Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence: What’s New?

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President
Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
The “Links” Between animal abuse and other forms of family violence

Awareness of these connections should be a given for everyone in law enforcement, social services, mental health and other professions – but it still is not.
Recent Progress and Developments

• Research

• Legislation, Public Policy and Court Decisions

• Raising Public Awareness and Building Community Coalitions

• Protecting animal and human victims

• Raising Professional Awareness and Response

• Future Needs
Research and Publications
Understanding Animal Abuse
A Sociological Analysis
CLIFTON P. FLYNN, Ph.D.
Veterinary Forensic Pathology

Volume 1
Reporting Animal Cruelty

THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARIAN: ESTABLISHING PROTOCOLS TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT SUSPECTED ANIMAL CRUELTY IN OKLAHOMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role &amp; Responsibilities</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Actions</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Considerations</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits &amp; Footnotes</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An up-to-date bibliography of hundreds of readings and resources on the animal cruelty-interpersonal violence link is available for free download from:

www.animaltherapy.net
The Animal Cruelty Crime Connection
Recent Research

Cruelty to Animals and Criminality

Working from a subsample obtained from the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Unit III — Crimes Against Children, the criminal histories of 150 adult men arrested for physically abusing, sexually assaulting, or neglecting animals between 2004 and 2009 were reviewed.

• 144 of the 150 offenders (96%) had other criminal charges prior to and/or within six years after the animal cruelty arrest. 41% were arrested for interpersonal violence and 18% were arrested for a sex offense such as rape or child molestation.
• Assault was the most common crime in the offenders’ criminal histories.
• Common motivations for animal cruelty included perceived misbehavior and attempted retaliation against the animal or a person.
• Significant relationships were discovered between active animal cruelty (such as beating or stabbing) and both interpersonal violence and substance abuse as well as between sexually abusing animals and sexual offending against humans.

Recent Research

School Shootings

In a new study of school shootings, Arnold Arluke and Eric Madfis reported that 43% of perpetrators also commit animal cruelty, but that specific types of animal abuse – especially torture done up-close and against socially valued humanized pets such as dogs and cats – might serve as better indicators than more socially acceptable, “everyday” animal maltreatment.

The Interpersonal Violence – Animal Cruelty Connection
1875 cartoon depicting ASPCA founder Henry Bergh responding to the killing of a cat in a fit of family violence
Why Do Batterers/Child Abusers Also Abuse Animals?

• To exercise power and control
• To perpetuate the context of terror
• To further isolate their victims
• To force family (and fiends) to keep violence a secret
• To retaliate for acts of independence
• To prevent victim from leaving or punish her for leaving
• Because animal abuse may be minimized, carry few penalties or be socially sanctioned
Power & Control Wheel

Using Coercion And Threats
- Makes and/or carries out threats to hurt me; Threatens to commit suicide; Threatens to report/embarrass/out me to an agency or others;
- Threatens to leave me; Pressures me to commit illegal actions.

Using Intimidation
- Makes me feel afraid or unsafe with actions, gestures, looks;
- Throws things; Breaks things; Damages my property; Abuses your pets; Displays weapons.

Using Economic Abuse
- Prevents me from getting or keeping a job; Makes me ask for money; Gives me an allowance; Takes my money; Refuses to let me know about or have access to shared income.

Using Privilege
- Treats me like a servant; Acts like the “head of the household”;
- Makes all the big decisions; Defines each person’s role in the relationship; Uses gender, race, class, etc. stereotypes against me.

Using Children
- Makes me feel guilty about the children; Uses the children to relay messages; Uses visitation to harass me; Threatens to take the children away.

Using Isolation
- Controls what I do, who I see, what I read, where I go and who I talk to; Limits my volunteer, religious or outside activities;
- Monitors my behavior and communication; Uses jealousy to justify actions.

Using Emotional Abuse
- Puts me down;
- Makes me feel bad about myself; Calls me names; Makes me think I am crazy, misinterpreting or over-reacting;
- Plays mind games; Humiliates me; Makes me feel guilty or ashamed.

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Makes light of the abuse;
- Doesn’t take my concerns seriously; Denies abuse ever happened; Shifts blame for the abuse to me by saying I caused it.
The “Power and Control Wheel” of Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Isolation: Refusing to allow her to take her pet to her vet. Prohibiting her from socializing her dog with other dogs.

Emotional abuse: Disappearing, giving away or killing pets to take away her source of unconditional love. Forced participation in animal sexual abuse.

Threats: To harm or kill her pet if she leaves or asserts any independence.

Economic Abuse: Refusing to allow her to spend money on pet food or vet care.

Legal Abuse: Custody battles over pets. Filing theft charges if she leaves with the pet.

Intimidation: Harming or killing pet: “Next time it’ll be you…” Targeting pets of family/friends who aid her escape.

Denying & Blaming: Blaming her or the pet for his cruelty. Killing the pet and saying it didn’t matter because the pet was old.

Using Children: Harming/killing children’s pets to intimidate them. Blaming the “disappearance” of the family pet on her to create a wedge between her and the children.
Recent Research

IPV Surveys

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network conducted a 2012 survey that gathered data from 21 of Ohio’s 88 counties. Findings included:

• 55% of respondents currently had pets

• 42.5% indicated their pets had been harmed or threatened as part of the abuse in their relationship

• 96% of the abusers were adult males, segmented among boyfriends, husbands, fathers or stepfathers, or others

• 43% of persons with pets believed their pets may be killed, physically abused, neglected or abandoned if they left their home now

• 22% of all respondents, and 41% of persons currently having pets, indicated pet safety has or would have an impact on their decision of whether or not to leave.
Recent Research

IPV Surveys

2012 - The Alberta SPCA has released a landmark research report, *Inside the Cruelty Connection: The Role of Animals in Decision-Making by Domestic Violence Victims in Rural Alberta*. The study by Drs. Donna Crawford and Veronika Bohac Clarke, culminates a year-long survey of 296 women residing in five rural and suburban women’s shelters in the Canadian province.

Key findings include:

- **36% of abused women with animals reported that their abuser threatened and/or harmed animals** – and **85% of such threats were carried out**.

- **85% of women with children whose animals were threatened reported that the children witnessed the incident** – and in half of those cases, it was considered to be the child’s own pet.

- **27% of abused women with animals were afraid to seek help out of concern for their animals; more than half of these delayed leaving because of their animal(s)**.
Recent Research

The Colorado NICHD Study

The project was funded by grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the ASPCA through the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work. Teams interviewed 291 pet-owning mothers and their children at 22 domestic violence shelters and programs in Colorado, and then conducted follow-up interviews 18 months later with 180 of the mother/child pairs.
Recent Research

The Colorado NICHD Study

• 32% of families left their pets with family or friends, but 35% were forced to leave their animals at home or with their abuser. Only 5% of pets were with the family in the shelter.

• 30% of the women reported their partner threatened the animals; 26% reported the animals were harmed or killed. 10% said their child had harmed an animal. 26% said a child had witnessed harm to an animal.

84% of the women whose animals were harmed said they were very close to their pets and relied on them as a source of comfort and friendship.

• 17% of the children said someone (usually the mother’s partner) threatened an animal. 23% said the partner tried to hurt the animal on purpose. 21% of the children saw the pet get hurt or killed.

• 95% of the children who witnessed animals being harmed said they were upset by the incident.
Recent Research
The Colorado NICHD Study

• Children were more than twice as likely to harm an animal when the mother’s partner had harmed an animal.

• Of the children who harmed an animal, 69% felt sorry for it. Harmed animals included mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, worms, and insects.

• Children who were exposed to animal abuse were 5 times more likely to have “severe problems” and 3 times more likely to be “struggling” versus their more resilient peers.

• Physical violence against mothers was higher when partners had threatened – but not harmed – their pets.
Recent Research

The Colorado NICHD Study

The study also presented **recommendations** for advocates including:

• As a standard practice on all intake calls and interviews, after asking about children also ask whether she has any animals and whether they have been hurt or threatened.

• Help children and mothers to process any sadness or guilt regarding animal abuse or having to leave a pet.

• Teach families how to include pets in their safety planning, such as: identifying family or friends who can care for the pets; documenting all ownership records in her name; including pets in protection-from-abuse orders; and keeping pet supplies, food, toys and medications in the emergency “go” bag.
Recent Research

Victims of IPV in Canada

Data were gathered from 86 abused women receiving services from domestic violence shelters across Canada. The study provides evidence to support the conclusion that women who report that their partner mistreated their pets are themselves at significantly greater risk of more frequent and severe forms of IPV, specifically psychological, physical, and sexual abuse. The findings point to the urgency of better understanding and mitigating the unique barriers to leaving an abusive relationship faced by women with companion animals.

Recent Research

Data from IPV Victim’s Forums

Seventy-four stories were analyzed qualitatively using thematic analysis. The study investigated the circumstances surrounding the abuse, how victims explain abusers’ behaviors, whether certain behavior patterns could be identified, and the effects of animal abuse on children as well as adults.

Four key themes with several sub-themes were identified:

- **The Victim-Companion Animal Bond – support, protection**
- **Financial control**
- **Jealousy**
- **Police perceiving animal abuse as unimportant**

Recent Research

Animal Abuse Among Men Arrested for Domestic Violence

This study examined the prevalence of adulthood animal abuse perpetration and its association with psychological and physical intimate partner violence, antisocial traits, and alcohol use in a sample of 307 men arrested for domestic violence. 41% of the men committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18, in contrast to the 3% prevalence rate reported by men in the general population.

Recent Research

Animal Cruelty and Intergenerational Violence

Researchers analyzed the National Youth Survey Family Study, a national, longitudinal study of 1,614 individuals, representing two generations from 1990 to 2004. Their findings included:

• 3% of the parents’ generation reported having perpetrated animal abuse in their youth, with an average age of onset of 12 years of age.
• 33% of the parents reported histories of perpetrating violent IPV; 34% reported histories of violent IPV victimization.

Parents with early histories of animal abuse were **3.61 times more likely** to be violent IPV perpetrators than were parents without animal abuse histories.

Parents with early histories of animal abuse were **19.46 times more likely** to be victims of violent IPV than were those without animal abuse histories.

Legislation and Public Policy
Number of U.S. States with Felony Animal Cruelty Laws
1800 - 2017
As of June 2017 – 32 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing inclusion of pets in orders of protection in cases of domestic violence.
Animal Abuse as Acts of Domestic Violence

As of 2017 Nine states have enacted laws in which acts of animal abuse or neglect designed to intimidate, coerce or control an intimate partner meet the **statutory definitions of domestic violence or stalking**. Arizona, Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire and Tennessee have these provisions. Colorado additionally regards such animal abuse as an act of elder abuse.
Practical Strategies for Service Providers

Effectively serving survivors with pets
“Safe Havens”: 900 women’s shelters report a referral or housing program in place (Google: vachss safe haven)

“SAF-T”: >110 women’s shelters with on-site housing
Federal Funding Approved for Pet Safety Programs

In what is believed to be the first victim-assistance federal funding being made available for an organization focused on pet support services for domestic violence survivors, Atlanta’s Ahimsa House has received approval for a four-year grant to fund a victim advocate position.
Animal Safekeeping

Leaving an abusive relationship is not an easy thing to do. For the victims of domestic violence who own animals, the decision to leave can be exceptionally difficulty. Partnerships between animal welfare organizations and human service agencies can help improve the safety of persons fleeing interpersonal violence and abuse, and their animals.

In 2016, the Saskatchewan SPCA, Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS) of Saskatchewan released a report outlining ways to improve animal safekeeping resources in Saskatchewan. Among these recommendations:
Federal Bill Introduced to Protect Pets of Domestic Violence Survivors

In August, 2014 U.S. Reps. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) introduced a bipartisan bill to extend similar provisions on the federal level.

H.R. 5267 – the Pets And Women’s Safety (PAWS) Act – would expand existing federal domestic violence protections to include pets of domestic violence victims. It would prohibit crossing state lines to harm a domestic partner’s pet, and establish a federal grant program to provide assistance and housing to victims’ pets in need of emergency shelter.

It has been reintroduced in the 2017 US Congress with 230 cosponsors in the House (of 435 members) and 20 (of 100) in the Senate as of September 2017.
Connecticut Updates Pioneering Cross-Reporting Law

Connecticut Gov. Daniel Malloy signed HB 5037 into law on June 3, 2014. The new measure clarifies and updates the state’s landmark cross-reporting law requiring animal control officers and child abuse caseworkers to share information about common cases.

The new law requires animal control officers to make written reports within 48 hours after the officer has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly.

Beginning Nov. 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Agriculture will send monthly compilations of these reports to the Commissioner of Children and Families, who will determine, within one week of receiving such reports, whether any addresses are also locations where DCF has an open child protective service case. If so, the information shall be passed along to the social worker and included in the case file.
Court Rulings
Court Rules Animals May Be Considered “Victims”

A landmark court ruling in Oregon may change the way animal cruelty cases can be prosecuted and lead to longer prison sentences for offenders, according to animal law experts.

In 2009, Arnold Weldon Nix was convicted of starving 20 horses and goats on his property. The trial court ruled that because animals are defined as property under the law, the horses and goats could not be considered “victims,” and thus Nix had committed only one punishable offense. The court merged the 20 counts into a single conviction for second-degree animal neglect. Nix was sentenced to 90 days in jail (suspended) and three years’ probation.

The state appealed. An appeals court disagreed and said that animals can be “victims” and ruled that Nix could be sentenced for 20 separate violations. On Aug. 7, 2014, the Oregon Supreme Court, in State v. Nix (355 Or 777 2014), affirmed the appeals court ruling, reversed the circuit court judgment, and remanded the case for re-sentencing on 20 separate convictions for each guilty verdict.
April, 2015: Arkansas became the first state to pass a bill allowing child witnesses to testify with certified facility dogs in court.

July, 2015: Illinois became the second state to pass a measure allowing facility dogs to accompany child witnesses and developmentally challenged adults during testimony in court.

May, 2016: Arizona became the third state to allow child witnesses to testify with a courthouse facility dog.

June, 2016: Hawaii became the fourth state to allow child witnesses to testify with a courthouse facility dog.

June 2017 Alabama passed SB273 Koda's Law allowing equal access and Courthouse privileges for Therapy dogs and Facility dogs to accompany witnesses in court.
A Connecticut law makes it the first state to provide animals with court-appointed advocates to represent them in abuse and cruelty cases, similar to laws that provide for victim's or children's advocates.

Seven lawyers and a law professor in the state are approved as volunteer advocates. Judges have discretion on whether to appoint an advocate; defense attorneys and prosecutors may request them.

University of Connecticut law professor Jessica Rubin, left, and law student Taylor Hansen present arguments as animal advocates in a dogfighting case in Hartford.
Raising Professional Awareness and Response

- Prosecutors
New 2013 Manual for Prosecutors and Animal Cruelty Investigators produced by the National District Attorneys Association

Free to download from:

ndaa.org

or

nationallinkcoalition.org
Understanding The Link between Violence to Animals and People

Child Abuse

Elder Abuse

Domestic Violence

Animal Abuse

A Guidebook for Criminal Justice Professionals

By Allie Phillips, J.D.
Other Developments

Growth of Special Prosecutors for animal cruelty cases, including
- Los Angeles, CA
- FL (Manatee and Sarasota Counties)
- San Bernadino, CA
- Dallas, TX
- Albany, NY

Development of Diversion Programs for lower level animal cruelty offenders
- Los Angeles, CA
- Rochester, NY
- Dayton, Ohio
Raising Professional Awareness and Response - Police
Other developments:

- Increasing spectator felony laws
- Application of RICO statutes to dogfight cases
- Increase in large scale raids
Addressing Dogfighting in Your Community

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.,
Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects ASPCA®
Other Developments

April 2013
- Department of Justice “Listening Session” on animal cruelty and interpersonal violence. Animal Cruelty working group established within DOJ.

October 2013
- ASPCA transfer of animal abuse response to NYPD
- Baltimore PD General Order G-23
General Order G-23

Subject
ANIMAL ABUSE, CRUELTY & SEVERE NEGLECT

Distribution  Date Published  Page
“A”  10 October 2013  1 of 4

By Order of the Police Commissioner

BACKGROUND

Animal cruelty cases deserve major attention in their own right. Studies have shown there is a direct correlation between abuse of animals and the potential for future violence against people.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Baltimore Police Department, in concert with the Baltimore City Health Department through its Office of Animal Control and the State’s Attorney’s Office, to provide for the protection of animals from abuse, cruelty and severe neglect.
After participating in the DOJ “Listening Session” on Animal Cruelty and Human Violence, John W. Thompson, Deputy Executive Director and Chief of Staff of the National Sheriffs’ Association, became founder and director of the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals.
Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence: An Update

The last decade has seen growing recognition of the connection between the commission of acts of cruelty to animals and other serious crimes against people and property. This has led to a strengthening of laws addressing animal abuse; the incorporation of animal cruelty response into mainstream community policing; and the development of new approaches to the investigation, documentation, and prevention of animal abuse and neglect.

New IACP Training Key, released July 2014
Thanks to an extensive effort led by the National Sheriffs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a proposal to include animal cruelty in Uniform Crime Reports (UCRs), was approved unanimously on June 4, 2014 by the last of several FBI review committees. The measure, part of a wholesale redesign and redevelopment of the UCR, would add Animal Cruelty as a Group A offense. It would expand Data Element 12 (Type Criminal Activity/Gang Information) to include four categories of animal crimes: simple/gross neglect; intentional abuse and torture; organized abuse; and animal sexual abuse.
Raising Professional Awareness and Response

– Veterinary Professionals
Animal abuse is an important social issue affecting animals, families, and communities. Animal abuse includes physical abuse (non-accidental injury), sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and staging animal fights. Physical abuse includes the infliction of injuries or causing unnecessary pain, including inappropriate methods of training. Sexual abuse includes any sexual conduct with animals, which may or may not result in physical injury to the animal. Emotional abuse may include repeated or sustained ‘mental violence’ including withholding social interactions. Neglect is the failure to provide adequate levels of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care to animals causing poor physical condition. Veterinarians are likely to encounter some form of animal abuse during their career. Whether providing expert advice to the local humane authorities, visiting neglected farm animals, or treating an animal victim of violence, veterinarians are on the front lines of dealing with abuse.

Federal and provincial legislation efforts animals protection from abuse, but veterinarians are sometimes concerned about disclosing information to humane authorities due to concerns regarding client confidentiality and personal liability. However, recognizing and reporting abuse is important, not only because veterinarians are charged with the welfare of animals, but also due to the link between animal abuse and human violence. Veterinarians suspicious of animal abuse need to understand how to recognize the signs of abuse and document these cases. Increasingly, veterinarians are asked to serve as expert witnesses and to assist in establishing forensic evidence.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association recognizes the vital role that veterinarians play in protecting animals and in creating safe and humane communities. The CVMA intends this website to serve as a helpful resource for veterinary practitioners faced with animal abuse. The CVMA has also created a two-page poster “Animal Abuse – What Veterinarians Can Do.” This includes the CVMA position statement, which recognizes that veterinarians are in a position to observe occasions of animal abuse and have a moral obligation to report suspected cases.
The CVMA recognizes that veterinarians are in a position to observe occasions of animal abuse and have a **moral** obligation to report suspected cases. That obligation has increased with the recognized link between abuse in animals and abuse in people. In return, society has an obligation to support those veterinarians who report in good faith, using their professional judgement.

CVMA recognizes that moral obligation is not legal obligation. Any legal obligation to report abuse, or provision of immunity from prosecution for veterinarians, is the jurisdiction of the provinces.
CVMA encourages VMAs to lobby their provincial governments to develop mandatory reporting (with immunity)

CVMA encourages veterinary schools to discuss animal abuse and its reporting in the curricula
Saskatchewan VMA Position on Animal Abuse

“When there is reason to believe that an animal is being abused or neglected, veterinarians have a duty to report their concerns that overrides our professional confidentiality code.

“Failure to report or reluctance to share appropriate information can contribute to the continued abuse or even death of animals.

“Saskatchewan law provides immunity from prosecution to veterinarians who report suspicion of abuse in good faith.”
Practice Management Guidance

• Obligations & legal authority
  - Animal Protection Act 1999
  - Veterinarians’ Oath
  - SVMA Bylaw
  - Codes of practice for farm animals

• Federal legislation

“In Saskatchewan, veterinarians have no legal obligation to report animal cruelty under the APA. However, veterinarians have an ethical and professional obligation, set out in SVMA bylaws, to protect animal welfare and alleviate animal suffering.”
Animal Abuse Response - Resources for Veterinarians

While most animals are treated well by their owners, unfortunately veterinarians may encounter animal abuse or neglect in their practices. This section of the AVMA website has been created by the Animal Welfare Division with the assistance of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to facilitate veterinarians’ access to resources to help them develop protocols and response plans for handling cases of suspected animal abuse. Our first informational feature (see left) is a summary of the legal obligations and immunities of veterinarians when reporting cases of suspected animal abuse in practice. Please bookmark this page as additional resources will be posted as they become available.
Resolving the challenge: How Should the DVM Respond?

Support for Mandatory Reporting
- Strongly Support: 24%
- Support: 43%
- No opinion: 19%
- Oppose: 11%
- Strongly oppose: 3%

Support for Mandatory Reporting with Immunity
- Strongly Support: 42%
- Support: 40%
- No opinion: 13%
- Opposed: 4%
- Strongly Opposed: 1%

Kogan et al., JAVMA, 3/15/17 (n = 1,209)
2015: AAHA supports mandatory reporting laws of suspected animal abuse with immunity from civil and criminal liability when made in good faith.

**IMMEDIATE RESULT:** 7 reporting bills introduced in GA, KY, MD, NY, PA, TN, WI
New Zealand Veterinary Association signed on to a national domestic violence prevention initiative as a “three-dimensional profession” – the only profession with a voice that transcends animal life, human life and the environment.

Scotland invests £1,000,000 to train 100,000 front-line professionals to recognize & respond to domestic violence

Beauticians Dentists Veterinarians
New Zealand Guide for Veterinarians to respond to suspected animal cruelty and family violence

2013
“Pet abuse should raise concerns for physical, emotional safety of children. When a pediatrician is told of threatened harm or abuse of a pet, it may not be obvious immediately that this is a concern to prioritize. However, a growing body of research is revealing the worrisome implications for children in homes where a pet has been abused.”

-- Tara L. Harris, MD, AAP Section on Child Abuse & Neglect, 3/30/2017
Veterinary Forensic Sciences

This online graduate certificate is provided by the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine in partnership with The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

http://www.forensicscience.ufl.edu/veterinary/
RESOURCES

Graduate & non-degree courses in:

- Veterinary Forensic Medicine
- Forensic Entomology
- Veterinary Pathology in Practice
- Forensic Applied Animal Behavior

Veterinary Social Work
Raising Professional Awareness and Response
- Mental Health
“Hoarding Disorder” now recognized as a distinct mental disorder in the 2013 edition of the DSM
Fighting Monsters
He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster. And if you gaze for long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into you.

Friedrich Nietzsche
German Philologist

QUOTEHD.COM
1844 - 1900
Robert Ressler

My Twenty Years
Tracking Serial
Killers for the FBI

WHOEVER
FIGHTS
MONSTERS

ROBERT H. RESSLER & TOM SHACHTMAN

"The real thing... Absolutely mesmerizing."
—Ann Rule
Pietro Canonica. 1909. *The Abyss*
Man Pleads Guilty to Shooting, Burning Wife’s Dogs
A Pennsylvania man has pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty, and is awaiting trial on charges of aggravated assault, for shooting his wife’s two dogs and burning their bodies following an argument with her over another man. Steven Saxe, 38, of Sweet Valley, admitted the gruesome crime that a Luzerne County SPCA humane officer called “heinous.” The Wilkes-Barre Citizens’ Voice reported that prosecutors said that after Saxe and his wife, Noelle, got into a fight, he burst into the

Suspect in Fatal Child Abuse Case Charged with Animal Cruelty
Authorities in Montgomery County, Md. belatedly filed four charges of animal cruelty this month against a Rockville man who had earlier been charged with homicide in the death of his infant son. WJLA-TV reported that police accused Roger Lee Miller, Jr., 20, of savagely shaking his five-month-old son to death last Oct. 28. The child died two days later from severe brain and spinal injuries. After further investigation, Miller was charged with allegedly kicking and punching his 10-week-old puppy, a pit bull named “Milo,” in February 2016. Police found the dog experiencing spasms on a sidewalk when the wind-chill

Man Gets 2-1/2 years for Beating Girlfriend’s Dog to Death
An Auburn, Mass. man who beat his girlfriend’s dog to death with a broom handle because he said it was keeping him awake at night (See the December 2015 LINK-Letter) was sentenced on 2-1/2 years in state prison. Gregory Fagnoli pleaded guilty on March 6 to assault, witness intimidation, animal cruelty, and firearms charges in connection with the death of the Catahoula dog named “Polka Dot.” National Link Coalition steering committee member Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore, who performed a forensic necropsy, said the dog had at least 23 rib fractures, 10 broken teeth, a collapsed lung, a brain bleed, and external injuries. Fagnoli was also convicted of
Wellness and Peer Assistance

In JOIN THE VETERINARY WELL-BEING COMMUNITY

Veterinarians face singular challenges in their jobs, and the rates of suicide and depression are unusually high among U.S. veterinarians. It's critical that we take steps to care for our own emotional and mental health. Get started with our self-assessment tool, and then use the following resources to begin nurturing your emotional well-being.

This resource was developed through a partnership with the AVMA Future Leaders Program, which is funded by Zoetis Animal Health.
Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President
Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects

email: randall.lockwood@aspca.org
Phone: 571 225-3463
WE ARE THEIR VOICE.