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**An Annotated Bibliography of Research Relevant to
Cruelty to Animals and Violence to Humans
1998-2013**

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy

**Compiled by Erich Yahner
(All Abstracts and Summaries from Authors or Publishers)**

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Ascione, F.R., & Shapiro, K. (2009). People and animals, kindness and cruelty: Research directions and policy implications. *Journal of Social Issues*, 65(3), 569-587.

This article addresses the challenges of defining and assessing animal abuse, the relation between animal abuse and childhood mental health, the extensive research on animal abuse and intimate partner violence, and the implication of these empirical findings for programs to enhance human and animal welfare. Highlighted are recent developments and advances in research and policy issues on animal abuse. The reader is directed to existing reviews of research and areas of focus on the expanding horizon of empirical analyses and programmatic innovations addressing animal abuse. Following a discussion of forensic and veterinary issues related to animal abuse, we discuss policy issues including how the status of animals as human companions at times may place animals at risk. We also review developments in the field of human-animal relations and apply the primary-secondary-tertiary prevention public health model to prevention and treatment of animal abuse. We close with a description of community networks addressing animal abuse, interagency collaborations, and new developments in animal-related law.

Ascione, F.R., Weber, C.V., Thompson, T.M., Heath, J., Maruyama, M., & Hayashi, K. (2007). Battered pets and domestic violence animal abuse reported by women experiencing intimate violence and by nonabused women. *Violence Against Women*, 13(4), 354-373.

Women residing at domestic violence shelters (S group) were nearly 11 times more likely to report that their partner had hurt or killed pets than a comparison group of women who said they had not experienced intimate violence (NS group). Reports of threatened harm to pets were more than 4 times higher for the S group. Using the Conflict Tactics Scale, the authors demonstrated that severe physical violence was a significant predictor of pet abuse. The vast majority of shelter women described being emotionally close to their pets and distraught by the abuse family pets experienced. Children were often exposed to pet abuse, and most reported being distressed by these experiences. A substantial minority of S-group women reported that their concern for their pets' welfare prevented them from seeking shelter sooner. This seemed truer for women without children, who may have had stronger pet attachments. This obstacle to seeking safety should be addressed by domestic violence agencies.

Baldry, A.C. (2005). Animal abuse among preadolescents directly and indirectly victimized at school and at home. *Criminal Behaviour & Mental Health*, 15(2), 97-110.

Animal abuse by preadolescents has been associated with their later family violence and/or criminal behaviour; less is known about animal abuse and concurrent experience of being a victim at home and/or school, or of contemporaneous aggression to peers. Aims: To establish the prevalence of animal abuse among Italian preadolescents and its relationship with experience of abuse at home and school (direct and witnessed), and to peer abuse (bullying). Method: An Italian community sample of 268 girls and 264 boys

(aged 9-12) completed a self-reported questionnaire about victimization at home and school, animal abuse and bullying. Results: Two in five preadolescents admitted abusing animals at least once in their life, and one in three bullying peers at school, with a higher prevalence among boys. Over three-quarters of all participants reported at least one type of victim experience: one-third had experienced interparental violence; over one-third had themselves been abused by one or both parents; two in five had been directly or indirectly victimized at school. Individual tests of association suggested gender differences. Multivariate regression analyses conducted separately for boys and girls showed that the independent variable accounted for more than 25% of the variance for the girls, but less than 10% for the boys. Experiences of abuse were the key independent variables for the girls; other expressions of aggression were the key variables for the boys. Discussion and Conclusions: The results suggest that discovery of animal abuse should prompt further enquiries about other problems that a child may have. Detection of animal abuse by a child could offer an early opportunity for intervention to alleviate internalized damage or other aggressive behaviour.

Beirne, P. (2004). From animal abuse to interhuman violence? A critical review of the progression thesis. *Society and Animals*, 12(1), 39-66.

This paper reviews evidence of a progression from animal abuse to interhuman violence. It finds that the "progression thesis" is supported not by a coherent research program but by disparate studies often lacking methodological and conceptual clarity. Set in the context of a debate about the theoretical adequacy of concepts like "animal abuse" and "animal cruelty," it suggests that the link between animal abuse and interhuman violence should be sought not only in the personal biographies of those individuals who abuse animals but also in those institutionalized social practices where animal abuse is routine, widespread, and socially acceptable.

Carlisle-Frank, P., Frank, J.M., & Nielsen, L. (2004). Selective battering of the family pet. *Anthrozoös: A Multidisciplinary Journal of the Interactions of People & Animals*, 17(1), 26-42.

We examined the attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of both pet-abusing and non-pet-abusing perpetrators of family violence. Using data collected from victims residing at domestic violence shelters, results indicated that relative to their non-pet-abusing counterparts, pet-abusing batterers tend to less often show affection toward their pets, more often communicate with their pets only through commands and threats, more often view companion animals as property, are more likely to scapegoat their pets, and are more likely to have unrealistic expectations about their pets, more frequently punish their pets, and are more sensitive to stressful life events—particularly those perceived to be caused by the pet. We also queried respondents about batterers' past history with pets, the frequency and type of abuse inflicted on animals, the number of batterers who hunt, the frequency with which children witnessed abuse of the family pet, the impact of animal guardianship on decisions to remain with or return to the batterer, and where companion animals ended up when victims fled the batterer.

Currie, C.L. (2006). Animal cruelty by children exposed to domestic violence. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 30(4), 425-435.

The first objective of this study was to determine if children exposed to domestic violence were significantly more likely to be cruel to animals than children not exposed to violence. The second was to determine if there were significant age and gender differences between children who were and were not cruel to animals. A community sample of 47 mothers with two children and a history of domestic violence were compared to a matched sample of 45 mothers with two children who did not have such a history. Children exposed to domestic violence were significantly more likely to have been cruel to animals than children not exposed to violence. The age and gender of children who were cruel to animals did not differ from children who were not cruel to animals. However, exposed children cruel to animals were significantly older than non-exposed children cruel to animals. Animal cruelty by children is correlated with exposure to domestic violence.

Dadds, M.R., Turner, C.M., & McAloon, J. (2002). Developmental links between cruelty to animals and human violence. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 35(3), 363-382.

Reviews evidence for the significance of childhood cruelty to animals as a predictor of later violence toward humans. Moves are underway in the United States (US) and Britain to encourage communication and cross-fertilisation between animal welfare and child protection and crime prevention services. Literature on healthy versus deviant child-pet interactions is reviewed, with particular regard to the prediction of later violence. Assessment and definitional issues are addressed. The discussion culminates with a summary of substantive findings and the identification of several research designs that are needed to clarify the potential of early identification and remediation of child cruelty to animals as a mental health promotion and violence prevention strategy.

Dadds, M.R., Whiting, C., & Hawes, D.J. (2006). Associations among cruelty to animals, family conflict, and psychopathic traits in childhood. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21(3), 411-429.

Previous research has produced mixed findings on the role of child and family factors in the genesis of childhood cruelty. The authors examined the relationships of cruelty to animals to a range of child and family factors. First, the authors test the idea that cruelty is a callous aggression that will be more strongly associated with psychopathic (callous or unemotional, CU) traits than general externalizing problems. Second, the authors operationalize family problems as open conflict rather than parenting problems as used earlier. Results indicated that for both genders, CU traits were associated strongly with cruelty. For boys, externalizing problems also added prediction in regression analyses. Family conflict was not associated with cruelty for either. These results suggest that cruelty to animals may be an early manifestation of the subgroup of children developing conduct problems associated with traits of low empathy and callous disregard rather than the more common pathway of externalizing problems and parenting problems.

DeGue, S., & DiLillo, D. (2009). Is animal cruelty a “red flag” for family violence? Investigating co-occurring violence toward children, partners, and pets. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24(6), 1036-1056.

Cross-reporting legislation, which permits child and animal welfare investigators to refer families with substantiated child maltreatment or animal cruelty for investigation by parallel agencies, has recently been adopted in several U.S. jurisdictions. The current study sheds light on the underlying assumption of these policies—that animal cruelty and family violence commonly co-occur. Exposure to family violence and animal cruelty is retrospectively assessed using a sample of 860 college students. Results suggest that animal abuse may be a red flag indicative of family violence in the home. Specifically, about 60% of participants who have witnessed or perpetrated animal cruelty as a child also report experiences with child maltreatment or domestic violence. Differential patterns of association were revealed between childhood victimization experiences and the type of animal cruelty exposure reported. This study extends current knowledge of the links between animal- and human-directed violence and provides initial support for the premise of cross-reporting legislation.

Duncan, A., & Miller, C. (2002). The impact of an abusive family context on childhood animal cruelty and adult violence. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 7(4), 365–383.

This paper reviews the literature that addresses the impact of an abusive family context on childhood animal cruelty and adult violence. In the first section, literature is presented that outlines possible abusive family contextual factors associated with childhood animal cruelty and adult violence. In the second section, theories presented in the literature conjecturing about the impact of an abusive family context on childhood animal cruelty and adult violence are reviewed. Section 3 addresses the predictive validity of an abusive family context on adult violence. In the final section, assessment measures and interventions of childhood animal cruelty are discussed. Such discussion focuses on the acknowledgement of an abusive family context in the assessment and intervention of childhood animal cruelty. Overall, the literature suggests that an abusive family context may be a better predictor of adult violence than childhood animal cruelty.

Duncan, A., Thomas, J.C., & Miller, C. (2005). Significance of family risk factors in development of childhood animal cruelty in adolescent boys with conduct problems. *Journal of Family Violence*, 20(4), 235-239.

The literature suggests that physical child abuse, sexual child abuse, paternal alcoholism, paternal unavailability, and domestic violence may be significant in development of childhood animal cruelty. Two groups of early- to late adolescent boys (CTA and N-CTA) in residential treatment for conduct disorder were compared in the current study on histories of these family risk factors. The adolescents in Group 1 were comprised of boys who had conduct problems with documented histories of animal cruelty (n = 50; CTA). Group 2 consisted of adolescent boys (n = 50; N-CTA) with conduct problems, but without documented histories of animal cruelty. Results showed that children in the CTA group had significantly greater histories of physical and/or sexual child abuse and domestic violence in comparison to children in the N-CTA group. These results suggest that physical and/or sexual abuse to a child, and exposure to domestic violence, may be significant in the development of childhood animal cruelty.

Faver, C.A. (2010). School-based humane education as a strategy to prevent violence: Review and recommendations, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 32(3), 365-370.

Children who are cruel to animals may have witnessed or experienced family violence and are at risk of engaging in human-directed aggression during adolescence and adulthood. To prevent or interrupt a developmental trajectory leading to aggressive behavior, humane education uses animal-related lessons and activities to teach respect, kindness, and compassion. As part of a violence prevention program, humane education can foster empathy and reduce the likelihood of aggression toward animals and people. Implementation of humane education programs not only prevents violence, but also increases the likelihood of detecting and intervening early in violence that is already occurring in children's home environments.

Flynn, C.P. (2001). Acknowledging the "zoological connection": A sociological analysis of animal cruelty. *Society and Animals*, 9(1), 71-87.

Sociologists have largely ignored the role of animals in society. This article argues that human-animal interaction is a topic worthy of sociological consideration and applies a sociological analysis to one problematic aspect of human-animal relationships - animal cruelty. The article reformulates animal cruelty, traditionally viewed using a psychopathological model, from a sociological perspective. The article identifies social and cultural factors related to the occurrence of animal cruelty. Ultimately, animal cruelty is a serious social problem that deserves attention in its own right, not just because of its association with human violence.

Flynn, C.P. (1999). Animal abuse in childhood and later support for interpersonal violence in families. *Society and Animals*, 7(2), 161-172.

A survey of university students tested whether committing animal abuse during childhood was related to approval of interpersonal violence against children and women in families. Respondents who had abused an animal as children or adolescents were significantly more likely to support corporal punishment, even after controlling for frequency of childhood spanking, race, biblical literalism, and gender. Those who had perpetrated animal abuse were also more likely to approve of a husband slapping his wife. Engaging in childhood violence against less powerful beings--animals--may generalize to the acceptance of violence against less powerful members of families and society--women and children. This paper discusses the implications of this process.

Girardi, A., & Pozzulo, J. (2012). The significance of animal cruelty in child protection investigations. *Social Work Research*, 36(1), 53-60.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the frequency with which child protection workers (CPWs) in Ontario, Canada, seek information about animal cruelty during investigations of child maltreatment and the extent to which they consider information about animal cruelty when making decisions about whether intervention is required. The CPWs (N=78) responded to an online survey about their experiences with animal cruelty during child protection investigations in the previous year. Few CPWs routinely asked questions about animal cruelty during investigations, but those who did ask questions were significantly more likely to report disclosures of animal cruelty by children and caregivers than those who did not ask questions. Many CPWs had directly observed children and caregivers physically harming animals. Almost all respondents indicated that animal cruelty was an important factor to consider when making intervention decisions. The results suggest that CPWs should consider routinely asking children and caregivers questions about animal cruelty and observe the behavior and living conditions of family pets when conducting risk assessments. Future research should determine whether animal cruelty is a reliable indicator of exposure to family violence.

Gupta, M. (2008). Functional links between intimate partner violence and animal abuse: Personality features and representations of aggression. *Society & Animals*, 16(3), 223-242.

Acts of intimate partner violence (IPV) and abuse of nonhuman animals are common, harmful, and co-occurring phenomena. The aim of the present study was to identify perpetrator subtypes based on variable paths hypothesized to influence physical violence toward both partners and nonhuman animals: (a) callousness and instrumental representations of aggression and (b) rejection-sensitivity and expressive representations of aggression. Strong associations emerged between callousness and instrumental representations and between rejection-sensitivity and expressive representations. For males, callousness directly predicted both IPV and animal abuse. For females, rejection-sensitivity predicted IPV. Instrumental representations mediated the relationship between callousness and animal abuse for females but not for males. Results suggest that IPV and animal abuse functionally interconnect, that perpetration of animal abuse may differ in function across gender, and that identifying distinct pathways to violence may facilitate violence prediction and prevention.

Henry, B.C. (2004). The relationship between animal cruelty, delinquency, and attitudes toward the treatment of animals. *Society & Animals*, 12(3), 185-207.

Previous research has identified a relationship between acts of cruelty to animals other than humans and involvement in other forms of antisocial behavior. The current study sought to extend these findings by examining this relationship among a sample of college students using a self-report delinquency methodology. In addition, the current study explored the relationship between a history of observing or engaging in acts of animal cruelty and attitudes of sensitivity/concern regarding the treatment of nonhuman animals. College students (n = 169) enrolled in an Introduction to Psychology course comprised the sample. Results indicated that those participants who observed acts of animal cruelty and those who participated in acts of animal cruelty had higher scores on a self-report delinquency scale than did those who had never observed or participated in acts of animal cruelty. Observation of acts of animal cruelty interacted with sex to predict attitudes toward the treatment of animals. Observation of animal cruelty and participation in animal cruelty affected delinquency scores independently. The current study discusses implications and directions for future research.

Henry, B.C., & Sanders, C.E. (2007). Bullying and animal abuse: Is there a connection? *Society & Animals*, 15(2), 107-126.

In recent years, school violence has become an issue of great concern among psychologists, educators, and law-enforcement officials. The purpose of the current study was to examine the relationship between

bullying, victimization, and abuse of nonhuman animals. The study assessed bullying and victimization experiences, animal abuse, and attitudes toward animals within a sample of 185 college males. Results of the study highlighted the important distinction between males involved in single episodes of animal abuse and those involved in multiple episodes of animal abuse. Further, results highlighted the significance of the bully/victim phenomenon with regard to participation in multiple acts of animal abuse. Those who were above the median with regard to both victimization and perpetration of physical bullying exhibited the highest rates of involvement in multiple acts of animal abuse and also exhibited the lowest levels of sensitivity with regard to cruelty-related attitudes pertaining to animals. The study discusses theoretical mechanisms linking bullying and animal abuse as well as directions for future research.

Hensley, C., Tallichet, S.E., & Dutkiewicz, E.L. (2011). Examining demographic and situational factors on animal cruelty motivations. *International Journal of Offender Therapy & Comparative Criminology*, 55(3), 492-502.

Because of the limited number of studies that have examined the motives for childhood animal cruelty, researchers continue to suggest that further systematic study is needed. In a replication of the Hensley and Tallichet study and based on survey data from 180 inmates at one medium- and one maximum-security prison in a southern U.S. state, the present study seeks to further develop this understanding by examining the impact of demographic and situational factors on a range of animal cruelty motivations. Of the 180 inmates, 103 (57%) committed acts of animal cruelty. Logistic regression analyses revealed that respondents who committed childhood animal cruelty out of anger were less likely to cover up their behavior and to be upset by their actions but were more likely to have repeated it. Those who committed animal cruelty to shock others were more likely to reside in urban areas and to have done it alone. Furthermore, respondents who committed animal cruelty for sexual reasons were more likely to have covered up their actions and to have engaged in it repeatedly.

LaCroix, C.A. (1998). Another weapon for combating family violence: Prevention of animal abuse. *Animal Law*, 4, 1.

In this article, the author postulates that there is more than a mere coincidence between various forms of family violence. Furthermore, that acts of cruelty towards family pets are a form of family violence that has been largely unrecognized by the legal community. Admitting that much research still needs to be done to establish that there is a link between abuse towards people and abuse towards animals, the author invites the reader to consider this multi-victim approach to family violence and offers the strengthening of animal cruelty laws as a solution to this grave societal problem.

Lockwood, R. (2000). Animal cruelty and human violence: the veterinarian's role in making the connection--the American experience. *The Canadian Veterinary Journal*, 41(11), 876.

A decade ago, stories of cruelty to animals and violence against humans attracted little media attention and were not a significant part of American popular culture. There was comparatively little professional interest in the topic, aside from the animal care and control community, and only limited discussion of the issue within the professions most directly affected by the abuse of animals and its links to other forms of violence - namely mental health, criminal justice, and veterinary medicine. The situation has changed dramatically in recent years. Serious cruelty-to-animal cases receive national attention in the United States and Canada. A recent incident of "road rage" in California involving a bichon frise thrown into traffic by an irate motorist launched a national manhunt and rewards in excess of \$120 000. Similarly, the case of a 13-year-old girl in Saskatoon charged in connection with a series of cat mutilations attracted attention throughout North America.

Long, D.D., & Kulkarni, S.J. (2013). Cross-reporting of interpersonal violence and animal cruelty: The Charlotte Project. *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, 40(4)*, 131-148.

The overlapping nature of interpersonal violence and animal cruelty is well established, however historically each issue has been addressed by distinct and separate protective systems. An innovative community-based project is described that utilized cross-training as a mechanism to foster collaboration between human services and animal control agencies. Findings are useful for professionals and community stakeholders interested in facilitating the cross-reporting of interpersonal violence and animal cruelty.

McPhedran, S. (2009). A review of the evidence for associations between empathy, violence, and animal cruelty. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 14(1)*, 1-4.

There is clear evidence that cruelty to animals may co-occur with other violent behaviors, such as assault. Animal cruelty, particularly towards domestic pets, tends to occur disproportionately within the wider context of intimate partner violence. A factor that may contribute to the associations between interpersonal violence and animal cruelty is a compromised ability to experience feelings of empathy. The current paper sought to provide an overview of empathy and its relationship to violence, with particular emphasis on attitudes towards animals.

Mellor, D., Yeow, J., Hapidzal, N., Yamamoto, T., Yokoyama, A., & Nobuza, Y. (2009). Childhood cruelty to animals: A tri-national study. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development, 40(4)*, 527-541.

Childhood cruelty to animals is a symptom of conduct disorder that has been linked to the perpetration of violence in later life. Research has identified several factors associated with its etiology, including social factors. However, no cross-cultural studies on this phenomenon have been reported. This study investigated childhood cruelty to animals in Japan, Australia and Malaysia. Parents of 1,358 children between the ages of 5 and 13 years completed the Children's Attitudes and Behaviours towards Animals questionnaire (CABTA) which assesses Typical and Malicious Cruelty to animals. Analyses revealed no overall differences between children from these countries on either scale. However, younger boys were more likely to be cruel than younger girls in each country, and younger children in Australia and Japan were more likely to be cruel than older children in those countries. The findings are discussed in relation to previous research, and recommendations for future studies are suggested.

Miller, C. (2001). Childhood animal cruelty and interpersonal violence. *Clinical Psychology Review, 21(5)*, 735-749.

Conduct disorder (CD) affects 2–9% of children in this country and has been found to be relatively stable through childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood. Although many behaviors that comprise CD have been studied, there has been a lack of research on cruelty to animals. It has been suggested that animal cruelty may be exhibited by 25% of CD children and that animal abuse may be the earliest symptom evident in CD children. In addition, several studies have found a significant relationship between childhood cruelty to animals and violence toward people. Available research is reviewed in this report, including early studies on the relationship between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, recent assessment attempts, and intervention techniques. Future research needs are also outlined and discussed.

Sauder, J. G. (2000). Enacting and enforcing felony animal cruelty laws to prevent violence against humans. *Animal Law, 6*, 1.

Felony animal anti-cruelty laws should be enacted and strictly enforced to protect animals and humans. Studies show that violence in the home, of any type, is self-perpetuating, creating generations of abusers and victims. Children who witness abuse are more likely to abuse animals and eventually humans; even minor acts of animal abuse are signs of a disturbed individual and should be taken seriously. Current animal

anti-cruelty laws fail to prevent this violence. This article proposes that stronger anti-cruelty laws must be enacted and properly enforced to prevent this cycle of violence.

Tallichet, S.E., & Hensley, C. (2004). Exploring the link between recurrent acts of childhood and adolescent cruelty and subsequent violent crime. *Criminal Justice Review*, 29(2), 304-316.

Studies demonstrating the potential link between childhood and adolescent acts of animal cruelty and later interpersonal violence toward humans remain ambiguous. Unfortunately, most of the research examining this possible link has failed to investigate *repeated* acts of animal cruelty or *recurrent* acts of violence toward humans. Using a sample of 261 inmates surveyed at medium and maximum security prisons in a southern state, this article examines how demographic attributes, childhood and adolescent characteristics, and repeated acts of cruelty toward animals impacted recurrent acts of interpersonal violence during adulthood. Respondents who had more siblings and who had committed repeated acts of animal cruelty were more likely to have engaged in recurrent acts of interpersonal violence, showing a possible link between recurrent acts of childhood and adolescent animal cruelty and subsequent violent crime.

Tallichet, S.E., Hensley, C., & Singer, S.D. (2005). Unraveling the methods of childhood and adolescent cruelty to nonhuman animals. *Society & Animals*, 13(2), 91-107.

Studies investigating the specific methods for committing nonhuman animal cruelty have only begun to expose the complexities of this particular form of violence. This study used a sample of 261 male inmates surveyed at both medium- and maximum-security prisons. The study examined the influence of demographic attributes (race, education, and residence while growing up). It also examined situational factors (was the abuse committed alone, did abuser try to conceal the act, was abuser upset by the abuse, what was the perpetrator's age at initial animal cruelty, how frequent was the animal abuse?) and specific methods of animal cruelty (shooting, drowning, hitting or kicking, choking, burning, sex). Regression analyses revealed that white inmates tended to shoot animals more frequently than did non-whites and were less likely to be upset or cover up their actions. Respondents who had sex with animals were more likely to have acted alone and to conceal their cruelty toward animals. However, we failed to find support for a potential link between childhood and adolescent animal cruelty methods and later violence against humans.

Thompson, K.L., & Gullone, E. (2006). An investigation into the association between the witnessing of animal abuse and adolescents' behavior toward animals. *Society & Animals*, 14(3), 221-243.

Research (Baldry, 2003; Flynn, 1999, 2000a; Henry, 2004) has linked witnessing abuse to nonhuman animals with the committal of such acts. This study reports frequency data based on adolescents' self-reported witnessing of animal abuse and involvement in animal-directed behaviors. The study investigates associations between witnessing abuse and engaging in both positive and negative animal-directed behaviors. 281 adolescents, 12-18 years of age, completed measures of animal cruelty and the humane treatment of animals. As predicted, the study found a history of witnessing animal abuse associated with significantly higher levels of animal cruelty. The study reported significantly higher levels of cruelty for those who had witnessed a friend, relative, parent, or sibling abuse an animal and significantly lower levels for those who had witnessed a stranger abuse an animal. Participants who "Frequently" witnessed animal abuse reported significantly higher levels of cruelty than those who viewed abuse "A few times". There was no association found between humane treatment of animals and the witnessing of animal abuse. Positive influences, peer mentors and humane education, would help to combat this cycle of abuse.

Volant, A.M., Johnson, J.A., Gullone, E., & Coleman, G.J. (2008). The relationship between domestic violence and animal abuse An Australian study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 23(9), 1277-1295.

Several North American studies have found a connection between domestic violence and animal abuse. This article reports on the first Australian research to examine this connection. A group of 102 women recruited through 24 domestic violence services in the state of Victoria and a nondomestic violence

comparison group (102 women) recruited from the community took part in the study. Significantly higher rates of partner pet abuse, partner threats of pet abuse, and pet abuse by other family members were found in the violent families compared with the nondomestic violence group. As hypothesized, children from the violent families were reported by their mothers to have witnessed and committed significantly more animal abuse than children from the nonviolent families. Logistic regression analyses revealed, for the group as a whole, that a woman whose partner had threatened the pets was 5 times more likely to belong to the intimate partner violence group.

Vollum, S., Buffington-Vollum, J., & Longmire, D.R. (2004). Moral disengagement and attitudes about violence toward animals. *Society & Animals*, 12(3), 209-235.

Despite a growing body of evidence linking nonhuman animal cruelty to violence toward humans and increasing knowledge of the pain and suffering that animals experience at the hands of humans, research on violence toward animals is relatively sparse. This study examines public attitudes about violence against animals and the criminal justice response to such acts. The study included, as part of a statewide survey, questions of Texas residents gauging the perceived severity of numerous violent acts against nonhuman animals as well as the preferred criminal justice response. The paper presents descriptive analyses and employs OLS Regression to assess the relationship between Bandura's (1990, 1999) mechanisms of moral disengagement and violence toward animals. The paper discusses implications for future research on animal cruelty and animal abuse.

BOOKS

Ascione, F. R. (1999). *Child abuse, domestic violence, and animal abuse: Linking the circles of compassion for prevention and intervention*. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press. ISBN: 9781557531438.

Evidence is mounting that animal abuse, frequently embedded in families scarred by domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, often predicts the potential for other violent acts. As early intervention is critical in the prevention and reduction of aggression, this book encourages researchers and professionals to recognize animal abuse as significant problem and a human public-health issue that should be included as a curriculum topic in training. The book is an interdisciplinary sourcebook of original essays that examines the relations between animal maltreatment and human interpersonal violence, expands the scope of research in this growing area, and provides practical assessment and documentation strategies to help professionals confronting violence do their jobs better by attending to these connections. This book brings together, for the first time, all of the leaders in this emerging field. They examine contemporary research and programmatic issues, encourage cross-disciplinary interactions, and describe innovative programs in the field today. The book also includes vivid first-person accounts from "survivors" whose experiences included animal maltreatment among other forms of family violence.

Ascione, F. R. (2008). *The international handbook of animal abuse and cruelty: Theory, research, and application*. West Lafayette, Ind: Purdue University Press. ISBN: 9781557534637.

Animal abuse as a predictor of abuse against humans has been documented extensively. Society's ever-rising violence has prompted experts to ask what alternatives are available to identify the early signs and stop the cycle. *The International Handbook of Animal Abuse and Cruelty: Theory, Research, and Application* is the authoritative, up-to-date compendium covering the historical, legal, research, and applied issues related to animal abuse and cruelty from scholars worldwide.

Ascione, F. R. (2005). *Children and animals: Exploring the roots of kindness and cruelty*. West Lafayette, Ind: Purdue University Press. ISBN: 9781557533777.

Animal abuse has been an acknowledged problem for centuries, but only within the past few decades has scientific research provided evidence that the maltreatment of animals often overlaps with violence toward people. The variants of violence, including bullying or assaults in a schoolyard, child abuse in homes, violence between adult intimate partners, community hostility in our streets and neighborhoods, and even the context of war, are now the subject of concerted research efforts. Very often, the association of these forms of violence with cruelty to animals has been found. The perpetrators of such inhumane treatment are often children and adolescents. How common are these incidents? What motivates human maltreatment of animals? Are there cultural, societal, neighborhood, and family contexts that contribute to cruelty to animals? How early in a child's life does cruelty to animals emerge and are these incidents always a sign of future interpersonal violence? Are there ways of preventing such cruelty? Can we intervene effectively with children who already have a history of abuse and violence? *Children and Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness and Cruelty* presents the current scientific and professional wisdom about the relation between the maltreatment of animals and interpersonal violence directed toward other human beings. However, the author, Frank R. Ascione, a noted expert in these areas, writes in a style and presents the findings in language that will be understandable to parents, teachers, counselors, clergy, animal welfare professionals, foster parents, mental health professionals, youth workers, law enforcement professionals, and anyone else whose work or interest crosses into the lives of children and adolescents.

Ascione, F. R., & United States. (2001). *Animal abuse and youth violence*. Washington, D.C: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

This report describes psychiatric, psychological, and criminal research linking animal abuse to violence perpetrated by juveniles and adults, with emphasis on the prevalence of cruelty to animals by children and adolescents and on the role of animal abuse as a possible symptom of conduct disorder.

Beirne, P. (2009). *Confronting animal abuse: Law, criminology, and human-animal relationships*. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN: 9780742547438.

Confronting Animal Abuse presents a powerful examination of the human-animal relationship and the laws designed to protect it. Piers Beirne, a leading scholar in the growing field of green criminology, explores the heated topic of animal abuse in agriculture, science, and sport, as well as what is known, if anything, about the potential for animal assault to lead to inter-human violence. He convincingly shows how from its roots in the Irish plow-fields of 1635 through today, animal-rights legislation has been primarily shaped by human interest and why we must reconsider the terms of human-animal relationships. Beirne argues that if violations of animals' rights are to be taken seriously, then scholars and activists should examine why some harms to animals are defined as criminal, others as abusive but not criminal and still others as neither criminal nor abusive. *Confronting Animal Abuse* points to the need for a more inclusive concept of harms to animals, without which the meaning of animal abuse will be overwhelmingly confined to those harms that are regarded as socially unacceptable, one-on-one cases of animal cruelty. Certainly, those cases demand attention. But so, too, do those other and far more numerous institutionalized harms to animals, where abuse is routine, invisible, ubiquitous and often defined as socially acceptable. In this pioneering, pro-animal book Beirne identifies flaws in our traditional understanding of human-animal relationships, and proposes a compelling new approach.

Brewster, M. P., & Reyes, C. (2013). *Animal cruelty: A multidisciplinary approach to understanding*. ISBN: 9781611630725.

Animal Cruelty is an anthology that addresses all critical aspects of animal cruelty including: its history and prevalence; related legislation; special types of cruelty (hoarding, poaching, blood sports, etc.); its link to other types of violence and crime; theories used to explain animal cruelty; the role of the media; and

emerging issues related to animal cruelty. The text is suitable for undergraduate and graduate classes in criminal justice, criminology, psychology, law, sociology, animal studies, and other disciplines, and is especially well-suited for use in classes on such topics as animal cruelty, animal welfare, deviant behavior, animal law, violent crime, veterinary studies, abnormal psychology, and animal husbandry.

Dziedzic, N. G. (2009). *Family violence*. Detroit, MI: Greenhaven Press. ISBN: 9780737732832.

This title explores issues related to family violence, including what contributes to family violence, is family violence a gender issue, are efforts to reduce family violence effective, and what are the consequences of family violence.

Fitzgerald, A. J. (2005). *Animal abuse and family violence: Researching the interrelationships of abusive power*. Lewiston, N.Y: Edwin Mellen Press. ISBN: 9780773461895.

Focuses on the participant's experiences and interpretations of how and why these forms of abuse coexist, and the degree to which the animal abuse perpetrated by their partners was instrumental or expressive.

Flynn, C. P. (2012). *Understanding animal abuse: A sociological analysis*. New York, NY: Lantern Books. ISBN: 9781590563397.

Until the last decade of the twentieth century, the abusive or cruel treatment of animals had received virtually no attention among academicians. Since then, however, empirical studies of animal abuse, and its relation to other forms of violence toward humans, have increased not only in number but in quality and stature. Sociologists, criminologists, social workers, psychologists, legal scholars, feminists, and others have recognized the myriad reasons that animal abuse is worthy of serious scholarly focus. In his overview of contemporary sociological understanding of animal abuse, Clifton Flynn asks why studying animal abuse is important, examines the connections between animal abuse and human violence, surveys the theses surrounding the supposed link between abuse of animals and humans, and lays out some theoretical perspectives on the issue. The book offers recommendations for policy and professionals and directions for future research. Ultimately, *Understanding Animal Abuse* challenges the reader to consider animal abuse as not limited just to harmful acts committed by individuals. It asks us to extend our notion of abuse to the systemic cruelty of factory farms and vivisection laboratories.

Gullone, E. (2012). *Animal cruelty, antisocial behaviour, and aggression: More than a link*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 9780230239234.

Through comprehensive reviews of theory and research related to animal cruelty, antisocial behaviour, and aggression, Gullone clearly demonstrates that animal cruelty behaviours are another form of antisocial behaviour, that appear right alongside human aggression and violence, as well as other crimes including non-violent crimes. Almost without exception, the perpetrators of animal cruelty crimes are the same individuals who carry out a host of other antisocial crimes or misdemeanors including assault, partner and child abuse, and bullying. For those whose criminal careers begin in childhood (i.e. the early starters), without intervention, it is highly likely that their antisocial activities will continue into their adult years, in most cases increasing in severity. It is therefore time to begin treating animal cruelty crimes more seriously, to prevent further harm not only against the innocent animals who will otherwise become the victims of these individuals but also against potential human victims.

Lawton, S. A. (2008). *Abuse and violence information for teens*. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics. ISBN: 9780780810082.

Teens experience violence in many forms, including bullying, fighting, hazing, dating violence, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and even homicide, and the physical and emotional scars resulting from these experiences can last an entire lifetime. *Abuse and Violence Information for Teens* offers comprehensive information on contributing factors and warning signs for the most commonly experienced types of abuse and violence among teens, along with facts about medical care and mental health services for the physical and emotional consequences. The book also gives tips on violence prevention and safety.

Linzey, A. (2009). *The link between animal abuse and human violence*. Portland, Ore: Sussex Academic Press. ISBN: 9781845193256.

Noting that many philosophers, including Thomas Aquinas, John Locke, and Immanuel Kant, have assumed that there is a link between cruelty to animals and violence to people, this work brings together international experts from seven countries to examine, in detail the relationships between animal abuse and child abuse, the emotional development of the child, family violence, and serial murder. Considering the implications for legal and social policy and the work of key professionals, this book also includes the critical overviews of existing research, a discussion of ethical issues, and a special focus on the abuse of wild animals. This book is essential reading for all those who have a stake in the debate, either because their academic work relates to the issues involved or because their professional role involves contact with the abused or the abusers, both human and animal. It is an authoritative and comprehensive volume on the link between animal abuse and human violence.

Lockwood, R., & Ascione, F. R. (1998). *Cruelty to animals and interpersonal violence: Readings in research and application*. ISBN: 9781557531056.

The landscapes of violence have become too familiar, too close to home. Despite decades of scientific research, we are only beginning to understand the roots of violence that connect child maltreatment, spouse and partner abuse, and aggression in our neighborhoods and communities. Cruelty to animals is often part of these landscapes of violence-at times, a strong link to destructive interpersonal relationships. Research on this link has recently received increased attention. However, the layperson, student, and professional interested in this link often face the daunting task of locating the critical references in this area of inquiry. *Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence* presents in one volume historical, philosophical, and research sources that explore the maltreatment of animals and the ways people hurt each other. Diverse disciplines are represented among the readings, including psychology and psychiatry, criminology, social work, veterinary science, and anthropology. A bibliography of related books and articles is provided for readers who wish to pursue this topic in greater detail.

Merz-Perez, L., & Heide, K.M. (2003). *Animal cruelty: Pathway to violence against people*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press. ISBN: 9780759103030.

Practitioners in the animal welfare field, law enforcement circles, and social services arena have often maintained that childhood cruelty to animals is a forerunner to violence against people. Does this behavior serve as a red flag with respect to extremely violent offenders, such as serial killers? Is it part of the cycle of violence associated with domestic abuse? Perez and Heide provide the first scientific examination of this relationship and examine issues of cruelty across different types of animals (pet, wild, stray, farm). The authors evaluate both qualitative and quantitative data to identify correlations between childhood cruelty and adult violent behavior, utilizing interviews and criminal records of violent and nonviolent inmates in a maximum security prison. Their findings will be of importance to a diverse audience, including researchers and practitioners in the field of juvenile justice, violence and domestic abuse, social welfare, animal welfare and animal rights and developmental psychologists and counselors, as well as law enforcement officers,

district attorneys and judges, county and municipal officials, animal control officers, veterinarians, and school administrators, especially those concerned with intervention and prevention strategies.

Zilney, L.A. (2007). *Linking animal cruelty and family violence*. Youngstown, N.Y: Cambria Press. ISBN: 9781934043677.

Linking Animal Cruelty and Family Violence is an innovative and exciting study in that another theoretical link in the causal chain leading to familial violence has been identified. The connection between animal abuse and child abuse sets up a diagnostic behavior that clinicians (physicians, psychologists, and social workers), teachers, and police (animal and crimes of violence) can use in generating data bases to monitor family abuse and perhaps possibly explain some types of homicide. Any indicators that facilitate longitudinal monitoring of potential perpetrators of crimes of violence would reduce the levels of victimization in society. This study is both theoretically exciting and pragmatically useful. This book will find a welcome audience among academics and practitioners.