The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence.
Addendum: Causes and Correlations of Violence

Executive Summary

While the <u>causes</u> of crime and domestic abuse may be difficult to determine, the <u>correlation</u> of crime with various factors is easier to determine and just as valuable as determining causes.

If crime is highly correlated with some factor, then we can work on that factor to reduce crime. Finding the highest correlations among a group of alternatives is useful in identifying which alternatives are best to focus prevention efforts on.

There are many potential factors that have been suggested as correlated with crime, including poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, violent media, access to guns, and others. One of the factors correlated with crime that has been largely overlooked is animal abuse.

A wealth of data is available from governmental and non-governmental sources that allow detailed correlations to be determined between crime and potential causative factors.

For some factors like violent video games, violent TV shows and movies, data is either unavailable or conflicting, making correlations difficult and/or ambiguous.

Bullying in schools has a high correlation with suicide among young people.

Many school shooters were either bullies or victims of bullies, and were involved in animal cruelty, as well as publicizing their violent intent on social media and the internet.

Gun ownership is significantly correlated with property crime and suicide rates.

Studies show that animal cruelty is as much or more associated with violent crime and domestic violence than many of the factors usually under consideration.

Correlation data analysis indicates that the highest correlations are:

> Violent Crime: animal abuse, harsh parenting, alcohol abuse, IQ level
> Homicide: harsh parenting, single parent homes, poverty, animal abuse
> Property Crime: poverty, IQ level, guns, education, alcohol, single parent households
> Child Abuse: harsh parenting, animal abuse, alcohol abuse
> Domestic Violence: animal abuse, alcohol abuse, education

Animal abuse is also important in Property Crime, but correlation data aren't readily available.

<u>Domestic violence and child abuse</u> are the most important factors that perpetuate the "cycle of violence." As long as they continue unabated, so will violence in general.