

THE  
CONNECTION BETWEEN

# ANIMAL ABUSE

# HUMAN VIOLENCE

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THE CONNECTION BETWEEN  
**ANIMAL ABUSE**  
**& HUMAN VIOLENCE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Animal cruelty is linked directly or indirectly with every type of violent crime, and, what is not as well known, also with most non-violent crime.

Human beings would benefit enormously if fighting animal cruelty (investigating, prosecuting) were taken seriously. Many human lives would be saved and much human suffering would be prevented.

Violent individuals are “made” and not born. Children are born with a love of animals, but the home environment plays a major role in determining a child’s prosocial or antisocial personality and behavior. Child abuse, neglect, abandonment, and witnessing domestic violence are major factors in creating violent individuals, along with poverty, alcoholism, and toxic neighborhoods.

Enuresis, arson, and animal cruelty in children are early identifying factors related to future violence. Early intervention may be effective in changing the pathological path a child is taking.

Many, if not most, juvenile crime offenders and school shooters were involved in animal cruelty. Most violent crimes are committed by young people under the age of 30. A majority of prison inmates were involved in animal cruelty at some time in their early lives.

Dog fighting involves crimes such as drug-dealing, guns, illegal gambling, pet theft, murder, and gang violence. 30 – 35 fatal dog attacks take place annually by dogs trained for fighting.

Serial killers and multiple murderers are often linked to animal cruelty, so much so that it is uncommon to find one who did *not* have a history of animal abuse.

Domestic violence (child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse) is closely associated with animal cruelty; when one is going on, the other is likely also. Perpetrators use animal cruelty to control women and children in abusive situations. Battered women often remain in abusive situations out of fear for their pet. Animal cruelty is 11x

more likely in domestic violence households than in non-domestic violence households.

Stopping domestic violence is a key to reducing our violent culture. Most violent criminals (60-70%) and violent psychiatric patients were abused as children, and a majority (>60%) started committing animal cruelty at an early age.

Many bullies in schools are linked to animal cruelty and many are subsequently related to criminal acts.

There are more than 5 child fatalities and 3 woman fatalities per day due to domestic violence (“interpersonal violence”).

“Domestic violence” is increasingly designated to include child abuse, woman battering, elder abuse, sibling abuse, and pet abuse.

Studies show that toddlers even below the age of 3 are learning from their treatment and their environment at a rapid rate, and prosocial or antisocial personalities are largely determined by the age of 5.