



“It’s Cool To Be Kind is about recognizing violence and abuse along with understanding the connection of human and animal victims. Through education, awareness, and kindness we can all take steps toward a non-violent society.”

—Jill Dolon *President and Founder Unconditional Love Foundation*

There is an indisputable connection between human violence and animal cruelty. Simply put, when animals are abused people are at risk, and when people are abused, animals are at risk. Animal abuse is not solely an animal welfare issue and individuals who ordinarily are not concerned about animals should be concerned, because animal abusers typically abuse people as an escalating pattern of abuse.

Studies of prison inmates reveal that as many as 75% of violent offenders had early records of animal cruelty. We know that most serial killers as well as many of the kids involved in school shootings had a history of cruelty to animals. By teaching humane education, advocating compassion and understanding toward our children and animals we produce a more compassionate, less violent society.

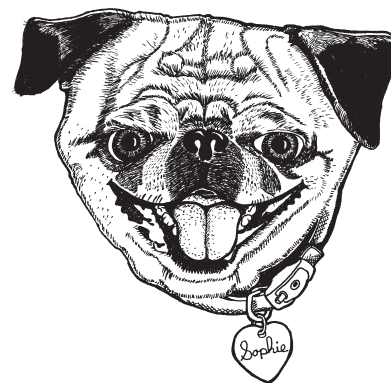
One of the most common forms of animal abuse is animal fighting. Animal fighting affects the whole community because these events are riddled with drugs, gambling and illegal weapons. Children often witness the training and even the fighting of animals, fostering in them a passion for violence, a frightening disregard for other living beings and lack of respect for the law.

Some possible signs of animal fighting:

- Dogs with puncture wounds and lacerations, recent or long-standing wounds and abscesses, scars on the head, throat, legs, and ears.
- Bars and bite sticks of varying lengths that are used to pry open the dog’s jaws.
- Treadmills.
- Chains, ropes or spring poles hanging from beams or trees.
- Dogs tethered with thick chains. Dogs wearing wide collars with weighted rings.
- A person who seems to go through a lot of different animals.
- Roosters with combs and waddles surgically removed.
- Surgical needles, steroids, saline solution, vitamins, drugs and veterinary supplies.
- Groups of people of all ages, some with dogs, coming and going to a particular site, such as a basement, garage, or warehouse. Barns and any secluded spot in rural areas can be used for animal fighting.

Standard signs of animal abuse:

- Animals in poor physical condition.
- Animals that are excessively aggressive or submissive.
- Poor general sanitation.
- Space, light and ventilation deficiencies.
- Excessive number of animals for the space and other resources.
- Cruel confinement.
- Lack of necessary medical care.
- Parasite infestation.
- Animal abandonment.
- Evidence of dead animals, buried or unburied on the property.



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“Until we have the courage to recognize cruelty for what it is—whether its victim is human or animal—we cannot expect things to be much better in this world.”

—Rachel Carson

Signs of Domestic Violence:

- Your partner tells you who you may be friends with, how you should dress, or tries to control other elements of your life and relationship.
- Your partner threatens to hurt you, your friends, family members or pets.
- You are expected to spend all of your free time with your partner and must tell that person where you are at all times.
- You go along with the desires and actions of your partner because you are afraid.
- You have been hit, kicked, shoved or had things thrown at you by your partner when they were jealous or angry.
- You have been verbally abused by your partner.
- You are frightened by your partner's temper.
- Your partner gets jealous when there is no reason.
- You apologize for your partner's behavior when you are treated badly.
- Your partner drinks heavily, uses drugs or tries to get you drunk.

Signs of Child Abuse in the Child:

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance.
- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parent's attention.
- Has learning problems or difficulty concentrating that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes.
- Comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home.
- Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen.
- Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn.
- Lacks adult supervision.

Signs of Child Abuse in the Parent:

- Shows little concern for the child.
- Denies the existence of, or blames the child for, the child's problems in school or at home.
- Asks teachers or other caretakers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves.
- Sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome.

What you can do:

- Take all forms of abuse seriously.
- Early intervention can help break the cycle of violence.
- Become aware of the signs of abuse and cruelty.
- If you know of someone who is being abusive then report them.
- Educate others about the connection between animal abuse and human cruelty.

“One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it.”

—Margaret Mead