

HB

489

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FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 489(JUD)
(H) Publish Date: 4/23/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dep't. Affected: Corrections
Title "An Act relating to cruelty to animals." BRU Administration and Operation
Component All
Sponsor Rep. Chenault
Requester House Judiciary Committee Component No. 694

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	***	***	***	***	***	***

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	***	***	***	***	***	***

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
This legislation elevates cruelty to animals from an A misdemeanor to a C felony. It also loads the elements of the crime to include "failure to provide the necessary standard of care" but removes "and as a result, causes the death of the animal or cause severe physical pain or prolonged suffering to the animal". Finally, this legislation would make the observation and knowing failure to report a violation to a law enforcement agency a C level felony also.

The Department of Law reports that in 2000 there were 8 convictions of cruelty to animals with an average sentence of about 10 days. It difficult to estimate what an average sentence would be if this becomes a felony. There will undoubtedly be additional imprisonment as well as probation supervision imposed. While the impact to the Department is difficult to quantify, there will be an impact. Most

Prepared by: Candace Brower Phone _____
Division: Commissioner's Office Date/Time 3/14/02 1:41 PM
Approved by: Margaret Pugh, Commissioner Date 3/14/02
Agency: Department of Corrections

FISCAL NOTE - FN#1

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 489(JUD)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

troubling is the creation of a new felony for failure to report. The Department of Corrections has been experiencing an overcrowding crisis for a number of years. Each year, our population increases due to increased sentences, new crimes and converting misdemeanors into felons. This legislation represents all of those things. We are also facing significant budget cuts. Although we cannot quantify the impact, serious consideration needs to be given to amending the current statutes to add to the serious burden that already exists on the criminal justice system.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 489(JUD)
(H) Publish Date: 4/23/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Law
Title "An Act relating to cruelty to animals." BRU Criminal Division
Component All
Sponsor Representative Chenault
Requester House Judiciary Committee Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
HB 489 adds seeing someone commit animal cruelty, and then knowingly fail to report the crime to law enforcement, to the definition of cruelty to animals. The bill further increases the penalty for cruelty to animals from a misdemeanor to a class C felony.

During 2000, the Department of Law got convictions in eight cruelty to animal cases. Due to the relatively low number of these cases, increasing the penalty for animal cruelty to a felony as defined in current law is expected to have a negligible fiscal impact on the agency. However, making failure to report animal cruelty a felony is expected to cause many new referrals for prosecution, which will need to be investigated and reviewed, even if the state cannot ultimately prosecute. While we believe passage of section 2 of HB 489 will increase the department's workload, we have no way of reliably estimating the impact.

Prepared by: Joan M. Kasson Phone (907) 465-5370
Division Attorney General's Office Date/Time 3/8/02 8:30 AM
Approved by: Kathryn Daughhedeo for Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General Date 3/8/2002
Agency Department of Law

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Sponsor Statement House Bill 489

This fall in Sterling, State Troopers, animal rescuers, veterinarians and a member of my staff witnessed possibly the worst case of mass animal cruelty in Alaska. Dozens of dogs, some frozen to the ground but still alive, were found on a parcel of land in the Sterling area. Some were locked in an abandoned bus, some tied to trees and stakes. None had the bare margin of food, water, or humane shelter. The only bedding was canine feces or ice. *A video is available for viewing with the warning that it is quite graphic and not for the faint of heart.*

A week ago, a police officer stopped a drunk driver who had his dog tied to the bumper of his truck. While the dog received emergency medical treatment, it was put down as a result of being dragged for several miles.

It is appalling to find any human being capable of such horror. In fact, many individuals who are later convicted of grave crimes to fellow humans are found to have seriously abused animals at some time in their lives.

Several days ago, I distributed animal cruelty information. I hope one of your staff had the opportunity to read it. The purpose of this memo is to appeal to your humane side and ask for your support to stop cruelty to animals. This is an issue decent human beings should never have to consider. Common sense and compassion dictates how we should treat animals, unfortunately we cannot depend on fellow human beings to be decent and provide basic food, water and shelter for animals. This is not an issue for partisan politics, as most of us have delightful memories of childhood pets.

Please join me in setting an example to stop abuse of animals. You and I have the opportunity to show our children how kind and compassionate animals can be while teaching responsibility of animal care.

My four kids have a dog names Destiny that is a loving, mischievous companion to each of us. Although she has to be into what ever I am doing, be it painting or repairing the kitchen sink, the kids are learning the responsibility of caring and providing for another living being, an important part of becoming an adult.

Criminal Code Backgrounders

Cruelty Vignettes

Enforcement of Cruelty to Animals Section of the Criminal Code

Enforcement Statistics

Linking Animal Cruelty and Violence to Humans

Serial Killers, School Shootings and Youth Crimes

Reform of the Criminal Code, Cruelty to Animals Sections

Linking Animal Cruelty to Human Violence

FBI and Scotland Yard recognize that violence toward animals is one of five key indicators of a person who will commit violent acts against people. A past history of violence is a predictor of future aggression.

U.S. states have felony offences for animal cruelty, with prison sentences up to 10 years.

U.S. public opinion polls show that 81% of the surveyed respondents supported strengthening animal cruelty laws. 71% were in favour of upgrading cruelty offences from misdemeanors to felonies. 87% said cruelty to animals offences should protect wild animals as well as pets. 89% said social agencies, educators, law enforcers and animal welfare organizations should share information about animal abusers as a means of reducing child abuse.

Animal abusers often suffer from low self-esteem, a history of family abuse, frustration and an inability to manage anger. Childhood cruelty may provide a child with a sense of power and mastery over animals. Typical factors are revenge, retaliation, intimidation, deviant arousal or peer pressure.

In one American study, 118 out of 135 criminals, including robbers and rapists, admitted that when they were children, they had burned, hanged and stabbed domestic animals.

78% of 63 people charged with animal cruelty had also been charged with violence or threats of violence against people (Jim McIsaac, Winnipeg Police Services).

152 criminal subjects reported 373 acts involving undue harm to animals. 60% reported at least one or more acts of childhood cruelty toward animals. 41% reported 1 - 2 cruelties, 11% admitted 3 - 4 cruel acts towards animals and 6% indicated 5 or more animal cruelties during childhood. 25% of aggressive criminals reported 5 or more childhood cruelties compared to less than 6% of moderate and nonaggressive criminals. 3/4 of all aggressive criminal subjects reported excessive and repeated child abuse. (Kellert and Felthous "Childhood Cruelty Toward Animals Among Criminals and Non-Criminals", *Human Relations* Volume 38, No. 12, PP. 1113 - 1129).

61% of 39 women who had been abused by their partners and were living in women's shelters in Hamilton and Owen Sound said their pets had either been abused or killed by their partners. 48% said concern for the safety of their pets prevented them from leaving their abusive home sooner.

Three surveys of women's shelters in Wisconsin and Utah showed an average of 74% of women with pets reported that their animals had been threatened, injured or killed by their abuser.

83% of families in Britain with a history of animal abuse were identified by social service agencies as at risk for child abuse or neglect (Royal SPCA, Britain, 1981).

58% of sexual homicide perpetrators who were sexually abused as children recounted childhood animal cruelty (Dr. Patricia Schene "One By One Is Not the Only Way" *Advocate* Fall/Winter 1993).

See *Cruelty to Animals and Intpersonal Violence (Readings in Research)* edited by Dr. Randall Lockwood and Frank R. Ascione, Purdue University Press (800) 933 - 9637 (ISBN 1-55753-106-4) (\$24.95 U.S.) and *Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: Linking the Circles of Compassion for Prevention and Intervention* by Frank Ascione and Phil Arkow Purdue University Press (ISBN 1-55753-143-9) (\$24.95 U.S.)

More information

THE TANGLED WEB OF ANIMAL ABUSE:

The Links between Cruelty to Animals and Human Violence

Addendum to The Humane Society of the United States News article, Summer, 19869 by Dr. Randall Lockwood and Guy R. Hodge

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

- **JEFFREY L. DAHMER:** Serial Killer, Sexual Deviant

Dahmer confessed to killing, dismembering and, in some cases, cannibalizing, 17 men and boys. As a child, Dahmer impaled frogs, decapitated dogs, and staked cats to trees in his backyard. Dahmer was convicted to death but before the sentence was carried out he was killed by another inmate in 1994.

- **TED BUNDY:** Serial Killer, Rapist

Bundy killed numerous females who looked liked a woman for which he had a passion. In the 1970's he brought fear to college campuses in many states after killing 3 women in the Chi Omega sorority house at Florida State University. He was ultimately convicted of two killings, but is suspected of murdering over 40 females, primarily in the northwest. During his childhood he witnessed his father's brutality toward animals and he himself tortured animals. Bundy was executed in Florida.

- **RICHARD ALLEN DAVIS:** Accused killer and rapist of 12 year old Polly Klaas

Davis has been charged with the kidnapping of Polly Klass, 12, from her own home, raping and strangling her. As a 14-year-old he set cats on fire and used dogs as target to practice knife-throwing. In 1993 he was charged with the shooting death of Marlene Voris 20 years ago. "When he was little it was animals. When he got bigger it was people." said Zak Bucket a neighbor.

- **MICHAEL WAYNE ECHOLS (18), JESSIE LLOYD MISSKELLEY JR. (17), CHARLES JASON BALDWIN (16):** Killed three 8 year-old-boys

These three teenage boys were arrested in 1993 for the brutal murder of three 8-year old boys in West Memphis. The three young boys were lured into the woods, beaten into unconsciousness, one was sexually mutilated, another raped, and all three killed. For some time prior to the killing, the three teenagers were involved in satanic-type rituals. During an initiation ceremony they killed dogs, skinned them, and ate their flesh. Echols was also carrying a head of a cat with him.

- **EARL KENNETH SHRINER:** Sexual Predator, Killer, and Rapist

Shriner used threats to lure a 7-year-old boy into a wooded area in Washington state where he raped him, cut off his- penis, choked him, stabbed him in the back and neck, and left him for dead. At the age of 16, he confessed to the killing of a teen-age girl. Police say he "was a man who put firecrackers in the anuses; of dogs and strung up cats." He was committed to a state mental hospital after several incidents, including the slaughter of nearly two dozen chickens.

- **ERIC SMITH:** Adolescent Killer of 4-year-old boy

When Eric Smith was 13 years old, he bludgeoned 4-year-old Derrick Robic to death and was charged with murder. Four years prior to the killing of Derrick, Smith killed the neighbor's cat with a gardenhose. There are no specific reasons why he killed the little boy or the cat.

- **THOMAS LEE DILLION:** Murderer and Suspected Serial killer

Dillion is said to be a serial killer. Dillion admitted to the shooting of Gary Bradly in 1992, while both were hunting. Dillion, an ardent hunter who also boasted of killing more than 1000 animals in illegal drive shootings, is serving a life sentence in Ohio on five murder convictions.

MICHAEL CARTIER: Stalker and Murderer

In 1992, Cartier stalked and killed Kristen Lardner in Boston, Massachusetts and then killed himself. In a prior relationship, Cartier held his girlfriend's kitten under a hot shower and then shaved all its hair off. Later he hurled it through a fourth floor window to its death.

Cruelty to animals should be a felony offense. Both animals and people benefit when abusers are brought into the criminal justice system for sentencing or treatment. Fifteen states have already enacted felony cruelty laws.

First Strike Animal Cruelty/ Human Violence

[[Follow Ups](#)] [[Post Followup](#)] [[Petznam Pet Forum](#)] [[FAQ](#)]

Posted by Shelter House on August 04, 1998 at 15:53:15:

Is harming an animal a warning sign of other possible acts of violence? Absolutely!

Animal cruelty can be one of the earliest and most dramatic indicators that an individual is developing a pattern of seeking power and control by inflicting suffering on others.

Studies in psychology, sociology, and criminology clearly show that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty. The FBI has used this correlation for years in profiling serial killers.

Recent research also shows that animal cruelty often occurs in tandem with family violence, child abuse, spouse abuse, and elder abuse.

Pets are part of the family in many American households. In homes where domestic violence occurs, pets are often threatened or injured by abusers.

IN SEVERAL RECENT SURVEYS OF WOMEN ENTERING SHELTERS FOR PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, NEARLY HALF REPORTED THAT A PET HAD ALSO BEEN THREATENED, INJURED OR KILLED BY THEIR ABUSER. Many victims of domestic violence delay leaving their homes because they fear that their pet might be hurt when they leave.

SHELTER HOUSE DOES NOT WANT THIS TO BE A DETERRENT TO A VICTIM WHO IS CONSIDERING COMING TO A SHELTER AND WANTS THE COMMUNITY TO KNOW THAT IT HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH A LOCAL KENNEL, WHICH WILL HOUSE AN ANIMAL DURING THE LENGTH OF THE VICTIM'S STAY AT SHELTER HOUSE.

Shelter House has also joined in the First Strike Campaign, which is a new animal and human protection program developed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Leading the program locally are Cathy Holmes and Maureen Simmons, both from the Family Advocacy Office at Hurlburt Field in Florida. They want people to recognize the connection between animal cruelty and human violence, and get involved.

Shelter House recently participated in an inter-agency training program put together by Holmes and Simmons. The training session included presentation from Shelter House, the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), the Family Advocacy Office and the

Florida Department of Children and Families- each pointing out the connection between animal cruelty and human violence.

As a result of the campaign, Shelter House has added to it client intake forms, a question about animal cruelty within the household, and animal control officers now distribute Shelter House information cards to homes where animal cruelty has been reported. Holmes and Simmons are hoping to gain cooperation between civilian and military organizations so that all acts of violence are recognized and dealt with promptly and appropriately. They are hoping to protect victims of violence, prosecute and punish those who commit violent acts and prevent future violence through early identificaton of people with violent tendencies.

The First Strike Campaign was developed by the Humane Society of the United States. If you want more information about the program, call Cathy Holmes or Maureen Simmons at the Hurlburt Family Advocacy Office, or call the HSUS toll free 1-888-213-0956. The HSUS website is at www.hsus.org

Follow Ups:

- [Re: First Strike Animal Cruelty/ Human Violence Krista 23:43:00 2/21/99 \(0\)](#)

Post a Followup

Name:

E-Mail:

Subject:

Comments:

: Is harming an animal a warning sign of other p
: acts of violence? Absolutely!
: Animal cruelty can be one of the earliest and
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: correlation for years in profiling serial killer

Optional Link URL: _____

Link Title: _____

Optional Image URL: _____

[[Follow Ups](#)] [[Post Followup](#)] [[Petzjam Pet Forum](#)] [[FAQ](#)]

Two More States Pass Felony Animal Cruelty Bills

The numbers are adding up. With the addition of Maine and Minnesota, there are now 34 states – plus the District of Columbia – that have passed felony animal cruelty laws.



■ States who prosecute certain forms of animal cruelty at the felony level.

This is an amazing effort that is rippling across the country, thanks to the persistent and dedicated work of so many individuals involved in animal protection.

These successes don't come easily, and certainly not without a lot of time invested. For the past five years, Minnesota animal protection advocates have worked to strengthen animal cruelty statutes – finally succeeding in 2001. Minnesota's new law covers companion animals, including dogs, cats, horses, and ferrets. Penalties are based on the harm done to the animal, and increase as the harm to the animal escalates.

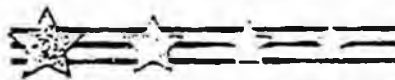
For intentional acts of torture or cruelty to a companion animal, the penalties elevate from a misdemeanor (90 days in jail, a \$1,000 fine, or

both) to a gross misdemeanor (one year in jail, a \$3,000 fine, or both) to a felony (two years in jail, a \$5,000 fine, or both). An additional provision increases the penalties for a person who causes great bodily harm or death to a companion animal in an effort to threaten, intimidate, or terrorize a person. This offense carries a penalty of four years in jail, a \$10,000 fine, or both. Currently, the state with the record for maximum confinement (10 years in prison) goes to Louisiana. Arizona has the maximum fine, \$150,000, and Oregon is a close second with a \$100,000 penalty.

Another benefit of Minnesota's new law is the added provision for psychological or other counseling for people who abuse animals. Minnesota is one of 15 states that permits the offender to undergo psychological counseling or anger management classes for animal cruelty – "Something that we are strongly encouraging as part of all new bills," says Ann Sparks, vice president of AHA's public policy.

In Maine, the new felony cruelty law went into effect on September 21, 2001. Maine's law now expands the definition of animal cruelty by establishing the category of aggravated animal cruelty, and increases the penalties for civil and criminal convictions. The penalty for repeat offenders and for those convicted under the new category of aggravated animal cruelty is increased to a felony. Juveniles adjudicated under the new law must receive psychological counseling.

If your state needs help passing felony animal cruelty laws, e-mail our Washington, D.C., office at dc@americanhumane.org.



States With Felony Animal Cruelty Provisions

Alabama	Indiana	Montana	Rhode Island
Arizona	Louisiana	North Carolina	South Carolina
California	Maine	New Hampshire	Texas
Connecticut	Maryland	New Mexico	Virginia
Delaware	Massachusetts	Nevada	Vermont
Florida	Michigan	New York	Wisconsin
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Washington
Iowa	Mississippi	Oregon	District of Columbia
Illinois	Missouri	Pennsylvania	

(Bold indicates laws passed in the last two years.)



National Conference of State Legislatures

LEGISBRIEF

BRIEFING PAPERS ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE DAY

MARCH 2001

VOL. 9, No. 18

Violence at Home: People and Pets

By Rita Thiemert

Animal cruelty is often associated with domestic violence.

Studies over the last two decades show that animal cruelty is often associated with domestic violence. Intentional cruelty or killing of pets by children or adults is recognized more and more as a significant indicator of violence at home. In one study, just over half of the women in a family shelter reported that pets had been harmed or killed by the abusers. About 25 percent of them said their concern for pets delayed their going to the shelter. Children also witnessed cruelty to their pets in about two-thirds of the cases. Thirteen percent of the children reported that they themselves had tried to hurt pets.

In most American homes, pets are treated like family members. If they are part of a violent family, however, they also become targets. Threats against a pet are also used by abusers as a control mechanism to silence or punish the victims. Frequently, pets are a vital source of support for both children and adult victims of violence. However, children may also become animal abusers, imitating the behavior they have experienced, and making the pet a victim.

Cruelty to animals can be one of the earliest signs of a person's potential for violence.

Cruelty to animals can be one of the earliest and most significant signs of a person's potential to control others through violence. Psychologists, sociologists and criminologists agree that animal abuse involves more than an abuser's personality flaw. It indicates a seriously disturbed family environment. Intervention in the beginning stages, while children are young, is vital.

State Actions

At least 27 states make cruelty to animals a felony under certain circumstances.

All states have anticruelty laws, but most generally treat animals as property. At least 27 states, however, make cruelty to animals a felony under certain circumstances. The other 23 states have misdemeanor penalties for secondary forms of abuse. A recent Nevada law "requires the juvenile court to order counseling or other psychological treatment for a child who commits an offense involving cruelty to an animal." Nevada law also directs the court to order parents or guardians to pay for counseling or psychological treatment. At least 13 other states—California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia—allow courts to order psychiatric counseling or anger management.

California's animal cruelty law requires that "the court shall order the defendant to pay for, and successfully complete, counseling, as determined by the court, designed to evaluate and treat behavior or conduct disorders." In some instances, animal cruelty agencies also protect children. A District of Columbia law authorizes the Washington Humane Society to include in its operations the protection of children from cruelty and abuse. Officers or agents of the Ohio Humane Society may remove a child if he or she is in cruel surroundings.

National Conference
of State Legislatures

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California and Colorado require animal control officers and veterinarians to report suspected or known instances of child abuse. Minnesota and West Virginia require that veterinarians report suspected or known cases of animal abuse. Idaho does not require reporting, but provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for veterinarians who report cruelty. States are responding to the theory that many of the homes with a history of animal abuse are also the ones engendering calls to social service agencies about suspected child abuse.

Federal Action

The 106th Congress enacted 10 laws that address animal welfare, including making it illegal to produce or import products made with dog or cat fur, making it illegal to commercially depict real acts of animal cruelty, and increasing funding for enforcement of the federal animal welfare act.

A report by the National Research Council says that early intervention for animal abusers is more likely to reduce adult crime than later criminal penalties, and that the behavior of a child is more significant than adolescent behavior in predicting future violence. Law enforcement has expressed increased support for stronger animal anticruelty laws. The First Strike Campaign of The Humane Society of the U.S. recommends community programs that consolidate the services of domestic violence shelters, child protection agencies, humane societies and police departments to provide shelters or foster homes for abused pets, and ensure that pets are safe after abused women and children leave abusive surroundings. These collaborations can bring about better reporting and more effective intervention.

The American Humane Association recommends reporting suspected animal abuse or child abuse to a local child welfare agency or humane society. They also recommend training professionals to observe and report other kinds of abuse in the home. Judges, doctors, social workers, teachers and ministers should become familiar with the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse. The association advocates stronger animal cruelty statutes, development of better reporting laws and definitions of animal cruelty, and penalties for abusers that include required mental health treatment.

The challenge is to prevent violence, whether it takes the form of cruelty to humans or cruelty to animals. The best response to early violence seems to be early intervention. Studies have found that community coalitions work where the criminal justice system, animal control agencies, health professionals (human and animal), social workers and domestic violence victims' advocates participate in training and share information. Policymakers can help educate citizens about violence, encourage services that intervene on behalf of people and pets and appropriate funds for delivery of those services.

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The Humane Society of the U.S.
(888) 213-0956
[http://www.hsus.org/firststrike/factsheets/
domestic-violence.html](http://www.hsus.org/firststrike/factsheets/domestic-violence.html)

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse
and Neglect
(800) 394-3366
[http://www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/bibs/
linkwanimal2.htm](http://www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/bibs/linkwanimal2.htm)

American Humane Association
(303) 792-9900
[http://www.americanhumane.org/children/
factsheets/viol_link.htm](http://www.americanhumane.org/children/factsheets/viol_link.htm)

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This has to stop now!

*Do you want your children and grandchildren
to be brought up thinking that this is "ok" to do ?*

Animal Cruelty and Human Violence

**People who are cruel to animals are more likely than others
to be cruel to humans too,**

says a 1997 report from the Humane Society of the United States

The study, on the link between animal cruelty and human violence, was based on 401 newspaper accounts of animal cruelty between Sept. 1, 1996 and Aug. 31, 1997. It found the **majority of abusers, 71 percent were men**, and those men committed eighty-seven percent of the cases of abuse. Among abusers of animals, **twenty-eight percent were also charged with domestic violence, twenty-seven percent with child abuse, ten percent with assault and six percent with murder.**

Hurting animals often a sign of abuse

Springfield, Oregon: Friends of 15 year old Kipland Kinkel of Springfield, Oregon say he displayed *all of the classic signs of violence, often bragging about torturing and killing small animals.* Reports indicate that Kinkel killed cats, possibly his own family's cat, and a cow.

He also has a fascination with guns and a quick temper that led him to be expelled from school twice in one week, for acts of violence against fellow students. He was accused of **murdering both of his parents**, then going on to his **high school to open fire on his schoolmates, killing 2 and injuring another 22, on May 22, 1998.** Police also found four bombs in his home

In a press releases from the Humane Society of the United States

The tragedy in Oregon clearly illustrates the connection between animal cruelty and human violence," said Dr. Randall Lockwood, a psychologist and vice president for The HSUS. "It is alleged that the 15-year-old suspect in May's shooting, Kipland P. Kinkel, had a **history of killing cats and other animals.**

Time and again, we see acts of cruelty to animals mature into violence against people. We urge teachers, principals and parents to recognize this connection and to take reports of cruelty towards animals seriously. As in this case, **teens will often brag to their classmates about animal cruelty.** Early intervention by counselors can make a difference. Kinkel also reportedly bragged about torturing animals to classmates. According to Lockwood and many other experts in the field, violence towards animals can escalate to killing people. This is particularly true of family violence. "Abusers rarely stop to count the number of legs on their victims," Lockwood states.

The HSUS urges psychologists, educators and elected officials to take acts of animal cruelty seriously. "The days of thinking that violence against animals is boys being boys' are over. **Addressing the violence in our schools, our streets and our homes requires that we reject the conventional wisdom that killing animals is an acceptable part of growing up,**" Lockwood concluded

The Humane Society found that animals are abused in 88% of the families where children are abused. Animals in a home may be used by an abuser to control other family members. Family members are sometimes intimidated into silence about abuse through threats made toward a favorite pet. Pets are sometimes hurt or killed to punish children for something they have done, or physically or sexually abused children may kill their pets rather than have them hurt by the perpetrator in the home.

Most criminals who have been violent toward people share a common history of cruelty to animals.

Recent school shootings and other high-profile violent crimes perpetrated by minors were prefaced by animal abuse.

Boy, 11, Accused of killing cat & kittens with bricks!

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