

# LEGALFOXES LAW TIMES

## THE EFFECT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STRESS ON THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS

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### Abstract

Domestic animals are subject to considerable physical and psychological impacts from stress. Like people animals may encounter stress in a variety of circumstances and chronic or persistence stress can negatively impact animals' general well-being. There are various issues which impact domestic animals as a result of stress like Physical health problems, behavior changes which includes their aggressive behavior, restlessness, reduce appetite, their sleeping pattern, social bonding difficulties, decrease overall performance and reproductive performance, etc. In this paper I am going to discuss the symptoms and what are their reasons.

*Never believe that animals suffer less than humans. Pain is the same for them that it is for us. Even worse, because they cannot help themselves.*

**Louis J. Camuti**



Animals are the companion of humans from time immemorial. They are kept as pets and for their entertainment. India has a rich history of Jiva Daya which is animal protection as we can see in many texts, stories, Vedas, and cultural beliefs. Many old gods and goddesses are pictured with animals and birds as their carriers. Non-violence to animals is a part of cultural belief.

Morality often says about good behaviour with animals or treating them like as humans. But in many parts animals were treated negatively like shouting, hitting, and even inhuman treatment and responses given to them which led to an unpleasure environment. Farm animals were treated inhumanely which place a negative impact on the productivity of animals. there are numerous cases where pigs were slapped and electric shocks were given to them which put them into such fear psychologically and their growth and reproduction are also affected. Many studies show that the animals which are kept in homes, and zoos often relate to the keepers the way they treat them decides their mental and Physical health<sup>1</sup>

There are five freedoms of animal welfare.

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<sup>1</sup> Gonyou, H. W., Hemsworth, P. H., & Barnett, J. L. (1986). Effects of frequent interactions with humans on growing pigs. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 16(3), 269–278.

1. Freedom from hunger or thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. freedom from pain damage or sickness
4. Freedom to exhibit natural behaviour and
5. freedom from fear and anguish.<sup>2</sup>

Any violation of these five principles that might endanger the animals will be animal cruelty sometimes known as animal Maltreatment is being more scene as a severe social issue. Animal cruelties define broadly as all socially undesirable behaviour that deliberately infixes excessive discomfort, anguish, or grief to and or the death of an animal.<sup>3</sup>

Domestic animals frequently seek and appreciate human interaction. Happy human-animal partnerships can evoke happy feelings as well as other beneficial results. Then other less are knowledge of the fundamental system that drives animals' favorable impression of human is limited. According to the animal's point of view, we discuss the probable strategies that drive the establishment and maintenance of beneficial human-animal partnerships. Based on interactions and social cognition this includes habituation, learning by association, and even affiliation or bonding. We examine the literature for indications of a healthy human-animal interaction. This enjoyable relationship can be conceptualized as the animal displaying a voluntary approach and Geographic closeness as well as signals of preparedness, happiness, report, or other markers of a gratifying experience from engaging with the human.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, human mindset skills and understanding impact the behavior towards animals and hands the animal's impression of people. All these human aspects are outside the focus of this paper they should be addressed when considering the human-animal relationship. There is also growing speculation that animals can recognize human feelings shown on the face dog horse goat or on the body cat and favor good human behavior.<sup>5</sup>

Studies indicate that animals are subject to cruelty and domestic violence scenarios as part of the wrongdoer's control and authority approaches since the 1990s. Animal cruelty, according to Frank Ascione, is "socially and acceptable behaviour that intentionally causes unnecessary pain suffering or distressed to and/ or death to an animal". The elevated incidences of animal maltreatment, this has major ramifications for the well beings of animals. Reports also show that such incidences took place in households where domestic violence takes place.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Mellor, Farm Animal Welfare Council, 2009; 2016

<sup>3</sup> Ascione, Frank R. 'Children Who Are Cruel to Animals: A Review of Research and Implications for Developmental Psychopathology.' *Anthrozoos* 6.4 (1993): 226-47

<sup>4</sup> Jean-Loup Rault, Susanne Waiblinger, Xavier Boivin and Paul Hemsworth, The Power of a Positive Human-Animal Relationship for Animal Welfare

<sup>5</sup> Jean-Loup Rault, Susanne Waiblinger, Xavier Boivin and Paul Hemsworth, The Power of a Positive Human-Animal Relationship for Animal Welfare, doi: 10.1007/s10071-011-0386-5, doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2014.12.055,doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2015.0883,doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2015.0907,doi: 10.1098/rsos.180491,doi: 10.1007/s10071-014-0832-2

<sup>6</sup> Ascione, Weber, Thompson, Heath, Maruyama and Hayashi; Hayashi. 'Battered Pets and Domestic Violence: Animal Abuse Reported by Women Experiencing Intimate Violence and by Non abused Women.' *Violence Against Women* 13, 2007: 354-373.

In contrast, very little thought has been given to the animals' ongoing health and welfare impacts. While the incidence of animal maltreatment in domestic violence circumstances is unclear, there is a high likelihood that animals have a significantly high risk of being treated with cruelty as statistics show that 63% of Australian homes have an animal as a pet and one in every three women experience is domestic abuse.<sup>7</sup>

A research report<sup>8</sup> shows that data was taken for a study of women in Australia who were interviewed shortly after departing from a violent relationship and who had pets under their care throughout their relationships. Throughout the research, the women were asked questions again 6 months later and were asked to share their thoughts on the health and well-being of their companion animals throughout the 6 months following separation from a domestic violence relationship, as well as difficulties such as transferring to secure housing. Furthermore, the women's perspectives on pet animal support services like fostering and veterinary care were investigated.

A number of research studies have reported the sort of cruelty performed on animals living in a domestic violence environment. These can include striking, hitting, choking and strangling, drowning, punching and shooting, hitting, assaulting, hurling, hanging, poisoning, decapitation, intentional neglect, and verbal abuse, and can result in significant wounds, misery, and death.<sup>9</sup>

The constant effect of domestic abuse on the well-being of animals is distressing for those who live with it. Animals, as evidenced by fear and anxiety-related behaviors observed after domestic violence incidents. For example, fleeing, displaying violence against the aggressor attempting to be near the targeted partner.<sup>10</sup>

Concerned for the welfare of the animals that accompanied them is an important factor why some women put off divorcing a violent husband.<sup>11</sup> However, not all abuses of domestic violence harm animals; those who do usually employ more hazardous types of brutality and control over their spouses.<sup>12</sup>

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Volant, Anne M., Johnson, J.A., Gullone, E. and G.J. Coleman. 'The Relationship Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: An Australian Study.' *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 23.9 (2008): 1277-95.

<sup>7</sup> World Health Organisation

<sup>8</sup> Catherine M. Tiplady, Deborah B. Walsh, and Clive J.C. Phillips, 'The ongoing impact of domestic violence on animal welfare,' <https://ro.uow.edu.au/>

<sup>9</sup> Carlisle-Frank and Flanagan, *Silent Victims: Recognizing and Stopping Abuse of the Family Pet*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2006; Tiplady, Walsh and Phillips, 'Intimate Partner Violence and Companion Animal Welfare.' *Australian Veterinary Journal* 90.1-2 (2012): 48-53

<sup>10</sup> Tiplady, Walsh and Phillips, 'Intimate Partner Violence and Companion Animal Welfare.' *Australian Veterinary Journal* 90.1-2 (2012): 48-53

<sup>11</sup> Ascione, Weber, and Wood; Ascione, 'Battered Women', Flynn; Carlisle-Frank, Frank and Nielsen; Ascione, Weber, Thompson, Heath, Maruyama, and Hayashi, 'Battered Pets and Domestic Violence: Animal Abuse Reported by Women Experiencing Intimate Violence and by Non-abused Women.' *Violence Against Women* 13, 2007: 354-373.

<sup>12</sup> Simmons, Catherine A., Peter Lehmann. 'Exploring the Link Between Pet Abuse and Controlling Behaviours in Violent Relationships.' *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 22.9, 2007: 1211-22.

Therefore, animal quality is seen as a “Red flag” for a possibly excessive amount of human interpersonal violence in a family.<sup>13</sup> Many women are reluctant to confide with veterinarians about animal cruelty in domestic violence.<sup>14</sup> All do the fact that veterinarians are skilled in the treatment of animals and are well positioned to function as defenders, particularly in spotting incidents of animal cruelty they get minimal training in this area in anticipation to put into practice.<sup>15</sup>

Considering the links between animal and human domestic, Veterinarians may be in an excellent position to have suspicions about victimization, when presented with incidents of animal cruelty. A study of Veterinarians in India, and the USA revealed that just 7% had undergone training in animal abuse treatment, and non-had gotten instructions on how to cope with situations of human interpersonal violence.<sup>16</sup> A partially structured telephonic survey interview was utilized since it is in line with previous studies on those who are vulnerable.<sup>17</sup>

During the initially scheduled phone interview 8 of the 13 women interviewed stated that companion animals had also been abused or neglected. Aggression towards the spouse and protectiveness of the victimized lady were prevalent behavioural alternations identified in those animals. Qualitative telephonic interviews were also employed in the follow-up study. The research effort was intended to investigate how afflicted animals’ conduct had altered after the initial interview as well as to hear women’s experiences and perspectives on domestic violence and the abuser’s use of violence. Women were also asked to remark on their attachment to their animals and the resources available to them. We thought that polling women six months after living with their violent husbands offered the best opportunity to see if short-term behaviour changes occurred.<sup>18</sup>

Only five women participated in the study. Among them one lady Deanna During the relationship had two dogs a 5-year-old female Maltese Terrier and a 3-year-old female Kelpie X Australian cattle dog while neither animal was physically harmed nor neglected the Calpie X Australian cattle dog was verbally tormented. Three out of the five women claim direct physical abuse of animals while one lady reported verbal animal cruelty. Linda's boyfriend did not physically abuse the animals nonetheless, she said that when her partner verbally attacked her the female Maltese terrier would show discomfort by barking at the partner incessantly.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Flynn Ascione, Frank R., Claudia V. Weber, and David S. Wood. ‘The Abuse of Animals and Domestic Violence: A National Survey of Shelters for Women Who Are Battered.’ *Society & Animals* 5.3 (1997): 205–18.

<sup>14</sup> Tiplady, Walsh and Phillips, ‘Intimate Partner Violence and Companion Animal Welfare.’ *Australian Veterinary Journal* 90.1-2,2012: 48–53

<sup>15</sup> Arkow and Munro, Landau, *The international handbook of animal abuse and cruelty – theory, research and application*. Ed. F.R. Ascione. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2010. 31-50.; ‘A Survey of Teaching and Implementation: The Veterinarian’s Role in Recognizing and Reporting Abuse.’ *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 215.3 (1999): 328–31.

<sup>16</sup> Landau, R.E. ‘A Survey of Teaching and Implementation: The Veterinarian’s Role in Recognizing and Reporting Abuse.’ *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 215.3 (1999): 328–31.

<sup>17</sup> Ellsberg, Mary C., and Lori Heise. *Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists*. Washington, D.C.: World Health Organization, 2005

<sup>18</sup> The ongoing impact of domestic violence on animal welfare, Catherine M. Tiplady, Deborah B. Walsh, and Clive J.C. Phillips, <https://ro.uow.edu.au/>

<sup>19</sup> Catherine M. Tiplady, Deborah B. Walsh, and Clive J.C. Phillips, *The ongoing impact of domestic violence on animal welfare*

Angela described how her cat would be mistreated if she was seen approaching her lover or screaming at him, he would get the cat out of the way if he was walking and the cat was you know strolling near him or in front of him. That kind of thing when we fought the cat would not leave, he would be there and unhappy and snarling, you know because he was obviously stressed out and everything else, and if the cat did that, he would go kick him or do something to him as well.<sup>20</sup> Trisha's cat and dog were both verbally miss treated and neglected by her spouse during their relationship. Her ex-partner discovered where she was staying after she left the relationship and tossed her dog over the fence creating bruises on the dog. Trisha was worried about the well-being of a cat that her partner had refused to give her after they split up. The children who had witnessed domestic violence were substantially more likely to be abusive to animals than children who had not witnessed violence.<sup>21</sup>

Regardless of how upsetting it is not tough to see your connection between familial violence and animal abuse. It is possible for a violent period to strike out at his wife children and family pet. It is more challenging to comprehend animal quality children growing up in violent environments yet evidence backs this up. An indirect but similarly significant observation in the literature is that many children who encounter or are subject to abuse or neglect are more likely to be aggressive and violent.<sup>22</sup>

Quality towards animals is included as one of the first and most serious symptoms of behavioural disorder.<sup>23</sup> Numerous research investigations have also discovered a disturbing link between Juvenile animal abuse and aggression in adolescence and maturity.<sup>24</sup>

### Suggestions

The space where the animal resides has to be cleaned risk free and proper ventilated space. Which should be comfortable for them. Schedule there play time eating and exercise and other activities. Participate in some activities with such buddy animals so that their physical and cognitive development along with their mental and Physical health should improve. They should be given relaxed environment and no noisy environment but soothing stress-free environment like music or calm atmosphere be given. Regular veterinary visit should be done and they should be provided a proper balance diet. Some domestic animals need companionship so they should be socialized whenever required so that they should not feel lonely or isolated.

It is very critical that anyone in charge of taking care of domestic animals including the pet owners, livestock managers and others are aware of these possible negative effects of stress. In

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<sup>20</sup> Catherine. Tiplady, Deborah B. Walsh, J. C. Phillips, The ongoing impact of domestic violence on animal welfare, <https://ro.uow.edu.au/>

<sup>21</sup> Cheryl L. Currie, Animal cruelty by children exposed to domestic violence, <https://www.sciencedirect.com>

<sup>22</sup> Ascione, 1998; DeViney, Dickert, & Lockwood, 1983

<sup>23</sup> American Psychiatric Association, 2000

<sup>24</sup> Childhood Cruelty to Animals and Subsequent Violence against Humans Linda Merz-Perez, Kathleen M. Heide, and Ira J. Silverman View all authors and affiliations, Volume 45, Issue 5, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X0145500>

appropriate environment, stimulation, social engagement, consistent exercise and regular schedule can all help domestic animals feel less stressed and improve their general health and well-being. Monitoring and minimizing stress related problems in animals can also be facilitated by seeking veterinary advice or having an appointment with an animal behaviorist.

