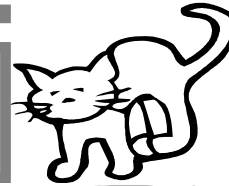


What should we understand about Animal Abuse in Domestic Violence?



When batterers abuse animals...

Animals/Pets are abused to **FRIGHTEN** and **CONTROL** spouses, partners and/or children.

Animals/Pets are used as a **THREAT** of potential attacks on spouses, partners and/or children.

Animals/Pets are abused as a form of **RETALIATION** or **PUNISHMENT**.

Ascione, Weber & Wood 1
Jorgensen & Maloney 2

“My client ...with tears in her eyes, explained...that if she went home she could take care of the dog and other animals on the farm and thank you very much for all the help but couldn't I please understand that it was best that she just go back?...She returned home and we never heard from her again.”

—Shelter Counselor at the time, Jane Ann Quinlisk 4

* Studies found that **18% to 40%** of women seeking shelter from abuse reported that concern for their pets delayed their departure.

Ascione 5

* One national study found that about **85%** of women seeking shelter reported incidents of pet abuse.

Ascione, Weber & Wood 6

* Another national study found that only **14%** of DV agencies could provide shelter for pets.

Ascione 7

One study in Utah found that **74%** of women entering DV shelters owned pets in the last 12 months. Of those women, **71%** of them reported that their partners threatened or actually harmed their pets.

Ascione 3



Children and Animal Abuse

Children's cruelty to animals could be a symptom of distress caused by witnessing domestic violence or by experiencing abuse themselves.

Ascione, Weber & Wood 8, Jorgensen & Maloney 9

A study in a South Carolina DV shelter found that about **33%** of women whose pets are abused reported that their children had also been abused.

Ascione 10

One study in a DV shelter in Utah found that **32%** of women with children reported that their children had harmed their animals.

Ascione 11



On a positive note, “animals can help children learn empathy, nonabusive touch, facilitate disclosure about frightening family events, and even be a source of support during court testimony” .

Ascione, Weber and Wood 13

Another study in Wisconsin found that women in DV shelters indicated that children witnessed animal abuse in **76%** of cases and that **54%** of them copied similar behaviors.

Quinlisk 12

“...My mom got a 101 Dalmatians dog for us-his name was Ice, but we had to give him away because we came to the SafeHouse. I miss him because he listens to me.”

Jorgensen & Maloney 14

Reference



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Ascione, F.R.(2001). Animal abuse and youth violence. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, September 2001. U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Resource Guide

If you need help, contact

ACTION OHIO to locate a DV program/shelter in OHIO.

614-221-1255/888-622-9315 (toll-free)

OR

National Domestic Violence Hotline to locate a program near you. 24/7

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

More information on animal abuse...

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

2100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
202-452-1100/888-213-0956
www.hsus.org/firststrike/

The American Humane Association

63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood, CO 80112
877-LINK(546)-5222
www.americanhumane.org

Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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



**ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women
36 W. Gay St. Suite 311
Columbus, OH 43215**

ANIMAL ABUSE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I was kicked.
I was neglected.
I was hurt. But I wasn't the
only one.



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