellingham elementary and middle schools [illegible] who shot 26 people in a Ca[illegible] said the teams are part of [illegible] this month, asking teachers [illegible] animal cruelty among [illegible]

"By the tim[illegible] late," Rhea [illegible]

He [illegible] veteri[illegible] ingh[illegible] du[illegible] n

The Newsletter of The SPCA of Monterey County, CA

"Don't tell or I'll kill your pet"

Exploring the link between child and animal abuse

Pet cruelty linked to violent crime

NEW YORK (UPI) — When they were children they hung cats on clotheslines and threw stones at dogs, and when they were adults they turned their aggression toward humans.

According to a recent study, violent and aggressive criminals are [illegible]re likely to have abused animals [illegible]y were children than crim[illegible]nsidered non-ag[illegible] fire and throwing them off a water tower."

Felthous and his colleague, Yale psychology prof[illegible] Stephen Kellert, inter[illegible] in K[illegible] ticular crime, only that there [illegible] to be a link between it and siveness as an adult."

Most of the abuse repo[illegible] criminals were direct[illegible]

Suspect's Past Stained With Animal Blood

Weird Things Went On At Gang Leader's Home

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI — The leader of a drug-trafficking gang that is accused of ritually killing 13 men near Matamoros, Mexico, is a handsome former Miami-Dade Community College student who has been arrested twice for shoplifting and grew up in a family that practiced Santeria, authorities in south Texas believe.

Residents of Coral Park Estates, the west Dade neighborhood where Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, 26, lived until 1984, said they found headless chickens, geese and goats — animals traditionally sacrificed in Santeria rituals — on their doorsteps and in the street of the middle-class neighborhood. They blame [illegible] Constanzo family.

Abuse often strikes both kids and pets

Officials say a person who mistreats an animal is likely to do the same with a spouse or a child

By JENNIFER BARRS
Tribune Staff Writer

TAMPA — Jed was chained to a cinder block in the back yard when investigators saw him. He was near death. He had a skin disease and intestinal worms, and his skin crawled with fleas.

Just beyond Jed's mouth lay a fistful of dry food.

Michael's ears and nose were filled with dirt when physicians saw him. There were feces on his feet, and his head and abdomen were swollen. A neighbor said [illegible] stopped breathing when [illegible]

Animal deaths linked to suspect in slayings

AKRON — A suspect in the slayings of at least four outdoorsmen in eastern Ohio has a history of abusing animals, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Akron Beacon Journal said members of a task force investigating the slayings believe Thomas Lee Dillon might have killed 1,000 animals, including some that were tortured first. They said he used a rifle or bow and arrow.

Mr. Dillon has not been charged in the deaths.

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