



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN
ANIMAL ABUSE

HUMAN VIOLENCE

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Dr. Harold Hovel
New York State Humane Association

New York State Humane Association
PO Box 3068
Kingston NY 12402
info@nyshumane.org

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& HUMAN VIOLENCE

Dr. Harold J. Hovel
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Reasons to Care About Animal Cruelty

For people who care about animals, the reasons are obvious. Animals are living, breathing, sentient beings that cohabit the Earth, that feel joy, love, and happiness, but also suffer and feel pain just as human beings do. Cruelty is incompatible with a caring, moral society where empathy is a venerable quality.

For those who don't care about animals, there are still many reasons to be concerned, reasons in their own self-interest. All of us are at risk of violent or non-violent crime committed against us by individuals likely involved at one time or another in animal cruelty. Those who are committing or have committed animal abuse are far more likely to be associated with assault, rape, murder and serial murder, arson, domestic violence, and pedophilia, than are non-animal abusers. Children who begin their young years abusing other living beings are at higher risk of future criminal behavior.

It may seem *counterintuitive* that fighting animal cruelty can reduce the number of rapes, murders, assaults, robberies, and domestic violence, but none of this is conjecture – it is borne out by countless studies, many of which will be described in this booklet. So why should we care about cruelty?

Perhaps being counterintuitive is why so many judges and prosecutors, and many in the public, don't take it as seriously as it warrants. Some judges even get angry at prosecutors who dare to “waste their time” with a cruelty case. Consider the following little scenario.

A judge and a prosecutor are talking about a rape and murder of a young woman. There are just 3 suspects, and one of them is guilty.

Suspect number 1 is a 53-year-old man who is said to be a pillar of the community. He spends his free time finding shelters for the homeless. At the time of the murder, he was on his way to a meeting with the City Council to find more funds for soup kitchens to feed the poor.

Suspect number 2 is a 57-year-old man, a former Ambassador to Nigeria and Kenya. Since his retirement he has been working with groups against human slavery. At the time of the murder, he claims he was doing research at the library into organized crime and terrorist groups and their involvement into human trafficking.

Suspect number 3 is a 27-year-old man with no criminal record but known to local Law Enforcement for beating his girlfriend's dog and for abusing stray animals, though never prosecuted for it. He claims he was at the movies at the time of the murder, but lost the movie ticket that had the time of the movie on it.

“Sorry, Judge. We just can't figure out which of these three is the most likely suspect. They all had excuses at the time of the murder but no one to corroborate their story. We're getting nowhere.”

“Well, they all sound equally fishy to me. Why don't you bring them all in, lean on them hard. Maybe one of them will break. A few nights in the slammer might loosen their tongue.”

Sound far-fetched? If authorities had investigated and prosecuted number 3 for animal cruelty, especially at a younger age, there's a very good chance the rape and murder would never have occurred.

Fighting animal cruelty would:

- save many human lives
- prevent much human suffering
- prevent much animal suffering
- help to protect children
- help to protect women, children, and elders from domestic violence
- lead to far less human violence overall
- lead to less non-violent crime as well

That's why we should care about animal cruelty.

Studies done by the Department of Justice, the FBI, the Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, and many social scientists show that animal cruelty is: - a predictor of future human violence; - an identifier of likely suspects; - an indicator of on-going child, spouse, or elder abuse; - and a felony for the most egregious cruelty incidences in all 50 states.

Violent Offenders Are Made, Not Born

Some psychologists and geneticists might contend that there are “bad genes” that predispose a newborn to a life of violence. While genetics may certainly play some role, “nurture,” a child’s treatment, is a far more powerful influence. A child’s parents are the biggest influences and role models in his or her life. Children brought up with love and understanding, respect, and pro-social values taught at home and elsewhere are on a path to becoming valued and responsible adults that will repeat such a positive upbringing with their own children.

In contrast, a child brought up in an abusive home, undergoing neglect, abandonment, sexual, or physical abuse, or witnessing abuse of his or her mother, learns that violence is a normal way of life, and will very likely repeat that cycle when (and if) they become an adult. Along the way, the child may take out his or her anger and frustration on others weaker than he or she is, likely starting with animals and often becoming a school bully and a future child or spouse abuser. For a few, they may also become involved in violent or non-violent crime.

As statistics from federal and state prisons and criminal psychiatric facilities show, a high percentage of violent individuals were abused as children, and over 60% of them began their violent careers with animal cruelty.

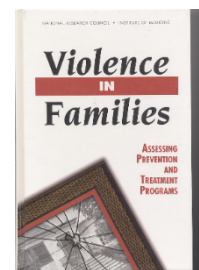
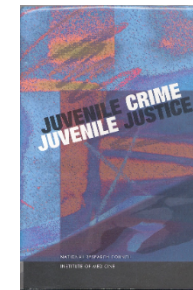
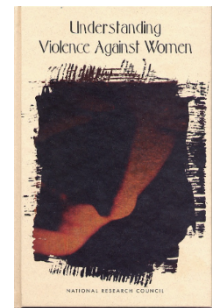
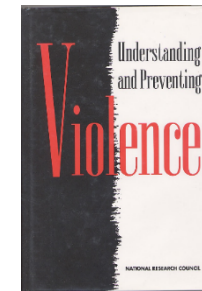
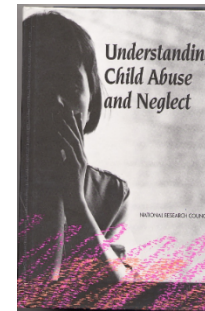
If violent offenders are made and not born, why can’t we figure out what makes them and break the cycle?

Decades of study reported by learned institutions, journals, national science associations, psychology and psychiatric organizations, university professors, and other professional associations all lead to an important conclusion:

Domestic violence is the single most important factor that creates violent individuals and perpetuates the cycle of violence.

Fighting against domestic violence much more aggressively than society has done in the past would be of enormous benefit to society, and fighting animal cruelty turns out to be a major weapon in that battle.

Information Sources



FBI –Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

Dept. of Justice – National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

Information comes from books, journal articles, magazine and newspaper reports, scholarly studies and investigations, medical, prison, and psychiatric reports, law enforcement (UCR and NCVS), police reports, and social worker reports. Many references for this information are listed near the end of this booklet.

Crime rates, both violent and non-violent, fluctuate from year to year, as tabulated by the UCR and NCVS. Some crimes have decreased since the year 2000, while others passed through a minimum and started to rise again. Crime is hugely costly in both human and societal terms, representing lost lives, great suffering, lost productivity, and a huge drain on resources. The estimated cost of child abuse alone is \$124 billion per year [1] (\$145 billion in 2019 dollars) while the annual cost of all crime is estimated to lie between \$690 billion and \$3.4 trillion in 2019 dollars [2]. The estimate of the lifetime cost of domestic violence, not including child abuse, is around \$3.6 trillion [3].

Crime Statistics, Yearly Averages

- Rape Victims: 90,000 (1 in 5 is reported) [4,8]
- Sexual Assault: 310,000 [5]
- Domestic Violence (“DV”), Battered Partners: 12,475,000 [6]
- Abused Children: 700,000 to 3 million, 1625 fatalities [7]
- Homicide, Manslaughter: 15,700 [8]
- Aggravated Assault: 787,000 [4,8]
- Simple Assault: 3,915,000 [5]
- LEO Attacks: 49,000 assaulted, 50-60 killed [9]
- School Children: 25-35 killed in schools, 670,000 assaulted [10]
- Youth Suicides: 2000 ages 5-19; 4900 ages 5-24 [11]
- Teachers: threatened 374,000; attacked 220,000 [10]
- Arson: 13,900 [8]
- Violent Victimization (without DV): 5,880,000 [5]
- Property Crime: 8,790,000 [12]

It’s clear that crime, both violent and non-violent, is very severe in the U.S. (and likely as bad or worse in other countries). Of particular note is the violence toward children: over 700,000 abused children per year and over 1600 fatalities, many under the age of 3, as well as 670,000 victimized at school along with 220,000 teachers. There were over 12 million domestic violence victimizations in 2015, and many victimizations go unreported. Law enforcement is constantly trying to reduce these tragic numbers. For every one of these millions of victimizations, one or more loved ones suffer indirectly along with them.

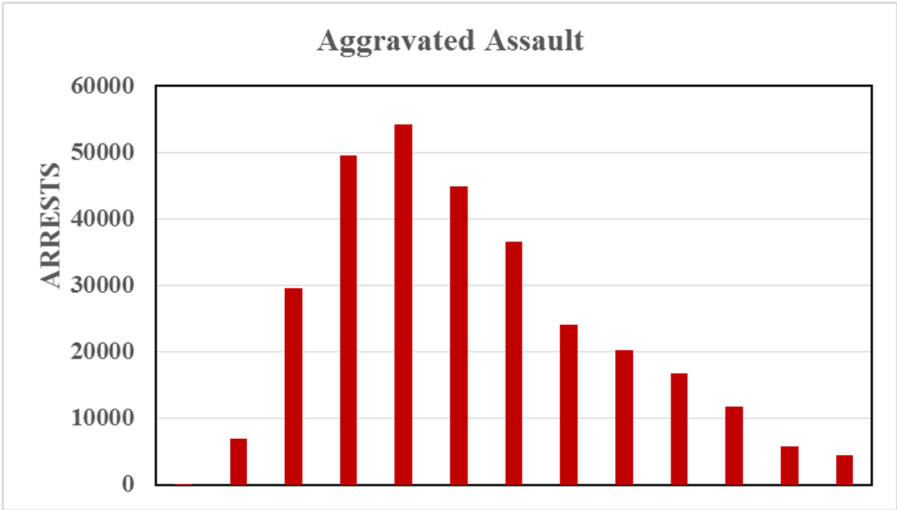
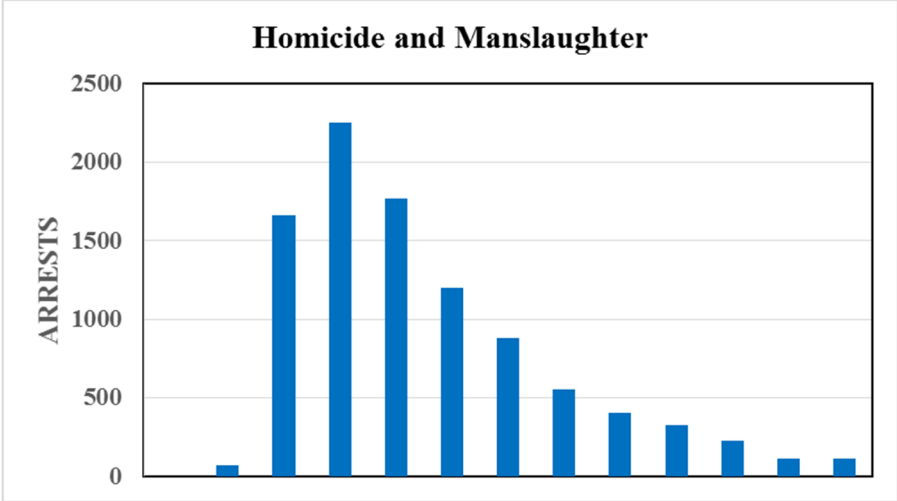
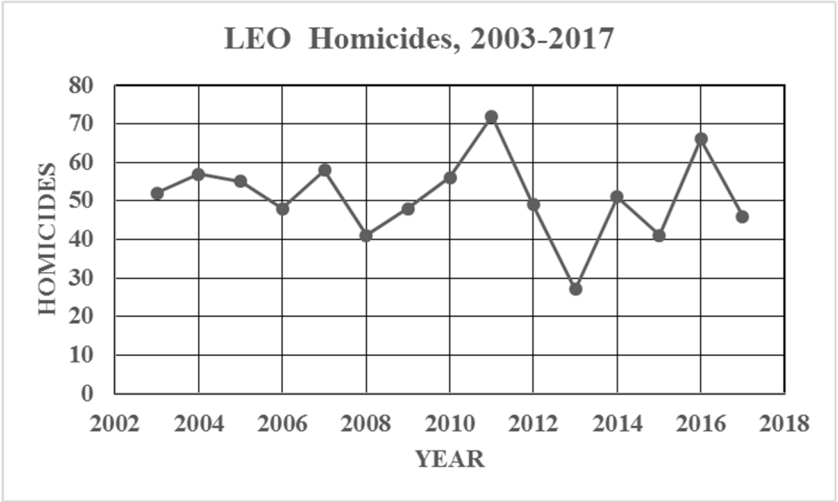
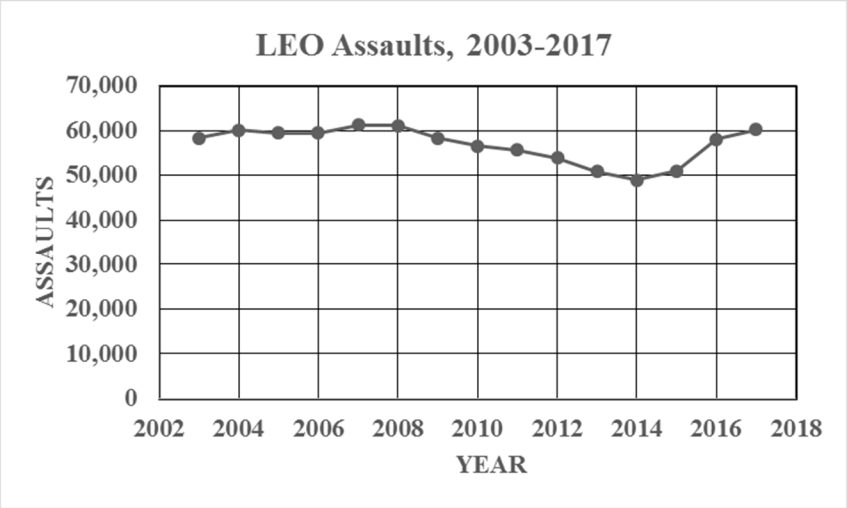
As counterintuitive as it may seem, fighting animal abuse could be a major weapon in the arsenal of the war on crime, as born out by hundreds of studies and reports both within the United States and elsewhere. As has been said over and over, animal cruelty doesn’t *cause* crime, nor does crime *cause* cruelty, but the two are so intimately connected that fighting either one impacts the other.

And, of course, animal cruelty is a crime itself, as recognized now in all 50 States and most countries in the World.

LEO Assaults

Law Enforcement Officers are assaulted, injured, and killed in the line of duty investigating violent and non-violent crime. As many as 60,000 assaults and 70 deaths have taken place in specific years as shown in these two charts. The number of officers killed accidentally while in the line of duty can be 3 times the number killed feloniously [9].

Violence Patterns: Age Dependence



<10 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 >65
 | | | | | | | | | | |
 14 19 24 29 34 39 44 49 54 59 64

AGE, years

Most violent crime is committed by young people [13], as shown in the previous charts. Arson peaks at 14 to 15, murder and rape at age 19, all violent crime at 23 to 24. Interventions at an early age could make a considerable difference in societal victimizations. Humane education in schools is one example of a valuable early intervention.

Historical Opinions

The link between animal cruelty and human violence is not a new phenomenon. The connection has been known for thousands of years, yet society seems unable or unwilling to take the necessary steps to break the cycle.

As long as man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings, he will never know peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Pythagoras of Samos, 500 B.C.

If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men. St. Francis of Assisi, 1170 A.D.

Tormenting and killing animals will harden the minds of men toward their fellow men, and they who delight in the suffering and destruction of the lower creatures will not be very apt to be compassionate toward their own kind. John Locke, 1720 A.D.

He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals. Immanuel Kant, 1760 A.D.

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. Mohandas Ghandi, 1900 A.D.

Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace. Albert Schweitzer, 1950 A.D.

Definitions of Animal Cruelty

Legally, animal cruelty is defined as “Socially Unacceptable Behavior That Intentionally Causes Unnecessary Pain, Suffering, or Distress To and / or Death of an Animal.”

Most Common Forms of Abuse: Excessive punishment; Chaining; Abandonment; Failure to provide sustenance.

Pathological Cruelty To Animals: Beating; Torturing; Burning; Scalding; Freezing, Skinning; Bone Breaking; Whipping; Amputation; Electric Prodding; Mutilation; Killing; Crushing; Fighting.

Some crimes: misdemeanor in 50 states, other crimes now a felony in all 50 states as of 2014.

Most states have some version of this definition, carefully worded to not interfere with any activity that society deems acceptable, such as normal agricultural practices, medical experimentation, or hunting and trapping. Unfortunately the victims of these practices don't understand the distinctions between acceptable and unacceptable or necessary versus unnecessary pain and suffering. Farm animals, for example, receive little if any “official” protection, and common agricultural practices can involve appalling cruelty that would constitute felonies if carried out on non-farm animals, practices such as castration, branding, tail-cutting, debeaking and dehorning, all without anesthetics or veterinary care [14-18]. Factory farming itself with its gestation cages and veal crates, foie gras force feeding, and tiny chicken cages, along with the practices mentioned above, represents extreme cruelty to intelligent and sensitive animals. All this is accepted standard agricultural practice.

Similar stories could be told about the plight of laboratory animals.

The justification for this is that experimentation is necessary to make medical progress for humanity's benefit, and there are some protections in place to mitigate the worst conditions that animals may experience. The main protection is the Animal Welfare Act. However, this law only applies to how animals are treated *between* experiments, not the experiment itself [19], which can involve pain and suffering if the experimenter deems it necessary and convinces his colleagues [20]. Yet even these scant protections don't apply to 95% of animals used in the lab: birds, mice and rats, fish, some farm animals, and all invertebrates [19], and even where protections do apply, they're sporadically enforced.

The Draize test for cosmetic testing and versions of the LD50 test for toxicity are other examples of the cruel use of laboratory animals [21-23] that society regards as acceptable, even after being shown to be inaccurate and problematic. Some progress has been made in reducing the number of animals used and in substituting "alternatives" [23], but some of this testing still continues and involves much animal suffering [21-22].

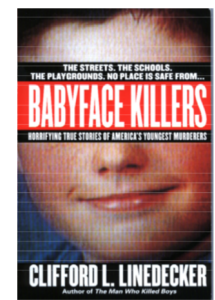
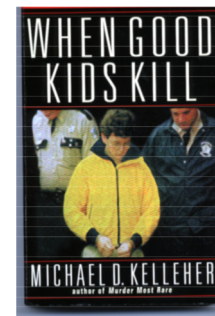
The military use of animals in testing and training is yet another society-accepted cruelty, with animals used to study chemical and biological attacks, radiation exposure, heatstroke, frostbite, burns, hypothermia, poisoning, bomb blasts, and shooting practice [24-26]. No one would argue that the health and safety of soldiers and the efficacy of their training aren't paramount, but some of these tests are controversial [25-26] and some of them are repetitive or of limited use for humans, and some are being replaced by simulators which are more reliable and more accurate [25,27].

These society-accepted cruelties in the use of animals, as bad as they are, aren't expected to lead to violent crime. The kind of cruelty that is closely connected to human violence and other crime is the pathological kind where the intent is to cause as much pain and suffering as possible for the perpetrator's pleasure or some other motive like the treatment of pets in domestic violence situations. An individual willing to cause such suffering to animals isn't likely to be very sympathetic and empathetic to humans either.

Juvenile Crime



Children are born with a love and fascination of animals. Babies are comforted by "Teddy-Bears" in all their forms. When a bit older, a hug for a kitten, rabbit, or dog is as second nature as a hug from Mom and Dad. Yet a few years later, some children turn into killers, as did the three school shooters shown in the bottom 3 pictures. What could have happened to turn the ones above into the ones below? There are multiple books written just about juvenile crime and juvenile killers.



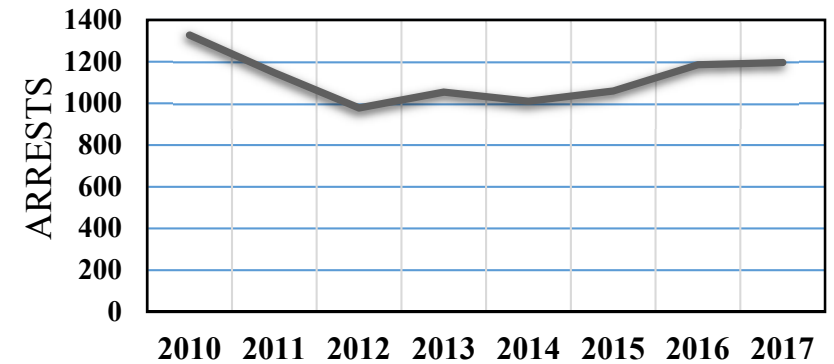
Youth Violent Crime Statistics

Each year as many as a thousand children 18 years or younger are arrested for homicide, 30,000 for aggravated assault, 50,000 for violent crimes overall, and 200,000 for property crimes [13]. Moreover, it appears that few of these crimes are actually followed by arrests or convictions [28], and for *each* crime as shown in these figures, there are multiple innocent victims. It's clear that it would be highly valuable to society to understand what drives these young people to these behaviors and change the dynamics as much as possible. While poverty, absent fathers, low IQ, violent neighborhoods, and other issues are contributing factors [28], many studies indicate that experiencing or witnessing domestic violence (child abuse or neglect, spouse battering) is the largest factor that continues the cycle of crime, as will be shown later.

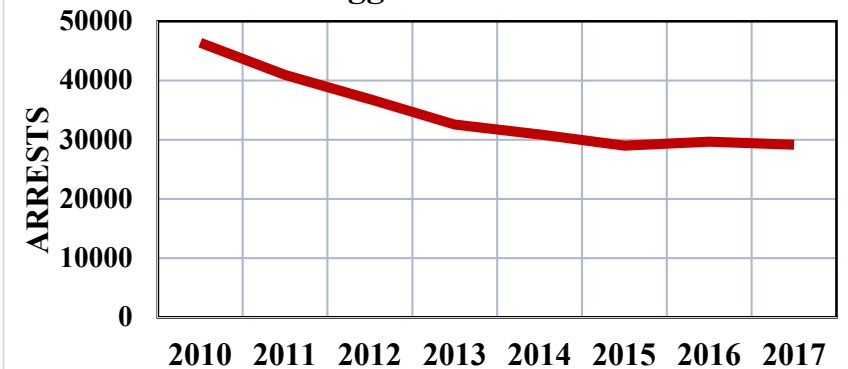
Animal cruelty is one of the first reactions children have to the abuse they are undergoing. There is a strong correlation of violent and non-violent crime committed by juveniles along with acts of animal cruelty [29] and many juveniles are likely to continue involvement in these crimes as adults [29-30]. "Cruelty to animals is one of those things that when you see it on a juvenile's record, the person is now being held for, or convicted of, an act of violence. It is a predictor of violent behavior, and as good a predictor as I have seen." – B. Ritter, District Attorney, Denver Colorado, quoted in [31].

Since childhood animal cruelty is so strongly correlated with criminal offenses by these same juveniles and crimes they commit later as adults, it is important for the good of society to take the cruelty seriously and intervene as early as possible to alter this pathological path, along with the domestic violence and child abuse that are major driving forces in continuing the cycle of violence.

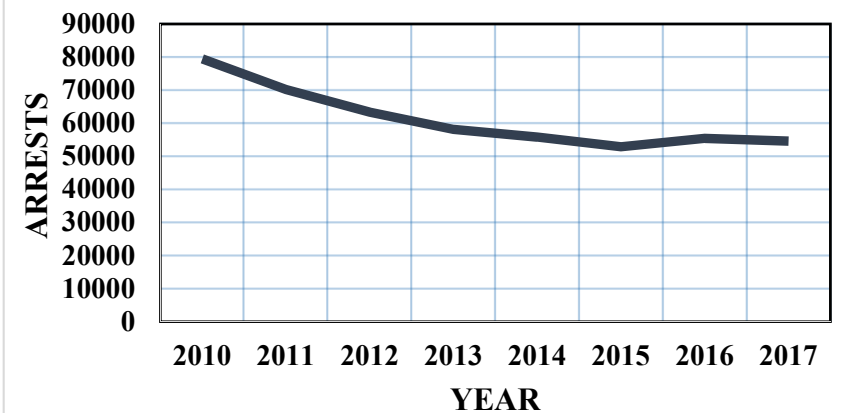
Murder, Manslaughter



Aggravated Assault



Violent Crime



The previous charts show data from the Uniform Crime Reports about violent crimes committed by juveniles from ages 10 to 17 over the past decade, and as earlier charts showed, perpetrators of violent crime peak before the age of 30. Simple assaults average more than 100,000 each year.

What a benefit to society it would be to understand what causes this surge in the young years and break the cycle! And this doesn't even include non-violent crimes such as theft or illegal drug activities.

As has been said and will be repeated, many studies indicate that domestic violence, while not the only factor, is the single biggest driving force for creation of this pathology in young people.

And animal cruelty is one of the first reactions children have to the abuse they are undergoing. It is an easy way of "getting back at the world."

FBI: There is a very high correlation of violent children with 3 specific behaviors:

- Enuresis**
- Fire-setting**
- Cruelty to animals**

Enuresis, or bed-wetting, is the body's involuntary reaction to the stress and powerlessness of the abuse a child is suffering or witnessing. Arson is one of the first ways they can enact revenge and demonstrate power; the use of a single match can bring police, fire trucks, newspapers, and television cameras. Soon, animal cruelty is their response and entry into the world of violence, a mirror of their own life.

Children raised in an abusive environment learn that violence is the way to solve problems, and they grow up to perpetuate the cycle of violence. M. Trollinger

"One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it."

Margaret Mead, Anthropologist, Cultural Factors in the Cause and Prevention of Pathological Homicide.

Violence in Schools



Andrew Golden, age 11, ambushed kindergarten kids, killed 3 + 2 adults. Trained by shooting dogs.



Kip Kinkle, age 15, killed both parents, shot 24 kids at his school, killing 2. Tortured animals as a hobby, 3 per day. Violent bully in school.



Michael Carneal, age 14, killed 3 girls at a prayer meeting, shot 5 others. Threw cats into bonfires.



Luke Woodham, age 16, killed his mother and 3 kids, shot 7 more. Tortured his own dog to death.

While school shootings grab the most public horror and attention, they are a small fraction of the violent crimes associated with schools in the U.S. and abroad, crimes committed by fellow students. Figure 1 shows the number of deaths of students at schools in grades K-12 from the early 1990s to 2015. The number of student deaths varies from 15 to 30 annually, but including the number of adult school staff nearly doubles the number of homicides. Figure 2 shows the number of student “victimizations,” which is much higher. Though most victimizations represent theft, many also represent “serious violent” attacks such as rape, aggravated assault, sexual assault, robbery, and homicide, while “all violent” incidents also includes simple assault, and “total” includes theft. Figure 3 shows that even more of these attacks of school children take place “off campus” than at school itself.

Since there are about 50 million students in K-12 public schools, these numbers suggest that somewhere between 0.5 to 1% of students in schools are involved with these violent crimes. Also, as many as 2-4%, or over 1 million students, reported carrying weapons to school for protection, down from 12% in 1993 [32].

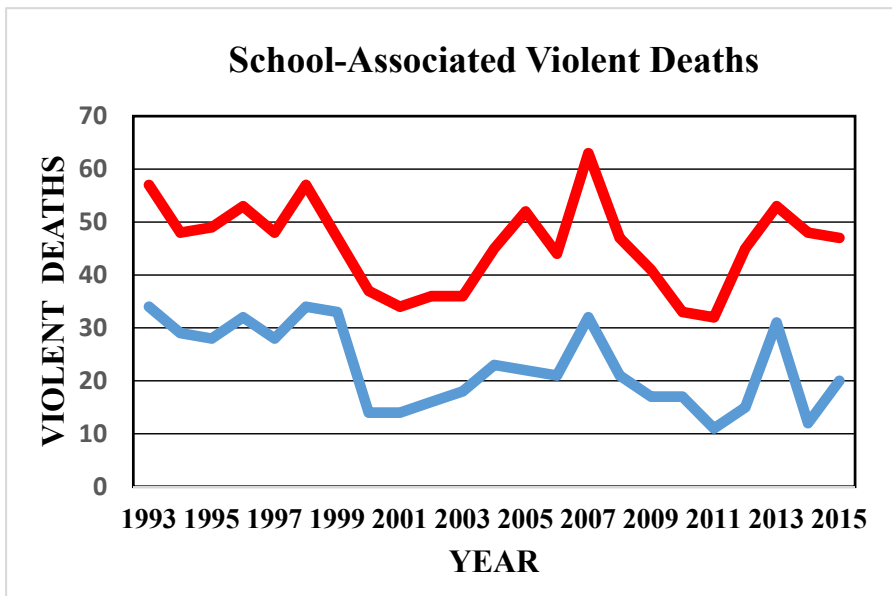


Figure 1. Violent (non-accidental) deaths taking place at schools, grades K-12. Blue: student deaths; Red: Students plus staff [32].

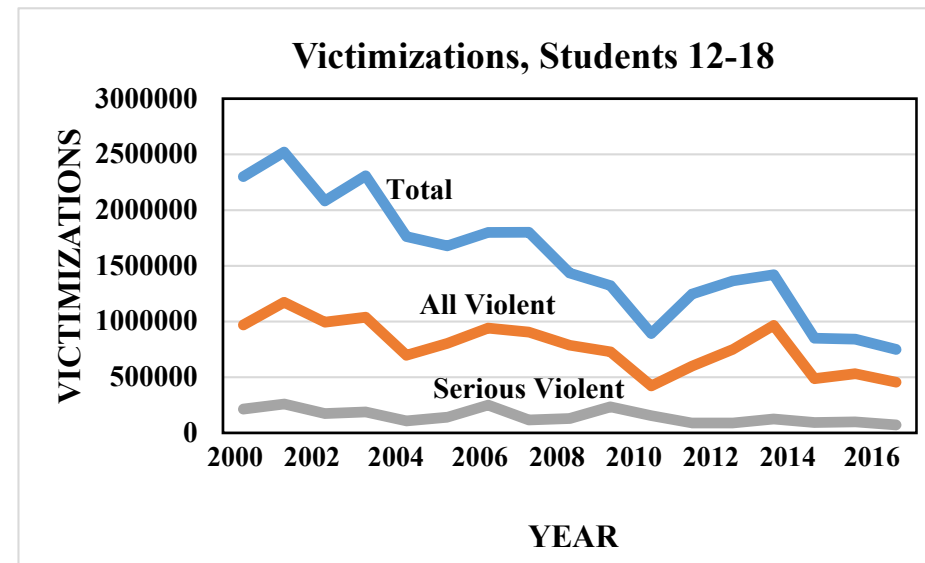


Figure 2. Victimizations of students at schools, grades K-12 [33].

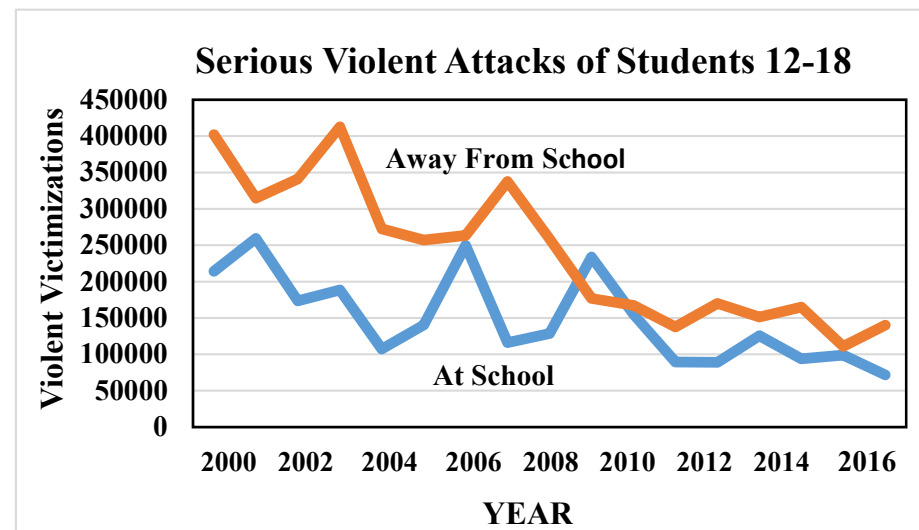


Figure 3. Serious violent attacks of students K-12 at school and away from school.

Assaults on teachers and principals also number in the tens of thousands annually. According to the U.S. Dept. of Education, 5.8% of public school teachers were assaulted by a student in the 2016 school year and 9.8% were threatened with injury [10]. Since there are over 3 million full time teachers in the U.S. public schools, this suggests that over 200,000 teachers were attacked and 370,000 were threatened [10]. Similar percentages are estimated for private schools.

Very few news items are reported about the animal cruelty associated with these hundreds of thousands of school crimes. Much more is known about the backgrounds of the school shooters, who are usually analyzed in much more detail. Anecdotal reports of specific individuals are readily available, as shown on page 20. Famous cases include the Columbine High School shooters who bragged about torturing animals [34-35], Nikolas Cruz who abused multiple animal species [35-36], and Kip Kinkle who killed his parents and also bragged about torturing animals. However, most child animal abusers do not become school shooters. Statistics on school shooters involved in animal cruelty vary widely, from 12% to 50% [34,37-40], and researchers describe that other factors can be even more significant such as bullying, depression, and gun fascination [34].

Yet it is undeniable that animal cruelty is one of the important flags that could save student and teacher lives if taken seriously [41], and while cruelty statistics aren't readily available for the far larger number of non-fatal school attackers, the "violent victimizations," it seems very likely that a history of animal cruelty would be found among that cohort as well.

It's hard to understand why society seems complacent about allowing bullying to continue year after year. Many initiatives to decrease it seem to hardly make a dent. Hundreds of thousands of our children are terrorized nearly every day. Many are physically harmed, and many undergo mental anguish, trauma that can last years even beyond school. Hundreds if not thousands of children commit suicide because of bullying (often with compounding factors) [37,42-44], and hundreds of thousands of school children carry weapons to school for protection [43,45], as already mentioned. Bully victims are 2 to 9 times more likely to commit suicide than non-victims, and some studies indicate that half of child suicides are related to bullying [42-43]. Thousands of children skip school every day due to fear and some drop out of school entirely [46]. The victims of bullies often fall behind in their studies and do more poorly academically [47]. Moreover, many of the school shooters and mass murderers were either bullies or the victims of bullies [37,45,48]. Cyberbullying [49] can be more hurtful even than physical bullying.

Even the bullies themselves are at greater risk of harm [44]. Moreover, studies over many years have shown that bullying can continue in the workplace [50-52] and morph into domestic violence in later years [42-43,53]. Bullies are also more likely to commit violent and non-violent crimes both as juveniles and into adulthood [42-43,50-51,54-56]. School officials and teachers often turn "a blind eye" to the bullying that they witness, sometimes with the attitude that it's a "rite of passage" for children and "adults can't prevent it anyway." Some claim that preventing bullying is not in their job description.

Although there are many efforts by officials to stop or minimize bullying, they're clearly not enough. There are so many negative consequences to bullying, not the least of which is physical and mental harm to our children, that it's hard to understand why much more isn't being done to combat this scourge. It has been said that anti-bullying programs should be viewed as a form of early crime prevention that would greatly benefit society [51].

What has bullying got to do with animal cruelty? We've already seen that many, 20 to 50%, of school shooters were involved with animal abuse, and a majority of them were bullied [37]. It seems likely that many of the hundreds of thousands of student victimizations may have involved both bullying and animal cruelty. Many of the school shooters were victims of bullies (Carneal, Woodham, Williams) and some were bullies themselves (Kinkle, Johnson). Some of these bullies were known to be torturing animals and even bragged about it (Harris and Klebold, Kinkle, Cruz). Animal cruelty can be an indicator of a bully, one of a number of warning signs. While very few school bullies become school shooters or mass murderers, some of them do and paying attention to the warning signs including animal abuse could save the lives of at least some of these child and adult victims, as well as preventing some of the tragic suicides.

40-60% of children are bullied at some time. There are 3.2 million victims and 3.7 million bullies every year [46,48] with increasing numbers due to cyberbullying and social media.

Many bullies continue violent behavior as adults, including child abuse and domestic violence. 6 out of 10 go on to become criminals. 40% are convicted of 3 or more crimes by age 30 [43,50,57].

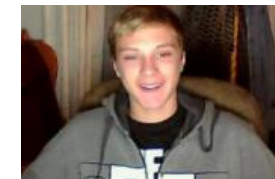
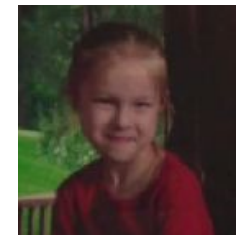
Bullies are more likely than non-bullies to have been victims or witnesses of domestic violence [43,54,58].

Bullying and Suicide [37,42]

The tragedy of child suicide is very much connected with bullying.

- Over 1000 suicides of young people take place per year. For every suicide that takes place, there are 100 suicide attempts.
- Over 14% of high school students have considered suicide and nearly 7% have attempted it.
- A European study found that at least half of child suicides are related to bullying.

Beautiful People lost to Suicide due to Bullying



Bullying and Animal Cruelty

Cruelty to animals is often an indicator of either a bully or a victim displaying anger against the bullying. Bullies are often associated with animal cruelty [59].

As many as 71% of school shooters were either bullies or victims of bullies [37,60]. Many of the school shooters were torturing animals [37,45,61] and many bragged about it. Animal abuse is an important warning sign (along with other signs) for shootings and other school violence to teachers and students that could result in early intervention and prevention if taken seriously.

Studies of Violent Behavior Patterns in Adults

Surveys of prison inmates and other convicted persons are particularly illustrative of the connection between human crime and animal cruelty. There are studies of both convicted criminals who had abused animals, and, conversely, animal abusers who committed criminal offenses. The statistics can vary widely due to the different methodologies of data taking (most are done by interviews), different prisoner populations, and different time periods. All are consistent in showing that aggressive criminals are much more closely connected to animal cruelty than non-aggressive criminals and non-criminals. Aggressive criminals are also more likely to have been victims of child abuse.

Technically, in the UCR, “violent crime” consists of homicide, aggravated assault, armed robbery, and rape, while non-violent crimes consist of property crimes, burglary, car theft, forgery, and arson. For some reason, domestic violence is seldom included in either category (child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, and more recently pet abuse, as pets are receiving increasing recognition as family members [62-64]). Animal abuse has been connected to both violent and non-violent crimes [56]. The following lists show some of the close connections between human crime and animal cruelty.

- For 31 violent prisoners, 52% were also cruel to animals, compared to 17% of non-aggressive prisoners [65].
- For 18 adolescent boys being treated for severe animal cruelty, 100% were violent to humans [66].
- In another study of 84 aggressive and non-aggressive criminals and a non-criminal control group, 25% of the aggressive criminals had committed 5 or more acts of animal cruelty, evidently serial abusers, compared to 5.8% of non-aggressive criminals and 0% for the controls. 69% of the aggressive criminals had committed at least 1 act of cruelty compared to 48% of the non-aggressive [67].
- In an analysis of 28 sexual murderers, 36% were cruel to animals as children, 46% as adolescents, and 36% as adults [68].

- 30% of pedophiles and 48% of rapists started out with animal cruelty [69].
- Out of 314 inmates convicted of felonies, 181 (58%) were involved in animal abuse [70]. This number is actually underreported because the study excluded non-fatal animal abuse.
- In extensive records of offenders convicted of animal cruelty over a period of time, 153 animal abusers and 153 controls, 70% of the abusers committed at least 1 crime compared to 22% of the controls, and 37% of abusers committed violent crimes compared to 7% of non-abusers. Animal abusers committed 4x more property crimes than non-abusers (44% compared to 11%) [56]. The human crimes sometimes preceded and sometimes followed the animal abuse.
- In a study of 45 violent and 45 non-violent prisoners, 56% of violent inmates had animal cruelty backgrounds compared to 20% of the non-violent [72]. For the violent group, 33% of their crimes were murder, 30% sex offenses, and 21% aggravated assault.
- Male inmates known to have committed repeated childhood and adolescent acts of animal cruelty: 48% had committed violent acts against people (murder, rape, and/or aggravated assault) and 52% had committed non-violent crimes [39].
- For 200 known animal abusers in Australia, 61.5% were linked to assaults, 56.5% theft, 44% malicious damage, 26.5% drug offenses, 20% assaults on police, 17% rapes, and 0.5% homicide [73].
- For 58 aggressive prisoners in South Africa, 63% admitted cruelty to animals compared to 10.5% for 59 non-aggressive prisoners [74].
- For 150 men charged with animal cruelty, 144 (96%) had other criminal charges. Assault was the most common offense [75].
- In a study of 332 people arrested for cruelty to animals, 70% had also been arrested for non-animal felonies, including 65% for all forms of battery [76].

For a few of these studies, backgrounds of domestic violence were also examined. Much more on domestic violence will be described in later pages. A few cases are mentioned below.

- In the study mentioned above of 150 men charged with animal cruelty, 41% also had charges for IPV (interpersonal violence) [75].
- In studies of women entering shelters, threats or actual harm to family pets of 24% and 80% were reported in Colorado and Wisconsin, respectively [77].
- For 38 women seeking refuge in shelters, 71% reported that their partner had threatened or actually hurt the family pet [78].
- In a study of 42 prisoners with histories of intimate partner violence, 81% committed animal cruelty in their lifetime, and 52% had abused or killed a pet within the relationship [79].

It seems clear that a large portion of violent criminals began their careers with animal cruelty. In fact, one study showed that 75% of prison inmates charged with violent crimes had an early record of animal cruelty, arson, and enuresis [80, pg 80]. It's also clear that a large

majority suffered domestic violence in their youth: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or combinations of these, as will be described later.

The same correlation of violent individuals and animal cruelty is seen around the world, literally in every country. A few examples:

- Canada* - 70% began with animal cruelty
- South Africa* - 63% began with animal cruelty
- Australia* - 95% for combined murder, rape, assault, theft, and drugs.
- South Pacific* - 62% for assaults, 90% for violence, property, and drug crimes, 100% for sexual homicides.
- United States* - 63% for violent crimes overall, 70% for combined violence, theft, drugs, and disorderly conduct.

Prison Inmates Who Started by Torturing Animals

Rapists - - - - - 48%

Sexual Murderers - >46%

Aggravated Assault - 52%

Pedophiles - - - - - 30%

Serial Killers - - - - - >50%

60% - 70% of violent criminals were abused as children.



Psychiatric Studies

It's no surprise that animal cruelty would be considered a form of mental illness, as causing pain and suffering to a living being is not normal behavior in adult or child and shows a lack of the important human attribute of empathy [81]. The American Psychiatric Association classifies cruelty as an indication of Conduct Disorder, behavior in which normal societal behavior is violated. A study of criminals with histories of animal cruelty have shown that childhood animal cruelty is associated with APD, Antisocial Personality Disorder [82-83]. Antisocial behaviors such as robbery, harassment, and arson were higher in psychiatric patient populations with animal cruelty backgrounds compared to groups without this background [83].

“In controlled analyses, animal cruelty was uniquely associated with numerous psychiatric disorders characterized by self-control deficits including lifetime alcohol use disorder, pathological gambling, conduct disorder and antisocial personality disorder, and several personality disorders such as obsessive-compulsive, paranoid, and histrionic” [83].

Like most aggressive criminals, psychiatric patients usually have suffered domestic violence: brutal treatments from father, mother, or both. In a study of 346 psychiatric patients, 80% had a brutal family background, and the subset most associated with animal cruelty committed higher levels of aggression toward people compared to a group of patients not involved in cruelty [84]. In another study of 74 aggressive (toward humans) and 75 non-aggressive psychiatric patients, cruelty to animals and deliberate killing of dogs and cats was 4 times higher in the aggressive population, and both groups had suffered brutal treatment by their parents [85].

In a study of boys under therapy for severe cruelty to animals, all showed a violent history including bullying, theft, and arson. Seven years later, more than half were still involved in animal abuse. Most of the boys had a background of parental neglect, brutality, or rejection. The animal abuse ended only when the boys were removed from the abusive home situations [66].

More than a dozen studies of violent criminals and psychiatric patients have established a firm relationship between cruelty to animals during childhood or adolescence and later and/or ongoing violence to humans. In nearly all cases, the perpetrators suffered an abusive childhood: neglect, brutality, or psychological or sexual abuse.

Animal Fighting: Direct Link Between Crime, Human Violence, and Cruelty

The cruelty involved in animal fighting for human “entertainment” is almost unimaginable. There are 3 main forms of animal fighting:

cockfighting, hog-dog “rodeos,” and dogfighting. Cockfighting and dogfighting have become epidemic in the U.S. and are common in many parts of the world. In the United States, both are felonies in all 50 states. They are holdovers from animal blood sports carried out in Europe for centuries, suggesting to some that the human species hasn’t evolved very far in terms of compassion and empathy.

In cockfighting [86-89], roosters are fitted out with razors or small knives attached to their feet, or alternately 3-inch-long spike-like “gaffs.” In fights they slash each other or stab each other until the blood loss and torn flesh render one or both unable to continue. In hog-dog fights [86,90], which really aren’t fights at all because the pig is rendered helpless, powerful dogs are “sicked” onto a (usually wild-caught) hog whose defensive tusks have been cut away. Sometimes multiple dogs attack the hog at the same time. Like cockfighting, the spectacle is often billed as “family entertainment” [86,90]. The hog suffers many injuries and may undergo multiple attacks until death releases him. The public has little sympathy for hogs, but pigs fear and suffer like any other living species.

In dogfighting [86, 91-93], dogs that have been trained since birth to be vicious to other dogs spar off in a pit and attack each other relentlessly, tearing flesh, gouging eyes, breaking legs and other bones. Winners go on to fight and suffer another day, while losers are thrown away, left to die, or killed by the disappointed and angry owner [91-92]. During “training,” major cruelty in itself [91-92], “bait” animals are used to incite the dog’s blood lust: rabbits, cats or kittens, small dogs or other small animals. Pet theft supplies many of these bait animals, along with “free to a good home” ads.

Animal fighting is connected to other crimes, including drug dealing, weapons offenses, money laundering, gambling, human trafficking, and murder [86-88,93-94], in addition to the extreme cruelty to animals and pet theft. Multiple homicides have been reported at animal fighting events, including injuries to spectators who panic and stampede during shootings [95-98]. In one ironic case, a man was killed by his own rooster wearing the razor-knives on its feet when it slashed him and he bled to death [99].

The majority of fighting dogs are pit bull terriers and pit-bull mixed breeds. “These dogs are arguably among the most loyal and most abused of all dogs in American culture. They have been selectively bred as fighting dogs due to their unique capacity to fight to the death

whereas most other dogs retreat once they have exhausted themselves. The immensely powerful dogs are genetically predisposed to inflict maximum damage on an opponent and once incited do not respond to the natural signals to cease fighting. Generally, pit bulls are remarkably gentle and are fiercely loyal toward humans. This quality has made them particularly attractive to dog-fighters because they will withstand considerable abuse and neglect at the hands of their owners and will remain loyal and non-aggressive toward humans,” Hanna Gibson, Michigan State University, College of Law [92].

Many people have pit bulls as part of their families and attest to their loyalty, gentleness, and dependability [101]. Millions of these dogs over the years have been the victims of the illegal dog-fighting felons who have given all members of the breed a bad reputation, and animal shelters are full of pit bulls and mixes that can’t find homes among a fearful public. Yet it is undeniable that the small percentage of pit bull dogs are responsible more than any other breed for the hundreds of thousands of dog bites that take place every year [101]. Pit bull and pit bull mixes make up 5-6% of the dog breeds in the U.S. but are responsible for 36% of dog bites, 4 times more than any other breed [102]. Most of the aggressive dogs have not been neutered, adding hormonal influence to their aggressiveness, and aggressiveness may run in the DNA of those dogs trained to fight [103]. It is these dogs trained to be vicious or their descendants that are responsible for most of the attacks on humans.

(To be sure, other breeds and mixes are also responsible for bites, including Chihuahuas, Labrador Retrievers, and German Shepherds, but dogs trained to fight are far more responsible and far more dangerous. Virtually any dog brought up in a loving home will become a beloved and loyal member of the family, but any dog abused, mistreated, unloved, or trained to be vicious, will be the opposite.)

A much greater tragedy resulting from trained vicious fighting dogs are the human fatalities that occur every year, averaging around 33 fatalities from 2005 to 2017 [104-106]. Nearly 27% of these deaths are children less than 2 years old, 34% less than 4, 48% less than 9 years old [106], and 19% are under the age of 1. Some were infants only weeks old in their cribs [107]. Elderly people walking a street are another class of victims, as fighting dogs escape from their back

yards, fences, or chains. The terror and suffering these people endure, whether babies or elders, can’t be imagined.

There is no question that fighting against animal cruelty in the form of dog fighting would save human lives and human suffering as well as animal suffering, and the majority of these human victims are our children. Some people opine that even exposing children to animal cruelty by taking them to a dog or cock fight or hog-dog “rodeo” is a form of child abuse and desensitizes them to the pain and suffering of living beings [92, 108].

Dog Fighting

Crimes Involved in Dog Fighting:

- Illegal (felony) in all 50 states.
- Gambling, drugs, guns, murder, human violence, pet theft, gang violence.
- Of particular worry is child endangerment; children who witness or participate in dog and cock fighting are desensitized to the pain and suffering of living beings, and may become desensitized to human violence as well.

Animal Cruelty:

- Severe injuries, often fatal, blood loss, shock, dehydration, infection, broken bones, gouged eyes.
- Small animals: dogs, cats, rabbits, birds are terrorized and torn apart while being used as “bait” during fight and blood lust training.
- Pet theft epidemic: pets are stolen to use as bait.

People and animals are at greatly increased risk where fighting dogs and trained attack dogs live. Children and pets are especially at risk due to their small size.

350,000 hospitalizations take place per year from non-fatal dog attacks, dogs specifically trained to be aggressive.

30 – 35 fatal dog attacks take place per year on average from dogs trained to be aggressive.

In 2012, for example, there were 38 deaths:

48% were children less than 9 years old.

27% were toddlers and babies less than 2 years old.

Fatalities Due To Dogs Trained For Fighting, 2012



Mabel, 84



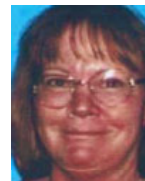
Clifford, 74



Eugene, 65



Nellie, 61



Diane, 59



Dawn, 44



Esteban, 34



Rebecca, 23



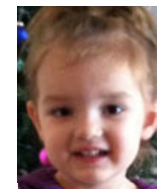
Thomas, 8



Bryton, 4



Kylar, 4



Savannah, 2



Ja'Marr, 2



Jack, 2



Jace, 16 mo



Jazilyn, 15 mo



Jere, 12 mo



Tyzhel, 8 mo



Alden, 2 mo



Tarilyn, 3 wks

Domestic Violence

Child Abuse, Woman Battering, and Elder Abuse

Domestic Violence – Child Abuse

It is an astonishing fact that prior to 1962, there was no officially-recognized notion of child abuse (or spouse or elder abuse either for that matter) [109-110]. The medical establishment refused to believe that parents would harm their children, and children entering clinics

The Battered-Child Syndrome

*C. Henry Kempe, M.D., Denver, Frederic N. Silverman, M.D., Cincinnati, Brandt F. Steele, M.D.,
William Droegemueller, M.D., and Henry K. Silver, M.D., Denver*

The battered-child syndrome, a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse, is a frequent cause of permanent injury or death. The syndrome should be considered in any child exhibiting evidence of fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, failure to thrive, soft tissue swellings or skin bruising, in any child who dies suddenly, or where the degree and type of injury is at variance with the history given regarding the occurrence of the trauma. Psychiatric factors are probably of prime importance in the pathogenesis of the disorder, but knowledge of these factors is limited. Physicians have a duty and responsibility to the child to require a full evaluation of the problem and to guarantee that no expected repetition of trauma will be permitted to occur.

idence of this syndrome in a one-year period. Among 71 hospitals replying, 302 such cases were reported to have occurred; 33 of the children died; and 85 suffered permanent brain injury. In one-third of the cases proper medical diagnosis was followed by some type of legal action. We also surveyed 77 District Attorneys who reported that they had knowledge of 447 cases in a similar one-year period. Of these, 45 died, and 29 suffered permanent brain damage; court action was initiated in 46% of this group. This condition has been a particularly common problem in our hospitals; on a single day, in November, 1961, the Pediatric Service of the Colorado General Hospital was caring for 4 infants suffering from the parent-inflicted battered-child syndrome. Two of the 4 died of their central nervous system trauma; 1 subsequently died suddenly in an unexplained manner 4 weeks after discharge from the hospital while under the care of its parents, while the fourth is still enjoying good health.

Clinical Manifestations

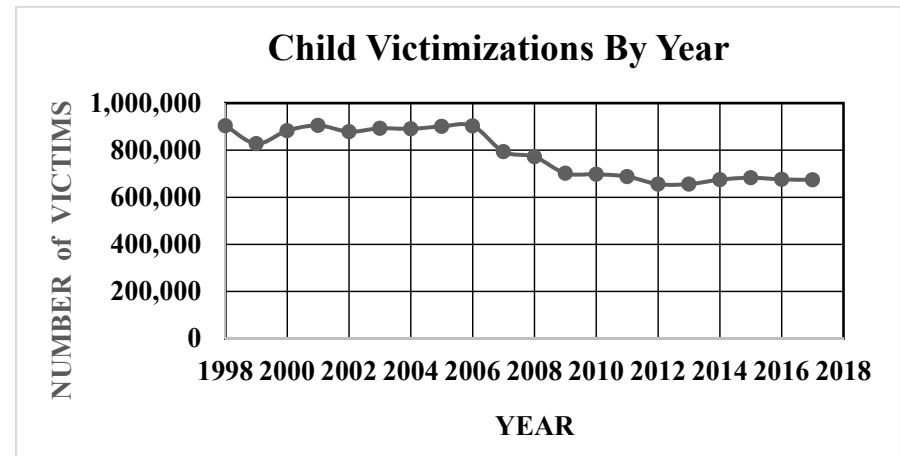
The clinical manifestations of the battered-child syndrome vary widely from those cases in which the trauma is very mild and is often unexpected

THE BATTERED-CHILD SYNDROME is a term used by us to characterize a clinical condition in young children who have received serious

or hospitals with broken bones, black eyes, bruises covering their bodies were apparently very accident-prone. One doctor, C. Henry Kempe, refused to believe that all those injuries could be accidents and sent a questionnaire to hospitals around the country, then summarized his findings in the first-ever study of battered children. His work literally sparked a revolution, a long overdue awakening that child abuse was not only taking place but was widespread. The

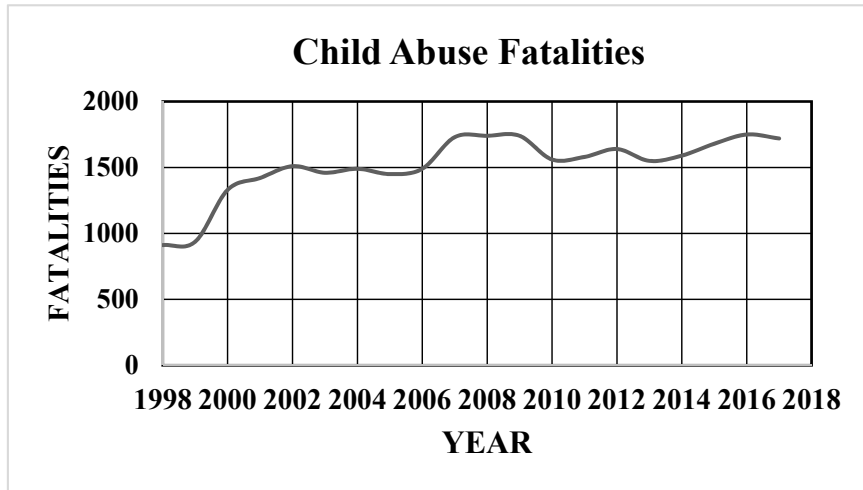
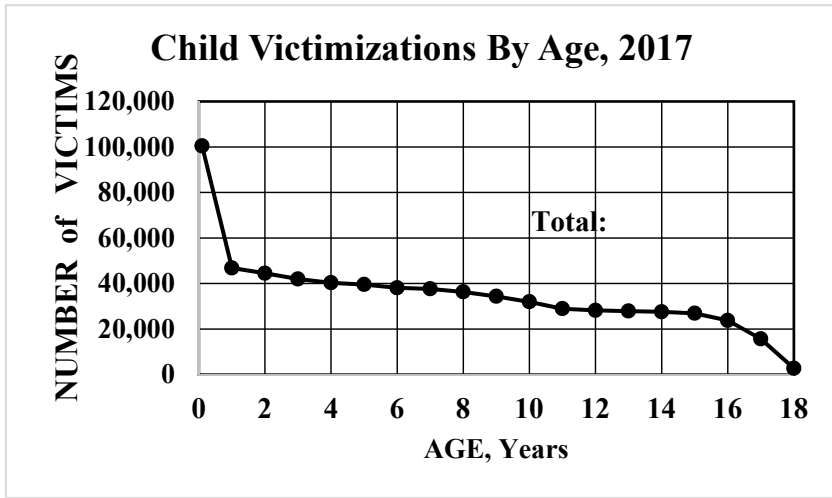
abuse took several forms: physical, sexual, psychological, abandonment, or neglect. (Sexual abuse wasn't "recognized" until the 1980's [110]).

Every year, around 3.5 million possible abuse incidents are reported to Child Protective Services or other government agencies. Investigations show that 20 to 25% of these are serious victimizations, defined as any act which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm [111]. The chart below shows serious child victimizations in the USA over two decades. Though the number declined a bit after 2008, it has stayed roughly the same since then.



The second chart shows the victimizations in the year 2017 by age. More than a quarter (28.5%) of these child victims were under the age of three, and the victimization rate is highest for children under 1 year old [111]. More than half of the child abusers were women while about 45% were men.

The third chart shows the number of child fatalities over these two decades, children who are beaten, starved, or neglected to death, nearly 5 a day. One half (49.6%) of these fatalities are babies younger than 1, and 71.8% were younger than 3. Three-quarters of the children died from neglect and 42% suffered physical abuse instead of or in addition to neglect. Mothers were twice as likely to kill their children as fathers; in some cases both were involved [111].



Home: A Criminal Training Ground. Besides the tragedy of the suffering and death of these child victims, society pays a high price as well. Exhaustive studies show a strong connection between child abuse and criminal behavior, both by the abusing adult and by the surviving children who grow up enraged. Not all abused children grow into a life of crime, but a majority of criminal adults likely underwent abuse. Studies of state and federal prisoners already described indicate that most of them were abused as children or adolescents [65,67-68,112-120].

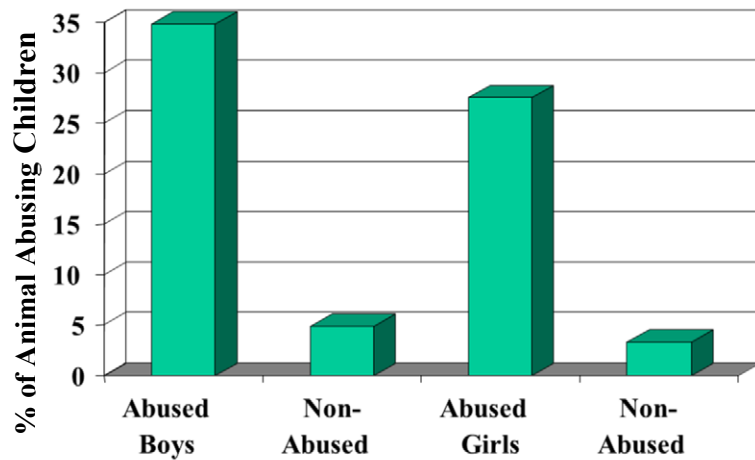
Households that provide safety, emotional warmth, love, and guidance foster the development of noncriminal, prosocial young people [114,119] even in neighborhoods at high risk of crime.

Families involved in child abuse are often involved in other types of domestic violence as well including spouse abuse, elder abuse, and pet abuse, and many children are witnesses to family violence between their parents [114,118,121-124]. A common theme is the “cycle of violence,” where abuse begets abuse, and the tragedy perpetuates itself over generations [116,118,125-126].

Child Abuse and Animal Abuse. Animal cruelty is tightly linked with child maltreatment. Family members who neglect or abuse children aren’t reticent in abusing the family pets at the same time; in fact, threatening, hurting, or killing the household pets is one of the ways adults abuse their children, creating fear and emotional turmoil. The connection between child abuse and animal abuse takes two forms; one in which the parent abuses the pet and child at the same time [78,127-129], and the other where the abused child begins to harm the pet himself or herself [29,65-67,84,117,127,129]. The connection between child abuse and animal abuse is 70-80%.

In one study, 53 families were examined in which child abuse was known to be going on [127]. In 60% of these families, animal abuse was also occurring, and in the subset of families where the child maltreatment was physical, 88% were also abusing animals. In another study of families where animal cruelty was known to be taking place, 83% were involved in child abuse at the same time [129]. In the figure below, a comparison is shown between abused and non-abused children who turn to animal cruelty [127]. Abused boys were 7 times more likely to engage in animal cruelty while growing up than non-abused boys. Abused girls were 9 times more likely to abuse animals in the household than non-abused girls.

The cycle of violence has already been mentioned. By no means do all abused children turn to lives of crime, but the cycle of abused children turning to animal cruelty and evolving to violent or non-violent crime is all too common, including abusing their own children and/or spouses when they have their own families.



The connection between child abuse and animal abuse is so strong that the FBI officially considers animal cruelty committed by a child as a likely indicator of ongoing domestic violence to the child or spouse. In 1987, cruelty to animals was outlined as a separate category of Conduct Disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the American Psychiatric Association. It is a symptom of a disturbed family and a child at risk of a future life of crime. Ironically, it's the family pet, demonstrating loyalty and unconditional love, that could save children from that antisocial future.

Imagine how many of those 670,000 seriously abused children or 1700 yearly child fatalities could be saved by investigating and fighting animal cruelty!

Domestic Violence – Abuse of Women

Just as child abuse wasn't recognized until the 1960s, the abuse of women in domestic situations wasn't recognized before the 1970s [110,130-131]. Spouse abuse was not investigated, police would not arrest women batterers, prosecutors and judges would not take woman battering seriously and punishments, if handed out at all, were "slaps on the wrist" [130]. In the early 1970s, work began to appear on domestic

violence, historically defined as interpersonal violence (IPV) against women. In 1979, Dr. Lenore Walker began publishing the first of a dozen books on the battered woman syndrome [132-133]. By focusing attention on the issue, she was able to spark a revolution like Kempe's over child abuse.

Millions of women are abused every year and hundreds are killed in domestic violence situations. Figure 4 below shows the number of women "victimizations" in domestic violence situations carried out by either intimate partners or relatives and acquaintances [134].

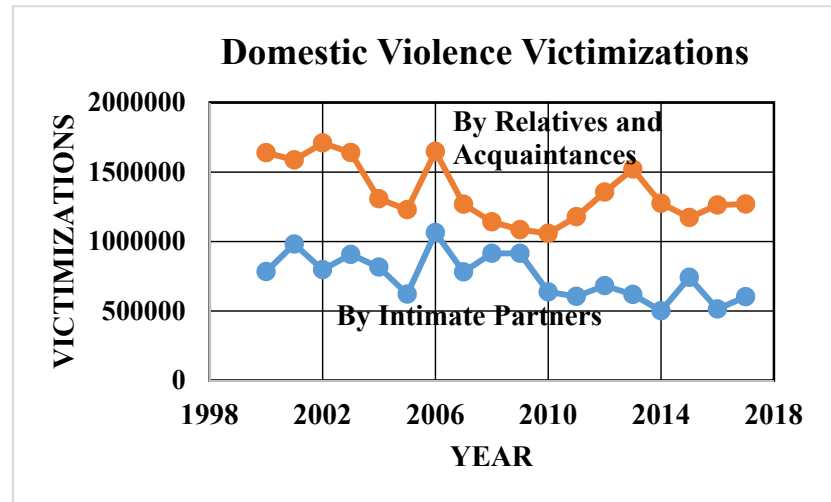


Figure 4. Domestic violence victimizations by intimate partners and by relatives and acquaintances.

"Victimizations" includes battering, rape, and homicide. In domestic violence attacks, over 2 million women are battered by intimate partners, relatives, or acquaintances each year, and the number may be much higher as only 40 to 50% of all crimes are reported to police and only 7 to 14% of battering incidents are even reported [135], suggesting that over 10 million women may be victims in domestic violence situations each year [6]. The highest rates of violence are suffered by young women, 12 to 18 years old, and the second highest category is 19 to 29 years old [135].

Intimate partner battering is experienced by males as well, though at a much lower rate [136]. Male serious violence incidents are 5 to 10x lower than abuse of women.

Figure 5 shows domestic violence fatalities from 1993 to 2010. Women are fatally abused at a rate of over 3 per day. Domestic homicides of women by intimate partners represent between 30 and 39% of all homicides of women each year [136].



Figure 5. Domestic violence fatalities of women.

The link between domestic violence to women and child abuse is very strong [110,122,124-125,135,137-138]. It isn't surprising that violent male figures who batter their partners might also abuse their children. Even witnessing violence between parents can seriously affect children, leading to future problems including heightened aggression as adolescents and adults [137], increased violence [121,130,139], psychological trauma [138] and future domestic violence [130,138]. Most important is the finding that the cycle of violence repeats; children who experience or witness abuse in the home are more likely to become violent adults and commit abuse of their own partners and children [122,125,130,135,140-141]. Children exposed to family violence come to see violence as an acceptable and useful means of resolving conflict [130,135,140-141]. Poverty [110,120,125,142] and substance abuse,

particularly alcohol, can play a major role in domestic violence incidences also. Alcohol use has been implicated in a large proportion of domestic violence and elder abuse incidences [110,130,135]. Bestiality has also been linked to childhood animal cruelty and domestic violence [71].



Animal abuse is so tightly linked to domestic violence that it is unlikely to find spouse or child abuse in a house with pets where abuse of the pet isn't present as well. One of the largest sources of information comes from women entering battered women's shelters. In one study of 101 battered women, hurting or killing pets was reported by 54% of the battered women compared to 5% of women not abused [143]. In another study of women entering shelters, 71% reported threats or actual harm to pets, and in 57% of these cases, the partner actually did harm or kill the pets [78]. In other reports, 50% [144-145] and 68-72% [146] described harm or death of their pets by an intimate partner. In Wisconsin, 80% of battered women who had family pets reported violence to their animals [137]. In a survey of 50 shelters in multiple states, 85% of abused women described ongoing pet abuse in their household [147].

In another review, 72 abused women reported being forced into illegal acts by threats of harm to their pets by their partner; in 75% of the cases, the abuser carried out the threat [148]. Many abused women delay or forgo escape from abusive situations out of fear for the safety of their pets.

It is clear that animal cruelty in domestic situations has a strong likelihood of revealing ongoing violence to children or women in the household [78,129,149], besides being a crime in itself, and fighting it

may save the lives of these human victims as well as preventing future violence.

More than 50% of battered women stay in abusive situations out of fear for their pets. Batterers nearly always threaten, harm, or kill pets as a fear-based control of the woman.

Animal cruelty is 11x more likely in domestic violence households than non-DV households [29]. Therefore, animal cruelty is a strong indicator of ongoing domestic violence, both women and children.

Child abuse, spouse abuse, and animal abuse are interlinked. Existence of any one of them can be a strong indicator of the others.

Batterers are overwhelmingly likely to have been abused themselves as children. The cycle repeats endlessly unless there is intervention.

A majority of violent individuals generally share a common history of brutal parental treatment and cruelty to animals.

44% of women in shelters reported being forced to participate in illegal acts upon threats to their pets. Threatening the pet is an act of psychological terror to the woman. Only in recent years have DV professionals recognized that by not allowing the woman's pets along with them into safety, they were turning away many potential victims seeking shelter [143,150].

Domestic Violence - Elder Abuse

There is much less information available about elder abuse than the other forms of domestic violence, but what there is continues the trend seen with child and woman abuse, including the co-occurrence of animal abuse. About 1 in 20 elders is abused in some way, physically and/or emotionally, amounting to between 1 and 2 million annually. Neglect of the elder is a major form of abuse, along with physical and psychological abuse [151]. It appears that less than 10% of abuse cases are reported to authorities [151-152]. Like child *sexual* abuse, elder

abuse wasn't recognized as a significant problem until the 1980s [110]. Alcohol has also been implicated in a large number of elder abuse cases [110]. Elder abuse may take place in nursing homes, but elders living in households are more isolated and more vulnerable. It is in private households where elder abuse is linked to animal abuse if the elder has a companion animal. Cruelty or threats of cruelty to the pet is one way that perpetrators abuse the elder psychologically. Neglect of the pet may also take place along with neglect of the elder.



Animal abuse is a strong indicator of elder abuse in homes with elder citizens.

The reverse is also true: elder abuse is a strong predictor of animal abuse.

Elders often remain silent in spite of personal abuse for fear of retaliation against their pet, often their only friend and companion.

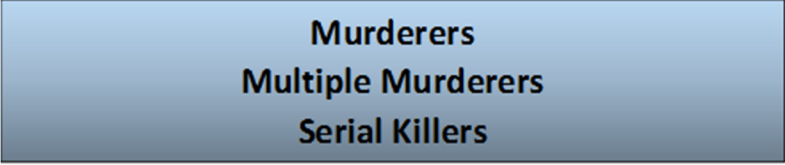
Gangs and Animal Cruelty

According to the FBI, there are at least 33,000 violent street gangs, motorcycle gangs, and prison gangs with 1.4 million members. Gangs are responsible for a majority of violent crimes in many jurisdictions. Studies of gangs indicate that members grow up in abusive family environments, and they may be seeking the social contacts and “belonging” that they miss at home [153].

Cruelty: attending and sponsoring animal fighting has become closely associated with gangs. Such fights, like all animal fighting, can be

associated with drugs, gambling, weapons, and murder. Gang members also sometimes use animal cruelty as an initiation rite into gang membership, and to demonstrate “toughness.”

Animal fights are also a desensitization training ground for children, teaching them violence and cruelty and a lack of compassion at a very impressionable age. In Chicago, 20% of 2nd to 8th grade children reported attending a dog fight [154].



Murderers
Multiple Murderers
Serial Killers

There are three types of murders in law enforcement statistics: single, multiple, and serial. A perpetrator may kill a single victim in a crime of passion, robbery, drug interaction, or other crime situation. Multiple murders are often cases involving dysfunctional families where the killer targets the intimate partner, sometimes the children, or even relatives or acquaintances. Sometimes the number killed in an intimate partner homicide situation can be four or more, making it a mass murder. Serial murder is quite different; a case where the killer murders 3 or more victims over a period of time which could be months or years.

Serial killers have no motive other than the pleasure of the terror and torture they inflict and the pleasure of the eventual kill. They almost never know the victim beforehand, but may stalk them before the attack. Estimates are that 1 in 5 homicides may be due to serial killers [155] but lower estimates of 1 to 2% have also been given. Since the number of homicides in the U.S. have averaged nearly 16,000 annually [156] since the year 2000, this means at least 160 to 320 murders can be attributed to serial killers. The FBI estimates there are at least 30-40 serial killers operating at any one time and possibly hundreds [155].

Although single and multiple murderers, mass murderers, and serial killers share some common traits such as alcohol or drug use, occasionally head injuries, poverty, parental abandonment, and feelings of shame and disrespect [142], the single most overwhelming childhood and/or adolescent background is brutal parenting, basically severe child abuse [67,113,126,142,155,157-161], physical, sexual, emotional, or neglect/abandonment. Children or adolescents brutalized by parents or caregivers at home become desensitized to violence and suffering and come to believe that violence is a normal way to solve family problems. “The benefits to society of eliminating this cause of violence would be felt in lower rates of assault and murder and would break the devastating cycle of child abuse in succeeding generations,” (J. Pincus, *Basic Instincts: What Makes Killers Kill*) [157].



Indicators / Predictors of Serial Killers

- Brutal Treatment or Neglect by Parents or Caregiver
- Head Injuries, especially when young
- Violent to Peers, Siblings
- Arson
- Early Cruelty to Animals

While not all serial killers started out with animal abuse, a large number of them did, just as a large majority were abused or neglected as young children. In fact, it’s unusual to find a serial killer who didn’t start out life with these patterns, though the early life of many murderers isn’t well known. Some reports state that a smaller number of serial killers started with cruelty [139,161]. One study of 354 serial killers found that 21% had histories of animal cruelty [161]; another study of 28 sexual murderers and serial killers found 46% had been involved in animal cruelty. If the murder was sadistic, close to 90% were involved in cruelty [139].

Other investigations of serial killers place the correlation much higher. “The life histories of most serial killers include animal abuse” [162]. “Although most animal abusers don’t commit sensational murders, serial killers almost invariably have histories of animal abuse in their

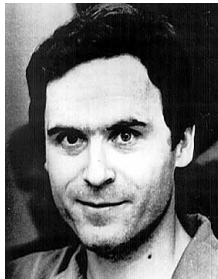
younger years” [163]. “More than half of the serial murderers admitted to hurting or torturing animals as children or adolescents” [161]. The FBI uses animal cruelty as a flag to identify potential suspects to serial murder and other crimes [164].

Animal cruelty as a trait is often ignored by official law enforcement, even though some form of animal abuse is now a felony in all 50 states and animal cruelty has been elevated to a major category in the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report [165].

The United States, with 5% of the world’s population, produces 75% of the world’s serial killers [155]. Law enforcement (society) spends hundreds of millions of \$ trying to apprehend them and almost nothing on *prevention*.



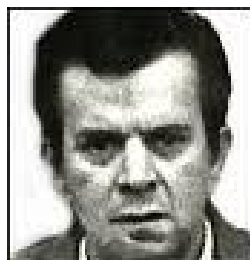
Richard Ramirez: 14 murders, > 24 rapes.
Stabbed, gutted animals.



Ted Bundy: > 36 murders of young women.
Tortured animals as a youth.



Jeffrey Dahmer: 17 murders, mutilations.
Killed animals and mounted their heads on stakes.



Edward Cole: 16+ murders.
Strangled puppies.

Crime	Childhood	Animal Treatment
David Berkowitz, 6 murders, 1400 fires	Abandoned	Tortured as young child
Ian Duncan Brady, 5 torture murders	Abandoned	Started animal torture at age 9
Ted Bundy, 36-50 murders, Co-eds	Violent grandfather	As adolescent, taught by grandfather
David Carpenter, 10 murders, children	Beaten by father	Starting as teenager
Jeffrey Dahmer, 17 murders, boys	Violent household	Impaled animals on stakes
Dennis Rader, 10 torture/murders		Hung dogs and cats
Albert Fish, 15 murders, 100 rapes	Strict parents	Set horse on fire
Edmund Kemper, 10 murders of women	Abandonment, abusive parents	Killed cats with machete
Richard Chase, 6 murders, cannibalism		Slaughtered neighborhood dogs and cats
Leonard Lake, 8 murders, torture pit	Abused as child	Killed and boiled animals
Henry Lee Lucas, 100 murders	Constant beatings	Severe animal torture
Patrick Mackay, 11 torture murders	Abused by father	Tortured his own pets
Arthur Shawcross, 13 murders, arson	Abused as child	Started torturing animals by age 10

Childhood abuse and animal cruelty are major identifying factors of serial killers.

If police, prosecutors, judges, social services, teachers, child welfare, and guidance counselors paid attention to the predictive factors, many lives could be saved and many killers / rapists stopped before they start.

If violent offenders are made, *not* born, why can't we figure out what "makes" them and break the cycle?



**Domestic Violence,
Animal Abuse,
and the First Three Years of Life**

Summarizing the Evidence: There's a strong correlation between animal cruelty and:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Juvenile Violence | Violence in Schools |
| Child Abusers | Domestic Violence |
| Rapists | Pedophiles |
| Aggravated Assault | Bullies |
| Gang Violence | Elder Abuse |
| Sexual Murderers | Serial Killers |
| Violent Psychiatric Patients | |

Most violent individuals were abused as children.

Some might say that violence is inherent in the human psyche, male masculinity, even human genetics. However, in many books, journal articles, and psychological studies, what becomes abundantly clear is that *domestic violence* in its comprehensive definition is the single biggest cause of the seemingly never-ending cycle of crime and violence. To be sure, other factors come into play: poverty, absent fathers, peer pressure, violent neighborhoods, drug abuse, violent video games, but the evidence is overwhelmingly strong that DV, particularly child abuse and neglect, is the training ground for antisocial behavior. And one other factor also becomes clear; animal cruelty is closely associated with domestic violence.

This point is so important that it is worth looking into it in more detail, to showing the overwhelming evidence that placing more focus on fighting DV would result in strong benefits to society, to breaking the cycle of violence, and fighting animal cruelty turns out to be an important part of that. Previous pages in this booklet have provided

some details of the DV-violence connection, but much more evidence is available to show this correlation.

Dysfunctional Families and Violence

“The most vicious criminals have been people who were grotesquely abused as children and who have paranoid patterns of thinking. Abuse has been the most surprising and possibly the most significant finding into the causes of violence” [157]. “The base from which violence starts is horrendous child abuse suffered by the violent person when in the family environment” [142]. “While most kids don’t become violent criminals, of course, it is true that the majority of boys incarcerated for violent crimes were subjected to abuse or neglect as children” [159]. “Growing up with domestic violence is the most significant predictor for engaging in domestic violence later in life” [166].

On the average, nearly 70% of violent criminals were victims of dysfunctional families: brutal fathers or mothers or neglect. The data below show some of the evidence supporting this conclusion.

- In a study of 150 murderers, 94% suffered a frequent and prolonged history of physical and sexual abuse committed by a parent or parent substitute [157].
- Extreme abuse was present in the histories of 13 of the 14 individuals (93%) of the death row inmates for homicides committed before they were eighteen years old [157].
- Those growing up with domestic violence are 74% more likely to commit violent crime [166].
- State prison inmates: 75.5% of aggressive criminal subjects reported excessive and repeated child abuse, compared to 31% of nonaggressive criminals, and only 10% of non-criminals [67].
- 38% of the rapists and 56% of child molesters were sexually abused as children [69].

- 84 prisoners divided into violent and non-violent groups: 74% of the violent group had a history of enuresis, arson, and animal cruelty (the “triad”) compared to 28% of the non-violent group. 95% of the entire population had a history of parental loss or rejection [65].

- 6 adolescents who had committed violent acts including murder, attempted murder, arson, and assault. All (100%) were victims of irregular child-rearing approaches including sexual abuse, physical and emotional deprivation, and sadistic parents [167].

- 31 violent females; 67% had brutal or neglectful fathers; 55% were abandoned [115].

- 203 serial killers responsible for killing between 1480 and 2160 victims. 60% had been rejected by their parents [158].

- A dozen serial killers, every one of them (100%) was abused in some way as a child, either physically or emotionally [155].

- For 908 study cases, being abused or neglected increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59%, as an adult by 28%, and for a violent crime by 30%. Of the total number of violent criminals, 59.7% had been abused as children [116].

- In a report of 43 death row inmates, 36 (84%) had been physically or sexually abused, 37 (86%) had been neglected, and 31 (72%) had witnessed domestic violence growing up [113].

- 14 juveniles currently condemned to death, 12 (86%) had been brutally physically abused, and 5 (36%) had been sodomized by relatives [160].

- For 74 aggressive and 75 non-aggressive psychiatric prisoner-patients, 68% of the aggressive prisoners had abusive mothers and 76% abusive fathers. “The entire sample reported high rates of parental brutality, ranging from 60 to 82 percent, by both mothers and fathers.” [85].

- In a violent assaultive male psychiatric group, 75% had brutal fathers and 60% brutal mothers [84].

- In a study of 6 murderers, 4 of them (67%) suffered remorseless parental brutality (backgrounds of the other 2 were unknown). 10 additional cases of violent individuals were also described in this report that described bad parenting [126].

Moreover, many opinions have been given that domestic violence almost automatically continues the never-ending cycle of violence as the abused in early life become abusers in later life [69,125-126,135,139,153,166,168-169]. “Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States, more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. Many batterers learned violent behavior growing up in an abusive family” [170]. “Many adult criminals grew up in homes marked by domestic terrorism, where they were forced to witness and sometimes experience woman abuse on a regular basis” [121].

The evidence is equally strong that domestic violence, like violence in general, is closely associated with animal cruelty. It is rare to find a household with pets where child or spouse abuse is going on where the pet isn’t being abused as well [29,78-79,127-129,143,169,171-177]. In fact, abuse of the pet is used as a psychological weapon against the woman or child, both from their love of the pet and the threat of “you could be next”.

The statistics below show the close connection between domestic violence and animal abuse.

- In a study of 53 families with known ongoing child abuse, 63% of the families had animal abuse also occurring, and 88% of the families if the child abuse was physical abuse [127].

- For 23 families with known ongoing animal abuse, 82% were associated with child neglect or physical abuse [128].

- 71% of battered women in homes with pets reported threats to their pets, and 57% reported that their partner had tortured or killed one or more of their pets [78,143].

- In surveys from 55 different battered women’s shelters, respondents reported 68% to 72% of the batterers were also involved in cruelty to family pets [172].

- In a study of aggressive male prisoners in South Africa, including domestic violence, 63% admitted cruelty to animals [29].

- 58% of participants in another study who witnessed or perpetrated animal cruelty as a child also report experiences of child abuse or domestic violence in their lives [129].

- In a report by the FBI of 259 adults arrested for animal cruelty, 45% were arrested for another crime, and 60% were involved in domestic violence [173].

- For 42 prisoners incarcerated for domestic violence, 81% had committed animal cruelty in their lifetime and 52% had harmed or killed a pet in their domestic relationship [79,174].

- 68% of battered women entering shelters reported violence towards their animals [175].

- 307 men arrested for domestic violence, 41% of the men committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18 [177].

- In a study of 50 battered women’s shelters, 83% of the shelters reported that they had observed the coexistence of domestic violence and pet abuse [147].

- For 150 adult men charged with physically or sexually assaulting animals, 96% were charged with other crimes, and 41% were arrested for interpersonal violence [75].

- In a study of 1392 youths between ages 9 and 17, 51% abused animals and 47% were exposed to domestic violence [178].

What these data show is that the major answer to our question of what creates violent individuals and why the cycle continues is that domestic violence in its entirety - child abuse, spouse abuse, elder and sibling abuse, and animal abuse - is the motivator and training ground for antisocial behavior, and animal cruelty, while not the cause, is closely associated. Other factors are important to be sure: poverty, alcoholism, absent fathers, failure at school, violent neighborhoods, but fighting against domestic violence and its associated animal cruelty would result in major benefits to society.

Child abuse in particular is intimately tied to creating violent individuals. As has often been said, every abused child doesn't become a violent criminal, but most violent criminals were abused as children or adolescents. Animal abuse is almost invariably present in their early (or even later) histories. In Ghosts From The Nursery [179], the authors point out that during gestation and the first 3 years of life, the brain is undergoing dramatic growth and transformation. Abuse of babies and toddlers alters their brain chemistry, and it can create irreparable emotional damage. "Prenatal development and the first 2-3 years of life are the times when the genetic, organic, and neurochemical foundations for impulse control are being created. It is also the time when the capacities for rational thinking and sensitivity to other people are being rooted – or not – in the child's personality" [179, pg 66]. Portions of the brain such as the prefrontal cortex connected to empathy and compassion are stunted in development by early child abuse [118,179].

And all this before they've hardly learned to talk.

"What happens to turn children into vicious killers? How can a child grow into an adult who enjoys torture and killing? It is the brain that mediates this metamorphosis from baby to killer, and it is the environment that shapes the entire process" [179, pg 165]. By the age of 5, the game is over – the seeds of future violence have already been planted. It is society's good fortune that not all abused children become violent criminals, but many of them do. The fraction of non-abused children who become violent adults is far smaller.

Programs which intervene at an early stage, which teach good parenting practices, which give help to overwhelmed new parents with advice and support, which ensure good care and nurturing to babies and toddlers, have a good chance of preventing this paradigm, but as the Ghosts... authors point out, programs aimed at prevention are chronically underfunded and don't last long. Like it or not, society would rather incarcerate offending individuals and in effect perpetuate the violence phenomenon than prevent it from happening in the first place. "Garnering the committed political support necessary to turn the tide for even one generation of our children continues to elude us" [179, pg 285].

SUMMARY

PREVENTION.

Taking animal cruelty seriously can prevent future assaults, rapes, murders, and spouse, child, and elder abuse.

INTERVENTION.

Juveniles, adolescents, and adults who are abusing animals are on a path toward human violence. Identifying them early can save many human lives and much suffering.

INTERDICTION.

Animal cruelty is an identifier of those who may have committed violent crimes. On average, as much as 70% of those guilty of violence have been involved in animal abuse.

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About the Author:

Harold Hovel, Ph.D., has been a research scientist for over 45 years, specializing in semiconductor physics including high speed computer chips and solar energy. He developed over 100 patents or patent equivalents, wrote more than 100 scientific papers, and delivered over 500 conference presentations in 14 countries. He was awarded the Outstanding Young Electrical Engineer in the United States by the Eta Kappa Nu Society in 1973 and received several Outstanding Innovation and Invention Awards from IBM. He served as Chairman of the Physics Panel of the National Research Council Associateship Programs and is a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences. He is the author of 3 books: one scientific (a textbook on solar cells), one fictional (Combat With Pirates), and one non-fictional showing how helping animals benefits people.

Dr. Hovel has been a board member of the New York State Humane Association (NYSHA) for 27 years and a board member of the Albert Schweitzer Fund for 14 years. He is a co-founder and past President of the Putnam Valley Conservation Council, the New York State Coalition for Animals, and the Animal Welfare Alliance. As part of NYSHA's outreach workshops given to law enforcement in combatting animal cruelty, he has been presenting the Connection Between Animal Cruelty and Human Violence for nearly 20 years. This booklet is based on these presentations. He has also presented humane education programs in elementary, secondary, and high schools, and in colleges for more than 25 years. Combining studies and presentations about animal cruelty linked to human

violence is a way he is able to help both animals and people at the same time.

Making a Difference: Breaking the Cycle

If you see or hear of an act of cruelty, don't ignore it, don't say it's not your business. The life you save may be your own or that of someone you love. Take a stand against cruelty.

Social workers, teachers, guidance counselors, humane society officers, medical professionals, veterinarians, church officials, parents: if you become aware of either animal abuse or domestic violence, report it to proper authority: the police and/or the local humane society.

Teachers: sponsor humane education programs in schools; incorporate humane principles in your classes.

Teachers, Principals: have zero tolerance for bullying.

Parents: teach your children kindness and compassion; don't tolerate bullying against your child.

Law enforcement, prosecutors, judges: recognize the seriousness of animal cruelty and the need for corrective action. Animal cruelty is an indicator and predictor of possible human violence and prosecuting it can prevent future crimes and suffering.

Young people: many choices lay ahead of you. You can choose to be a bully or not, cruel to animals or other people or not, compassionate and caring or not. For your own sake and that of your fellow travelers of the earth, we hope you choose kindness and pro-social values in general, and not contribute to the violence, cruelty, domestic abuse, and other problems that are all too common in our world.