

THE VIOLENCE CONNECTION

AN EXAMINATION

OF THE LINK

BETWEEN

ANIMAL

ABUSE

AND OTHER

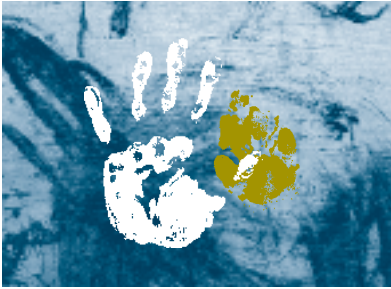
VIOLENT CRIMES







The Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) is a national nonprofit organization working to improve society's treatment of animals through education and advocacy programs. As part of our Creating Caring Communities (CCC) initiative, we are pleased to present this updated version of *The Violence Connection*, which urges law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, educators, advocates for domestic violence victims, and others working with children and their families to examine "the link" between animal abuse and violence toward humans. The link affects everyone, regardless of socio-economic or educational status.



The central goal of Creating Caring Communities is to demonstrate that the protection of, and respect for, animals is closely linked to human welfare and that by improving treatment of animals we can foster stronger families and safer communities. Nowhere is that link between animal and human welfare demonstrated more vividly than in the irrefutable relationship of animal abuse and other forms of violence, especially family violence.

The legal and human services communities are in a unique position to recognize the link and to treat animal cruelty as a serious crime. We hope that *The Violence Connection* provides a useful tool to that end. In addition, DDAF offers training seminars and workshops on link issues, which can be tailored to meet the needs of diverse audiences including judges, prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, educators, domestic violence advocates, and social service personnel. By informing yourself and your colleagues about the intersection of animal and human violence, you can help break the cycle of violence that touches too many members of our society.

We welcome the opportunity to share this information with you. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Doris Day Animal Foundation, please contact us (our contact information is printed on the back of this booklet).

Sincerely,

Holly E. Hazard

Executive Director

How does animal cruelty relate to other crimes?

One of the Washington, D. C. area snipers, Lee Boyd Malvo, has been described as a “strikingly obedient child.” There was one notable exception—as a child, Malvo hunted and killed cats with a slingshot. Malvo once had a pet cat but grew to hate cats because his mother would beat Malvo when the cat would sleep in Malvo’s bed and soil the sheets. Whenever he saw a stray cat, he would become angry and shoot the animal.



Introduction

Why should animal abuse be taken seriously? Animal cruelty is a form of violence, and violence rarely, if ever, exists in a vacuum.

- **Animal abuse can identify individuals who are engaging in other criminal activities.** Acts of animal cruelty are linked to a variety of other crimes, including crimes of violence against humans, property crimes, and the commission of drug or disorderly conduct offenses (Arluke & Luke, 1997). Reporting, investigating, and prosecuting animal cruelty can help take dangerous criminals off the street.
- **Animal abuse can expose family violence.** If an animal is being abused in a family, it is likely that a child and partner also are being hurt or threatened.
- **Investigation of animal neglect or cruelty can provide access to a troubled family.** Animal abuse is not only frequently the most visible sign of family violence, it also is not accorded the same privacy protection given to families. Consequently, animal control officers have much easier access to homes than other law enforcement and social service agencies do.
- **Animal cruelty often is an indicator that children pose a risk to themselves as well as others.** Longitudinal studies, begun in 1987 and continuing to this date, demonstrate that chronic physical aggression by boys during the elementary school years increases their risk for continued physical violence as well as other nonviolent forms of delinquency during adolescence. Animal cruelty is one important form of physical aggression. (Broidy, et. al., 2003).
- **Animal cruelty is a warning sign for at-risk youth** according to the National School Safety Council, U. S. Department of Education, the American Psychological Association, and the National Crime Prevention Council.
- **Witnesses or victims of both animal and human violence are often more comfortable talking about the animal abuse.** A woman afraid to admit to her partner’s abusive behavior may feel less threatened in reporting his cruelty to animals. Likewise, a neighbor of an abusive family is more likely to report the animal abuse first. This starts a dialogue with officials, which can lead to an uncovering of the perpetrator’s human-directed violence.
- **Animal cruelty often begins early in childhood, providing opportunities for timely, more effective, interventions.** Experts agree that programs focusing on prevention and early treatment of conduct problems are crucial. Some suggest the most strategic point for intervention is in the preschool and early elementary school years. As aggressive children get older, they are increasingly less responsive to therapeutic intervention (Kazdin, 1995; Loeber, 1990).

- **Animal cruelty inflicts untold pain and suffering on innocent victims.** Animal abuse should be taken seriously because it is a serious crime. Like children who are the victims of domestic violence, animals can not effectively defend themselves (in most cases), can not understand why they are being hurt or terrorized, and can not seek outside help on their own behalf.

What Link?

The evidence of a link between acts of cruelty to animals and violence toward humans, including child abuse, spousal battery, and other types of criminal violence, is compelling. In the vast majority of cases, cruelty to animals is just one aspect of a social environment marked by violence.

- As documented in the study “Care of Pets within Child Abusing Families,” interviewers questioned 53 families under investigation for suspected child abuse (DeViney, Dickert & Lockwood, 1983). Abuse of pets was documented in 60% of the families surveyed. When only families who were under supervision for physical abuse of their children were examined, the percentage rose to 88%. In most cases, it was the abusive parent who injured or killed the companion animal.
- Another recent survey found that 71% of battered women seeking shelter in northern Utah who shared their homes with pets reported that their male partners had threatened to or had, in fact, harmed or killed their pets (Ascione, 1995). Of the women with children, 32% reported that one of their children also had committed acts of animal cruelty. A national survey of battered women’s shelters reported similar findings: 85% of shelters indicated that women seeking services at safe houses talked about incidents of pet abuse (Ascione, Weber & Wood, 1997).
- A survey of college sophomores revealed a link between childhood animal cruelty and a tolerance for interpersonal violence as adults. Those students who admitted to engaging in animal cruelty as young people were more likely than the “non-abusers” to respond “Yes” to a question as to whether it was permissible to slap your wife (Flynn, 2000).
- Animal abuse has been consistently linked with other violent criminal behaviors. Fifty violent and fifty non-violent inmates were studied to determine if and how animal cruelty was associated with their development and behavior (Merz-Perez & Heide, 2004). The researchers found that a statistically significant greater proportion of the violent offenders had committed past acts of cruelty to animals. Earlier studies confirm these findings (Kellert & Felthous, 1985).
- Serial killers and school shooters sit at the extreme end of the violence spectrum and almost inevitably have histories of abusing animals. Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, Albert DeSalvo (the “Boston Strangler”) and many others committed heinous acts of animal



Washington Humane Society



A psychologist recalled that when he was an eleven-year-old boy, about forty years ago, he belonged to a group of neighborhood boys who enjoyed “hanging out” together. There was one boy who never joined the group, even though invited; he seemed to be a “loner” by choice. One day the “loner” approached the eleven-year-old boy and after swearing him to secrecy, confessed that he strangled cats. Conflicted about what to do, the young boy decided to guard his family cats by patrolling the yard with a BB gun. Soon after hearing this confession, another member of their group called him aside and reported that the

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cruelty before brutally maiming and killing their human victims. Of 36 convicted multiple murderers questioned in an often-cited study, 46% admitted committing acts of animal torture as adolescents (Congressional Register, 1996). It also has been reported that over half of the school shooters whose deadly rampages made national headlines during the late 1990s were known to persistently abuse animals (Miner, 1999).

Why Animal Cruelty?

Specific reasons why a juvenile or adult might abuse or threaten to abuse an animal can be complex and varied. It is important to make a thorough assessment of the abuse, which should include:

- Severity of the animal abuse (degree of injury; frequency; number and kind of species)
- Culpability (age/developmental level; degree of planning)
- Psychodynamics/Motivation (curiosity/experimentation; peer pressure; to coerce, or retaliate against a human)
- Attitudes and Beliefs (unaware of physical and psychological needs of animals; prejudice against a species; cruelty as a form of discipline; cultural practice or acceptance)
- Emotional Intelligence (capacity for empathy; capable of forming attachments)
- Family History (any abuse in family—child, partner, elder, animal? Harsh and inconsistent discipline?)
- Mitigating Circumstances (accepts responsibility; expresses feelings of remorse; willing to assist law enforcement)

Children Abusing Animals

Many young children go through a developmental stage during which they may hurt insects or other small creatures in the process of exploring their world. However, child behavior experts caution parents, educators, and other adults to gently, but firmly, intervene at these times, teaching the child about boundaries, and the importance of respecting the needs and interests of another being.

If the child persists in this behavior, or if he or she intentionally injures, or kills, cats, dogs, birds, and other animals, further action is necessary, including parent training, psychotherapy for the child and family, and in extreme cases, institutionalization.

Some children who abuse animals come from violent families. However, many children who abuse animals do not. There should be a thorough evaluation of the child and family to determine if other forms of abuse are present in the family, and to determine the child's

same boy had confessed to him that he killed cats. The two boys, torn between their desires to protect the animals they knew were endangered and their vow of silence, enlarged the “protection” area and patrolled the neighborhood, trying to keep its cats safe. Many years later, the psychologist relating the story, described his attempt to find the “loner” for a high school reunion. After many failed attempts to locate him, he received a call. The caller asked him, “Why are you looking for this person?” He explained he was organizing a high school reunion. The caller identified himself as an FBI agent and said, “This person is a serial killer and we believe he is moving between the U. S. and Canada. If you have any information on him, let us know.”

motivations for acting cruelly toward animals. Experts recommend, when possible, that intervention involve the family.

Conduct disorder is a serious diagnosis given to children who exhibit severe anti-social behavior and aggressive tendencies. One of the earliest reported indicators of child abuse is cruelty to animals. Aggressive behavior in childhood predicts serious anti-social behavior in adulthood, including criminal offenses, spousal abuse, and a tendency toward severe punishment of one’s children (Huesmann, Eron, Lefkowitz, & Walder, 1984). In addition, it has been estimated that 5-7% of youth between the ages of 10 and 20 commit 50% to 60% of all crime in the United States (Eron, Gentry, & Schlegel, 1994). Childhood animal cruelty has serious implications for the child, the animal, and society.

Animal Abuse in Families

Because a dog or cat is generally considered part of the family, it is logical that when a family becomes abusive, the pet, as the “lowest” or weakest member of the family, may become a victim of that violence.

Where animal cruelty co-occurs with spousal and/or child abuse, the abuser may use violence against animals as a means of further terrorizing his or her human victims. Many women who are abused often stay in destructive situations due to threats against or concern for their companion animals. Animals may also be used to perpetuate sexual abuse, i.e., the abused may be forced to engage in bestiality.

Abusers can manipulate and control human victims of abuse through threatened or actual violence against beloved family pets. Killing a cherished companion animal can also be a way of removing an important source of comfort and love, an act that further isolates the abused.

Animal Abuse and Law Enforcement

Animal abuse is increasingly recognized as a serious crime in its own right, as well as a potential precursor to human-directed violence. For example, in 1990, the National Cruelty Investigations Schools, co-sponsored by the Law Enforcement Training Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia and The Humane Society of the United States, were designed for animal cruelty investigators and others at the federal, state, and local levels interested in learning a systematic approach to animal cruelty investigations. Since the creation of the schools, over 1000 agencies in all 50 states and Canada, have attended.

For more information: National Cruelty Investigations School, Law Enforcement Training Institute, University of Missouri-Columbia, 321 Hearnes Center, Columbia, MO 65211. Phone: 800-825-6505, Internet:www.Missouri.edu/~letiwwww/

In addition to the creation of a recognized curriculum on animal cruelty investigations at the Law Enforcement Training Institute, police departments also are incorporating information on “the violence connection” into their in-service training programs, and their procedures. The Doris Day Animal Foundation has conducted training for police agencies or law enforcement officers in eighteen states, Canada, and Mexico.

Special Victims and Family Crimes Section

The Special Victims and Family Crimes Section of the Broward County, Florida Sheriff’s Office, is one of the most advanced responses to recognizing the link between animal cruelty and other crimes. Created and commanded by Lieutenant Sherry Schlueter, this section is specifically designed to address all crimes that stem from dysfunction within a family, and which result in interpersonal violence. Units falling within this section include the Sex Crimes Unit, the Missing Persons Unit, the Domestic Violence Unit, the Victims Services Unit, and the Abuse and Neglect Unit, which handle crimes of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of children, the elderly and disabled, as well as animal cruelty.

For more information: Special Victims and Family Crimes Section, Criminal Investigations Division, Broward County Sheriff’s Office, 2601 West Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312; 954-321-4239

The Behavioral Sciences Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation recognized the link between animal cruelty and other crimes over twenty years ago. Supervisory Special Agent Alan Brantley explains, “Something we believe is prominently displayed in the histories of people who are habitually violent is animal abuse . . . You can look at cruelty to animals and cruelty to humans as a continuum” (Lockwood and Church, 1996).

Interprofessional Cooperation

Around the United States, groundbreaking coalitions are rapidly forming between major community service agencies, including those serving animals, to coordinate responses to animal cruelty, domestic violence, child abuse, and other violent crimes. Model examples of these can be found in Colorado Springs, Colorado’s DVERT (Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team), and the “Link Up Education Network” in Boston, Massachusetts.

One important form of these coalitions is the development of “safe haven for pets” programs. “Safe haven” programs can be organized differently, depending on the needs and resources of the local communities, but typically involve a cooperative agreement between a domestic violence agency and a humane society or animal protection organization. “Safe haven for pets” programs remove one of the most common barriers to leaving an abusive partner—fear that the partner

Often the abuse of an animal in a family is meant to control and intimidate an intimate partner. In Virginia Beach, Virginia, Jason T. Portock, 32, was sentenced to six months in jail for beating his wife's cat to death while she was away on a business trip. He threw the cat against the wall of his home and then kicked the animal against the door, leaving her to die. When his wife arrived home, she immediately took the cat to a veterinarian. The cat, who suffered five broken ribs, a broken sternum, swollen left eye, broken teeth, claws, and front leg, did not survive. This crime resulted in the first felony conviction for animal cruelty in the State of Virginia.

will harm or kill companion animals left behind. *Safe Havens for Pets* by Frank Ascione, Ph.D., which is the most comprehensive resource for developing and running a safe haven program, is available in PDF format. For information on how to download a copy of this useful book, please visit DDAF's Web site.

Cross-reporting and the sharing of information between professionals are also on the rise. Animal control officers throughout the state of California must report suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. In San Diego, social workers must report suspected cases of animal abuse to animal control officials. Maine recognized the connection between child abuse and animal cruelty when it established a cross-reporting procedure in 1982. In Frederick County, Maryland, animal control officers carry information about the local domestic violence shelter with them. When visiting a home, if they suspect the possibility of domestic violence, they discretely offer that information to the victim. Massachusetts is one of the most recent states to pass legislation that permits social service agencies to report suspicions of animal abuse to the proper authorities.

Such coalition efforts can be mutually beneficial; a tip-off from animal control officers that trouble may be on the rise in a particular family or area, as indicated by an increased incidence of animal abuse, may allow law enforcement and social service agents to intervene before the situation escalates to include human victims. Similarly, investigations by sheriff's deputies and police officers may uncover animal cruelty requiring the prompt attention of humane professionals. When both social service agents and animal control officers are involved with a family, that family receives double coverage. Animal control officers can coordinate their visits with social service agents to ensure that the family receives the most effective attention.

As such initiatives grow in number and the link between animal cruelty and other types of criminal behavior is demonstrated, awareness has increased among various professions that animal cruelty is a serious crime requiring significant attention and cooperation.

Animal Cruelty and the Courts

Shifts in thinking about the seriousness of animal cruelty are further reflected in changes in the law during the 1990s. As of the end of 2004, forty-one states and the District of Columbia have felony animal cruelty laws, up from only four in 1990. Yet, despite progressive changes in the law and a growing recognition of the gravity of animal cruelty, too often it is viewed as a secondary offense, with many cases never even reaching the courts. Prosecutors who face an overload of work may not consider animal cruelty cases a priority in the face of a caseload of murder, rape, battery and other violent crimes with obvious human victims. When animal cruelty cases are prosecuted, sentencing



How does animal cruelty relate to other crimes?

Animal control officers received an anonymous complaint that a pit bull was being kept in a filthy yard without adequate food, water or shelter. Upon entering the house, the officers found a woman, her two young children and her double-amputee mother living in squalid conditions with no running water or electricity. Human filth and garbage filled the bathroom and the kitchen was virtually bare. Police officers were notified and authorities took the children and dog into foster care while the mother was entered into a drug treatment program.

Prosecuting Animal Cruelty

Two examples of prosecutors who take the crime of animal cruelty seriously:

Alex Foster, Assistant State's Attorney, Montgomery County Maryland. In addition to other prosecutorial duties, Mr. Foster handles the animal cruelty cases for the State's Attorney's Office. Montgomery County was the first county in the state of Maryland to gain a conviction for the felony animal abuse statute enacted in 2001 and continues to vigorously investigate and prosecute animal cruelty crimes.

Michelle Welch, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney for Richmond, Virginia. Between 2001 and 2004, Ms. Welch prosecuted 64 animal cases, including dog fighting, neglect, and cruelty, out of a total caseload of 916. Like Mr. Foster, Ms. Welch has been designated by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to handle all animal cruelty and neglect cases.

Mr. Foster and Ms. Welch, and other prosecutors, understand both the significance of animal cruelty for human society and how animal cruelty laws provide prosecutors with additional tools.

varies, and often does not correspond to the immediate crime or its implication for the future. Even when animal cruelty is successfully prosecuted, judges may not assign the appropriate sentencing, not recognizing its significance for crime control and community safety.

Investigating, prosecuting, and sentencing individuals who commit animal abuse can be an effective weapon for law enforcement. It can aid police officers by expanding the possible causes for the investigation and arrest of suspected offenders; prosecutors are provided with another crime to charge, which strengthens their case; and judges can add time to a sentence.

State Anti-Cruelty Laws

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia currently have laws making certain types of animal cruelty a felony offense:

- Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Please visit DDAF's Web pages at www.ddaf.org for updates on state anti-cruelty laws and other link issues.

How does animal cruelty relate to other crimes?

In 1997, 15-year-old Joey Bader admitted to New Hampshire State Police that he had roasted his mother's parakeets in the oven. It was part of a campaign of terror apparently sanctioned by his father that ended with the murder of Vicki Buzby Bader in August 1996. The teenager told police that he in fact had helped his father carry out his mother's murder. It was Joey's job to dig a grave for her in Maine, then distract his three-year-old brother while their father waited for her in their Stratham, New Hampshire home. Joey led investigators to his mother's body in April 1997, eight months after she was reported missing.

Zero Tolerance for Cruelty

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) is a nonprofit network of attorneys working locally and nationally to defend animals from abuse. In 1994, ALDF began a national campaign for stiffer laws, more vigorous prosecution of animal abusers, and making available the necessary tools to win convictions and appropriate sentences for those found guilty of animal cruelty. As an aid to district attorneys' offices, ALDF staff and attorney members conduct legal research, draft friend-of-the-court briefs, locate expert witnesses and provide a wide range of other essential talents and experience. They also maintain a nationwide database of animal cruelty cases, and make the information they gather, including convictions and sentences, available to prosecutors, judges, legislators, and researchers.

For more information: ALDF, 919 Taylor Street, Portland, OR 97214; Phone: 503-231-1602; FAX: 503-231-1578; E-mail: action1@aldf.org; Internet: www.aldf.org

A New Approach—The Bigger Picture

Animal cruelty is a complex crime requiring cross-disciplinary attention. Law enforcement and animal control officers must work together and be aware of the signs of animal abuse and its implications. Prosecutors must be willing to recognize the seriousness of such crimes and prosecute in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

However, prosecution isn't enough—sentencing is also an important phase, so it's important for judges to take these crimes seriously. Treatment and monitoring are also crucial to breaking the cycle of violence.

Psychological counseling can be a positive supplement to sentencing.

Twenty-seven states—Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia—currently contain counseling provisions in their animal cruelty laws.

California, Florida, Iowa, and Tennessee require counseling for all persons convicted of animal cruelty. Colorado orders counseling for a second offense and West Virginia stipulates an evaluation. Six other states mandate counseling for juveniles (Maine, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah). Counseling can involve the perpetrator as well as his or her immediate family, particularly when it is believed that counseling might serve to uncover and/or alleviate child or spousal abuse that may also be occurring. When counseling children who abuse animals, it is recommended that their parents participate in the treatment.

Monitoring individuals or locations with known links to violence by animal control agencies and social services is also crucial, but constrained

In a recent trial in New York, John Jefferson pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courthouse to robbery, burglary, stalking, criminal contempt, and animal cruelty. Jefferson, who had been stalking his ex-girlfriend, Eugenia Miller, hurled Ribsby, a 16-year-old terrier poodle mix companion of Miller's off her balcony. State Supreme Court Justice James Yates sentenced Jefferson to twelve years in prison; the judge said that two were for Ribsby.

budgets call for other creative measures. Judges and prosecutors may wish to explore the potential role of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) in cross-disciplinary efforts to curb both animal and human violence. A CASA trained to recognize the signs of animal abuse and understand the implications for the child to whom he or she is assigned, can alert proper authorities should such signs become visible.

Innovative programs that utilize hands-on interaction with animals have also recently been developed to provide treatment for juvenile offenders. For example, a partnership between the Youth Diagnostic and Development Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Animal Humane Association of New Mexico developed Project Second Chance. Project Second Chance is a six-week program in which adjudicated boys use positive, non-physical means to teach better behavior to shelter dogs. The dogs become more adoptable and the boys learn how to take responsibility, experience a caring relationship, and acquire practical vocational skills, such as dog grooming and behavior management. Other well-respected programs in which animals are used to build empathy, trust, and the ability to nurture in troubled children and teenagers include Brewster, New York's Green Chimneys and San Francisco's Forget Me Not Farm.

Judges and prosecutors are in a unique position to consider the "bigger picture." They can do this through appropriate and progressive sentencing, requiring counseling when fitting, and bringing together various professionals in an effort to break the link between animal and human violence.

AniCare: Treatment for Juvenile and Adult Animal Abusers

Adults. *The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse* debuted in 1999 to address the unique difficulties involved in assessing and treating adult animal abusers. Developed by the Doris Day Animal Foundation and Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PSYETA), AniCare is a clinical intervention similar to approaches used for perpetrators of domestic violence. The AniCare intervention, which emphasizes accountability and learning about relationships, employs a cognitive-behavioral model of treatment.

Juveniles. Responding to requests for information about how to identify and treat childhood animal abuse, and recognizing that interventions at early ages can be more effective, DDAF and PSYETA developed *AniCare Child*. Introduced two years after the release of the AniCare adult treatment approach, *AniCare Child* provides an important resource for not only mental health professionals, but also professionals who interact with children and their families, such as educators, youth workers, public health agents, and visiting nurses.

AniCare Child serves two purposes:

It encourages professionals working with children to integrate an assessment of a child's relationship with animals into any screening or assessment procedures by providing an easy-to-use tool, "Asking Children about Their Relationship with Animals." *AniCare Child* is for **all** children, not just children at-risk for, or suspected of, animal cruelty. By assessing a child's relationship with animals, one can gain information about the quality and type of a child's attachments and losses as well as gain insight into family discipline practices. Of course, for children at-risk (such as children who have been sexually, physically, or emotionally abused, children of domestic violence victims, and children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder and Oppositional Disorder), conducting an assessment of animals in the family's life may uncover violence directed at other family members as well as animals.

It offers practical and concrete clinical interventions for the assessment and treatment of juvenile animal cruelty, which is often associated with other serious behavioral problems, as well as family violence. In addition to assessment tools, it also provides factors to consider when determining the nature and severity of animal cruelty. For treatment, *AniCare Child* provides clinical case examples, projective materials, and exercises designed to teach self-management skills and the development of empathy.

The Empathy Connection

Why is empathy important? What does empathy have to do with animals? Can someone teach empathy to children? How? *The Empathy Connection*, a 20-page booklet recently released by the Doris Day Animal Foundation and Scholastic Press, answers these questions. Designed for parents, teachers, and other adults working with children, *The Empathy Connection* describes the research that documents the relationship of empathy to children's interpersonal and academic success. It also discusses the important role that animals play in the development of empathy in children. Designed to offer practical tips and suggestions to teachers and parents, it includes a number of examples and exercises for teaching empathy to children.

The Doris Day Animal Foundation offers training workshops on general link topics, the assessment and treatment of juvenile and adult animal abuse, as well as on the development of empathy in children through the human-animal relationship. In addition to training workshops, a training DVD, which can be used by individuals and agencies to independently conduct a "link" or *AniCare* workshop, is now available.

To arrange for a workshop on general link topics, AniCare training, or *The Empathy Connection*, or for more information: Mary Lou Randour, Ph.D., Doris Day Animal Foundation, 202-546-1761, ext. 33; e-mail: marylour@ddaf.org

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This revised edition of *The Violence Connection*
is made possible thanks to a generous grant
from the **Claire Giannini Fund**

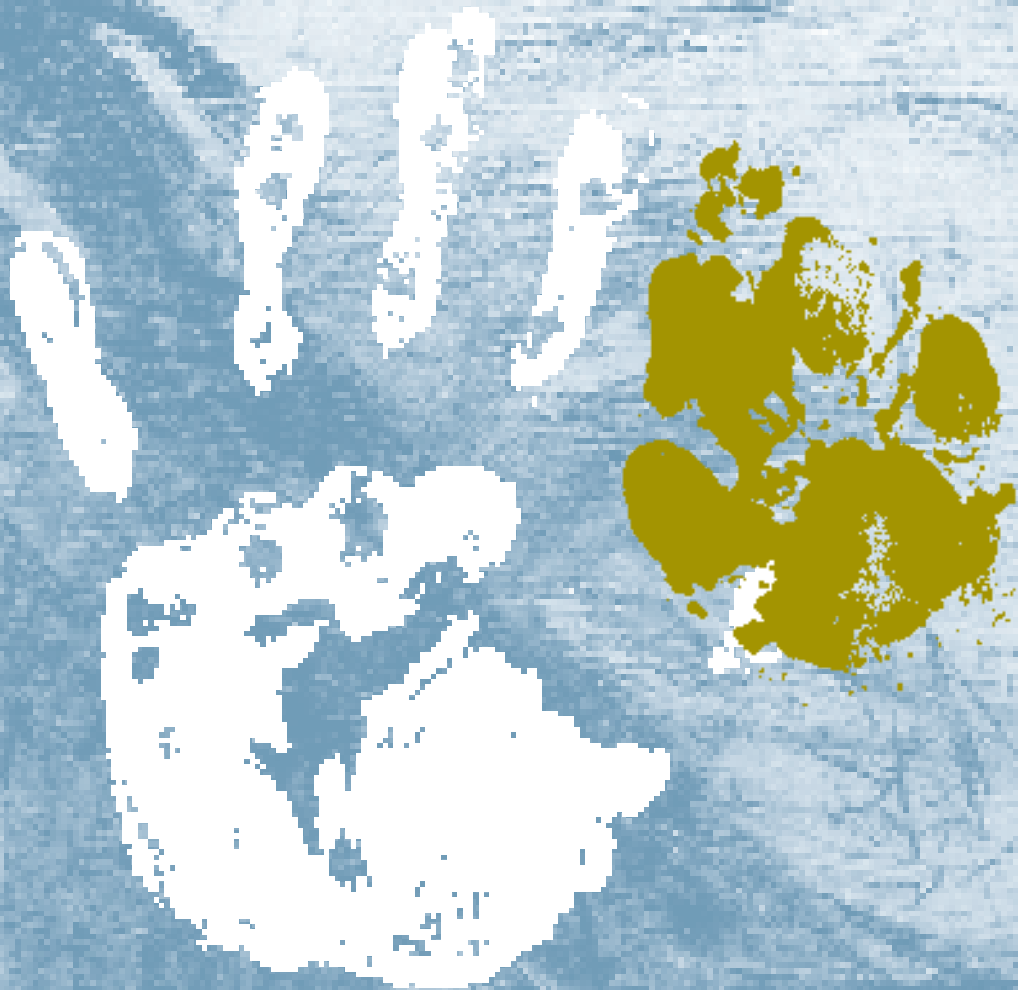




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Revised 11/04