
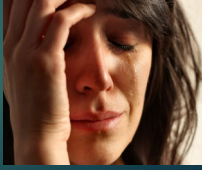




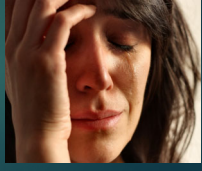




STUCK IN THE MIDDLE WITH YOU:
SHARED RISKS FOR CHILDREN AND PETS IN DOMESTICALLY VIOLENT HOMES
BY: ANDREW M CAMPBELL

1

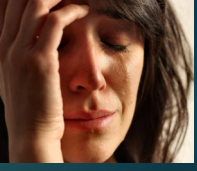

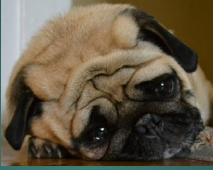


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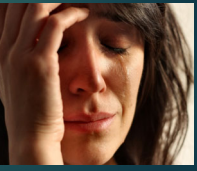


"It wasn't until I told him I was leaving that he began to target my children and cats."

3



"He said if I left it would be a death sentence for my Beagle. My kids loved that dog so much and I knew he would kill it if I left...so I stayed for 5 more years."

4





"The cats are completely different now that we have them. I remember how skittish they were in her home. It's as if they were absorbing the fear and stress my daughter was experiencing."

5

Risks for Children

- ▶ Physical Injury
 - ▶ Home Alone Example
 - ▶ % with "Visible Injury"?
- ▶ Sexual Abuse
- ▶ Emotional Harm
 - ▶ **Children often aware of much more than their caregivers realize.**
 - ▶ Threats/Harm to pets?



6

What Do Pets Provide?

- ▶ Protection
- ▶ Comfort
- ▶ Friendship
- ▶ Sense of Purpose
- ▶ Acceptance
- ▶ Stability
- ▶ Hope/"Light in the Darkness"
- ▶ Entertainment/Laughter



ALL critical components for emotional health and well-being.

7



FAMILY

8

Pets in America

- ▶ Prevalence: Recent nationwide survey
 - ▶ 68% of U.S. homes have at least one pet
 - ▶ 80% in homes where domestic violence is known to occur
 - ▶ Dogs (53%)
 - ▶ Cats (40%)




9



10

IPV, Pet Abuse, and Children

- ▶ Children are likely to be significantly affected by the violence occurring in the home.
 - ▶ Pets may in many cases be their sole source of emotional support.
 - ▶ **75%** incidents of pet abuse in home occur in front of children.
- ▶ Children in these homes are at risk of **perpetrating animal abuse**.
 - ▶ Strong predictor of **future perpetration** of violence
 - ▶ Younger Children



11

Companion Animal Abuse

14 March
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT, No. of Pages 12

ARTICLE IN PRESS

Child Abuse & Neglect xxx (2015) xxx–xxx

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Child Abuse & Neglect

ELSEVIER

Research article

Children's experiences of companion animal maltreatment in households characterized by intimate partner violence^a

Shelby Elaine McDonald^{a,*}, Elizabeth A. Collins^b, Nicole Nicotera^c, Tina O. Hageman^d, Frank R. Ascione^e, James Herbert Williams^f, Sandra A. Graham-Bermann^g

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12

McDonald et al. (2015)

- ▶ "My dad last week said that he was very upset with my mother and that he was going to burn the bird's wings with a lighter"
- ▶ "That day that my dad said he would burn my dog on the grill, I took him into my room and locked him in the closet with food and water until the next day"
- ▶ "My dog always sleeps with me in my room so that my dad doesn't hurt him"

13

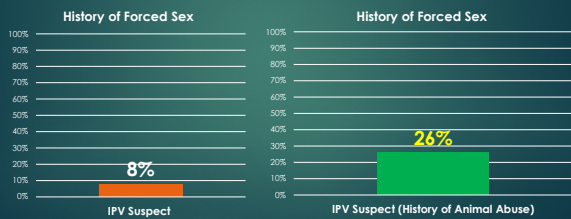
Campbell IPV Study (2021)



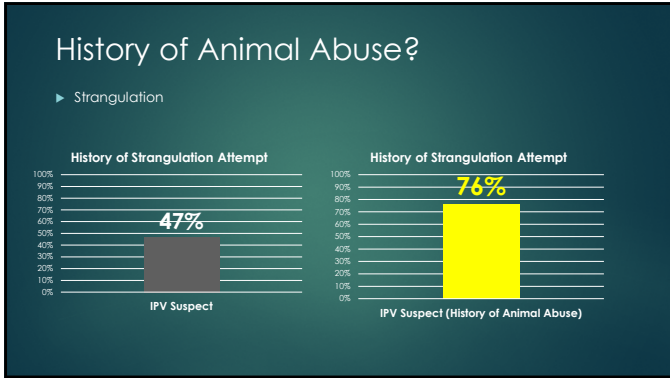
14

History of Animal Abuse?

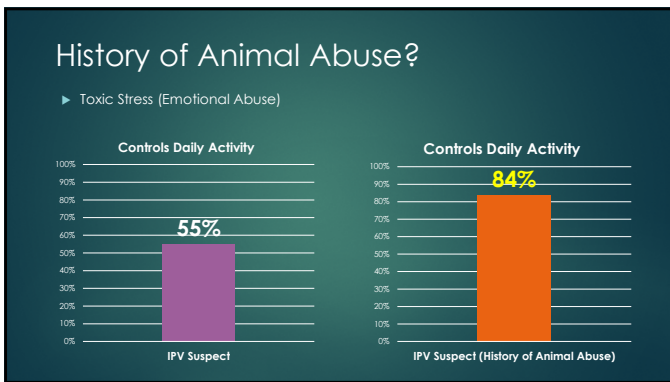
▶ Rape



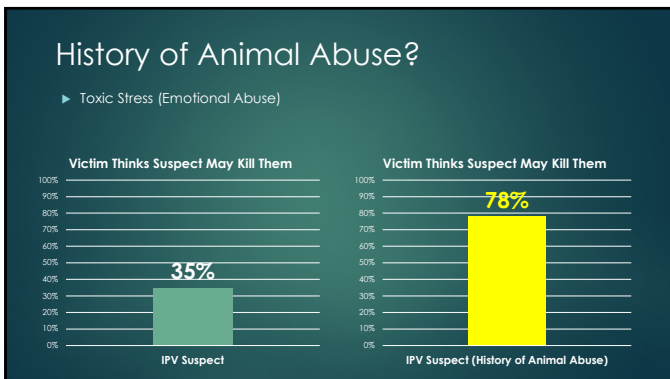
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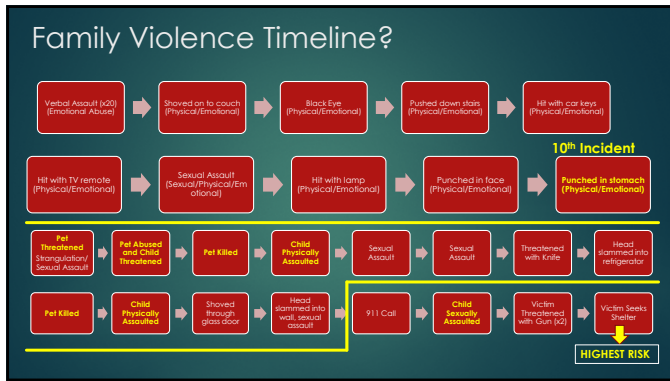
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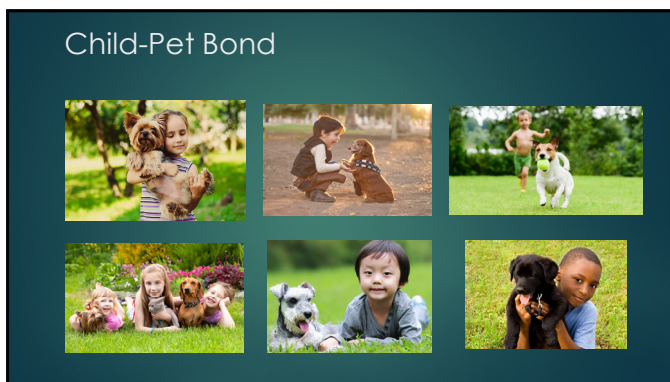
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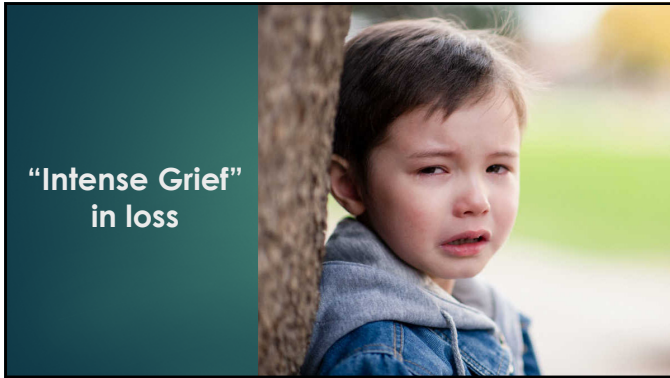


20

Pet "Attachment"

- ▶ To be considered "psychological security", attachment figures provide:
- ▶ (1) Proximity maintenance—available and searched for in time of need
- ▶ (2) Safe haven—offer support and protection to reduce distress
- ▶ (3) Secure base—build confidence...a reliable presence that allows risk-taking and exploration
- ▶ (4) Separation distress—occurs when separated from or experiencing loss of the figure

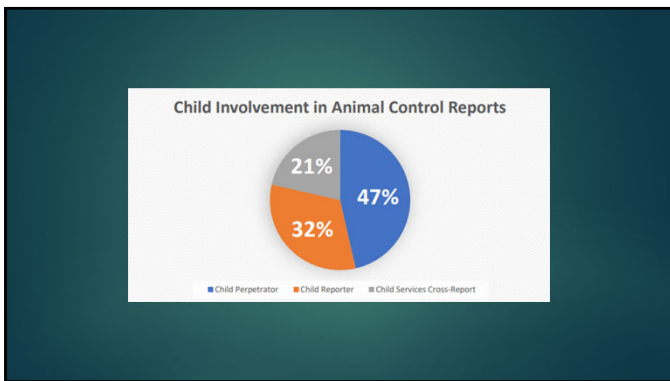
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22



23



24

Table 4. Animal Control Report Narratives (Child Perpetrator).

"Kids hitting a dog with a stick in backyard. Parents out there and do not seem to care."

"Reporter states daughter texted her to say her 13-year-old son will not quit abusing and hitting the dog."

"11-year-old male seen swinging a small white dog on leash above his head and slamming it on ground."

"16-year-old shot rabbit with bb gun, broke its neck and now wants to skin it."

"Two young girls dragging their dog by a leash down the front steps, picking the dog up by the leash, swinging it in the air, and throwing it."

"Juvenile beat dog over the weekend with a clothes hanger"

"Two preschool age kids chasing small dog, possibly kicking it."

"Male in his 20's and 2 youths are holding a kitten by its neck and shaving it."

"Kids pulled animal out of pond and are now torturing it in the street."

"Caller was on a walk and saw a male adult and teenager punching a Boxer in the face."

"Report source witnessed a female adult drag a Rottweiler puppy to the back of their home while her children were throwing garbage at the dog."

25

Table 5. Animal Control Report Narratives (Child Reporter).

"9-year-old witnessed his mom's boyfriend squeeze the cat to death."

"12-year-old witnessed her friend's father punch their Rottweiler in the face."

"Child witnessed neighbor children beating a pit bull with the buckle end of a belt."

"Child told guidance counselor that their mom's boyfriend kicked their dog last night, threw it in the carrier & and then threw the carrier against the wall."

"11-year-old witnessed man throwing baby bunnies into the sewer."

"6-year-olds reports seeing his dad hit his dog all the time."

26

Table 6. Animal Control Report Narratives (Child Services Cross-Report).

"3-year-old found wandering around the neighborhood with dog. No idea where child or dog belong."

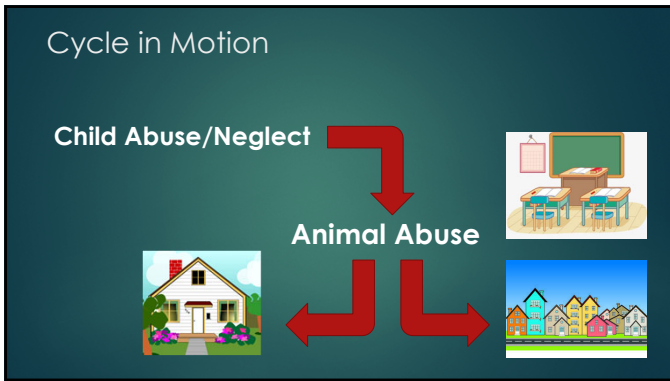
"Child left at home alone with dog, responding agency cannot get child out of house due to dog being aggressive"

"Child services investigating child welfare and noted an injured cat in the home."

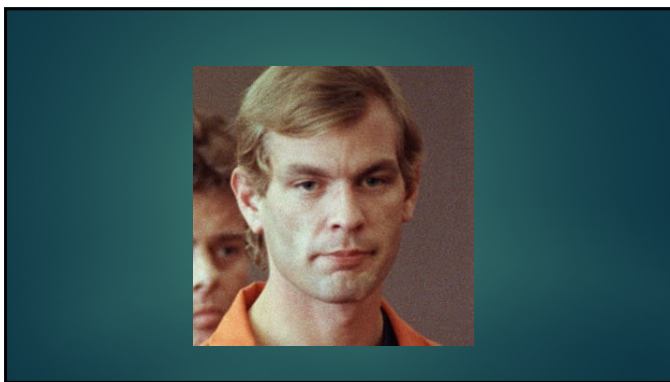
"Child services responding to concerns for child welfare. No adult in home for days, dog can be seen through window eating diapers."

"Child services reports dog at address has fleas so bad the skin is showing, child in home has bites from the fleas as well."

27



28



29

NATIONAL LINK COALITION
Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 15, No. 6 June 2022
A monthly review of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE
www.NationalLinkCoalition.org [SUBSCRIBE TO LINK-Letter](#)
Phil Ackles, Coordinator and Editor

MASS MURDER... and THE LINK
Buffalo, N.Y. Supermarket and Uvalde, Texas Shooters Reported to Have Also Abused Animals

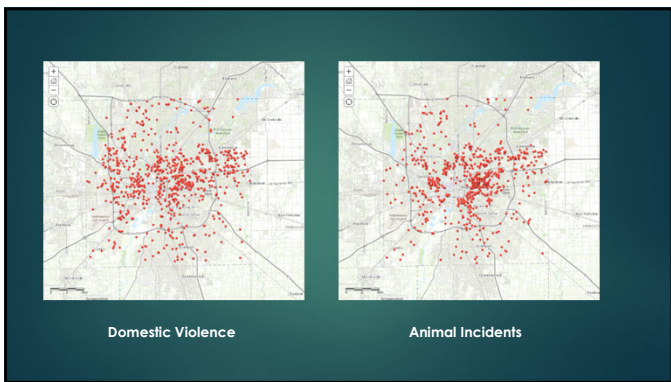
The accused mass shooters in the horrific Buffalo, N.Y. supermarket and Uvalde, Texas elementary school massacres have become the latest in a string of alleged mass murderers whose ignored early warning signs included a history of torturing animals. The [Washington Post](#) described online Discord chat app postings from the alleged Buffalo shooter, Payton S. Gunderson. "In addition to laying out menacing plans for a mass shooting, the messages amount to a wide-ranging journal of a troubled 18-year-old, who described killing and mutilating a cat and being taken to a medical facility for psychiatric evaluation after he stated in a high school class that he planned to commit "murder/ suicide."

Payton Gunderson

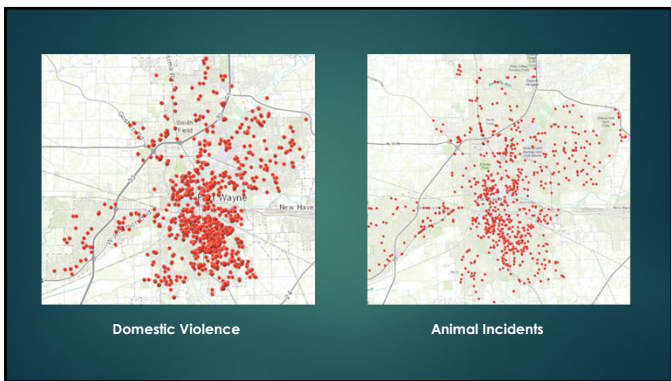
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Family Violence Overlap in Indiana

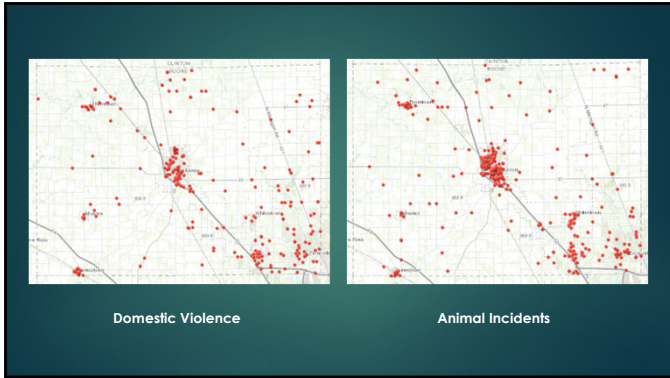
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32



33



34

Patterns in Reports of Family Violence

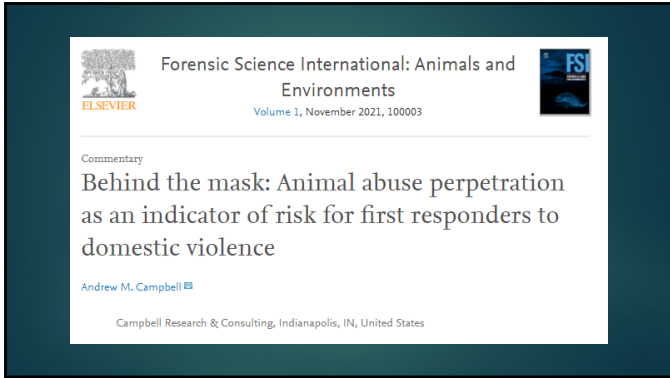
Incident Type	Incident Date
Animal Complaint	6-Jan-16
Animal Complaint	5-Jun-16
Animal Bite / Attack	8-Jul-16
Domestic Disturbance	2-Oct-16
Domestic Disturbance	3-Oct-16
Domestic Disturbance	17-Jan-17
Domestic Disturbance	18-May-17

35

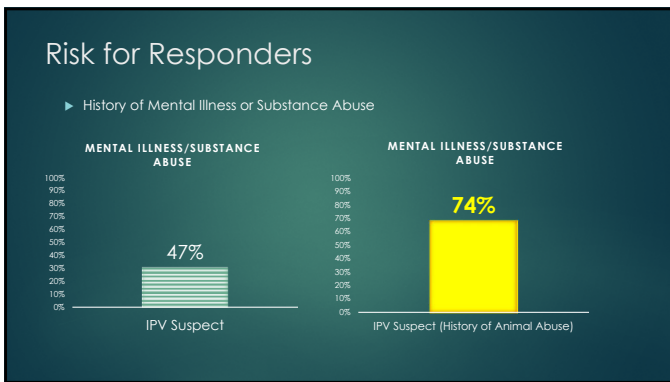
Effective Prevention, Identification, & Intervention

The image shows a group of people's hands clasped together in a circle on a wooden desk. In the background, there are several laptops, a keyboard, and a mouse, suggesting a collaborative meeting or workshop setting. The text 'Effective Prevention, Identification, & Intervention' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

36



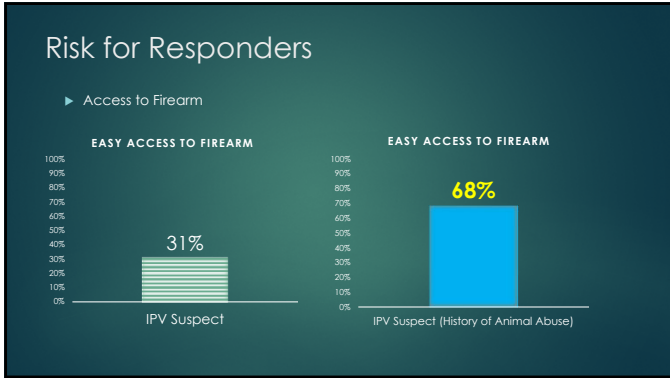
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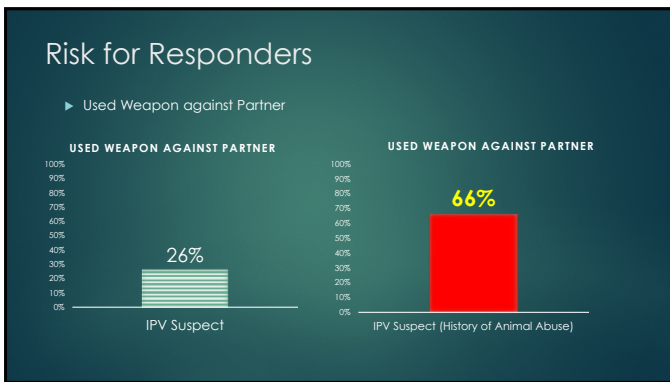
38



39



40




41



42

Animal Welfare and Human Welfare

- ▶ Child welfare in U.S. birthed from animal welfare efforts
 - ▶ Henry Bergh – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NY, 1866)
 - ▶ "To provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals through the United States, to enforce all laws which are now or may hereafter be enacted for the protection of animals and to secure, by lawful means, the arrest and conviction of all persons violating such laws"
 - ▶ Industrial Revolution/Civil War (Child Abuse Risk)
 - ▶ Alcoholism and Poverty
 - ▶ Rapid population growth (NYC)
 - ▶ Etta Wheeler – religious missionary, reached out to Bergh
 - ▶ Mary Ellen – Severe Abuse and Neglect
 - ▶ New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1874)



<https://www.aspc.org/about-us/history-of-the-aspc>

43

How Does Emotional Maltreatment Affect Children?



44

Visualizing "Invisible Injury"

3 Year Old Children



Normal Extreme Neglect



Healthy Brain Front An Abused Brain

Back

Ferry, BD and Peltard, D. Altered brain development following global neglect in early childhood. Society For Neuroscience. Proceedings From Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 1997

45

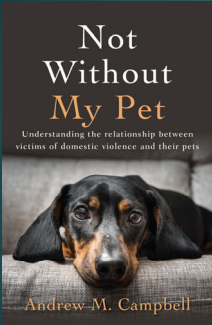
Social Development

Original Article
Effect of Pet Dogs on Children's Perceived Stress and Cortisol Stress Response
 Darlene A. Hertges, Jingwen Liu, Nathan J. Hall, Natalie A. Hadad, Clive D. L. Wynne, Samarth S. Bhutt

"Pet dog presence significantly buffered the perceived stress response in comparison to children in the alone and parent present conditions."



46



Not Without My Pet
 Understanding the relationship between victims of domestic violence and their pets
 Andrew M. Campbell

Dedication

This work is dedicated to my dog, Shelby, who saved my life. What I would not give, for one more walk together.

47

Andrew M. Campbell
 Founder/CEO
 Campbell Research & Consulting

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 FACEBOOK: @CampbellResearchandConsulting



48
