



# ANIMAL CRUELTY: EFFECTS IN SOCIETY

*The Developmental Relationship  
between Animal Abuse and Domestic  
Violence*

**Animal Cruelty Reporting Hotline 518-755-9517**



# *Who is the SPCA*



We are a 501(c) (3) charity, not a government agency. We are not funded with any tax dollars. Investigators employed by the Schenectady County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Law Enforcement Division are designated New York State Peace Officers under New York State Criminal Procedure Law section 2.10 paragraph 7. Investigators carry firearms and have custodial arrest powers. When performing their duties they may issue appearance tickets for penal law, environmental conservation law, and recreation and historic preservation law violations. Investigators may also issue uniform navigation summons and simplified traffic information's (see NYS CPL 2.20).

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## *What is the SPCA*

Investigators with the SPCA primarily conduct criminal investigations, execute search warrants, and make arrests for misdemeanor and felony violations of New York State's Animal Cruelty Laws (codified as New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Article 26).

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# *Where is the SPCA*

*New York State Not For Profit Corporation Law  
Section 1403(a)(1)*



Any corporation for the prevention of cruelty to animals may exercise its powers and conduct its operations in any adjacent county in which no such corporation exists until the establishment of such a corporation therein. New York State Criminal Procedure Law 140.25(5).

The "geographical area of employment" of any peace officer employed as such by any private organization consists of any place in the state where he is, at a particular time, acting in the course of his particular duties or employment.

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## *What we don't do*

Investigators do not “catch dogs,” get involved with “dangerous dogs” or respond to complaints about a dog barking late at night. You should contact an animal control officer to assist with those issues and to capture stray and/or lost animals. Investigators are not ‘game wardens.’ Assistance with enforcing the NYS Environmental Conservation Law should be referred to the nearest NYS DEC Police Officer. We do not catch wild animals or do pest control. We do not deal with the disposal of dead animals on or alongside a roadway. You should normally contact the highway department for carcass removal.

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# *Law Enforcement*

It is imperative that first responders understand the connection between animal abuse and family violence.

When responding to domestic calls it is imperative to be alert for signs that children and/or pets might be victimized.

Children may be more willing to discuss what has happened to a pet than their own victimization.

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# *Upholding the Law*

## *Animal Law 371*



A constable or police officer **must**, and any agent or officer of any duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals *may* issue an appearance ticket pursuant to section 150.20 of the criminal procedure law, summon or arrest, and bring before a court or magistrate having jurisdiction, any person offending against any of the provisions of article twenty-six of the agriculture and markets law. Any officer or agent of any of said societies may lawfully interfere to prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty upon any animal in his presence. Any of said societies may prefer a complaint before any court, tribunal or magistrate having jurisdiction, for the violation of any law relating to or affecting animals and may aid in presenting the law and facts before such court, tribunal or magistrate in any proceeding taken.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 351*



A person or persons  
found guilty of violating the Agriculture and  
Markets Law 351 by training with the intent to  
fight, permitting the violation on his/her premises,  
owning or breeding with the intent to fight or  
charging a spectator a monetary fee can be  
penalized up to 4 years of imprisonment and/or a  
\$25,000 fine

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 353*

*Overdriving, torturing and injuring animals; failure to provide proper sustenance*

Any person who overdrives, overloads, tortures or cruelly beats or unjustifiably injures, maims, mutilates or kills any animal, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to himself or to another, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or neglects or refuses to furnish it such sustenance or drink, or causes, procures or permits any animal to be overdriven, overloaded, tortured, cruelly beaten, or unjustifiably injured, maimed, mutilated or killed, or to be deprived of necessary food or drink, or who willfully sets on foot, instigates, engages in, or in any way furthers any act of cruelty to any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 353 A*

### *Aggravated Cruelty to Animals*



A person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals when, with no justifiable purpose, he or she intentionally kills or intentionally causes serious physical injury to a companion animal with aggravated cruelty. For purposes of this section, "aggravated cruelty" shall mean conduct which: (i) is intended to cause extreme physical pain; or (ii) is done or carried out in an especially depraved or sadistic manner.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 353D*

### *Confinement of companion animals in vehicles: Extreme temperatures*

A person shall not confine a companion animal in a motor vehicle in extreme heat or cold without proper ventilation or other protection from such extreme temperatures where such confinement places the companion animal in imminent danger of death or serious physical injury due to exposure to such extreme heat or cold.

Police officers, peace officers or peace officers acting as agents of a duly incorporated humane society removing an animal or animals from a vehicle pursuant to this section shall place a written notice on or in the vehicle, bearing the name of the officer or agent, and the department or agency and address where the animal(s) will be taken.

Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of subdivision one of this section shall be guilty of a violation, punishable by a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for a first offense, and a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars for a second and subsequent offenses.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 355*

### *Abandonment to Animals*

A person being the owner or possessor, or having charge or custody of an animal, who abandons such animal, or leaves it to die in a street, road or public place, or who allows such animal, if it become disabled, to lie in a public street, road or public place more than three hours after he receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 356*

*Failure to provide proper food and drink to impounded animal*

A person who, having impounded or confined any animal, refuses or neglects to supply to such animal during its confinement a sufficient supply of good and wholesome air, food, shelter and water, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 360*

*Poisoning or Attempting to Poison an Animal*

A person who unjustifiably administers any poisonous or noxious drug or substance to a horse, mule or domestic cattle or unjustifiably exposes any such drug or substance with intent that the same shall be taken by horse, mule or by domestic cattle, whether such horse, mule or domestic cattle be the property of himself or another, is guilty of a felony.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 361*

*Interference with or injury to certain domestic animals*

A person who willfully or unjustifiably interferes with, injures, destroys or tampers with or who willfully sets on foot, instigates, engages in or in any way furthers any act by which any horse, mule, dog or any other domestic animal used for the purposes of racing, breeding or competitive exhibition of skill, breed or stamina, is interfered with, injured, destroyed or tampered with, or any act tending to produce such interference, injury, destruction or tampering, whether such horse, mule, dog or other domestic animal be the property of himself or another, is guilty of a felony.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 369*

### *Interference with officers*

Any person who shall interfere with or obstruct any constable or police officer or any officer or agent of any duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals in the discharge of his duty to enforce the laws relating to animals shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 371*

### *Powers of Peace Officers*

A constable or police officer must, and any agent or officer of any duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals may issue an appearance ticket pursuant to section 150.20 of the criminal procedure law, summon or arrest, and bring before a court or magistrate having jurisdiction, any person offending against any of the provisions of article twenty-six of the agriculture and markets law. Any officer or agent of any of said societies may lawfully interfere to prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty upon any animal in his presence. Any of said societies may prefer a complaint before any court, tribunal or magistrate having jurisdiction, for the violation of any law relating to or affecting animals and may aid in presenting the law and facts before such court, tribunal or magistrate in any proceeding taken.

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# *New York Law*

## *Animal Law Section 372*

### *Issuance of Warrants upon Complaints*



Upon complaint under oath or affirmation to any magistrate authorized to issue warrants in criminal cases, that the complainant has just and reasonable cause to suspect that any of the provisions of law relating to or in any wise affecting animals are being or about to be violated in any particular building or place, such magistrate shall immediately issue and deliver a warrant to any person authorized by law to make arrests for such offenses, authorizing him to enter and search such building or place, and to arrest any person there present found violating any of said laws, and to bring such person before the nearest magistrate of competent jurisdiction, to be dealt with according to law.

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# *The Correlation*

In the United States and Canada, between 70 and 85 percent of female victims of domestic violence who left their abusers reported violence against their pets.

The threat of violence against pets is used to coerce their victims to return or to punish them if they leave. Some abusers force their victims to *participate* in the animal abuse in order to emotionally abuse and degrade them.

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## *Women & Animal Abuse*

In recent years, a strong and surprising connection has been documented linking animal abuse and domestic violence in 85 % of homes where women or children are being abused, a pet is also suffering abuse.

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# *Women & Animal Abuse Cont.*



Sixty percent of women who are the victims of domestic violence have had a pet killed by violence. Also, up to 40 percent of battered women delay going to a shelter because they fear what will happen to their pet left behind.

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# *Children & Animal Abuse*



One study found that in 88 percent of homes where children were physically abused, pets were mistreated too.

Victims of child abuse may themselves injure their pets in order to rehearse their own suicide, to “protect” the pet from parental torture, or because they identify with and imitate their abuser.

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# *Children and the Negative Impacts of Animal Abuse*



People who abused pets as children are far more likely to commit murder or other violent crimes as an adult. In fact the most reliable predictors of adult violence is animal abuse as a child, even as young as 6 years old.

A child who watches his pet or his mother being abused grows up thinking this is the norm. Children can become de-sensitized to violence. They learn that you demonstrate that you are more powerful than another creature by hitting and kicking.

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# *Abuser & Abused*

## ***ABUSER***

70% of Abusers have records of their own crimes

Animal Abuse is the first warning sign for the abuse to spread

## **Animal Abuse**

Can be intentional, neglect, to degrade a family member or discipline a child/family member

### **Child Abuse Victims**

Statistics show, greater chance of becoming an abuser when child is subjected to ongoing abuse

### **Domestic Violence Victims**

70-85% of domestic violence victims have also reported violence towards animals

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# *Indicators of Violence*

The 3 main factors that the FBI looks for when profiling a violent killer are:

- *Being abused as a child*
- *Reacting by torturing animals*
- *Becoming violent to humans*

Animal Cruelty is used as a means of identifying possible suspects in violent crimes and noted as an indicator of possible future crimes

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# *Similarities between Animal Abuse & Domestic Violence*

Abusers are looking for power and control

They prey on those more vulnerable

Behavior changes such as regression, relapse in training

Failure-to-thrive

Hostile and Untrusting

Desperate to please, show insincere kindness

Show love for the abuser

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# *National Crime Statistics*

48% of convicted rapists abused animals in the past

70%-80% of spousal abuse victims situations have  
also included animals

88% of child abuse situations have reported cruelty  
to animals

**100% of serial killers have abused animals**

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# *Juvenile Statistics*

50% of all children and 66% of all male children are exposed to cruelty to animals

20% of all children are the abusers

1<sup>st</sup> experience is usually around the ages of 6-12

Animal abuse is an indicator of child psychopathology

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# *Juvenile Violence*

Every year more than 4,000 kids under the age of 18 murder other children approximately in the same age range

5,000 kids commit suicide

**Most of them were being abused and started abusing animals by their teenage years**

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# *Juveniles: Animal Abusers to Killers*



**Eric Harris & Dylan Klebold: Columbine**

Both bragged to friends about  
mutilating animals



Killed 13 and wounded 20 more in the  
Columbine High School Shooting

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# *Juveniles: Animal Abusers to Killers*

**Kip Kinkle**

*Voted by Classmates*

*"Most Likely to Start World War III".*



Decapitated Animals and mounted them on sticks

Dissected live squirrels

Blew up cows around his neighborhood

Killed his parents

Went on to kill 2 classmates and wound 22 more

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# *Juveniles: Animal Abusers to Killers*

## **Luke Woodham**

“I made my first kill,... it was true beauty”

- Luke Woodham talking to police about the death of Sparkle



Tortured, beat and set fire to his family dog “Sparkle”  
Sprayed lighter fluid down her throat

Killed his mother by stabbing her to death

Went on and killed 2 classmates and injured 7 others

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# *Adolescence to Adulthood*

Juveniles who have a history of animal abuse tend to repeat their actions.

Children who grow up abusing or being abuse become emotionally desensitized.

This becomes a severe psychological issue that often leads into more violent crimes.

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# *Violence, and it's progression*



**Albert DeSalvo**, the "Boston Strangler" trapped dogs and cats in orange crates and shot arrows through the boxes in his youth, then went on to kill 13 women.

**Carl Kenneth Shriner**, had been widely known in his neighborhood as the man who put firecrackers in dog's rectums and strung up cats progressed into raping, stabbing, and mutilating a 7-year-old boy.

**Brenda Spencer**, repeatedly abused cats and dogs by setting their tails on fire among other forms of mutilation moved on to kill two children and injure 9 others in a San Diego school

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# *Animal Abuser to Serial Killer*



The United States FBI estimates that there are approximately 500 serial killers operating around the US at one time.

- All known serial killers tortured animals
- All known serial killers were abused as children
- The number of serial killers have increased in recent years
- Most serial killers torture and savagely kill their victims

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# *Notorious Animal Abusers turned Serial Killers*



## **Charles Manson**



Tortured animals in satanic sacrifices

Responsible for 35 ritual murders

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# *Notorious Animal Abusers turned Serial Killers*



## **Henry Lee Lucas**



Severely tortured animals as a child  
Believed to be responsible for 100-200 murders

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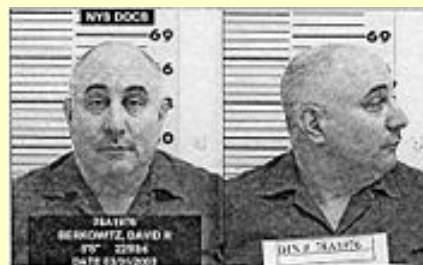
# *Notorious Animal Abusers turned Serial Killers*



## **David Berkowitz aka “Son of Sam”**



**Age 8**



**2003 Mug shot**

Began torturing animals before age 10

Set 1,400 fires

Killed 6 young adults

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# *Investigate*

Take the time to thoroughly investigate animal complaints because the investigation could lead to animal abuse, child abuse, spousal abuse discovery or a community wide dog fighting ring.

Any concern for an animal is usually more than a suspicion.



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# *The Bare Necessities*



For all dogs that are left outdoors in inclement weather, a housing facility must be provided with these bare necessities:

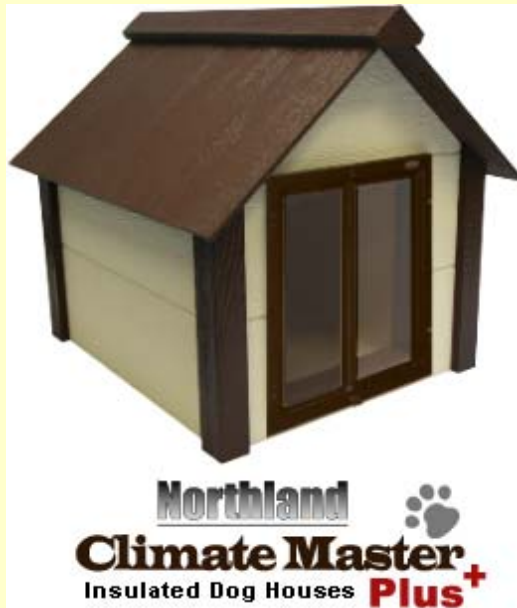
- Waterproof roof
  - Be structurally sound with appropriate insulation
  - Regularly cleaned to maintain a healthy and sanitary environment
- Allow for effective removal of excretions, other waste material; dirt and trash.
- Be constructed to allow each dog adequate freedom of movement to make normal postural adjustments; the ability to stand up, turn around and lie down with its limbs outstretched

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# *Dog Housing*

Appropriate



Inappropriate



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## *What you need to know*



Be sure to document any signs of animal abuse and **report** it to the appropriate agency empowered to investigate animal cruelty.

Many victims will not go forward with the prosecution of their abuser. However, prosecution on animal cruelty charges can result in incarceration or treatment equivalent to what might result from a domestic violence prosecution.

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# *Stop the Cycle*

Urge your local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, and schools to take cruelty to animals seriously. Those charged with protecting our communities and animals must send a strong message that violence against any feeling creature—human or nonhuman—is unacceptable.

Be aware of signs of neglect or abuse in children and animals, and immediately report suspected crimes to authorities. Take children seriously if they report that animals are being neglected or mistreated. Some children won't talk about their own suffering but will talk about an animal's.

Don't ignore even minor acts of cruelty to animals by children. Talk to the child and the child's parents. If necessary, call a social worker

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# *New York State Social Services*

## *Law Section 413(1)(a)*



The following persons and officials are required to report or cause a report to be made

in accordance with this title when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child,

or when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or maltreated child where the parent, guardian, custodian or other person legally responsible for such child comes before them in their professional or official capacity

and states from personal knowledge facts, conditions or circumstances which, if correct, would render the child an abused or maltreated child: ...peace officer...or other law enforcement official

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## *Use your voice.*

If you witness animal cruelty in progress and do not know the number to the appropriate agency, CALL 911. Animal cruelty is a CRIME, and the police dispatcher will be able to determine which department should respond.

Repeat offenses of animal cruelty crimes are a rule, not an exception - and there are many times when an investigation into an animal cruelty crime uncovers human-related crimes as well. When officers go to the home to investigate an animal cruelty issues, they often find evidence of domestic abuse, child neglect, drugs and other dangerous situations.

**Reporting animal cruelty could save a human life.**

*Animal abuse is a crime.*

Do **NOT** attempt to deal with the crime yourself. The authorities are there to help you, and the sooner they are involved, the better.

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[http://www.pet-abuse.com/pages/animal\\_cruelty/reporting\\_abuse.php](http://www.pet-abuse.com/pages/animal_cruelty/reporting_abuse.php)



“The evolution of a more gentle and benign relationship in human society might be enhanced by our promotion of a more positive and nurturing ethic between children and animals.”- Kellert

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Questions?

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