

THE LINK AND VIOLENT CRIMES



- Nearly half of school shooters have histories of animal cruelty
- Children’s acts of animal abuse are some of the strongest and earliest diagnostic indicators of conduct disorder, often beginning as young as age 6.
- Animal abuse is a better predictor of sexual assault than previous convictions for homicide, arson, or firearms offenses.

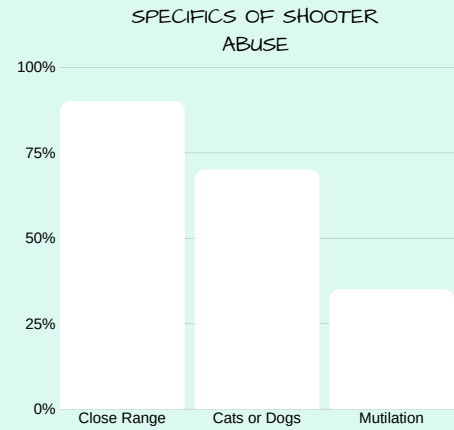
OUT OF 23 SCHOOL SHOOTERS

43%

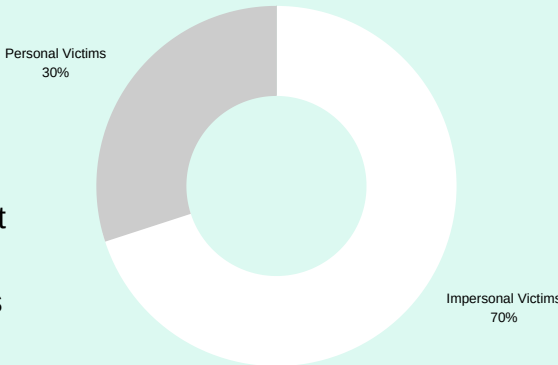
HAD A REPORTED HISTORY OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

- As many as 31% of youths in some neighborhoods have attended a dogfight
- 70% of shooters who abused animals targeted dogs and cats, but not usually in their own home or neighborhood. Only 30% of animal abusing shooters chose familiar victims that were either the shooter’s own family or a neighbor’s pet dogs or cats..

- 61.5% of convicted animal abuse offenders had also committed an assault, 17% had committed sexual abuse
- 63% of incarcerated criminals had deliberately inflicted harm on an animal as a child and 29% had witnessed a parent or other family member being cruel to animals



70% of shooters abused animals without any personal connection to them

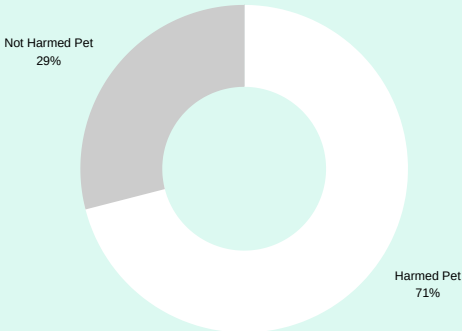


THE LINK AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- The role that pets unwillingly play as pawns of the abuser, highlights the need for tailored services to be offered to them as additional (and pivotal) victims of the abuser
- Thirty-two percent of battered women reported that their children had hurt or killed animals

53%

OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS DID NOT LEAVE THEIR ABUSER OUT OF FEAR FOR ANIMAL'S SAFETY.

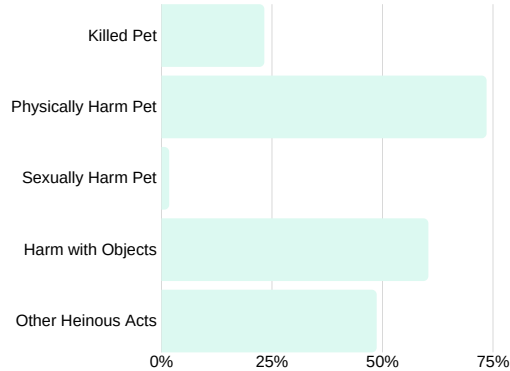


- 13% of the children admitted that they had hurt pets, and 7.9% admitted to having hurt or killed animals
- 50% of the children said that they had protected their pet by directly intervening
- Forty-eight percent of battered women reported that animal abuse had occurred “often” during the past 12 months. An additional 30% reported that the abuse occurred “almost always”

71% of battered women reported that their batterers had harmed, killed or threatened animals

- Thirteen percent of intentional animal abuse cases involved domestic violence.
- In a Wisconsin study, 68% of battered women reported their animals had been the target of violence. Of these incidents, 87% occurred in the presence of the women to intimidate and control them, and 75% occurred in the presence of children
- Children exposed to domestic violence were found to be three times more likely to be cruel to animals than children in nonviolent households

PHYSICAL ABUSE OF ANIMALS BY CURRENT OR EX-PARTNER



THE LINK AND CHILD MALTREATMENT

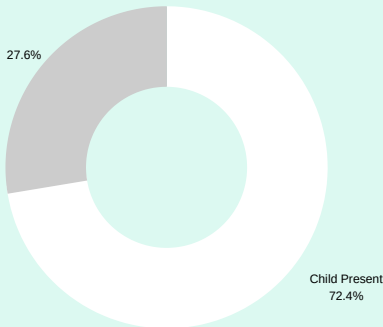


OKLAHOMA LINK COALITION

35%

OF BOYS WHO WERE SEXUALLY ABUSED HAD ALSO ABUSED ANIMALS

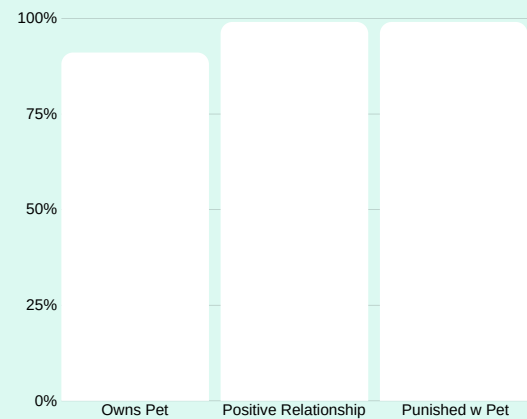
- A child in America is more likely to grow up with a pet than with a father
- Children who harm animals or witness acts of violence against animals are at increased risk of developing antisocial behaviors and of becoming victims of child maltreatment. Conversely, children who are victims of maltreatment are at increased risk of harming animals.



76% of animal cruelty in the home occurs in the presence of a child.

- Children are the victims in 70% of fatal dog attacks. In 21.1% of fatal dog attacks the dog was abused or neglected.
- Children with histories of animal cruelty were significantly more likely to have perpetrated bullying, experienced sexual abuse, and have histories of problems with peers or sexually acting out.
- Children who have been sexually abused are five times more likely to abuse an animal.

(Robin, ten Benschel, Quigley, & Anderson, 1984).



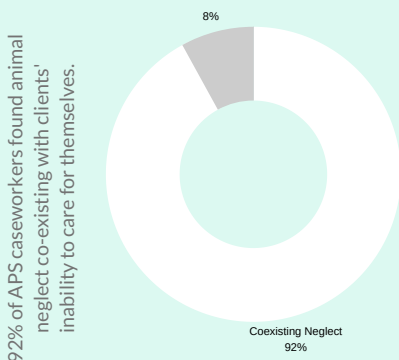
- Sexually abused children were five times more likely to abuse animals than were children who were not sexually abused
- 91% of abused children institutionalized for delinquency and emotional disturbances said they had had pets, and 99% showed positive feelings toward these pets. These youths reported that abusive adults had frequently punished or intimidated them by killing, harming, or removing their pets (Robin, ten Benschel, Quigley, & Anderson, 1984).

THE LINK AND ELDER ABUSE

35%

OF ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASEWORKERS REPORTED THAT THEIR CLIENTS TALK ABOUT PETS BEING THREATENED, INJURED, KILLED, OR DENIED CARE

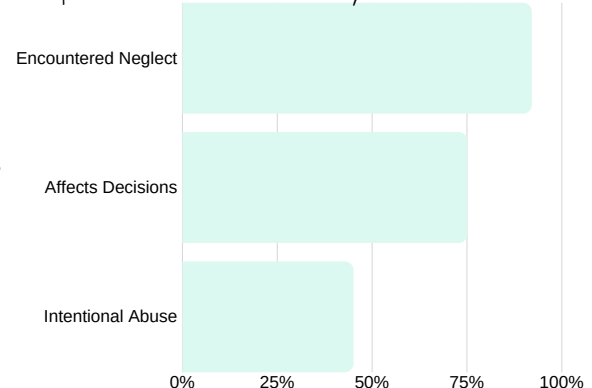
- Senior citizens are at particular risk of hoarding excess numbers of animals in unhealthy environments. Signs of animal neglect are an early warning sign of a senior's self-neglect or need of assistance. Seniors' emotional attachments to their pets make them vulnerable to those who would exploit this bond to exert control over an older victim.



92% of APS caseworkers found animal neglect co-existing with clients' inability to care for themselves.

- Abusive children may attempt to intimidate elders, retaliate against them, or control their assets by harming, threatening, or removing their pets.
- A significant percentage of people who hoard or collect animals are older women. Their inability to adequately care for large numbers of animals puts them at risk of self-neglect, eviction, and health issues, and often indicates a need for mental health and social services interventions

(Humane Society of the United States & State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, 2003).



- Ninety-two percent of adult protective services caseworkers encountered animal neglect among clients who were unable to care for themselves.
- Seventy-five percent noted their clients' concern for their pets' welfare affected decisions about accepting interventions or other services.
- Forty-five percent of adult protective services caseworkers have encountered intentional animal abuse or neglect (Humane Society of the United States & State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, 2003).