

Trauma, Violence, & Abuse

Animal abuse as a type of trauma: Lessons for human and animal services professionals

Journal:	<i>Trauma, Violence, & Abuse</i>
Manuscript ID	TVA-18-098.R2
Manuscript Type:	Review Manuscripts
Keywords:	Child Abuse, Prevention of Child Abuse < Child Abuse, Criminology, Predicting domestic violence < Domestic Violence, Children exposed to domestic violence < Domestic Violence

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

Animal abuse as a type of trauma: Lessons for human and animal service professionals

Mary Lou Randour

Animal Welfare Institute

Martha Smith-Blackmore

Forensic Veterinary Investigations, LLC

Nancy Blaney

Animal Welfare Institute

Daniel DeSousa

County of San Diego, Department of Animal Services

Audrey-Anne Guyony

University of California - Irvine

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

2

Abstract

Animal abuse frequently occurs at the same time and the same place as other types of violence, particularly family violence. Because of that close association, this paper proposes that it is the responsibility of both animal service and human service professionals to be aware of its occurrence, understand its significance, and promote appropriate professional and policy responses to it. Research literature addressing the link between animal abuse and other forms of violence (“the link”) is discussed. Articles selected for review were published in a peer-reviewed journal; relevant to some aspect of the link between animal abuse and child abuse and/or domestic violence; used either a national or a longitudinal database; or relied on random sampling or a comparison group. If a study was retrospective or drawn from a convenience sample, it had to have been replicated by another study for inclusion. Finally, any measurement instruments used by the study under review must have had acceptable reliability and validity. Legal databases, such as Lexis Nexus, were used to identify legislation that has been passed and/or court cases that have been decided that were relevant to the topic of “the link.” Strong associations were found between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse; animal abuse, whether witnessed or committed, is a form of trauma. Severe animal abuse as a predictor for severe domestic violence recently emerged as a promising association. However, some of these findings on “the link” have not been translated into practice, e.g., domestic violence advocates and child protection workers frequently do not ask questions about pets in the family. At the same time, the past twenty years has seen an increase in state and federal legislation and policies that have been enacted, in part, because of the growing body of evidence on the link. Knowledge of the link also has influenced a number of court cases deciding parental rights. Moreover, awareness of the link is illustrated by the passage of pet protection orders for victims of domestic violence as well as the inclusion of pet abuse as a form of domestic violence. Human service and animal service professionals should articulate more ways in which they can communicate with one another, thus adding more information and resources to any intervention or treatment of family violence.

Keywords: animal cruelty, trauma, aggression, child abuse, domestic violence, interpersonal violence, animal services

Introduction

Animal abuse as it occurs in families and communities often is overlooked as a form of trauma. Because of its strong association with other forms of family and community violence, understanding the occurrence and effect of animal abuse can lead to earlier and more effective identification of children and families at risk, and improve the interventions they receive. One possible reason the reality and significance of animal abuse has been missed is that professional groups often operate in “silos,” seeking to understand a particular topic but perhaps unaware of how that topic may be connected and influenced by one in another field of study. There are some signs that is changing, with violence researchers recognizing that “polyvictimization,” –exposure to violence in a variety of contexts – is significantly associated with poor outcomes with prolonged exposure leaving a genetic imprint that threatens long-term well-being (Finkelhor, Turner, Hamby, & Omrod, 2011; Pilnik & Kendall, 2012).

In this paper, we hope to contribute to that conceptual expansion by making the case that in order to understand the occurrence and significance of animal abuse, we need to widen our lens to include the research and policy emanating from the fields of both human services and animal services. We examine the themes emerging from a topical review of the literature on animal abuse and domestic violence, noting how strong the association is and highlighting the emerging evidence that the severity of animal abuse is linked to the severity of domestic violence. Turning to the literature on animal abuse and child abuse, we demonstrate the co-occurrence of animal and child abuse, the effect on children of witnessing animal abuse, and the potency of animal abuse as an early warning sign when it occurs and repeats itself in early childhood.

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

4

1
2
3 Moving beyond the research literature in the field of human services, we continue by
4
5 examining the role of the two animal services professionals that are relevant to addressing the
6
7 role of animal abuse in trauma and violence prevention---the animal control officer and the
8
9 veterinarian.
10
11

12
13 We contend that good research can and should inform policy. With that in mind, we
14
15 conclude the discussion with the various changes that have occurred at the state and federal level
16
17 as a result of a better understanding of the research linking animal abuse and other interpersonal
18
19 violence. We also make recommendations for what still needs to be done, as it relates to both
20
21 human and animal services professionals.
22

Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

23
24
25
26 Eleanor Walker, a prominent and early scholar in the field of domestic violence,
27
28 recognized the connection between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence (IPV) in 1984. She
29
30 described how batterers use threats to pets, or their actual harm, to control domestic violence
31
32 victims. Since that time, domestic violence researchers have demonstrated the following:
33
34 domestic violence and animal abuse frequently co-occur; pet abuse can be a predictor of
35
36 domestic violence; a newly emerging finding that severity of animal abuse is linked to severity
37
38 of domestic violence; the low rate at which domestic violence intake workers ask questions about
39
40 pets; and cultural differences in pet abuse and domestic violence.
41
42
43
44

45 **Co-occurrence of pet abuse and domestic violence.** The first conclusive study was a
46
47 survey of the staff of the largest domestic violence shelters in 49 states and the District of
48
49 Columbia (Ascione, Weber, & Wood, 1997). Eighty-three percent reported they had observed an
50
51 overlap between animal abuse and IPV. Closely followed by a second study, which focused on
52
53 women seeking shelters rather than asking about shelter worker's observations, researchers
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

5

found that 71 percent of pet-owning women reported their partners had threatened or killed their pets (Ascione, 1998).

Although the above studies began to establish an association between pets and domestic violence, they had shortcomings, including small sample sizes and lack of a comparison group. These shortcomings were corrected in a 2007 study by Ascione, et al., in which the reports of women in domestic violence shelters ($n=101$) were compared with a non-abused community sample ($n=120$). They found that women in shelters were 11 times more likely than those in the community sample to report that their partners had hurt or killed a pet and four times more likely to indicate that their partners had threatened a pet. A more recent study (2018) of 291 mother-child dyads seeking services from domestic violence agencies concluded that 56 percent of the women reported that their partners either had threatened to harm, had harmed, or killed a pet (Hartman, Hageman, Williams, & Ascione, 2018).

The studies of the co-occurrence of domestic violence and animal brutality cited thus far relied on reports from domestic violence victims. A study, which examined the criminal histories of 150 men charged with some form of animal cruelty between 2004 and 2009, concluded that 41 percent had been arrested for interpersonal violence (Levitt, Hoffer, & Loper, 2016). A 2014 study (Febres, et al.) also looked at men who had been arrested for domestic violence and assessed them for animal cruelty, antisocial personality traits, and alcohol use. The authors determined that “[41] percent ($n = 125$) of the men committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18, in contrast to the 1.5 [percent] prevalence rate reported by men in the general population” (p. 1059).

Pet abuse as a predictive factor for domestic violence. Another well-designed study sought to determine the risk factors associated with battering (Walton-Moss, Manganello, Frye,

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

6

1
2
3 & Campbell, 2005). This study, conducted from 1994 through 2000 in eleven metropolitan areas,
4 consisted of 3,637 women and a control group of 845 women. Pet brutality was one of four
5 factors associated with battering, underlining its centrality in family violence. A similar study
6 with a national, longitudinal, and intergenerational sample of 1,614 adults determined that a
7 parent's own history of animal cruelty is predictive of later involvement in IPV perpetration and
8 victimization (Knight, Ellis, & Simmons, 2014). In turn, parents' IPV perpetration (but not
9 violent victimization) is predictive of their children's history of animal violence as measured 14
10 years later, reflecting a cycle of violence. Building on the Campbell's work on the Danger
11 Assessment instrument for identifying domestic violence victims most at risk for lethality, Glass,
12 et al, 2007 looked at a different aspect of domestic violence by revising the Danger Assessment
13 instrument to predict re-assault in female same sex relationships. In the revised instrument, the
14 authors included a question about whether the partner had ever threatened a pet, elderly family
15 member, or person with a disability.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33 **Relationship between severity of pet abuse and domestic violence.** In addition to their
34 general findings, other investigators discovered that severity of pet abuse often is associated with
35 severity of domestic violence, which includes physical, sexual, and emotional violence.
36 Simmons & Lehmann (2007) analyzed the reports of 1,283 female pet owners seeking refuge in
37 a domestic violence shelter in urban Texas, determining that batterers who abused pets also
38 demonstrated greater use of controlling behaviors and that there were quite strong associations
39 between pet violence and various forms of domestic violence—sexual violence, marital rape,
40 emotional abuse, and stalking.

41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52 Since the Simmons & Lehmann study, four other studies have produced similar findings.
53 Further analysis in the study done by Ascione, et al., 2007 found that the severity of IPV might

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

7

1
2
3 increase with the severity of the partner-perpetrated animal cruelty. In the Febres, et al. (2014)
4 study, cited above, after controlling for anti-sociality and alcohol use, adulthood animal abuse
5 indicated a significant association with physical and severe psychological IPV perpetration.
6
7 Similarly, DeGue & DiLillo (2009) found that "...when domestic violence was limited to only
8 the most severe cases, exposed individuals were more likely to have experienced animal cruelty
9 overall and, specifically, to have witnessed animal abuse" (p. 1052). Finally, a cross-sectional
10 study compared female victims of domestic violence who had companion animals (n=34) with
11 pet-owning women (n=21) who reported no or little maltreatment (Barrett, Fitzgerald, Stevenson,
12 & Cheung, 2017). The authors concluded that women who reported that their partners had
13 mistreated pets were at significant greater risk for more severe forms of domestic violence and
14 that this aggression was directed at them more frequently.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

28 **Failure to question domestic violence victims about pet abuse.** In the study by
29 Ascione, Weber, Thompson, Heath, Maruyama, & Hayashi, 2007, cited previously, only 27
30 percent of those surveyed responded that they included questions about pet brutality during
31 intakes or interviews. This early finding of a failure to ask questions about pet violence in the
32 home would appear in later studies as well, indicating a persistent need for a professional
33 education effort (Krienert, Walsh, Matthews, & McConkey, 2012).
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

42 One reason that it is important to ask domestic violence victims about whether they have
43 pets is the finding that up to 48 percent of battered women reported that they delayed leaving a
44 dangerous situation out of concern for their pets' safety (Faver & Strand, 2003; Hardesty, Khaw,
45 Ridgway, Weber & Miles, 2013).
46
47
48
49
50
51

52 **Cultural differences in pet abuse and domestic violence.** The 2016 Colorado's
53 research project on domestic violence, children and pets (2016) found cultural differences in
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

8

1
2
3 rates of animal cruelty in pet owning families. When the results were analyzed by “Hispanic
4 status,” they found that non-Hispanic U.S.-born partners displayed higher rates of harming pets
5 (41 percent) than either U.S.-born or Mexican-born Hispanic groups (27 percent and 12.5
6 percent, respectively). An earlier study noted a similar trend, in which, although not statistically
7 significant, they concluded that fifty percent of pet-owning women seeking shelter in south
8 Texas reported animal violence, while 32 percent of the Hispanic women reported abuse of their
9 pets by their partners (Faver & Cavazos, 2007).

Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty

20
21
22
23 There are a number of ways to approach the topic of child abuse and animal cruelty. The
24 following discussion examines the co-occurrence of child abuse and animal cruelty, noting the
25 increased sophistication of the research. Closely related to the co-occurrence of child and pet
26 abuse are the effects of witnessing violence in the family on pet abuse and the well-documented
27 conclusion that early childhood animal abuse is one of the earliest warning signs for continued
28 anti-social behavior. Next, we animal sexual assault and how it is associated with child abuse, as
29 well as its links to being either a victim and/or perpetrator of sexual violence.

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40 **Co-Occurrence of child abuse and animal cruelty.** DeViney, Dickert, & Lockwood
41 conducted one of the earliest studies (1983) to look at the contemporaneous occurrence of child
42 abuse and animal violence. The authors interviewed one adult or one teenager in each of 53 pet-
43 holding families that had been cited for child abuse. Interviewers observed interactions with pets
44 at time of interview, and concluded that pet cruelty was present in 88 percent of the families that
45 were referred for physical abuse of children. Unfortunately, this study was never replicated and
46 was based on a small sample size.

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

9

1
2
3 Conducting research into a new line of inquiry, such as the association between animal
4 brutality and other forms of family violence, has its challenges. Often there are few databases
5 available, and gaining access to subjects can be difficult. Therefore, many researchers have relied
6 on retrospective studies or “convenience samples,” including populations of college students or
7 prison populations. Despite their shortcomings, retrospective studies can be useful and point to
8 future lines of inquiry. For example, a study of 267 college undergraduates examined the
9 correlation between corporal punishment inflicted by parents and the perpetration of animal
10 abuse by the child or adolescent (Flynn, 1999). The findings revealed that males who self-
11 reported animal cruelty in childhood or adolescence were physically punished more frequently
12 by their fathers than males who did not perpetrate animal violence. Regression analyses showed
13 that the association between fathers' corporal punishment and sons' childhood animal cruelty
14 persisted after controlling for father-to-mother violence, and father's education. While this study
15 is retrospective and therefore has built-in limitations, it does support the conclusions of DeViney,
16 Dickert, & Lockwood (1983).
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

36 Another study confirming this link between family violence and children's cruelty to
37 animals examined a group of 101 male children who had received inpatient treatment in a facility
38 between 1992 and 2002 (Duncan, Thomas & Miller, 2005). All subjects struggled with
39 disruptive behavior problems, met standards for conduct or oppositional defiant disorder, and
40 had a legal history. They were divided into two groups—those who had committed acts of
41 animal cruelty and those who had not. This study determined that children who engaged in
42 animal cruelty were significantly more likely to have been physically or sexually abused, or to
43 have witnessed domestic violence.
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

10

1
2
3 The proposition that treatment of the family pet can be an indicator of family violence is
4 further supported by an innovative study that used a matched sample to explore the ownership of
5 high-risk (“vicious”) dogs as a marker for deviant behavior (Barnes, Boat, Putnam, Dates, &
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
Mahlman, 2006). In this matched sample study, the criminal convictions of 355 owners of either
licensed or cited dogs representing high- or low-risk breeds were examined. The authors
concluded that “...the ownership of a high-risk (‘vicious’) dog can be a significant marker for
general deviance and should be an element considered when assessing risk for child
endangerment” (2016, p. 1616).

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
Longitudinal studies also found child maltreatment occurring in homes where there also
was cruelty toward animals. A study including a representative cohort of 2,232 children living in
the United Kingdom (UK), who were part of the Environmental Risk (E-Risk) Longitudinal
Twin Study, concluded that children who were cruel to animals were more likely to have been
maltreated than other children and that cruelty to animals as an indicator of child maltreatment
increases with the child’s age, persistence of behavior, and poorer social background (McEwen,
Moffitt, & Arseneault, 2014).

39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
Witnessing violence in the family. Too frequently animal abuse is one of the forms of
violence witnessed by family members. A 10-year prospective study from 1990 to 2000 of
mothers and children provided information about family risk factors and childhood problem
behavior (Becker, Stuewig, Herrera, & McCloskey, 2004). A sample of mothers were
interviewed in 1996 and 1998; court records were then reviewed in 2000 for juvenile
delinquency activity. The study determined that exposure to marital violence and harsh parenting
were associated with animal cruelty on the part of the children. The intergenerational study by
Knight, Ellis, & Simmons (2014) had similar conclusions that a parent’s participation in

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

11

1
2
3 interpersonal violence was predictive of their children's history of animal brutality, as measured
4
5 14 years earlier.
6
7

8 Many other studies support the general findings that witnessing animal cruelty, either
9 because of domestic violence or through some other means, correlates significantly with
10 engaging in animal cruelty; additionally, some studies found that the earlier the child had
11 witnessed animal cruelty, the earlier the onset of the child's animal maltreatment behavior.
12 (Baldry, 2005; Browne, Hensley, & McGuffee, 2016; Currie, 2006; Dadds, et al., 2004; Duncan,
13 Thomas, & Miller, 2005; Luk, Staiger, Wong, & Mathai 1999). A stronger relationship exists for
14 those who witnessed cruelty on more than one occasion (Henry, 2004). Those who witnessed
15 abuse reported engaging in animal cruelty significantly more than those who did not, especially
16 if the individual observed abusing animals was a friend, relative, parent, or sibling (Thompson &
17 Gullone, 2006).
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

32 **Children who abuse animals.** There is a strong empirical consensus that animal cruelty
33 that appears at an early age and recurs throughout childhood and adolescence is a strong
34 indicator of a child's anti-sociality and aggressiveness. One of the first signs of this correlation
35 appeared 30 years ago, when the revised third edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
36 Mental Disorders (DSM-III-R) added "physical aggression to people and animals" as a criterion
37 for a diagnosis of conduct disorder. Supporting and reinforcing this inclusion also comes from a
38 meta-analytic review of the symptoms of conduct disorder (Frick, et al., 1993). Cruelty to
39 animals was considered one of the earliest reported symptoms, appearing at 6.75 years of age.
40 Moreover, children who are cruel to animals exhibit more severe conduct disorder problems than
41 other children (Luk, Staiger, Wong, & Mathai, 1999). Supporting this conclusion is a recent
42 study of 466 juvenile offenders who acknowledged that they had engaged in animal cruelty
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

12

(Bright, Huq, Spencer, Applebaum, & Hardt, 2018). In comparison to a larger group of juvenile offenders, these children were younger at time of their first arrest.

Some of the studies connecting early childhood animal cruelty to more violent criminality in later life are based on prison populations and thus are both retrospective and self-reported. For example, Merz-Perez, Heide & Silverman (2003) evaluated both qualitative and quantitative data to identify correlations between childhood animal cruelty and adult violent behavior by interviewing prisoners and examining their criminal records. They concluded participation in animal cruelty to be a significant marker for the development of aggressive behavior. Another prison study confirmed and extended these results, finding that recurrent cruelty to animals was correlated with committing bestiality, burning animals, and doing cruel acts at a younger age (Henderson, Hensley, & Tallichet, 2011). Other retrospective and self-reported studies occurred with college students and produced reinforcing conclusions: those who witnessed or participated in animal brutality committed other acts of delinquency significantly more often in the past year and over the lifespan (Henry, 2004).

Studies that have not relied on retrospective and self-reported data also have confirming findings. Researchers studied the records of 888 juveniles, who were referred to an arson intervention group, and concluded that those who abused animals were more likely to repeat fire setting (Slavkin, 2001). Likewise, a Swiss study of 3,600 pupils in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades who self-reported delinquency determined that youths who maltreated animals were more likely to engage in vandalism and serious acts of violence, although the correlation was weaker for more minor offenses such as shoplifting and property offenses (Lucia & Killias, 2012). Yet another study of delinquency compared fire-setting and animal cruelty by reviewing self- and parent-reports of these behaviors among 1,778 male and 1,619 female nine-year-olds (Walters, 2016).

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

13

1
2
3 The study found that parent-reported animal cruelty correlated significantly with child-reported
4 delinquency, however, child reported animal cruelty failed to correlate with parent reported
5 delinquency.
6
7
8
9

10 An earlier study by Walters (2014) also found that childhood animal cruelty was
11 predictive of future aggressive, as well as non-aggressive, offending. In this study, the sample
12 consisted of 1,154 males and 183 females who were subjects in Pathways to Desistance, a
13 longitudinal study of serious adolescent offenders.
14
15
16
17
18

19
20 **Sexual abuse and animal abuse.** Other studies focused on sexual assault and its
21 association with animal cruelty, including the sexual abuse of animals. In comparing three
22 samples of 6-12 year old children—normative, sexually abused, and outpatient psychiatric—
23 researchers determined that sexually abusing animals was nonexistent in the normative sample
24 and reported by fewer than one percent in the psychiatric sample, but that 6.3 percent of children
25 reporting sexual abuse had sexually touched animals (Ascione, Friedrich, Heath, & Hayashi,
26 2003). Boat, et al., (2011) made a similar conclusion when comparing a sample of psychiatric
27 patients, some of whom reported cruelty toward animals, with another set who did not report a
28 history of animal violence. They found that the “cruel group” was three times more likely to
29 report having been sexually abused than the children who had not reported animal cruelty. A
30 third study, this one of a prison population, reinforced these findings: sexually assaulting an
31 animal as a child was predictive of later interpersonal violence as an adult (Hensley & Tallichet,
32 2009). Finally, a study of 381 adjudicated male youths in three institutions concluded that 96
33 percent of the juveniles who had been involved in animal sexual assault also admitted to sex
34 offenses against humans. Moreover, those who engaged in animal sexual assault reported more
35 offenses against humans than other sex offenders did (Fleming, Jory, & Burton, 2002).
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

14

1
2
3 The following table (see Table 1 here) summarizes the major findings for the research on
4 the link between animal abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse.
5
6
7

8 **The Role of Animal Service Professionals in the Identification of Children and Families at**
9
10 **Risk**
11
12

13
14 As stated previously, we propose that in order to offer greater services to children and
15 families at risk, it is important to consider the role that animal cruelty plays in the dynamic of
16 family violence. To do that, it is necessary to also consider the important role that animal
17 services professionals, such as animal control officers and veterinarians, can and do play in any
18 anti-violence effort.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

26 **Animal control officers.** Many human service professionals are not aware of the
27 function of animal control or humane law enforcement and their potential contribution to the
28 mission of their agencies, and vice versa. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2016
29 there were approximately 13,000 animal service workers in the United States; approximately
30 11,000 were employed by local governments, also known as animal control officers (ACOs) and
31 1,000 by nonprofit advocacy organizations, such as Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to
32 Animals (SPCAs), also known as humane law enforcement (HLE) (see
33 <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes339011.htm> for further details).
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

45 While some animal control agencies are “stand alone” departments within a jurisdiction,
46 others may be located within police departments or in public health, agriculture, or other
47 government agencies. Information on the placement of animal control agencies is not known,
48 although there are some indications that approximately half are within police departments.
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

15

1
2
3 The duties of most animal control/humane law enforcement officers are to implement
4 local and state animal cruelty statutes and educate constituents on appropriate animal care. Given
5 the lack of uniformity among, and even within, states as to the responsibility for animal cruelty
6 crimes, there is also great variability in training and in the investigatory and arrest powers of
7 ACOs and HLEs. In general, in addition to investigating animal neglect and cruelty, an
8 ACO/HLE may also enforce licensing laws and rescue trapped animals, inspect kennels and pet
9 shops, stables and other places where animals are kept to ensure that animal welfare regulations
10 are being followed.
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

22 Thirty-nine states have an Association of Animal Control Officers, in which five
23 associations even represent Texas. There also is a National Animal Care and Control Association
24 (NACA), which currently has over four thousand individual animal control and HLE officers as
25 members. The national and state organizations of animal control officers offer professional
26 training on a variety of subjects. The National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA)
27 offers a 3-module training course, in which each module entails a forty-hour week. In Module C
28 of their training, there is a segment called “The Cycle of Violence,” which refers to the
29 association between animal cruelty and family violence. In addition, at the annual conferences of
30 NACA there are presentations on the topic of collaboration between domestic violence and
31 animal control agencies.
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

46 **The Role of Veterinarians in Addressing Animal Cruelty.** In recognition by the
47 veterinary profession that animal cruelty reporting is important, there is a growing list of states—
48 35 currently—that now either require or allow veterinarians to report animal cruelty; several
49 more states have legislation under consideration. Reporting statutes also include provisions for
50 immunity from civil and sometimes criminal liabilities for good-faith reporting. The fifteen
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

16

1
2
3 states with neither mandated nor immunity for reporting provisions are: Alaska, Connecticut,
4
5 Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, South
6
7 Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming. The American Veterinary Medical
8
9 Association (AVMA) website provides a downloadable manual to help veterinarians more easily
10
11 and confidently report suspected animal cruelty (see
12
13 [https://ebusiness.avma.org/Files/ProductDownloads/AVMA%20Suspected%20Animal%20Cruel](https://ebusiness.avma.org/Files/ProductDownloads/AVMA%20Suspected%20Animal%20Cruelty.pdf)
14
15 [ty.pdf](https://ebusiness.avma.org/Files/ProductDownloads/AVMA%20Suspected%20Animal%20Cruelty.pdf) for further details).
16
17

18
19
20 AVMA's policies and resources on this subject are important and necessary steps, as is
21
22 the growing inclusion of lectures on animal abuse in elective courses in shelter medicine in
23
24 veterinary medical colleges (Benetato, Reisman & McCobb, 2011). At the same time, more
25
26 active steps are needed to educate veterinarians about the importance of reporting suspected
27
28 animal violence, inform them about their states' animal cruelty laws, and make them aware of
29
30 the resources available to them. A recent study analyzed articles published between 1960 and
31
32 2016 on the topic of animal brutality and its link to other types of violence (Monsalve, Ferreira &
33
34 Garcia, 2017). Of the 96 articles located, only seven were published in the field of veterinary
35
36 medicine, even though veterinarians play a role in public health as well as animal welfare.
37
38
39

40
41 A recent on-line survey of the members of the Veterinary Information Network (VIN)
42
43 sheds new light on veterinarians' attitudes about, and experiences with, the reporting of
44
45 suspected animal cruelty (Kogan, Schoenfeld-Tacher, Hellyer, Rishniw, & Ruch-Gallie, 2017).
46
47 The authors noted that the demographics of their subject pool matched the demographics of the
48
49 larger veterinary population, with one important exception: there was an inclusion of a large
50
51 percentage (44.3 percent) of veterinarians who graduated between 2000 and 2014, which was
52
53 larger than the percentage of that cohort in the general veterinary population. In other words, the
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

17

1
2
3 veterinarians responding to this survey were more likely to be relatively recent graduates, which
4
5 raises the question of whether the responses would have been markedly different had the pool of
6
7 respondents been more balanced with regard to the number of years since graduation.
8
9

10
11 The response rate of 3.5 percent is another consideration when interpreting this study's
12
13 findings. There is recognition in the research community that in the last few years, response
14
15 rates have somewhat declined. There is no hard and fast rule regarding what a respectable
16
17 response rate is, but there is general agreement that falling below a ten or fifteen rate is
18
19 problematic (Dingfelder, 2006; Fincham, 2008). Does the low response rate for this survey
20
21 indicate a disinterest within the general population of veterinarians towards respond to a survey
22
23 on the topic of animal cruelty? At the same time, was there a heightened interest by those who
24
25 did respond, thereby distorting the ability to generalize the conclusions? These questions are
26
27 unanswerable without additional research, but they need to be kept in mind when discussing this
28
29 study.
30
31
32
33

34
35 Despite the limitations, the study produced a number of useful findings. Respondents
36
37 with knowledge of their states' immunity law were more likely to report suspicions of animal
38
39 cruelty than their counterparts who had no knowledge of their states' laws. Most of the
40
41 respondents to the survey (87 percent) indicated that they had encountered one or more animal
42
43 cruelty cases. Of that number, 546 respondents (55.8 percent) stated that they had reported at
44
45 least one case of animal cruelty, and attitudes toward reporting were positive. About two-thirds
46
47 (66 percent) of respondents indicated their strong support or support for mandated reporting by
48
49 veterinarians of suspected animal cruelty. The positive responses increased to 81.3 percent when
50
51 the situation involved immunity from civil or criminal liability. Although positive about
52
53 reporting animal cruelty, a large percentage of respondents—71.7 percent—felt not at all or only
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

18

1
2
3 minimally prepared to submit a forensic report; a meager 5.4 percent reported feeling very
4
5 prepared. Finally, only 22.1 percent of those surveyed reported that their clinics had a policy on
6
7 reporting animal cruelty.
8
9

10 Because animal service professionals frequently encounter the animals to whom they
11
12 attend in the presence of family members, they can play an important part in identifying children
13
14 and families at risk for trauma and violence. The following section will address some of the
15
16 policy changes that have been directed at the criminal justice system, child welfare, as well as to
17
18 animal services professions.
19
20

21 **Policy Changes Related to Empirical Evidence of “the Link”**

22
23
24
25 The growing body of research that points to a connection between maltreatment of
26
27 animals and other forms of interpersonal violence has led to a number of significant policy
28
29 changes at the local, state, and federal level. These include upgrading certain acts of animal
30
31 abuse to felonies, allowing pets to be included on domestic violence protection orders,
32
33 identifying animal cruelty as an element of domestic violence, mandating or allowing cross
34
35 reporting by social services professionals and animal service agencies, referencing animal cruelty
36
37 in court decisions regarding parental rights, enhancing penalties for exposing children to animal
38
39 cruelty, and adding animal cruelty to the FBI’s National Incident Based Reporting System
40
41 (NIBRS). As the value and importance of animals in the household and family continues to
42
43 grow, and the awareness of the significance of the connection between animal maltreatment and
44
45 family and community safety increases, it is anticipated that additional policies and laws will be
46
47 enacted.
48
49
50
51

52 **Felony Provisions in Animal Cruelty Laws**

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

19

1
2
3 States have had animal cruelty laws for generations. In 1804, Massachusetts passed the
4 first felony provision in its animal cruelty law. Oklahoma then followed in 1887 and Rhode
5 Island in 1896. By 1993, however, approximately a hundred years later, only 13 other states had
6 joined Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island in allowing felony charges for some animal
7 cruelty offenses. However, fueled by the publicizing of egregious animal cruelty cases and
8 supported by the growing body of empirical research demonstrating a close relationship
9 between animal cruelty and crimes against human, legislators felt compelled to act. By 2014, all
10 fifty states in the U.S. have some type of felony provision in their animal cruelty statutes. In
11 addition to enacting felony provisions in their animal cruelty statutes, states are also making
12 existing felony laws more stringent.
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

27 The inclusion of acts of animal sexual assault in animal cruelty statutes in another
28 distinctive trend. There are now 45 states that consider animal sexual abuse as a criminal
29 activity; Texas made animal sexual assault a registerable sex offense (see
30 <https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-animal-sexual-assault-laws> for further details).
31
32
33
34
35
36

37 Increasingly elder abuse is being recognized as often linked to animal cruelty. In
38 California, animal protection workers may report animal violence and in the District of
39 Columbia and six states (Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, Tennessee, and West
40 Virginia) animal protection workers must report elder abuse. In Washington State there now is a
41 law in which animal cruelty is cited among many crimes that prosecutors may list for filing
42 charges of elder abuse (see [http://aldf.org/resources/advocating-for-animals/animal-protection-](http://aldf.org/resources/advocating-for-animals/animal-protection-laws-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-canada/)
43 [laws-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-canada/](http://aldf.org/resources/advocating-for-animals/animal-protection-laws-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-canada/) for further details).
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

Pet Protection Orders for Victims of Domestic Violence

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

20

1
2
3 The inclusion of pets in protection orders for domestic violence victims is another area
4 demonstrating a rapid expansion of laws. In 2005, Maine became the first state to pass a pet
5 protection law. Now 32 states permit pet protection orders for victims of domestic violence
6
7
8
9
10 victims.

11
12
13 In general, there are two ways pets can be included in protection orders, though they are
14 not mutually exclusive. First, courts generally require that petitioners demonstrate the basis upon
15 which they are entitled to a protection order in their initial petition, where prior abusive incidents
16 are detailed. Some states have “Underlying Offense” provisions that allow animal cruelty to be
17 included as part of the underlying abuse that gives rise to the right to the protection order.
18
19
20 Second, courts also generally require that the petitioner state the relief she is seeking. Some
21 states have “Stay Away and/or Pet Custody” stipulations, which allow the petitioner to ask that
22 the offender be ordered to stay away from the animal and/or ask the court to grant the custody of
23 the pet to the victim.
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

34 In November 2014, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) began publishing state manuals
35 designed to enable lawyers and advocates to further assist domestic violence survivors by getting
36 their companion animals included on protection orders. Compiled by attorneys working with
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
AWI staff, the manuals summarize legal issues surrounding the inclusion of pets in civil
protection orders, give details about the laws in that specific state, and provide links to relevant
forms and outside resources.

Animal Abuse as a Form of Domestic Violence

Some legal scholars now contend that animal brutality needs to be considered a form of
domestic violence by the law. Upadya (2014) proposed “...domestic violence statutes must treat

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

21

1
2
3 animal cruelty as a domestic violence offense when committed with the purpose of harming or
4
5 coercing the human victim” (p. 1164). The author continues to argue that to implement such
6
7 domestic violence laws would be relatively straightforward as most states recognize a variety of
8
9 offenses as involving domestic violence. Proposed legislation in a variety of states reflects this
10
11 idea. For example, Nevada law defines harming an animal to harass a spouse or partner as
12
13 domestic violence. Other states are deliberating legislation that would include causing or
14
15 attempting to physically harm a family member’s animal as an act of domestic violence as well
16
17 as increasing the penalties for aggravated animal cruelty when conducted in the presence of a
18
19 child.
20
21
22
23

Cross Reporting of Animal Abuse and Child Abuse

24
25
26
27 In the past few years, as awareness of the link between animal brutality and interpersonal
28
29 violence has become more empirically demonstrable, states have passed legislation that
30
31 mandates or at least encourages animal control officers and humane law enforcement to report
32
33 child abuse. Conversely, some states have also required that child protections workers (CPS) to
34
35 report animal cruelty. The states of California, Illinois, Maine, West Virginia, and the District of
36
37 Columbia mandate both the reporting of child abuse by animal service agencies and of animal
38
39 abuse by child welfare agencies. While a few states (Colorado, Maine, Ohio, and Virginia) only
40
41 require the reporting of child abuse by animal service agencies, others (Connecticut, Louisiana,
42
43 Maine, Nebraska, Oregon, and Tennessee) only mandate child protection workers to report
44
45 animal abuse. Although there has been an increase in cross-reporting efforts, a recent study of
46
47 child welfare workers in Canada concluded that 45 percent of the workers directly observed
48
49 children harming animals; 44 percent had observed visible injuries on an animal, indicating
50
51 physical abuse; 28 percent had observed adult caregivers physically harming animals; and 94
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

22

percent observed evidence of animal neglect (Girardi & Pozzulo, 2012). Yet only 23 percent indicated that they “usually reported” the animal cruelty to appropriate authorities.

Animal Cruelty by Parent Cited in Judicial Considerations of Parents’ Custody and Visitation

In a previous publication “A Common Bond: Maltreated Children and Animals in the Home,” it was posited that animal cruelty, including threats to an animal by a parent should be specifically delineated as an element to consider in custody visitation and the removal of a child from a home (Randour & Davidson, 2008). At that time, four cases were cited in which animal cruelty was listed as a factor by a court in terminating parental rights.

In one case, an animal control officer determined neglected and dead animals at a home, as well as four children living there (Schambon v. Kentucky, 1991). Child protective services were called and an investigation revealed that the children had been sexually and physically abused. The court terminated the parents’ rights and concluded that animal cruelty was one of several factors requiring the termination). Another case linked cruelty to the family dog and the mental and physical abuse of children to revoke parental rights (In re S.G.T. 333 S.E. 2d 445 (GA 1985)). Animal sacrifices and abused children were linked in a third case revoking parental rights (In the interest of P.J.M.926 S.W.2d 223 (MO 1996)). A fourth case cited the neglect of children and the killing of the family dog in front of children by the father. (In the interest of A.P. 42 S.W.2d 248 (TX.2001)).

Since that time, there have been an additional thirteen cases citing animal cruelty in parental custody decisions made by courts. See Appendix for further details.

Involving Children in Acts of Animal Cruelty

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

23

1
2
3 Arkansas; Idaho; Illinois; Oregon and Puerto Rico enhance the penalty offender if
4 animal cruelty was either threatened or committed in the presence of a child. Florida and Texas
5 specify increased penalties for engaging in animal sexual assault in the presence of a child.
6
7 Washington adds to the penalty if a minor was forced to inflict pain or injury on an animal, and
8 Florida's criminal code also enhances penalties if a minor was encouraged, forced, or enticed to
9 engage in "sexual bestiality." California, Virginia, and the Federal Animal Welfare Act create
10 separate offenses for involving minors in animal fighting. It is anticipated that more states will
11 include some language that will strengthen sentencing for animal cruelty crimes that involve
12 children in any way—whether they are forced to witness or participate.
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

25 **Addition of Animal Cruelty to Group A of National Incident Based Reporting System**
26
27 **(NIBRS)**
28
29

30 In September 2014 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced that a separate
31 category of animal cruelty would be added to Group A of the National Incident Based Reporting
32 System (NIBRS), joining other major crimes in Group A such as arson, assault, and homicide, in
33 which both incidents and arrests will be reported. Before this change, animal cruelty crimes
34 were captured with more minor crimes under the catchall category "All Other Offenses," making
35 them unavailable for later analysis. With this change, animal cruelty crime data will have
36 detailed information and allow for more granularity of analysis (see [http://www.fbi.gov/about-](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr)
37 [us/cjis/ucr/ucr](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr) for further details).
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

50 The FBI's adoption of animal cruelty crime as a separate category in NIBRS reflects their
51 recognition that animal maltreatment is linked to human crimes. In addition, the categorization of
52 animal cruelty as a Crime Against Society, rather than as a Crime Against Persons, or a Crime
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

24

1
2
3 Against Property implies the agency's acknowledgement that nonhuman animals are in a
4
5 different category from property. It is anticipated that this action by the FBI will send a signal to
6
7 law enforcement that animal cruelty crimes are important to investigate and to charge.
8
9

10
11 **Implications for policy, practice, and research.** Although there is now a robust body of
12
13 research that details the many ways in which animal cruelty is linked to interpersonal violence
14
15 and other crime, and some states and federal policies reflect that awareness, there remains a
16
17 number of ways in which practice, policy, and research could be improved (see Table 2).
18
19

20
21 Schools of veterinary medicine should increase the amount of time devoted to animal cruelty
22
23 issues in their curricula, as well as offer online and on-site postgraduate and continuing
24
25 education to build confidence in veterinarians about reporting animal cruelty. Veterinarians should
26
27 have greater access to resources, including manuals such as *Practical guidelines for the effective
28
29 response by veterinarians to suspected animal cruelty, abuse and neglect* (Arkow, Boyden, &
30
31 Patterson-Kane, 2011).
32
33

34
35 Veterinarians should be encouraged to join Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams,
36
37 which are comprised of key players in the community in order to develop strategies and
38
39 procedures for systems-wide responses to domestic violence and sexual assault. CCR team will
40
41 include members from schools, mental health and other health care providers, neighborhood
42
43 centers, faith communities, county extension agencies, ethnic organizations, etc. However, the
44
45 CCR team should also include animal service professionals such as veterinarians and animal
46
47 service agents.
48
49
50

51
52 Professional associations such as the American Psychological Association, the American
53
54 Psychiatric Association, and the National Association of Social Workers also should take more
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

25

1
2
3 active steps to address the issues related to reporting animal brutality as it occurs in the context
4
5 of mental health. None of the mental health associations have a program specifically devoted to
6
7 animal cruelty and its link to family violence. For example, the Violence Prevention Program of
8
9 the Public Interest Directorate of the American Psychological Association is silent on the role
10
11 that animal treatment plays in any violence prevention effort. In addition to mental health
12
13 professionals, disciplines that could benefit from training on “the link” include public health,
14
15 medicine, social service, and criminal justice.
16
17
18
19

20 Animal control officers should receive training on this connection, and the appropriate action
21
22 to take when suspected. Since animal control officers frequently are not associated with law
23
24 enforcement, they may gain easier access to a home; especially since they are seen as less
25
26 confrontational due to their educational approach. Currently most, if not all of the training
27
28 offered to animal control agencies on domestic violence is being offered by non-domestic
29
30 violence professionals. Training of animal control officers on the topic of domestic violence
31
32 should be done either by domestic violence professionals or those trained by domestic violence
33
34 professionals. While it is important to learn to recognize signs of possible partner, child, or elder
35
36 abuse, it is imperative that the observer understands how to respond in a way that does not put
37
38 the victim at greater risk of injury.
39
40
41
42
43

44 All states should either mandate that veterinarians report animal cruelty and offer immunity
45
46 for good faith reporting. States should also require or encourage cross reporting of child and
47
48 elder abuse by animal control officers, human law enforcement, and veterinarians, and of animal
49
50 violence by child and adult protective services. States are encouraged to pass legislation that
51
52 responds to the established link between animal cruelty and other forms of family violence,
53
54 including enhancing penalties for animal brutality when it occurs in the presence of child and
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

26

1
2
3 adding animal abuse as a form of domestic violence. Also at the state level, it is crucial to
4
5 educate the judiciary on the effect of witnessing or being forced to participate in animal cruelty
6
7 on a child's development and likely future involvement with the justice system, and make judges
8
9 aware of the many court cases that have used the treatment of the family pet as a factor when
10
11 considering parental rights.
12
13
14

15 The remaining 15 states should enact laws allowing for including pets in protection orders.
16
17 Also, Congress has two critical pieces of legislation that it should pass: first, the Preventing
18
19 Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act is needed as the current federal law prohibiting the
20
21 creation and distribution of "crush videos" does not cover the underlying acts of animal violence,
22
23 which can occur beyond the reach of state cruelty laws. The PACT Act closes that loophole by
24
25 extending federal jurisdiction to these specific crimes. The PACT Act is consistent with other
26
27 federal laws that address acts of malicious animal cruelty that have an interstate nexus.
28
29
30
31

32 Second, the Pet and Women Safety Act would grant funding to programs that offer shelter and
33
34 support to survivors of domestic violence and their companion animals. The legislation also takes
35
36 the important step of including pets in federal law pertaining to interstate stalking, protection order
37
38 violations, and restitution and urges states to allow pets to be included under protection orders.
39
40 These provisions provide law enforcement with additional tools for protecting victims from their
41
42 abusers.
43
44
45
46

47 Conclusion

48
49
50 Although there is not currently an accurate accounting of animal cruelty crime, once the
51
52 FBI's collection of animal cruelty crimes under NIBRS becomes fully operationalized, we will
53
54 have a better sense of magnitude. We do know, however, that there are too many children at risk.
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

27

1
2
3 Approximately 37.4 percent of all children experience a child protective services investigation
4
5 by the age of eighteen, according to a recent study (Kim, Wildeman, Jonson-Reid, & Drake,
6
7 2017). African-American children (53 percent) experience the highest rate of such intervention.
8
9
10 The authors of the study conclude that there is a critical need to improve resources for the
11
12 prevention and treatment of child maltreatment. We also know that domestic violence occurs too
13
14 frequently: 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an
15
16 intimate partner in their lifetimes. Overall, intimate partner violence accounts for fifteen percent
17
18 of all violent crime (see <https://ncadv.org/statistics> for further details).
19
20
21
22

23 Experts agree that proactive prevention is key and when this fails, the next best line of
24
25 defense is to employ early and effective interventions. We propose that one way to improve
26
27 preventive care and treatment is to understand and respond to animal abuse as an important
28
29 ingredient in the dynamics of interpersonal violence and family violence in particular. This
30
31 should include improving—and establishing if necessary—ongoing cooperation, coordination,
32
33 cross-training, and consultation between human service and animal service professionals.
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

References

- Arkow, P., Boyden, P., & Patterson-Kane, E. (2011). *Practical guidance for the effective response by Veterinarians to suspected animal cruelty, abuse and neglect*. Schaumburg, IL: American Veterinary Medical Association.
- Ascione, F.R. (1998). Battered women's responses of their partners' and their children's cruelty to animals. *Journal of Emotional Abuse*, 1(1), 119-133.
- Ascione, F.R., Friedrich, W.N., Heath, J., & Hayashi, K. (2003). Cruelty to animals in normative, sexually abused, and outpatient psychiatric samples of 6- to 12-year-old children: Relations to maltreatment and exposure to domestic violence. *Anthrozoos*, 16, 194-212.
- Ascione, F.R., Weber, C.V., Thompson, T.M., Heath, J., Maruyama, M., & Hayashi, K. (2007). Battered pets and domestic violence: Animal abuse reported by women experiencing initiate violence and by non-abused women. *Violence Against Women*, 13, 354-373.
- Ascione, F.R., Weber, C.V., & Wood, D.S. (1997). The abuse of animals and domestic violence: A national survey of shelters for women who are battered. *Society & Animals*, 5, 205-218.
- Baldry, A.C. (2005). Animal abuse among preadolescents directly and indirectly victimized at school and at home. *Criminal Behavior and Mental Health*, 15, 97-110.
- Barnes, J.E., Boat, B.W., Putnam, F.W., Dates, H.F., & Mahlman, A.R. (2006). Ownership of high-risk ("vicious") dogs as a marker for deviant behaviors. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21, 1616-1634.
- Barrett, B.J., Fitzgerald, A, Stevenson, R., & Cheung, C.H. (2017). Animal maltreatment as a risk marker of more frequent and severe forms of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, doi:10.1177/0886260517719542

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

29

- 1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
- Becker, K.D., Stuewig, J., Herrera, V.M., & McCloskey, L.A. (2004). A study of fire-setting and animal cruelty in children: Family influences and adolescent outcomes. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 43(7), 905-912.
- Benetato, M.A., Resiman, R., & McCobb, E. (2011). The veterinarian's role in animal cruelty cases. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 238, 31-34
- Boat, B.W., Pearl, E., Barnes, J.E., Richey, L., Crouch, D., Barzman, D., & Putnam, F.W. (2011). Childhood cruelty to animals: Psychiatric and demographic correlates. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 20(7), 812-819.
- Bright, M.A., Huq, M.S., Spencer, T, Applebaum, J.W. & Hardt, N. (2018). Animal cruelty as an indicator of family trauma: Using adverse childhood experiences to look beyond child abuse and domestic violence. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 76, 287-296.
- Browne, J.A., Hensley, C., & McGuffee, K.M. (2016). Does witnessing animal cruelty and being abused during childhood predict the initial age and recurrence of committing childhood animal cruelty? *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 61, 1850-1865
- Currie, C.L. (2006). Animal cruelty by children exposed to domestic violence. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 30(4), 425-535.
- Dadds, M.R., Whiting, C., Bunn, P., Fraser, J., Charlson, J.H., & Pirola-Merlo, A. (2004). Measurement of cruelty in children: The cruelty to animals inventory. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 32, 321-334.

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

30

- 1
2
3 DeGue, S. & DiLillo, D. (2009). Is animal cruelty a “red flag” for family violence? Investigating
4 the co-occurring violence toward children, partners, and pets. *Journal of Interpersonal*
5
6 *Violence, 24*, 1036-1056.
7
8
9
10 DeViney, E., Dickert, J., & Lockwood, R. (1983). The care of pets within child abusing families.
11
12 *International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems, 4*, 321-311.
13
14
15
16 Dingfelder, S. (2006). Gifts and reminder e-mails boost online survey response rates, students
17
18 find. *American Psychological Association*. Retrieved from
19
20 <http://www.apa.org/gradpsych2006/11/cover-survey.aspx>
21
22
23
24 Duncan, A., Thomas, J.C., & Miller, C. (2005). Significance of family risk factors in
25
26 development of childhood animal cruelty in adolescent boys with conduct problems. *Journal*
27
28 *of Family Violence, 20*, 235-239.
29
30
31 Faver, C.A. & Cavazos, A.M. (2007). Animal abuse and domestic violence: A view from the
32
33 border. *Journal of Emotional Abuse, 7*(3), 59-81
34
35
36
37 Faver, C.A. & Strand, E.B. (2003). To leave or to stay? Battered women’s concern for vulnerable
38
39 pets. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 18*, 1367-1377.
40
41
42
43
44 Febres, J., Brasfield, H., Shorey, R.C., Elmquist, J., Ninnemann, A., Schonrum, Y.C., & Stuart,
45
46 G. (2014). Adulthood animal abuse among men arrested for domestic violence. *Violence*
47
48 *Against Women, 20*, 1059-1077.
49
50
51 Fincham, J.E. (2008). Response rates and responsiveness for surveys, standards, and the Journal.
52
53 *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, 72*(2), Article 43.
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

31

- 1
2
3 Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Hamby, S., & Ormrod, R. (2011). Polyvictimization: Children's
4 exposure to multiple types of violence, crime, and abuse. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*,
5
6 NCJ235504. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
7
8
9
10 Fleming, W.M., Jory, B., & Burton, D.L. (2002). Characteristics of juvenile offenders admitting
11 to sexual activity with nonhuman animals. *Society & Animals*, 10, 31-45.
12
13
14 Flynn, C. P. (1999). Exploring the link between corporal punishment and children's cruelty to
15 animals. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 971-981.
16
17
18
19 Frick, P.J., Lahey, B.B., Loeber, R., Tannenbaum, L., VanHorn, Y., Christ, M.A.G....Hanson, K.
20
21 (1993). Oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder: A meta-analytic review of factor
22 analysis and cross-validation in a clinical sample. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 13, 319-340.
23
24
25
26 Girardi, A. & Pozzulo, J.D. (2012). The significance of animal cruelty in child protection
27 investigations. *Social Work Research*, 36, 53-60.
28
29
30
31 Hardesty J.L., Khaw L., Ridgway M.D., Weber, C., & Miles, T. (2013). Coercive control and
32 abused women's decisions about their pets when seeking shelter. *Journal of Interpersonal*
33
34 *Violence*, 13, 2617-2639
35
36
37
38 Hartman, C.A., Hageman, T., Williams, J.H. & Ascione, F.R. (2018). Intimate partner violence
39 and animal abuse in an immigrant-rich sample of mother-child dyads recruited from domestic
40 violence programs. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 33(6), 1030-1047.
41
42
43
44
45
46 Henderson, B.B., Hensley, C. & Tallichet, S.E. (2011). Childhood animal cruelty methods and
47 their link to adult interpersonal violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 26(11), 2211-
48
49 2227.
50
51
52
53 Henry, B.C. (2004). The relationship between animal cruelty, delinquency, and attitudes toward
54 the treatment of nonhuman animals. *Society & Animals*, 12(3), 185-207.
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

32

Hensley, C. & Tallichet, S.E. (2009). Childhood and adolescent animal cruelty methods and their possible links to adult violent crimes. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24, 147-158, doi:10.1177/0886260508315779.

In re A.P., 42 S.W.3d 248 (Tex. App., 2001).

In re P.J.M., E.C.M. and J.W.M., 926 S.W.2d 223 (Mo.Ct.App., 1996).

Kim, H., Wildeman, C., Jonson-Reid, M., & Drake, B. (2017). Lifetime prevalence of investigating child maltreatment among U. S. children. *American Journal of Public Health*, 107, 274-280.

Knight, K.E., Ellis, C., & Simmons, S.B. (2014). Parental predictors of children's animal abuse: Findings from a national and intergenerational sample. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 29, 1-21.

Kogan, L., Schoenfeld-Tacher, R., Hellyer, P., Rishniw, M., & Ruch-Gallie, R. (2017). Survey of attitudes toward and experiences with animal abuse encounters in a convenience sample of US veterinarians. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 250(6), 688-696.

Krienert, J.L., Walsh, J.A., Matthews, K., & McConkey, K. (2012). Examining the nexus between domestic violence and animal abuse in a national sample of service providers. *Violence and Victims*, 27, 280-295.

Levitt, L., Hoffer, T.A., & Loper, A.B. (2016). Criminal histories of a subsample of animal cruelty offenders. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 30, 45-58

Lucia, S. & Killas, M. (2011). Is animal cruelty a marker of interpersonal violence and delinquency? Results of a Swiss national self-report study. *Psychology of Violence*, 1(2), 93-105.

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

33

1
2
3 Luk, E.S.L., Staiger, P.K., Wong, L., & Mathai, J. (1999). Children who are cruel to animals: A
4
5 revisit. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 33, 29-36.

6
7
8 McEwen, F.S., Moffitt, T.E., & Arseneault, L. (2014). Is childhood cruelty to animals a marker
9
10 for physical maltreatment in a prospective cohort study of children? *Child Abuse & Neglect*,
11
12 38, 533-543.

13
14
15
16 Merz-Perez, L., Heide, K.J., & Silverman, I.J. (2001). Childhood cruelty to animals and
17
18 subsequent violence against animals. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and*
19
20 *Comparative Criminology*, 45, 556-73.

21
22
23
24 Monsalve, S., Ferreira, F. and Garcia, R. (2017). The connection between animal abuse and
25
26 interpersonal violence: A review from the veterinary perspective. *Research in Veterinary*
27
28 *Science*, 114, 18-26.

29
30
31 Pilnik, L. & Kendall, J.R. (2012). Identifying Polyvictimization and Trauma Among court-
32
33 Involved Children and Youth: A Checklist and Resource Guide to Attorneys and Other Court-
34
35 Appointed Advocates. North Bethesda, MD: Safe State Center, Office of Juvenile and
36
37 Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice.

38
39
40
41 Project Connections Research Team (2016). Colorado's research project on domestic violence,
42
43 children, and pets: A report to the community. Denver, CO: Project Connections.

44
45
46 Randour, M.L. & Davidson, H. (2008). A common bond: Maltreated children and animals in the
47
48 home: Guidelines for practice and policy. *Washington, D.C.: American Humane and the*
49
50 *Humane Society of the United States*.

51
52
53
54 Schambon v. Kentucky, 821 S.W.2d 804 (Ky., 19910).

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

34

- 1
2
3 Simmons, C.A. & Lehmann, P. (2007). Exploring the link between pet abuse and controlling
4 behaviors in violent relationships. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 22, 1211-1222.
5
6
7
8 Slavkin, M. (2001). Enuresis, firesetting, and cruelty to animals: Does the ego triad show
9 predictive validity? *Adolescence*, 36, 461-466.
10
11
12
13 Thompson, K.L. & Gullone, E. (2006). An investigation into the association between the
14 witnessing of animal abuse and adolescents' behavior toward animals. *Society & Animals*,
15 14, 221-243.
16
17
18
19
20
21 Upadhy V. (2014). The abuse of animals as a method of domestic violence: the need for
22 criminalization. *Emory Law Journal*, 63, 1163-1209.
23
24
25
26 Volant, A.M., Johnson, J.A., Gullone, E., & Coleman, G.J. (2008). The relationship between
27 domestic violence and animal abuse: An Australian study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*,
28 9, 1277-1295.
29
30
31
32
33
34 Walker, L.E. (1984). *The battered woman syndrome*. New York: Springer Publishing.
35
36
37 Walters, G.D. (2014). Testing the direct, indirect, and moderated effects of childhood animal
38 cruelty on future aggressive and non-aggressive offending. *Aggressive Behavior*, 40, 238-
39 249.
40
41
42
43
44 Walters, G.D. (2016). Parent and child reports of animal cruelty and their correlation with parent
45 and child reports of child delinquency. *Psychology, Crime & Law*.
46
47
48
49 doi:10.1080/1068316X.2016.1258472
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

Walton-Moss, B.J., Manganello, J., Frye, V., & Campbell, J. (2005). Risk factors for intimate partner violence and associated injury among urban women. *Journal of Community Health*, 30, 377-389.

For Peer Review

Appendix

Animal Cruelty by Parent Cited in Judicial Considerations of Parents' Custody and Visitation

Since 2007, there have been 11 additional citations of judicial consideration of animal cruelty in deciding parental custody and visitation.

People of Illinois v. T.W. 2017

Illinois filed a neglect petition based on an injurious environment, characterized by the father's threat to cut the mother and child with hunting knives and then kill the family dog. The mother obtained an order of protection but case workers found she was still living with the father. Court considered this evidence in their decision.

In re I.W. and K.W., No. 15-1090, 2016 WL 1456200 (W. Va. Apr. 12, 2016).

A West Virginia court considered evidence that mother left children alone with cousin who had mental illnesses and a conviction for animal cruelty. The court stated "petitioner failed to grasp how her actions endangered her children and therefore necessitated their removal from her home due to imminent damages to their wellbeing."

In re Lilian C., No. K09CO14013719A, 2016 WL 5395901 (Conn. Super. Aug. 2, 2016).

The Connecticut Superior Court considered evidence of a badly mistreated dog committed in the family's home and removed by animal control when upholding revocation of both the mother's and father's parental rights.

In re Z.G., No. B260619, 2015 WL 5883806 (Cal. App. Oct. 8, 2015)

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

37

1
2
3 The mother had parental rights to two children revoked by a California Court of Appeals,
4 which cited incidences of animal cruelty by the mother's boyfriend in justification. The mother's
5 boyfriend had beaten and dragged a puppy down the street, resulting in the police arriving.
6
7
8
9

In re Chavez, Nos. 316163, 316166, 2014 WL 61222, (Mich. App. Jan. 2, 2014)

10
11
12 The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's termination of parental rights. The
13 mother brought the family dog to a veterinarian with injuries, including a swollen head, blood in
14 its eyes, and severe burn injuries. The veterinarian testified that the injuries were likely a result
15 of non-accidental injury. The therapist testified that the father told her he would discipline the
16 dogs in any way he sees fit and opined that "the DSM-IV provided that (1) animal abuse was
17 often an early indicator of psychopathic and conduct disorders and (2) individuals who harm
18 animals might disregard life and translate that behavior into harming other people." The mother
19 and father asserted that the testimony regarding animal abuse was irrelevant because it was not
20 logically connected to any statutory ground for termination. The Court of Appeals disagreed.
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

In re A.M., No. C070727, 2013 WL 75064 (Cal. App. Jan. 8, 2013).

34
35
36 A California Court of Appeals upheld a decision terminating mother's parental rights,
37 citing evidence that mother was the subject of an active criminal prosecution for animal abuse
38 after an emaciated dog was removed from her care.
39
40
41
42
43

In re V.W., No. 12-0820, 2013 WL 500189 (W.Va. Feb. 11, 2013)

44
45
46 A West Virginia court considered recent arrest of parents for animal cruelty and the
47 conditions which the animal lived in when revoking mother's parental rights
48
49
50
51

In re B.D., 950 N.E.2d 373 (Ind. App. 2011)

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

38

1
2
3 The Indiana Court of Appeals considered the mother and boyfriend's arrests for animal
4 cruelty when deciding parental rights.
5
6
7

8 **In re K.A.W., No. 301470, 2011 WL 3117869 (Mich. App. July 26, 2011)**
9

10
11 The Michigan Court of Appeals cited incident of the mother's boyfriend committing
12 animal cruelty to the family's pet in front of children as part of their reasoning for revoking
13 mother's parental rights, describing the offender as "dangerous."
14
15
16
17
18

19 **In re C.L., No. 2D10-2604, WL 3733011, (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. Sept. 24, 2010)**
20

21
22 A Florida District Court of Appeals considered evidence of animal abuse when upholding
23 termination of father's parental rights.
24
25
26

27 **Jessica C. v. Ariz. Dep't of Econ. Sec., No. 2 CA-JV 2010-0019, WL 2546495, (Ariz. Ct.
28 App. June 24, 2010)**
29

30 The Arizona Court of Appeals considered evidence of mother committing animal cruelty
31 in front of children when upholding decision to terminate mother's parental rights.
32
33
34

35 **Hosier v. Ark. Dep't of Health and Human Serv., No. CA 07-117, WL 1765539, (Ark. Ct.
36 App. June 20, 2007)**
37

38
39 The Arkansas Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's decision to terminate mother's
40 parental rights, stating that the mother had been charged with six counts of animal abuse from
41 her operation of a kennel.
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

39

Table 1 Summary of Findings	
Multiple studies, using different methodologies, found an association between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse.	
Severity of animal abuse is linked to severity of domestic violence.	
Domestic violence intake procedures fail to ask questions about pets	
Animal abuse in childhood is an indicator of increased risk for continued aggression into adolescence and adulthood.	
Witnessing animal abuse in the family is another form of trauma	
Animal sexual abuse is associated with human sexual abuse.	

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

40

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

	Professional Practice & Policy	State and Federal Policy	Research
Veterinarians	<p>Coursework and training on detecting and reporting animal cruelty</p> <p>Training on link between domestic violence and animal abuse</p> <p>Participation in family violence councils or coordinated community response teams</p>	<p>Mandated reporting in 50 states</p> <p>Cross reporting of child abuse and domestic violence in all states</p>	<p>Assessment of most effective way of training veterinarians to recognize and report animal cruelty</p>
Mental and Public Health	<p>Coursework and training on link between animal cruelty and other violence</p>		<p>Evaluation of interventions for childhood animal cruelty</p> <p>Development of screening protocols for assessing role of pets in family</p>
Animal service agencies	<p>Participation in family violence or coordinated community response teams</p> <p>Cross training on child abuse & domestic violence</p>	<p>Cross training mandated for animal services and human services professionals</p>	<p>Evaluation of effectiveness of cross training; adapt as necessary</p>
All disciplines	<p>Training of significance of animal cruelty for law enforcement, judges and other court personnel.</p>		

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

1

Table

Table 1 below describes a summary of findings related to the link between domestic violence, child abuse, and animal abuse.

Table 1: Summary of Findings	
Multiple studies, using different methodologies, found an association between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse.	
Exposure to animal cruelty correlates significantly with perpetration of animal cruelty.	
Severity of animal abuse is linked to severity of domestic violence.	
Animal abuse in childhood is an indicator of increased risk for continued aggression into adolescence and adulthood.	
Animal sexual abuse is associated with human sexual abuse.	

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

2

Table

Table 2 below describes professional practices and policy, state and federal law, and research recommendations for veterinarians, mental health professionals, and animal service agencies.

Table 2: Implications for Practice, Policy and Research			
	Professional Practice & Policy	State and Federal Policy	Research
Veterinarians	<p>Coursework and training on detecting and reporting animal cruelty</p> <p>Training on link between domestic violence and animal abuse</p> <p>Participation in family violence councils or coordinated community response teams</p>	<p>Mandated reporting with civil immunity for good faith reporting in 50 states</p> <p>Cross reporting of child abuse and domestic violence in all states</p>	<p>Assessment of most effective way of training veterinarians to recognize and report animal cruelty</p> <p>Publication of case reports of animal cruelty documented by veterinarians, where the cases were also associated with other family violence</p>

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

3

Mental Health Professionals	Coursework and training on link between animal cruelty and other violence	Cross reporting of animal abuse in all states	Evaluation of interventions for childhood animal cruelty
Animal service Agencies	Participation in family violence councils or coordinated community response teams Cross training on child abuse & domestic violence	Cross training mandated for animal services and human services professionals	Evaluation of effectiveness of cross training; adapt as necessary
All Disciplines	Training in significance of animal cruelty for law enforcement, including judges and other court personnel.		

Appendix

Animal Cruelty by Parent Cited in Judicial Considerations of Parents' Custody and Visitation

Since 2007, there have been 11 additional citations of judicial consideration of animal cruelty in deciding parental custody and visitation.

People of Illinois v. T.W. 2017

Illinois filed a neglect petition based on an injurious environment, characterized by the father's threat to cut the mother and child with hunting knives and then kill the family dog. The mother obtained an order of protection but case workers found she was still living with the father. Court considered this evidence in their decision.

In re I.W. and K.W., No. 15-1090, 2016 WL 1456200 (W. Va. Apr. 12, 2016).

A West Virginia court considered evidence that mother left children alone with cousin who had mental illnesses and a conviction for animal cruelty. The court stated "petitioner failed to grasp how her actions endangered her children and therefore necessitated their removal from her home due to imminent damages to their wellbeing."

In re Lilian C., No. K09CO14013719A, 2016 WL 5395901 (Conn. Super. Aug. 2, 2016).

The Connecticut Superior Court considered evidence of a badly mistreated dog committed in the family's home and removed by animal control when upholding revocation of both the mother's and father's parental rights.

In re Z.G., No. B260619, 2015 WL 5883806 (Cal. App. Oct. 8, 2015)

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

2

The mother had parental rights to two children revoked by a California Court of Appeals, which cited incidences of animal cruelty by the mother's boyfriend in justification. The mother's boyfriend had beaten and dragged a puppy down the street, resulting in the police arriving.

In re Chavez, Nos. 316163, 316166, 2014 WL 61222, (Mich. App. Jan. 2, 2014)

The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's termination of parental rights. The mother brought the family dog to a veterinarian with injuries, including a swollen head, blood in its eyes, and severe burn injuries. The veterinarian testified that the injuries were likely a result of non-accidental injury. The therapist testified that the father told her he would discipline the dogs in any way he sees fit and opined that "the DSM-IV provided that (1) animal abuse was often an early indicator of psychopathic and conduct disorders and (2) individuals who harm animals might disregard life and translate that behavior into harming other people." The mother and father asserted that the testimony regarding animal abuse was irrelevant because it was not logically connected to any statutory ground for termination. The Court of Appeals disagreed.

In re A.M., No. C070727, 2013 WL 75064 (Cal. App. Jan. 8, 2013).

A California Court of Appeals upheld a decision terminating mother's parental rights, citing evidence that mother was the subject of an active criminal prosecution for animal abuse after an emaciated dog was removed from her care.

In re V.W., No. 12-0820, 2013 WL 500189 (W.Va. Feb. 11, 2013)

A West Virginia court considered recent arrest of parents for animal cruelty and the conditions which the animal lived in when revoking mother's parental rights

In re B.D., 950 N.E.2d 373 (Ind. App. 2011)

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

3

1
2
3 The Indiana Court of Appeals considered the mother and boyfriend's arrests for animal
4 cruelty when deciding parental rights.
5
6
7

8 **In re K.A.W., No. 301470, 2011 WL 3117869 (Mich. App. July 26, 2011)**
9

10
11 The Michigan Court of Appeals cited incident of the mother's boyfriend committing
12 animal cruelty to the family's pet in front of children as part of their reasoning for revoking
13 mother's parental rights, describing the offender as "dangerous."
14
15
16
17

18 **In re C.L., No. 2D10-2604, WL 3733011, (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. Sept. 24, 2010)**
19

20
21 A Florida District Court of Appeals considered evidence of animal abuse when upholding
22 termination of father's parental rights.
23
24
25
26

27 **Jessica C. v. Ariz. Dep't of Econ. Sec., No. 2 CA-JV 2010-0019, WL 2546495, (Ariz. Ct.
28 App. June 24, 2010)**
29

30 The Arizona Court of Appeals considered evidence of mother committing animal cruelty
31 in front of children when upholding decision to terminate mother's parental rights.
32
33
34

35 **Hosier v. Ark. Dep't of Health and Human Serv., No. CA 07-117, WL 1765539, (Ark. Ct.
36 App. June 20, 2007)**
37

38
39 The Arkansas Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's decision to terminate mother's
40 parental rights, stating that the mother had been charged with six counts of animal abuse from
41 her operation of a kennel.
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

ANIMAL ABUSE AS TYPE OF TRAUMA

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

For Peer Review