

Animal Abuse:

Consists of any behavior that is harmful towards animals. It may be categorized according to one of the following three categories: neglect, intentional cruelty or sexual abuse. When an animal is neglected, the care givers fail to provide food, water, shelter, socialization or veterinary care. Intentional cruelty is deliberate physical harm or injury that results in an animal undergoing extreme suffering or discomfort. Abusing an animal is the first indication that a person is developing ways to obtain control or power over other living beings.



Domestic Violence:



Consists of abuse that takes place in a family, an intimate relationship or in a situation of trust or dependency. It occurs when a trusted family member inflicts physical or psychological harm over another. It includes violence towards spouses or spousal abuse but

may also include non married intimate partners. Like animal cruelty, these forms of abuse often coincide. People who are violent towards a spouse, child, senior or family member with a disability may also abuse an animal. The most common forms of domestic violence are physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, economic deprivation or verbal threats of violence. Abusers use manipulation, control and power over others who are vulnerable due to their age, physical ability or other underlying factors.

The Connection:

Over the past 25 years, research in psychology, sociology, and criminology has indicated that both animal abuse and domestic violence are closely connected.



In most instances, people who have violent histories began with abusing animals as a child. Abusers will most often use violence to maintain power or authority in a household. Sometimes they may use a family pet to gain control; they may even abuse the animal to punish other members of the family. Unfortunately, in homes where an animal is abused, people are also at risk. It is vital that the victims get help because the abuse will only worsen or move to another member of the family.

Kindness Club Inc.

Kindness Club Inc. (KCI) is a registered charity dedicated to humane and environmental education. It was founded in 1959 by the late honorable Hugh John Flemming's wife, Mrs. Aida Flemming. She was determined to promote respect for the environment and kindness to all living creatures. Through her efforts, she touched the lives of thousands of children, adults, and animals. Over the years, membership has grown across North America and in other countries. The Club continues to encourage kindness towards animals as well as people, and to act in defense of all living creatures.

As the Kindness Club continues to grow, we are pleased to provide pet care literature, and humane and environmental education materials for members, group leaders, and teachers. Ongoing programs include an annual essay contest, quarterly newsletters, memberships, a feeding program, spay and neuter financial assistance, public displays, and educational presentations.



To learn more about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence, please contact:

Kindness Club Inc.
65 Brunswick St.
Fredericton, NB E3B 1G5
Email: kindness@nb.aibn.com
Website: www.kindnessclub.nb.ca

Kindness Club Inc. would like to thank the
BC SPCA Education Division for sharing information
to help make this brochure possible.

BC SPCA: 1-800-665-1868

Website: www.sPCA.bc.ca

Kindness Club Inc.

Presents...



Animal Abuse

&

Domestic Violence



Resource Guide to Breaking the Cycle

Look for Warning Signs

It is important to know that there may be warning signs that indicate violence in a family situation. Be aware that cruelty towards animals may indicate that people may also be a part of the violent crime. Parents, teachers and other child mentors should also be concerned when they see children who intentionally perform acts of cruelty towards animals. This is not a normal phase during childhood, and any act of violence towards another living being should be taken seriously. Early warning signs are an indication that the child needs help. It is important to instill feelings of kindness towards all living creatures so that children may grow into compassionate, loving individuals.



How to Stop the Cycle



Creating a compassionate society is the key to stopping this vicious cycle that is often hidden behind the doors of private homes. Being alert to violent acts towards animals, adults or children is the first step to putting an end to the abuse. Some women or family members may be apprehensive about leaving an abusive

situation due to concern for the family pet(s). When abuse victims feel that their beloved animal will be protected, they are more likely to reach out for help. You can help by providing care or comfort for the victim and directing them to an agency, shelter or temporary relief home for their pet. Most importantly, talk with friends, family members and members of your community about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. Teach and lead by example, show children and young adults how to properly care for a pet and solve conflicts in non violent ways. For additional assistance, please refer to the following agencies for support.

Important Numbers

If you suspect family violence or animal cruelty, contact the following agencies:

Report Animal Cruelty

New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Tel: (506) 458-8208 Fax: (506) 458-8209
Email: spca@nbnet.nb.ca
Website: www.spca-nb.ca

NBSPCA Chief Cruelty Inspector

Tel: (506) 449-1376

Fredericton SPCA

Tel: (506) 459-1555
Email: stephanie@frederictospca.ca
Website: www.frederictospca.ca

Oromocto and Area SPCA

Tel: (506) 446-4107
Email: orphans@oromoctospca.ca
Website: www.oromoctospca.ca

New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (NBVMA)

Tel: (506) 635-8100 Fax: (506) 635-2903
Email: nbvma@nbnet.nb.ca

Report Family Violence or Abuse

Emergency - 911

Emergency Social Services - After Hours

Toll Free: 1-800-444-8838

New Brunswick Child Protection Services

Toll Free: 1-888-992-2873
After Hours: 1-800-442-9799

Kids Helpline

Toll Free: 1-800-668-6868



Fredericton RCMP "J" Division Police

Tel: (506) 452-3400

Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

Crisis Line: (506) 454-0437
Tel: (506) 454-0460 Fax: (506) 457-2780

John Howard Society of Fredericton

Tel: (506) 450-2750 Fax: (506) 444-0081

Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation

Tel: (506) 472-5085 Fax: (506) 472-5084

MMF Centre for Family Violence Research

Tel: (506) 453-3595 Fax: (506) 453-5084

New Brunswick CHIMO Helpline Inc. (Crisis Line)

Toll Free: 1-800-667-5005
Fredericton Crisis Line: (506) 450-4357 Fax: (506) 450-2156

New Brunswick Social Development

(Formerly Department of Family and Community Services)

Toll Free: 1-866-444-8838 Fax: (506) 444-5158

Fredericton Transition House for Abused Women and Children

Tel: (506) 459-2300 Fax: (506) 457-1667

Gignoo Transition House

Crisis Line: 1-800-6878
Tel: (506) 458-1224 Fax: (506) 459-2547

New Brunswick Coalition

of Transition Houses

Tel: (506) 466-3011 Fax: (506) 465-8038

New Brunswick Women's Institute

Tel: (506) 454-0798 Fax: (506) 451-8949

"He kicked the dog because he knew that would upset her more than if he kicked her. Besides, he knew that the police wouldn't do anything about the dog, but they would if he kicked her."

(Abused woman interviewed in a study by Doherty, D and Hornosty, J, 2007, Family Violence, Firearms and Animal Abuse in Rural Communities, Final Report to Canada Firearms Center)

