

One Welfare *we are all connected*



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A nod to One Health



Recognizing that **human health** (including mental health via the human-animal bond phenomenon), **animal health**, and **ecosystem health** are inextricably linked, One Health seeks to promote, improve, and defend the **health and well-being of all species** by enhancing cooperation and collaboration between **physicians, veterinarians, other scientific health and environmental professionals**

and by promoting strengths in leadership and management to achieve these goals

Animals as indicators of human health and welfare

An inseparable link:
animals & humans

**Doing well
Feeling good**

In the veterinary world:
animals & people

**Doing good
Feeling well**

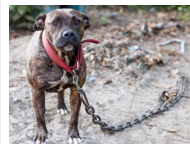
WELLBEING



Animals contribute to human health & wellbeing *but can often be at high risk from mis-use, neglect or abuse*

Companion animal welfare –
focusses attention on **social problems**

(e.g. homelessness, dog fighting, hoarding, neglect, ignorance and abuse)



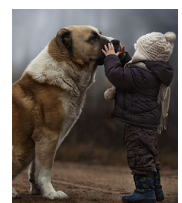
Animals contribute to human wellbeing

Companionship for the lonely, elderly, ill & debilitated



Animals contribute to human wellbeing

Animal companionship
can rehabilitate offenders
and abused children



Animals as indicators of human wellbeing

Improved farm animal welfare = increased productivity + improved food safety


Good farm welfare indicates farmer health and wellbeing
Poor farm welfare/neglect often = the opposite



 Bovine Tuberculosis
 Chicken
 Fish

Animals as indicators of human wellbeing

- Farmers are particularly vulnerable
- As physical or mental health declines, farm work becomes more challenging
- Several generations of family may be involved: GOOD (support) or BAD (tension)
- Succession: no one to share the load? No future....
- Self-employment = financial insecurity
- Workload is too big
- Bureaucracy is a major stressor
- Physical injuries common
- Little social support




A deterioration in animal health & welfare or evidence of neglect
= early indicator of human challenge

Animals as indicators of human wellbeing

Recognising the links between **animal** and **human** abuse can help both humans and animals

Often the animal is the index case of abuse in a violent household

*'When animals are abused, people are at risk;
when people are abused, animals are at risk.'*
Understanding the Link between Violence to People and Violence to Animals
(a booklet by the American Humane Association)



Links Group

Abuse in animals and humans: so many parallels

- Cigarette burns in a child
- Cigarette burns in dogs



Accidental?



Cathy the rescue Pitbull
Emaciated: **neglect?**
Cigarette burns: **abuse**


I don't think so

So what about that other link?

Animals, women and children have one thing in common – they're all easy to hurt

- Not **neglect** or **ignorance**
- Not teasing or tormenting


Intentional harm for pleasure, to control or coerce a family member or as a response to external factors



Links Group

Links Group Guidance documents

- Introduce the concept of
 - **non-accidental injury**
- How to recognise abuse
- Approaching the client: **ARD R**
[Asking, Reassuring, Documenting, Refer / Report]
- Advice on how to **take notes**
- The question of **confidentiality**
- Dealing with:
 - Aggression
 - Hostility
- **Communication**.....getting it right
- **Support** for the client/victim & the vet
- **Multi-agency liaison**: police, aid agencies, social services, APHA, local authorities



Recognising abuse in animals and humans
A practical guide for the veterinary team

Preparing vets for 'disclosure'



The Guidance prepares vets for 'disclosure' – that moment when the **owner** admits that the animal has been **deliberately injured**

Or when the **client** chooses to confide in this trusted individual, that they too **are a victim**, possibly living in fear for their life

The opportunity to grasp the **golden moment**

And extend a paw of friendship



This single gesture of support may be the first time anyone has shown any kindness towards the victim



We recognise that vets need support when human victims present themselves in the surgery, or on the farm

Our colleagues in human healthcare realised that they needed our assistance when there was an animal at risk in a violent household



Multi-agency working



- Kitten presented with head swelling
"cupboard door fell on cat"
- Kitten presented with dyspnoea
"2-year-old child sat on cat"
- Kitten presented with severe ataxia → necropsy
Fractures of skull and severe contusions; # ribs

Animal Welfare Inspector interview –

- **discrepant history** (no consistency in the stories)
- **injuries trivialised** ("injuries weren't very serious")
- **little concern expressed for kitten**

Inspector consults experienced vet: advises

non-accidental injury



Multi-agency working



Inspector consults experienced vet: advises

non-accidental injury

Police criminal record check: male in house –

- Allegation: **rape of partner**
- Allegation: **physical abuse of child**
- Allegation: **domestic abuse to partner**

Family had fallen off police radar so a lack of evidence to proceed to court but now firmly back in their sights

The death of this kitten – and the vet's suspicions and the Inspector's actions saved this family from additional harm



A bond that works both ways

Children may be lucky enough to be surrounded by animals and humans who love them from their birth

As part of healthy growth and development, a child's bond with animals teaches **empathy** and **compassion**

When a child has been abused or traumatized, the **non-judgmental comfort from an animal can help the child heal** (Phillips & McQuarrie, 2009)

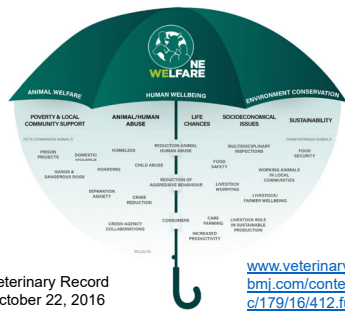
But the same bond can be exploited to seek **silence** and **compliance** from children who have been battered or who have witnessed violence in the home

Allie Phillips
Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse
Deputy Director, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse



Acknowledgment: Elena Shumilova (Google Images)

“We are the voice for those who cannot speak”



Veterinary Record
October 22, 2016

www.veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/vetre/179/16/412.full.pdf?ikey=0EvK92iXsP1oA&keytype=ref&siteid=bmjjournals