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FIRST STRIKE CAMPAIGN: Animal Cruelty/Human Violence

Statistics on Violence

Animal Cruelty and Human Violence: The Connection

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that in 1996 there were 9.1 million violent crimes in the United States.

A 1997 study by the MSPCCA and Northeastern University found that 70% of animal abusers had committed at least one other criminal offense and almost 40% had committed violent crimes against people.

A 1996 study reported that 48% of convicted rapists and 30% of convicted child molesters admitted perpetrating acts of animal cruelty in their childhood or adolescence (Tingle et al., 1986)

A history of animal abuse was found in 25% of aggressive male criminals, 30% of convicted child molesters, 36% of those who assaulted women and 46% of those convicted of sexual homicide (Petrovoski, 1997).

Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence:

Every 15 seconds a women is battered (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).

In 3 surveys in women's shelters in WI and UT in the late 1990's an average of 74% of pet-owning women reported that a pet had been threatened, injured or killed by their abuser (Ascione 1995 & 1997 and Quinlisk, 1995).

The Buffalo, Nypolice department and the SPCA of Erie County found that 1/3 of the residences with animal abuse complaints also had domestic violence complaints (1998).

A survey of women in a safehouse in UT found that 20% delayed leaving the abusive situation out of fear that their pet would be harmed. Data currently being collected in Canada found almost 50% displayed leaving (Ascione, 1997)

The 1995 UT survey also found that children witnessed the animal abuse in over 60% of the cases and 32% of women reported that one or more of their children hurt or killed a pet.

Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse:

In 1992, the United States Board on Child Abuse and Neglect released a report indicating that more than 2.5 million American children are suffering from abuse and neglect.

A 1983 survey in NJ of families reported for child abuse found that in 88% of the families at least one person had abused animals (DeViney, Dickert & Lockwood, 1983)

The NJ study also found that in 2/3 of these cases, the abusive parent had injured or killed a pet and in 1/3 of the cases, children were the animal abusers.

A study by the Royal SPCA in Great Britain found that 83% of families with a history of animal abuse had also been identified by social service agencies as at-risk for child abuse or neglect (Hutton, 1981).

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