

"THE LINK"

Often times, animal issues (whether it's cruelty or neglect) are a warning sign that other problems & crimes exist within the household.

The areas where these crimes overlap - between cruelty to animals & violence towards humans - is called "The Link."

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GOALS

- Investigate & understand "the link" between animal abuse and other serious crimes.
 - Explore ways to reduce the incidence of both in the community.
- **Intervention:** Identify these individuals & situations early, to stop the violence from escalating.
 - Ensure that our community, including both people & animals, are safe.
- Making "the link" and breaking the cycle of violence can help improve the quality of life for animals, families, and the community at-large.

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THE LINK

- When there is abuse in the household, there could be many forms and many victims of abuse.
 - Animal abuse is a problem in many communities.
- Other crimes can be linked to animal abuse, which can escalate to more serious crimes.
- Animal abuse is often discovered earlier than child or domestic abuse because it usually occurs in plain view.
 - While hiding their own abuse, human victims may talk openly of animal abuse or neglect occurring in the family.



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ANIMAL CRUELTY & NEGLECT

- Animal abuse is a crime.
 - Often indicating or predicting other issues.
- Animal cruelty encompasses a range of behaviors harmful to animals, from neglect to malicious killing.
- Pets can become a target for abuse:
 - A proxy by which an abuser will use fear and domination to control and manipulate the other people in the home.
- An abuser may intentionally neglect an animal as a method to punish and torment a victim.

WHY ARE PETS TARGETED?

- Many people have a strong, emotional bond with their animals.
- Abusers seeking power & control exploit that bond as a weak point, and a way to intimidate their human victims.
 - The pets become collateral damage in these abusive situations.
- Animal welfare can be defined as not just the physical, but the mental well-being of animals.

04



"THE LINK"

"The Link" refers to the areas of crime that overlaps between cruelty to animals & violence towards humans.

Unaddressed animal abuse can escalate in severity and incidence against humans.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ANIMAL ABUSE

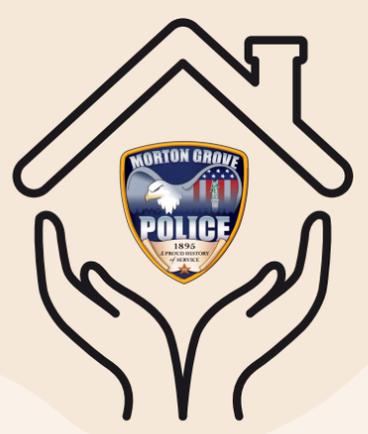


05

- Animal abuse should be considered as an indicator of other problems in dysfunctional and violent households.
- Domestic violence perpetrators abuse animals to:
 - Demonstrate and confirm both power and control over the family.
 - Isolate the victim and children.
 - Force the family to keep the violence a secret.
 - Teach submission.
- Pets can absorb the fear of their family members in a home experiencing domestic violence.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Reasons that a victim may choose not to leave an abusive relationship may include:
 - They are afraid of what the abuser might do to their pet.
 - Many domestic violence shelters do not accept pets.
 - They cannot financially afford to leave the abuser.
- That's how important these pets are to the victims.



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Animals are at 11x greater risk for abuse in a home where Intimate Partner Violence is occurring.



Children are at 60x greater risk than the general population.

75% of the pet abuse that occurs in the home is seen by children.



Animal abusers are 5x more likely to commit violence against people.

STATISTICS

75% of abused women report their intimate partner has threatened or harmed their pet.



CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS



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- The physical condition of an animal can be critical in identifying abuse. The following conditions can be the result from an act of cruelty:
 - Cuts/lacerations
 - Scars
 - Eye injury
 - Broken bones
- The condition in which an animal is living can be just as important in a cruelty case as the physical condition of the animal. Signs may include:
 - Inadequate food/water.
 - Inadequate shelter from the weather.
 - Inadequate space (if confined).
 - Restrained on short and/or heavy chains.

ANIMAL OWNER REQUIREMENTS

- The owner of an animal must provide:
 - Enough good quality, wholesome food and water.
 - Adequate shelter and protection from weather.
 - Veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering.
 - Humane care and treatment.
- **State Laws:**
 - All 50 states have felony offenses on animal cruelty.
- **Federal Laws:**
 - Animal Welfare Act; Endangered Species Act; Dog Fighting Prohibition Act; Horse Protection Act



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