

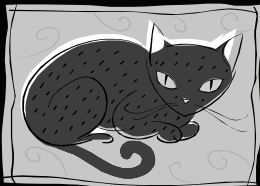


You Can Help. We ALL Can.

The link between animal abuse and domestic violence

Why do batterers threaten, abuse, or kill animals?

- To demonstrate and confirm power and control over the family.
- To isolate the victim and children.
- To eliminate competition for attention.
- To force the family to keep violence a secret.
- To teach submission.
- To retaliate for acts of independence and self-determination.
- To perpetuate the context of terror.
- To prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her/him to return.
- To punish the victim for leaving.
- To degrade the victim through involvement in the abuse.



Is animal abuse a form of domestic violence? YES.

- Animal abuse exposes the deliberateness of battering rather than loss of control.
- Animal abuse and child abuse are closely related.
- Animal abuse is often a tool used by batterers to emotionally control or coerce victims.
- Threatening, injuring, or killing animals can indicate the potential for increased violence or lethality.
- Victims may postpone leaving out of fear for their pets' safety.
- Identifying animal abusers can help identify other victims of violence within the family.

Domestic Abusers use Pets as Power

Many abusers use the family pet as a control mechanism by threatening or inflicting cruelty on the animal. Nearly one in four battered women has reported that their concern for their pet's welfare has prevented them from leaving an unhealthy relationship.

Abusers can also use this kind of control to demonstrate power over their partner or child. Common types of violence include shooting, beating, drowning,



burning, and bone breaking. Abusers also use animal violence as a way to try to get back at or harm their partners for leaving. Abusers believe that once their partner realizes their animal is being abused, they will be more likely to return home, fearing for the animal's safety.

A study done by the LaCrosse Wisconsin Community Coalition Against Domestic Violence found that 86% of abused women reported having pets. Of those, 80% of them experienced partner violence toward their pet. Additionally, 74% of battered women in shelters had pets, and 71% of them reported that their abusers threatened to harm or kill the pet to manipulate them.

What can victims of domestic violence do to protect their pets?

1. Develop an emergency plan for sheltering your pets, yourself, and your children
Safe shelter for pets: The **Longmont Humane Society** has implemented a program to assist victims of domestic violence called the **Safekeep Program**. This program provides victims the opportunity to leave their animals at the shelter for up to six weeks. Pets will be well taken care of, and will not be adopted out. "We provide this service so victims of domestic violence have the opportunity to keep the animal, if it is the right thing to do for their family," states De Fowler, Director of Operations for Longmont Humane Society. Call 303.772.1232 for more information about the Safekeep Program.
Safe shelter for domestic violence victims and children: For emergency shelter or counseling for women and children, contact Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley at 303.772.4422.
2. Establish ownership of the pets (obtain an animal license, proof of vaccinations or veterinary receipts in victim's name to help prove you own the pets).
3. Prepare the pets for departure (collect vaccination and medical records, collar and identification, medication, bowls, bedding, etc.).
4. Ask for assistance from law enforcement or animal care and control officers to reclaim the pets if left behind.



Protecting Animals

Animal abuse is a serious matter. Violence against animals can be used as a substitute for human violence. If you know someone who you suspect is abusing an animal, please seek help. The Longmont Police Department Animal Control (303.651.8500) or the Longmont Humane Society staff (303.772.1232) would be more than willing to speak with you privately and confidentially about your concerns.

Children and Animal Cruelty: What Parents Should Know

As natural "explorers," don't all children sometimes harm animals?

Absolutely not. While some children kill insects, few torture pets or other small creatures. If allowed to harm animals, children are more likely to be violent later in life. Animal cruelty, like any other violence, should never be attributed to a stage of development.

What does animal cruelty indicate about family dynamics?

Researchers say that a child's violence against animals often represents displaced hostility and aggression stemming from neglect or abuse of the child or of another family member. Animal cruelty committed by any member of a family, whether parent or child, often means child abuse occurs in that family.



What should I do if my child or a neighbor's child has harmed an animal?

If you suspect your child has deliberately harmed an animal, talk to your child. Try to discover what caused

the cruelty. Communicate with your child, your child's teachers, and your child's friends. The more you know about your child's activities, the better able you will be to guide your child in making compassionate and humane choices. Something as serious as animal cruelty, however, should not be handled alone. Seek help from a family counselor, school counselor, pediatrician, or clergy member. If you know another child who has harmed an animal, report what you know immediately to the Longmont Police Department or Longmont Humane Society. Alert the child's school principal or guidance counselor.

What should I do if an otherwise "good" child harms an animal one time?

Though innocent exploration may be corrected simply by talking with the child, any time a child causes an animal pain or suffering, you should be concerned.

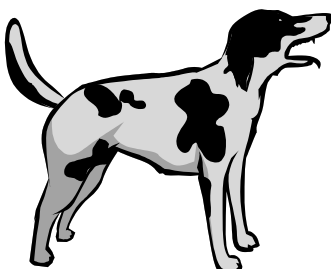
What is the difference between innocent exploration and calculated animal cruelty?

Innocent exploration may come of simple curiosity, but calculated animal cruelty is motivated by a desire to harm. While even innocent acts of cruelty should be addressed, it is particularly important to intervene when a child is insensitive to the obvious distress of an animal, repeats a harmful behavior, or derives pleasure from causing an animal pain.

How can I teach my child to respect animals?

Teach by example; use real-life situations to instill a sense of respect for all life. Invite your child to help you feed the birds or rescue a bug. With older children, discuss animal-cruelty cases publicized in the news. Encourage children to speak up for animals.

(taken from the United States Humane Society website)



Are YOU at risk for partner abuse?

The following are some of the warning signs and personality traits of partners who are abusive:

Jealousy	Unrealistic expectations
Controlling behavior	Cruelty to animals or children
Quick involvement	Uses violence to solve problems
Isolation	Blames others for problems
Hypersensitivity	Blames others for feelings
Verbal Abuse	Breaking or striking objects
Past battering	Jekyll-and-Hyde personality
Threats of violence	Any force used during an argument
Has a violent past	

For non-emergency resources for victims, offenders, as well as friends, relatives, and co-workers, contact LEVI at 303.774.4534. For emergency shelter or counseling for women and children, call Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley at 303.772.4422. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Important Longmont Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
LEVI	303.774.4534
Longmont Humane Society	303.772.1232
Longmont Police Animal Control	303.651.8500
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	303.772.4422



Other Area Resources

Other Law Enforcement Agencies

(Non-emergency phone numbers)

Boulder Police	303.441.3300
Boulder Co Sheriff	303.441.3600
University of Colorado (CU)	303.492.7311
Erie Police	303.926.2700
Lafayette Police	303.665.5571
Louisville Police	303.666.6531
Nederland Marshall	303.258.3250

Other Battered Women's Services

Boulder Safehouse*	303.444.2424
Tri-City Office	303.673.9000
A Woman's Place	970.356.4226

Other Agencies

Boulder Co. Court Clerks Office	
Boulder*	303.441.1000
Longmont*	303.682.6892
Community Corrections*	303.441.3690
Dept. of Social Services*	303.441.1000
Longmont*	303.678.6000
Tri-City*	303.666.5650
District Attorney's Office*	303.441.3700
Domestic Abuse Prevention Project*	303.441.4725
Intervention	303.442.0042
Boulder County Probation	303.441.3780

**Se Habla Espanol*



LEVI participants include: Blue Sky Bridge, Boulder County Department of Social Services, Boulder County District Attorney's Office, Boulder County Legal Services, Boulder County Probation, Counseling Services of Longmont, Community & Neighborhood Resources, Domestic Abuse Prevention Project (DAPP), DART (Defense Awareness Response Training), Inn Between of Longmont, Intervention, Inc., Longmont Humane Society, Longmont Municipal Probation, Longmont Police Department, Longmont Senior Services, Longmont United Hospital, Mental Health Center of Boulder County, MESA (Moving to End Sexual Assault), OUR Center, RMOMS (Rocky Mountain Offender Management Systems), Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley, St. Vrain Family Center, Teaching Peace (LCJP), Victim Compensation, Workforce Boulder County

www.LongmontDomesticViolence.org