

A close-up photograph showing a human hand gently holding a brown dog's paw. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with fingers wrapped around the paw. The dog's paw is on the left side. The background is white, and the image is framed by a black curved border on the right side.

# WHAT COURTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANIMAL CRUELTY AND THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL CRUELTY AND INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Judge Alison Ferrante

[Alison.Ferrante@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:Alison.Ferrante@gilbertaz.gov)

# Bench Book National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the ALDF

[https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/NCJFCJ\\_ALDF\\_Animal-Cruelty-TAB\\_Final.pdf](https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/NCJFCJ_ALDF_Animal-Cruelty-TAB_Final.pdf)

This contains a wealth of information and resources on:

The Link

Family Violence Cases and Animal Cruelty

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases and Animal Cruelty

Juvenile Offender Cases and Animal Cruelty

Elder abuse Cases and Animal Cruelty

Screening and Assessment

Final Recommendations

# Animal Welfare Institute

<https://awionline.org/content/companion-animals>

# Great Quotes

---

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Mahatma Gandhi

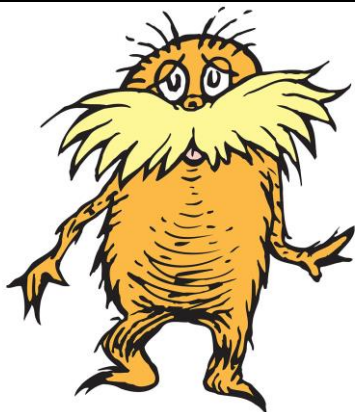
---

"Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight." Albert Schweitzer

---

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Edmund Burke

# Great Quotes



---

“Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human lives.” Albert Schweitzer

---

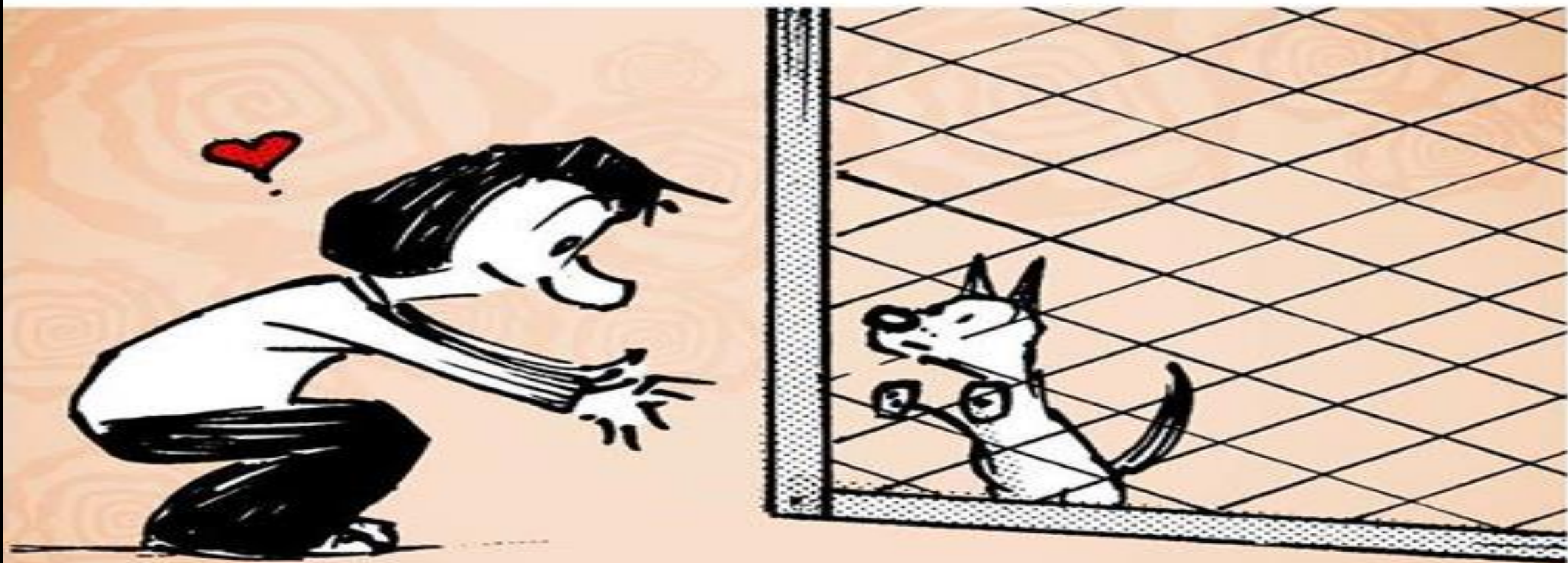
“When animals are abused, people are at risk; When people are abused, animals are at risk.” National Link Coalition

---

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s Not!” The Lorax

---

“Alone we can do so little; together we do so much.” Helen Keller



Not all of us can do great things.  
But we can do **small things with great love.**

*Mother Teresa*

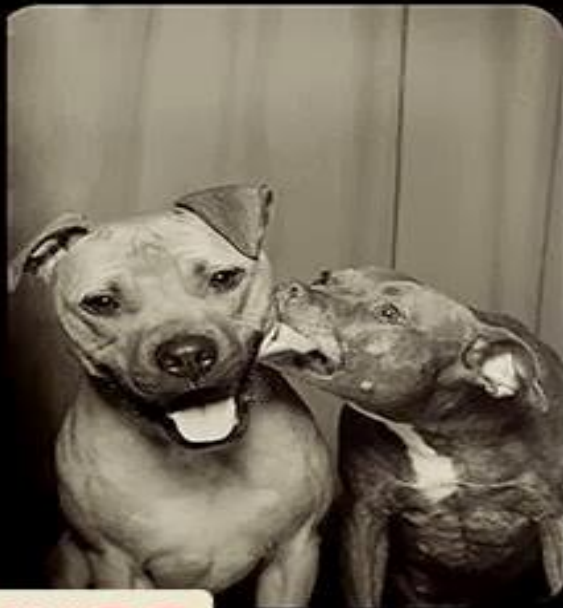


PEOPLE WHO ARE  
**VIOLENT**  
TO ANIMALS  
RARELY STOP THERE

## NOTE

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS WITHOUT SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF ABUSED ANIMALS. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO TRY TO MINIMIZE THIS.

# But First A Sweet Picture





## Quick Outline . . .

- Review of the law
- Review of the LINK

# Definition of Animal

- State Statutes A.R.S. §13-2910
  - "Animal" means a mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian.
  - Local Codes
- What about non-traditional pets??

# Definition of Animal and the Link Preview

- “It wasn’t just the cats and dogs. It was the sheep and the chickens. I was terrified for their welfare. I knew if I were to leave, he wouldn’t hesitate to kill them. He had done it before.”
  - Susan Walsh, 50, whose testimony before the Maine legislature was instrumental in helping to enact the first state law that included animals in domestic violence protective orders (Juvenile & Family Justice Today A Publication of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Spring 2010)
- Case with German Shepherd

What Does Animal Cruelty Look Like?

# What Does Animal Cruelty Look Like?



**Abandonment**



**Lack of Sanitation**



**Evidence of fighting**



**Poor Body condition  
Starvation  
Dehydration**



**Burns**

# What Does Animal Cruelty Look Like?

**Mutilation**



**Lack of veterinary care**



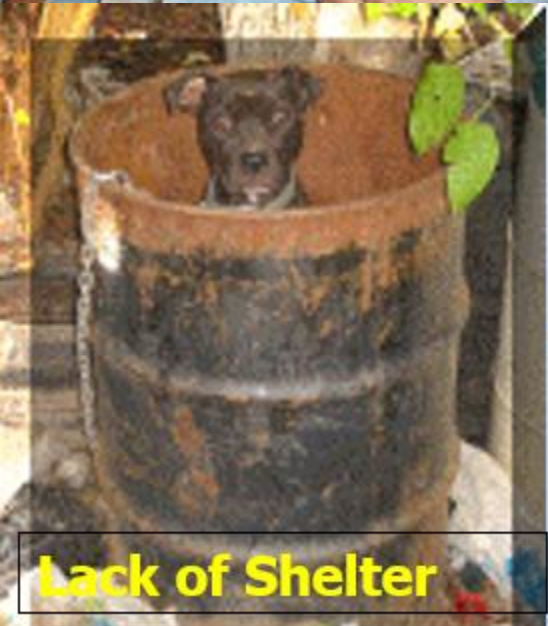
**Trauma  
Multiple Wounds or Fractures**



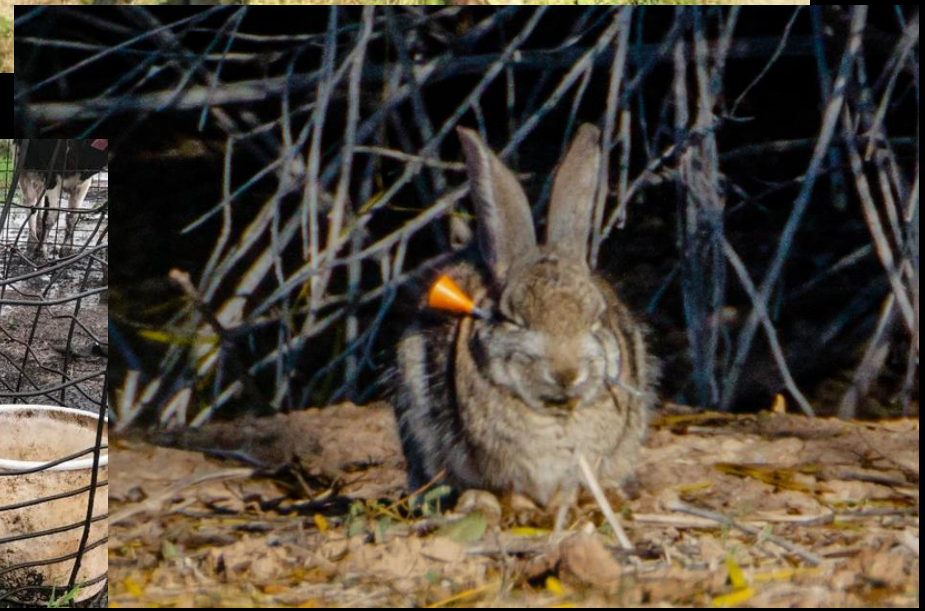
**Severe matting or filth**



**Lack of Shelter**



# What Does Animal Cruelty Look Like?



# WHAT DOES ANIMAL CRUELTY LOOK LIKE?





# Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws

- A.R.S. § 13-2910 Cruelty To Animals
  - 16 subsections
  - 9 misdemeanors
  - 5 felonies (5 class 6 felonies and 2 class 5 felonies)
- A.R.S. § 13-2910.01 Animal Fighting C5F
- A.R.S. § 13-2910.02 Presence at Animal Fight C6F
- A.R.S. § 13-2910.03 Cockfighting C5F

## Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws

- A.R.S. § 13-2910.04 Presence at Cockfight C1M
- A.R.S. § 13-2910.05 Exempt Activities
- A.R.S. § 13-2910.06 Defenses to Cruelty to Animals and Bird fighting
- A.R.S. § 13-2910.07 Cruel and Inhumane Confinement of Pig During Pregnancy or of a calf raised for veal C1M

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws

A.R.S. 13-2910.08  
Humane  
Treatment of Farm  
Animals Fund

A.R.S. 13-2910.09  
Equine Tripping  
C1M

A.R.S. 13-2910.10  
Animal Fighting  
paraphernalia  
C1M

A.R.S. 13-2910.11  
Unlawful  
possession of  
animals C1M

A.R.S. 13-2910.12  
Presence of minor  
at animal fight or  
cockfight C1M

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws

- A.R.S. § 3-1721 Mistreated Horses / Seizure
- A.R.S. § 11-1024 Service Animals
- A.R.S. § 11-1025 Dog Bites –Liability
- A.R.S. § 13-4281 Animal Seizure
- A.R.S. § 13-1403 Public Sexual Indecency
- A.R.S. § 13-1411 Bestiality C6F or C3F (if minor under 15)
- A.R.S. § 13-1802 Theft of an Animal for FIGHTING
- A.R.S. § 13-3601 Domestic Violence (Animal Cruelty)
- A.R.S. § 32-2239 Mandatory Reporting-Veterinarians
- A.R.S. § 44-1799 through 1799.11 Pet Dealers

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws

- A.R.S. §3-1305 Obliterating or changing brand or mark (C4F)
- A.R.S. §3-1307 Unlawfully killing, selling or purchasing livestock of another (C5F)
- A.R.S. §3-1310 Abandonment of animal at boarding or veterinary facility
- A.R.S. §3-1311 Dogs killing or chasing livestock (CIM if intentional)
- A.R.S. § 3-1312 Transporting equine in cruel manner
- A.R.S. § 3-932 Violations for theft of native plants (value C4F, C5F, C6F, C1M)

A graphic on the left side of the slide features a dark blue background with a large, stylized, rounded shape in shades of green and blue. The text "Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws" is centered within this shape in a white, sans-serif font.

## Arizona Animal Cruelty Laws

- A.R.S. §3-1297 Concealment of livestock killed or injured by railroad or motor vehicle C3M
- A.R.S. §3-1491 Salt River Horse Herd C1M
- A.R.S. § 3-1371 Seizure of Livestock by Livestock Officer
- A.R.S. § 3-1721 Petition of Seizure
- A.R.S. §3-1701 Report of killed or crippled livestock
- A.R.S. § 33-1370 Abandonment of Rental Property
- Title 17 Game & Fish

# Domestic Violence

---

- A.R.S. § 13-3601: "Domestic violence" means any act that is a dangerous crime against children as defined in section 13-705 or an offense prescribed in section 13-1102, 13-1103, 13-1104, 13-1105, 13-1201, 13-1202, 13-1203, 13-1204, 13-1302, 13-1303, 13-1304, 13-1406, 13-1425, 13-1502, 13-1503, 13-1504, 13-1602 or 13-2810, section 13-2904, subsection A, paragraph 1, 2, 3 or 6, section 13-2910, subsection A, paragraph 8 or 9, section 13-2915, subsection A, paragraph 3 or section 13-2916, 13-2921, 13-2921.01, 13-2923, 13-3019, 13-3601.02 or 13-3623, if any of the following applies:

## Order of Protection

A.R.S. § 13-3602 (G)(7): Grant the petitioner the exclusive care, custody or control of any animal that is owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by the petitioner, the respondent or a minor child residing in the residence or household of the petitioner or the respondent, and order the respondent to stay away from the animal and forbid the respondent from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing, committing an act of cruelty or neglect in violation of section 13-2910 or otherwise disposing of the animal.



# Injunction Against Harassment

A.R.S. 12-1809

F. If the court issues an injunction, the court may do any of the following:

1. Enjoin the defendant from committing a violation of one or more acts of harassment.
2. Restrain the defendant from contacting the plaintiff or other specifically designated persons and from coming near the residence, place of employment or school of the plaintiff or other specifically designated locations or persons.
3. **Grant relief necessary** for the protection of the alleged victim and other specifically designated persons proper under the circumstances.

# Sample Order of Protection Language

**ARIZONA FIREARMS LAW.** Under A.R.S. § 13-3602(G)(4), the court finds that Defendant poses a credible threat to the physical safety of Plaintiff or Protected Persons. Therefore, Defendant shall not possess, receive, or purchase firearms and shall surrender same within 24 hours of service to: Mesa Police Department.

**ANIMALS.** Plaintiff is granted the exclusive care, custody, or control of any animal that is owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the plaintiff, the defendant, or a minor child residing in the residence or household of the plaintiff or the defendant. Defendant is ordered to stay away from the animal and shall not take, transfer, encumber, conceal, commit an act of cruelty or neglect in violation of section 13-2910, or otherwise dispose of the animal.

**OTHER ORDERS.** The no contact order above includes no indirect contact. Defendant shall not come within 500 feet of the Plaintiff and/or the Protected Person and/or the Protected Locations and/or the Protected Animals. The no contact order above includes, but is not limited to, any contact via any form of social media. Defendant shall not mail any packages to the Plaintiff and/or the Protected Person via any means.

07/05/2023

Date

/ s /

Judicial Officer

Alison Ferrante

Printed Name

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute DEFINITIONS

**Animal:** a mammal, bird, reptile, or amphibian.

**Cruel neglect** means “to fail to provide necessary food, water, or shelter.

---NOT ADEQUATE, but necessary.

Interesting to note that an 1867 New York law imposed a duty to provide “sufficient quality of good and wholesome food and water”



Is this  
necessary  
water?

05.18.2006 16:57

## Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute Definitions

- **Cruel Mistreatment** means “to torture or otherwise inflict unnecessary serious physical injury upon an animal, or to kill an animal in a manner that causes protracted suffering to the animal.”
- Protracted vs. “painless” death.
- No definition of torture

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute Definitions

- Service animal means an animal that has completed a formal training program, that assists its owner in one or more daily living tasks that are associated with a productive lifestyle, AND that is trained not to pose a danger to the health and safety of the general public.
- Seeing eye dog. Must be certified!! Obtain certification from dog's owner/handler.
- "**Domestic animal**" means a mammal, not regulated by title 3, that is kept primarily as a pet or companion or that is bred to be a pet or companion.

## Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute Section 1 Misdemeanor

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly subjects any animal to cruel neglect or abandonment.
- Huge problem with economic downturns
- With abandonment do not need to know where the suspect is currently located

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 2 Misdemeanor

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fails to provide medical attention necessary to prevent protracted suffering to any animal under the person's care or control.
- Affirmative responsibility to seek medical care. Reckless behavior is no excuse under the statute.



# Body Condition Scoring

- [https://www.aaha.org/public\\_documents/professional/guidelines/weightmgmt\\_bodyconditionscoring.pdf](https://www.aaha.org/public_documents/professional/guidelines/weightmgmt_bodyconditionscoring.pdf)
- Tufts uses opposite
- <https://www.gerlltd.org/Education/Equine%20Body%20Condition%20Score%20Presentation.pdf>

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 3 Misdemeanor

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly inflicts unnecessary *physical* injury to an animal.
- Minor injury qualifies.
- Ex. Throwing dog out of truck, scrapes to back end, but no *serious injury*
- Must have injury though. Kicking the dog with no injury not enough.

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 4 Misdemeanor

- Recklessly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment.
- Counterpart to *felony section 9*. Difference is the mental state. Behavior that is required in section 4 is recklessness. Subsection 9 is intentional or knowing behavior.

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 5 Misdemeanor

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly kills any animal under the custody or control of another person without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.
- Death....does not matter how inflicted.

Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute  
Section 6 Misdemeanor

Recklessly interferes with, kills, or harms a working or service animal without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 7 Misdemeanor

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly leaves an animal unattended and confined in a motor vehicle and physical injury to or death of the animal is likely to result.
- A peace officer, animal control enforcement agent, or animal enforcement deputy may use reasonable force to open a vehicle to rescue an animal if the animal is left in the vehicle as prescribed in subsection A, paragraph 7 of this section.

# NEVER LEAVE A CHILD OR PET IN THE CAR

EVEN 68° IS TOO HOT!



## TEMPERATURE

OUTSIDE	IN CAR AFTER 10 MINUTES	IN CAR AFTER 60 MINUTES
68°	81°	115°
75°	88°	122°
82°	95°	129°
90°	102°	136°
97°	109°	144°

FROM THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

IF YOU WITNESS A CHILD OR PET  
IN DISTRESS, CALL 911 OR MALL  
SECURITY AT (480) 955-8695

LEAVING YOUR CHILD OR ANIMAL IN A HOT CAR  
IS AN INFRACTION OF A.R.S. 13-3623 AND  
A.R.S. 13-2910, VIOLATORS CAN BE PROSECUTED.

QUEEN CREEK  
MARKETPLACE



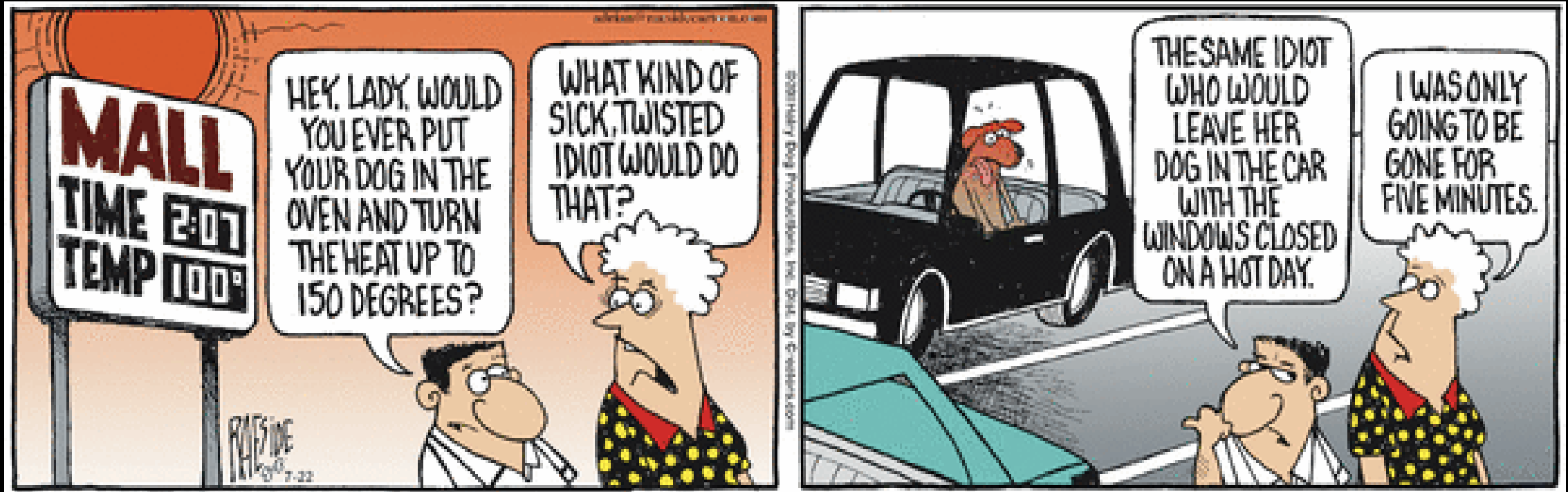
# How quickly a car heats up

Minutes passed	Outside air temperature					
	70 °F	75 °F	80 °F	85 °F	90 °F	95 °F
10 min.	89 °F	94 °F	99 °F	104 °F	109 °F	114 °F
20 min.	99 °F	104 °F	109 °F	114 °F	119 °F	124 °F
30 min.	104 °F	109 °F	114 °F	119 °F	124 °F	129 °F
40 min.	108 °F	113 °F	118 °F	123 °F	128 °F	133 °F
50 min.	111 °F	116 °F	121 °F	126 °F	131 °F	136 °F
60 min.	113 °F	118 °F	123 °F	128 °F	133 °F	138 °F

Internal car temperature



# The Typical Response . . .



# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 8 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal under the person's custody or control to cruel neglect or abandonment that results in serious physical injury to the animal.
- Absence of "reckless" mindset.
- Class 6 Felony

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 9 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment.
- Catch-all (or most of) felony section. Most felony cruelty cases are charged under this section of the statute.
- Torture....added element, not defined.
- Class 6 Felony

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 10 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly interferes with, kills, or harms a working or service animal without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.
- Felony counterpart to section 6. Only difference is mindset.
- Class 6 Felony

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 11 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly allows any dog that is under the person's custody or control to interfere with, kill, or cause physical injury to a service dog.
- Class 6 Felony

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 12 Misdemeanor

- Recklessly allows any dog that is under the person's custody or control to interfere with, kill, or cause physical injury to a service animal.

# Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute

## Section 13 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over a service animal with the intent to deprive the service animal handler of the service animal.
- Mindset
- Don't steal a seeing eye dog
- Class 6 felony

Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute  
Section 14 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly subjects a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment.
- Class 5 Felony



Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute  
Section 15 Felony

- Intentionally or knowingly kills a domestic animal without either legal privilege or consent of the domestic animal's owner or handler
- Class 5 Felony

Arizona Animal Cruelty Statute  
Subsection 16 Misdemeanor

- Intentionally or knowingly harasses a working animal that is in a law enforcement vehicle or trailer without either legal privilege or consent of the owner.
- Class 1 Misdemeanor

# Animal Fighting A.R.S. §13-2910.01

- Knowingly (required in all three sections)
- Owning, possessing, keeping or training any dog with the intent that such dog engage in an exhibition of fighting with another dog.
- Class five felony.
- Changed in 2009 from dog fighting

# Animal Fighting Section 2 Felony

- Knowingly
- For amusement or gain causing any animal to fight with another animal, or causing any animals to injure each other.
- Class five felony

# Animal Fighting Section 3 Felony

- Knowingly
- Permitting any act in violation of paragraph 1 or 2 to be done on any premises under his charge or control.
- Class 5 felony

# Presence at Animal Fighting A.R.S. §13-2910.02

- Any person who is knowingly present at any place or building where preparations are being made for exhibition of the fighting of dogs, or is present at such exhibition, is guilty of presence at dogfight.
- Class six felony

# Examples

- Trunking
- Hogdogging

# Cockfighting A.R.S. §13-2910.03

- Knowingly
- Owning , possessing, keeping, or training any cock with the intent that such cock engage in an exhibition of fighting with another cock.
- Class five felony



# Cockfighting

- Knowingly
- For amusement or gain, causing any cock to fight with another cock, or causing any cocks to injure each other.
- Class five felony.

# Cockfighting

- Knowingly
- Permitting any act in violation of paragraph 1 or 2 to be done on any premises under his charge or control.
- Class five felony.

## Presence at cockfight A.R.S. §13-2910.04

- Any person who is knowingly present at any place or building where preparations are being made for an exhibition of the fighting cocks, or is present at such exhibition, is guilty of presence at a cockfight.
- Class one misdemeanor.

## Dogfighting : Paraphernalia Case/Hobbyist Level –case example

Anthony T. W. - VA case where LEO working with him for ten years

A call from Chesterfield Detective who was working on a drug/ gun case

### Links:

Larceny

Narcotics (human and animal use)

Alcohol

Gambling

Firearms

Malicious wounding & assaults

Child neglect/endangerment

Homicide/Rape/Pedophilia

Vice crimes (humans and animals)

Tax law violations

Veterinary medicine



## A.R.S. § 13-2910.07

- Took effect December 31, 2012
- Cruel and inhumane confinement of pig during pregnancy or calf raised for veal

# A.R.S. § 13-2910.09. Equine tripping

- A. A person who knowingly or intentionally trips an equine for entertainment or sport is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor.
- First violation 2 days in jail and \$1000 fine
- Second offense is 30 days jail and \$2,000 fine
- Third offense 90 days jail and \$2,000 fine
- . For the purposes of this section:
  - 1. "Equine" means a horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny.
  - 2. "Trips" means knowingly or intentionally causing an equine to lose its balance or fall by use of a wire, pole, stick or rope or any other object or by any other means.

# A.R.S. §13-1411 Bestiality

- **A.** A person commits **bestiality** by knowingly doing either of the following:
  - 1. Engaging in oral sexual contact, sexual contact or sexual intercourse with an animal.
  - 2. Causing another person to engage in oral sexual contact, sexual contact or sexual intercourse with an animal . . .
- **D.** **Bestiality** is a class 6 felony, except that **bestiality** pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 2 of this section is a class 3 felony punishable pursuant to [§ 13-705](#) if the other person is a minor under fifteen years of age.
- **E.** For the purposes of this section, “animal” means a nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian, either dead or alive.

# A.R.S. § 13-1403 Public Sexual Indecency

**A.** A person commits public sexual indecency by intentionally or knowingly engaging in any of the following acts, if another person is present, and the defendant is reckless about whether such other person, as a reasonable person, would be offended or alarmed by the act:

1. An act of sexual contact.
2. An act of oral sexual contact.
3. An act of sexual intercourse.
4. An act of bestiality.

**B.** A person commits public sexual indecency to a minor if the person intentionally or knowingly engages in any of the acts listed in subsection A of this section and such person is reckless about whether a minor who is under fifteen years of age is present.

**C.** Public sexual indecency is a **class 1 misdemeanor**. Public sexual indecency to a minor is a class 5 felony.



# Other Laws Related to Animal Cruelty

- Federal Law
  - Crush videos
- Local Codes
- Case Law

# Puppy Mills



# Other Laws Related to Animal Cruelty

- Puppy Mills
- “P.U.P.S.” Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act
  - Amendment to the Federal Animal Welfare Act
  - USDA ( mandated ) inspections, Breeders for resale must be licensed( 50 dogs in 12 months)
  - Dogs allowed “out” each day
  - Dogs sold as “Healthy”, but actually Sickly, Fraud violation may apply
  - Still has not passed

A.R.S. § 44-1799.71: Unlawful public sale of animals;  
civil penalty

In a county with a population of eight hundred thousand persons or more, a person commits the unlawful public **sale of animals** by knowingly selling an **animal** on:

1. Any public highway, street or park or any public property adjacent to a public highway, street or park.
2. Any commercial private property without the express consent of the owner or lessee of the property . . .

## Seizure

- Civil seizure (A.R.S. §13-4281)
- Local ordinances (both for criminal and seizure)
- A.R.S. § 3-1371 Seizure of Livestock by Livestock Officer
- A.R.S. § 3-1721 Petition of Seizure

## A.R.S. § 13-4281 Animal seizure

- If seized pursuant to 13-2910
- Post Notice and file proof with the court
- Must request hearing within ten days including weekends and holidays after date of notice
- \$25 per animal bond
- Set hearing within 15 business days
- “the seizing agency shall have the burden of establishing by a preponderance of evidence that the animal was subjected to cruel mistreatment, cruel neglect or abandonment in violation of section 13-2910 or will suffer needlessly if humane destruction is delayed . . .

## Theft A.R.S. § 13-1802 (E)

- Theft of any property or services valued at less than \$1000 is a class one misdemeanor UNLESS the property is taken from the person of another is a firearm or is AN ANIMAL taken for the purpose of animal fighting which is a class 6 felony
- Amended 7/13/09 to insert animal for dog

# Sentencing

- Do not order community service hours at a Humane or other animal non-profit!
- Restitution for holding, vet bills etcetera
- Refer to Sage counseling for animal cruelty counseling/treatment
  - General education, group therapy or individual counseling (serious cases)
- AniCare Model
- <https://barceducation.org/>



# Hoarding

- HOARDING IS DEFINED AS “TO ACCUMULATE AND HIDE, TO STORE AWAY.”
- SERIOUS PROBLEM

# Hoarding

- CAN INVOLVE ALL TYPES OF ANIMALS.
- CASES HAVE INCLUDED:
  - DOGS
  - CATS
  - HORSES
  - FARM ANIMALS
  - EXOTIC ANIMALS

# Hoarding

- STUDY BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHOWS THAT WITHOUT A LONG-TERM PLAN AND SUPPORT FOR THE HOARDER EVIDENCE SUGGESTS RECIDIVISM RATES REACH 100 PERCENT
- PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUE
  - FOCAL DELUSION
  - ADDICTION
  - OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER
  - ZOOPHILIA
  - DEMENTIA

# HOARDING CLUES

- COMPLAINTS OF STENCH (AMMONIA OR FECES)
- LARGE AMOUNT OF ANIMALS CONGREGATING AROUND A HOME
- SUSPECT IS USUALLY UNKEMPT
- TYPICAL HOARDER IS MIDDLE AGED, OR OLDER. USUSALLY FEMALE AND ARE OFTEN DISABLED, UNEMPLOYED, OR RETIRED.
- STEREOTYPE DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL SITUATIONS.

## Case Study

- Gilbert Hoarding Case
  - Started with nuisance complaint
  - Warrant for nuisance
  - Amended to cruelty



# The Link

When humans or animals in a home are abused or neglected it is a warning signal that others in the household may not be safe.

Numerous studies document multifaceted links between acts of cruelty to animals and violence towards others.

An antisocial behavior circle should be linked as well.



# The National Link Coalition

<https://nationallinkcoalition.org/>



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals*



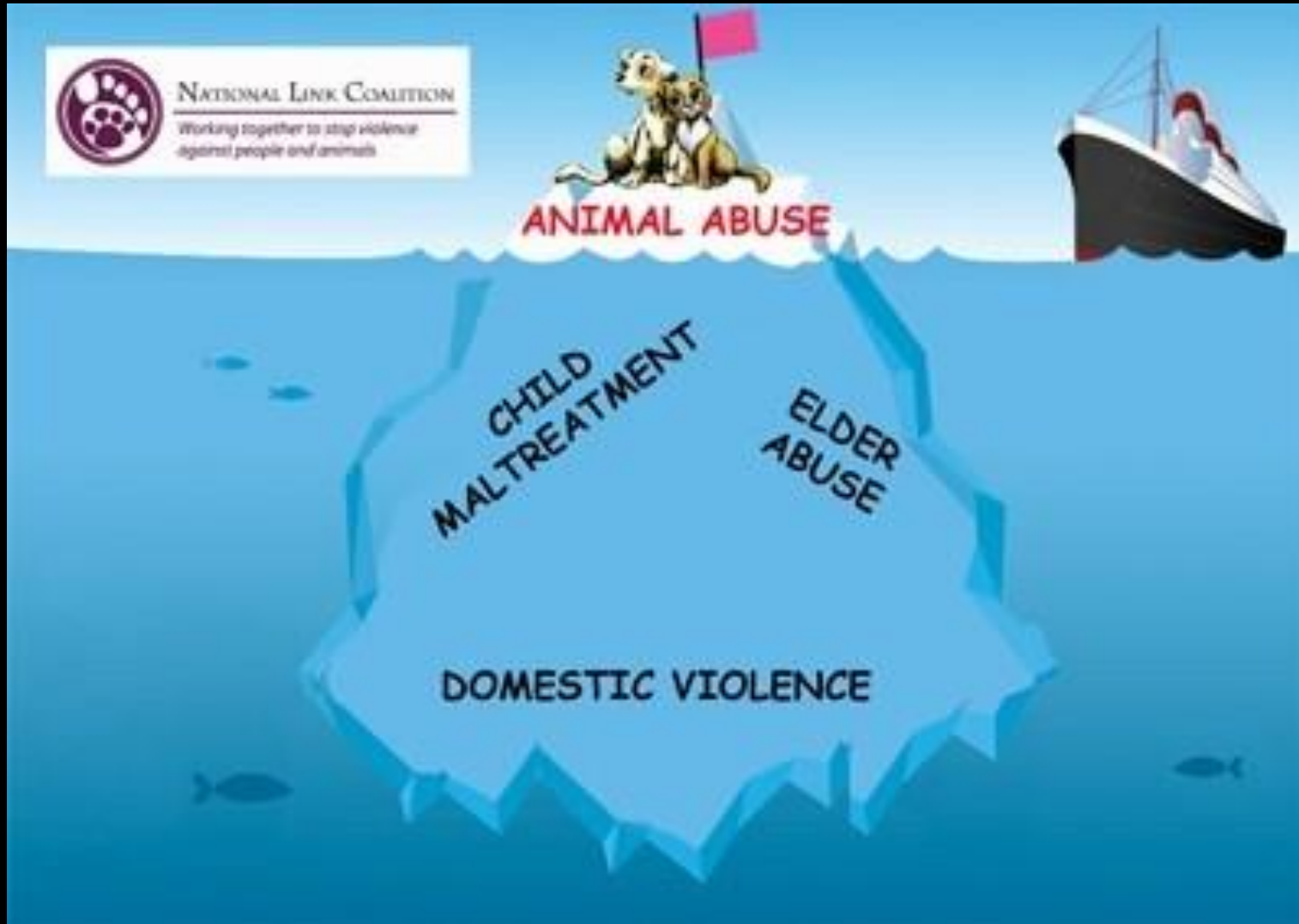
# Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

- <https://www.acesdv.org/barc-project/>
- Up to 40% of sexual and domestic violence survivors report that they delayed their decision to seek safety and service out of fear for their animals' welfare. (Arkow 1994)





# THE LINK



# The Link: The Domestic Violence

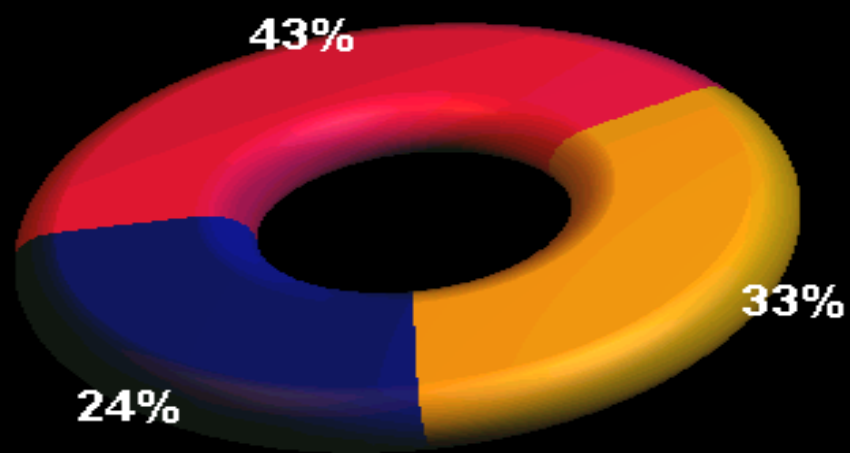
- 41% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence
- 25%-40% of battered women do not escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock if they leave



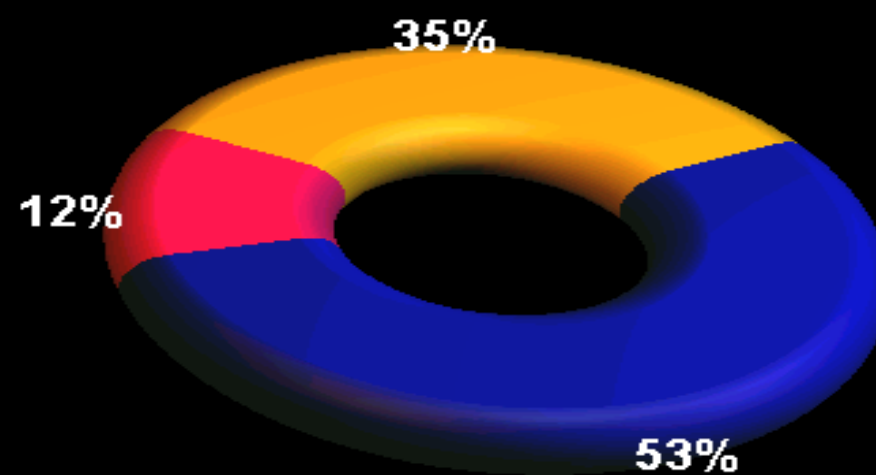
# The Link: Family Violence and Pet Abuse

*“Aubrey got angry with the family dog for straying outside their yard. He loaded one of his nine guns, then shot and killed it. The kids began to sob, devastated. He grabbed (one child's) hair . . . slapped another of the kids, then began crying himself. Joyce tried to comfort them all. But her feelings of anger were mixed with genuine terror: in a moment of rage, she knew, Aubrey could kill any one of them and cry about it afterward.”*

## Family Violence\Animal Cruelty



Male



Female

■ Domestic Violence

■ Child Abuse

■ Elder Abuse

# The Link and Why Animals Are Important

Animal cruelty affects communities as a whole and must be addressed within this wide context of connections across domestic violence, child abuse, juvenile delinquency and elder abuse



# The Link- Domestic Violence

- 62%-76% of animal cruelty occurs in front of children
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that some children may put themselves in harm's way



# The Link: Child Abuse

- Interviewer questioned 53 families being investigated for child abuse
- Animal abuse was reported by 60% of the families



- Animal abuse was reported by **88%** of the families being investigated for physical child abuse

# The Link: Sexual Abuse

- 36.8% of boys and 29.4% of girls who were victims of physical and sexual abuse and domestic violence have been reported to abuse their family pet





# Historical Commentary on the Importance of Animals and The Link

- Jeremy Bentham, barrister, one of first to address animals in the legal system.
- Footnote to “Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation” (1781).
- Argued that the capacity for suffering is what gives a being the right to legal consideration.
- “The question is not, Can they *reason*? Nor, Can they *talk*? But Can they *suffer*?”
- “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 (1724 –1804), *Lectures on Ethics*



# Historical Recognition of The Link

- ❖ *The Four Stages of Cruelty*, William Hogarth, 1751
  - ❖ Four prints depicting the life of Tom Nero, a fictional character

# William Hogarth

- The First Stage of Cruelty



# William Hogarth

- The Second Stage of Cruelty



# William Hogarth

- Plate 3 Cruelty in Perfection



# William Hogarth

- Plate 4 The Reward of Cruelty





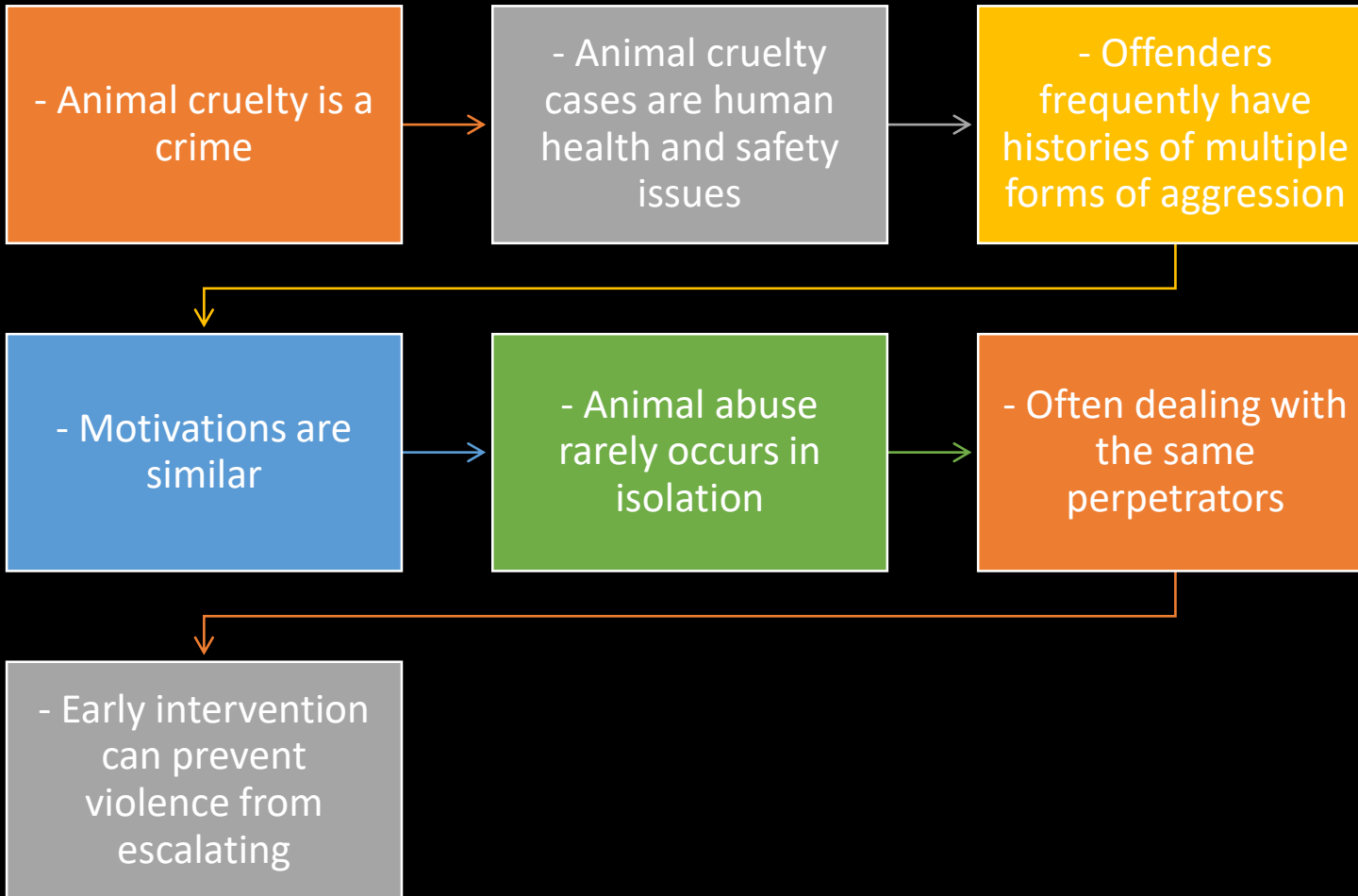
## ASPCA and the First Child Abuse Case - Mary Ellen McCormack

- 1874 case
- 10-year-old
- She put a human face on child abuse
- Orphan who was adopted and then battered and neglected
- Case was brought by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

## Why Animal Cruelty Cases Are Important

- Cruelty to animals and violence towards people have something in common:
  - Both types of victims are living beings
  - Both feel attachments
  - Both types of victims feel pain
  - Both types of victims experience distress
  - Both types of victims may die from their injuries





# Why These Cases Are Important

Animal Cruelty Cases Engender  
Community Emotion and Media  
Involvement . . .

# Why Animal Cases Are Important - The Silent Crime

- Patrick's case:
- An animal, like a child, is an easy target since s/he cannot pick up the phone and dial 911
- The emaciated 1-year-old dog was found wrapped in a plastic bag in a trash bin at the bottom of the garbage chute a day before St. Patrick's Day in 2011
- 19 pounds



Patrick



# Why These Cases Are Important - The Silent Crime

## Tommie



# Tommie

- <https://www.nbc12.com/2019/08/28/man-sentenced-years-prison-killing-tommie-dog/>

# Animals Are Important

- Animals have been used throughout history to assist/sustain humans
- They give unconditional love
- Studies: Humans Are Not Smarter Than Other Animals Just Different
  - Science tells us that animals can have cognitive faculties that are superior to human beings
- Attachments/bonding similar to those of humans

# Animals Are Important

- October 20, 2021, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio recognized animals as legal persons for first time in the United States
  - Trend
- Cases holding that animals abused by their owners are victims of crime
- CT and appointment of advocates (Desmond's Law)
- Therapy and Assistance
  - Court, K9, Etc





# Military K9s



# Police K9s





# Largest Fentanyl Bust in U.S. History

- <http://www.hazmatnation.com/meet-k9-behind-largest-fentanyl-seizure-u-s-history/>
- <https://www.pulse.ng/bi/lifestyle/a-drug-sniffing-dog-helped-the-feds-make-the-biggest-fentanyl-bust-in-us-history/8zk32c5>
- *February 1, 2019: A K-9 unit was then brought in and a drug-sniffing dog detected an odor coming from a secret compartment. When officers breached the compartment, they found 254 pounds of fentanyl and 395 pounds of methamphetamine. The fentanyl alone makes the bust historic. It's the largest amount ever seized in one go. The previous record was set in 2017, when Nebraska state troopers stopped a truck with 118 pounds of the super-strong opioid.*
- *Humphries said the **fentanyl was valued at \$3.5 million** and the **methamphetamine was valued at \$1.1 million**. Underscoring just how important it was that the drugs were caught before coming into the US, Humphries explained that fentanyl is about 80 to 100 times more powerful than morphine and just a few grains are enough to kill a person. The Mexican national who was transporting the load has not been named, but officials say he has been charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.*



Therapy – Gabriel's Angels/  
Equine Therapy to Help  
Veterans (Man O' War Project)



# DOGS CAN AID THE

- blind
- elderly
- abused

76% of those who beat animals also beat family members.  
If you see an abused pet, call 911.  
You might just save a life. Or two.

[SpotAbuse.org](https://www.spotabuse.org)

Sponsored by Serve.

SpotAbuse.org



## DOGS CAN HELP US FIND

- ✕ bombs
- ✕ drugs
- ✕ domestic abuse

76% of those who beat animals also beat family members.  
If you see an abused pet, call 911. You might just save a life. Or two.

# Outdated Excuses for Behavior

DUI – “It’s only a joyride.”

Domestic Violence  
– “It’s only a family matter.”

Animal Cruelty –  
“It’s only an animal, boys will be boys.”



# Animal Cruelty As A Public Health and Safety Issue

- First and foremost: Animal cruelty is a violent crime committed against vulnerable members of our communities
  - Like children, animals cannot speak for themselves
- Second, animal cruelty is linked with other crimes against property and humans
  - This signals that animal cruelty is a threat to public health and safety broadly speaking

## The Link Between Animal Cruelty and Other Crimes - an Overview

- In last 40 years hundreds of studies demonstrated a clear link between violence against animals and other forms of abuse
  - Initial theory was “violence graduation” hypothesis
  - Studies from last 20 years support the “general deviance” theory as best explanation for the link

# The Link Between Animal Cruelty and Family and Interpersonal Violence - An Overview

- Despite popular perception, it is not always the case the person will abuse an animal and then graduate to violence against humans.
- Most research now suggests that animal cruelty is one of several antisocial or deviant behaviors that a person may engage in concurrently or over the course of their life.
- **SIMPLY PUT VIOLENCE IS VIOLENCE** and those who commit violence rarely limit their victim pool to a single species.
- Animal abuse is indicative of other forms of deviant behavior.
- Conversely, familial violence may also be an indicator that animals in the home are in danger.

# Animal Cruelty is Closely Related to Other Types of Crimes and Human Violence

- The majority of those histories include close-up and personal violence against neighborhood companion animals, such as dogs or cats.
- A study undertaken by the MSPCA and Northeastern University found that **70%** of people who committed violent crimes against animals also had records for other crimes. Compared with a control group of their neighbors, animal abusers were **five times** more likely to commit violent crimes against people, **four times** more likely to commit property crimes, and **three times** more likely to have a record for drug or disorderly-conduct offenses.

(see also Michigan State University, The Link: Cruelty To Animals and Violence Towards People, 2008 (citations omitted))



Researchers have found that **43%** of school shooters in the United States between 1988 and 2012 had histories of animal abuse.

# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

- Nikolas Cruz (Parkland Florida School Shooter)
- History of hurting animals
  - Shooting squirrels and chickens with a pellet gun
  - Trying to get a dog to attack a piglet, jamming sticks into rabbit holes
  - Killing toads
  - His social media reportedly included photos of dead animals



# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor



- Devin Kelley
- Texas Church Shooter
- August 1, 2014, numerous witnesses saw him in a yard, jumping on top of a husky and beating it in the head and neck.
- Kelley called for the brown and white dog to come.
- When it didn't, he ran over to it, tackled it, held it down with his knees, and punched it four to five times.
- The dog got up to run away, and when Kelley caught up with it, he picked it up, threw it to the ground and dragged it by its neck.

# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

- Authorities came and found the dog undernourished and took it to a vet.
- Kelley claimed that he was trying to restrain the dog from acting aggressively.
- Kelley received a deferred probationary sentence, paid fines totaling \$448.50, and the charges were dismissed.
- Kelley also has a history of spousal and child abuse, which is why he was discharged from the Air Force. He pled guilty to intentionally fracturing a toddler's skull

# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

- Jimmy Lee Dykes, Killed school bus driver
- Child hostage, 2013
- Killed school bus driver in Alabama
- Kidnapped 5-year-old boy and held him hostage in bunker for a week
- Had beaten a neighbor's 120 pound dog with a lead pipe and the dog died a week later
- He told animal control his "only regret was he did not beat him to death all the way.
- "If a man can kill a dog, and beat it with a lead pipe and brag about it, it's nothing until it's going to be people."





# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor



- Robert Lewis Dear
- Colorado Planned Parenthood shooter, 2015
- Killed three people and wounded nine at Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs
- Stalking neighbor
- Shot her dog with a pellet gun
- Told police he did not shoot the dog but also told them that the neighbor “was lucky that it was only a pellet that hit the dog and not a bigger round.”

# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

- Panda October 8, 2017
- Deep nearly fatal slash to throat

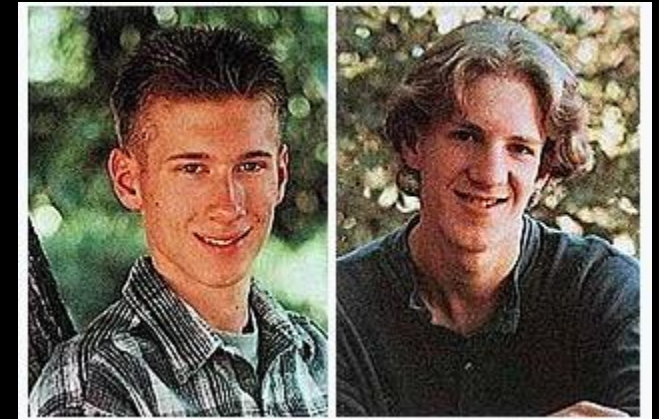


# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

- Rod Ferrell serving life sentence for bludgeoning a Florida couple to death
  - First drew attention of law enforcement in Kentucky when he broke into an animal shelter and tortured, killed and mutilated two puppies
- Two students and puppy in microwave

# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

- Animal cruelty: A common trait among serial killers and mass murderers.
- Albert DeSalvo (the Boston Strangler)
  - Tortured and killed dogs and cats
- Denis Rader (the BTK killer)
  - Tortured and killed dogs and cats
- Jeffrey Dahmer
  - Tortured and killed dogs and cats
- Columbine school shooters Eric Harris and
  - Dylan Klebold
    - Tortured and killed dogs and cats



# Why Do People Abuse Animals?

- Ignorance of the animal's needs, or of humane discipline techniques.
- Lack of empathy; failure to recognize that animals have feelings because it's "only an animal."
- Socialized abuse: a culture in which violence to others is condoned, respected or expected.
- Power and control: the same techniques of coercion and domination that mark domestic violence and other family violence. The pet may become a pawn and a vulnerable target as a way to intimidate or retaliate against another family member or ensure his or her silence or compliance with other abuse.
- Mental health issues.
- Don't believe animals are worth of moral consideration.

# Why Do People Abuse Animals?

- Inadequate coping skills: animals can become convenient, easily-accessible targets for momentary rage in times of crisis or stress.
- Displacement of hostility, redirection or re-enacting of abuse targeting the perpetrator, or a means to regain a sense of power after such violence.
- Sexual gratification.
- Satisfying a prejudice against a species or breed.
- Shocking people for amusement, or enhancing one's own aggressiveness by impressing others with one's capacity for violence.
- Attempting to instill violent tendencies in the animal (e.g., attack-training).
- Deriving sadistic pleasure from causing suffering.
- Imitation of, or a rehearsal for, interpersonal violence.
- Sociopath.

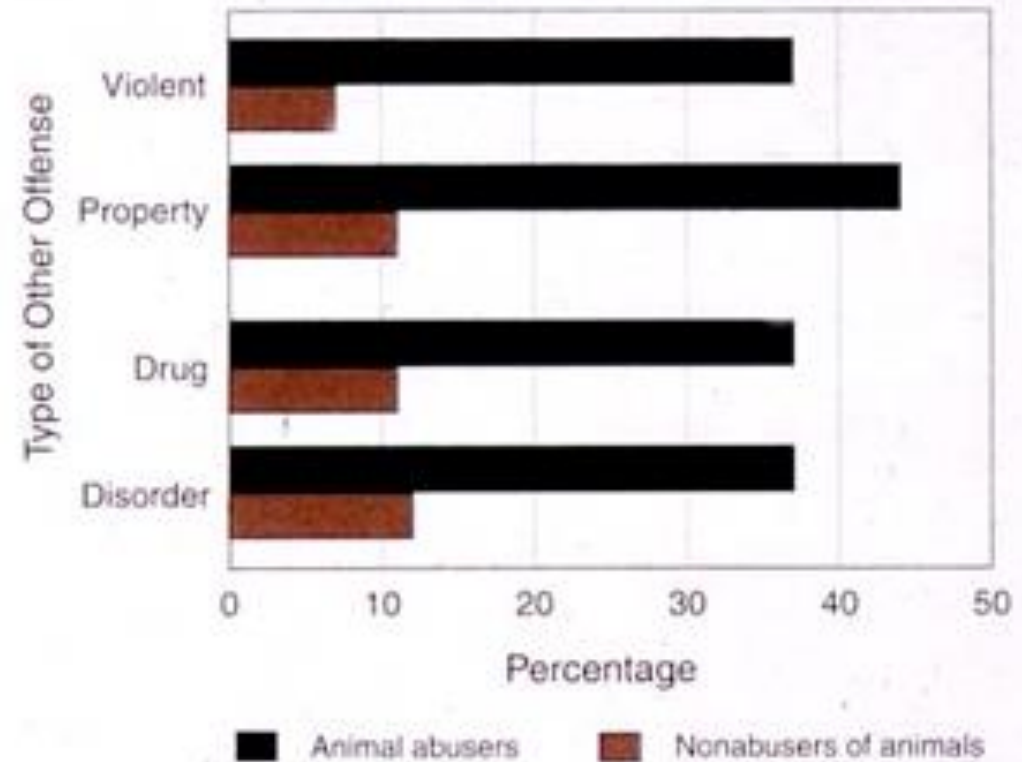
# Why Do Children Abuse Animals?

- All of the above plus:
  - Curiosity or exploration
  - Peer pressure or coercion by a more powerful person
  - Relieve boredom or depression
  - Fear of the animal
  - To protect the animal from worse abuse
  - Re-enacting their experience of being abused
  - Regaining a sense of power after being abused
  - Imitating adult behaviors
  - Rehearsal for interpersonal violence

# Animal Cruelty As A Public Health and Safety Issue

Animal Cruelty is Closely Related to Other Types of Crimes and Human Violence

Figure 5: Percentage of Types of Other Offenses Committed by Individuals Prosecuted for Animal Abuse and a Control Group Who Did Not Abuse Animals



Note: Age range of sample: 11–76 years. All chi-square comparisons between abusers and nonabusers significant at  $p < 0.0001$ .

Source: Arluke, A., Levin, J., Luke, C., and Ascione, F. 1999. The relationship of animal abuse to violence and other forms of antisocial behavior. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 14:963–975.



# Animal Cruelty As A Predictor

## The Connection Between Animal Cruelty and Human Violence



**“...the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior, and a past history of violence is the single most important predictor of future violence... Violence against animals is violence and when present is synonymous with a history of violence.”**

*- FBI Supervisory Special Agent Alan C. Brantley at a Congressional Briefing. May 13, 1998*

# Means to an End . . .

---

The Link often presented as means to an end

---

Presented as a way to compel indifferent people to care about animal cruelty crimes

---

Problematic framing this way as animal crimes should be taken seriously in their own right because animals are victims

---

However, important to understand The Link because can assist with intervention and rehabilitation strategies



## The Link and the Need for Collaboration – An Overview

- The Link demonstrates the need for cross-training and cross-reporting between humane agencies and social services agencies.
- Also shows the need for intersectional services to help both animal cruelty victims and human domestic violence victims.
- Perpetrators may abuse both humans and animals as a result of the same underlying cause.

## The Link & Changing Laws – An Overview

- Research on The Link has shifted the way the public perceives animal cruelty, and has motivated states to enact laws in response.
- Animal crimes are being taken more seriously as all 50 states and four territories have enacted felony animal cruelty provisions for first-time offenses, up from just six jurisdictions in 1990
- 36 states and D.C. have statutes allowing animals to be included in protective orders.

# The Link & Changing Laws – An Overview

- 12 states and DC mandate or permit child protection and social work officials to report suspected animal abuse.
- 11 states and DC have laws requiring or explicitly permitting humane and animal control officers to report suspected child maltreatment or elder abuse.
- In 10 states, animal fighting can be an underlying offense giving rise to racketeering charges.
  - High incidence of other crimes, such as drug trafficking and gambling
  - Children often present



# The FBI Recognition of the Importance of the Link-Uniform Crime Report (2016)

Previously grouped in “All other offenses”

FBI now mandating that animal cruelty be reported as a distinct offense

Now considered a crime against society

Type A offense category that includes crimes of serious nature including arson, burglary, kidnapping and homicide

# The FBI Recognition of the Importance of the Link- Uniform Crime Report

- Four categories
  - Simple/gross neglect
  - Intentional abuse and torture
  - Organized crime (such as dog and cock fighting)
  - Animal Sexual Abuse
- Data collection began 2016
- “[Animal cruelty is] a violent crime, and if it goes unchecked, it leads to bigger things.” Victor Amato, Monmouth County SPCA



NIBRS User  
Manual for Animal  
Control Officers  
and Humane Law  
Enforcement

# The Link: It's all in the Family!

Families = adults, children and pets.

- ~ 70% (or 90.5 million) of U.S. Households with children have **pets**. (American Veterinary Medical Association, 2007 and 2021-2022 National Pet Owners Survey)
- **Pets are in 63% of U.S. households** (The American Pet Products Association Survey, published in Pet Age, 2008)
- **Having a pet is associated with more chances for social interaction** (Wood, Giles-Corti, & Bulsara, 2005)





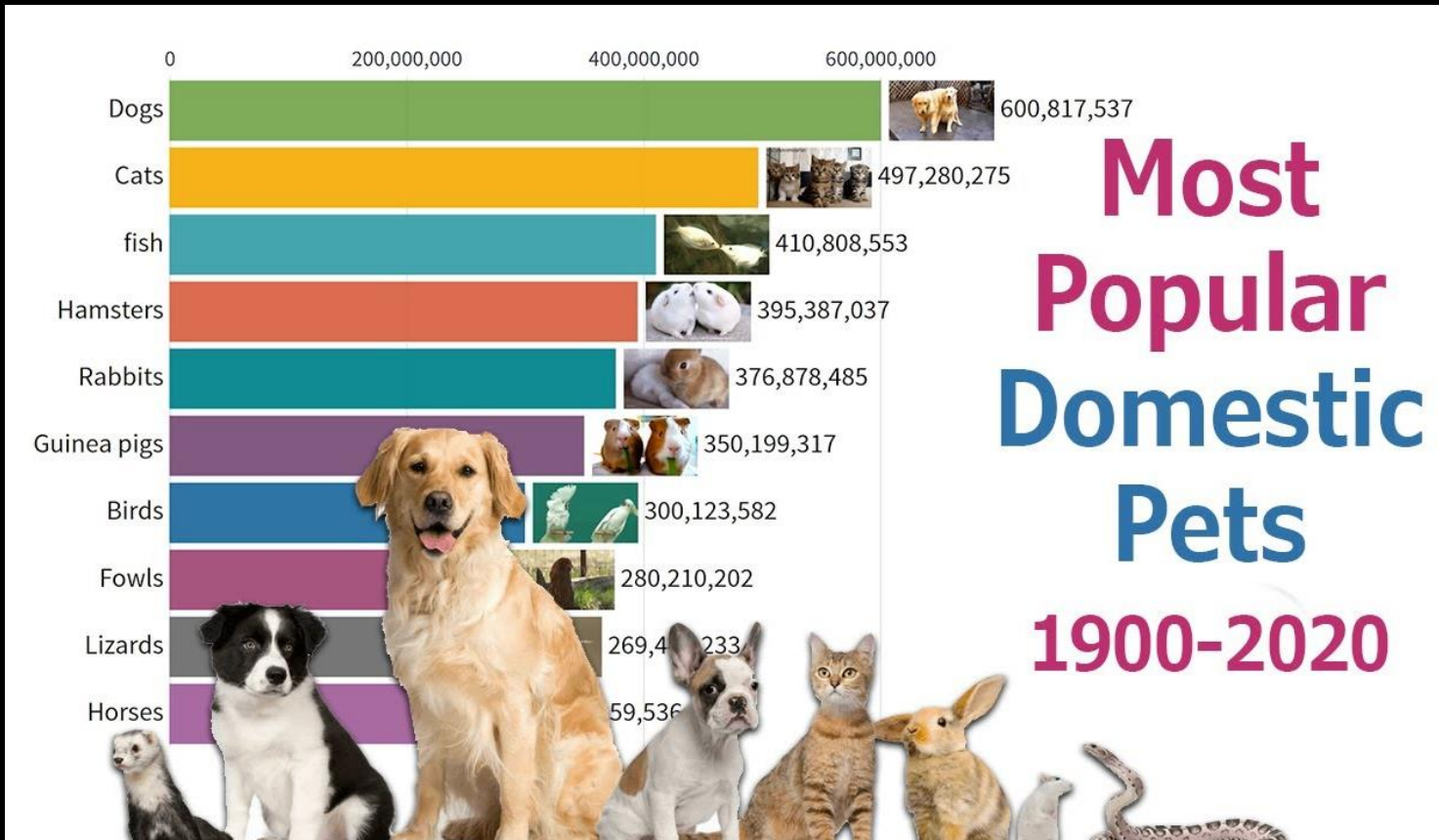
## Specialty and Exotic Animals

	Households	Population
	(in 1,000)	(in 1,000)
Fish	10,475	76,323
Ferrets	326	501
Rabbits	1,534	2,244
Reptiles	3,669	6,032
Pet Livestock	494	1,786
Pet Poultry	1,397	15,367
Other Mammals	1,978	3,521
All Others	322	961

## The Link: It's All in the Family – Top Pet Statistics

- Fish: 142 million freshwater fish and 9.6 million saltwater fish.
- Cats: 88.3 million cats.
- Dogs: 74.8 million dogs.
- Birds: 16 million birds.
- Small Animals: 24.3 million small animals (Hamsters & Guinea Pigs)
- Horses: 13.8 million horses.
- Reptiles: 13.4 million reptiles.
- Oct 1, 2020

# The Link: It's All in the Family Pets



- Pursuant to A.R.S. §13-2910(H)(I) animal means a mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian
- But FISH are pets!

# The Link: Experts See Co-Occurrence.

- Co-occurrence: occur together.
- Correlation: occur together in a way not expected on the basis of chance.
- Co-occur is not the same as prediction. (Patterson-Kane, Piper, 2009)
- Research shows correlation, but does not yet show causation.
- Caution in our assumptions, not in our protection of victims and research and treatment for perpetrators.



# Animal Cruelty and Family Violence

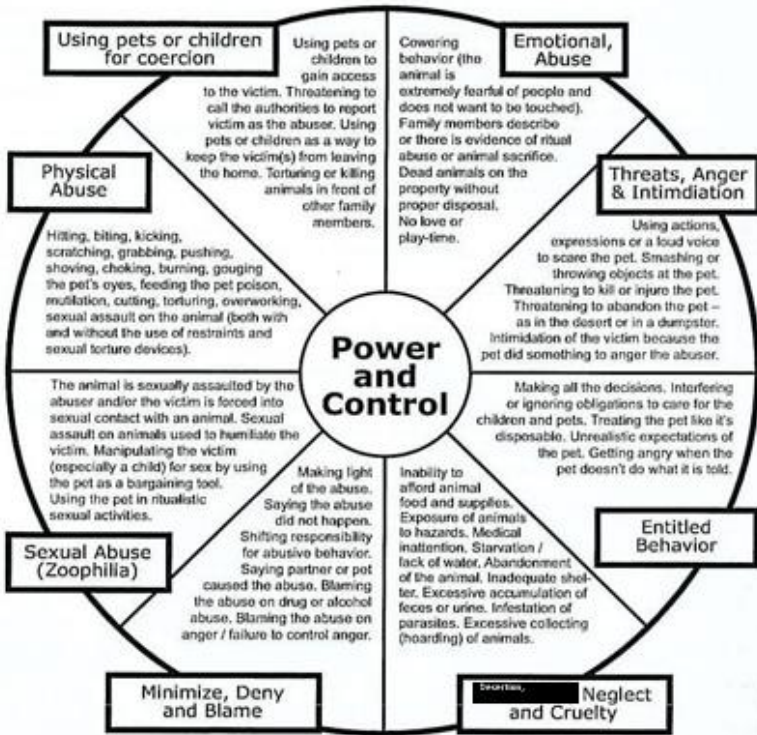
- Numerous studies have chronicled the link between animal abuse and domestic violence, particularly intimate partner violence.
- Women who experience abuse from a partner are at significant risk of having their partner threaten, harm, or kill their companion animals as well.
- These overlapping forms of abuse may occur for two reasons.
  - First, as explained by the general deviance theory, abuse of humans and abuse of animals are manifestations of the same underlying violent, controlling behaviors.
  - Secondly, abusers will often threaten or harm their partner's beloved companion animal as a way to intimidate and control the human victim.
    - In fact, more than half of battered women in domestic violence shelters reportedly delayed their escape out of fear for their companion animals. Policymakers are more cognizant than ever of this link, and most states now explicitly permit companion animals to be included in protection orders.

# Family Violence and Animal Cruelty

- Pet safety is an important issue in the context of domestic violence
  - Batters can use the bond that survivors or their children have with an animal as a tactic to manipulate or control
  - Abusing pets is a specific tactic listed on the Duluth Model's Power and Control Wheel
  - Also included in domestic violence lethality or danger assessment tools

# Power and Control Wheels

Animal Abuse Power Wheel:



Adapted from LACAAP in *Touch with Teens* and the *Domestic Abuse Intervention Project*, Duluth, MN.  
Adapted by Michon Davies (Domestic Violence Commission) and Marsh Myers (Humane Society of Southern Arizona).



# Animal Abuse as Power and Control

- Studies have also shown that approximately one-third of battered women have delayed their escape out of fear for their animals



In homes with domestic violence, **50%** of children reported that the abuser threatened to harm or kill a beloved animal in order to maintain control over their human victims.

# The Link Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Children

- 75% of the incidents of animal abuse occurred in the presence of children to psychologically control and coerce them.

(National Link Coalition—Ascione, Weber & Wood, 1997)

- The parent responsible for abusing the child was often also the person who injured or killed the family pet.

(The First Strike: The Violence Connection. The Humane Society of the United States. DeViney, Dickert & Lockwood, 1983)



# Animals and Domestic Violence Victims

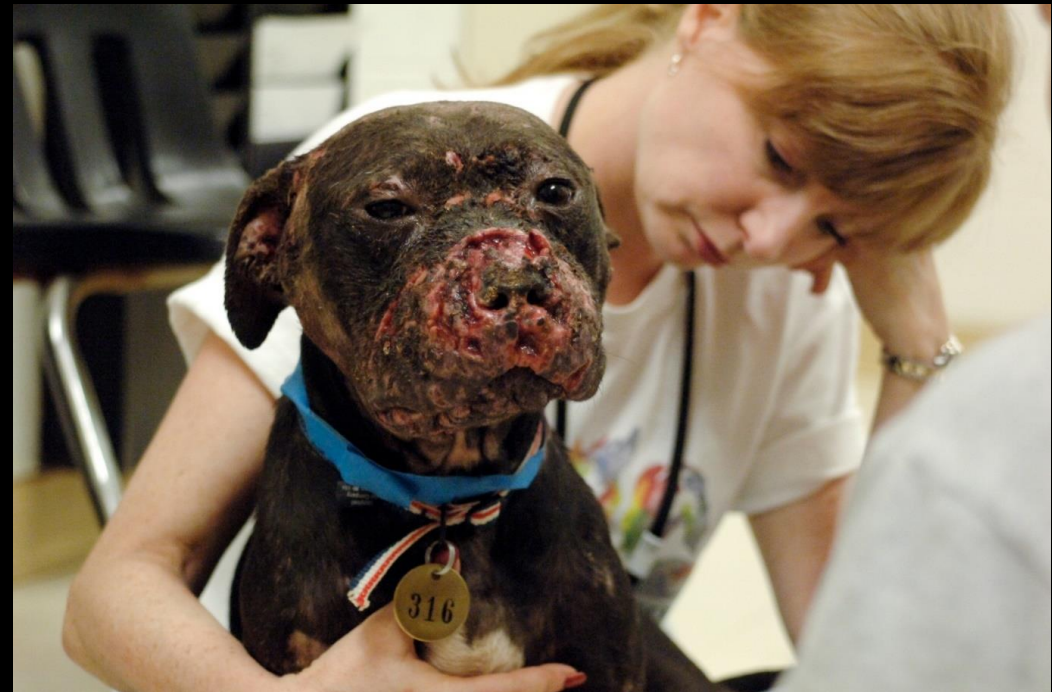
- 99% of people who share their lives with companion animals consider their animals to be “companions” or “family members.”
- Children often interfere to protect their animals from violence.
  - Creates a potentially dangerous situation demonstrating the important role companion animals play in children’s lives—particularly children raised in abusive households who may crave companionship and comfort.
- Animals play a crucial role in providing comfort and solace for domestic violence victims.

# Witnessing animal cruelty can be a form of trauma, particularly for children

- Between 62-76% of animal cruelty in the home occurs in the presence of a child which is a form of psychological trauma and negatively impacts children's development.
- Witnessing animal cruelty may cause desensitization, decreased empathy, learned maladaptive coping mechanisms and other negative behaviors, and unresolved feelings of anger, fear, and resentment—which may, in turn, lead to perpetrating violence.
- Children who witness both animal cruelty and family violence are more likely to experience depression and anxiety

# Cruelty, fighting & “The Link”

- Witnessing abuse can compromise child’s psychological adjustment
- Children who witness domestic violence or who are victims of physical or sexual abuse may imitate the violence
- **32% of pet-owning victims of domestic abuse reported that one or more of their children had hurt or killed a pet**



# The Link Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence and Children

- ❖ Children exposed to domestic violence were three times more likely to be cruel to animals. (National Link Coalition—Currie, 2006)
- ❖ 26.8% of boys and 29.4% of girls who were victims of physical and sexual abuse and domestic violence have been reported to abuse the family pet. (Frank R. Ascione, *Children and Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness and Cruelty* (2005))

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & PETS

AN ESTIMATED

**1 MILLION**

ANIMALS ARE **ABUSED OR KILLED**  
EACH YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**



**71%** OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
REPORT THAT THEIR ABUSER  
**ALSO TARGETED**  
**THEIR PET.**

The Top Three  
Indicators that a  
Survivor will be  
Killed By His or  
Her Abuser Are:

Access to a  
weapon, especially  
a gun

Suicidal or  
homicidal threats,  
and plans to carry  
out either

Threats to harm or  
kill pets

# Intimate Partner Risk Assessment

The Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University and the Arizona Peace Officers' Standards and Training Board created the Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System tool and protocol.

11.	Does he/she use <b>illegal drugs</b> or <b>misuse prescription drugs</b> ? (e.g. meth, cocaine, painkillers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Has he/she threatened to <b>harm people you care about</b> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Did you <b>end your relationship</b> with him/her within the past six months?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13a.	If you answered "No" to Question 13, does he/she know or sense you are planning on ending your relationship?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Has he/she experienced <b>significant financial loss</b> in the last six months?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Is he/she <b>unemployed</b> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Has he/she ever threatened or tried to commit <b>suicide</b> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Has he/she <b>threatened to kill</b> you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Has he/she threatened or abused your <b>pets</b> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

"Yes" to 2 or 3 Tier 1 questions = "Elevated Risk" / "Yes" to 4 or more Tier 1 questions = "High Risk"  
 "Elevated Risk" and "High Risk" scores trigger law enforcement officers to offer follow up responses in the form of providing or connecting victims to supportive resources or resource information.

Action:  Victim referred for follow up based on responses to the assessment  
 Victim referred for follow up based on the officer's professional judgment  
 No referral

Arrest

Non-Arrest

\* To be considered at Initial Appearance. See A.R.S. § 13-3967(B).

Prosecution Copy

At the time of this investigation, my body worn camera was activated and my contact while on scene was both audio and video recorded. A Copy of the recording was later uploaded as evidence.

1. Has your partner ever threatened/used a weapon against you? NO

2. Has your partner ever threatened to kill you, your children or pets? YES

My dog, believes he is in secure and I am always putting the dog first. "I'm gonna turn that dog into f'n pudding."

3. Has your partner ever tried to choke you? NO

4. Does your partner have a gun or can they get one? NO

5. Is your partner jealous or do they try to control you? YES

6. Has your partner ever tried to commit suicide? No

7. Has your partner ever forced you to have sex when you didn't want to? No

8. Do you feel like the violence against you is escalating in severity? Yes  
Gone from verbal to physical, very hurtful and hurting my dog.

9. Do you think your partner may try to kill you? Yes

I don't know. That's the craziest party, I don't know.

10. Is your partner drunk/high on drugs on a frequent basis? No





1. Has your partner ever threatened/used a weapon against you? YES

Has happened over fifty (50) times. the most recent was with a cell phone. He hit me across the back with the phone along with his fists. He also used knives before. He cut me on the left leg.

2. Has your partner ever threatened to kill you, your children or pets? YES

He has threatened to take the children out of the equation. One time when I left he called and said the cats would be gone if you don't come home. He threatens me all the time. He says i`m going to kill you if you leave. I`m going to kill you if you leave me.

3. Has your partner ever tried to choke you? YES

Last night (5-4-14) he tried to choke me from behind with his hands. He tiold me last night that his hands don`t work so next time he would try with a strangle rope.

4. Does your partner have a gun or can they get one? YES

5. Is your partner jealous or do they try to control you? NO

He locks me into bedrooms and closets. He controls my job, the money, leases, and anything he can.

6. Has your partner ever tried to commit suicide? YES

He said he needed all of this to be over. Has not said how he would do it. I don`t take him seriously. Has not said how.

7. Has your partner ever forced you to have sex when you didnt want to? YES

He held me down with my face down while he is behind me aand raped me from behind.

8. Do you feel like the violence against you is escalating in severity? YES

It used to be certain things that would set him off and now it seems like everything is OK and then he just lets it out.

9. Do you think your partner may try to kill you? YES

No answer chosen



1. Has your partner ever threatened/used a weapon against you? NO  
N/A

2. Has your partner ever threatened to kill you, your children or pets? YES  
Pets only. Kicked dog very hard whihc required surgery 7 years ago.



3. Has your partner ever tried to choke you? YES  
Brittany was on Facebook and Matthew became jeaous and pinned her against wall with his hand around her neck. Brittany could breath with ease. Approx. 7 years ago

4. Does your partner have a gun or can they get one? NO

5. Is your partner jealous or do they try to control you? NO  
Yes however she doesn't remember the details

6. Has your partner ever tried to commit suicide? YES  
Attempted suicide in the past using illicit drugs  
Heroin/ Opiates

7. Has your partner ever forced you to have sex when you didn't want to? NO  
No answer chosen

8. Do you feel like the violence against you is escalating in severity? YES  
Brittany stated Matthew has never thrown a rock at the house before.

9. Do you think your partner may try to kill you? NO  
No answer chosen

10. Is your partner drunk/high on drugs on a frequent basis? YES  
Yes and MATthew has a history of Opiate use and heroin addiction

1. Has your partner ever threatened/used a weapon against you? YES

REBECCA STATED IF I EVER LEFT ANTHONY HE WOULD KILL ME AND HIMSELF

2. Has your partner ever threatened to kill you, your children or pets? YES

"NOT THE CHILDREN"...REBECCA ADVISED ANTHONY HELD THE FAMILY CAT OVER THE STAIR CASE THREATENING TO DROP THE CAT.

3. Has your partner ever tried to choke you? YES

3 TIMES IN TOTAL. 1) APPROACHED REBECCA FROM BEHIND AND PLACED HER IN A "HEADLOCK". 2) IN JUNE ON A FAMILY TRIP REBECCA WAS LYING ON HER BACK ON THE BED WHILE ANTHONY WAS KNEELING ON TOP OF HER CHOKING HER WITH BOTH OF HIS HANDS. 3) 10 YEARS AGO ANTHONY CHOKED REBECCA USING HIS HANDS WHILE SHE WAS PRESSED UP AGAINST THE WALL.

4. Does your partner have a gun or can they get one? YES

5. Is your partner jealous or do they try to control you? YES

ANTHONY CONTROL REBECCA'S MONEY. ANTHONY CHECKS REBECCA'S CELL PHONE (TEXT), LAP TOP (EMAILS) AND PURSE FOR RECEIPTS.

6. Has your partner ever tried to commit suicide? NO

REBECCA ADVISED DURING THIS INCIDENT ANTHONY STATED HE WAS GOING TO PUT A HOLLOW POINT ROUND IN HIS GUN AND GIVE REBECCA THE GUN TO PULL THE TRIGGER. ANTHONY MADE STATEMENTS BUT NEVER ATTEMPTED.

7. Has your partner ever forced you to have sex when you didn't want to? YES

ANTHONY "WOULD BASICALLY HELD ME DOWN, MOSTLY FROM BEHIND"



# Animal and Domestic Abuse – Statistics and Studies

- According to one study, women in domestic violence shelters were 11 times more likely to report that their partner hurt or killed a pet, as compared with women who have not suffered domestic abuse
- In another study, 89% of women who had companion animals during an abusive relationship reported their animals were threatened, harmed, or killed by their abuser.
- Abuse of a companion animal is one of the four most significant risk factors associated with someone committing domestic abuse and is an indicator of the use of controlling and violent behaviors.

# SpotAbuse Campaign





PSA

# In a violent family everyone could be a victim

**A**ND THAT INCLUDES THE FAMILY PET. Animal abuse may be a warning sign of a violent home. It may be used as a threat to a spouse, a partner, an elderly parent, or a child. But it's *always* serious. And just like other family members, pets need a safe place to be. That's why The Humane Society of the United States encourages communities to create a Safe Havens for Animals™ program that provides temporary sheltering options for pets.

**ANIMAL CRUELTY IS FAMILY VIOLENCE.**  
To find out more about the connection and about Safe Havens for Animals, contact us.

*Promoting the protection of all animals*

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037  
202-452-1100 • [www.hsus.org/firststrike](http://www.hsus.org/firststrike)

SUPPORTED BY  
THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE





## LOVE SHOULD NOT MEAN FEAR

Domestic violence and spousal abuse are often preceded by threats and irrational behavior. Because domestic violence is a leading cause of homicide, both violence and the threat of abuse are prosecuted to protect the family.



The Baltimore Police Department now provides personnel dedicated exclusively to investigate domestic violence, assist with prosecutions, and send abusers to jail.

**Call 911 — FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE**  
**Call 311 — FOR INFORMATION**



# Family Violence and Animal Cruelty

- Protective Orders
  - Including animal is important one for safety of animal BUT
  - Including the pet in an OOP is a way judges help to remove or reduce barriers to safety and wellbeing of the survivors and their children
    - Not just dogs and cats! Moreno the fish!
    - Why judges should inquire if a pet is in the home!
      - If an abuser refuses to relinquish a pet and the pet is not listed on a temporary restraining order (TRO), police and even courts are often reluctant to get involved in what is usually considered a marital property dispute. As a result, abusers have been known to threaten to harm or kill a pet if a survivor does not return to the home or (does not) dismiss criminal charges or restraining orders against an abuser.



# Arizona Order of Protection Language

- A.R.S. § 13-3602 (G)(7): Grant the petitioner the exclusive care, custody or control of any animal that is owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by the petitioner, the respondent or a minor child residing in the residence or household of the petitioner or the respondent, and order the respondent to stay away from the animal and forbid the respondent from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing, committing an act of cruelty or neglect in violation of section 13-2910 or otherwise disposing of the animal.

# Injunctions Against Harassment

- No specific provision including companion animals, *BUT...*
- A.R.S. § 12-1809(F)(3), “the court may...[g]rant relief necessary for the protection of the alleged victim and other specifically designated persons proper under the circumstances.”
- Because companion animals are treated as property under the law, a court *can* restrain a defendant from contact with an alleged victim’s companion animal in an injunction against harassment.
- Cases involving neighbors most likely to arise.

# Connecticut and Desmond's Law

- Desmond was an abused shelter dog that was starved, beaten and strangled to death in 2012
- Most animal cruelty cases were dismissed, dropped or perpetrators were permitted to enter a probationary program that allowed for dismissal and expungement
- Prosecutor in Desmond's case sought prison (owner even admitted violence), but abuser given a probation program that allowed his record to be wiped clean
- Returned to community with no record and can repeat acts of violence to animals or humans
- Desmond's Law allows for legal advocates to testify on behalf of animal victims in cruelty and neglect cases

# Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence

First victim of domestic violence may be the animals in the household

- Victimization prevention may begin with competent animal cruelty investigation
- Easier to discuss with law enforcement
- Suspects do not believe legal system takes these cases seriously



The association between animal abuse and all forms of violence is well documented. If we don't address pets, we are missing the mark and reality of who and what people consider as "family."

Hon. Carroll J. Kelly, Eleventh  
Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami,  
FL.

-NCJFCJ and ALDF bench book

# Family Violence and Animal Cruelty



- Questions to ask!
  - Luckily Arizona allows for inclusion of pets in civil protection orders
    - Always ask if the Petitioner has a pet!
  - Some domestic violence shelters now either house pets onsite or provide for safe alternative housing of pets (but not many and often full)
    - Sojourner Center and Lost Our Home
  - Emergency shelter is also not a long-term solution to the housing issues facing survivors and their families.
    - If it is not possible for the survivor to stay in the residence, what are the options for pets in transitional housing?
    - Are there considerations around securing housing that allows pets?
    - Is there a friend or family member that could safely take the pet?

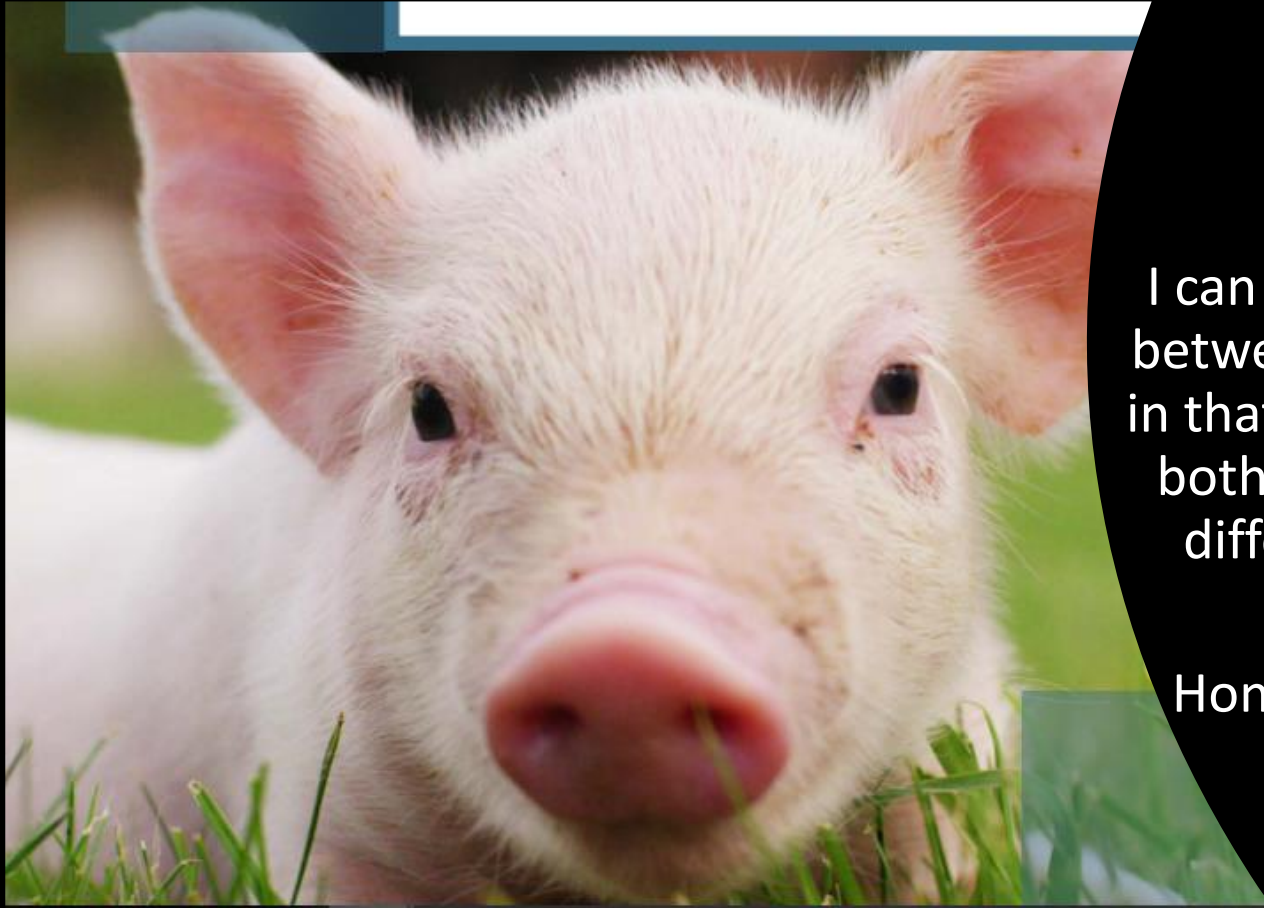


# Family Violence and Animal Cruelty

- What constitutes a pet?
  - For many families, pets do not just mean cats and dogs. Are there options for placing horses or other large or less traditional pets or companion animals?
- Economic barriers to safety and separation are important considerations that can be addressed in protection orders.
  - What could be the economic impacts of leaving the home with a pet? Does the survivor have the resources for a pet deposit for a new living situation? What about license and veterinarian fees? If the survivor cannot find a shelter that allows pets, what about boarding fees?
- Access to pet records, including licenses and vaccinations, and pet-related property, such as a pet carrier or pet medication, need to be considered.
  - Can the survivor obtain these? Are these needed to board the animal or to lease a new residence?

# Family Violence and Animal Cruelty

- Confidentiality is often very important for survivors separating from their batterer.
  - Sometimes the care of pets can unexpectedly compromise a survivor's safety.
    - Consideration should be given to what happens if a survivor flees with a pet with a microchip and that chip is scanned.
    - Could the batterer be alerted to the survivor's new location?
    - Like with co-parenting and doctor's records, what information may be shared through a veterinarian's office that could compromise the survivor's safety?
    - Can a protection order address those concerns?



I can foster and secure the relationship between animals and their humans and in that way improve the quality of life of both. I feel more optimistic about the difference I can make in the lives of animals and families.

Hon. Rosa Figarola, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami, FL.

- NCJFCJ and ALDF bench book

# Case Studies

- Almost killed dog
- Dog strangled to point of defecation
- Black eyes, bruises and lacerations to victim
- DOV 3/18/2015
- 3/21/15: no longer wishes to prosecute
- VIS
- Lethality assessment

# Examples of the Link to Domestic Violence

- Tucson case
- Richard C
  - Toffee
  - DV?
  - EMT
- James H. psychiatrist

# Examples of the Link to Domestic Violence

- Richard C
  - Toffee
  - DV?
  - EMT
- James H. psychiatrist



- “Tarak passed the ultimate test of loyalty recently and was beaten to the brink of death with a bat for it. Most of us wonder what our dog would do if our own life was threatened. Would they run? Would they protect us? Would they greet our assailant with a wagging tail? Tarak chose protection in the midst of a traumatic domestic violence altercation when he jumped into a fight to save his mom. In doing so, he lost his right eye and received extensive head injuries that could have easily killed a weaker animal.”
- Despite his injuries he wags his tail when he sees people, plays with toys and gets along well with other dogs.
- (January 31, 2019)

# Power and Control and Attachment

- Case with puppy and property (the little girl told police mom's boyfriend murdered my puppy)
- More power and control and children. Case where Pitbull on tie out beaten so badly when Humane EAMT arrived could see red in the eyes, convulsing. The dog was sweet. Died in van. Defendant just scratched his stomach while holding shovel. No emotion. Wife and minor children watching from window. Neighbor called.



# State v. D.J.

- Cut the head off of the couple's puppy
- Had killed a pet in the past
- Jealous over girlfriend talking to a male co-worker
- You are next . . .

# More Cases

- State v ZT and smoker (again wife and minor children)
- Case with chihuahua puppies and children present while puppies stomped to death

A close-up photograph of a concrete floor with a metal grate. The text "State v. Z.T." is overlaid in white. The grate is made of metal bars forming a grid pattern. The concrete floor is light-colored and shows some wear and discoloration. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is muted.

State v. Z.T.

# The Link: Example

- Woman tells partner to leave
- Comes back when she and her child are at work and school
- Beats beagle to within an inch of its life
- Dog has to be euthanized



# The Link: Example

Snake-exposure to elements

Woman-girlfriend had bludgeoned it to death

Necropsy-autopsy on animal

Boyfriend was spending too much time with the snake



# The Link: Examples

- He locks little terrier mix in basement and lets it
- die of starvation
- At first look, neglect to the point of cruelty
- But should be charged at Felony level cruelty
- Dangerous to leave but often victim won't leave because of fear of harm to pet.





Hon. Katherine  
Tennyson, Multnomah  
County Circuit Court,  
Portland, OR

As judges, we are incorporating the knowledge about the link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence into what we already know to help make appropriate orders for treatment, safety, and more. It is the same reason we learn about ACES, opioid addiction, and so forth.

- NCJFCJ and ALDF bench book

# Legislation

- The Federal Pet and Women Safety Act acknowledges the Link, and it includes threats to companion animals in its definition of “stalking.”
- As previously noted, animal cruelty itself is one mechanism used to intimidate, terrorize, and control human targets of abuse.
- A major obstacle preventing human victims from escaping their abusers is often fear for their companion animals’ safety.
- Cross reporting
- Legislation is emerging to permit courts to consider the best interests of the animal when deciding custody during divorce proceedings



# Legislation

- Abuse of companion animals in and of itself may constitute a form of family violence.
- Majority of pet owners consider their animals to be a part of the family
  - Humans forge close bonds with their companion animals
  - Threats and injury to a companion animal causes distress and harm to the humans that have an attachment to them
- Because of the link, several states include abuse of animals in their definitions of DV and Stalking
  - A.R.S. §13-2910(A)(8), (A)(9) and can add allegation of DV
  - A.R.S. §13-2910(A)(14) and (15) C5F

# Resources and Actions to be Taken in Family Violence Situations With Animals

- Orders of protection for family pets.
- Add allegation of domestic violence for felony charges
- Using evidence of animal abuse as basis for child abuse/neglect petition or domestic violence injunction.
- Use of **lethality assessments**
- Sheltering programs for people and pets.
- Counseling and rehabilitation (for victims and abusers).
- Recovery for damages associated with pet abuse.
- SAGE
- <http://barceducation.org/>
- AniCare Model
- COVID issues

**Resources  
and Actions  
to be Taken  
in Family  
Violence  
Situations  
With  
Animals**

Civil seizure (A.R.S. §13-4281)

Local ordinances (both for criminal and seizure)



- When assessing the issues of child abuse and neglect, it is relevant to ask about family animals to ensure their safety as well.

Hon. Sheri Roberts, Alcovy Circuit Court, Covington, GA.

– NCJFCJ and ALDF bench book

# Animal Cruelty and Child Maltreatment

- There is a clear link between animal cruelty and child abuse.
- Just as animal abuse is used as a tool to intimidate and control intimate partners, it is also used to intimidate and control children in the home.
- Children often interfere to protect their animals from violence, and this willingness to insert themselves in a potentially dangerous situation particularly children raised in abusive households who may crave companionship and comfort.
- Because of this link between animal cruelty and child abuse, abuse of an animal or child is a red flag that others in the home may not be safe.

# Animal Cruelty and Child Maltreatment

- 80% of homes in which animal control agencies found abused/neglected pets there had been previous investigations by child welfare agencies of physical abuse and neglect.
- **Abused animals were found in 60% of homes where child abuse or neglect occurred.**
- **Abused animals were found in 88% of homes where physical child abuse occurred.**

(DeViney, Dickert, & Lockwood, 1983)



# Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse and Neglect

- Research shows that owning and caring for a pet promotes healthy child/adolescent development
  - Source of comfort and companionship
  - Provide experiences and practice with nurturing
  - Promote child health
  - Support learning
  - Support family bonding
  - Help children explore and clarify their sense of identity
- Children raised in abusive households may especially crave companionship and comfort that a pet provides

# Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse and Neglect

- Clear link between animal cruelty and child abuse
- Judges should view child abuse allegations as a red flag for child and any pet in the child's life (and vice versa).
- Child's healthy and loving attachment to a pet may create several difficulties for the child-pet relationship and for the safety and wellbeing of both.
  - If an adult abuser harms a pet in front of the child, witnessing cruelty of a beloved pet can be very traumatic to the child who is already experiencing trauma as a victim of abuse or neglect.
  - Further, the child may be in danger of being physically hurt if he or she seeks to intercede and protect the pet from abuse by an adult.



# Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse and Neglect

- Adult batterers may use threats of harm or actual harm to a pet as a way to manipulate children.
- If victims disclose the abuse, or a third party confronts, reports or investigates suspected abuse, this could be the basis for retaliatory actions toward a pet by the adult abuser.
- Adult abusers may also coerce children into engaging in harmful actions toward companion animals, including forced sexual contact. Children's exposure to and/or coerced involvement in animal cruelty can place them at risk for engaging in animal cruelty themselves in the future.

# Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse and Neglect

- In cases involving allegations of child abuse or neglect, judges should inquire as to whether pets/ companion animals are in the household and the condition of their care and wellbeing.
- Individuals in court-related and/ or welfare-related agencies such as attorneys for the child, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), DCS, social services, law enforcement, and animal control can have relevant information or be asked to obtain information on neglect or abuse of pets.
- Knowing of a child's attachment to a pet and whether the pet's safety and welfare are at issue in a child abuse and neglect case can help the judge with decisions about two matters in particular: the child's living arrangements (in the short and long term) and services and treatment for the child (short and long term).

# Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse and Neglect

- When it comes to living arrangements, the child's relationship with a pet and the issue of co-occurring animal cruelty are relevant to decisions regarding:
  - a safety plan that includes the child and pets, when the child remains in the home;
  - temporary removal or placement of the child with extended family, keeping the child and pet together;
  - temporary placement in foster care for the child, having the pet cared for by the foster family as well;
  - temporary placement in foster care for the child, having someone the child knows – family member, neighbor or adult friend – care for the pet and help maintain the child-pet connection through visitation; and
  - foster care for the pet through local shelter or Humane Society and developing a pet visitation plan for the child (often no room)

# Case Example: State v. Joseph B.

- Defendant had 8 foot red tailed boa constrictor snake which he gave to his girlfriend's son.
- Other son was playing video games with neighbor boy when Defendant came into the bedroom.
- In the bedroom with the boys was the snake...
- And the family dog and her puppies...
- Defendant fed puppy to snake
- While two boys watched.
- Boys heard puppy's bones breaking and heard him crying
- Defendant went to kitchen and retrieved a bottle of cooking oil. Defendant poured cooking oil on puppy so snake could better digest.

# Case Example: State v. Joseph B.

- Defendant fed puppy to snake
- While two boys watched.
- Boys heard puppy's bones breaking and heard him crying
- Defendant went to kitchen and retrieved a bottle of cooking oil. Defendant poured cooking oil on puppy so snake could better digest.

# Case Example

- CASE DISMISSED DUE TO LACK OF INVESTIGATION BUT SHOWS THE LINK.
- DCS Caseworker provided info.
- Family had 5 pets: 3 dogs and 2 cats. Every time the mom would get angry, she would kick the pets, throw things at them, and strangle them. It was later uncovered that the mom was acting in a similarly violent ways towards the children. The mom had serious substance abuse issues as well as possible bipolar tendencies. The mom called 911 to report that her children were being molested by her brother (the daughters' uncle). The police determined that the molestation charges were untrue, but uncovered testimony from the daughters revealing the aforementioned animal and child abuse. The pets were removed from the home AND the children were removed from the home.
- Mom's parental rights have since been severed.

# Hoarding and Child Neglect and Abuse

- Chandler Case
- Affiliation with  
Rescue Group
- Found Children
  - Child Abuse
  - Horrid conditions
  - Injuries

# Screening and Assessment

- Should regularly screen cases that appear before you to determine if animal cruelty may be occurring in the home
- In addition to asking about the presence of vulnerable people such as elders or children, should also routinely ask if animals are present
- Ask if anyone has ever threatened, harmed or killed an animal in the family
- Inquire if there have been suspicious or concerning incidents that may suggest animal abuse



# Screening and Assessment

- If suspect an act of animal cruelty has gone unreported and uninvestigated, report suspicions to relevant law enforcement agency.
- May want to take steps to ensure human victims affected by animal abuse receive support, counseling and protection.
  - Protective orders
  - Resources to counseling
  - Resources to pet-friendly shelters



- In dependency hearings, I ask about the child's continuing contact with pets in the home the child was removed from as well as the child's relationship with any pets in the substitute caregiver's home.

Hon. John J. Romero, Jr., Second Judicial District Court, Children's Court Division, Albuquerque, NM.

- NCJFCJ/ALDF bench book

# Animal Cruelty and Juvenile Offenders

- If a child is cruel to animals, then it may be a sign that the child has experienced serious abuse or neglect.
- Children who exhibit cruelty towards animals are more than twice as likely to have suffered maltreatment themselves.
- Several studies have examined the link between children who have been sexually abused and children who then go on to harm animals.
- Children may engage in animal cruelty because it is a learned behavior modeled by a parent or guardian.

# Animal Cruelty and Juvenile Offenders

- Childhood animal cruelty may indicate a conduct disorder
- Animal cruelty was first classified as a symptom of conduct disorder in 1987 in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III)
- A study conducted in Australia found that teenage boys who bullied their peers were more likely to have abused an animal.
- The same study also found that both bullying and animal abuse often coincided with a need for egoistic power and a lack of cognitive empathy.
- Both animal cruelty and bullying perpetrated by children or adolescents have been linked to fearlessness and moral disengagement—the process by which someone convinces themselves ethical principles do not apply to them in a particular situation.
- Bestiality and human sex crimes

# Animal Cruelty and Juvenile Offenders

- Childhood cruelty to animals has been identified as a marker for underlying issues such as conduct disorder.
  - Conduct disorder may manifest as other antisocial behaviors including violence against humans
- Animal cruelty is one of the earliest indicators of conduct disorder which means it may be the first warning sign that intervention is needed.
- Although animal cruelty in general is not a reliable predictor for extreme violence, certain types of animal abuse, specifically hands-on abuse of companion animals for entertainment, may be a statistically significant predictor for extreme violence.

# Animal Cruelty and Juvenile Offenders

- Studies also link animal cruelty and bullying
  - Animal cruelty and bullying others are two behaviors that often coincide with need for egoistic power and lack of cognitive empathy
- Engaging in animal cruelty and bullying may actually predispose an adolescent to future offenses due to the fact that both behaviors have been shown to predict an increase in moral disengagement
  - Sign that intervention is needed to address underlying issues and prevent an increase of moral disengagement
- May also indicate that the child is currently, or has been, the victim of abuse
  - The child may be in front of the court for both delinquency and dependency proceedings

# Juvenile Offender Cases and Animal Cruelty

- What Judges Need to Know
  - Research shows that acts of cruelty towards animals by youth can indicate future tendencies of violence against humans
  - Similarities exist between acts of animal cruelty and interpersonal violence
    - Both victims are living creatures that experience pain and distress
  - Animal maltreatment may surface earlier than bullying, vandalism or fire setting
    - Median age of onset is 6.5 years
  - Youth may be cruel to animals
    - As of result of own physical or sexual abuse
    - Exposure to domestic violence
    - Mimicking abusive behavior of adults
    - Being subjected to corporal punishment

# Juvenile Offender Cases and Animal Cruelty

- If juvenile commits an act of cruelty, court should require a psychological evaluation and treatment
- Judges can assist clinicians that are evaluating the juvenile by providing information disclosed over the course of the case
  - May even need to educate the clinician on the link or locate a clinician who understands the severity of animal cruelty offenses
- Any underlying psychological issue that contributed to the violence must be identified and treated to rehabilitate and prevent future animal or human victims
- Humane education may also be a useful rehabilitative tool
- Closer evaluation of home life may also be warranted to determine if suffering from abuse or neglect
  - Dual status or cross-over youth



Josh Butler  
has singlehandedly  
redefined what  
it means to be family.



Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.



Josh Butler, #19, Cornerback, Michigan State  
with his adopted family, Remi and Roxy,  
who he credits with helping to heal his grief.

Photography by Virgil Ocampo



Facebook.com/showyoursoftside  
Showyoursoftside.org

If you're the poor guy that  
has to line up against Wes Martin,  
your best bet would be  
to bark and wag your tail.



Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.

show your  soft side

Wesley "Big Wes" Martin, #78,  
Offensive Guard, Washington and Co-Founder  
of Brave Breed Rescue with  
Bane, one of his three rescue furkids.

Photography by Leo Howard Lubow



Tank may be  
the only guy on earth that  
doesn't brace for impact  
when he sees  
Peanut Onwuasor coming.



Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.



Patrick "Peanut" Onwuasor, #48, Linebacker and  
Human Mack Truck, Baltimore with his rescue pup, Tank.

Photography by Leo Howard Lubow



Facebook.com/showyoursoftside  
Showyoursoftside.org

There's only one blitz that Ronnie Stanley  
wouldn't dream of blocking.



Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.

show your  soft side

Ronnie Stanley, #79, Offensive Tackle  
and First Round Draft Pick, Baltimore  
with his rescue pup, Lola.

Photography by Leo Howard Lubow



Miranda Lambert may be the only star of her caliber whose entourage requires a lint brush.



Only a punk  
would hurt  
a cat or dog.



Miranda Lambert, multiple GRAMMY, ACM, CMA and everything else award-winning Singer, Songwriter, Superstar and Founder of MuttNation Foundation with Cher, one of her eight rescue pups.

Photography by Jamie Wright

Facebook.com/showyoursoftside  
Showyoursoftside.org

# Sexual Assault Against Animals (Bestiality) and the Link

- Animal sexual abuse has been documented in relation to crimes against people when retrospective reports of incarcerated men have been examined
- This includes the linkage to crimes against children (including child sexual assault), domestic violence, and the making of child and/or animal pornography.
- Studies have also informed us that some offenders force their child and adult victims to engage in bestiality (Ascione, 1993).
- Legislators have started to recognize that those who sexually assault animals should be monitored similar to those who sexually assault children and adults.

# Sexual Assault Against Animals (Bestiality) and the Link

- Nearly half of the states have passed laws that require a defendant to register as a sex offender if s/he is convicted of bestiality or for forcing another to engage in bestiality.
- And 44 states plus the federal government, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands have laws that include bestiality in the definition of child pornography/obscenity and requiring sex offender registration for the production, promotion, distribution, or possession of bestiality-related materials or live shows.

## Case Study

- A Mesa man already facing charges related to bestiality with a cat and drug violations is now facing charges of attempting to lure a minor and drug possession after his arrest Friday, according to Mesa police.
- Michael N., 40, was texting with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old female but was actually an undercover Mesa police detective, Mesa police said in a report.



## Another Case Study

- Several years ago I was contacted regarding an incident where a woman and her three sons were being abused by the husband. During one particularly violence incident, the abuser took one of the family dogs into the backyard and sexually assaulted the dog in front of his wife and children and then shot and killed the dog. It was at that point that the wife realized that she and her three sons would likely be sexually assaulted and/or killed if they did not leave immediately. She was able to get herself, her three sons and the remaining dog to a shelter that was able to welcome pets on-site. The husband was subsequently arrested and prosecuted for animal abuse.

— Allie Phillips (Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse and Deputy Director, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, National District Attorneys Association)

Animal  
Cruelty as a  
Predictor

WISCONSIN

**Police: 100s of snakes,  
mice in suspect's home**

WEST BEND — Police investigating a sexual assault suspect discovered hundreds of snakes, mice and other small animals, including some that had died, in the foul-smelling basement of his southeastern Wisconsin home.

West Bend police say officers found 160 snakes, more than 250 mice, as well as geckos and frogs in the house Thursday. The snakes ranged from 6 inches to 2 feet in length.

Many were in poor health. Several dead snakes and mice were also removed.

A 42-year-old man has been arrested on preliminary charges of sexual assault, domestic abuse and battery. He is expected to be charged with additional criminal and civil code violations.

## Animal Cruelty and Elder Abuse and Neglect

- Many seniors and disabled adults are vulnerable to abuse at the hands of caregivers.
- This puts the companion animals of elderly persons at risk as well.
- More than 35% of adult protective services workers report that their clients have talked about their companion animals have being threatened, injured, killed, or denied care by a caregiver.
- Elderly people sometimes neglect their animals because they are physically, mentally, or financially unable to provide proper care.
- 45% of adult protective services workers reported that their clients either purposefully or negligently neglected a companion animal. In the vast majority of those cases, the neglect of the animal coincided with self neglect, causing the elderly person to suffer as well.

# Animal Cruelty and Elder Abuse and Neglect

- Seniors and adults with a disability are vulnerable to abuse by caregivers which puts companion animals at risk as well
  - One study found that more than one third of adult protective services workers reported that their clients have talked about their pets being threatened, injured, killed, or denied care by a caregiver.
- The elderly may neglect animals because they are physically, mentally or financially unable to provide proper care
  - In vast majority of cases the neglect of the animal coincided with self-neglect where the elderly person suffered as well

# Elder Abuse Cases and Animal Cruelty

- 92% of APS workers reported animal neglect coexisting with self-neglect indicating that animal neglect may be an important warning sign for elder abuse or neglect
- Adult child or caregiver will abuse a pet as a tactic to intimidate or control
- If the animal is a service animal, a caretaker's cruelty has possibly life threatening impacts on the elder victim as well
- The elder survivor may use limited resources to care for a pet and may not seek help for fear that seeking help will lead to being separated from the pet or the pet will not be cared for

## Elder Abuse and the Link

- 45% observed intentional animal abuse or neglect
- 75% reported clients' concerns for animals' welfare impacted their decisions to accept intervention or services
- 1 in 3 have a pet

# Elder Abuse Cases and Animal Cruelty

- Hoarding (psychological condition where person owns more pets that he or she can reasonably care for) is not specific to the elderly, but more common in older adults
  - Can lead to neglect of self and animals

# Animal Cruelty As A Public Health and Safety Issue – More Statistics

- 48% of rapists have committed acts of animal cruelty as children or adolescents
- 30% of child molesters have committed acts of animal cruelty as children or adolescents
- Dog fighting and pedophilia
- 15% of all rapists also rape animals
- 70% of animal abusers have criminal records (Arluke & Luke, 1977).
- 50% of schoolyard shooters have histories of animal cruelty (Verlinden, Herson & Thomas, 2000).



# Animal Cruelty As A Public Health and Safety Issue – More Statistics

- Animal abuse is a better predictor of sexual assault than convictions for homicide, arson, or firearms. Animal cruelty offenders committed an average of four different types of criminal offenses, with sexual assault, domestic violence and firearms offenses figuring prominently in their criminal histories (Clarke, 2002).
- 76% of animal abusers also abuse a family member (Association of Prosecuting Attorneys).
- 36% of assaultive women reported cruelty to animals while 0% of non-assaultive women did.

# Animal Cruelty As A Public Health and Safety Issue – More Statistics

- 82% of offenders arrested for animal abuse had *prior* arrests for battery, weapons or drug charges; 23% had subsequent arrests for felonies (Chicago Crime Commission, 2004)
- History of animal abuse in 21% of dogs that attacked people
- 35% of search warrants for animal abuse or dog fighting resulted in seizures of narcotics or drugs
- 82% of animal abuse or dog fighting offenders had prior arrests for battery

# Animal Abuse And Other Criminal Behavior – More Statistics

- 100% of sexual homicide offenders examined had a history of cruelty towards animals.
- 70% of all animal abusers have committed at least one other criminal offense and almost 40% have committed violent crimes against people.
- 63.3% of men who had committed crimes of aggression admitted to cruelty to animals.
- 48% of rapists and 30% of child molesters reported committing animal abuse during childhood or adolescence.
- 25% of violent, incarcerated men reported higher rates of “substantial cruelty to animals” in childhood than a comparison group of non-incarcerated men (0%).

# The Link Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence

## – More Statistics

- Twelve independent surveys have found that between 18% and 48% of battered women have delayed their decision to leave, or have returned to their abusers, out of fear for the welfare of their animals
- 60% of those who witnessed or perpetrated animal abuse also experienced family violence.
- 30% of family violence victims experienced animal cruelty.
- 74% of women entering domestic violence shelters owned pets in the last 12 months. (Ascione, 1998)
- 64% of households with children under age 6, and 74.8% of households with children over the age of 6, have pets.
- (Phil Arkow, Latham Foundation)



# The Link Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence – More Statistics

- **71% of abused women said their partners harmed, killed or threatened pets.**

(National Link Coalition—Ascione, Weber & Wood, 1997)

- In one study 41% of men arrested for domestic violence committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18 in contrast to the 3% prevalence rate reported by men in the general population

- National Center for Biotechnology Information, Adulthood Animal Abuse Among Men Arrested for Domestic Violence, Febres et al, September 1, 2014

- **75% of the incidents of animal abuse occurred in the presence of children to psychologically control and coerce them.**

- (National Link Coalition—Ascione, Weber & Wood, 1997)

- **40% of battered women report that they have been forced to participate in sexual acts with animals as part of their domestic terrorization**

## What Can Judges Do?

- Become familiar with the laws and policies in their jurisdiction regarding pets and companion animals in civil protection orders
- Seek out community resources in their jurisdiction that provide assistance with pets
- Raise the issues and considerations around domestic violence and pets and companion animals at meetings of stakeholders that work together to provide coordinated services and support (e.g., coordinated community response/CCR) for domestic violence survivors

## What Can Judges Do?

- Become familiar with the laws and policies in their jurisdiction regarding pets and companion animals in civil protection orders
- Seek out community resources in their jurisdiction that provide assistance with pets
- Raise the issues and considerations around domestic violence and pets and companion animals at meetings of stakeholders that work together to provide coordinated services and support (e.g., coordinated community response/CCR) for domestic violence survivors

## What Can Judges Do?

- Include or request the issues and considerations around domestic violence and pets be included in training opportunities for their colleagues;
- Educate the community on the need for resources for domestic violence survivors and their pets; and,
- Provide information on including pets and companion animals in protection orders and community resources for housing animals in their courthouse or self-help centers.



# Recommendations

- Collaboration
- Cross-Disciplinary Training
- Cross-Reporting
- Cross-Court Training, Cross-Court Processes, and Judicial Awareness
- Criminal and Quasi-Criminal Case and Process Considerations
- Civil Case Considerations
- Creating Community Awareness
- Self-Care and Vicarious Trauma

# Collaboration

- Communication amongst various stakeholders in domestic violence cases exists
- In animal cruelty cases the communication tends to break down
- Judges are in a position to facilitate collaboration among groups and individuals committed to justice and safer communities (see National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges)
- Courts communicate with each other
- Stakeholders: law enforcement, animal control, humane officers, veterinarians, child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, victims' advocates, elder advocates, mental health professionals, defense attorney, prosecutors, code enforcement, family law attorneys
- Share information and establish protocols for cross-reporting
- Task forces

# Cross-Disciplinary Training

- Benefits other than gaining knowledge regarding the link
  - Networking
  - Learn from experience and expertise
  - Stakeholders learn to work together to achieve common goals
- Cross-disciplinary training on animal cruelty
  - Informs professionals in diverse fields on signs and symptoms of concurrent forms of abuse so that they can better identify and cross-report suspected animal cruelty or family violence
  - Facilitate rehabilitation and treatment interventions with perpetrators and with strategies to combat violence, resulting in a safer community
  - Forum for brainstorming solutions to promote both human safety and wellbeing and animal safety and wellbeing

# Cross-Reporting

- Cross-reporting refers to professionals reporting forms of suspected abuse other than the type of abuse they are primarily tasked with investigating or responding to a relevant authority or department
- Valuable tool to identify and intervene in situations where multiple forms of abuse are occurring

# Cross-Court Training, Cross-Court Processes, and Judicial Awareness

- Cases involving animals appear directly and indirectly in many different courts
- Cross-training with the courts about animals is critical to ensure safety and wellbeing
- If criminal conduct is alleged, may involve divorce proceedings, domestic violence, child custody

# Criminal and Quasi-Criminal Case and Process Considerations

- In criminal cases, wellbeing and defendant's access to specific animal victim should be considered early on
  - Civil seizure, release conditions, orders of protection
- Sentencing restrictions
  - Do not order Defendant to perform community service at an animal-related place
  - No possession orders
  - Psych evaluation
  - Education and counseling

# Civil Case Considerations

- Divorce and related proceedings
- Domestic violence orders of protection
- Juvenile dependency
- Civil seizure
- Conservatorships and guardianships
- Involuntary committal matters
- Probate matters
  - While animal may not be main part of action, animals may be deeply intertwined and tied to the litigation

# Creating Community Awareness

- Proper training on the warning signs and indicators of animal abuse and the link to child or elder abuse and domestic violence can help educate the community and increase identification of harmful situations.
- Ideas for building community awareness and empathy include:
  - Write an op-ed for your local newspaper addressing the link between animal abuse and violence.
  - Provide an interview to a local news station on animal abuse cases you see in your court.
  - Offer training on animal abuse at community meetings and events.
  - Schedule a screening of a relevant documentary at a local community center.
  - Post flyers in your courthouse on how to report animal abuse.



# Self-Care and Vicarious Trauma

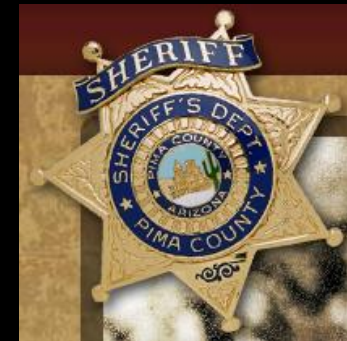
- Animal Cruelty Cases are difficult to handle
- Facts are often very disturbing
- Much suffering and pain
- Difficult not to internalize and absorb the trauma
- Receiving training on secondary (vicarious) trauma is important so that judges know how to care for themselves and to foster a court community where people take care of each other.

# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT (SLIDES ON THE ANIMAL WELFARE COURT FROM JUDGE KENDRICK WILSON)




- Created in 2012 as a collaborative effort between Judge Maria Felix and:

- Pima County Attorney's Office
- Pima County Sheriff's Department
- Pima Animal Care Center
- Office of Court Appointed Counsel (Defense bar)
- Arizona Game and Fish Department



# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT

- First of its kind in the nation
- Drew international interest
- Problem-solving Court
- Regular post-conviction review hearings

A black and white photograph of a dog's head, possibly a pit bull mix, looking to the right. The top half of the dog's head is obscured by a word cloud of terms related to animal abuse and care.

compassion  
inabuscats  
guiltlesspowerrage  
understandinglonely  
realizingempathychild  
calmheartwreparent  
shelterforgiveness

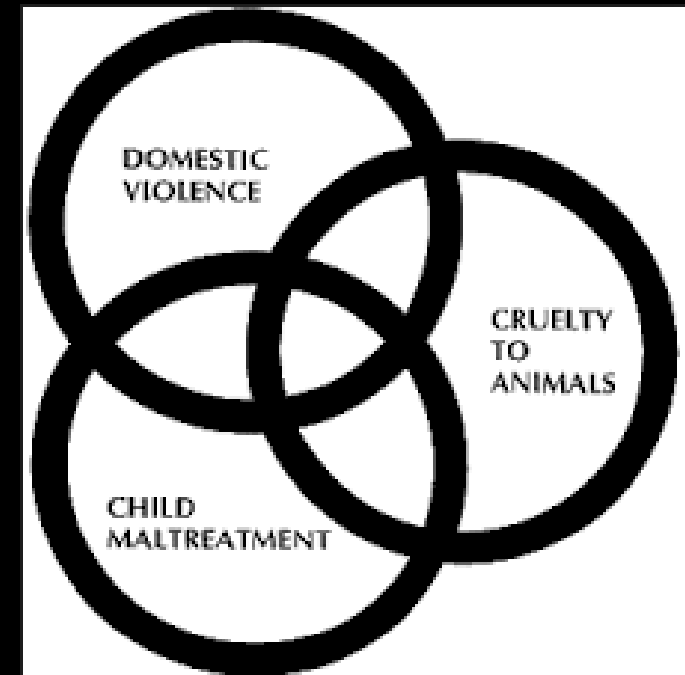
## The AniCare Approach:

Interrupting the Cycle of Violence

A Systematic Assessment and Treatment of Adults and Juveniles Who Abuse Animals

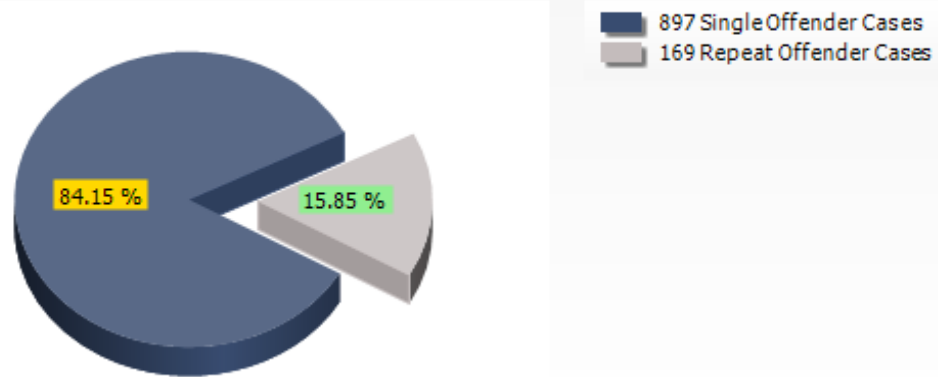
# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT

- Different classes of offenders:
  - Intentional cruelty – lack of empathy
  - Neglect – sometimes a symptom of poverty
  - Lack of education
- Link between intentional cruelty and other criminal acts
- Use of live animals for security

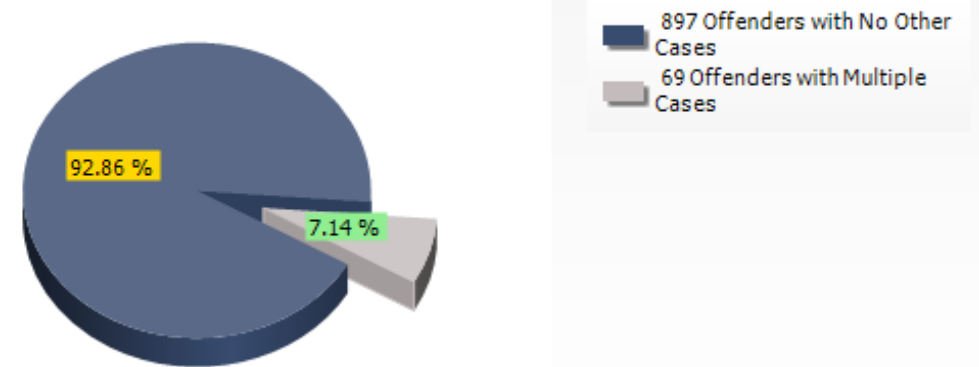


# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT

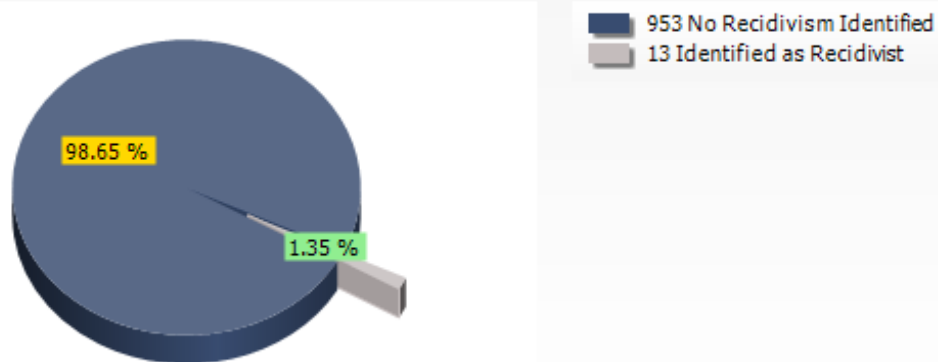
## 1066 Animal Welfare Cases



## 966 Unique Offenders



## Recidivism



- 1.35% recidivism!
- Thanks to Derek Zenner for calculating and validating our statistics!

# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT

## Case Events

Calendar Year	AW Arraignments	Cases Moved into AW Court	AW Review Hearings
2016	337	341 (101%)	29
2017	326	300 (92%)	96
2018	222	198 (89%)	101
2019	235	223 (95%)	104
2020	158	133 (84%)	135
2021 YTD	29	21 (72%)	79
Projected: 2021	111	80 (72%)	303

## Cases Filed by Agency

Calendar Year	Game & Fish	Pima SO	Pima CC	PACC	Other
2016	117	13	10	218	1
2017	104	17	2	166	3
2018	86	16	0	89	3
2019	89	41	1	90	8
2020	49	18	1	56	5
2021 YTD	6	2	0	5	1
Projected: 2021	23	7	0	19	3

# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT



Proudly presents the

## Pet Fix

Attn: Pima County Residents

### Low Cost SPAY/NEUTER

for your companion animals\*

**\$15 Copay\***

### Now Open to all Neighborhoods

Towns of Marana and Sahuarita excluded

Call one of these clinics for an appointment:

Be Sure to say Pet Fix

Animal Birth Control	1114 S Craycroft	745-4564
Arizona Spay/Neuter Clinic	4 W Grant Road	624-5005
Guadalupe Veterinary Clinic	5107 S 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	889-5949
Humane Society of So Arizona	3450 N Kelvin Blvd	881-0321
Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic	5408 S 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave	889-9643
The PetDoctoRx	6464 N Oracle Rd	829-5166
The PetDoctoRx	2661 N First Ave	829-5166

DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH OR IN CARRIERS, CATS MUST BE IN CARRIERS.  
DO NOT FEED your pet ANY food after 6:00 p.m. the day before surgery (water is okay).

\*2 pet limit/visit, appointments are available on a first call, first serve basis.

\*any pet owner on government assistance  
Title 8 Housing, Medicare, AHCCCS or Food Stamps  
Please tell the veterinarian's office



Pet Fix is sponsored by your donations,  
Pima County Health Department, and the  
Arizona Pet Friendly Spay/Neuter License Plate



Type here...

(520) 327-6088

Donate

Adoptions

Ways You Can Help

Services

Planned Giving

Shop

Events

Resources

About Us

Hours & Contact Us

Spanish/Español Website

## Speaking for the voiceless

As a founding member of the [Animal Cruelty Taskforce of Southern Arizona](#), HSSA has always taken a leadership role in combating violence toward animals.

They cannot speak for themselves. You may have witnessed animal cruelty or neglect in the past and not realized it. Or you thought nothing would be done even if you said something. But if you don't say something, who will? Help us prevent animal cruelty and neglect in our community.



ANIMAL CRUELTY TASKFORCE  
of Southern Arizona

## Court Mandated Animal Cruelty Education Class (ACE)

The Animal Cruelty Education Program is a cooperative effort between The Humane Society of Southern Arizona and member organizations with the Animal Cruelty Taskforce of Southern Arizona. The program's purpose is to provide adults with the educational background, access to services and day-to-day skills needed to make them better pet owners.

Participants in the program have all received citations or have been adjudicated of violations relating to the care and treatment of their or other animals, or have been referred to the program by the Pima County Justice Courts, Tucson City Courts, behavioral health care providers or other agencies. The program is not a court of law concerned with the determination of guilt or innocence, but an opportunity to learn the needs and problems confronting the animals that share our homes and lives.

The 2-hour educational class is held from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the main HSSA campus. Additional details will be emailed to registered participants prior to their class date.

All participants must be registered one week before they attend class. The \$100 class fee is non-refundable upon registration for the class. Upon payment and attendance of the scheduled class, participants will receive a certificate of completion to present to the prosecutor.

For questions or more information, contact [zharvey@hssaz.org](mailto:zharvey@hssaz.org) or (520) 321-3704 Ext. 138.

## Sign-up for ACE Classes

March 12th, 2022 REGISTER HERE

# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT

## SENTENCING:

After trial or change of plea:

1. Restrictions on animal ownership
2. Requirements for fencing/containment
3. License/vaccinate, spay/neuter
  1. Petfix brochure - \$15 co-pay for spay/neuter
4. ATOP or ACE treatment at Perception Counseling
  1. Green and blue brochures
5. AZGFD Hunter's Education Class
6. HSSAZ animal cruelty education class
7. Dangerous dog evaluation – through PACC
8. Restitution to any victim(s)
9. Fines to be paid to the Court to be distributed to PACC or AZ Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund

Unique sentences:

1. Supervised Probation (Probation Officer Ricardo Chavez)
2. ATOP or ACE at Perception Counseling (ANICARE)
3. Review Hearings
4. Monitoring by PACC



# ANIMAL WELFARE COURT

IF YOU PLAN TO START A SPECIALTY COURT:

1. Involve ALL of the stakeholders
  - a. Prosecutors
  - b. Defense attorneys
  - c. Probation
  - d. Law Enforcement
  - e. PACC
  - f. Treatment provider
2. Avoid ex-parte process
3. Plan for funding (more defense counsel appointments, probation)
4. Coordinate with treatment provider
5. Educate the attorneys (need for expert testimony, identify hoarding, etc.)
6. Keep a watchful eye for the link between animal abuse/neglect and domestic violence



As Dr. Rachel Remen wrote:

“The expectation that we can be immersed in suffering and loss daily and not be touched by it is as unrealistic as expecting to be able to walk through water without getting wet.”

- NCJFCJ/ALDF bench book

# Point of View

- **Education, enforcement, awareness**
- **First victim of domestic violence may be the animals in the household**
- **Victimization prevention may begin with competent animal cruelty investigation and intervention throughout the legal process**

# Positive Outcomes





Questions?

Judge Alison Ferrante  
[alison.ferrante@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:alison.ferrante@gilbertaz.gov)