



# ANIMAL VICTIMS HUMAN VICTIMS

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## VIOLENCE RARELY OCCURS IN A VACUUM

Criminologists view the intensity of vicious behavior — regardless of the victim's identity — as a precursor to future violence. The FBI red flags animal abuse when profiling homicidal suspects and identifies it as a stage along the animal-to-human violence continuum. "People begin to fantasize about these violent actions... The next phase is usually acting out against animals," *Alan Brantley of the FBI's Investigative Support Unit.*

Violent criminals view their victims as objects. Severity and intimacy of injury inflicted (e.g. stabbing, mutilating, strangling) are more significant than remote actions such as shooting or poisoning, *Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., regularly enlisted to aid cruelty investigators, law enforcers, court officials and mental health professionals, "Factors in the Assessment of Dangerousness in Perpetrators of Animal Cruelty."*



● **Men prosecuted for animal cruelty are 5 times as likely to be arrested for other violent crimes.** *Extensive research by Frank Ascione, Utah State University professor of family and human development*

● **70% of animal abusers accumulated 1 or more unrelated crimes and nearly 40% committed brutal crimes against people.** *MSPCA and Northeastern University inquiry, 1997*

● **"Animal cruelty...is not a harmless venting of emotion in a healthy individual; this is a warning sign.** *FBI Supervisory Special Agent Allen Brantley*

● **Animal cruelty is a key trait in the profile for conduct disorders.** *American Psychiatric Association.* "Animal cruelty may be one of the first signals you're going to see as a warning of future aggressive behavior and violence," psychologist Mary Lou Randour.

● **"Extreme cruelty toward animals is a marker for potential violence toward humans."** *Psychologist Stephanie LaFarge, the nation's first expert in court-mandated animal abuse counseling*

● **If a person behaves like this towards an animal, this is violent behavior and in all likelihood, it is not confined to animals."** *Dr. Yvonne Neiman, psychologist*

● **Repeat [animal abuse] occurrences within 24 hours depict predatory behavior associated with premeditated violence.** Animal cruelty used to intimidate or bully a human indicates the offender sees living victims as objects and resorts to psychological torment to exert control over others. *Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., 2006*

● **"The additional intimidation of written or verbal threats are strongly indicative of potential for escalated violence.** Displaying the body of a victim can be indicative of the use of such violence to gain feelings of power, control and domination — or to alarm or intimidate others. This should be considered a serious warning sign." *Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.*

**Studies of child and spousal battery** show abusers commonly menace, torment or kill the family's companion animals. Litigators ought to join forces for a cross-disciplinary investigation. Judges, prosecutors, police officers, social workers and cruelty investigators need to parley reports on animal abuse, domestic violence and other possible crimes in order to appraise an offender's overall threat to family and society.

Animal cruelty is an overt clue to a troubled family. A child may harm vulnerable creatures to mimic an abusive family member. Or, struggling for control in a turbulent household, he victimizes animals to vent his anger and anxiety.

● **88% of New Jersey families with physical abuse in the household claimed animals were abused as well.** *Study of NJ families on state aid due to physical abuse*

● **40% of persons convicted of child abuse admitted they abused animals and 30% of persons convicted of rape confessed to prior animal abuse.** *Findings at 2006 Animal Law Enforcement Academy workshop in San Diego*

● **Violence against small, helpless or non-threatening creatures unlikely to retaliate is a precursor to assaulting children, the elderly or disabled, or other vulnerable victims.** *Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., "Factors in the Assessment of Dangerousness in Perpetrators of Animal Cruelty"*

**Adolescent pranks that victimize animals** are a known precursor to aggressive crimes. Young males behind America's rash of high-profile shootings tortured animals before aiming weapons at students, teachers or parents. Most had no prior offenses. In particular, young males with a history of parental neglect or abuse may vent feelings of powerlessness and rage upon animals. Luke Woodham, 16, mortally stabbed his mother and shot nine students. He later confessed to bludgeoning his dog Sparkle, flooding her throat with lighter fluid, and setting her neck on fire. Columbine school shooter Eric Harris, 18, smashed mice with a crowbar and set them on fire. Washington D.C. serial killer Lee Boyd Malvo killed stray cats with a slingshot. Kip Kinkle, 17, bombed squirrels and burned a live cat before he shot 25 classmates and murdered his parents in Oregon. Andrew Golden and Mitchell Johnson, both 13, brutalized dogs before killing five people in an Arkansas school rampage.

● **Parents and educators are advised to view animal abuse as a key indicator of a seriously troubled youth.** Among top warning signs of a disturbed child: ABUSE OF ANIMALS, suicide threats or attempts, self-mutilation, etc. *Ken Trump, National School Safety and Security Service*

● **Serial killers and other psychopathic criminals are “the kids who never learned it’s wrong to poke out a puppy’s eyes.”** Robert Ressler, founder of the FBI’s behavioral sciences unit

● **25% of aggressive criminals confessed to 5 or more acts of animal torture, compared to under 6% for nonaggressive criminals.** Of noncriminals interviewed for the report, none had participated in or observed animal abuse as children. “*Childhood Cruelty Toward Animals Among Criminals and Noncriminals*”

● **The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released a report on animal abuse by young people.** Its author, Utah State University psychologist Frank Ascione, said the problem has been “underreported and understudied,” and suggested that greater scrutiny “may add one more piece to the puzzle of understanding and preventing youth violence.” *Efforts to Counter Teen Animal Cruelty Increasing*, David Crary, Associated Press, June 14, 2002

● **“Animal abuse should be universally recognized as a cry for help.”** Lindy Gannette, director, child/family mental health services, National Mental Health Association

- Men and teenage boys commit a high percentage of intentional animal cruelty.
- Household pets are the most common victims of animal cruelty, but cat cruelty is not reported as often as dog cruelty.
- Shooting is the most common form of intentional cruelty.
- Hanging is the most common method that women use to commit animal cruelty.
- In connection with family violence, men are more often the abusers of animals.

*Humane Society of the United States*

## REPORTS FROM POLICE CASE FILES

- **Dennis Rader**, notorious for the Bind-Torture-Kill murders in Wichita, Kansas, confessed to strangling cats and dogs prior to his sadistic spree.
- **Washington D.C. convicted serial killer Lee Boyd Malvo** stalked and killed cats with a slingshot. “This was probably the most serious problem...in a strikingly obedient child,” his court psychologist testified. Malvo once had a pet cat but grew to hate animals, psychologist Cornell said, because his mother would beat Malvo when the cat would sleep in Malvo’s bed and soil the sheets. “If he saw a stray cat he would become angry and shoot the stray cat. He hit some of the cats, and probably killed some of the cats,” Cornell said. *Lee Boyd Malvo (D.C. Area “Sniper” and Serial Killer) Killed & Tortured Cats as a Child* MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press Writer
- **Columbine High School shooter Eric Harris**, 18, smashed the heads of mice with a crowbar and set them on fire.
- **Russell Weston Jr.**, tortured and killed 12 cats: burned and cut off their tails, paws, ears; poured toxic chemicals in their eyes to blind them; forced them to ingest poison, hung them from trees (the noose loose enough to create a slow and painful death.) Later killed 2 officers at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC.
- **Jeffrey Dahmer** impaled frogs, staked cats to trees and decapitated dogs. Later he dissected boys and kept their body parts in the refrigerator. Murdered 17 men.
- **Kip Kinkle** shot 25 classmates and others in Springfield, Oregon. He killed his father and mother. Said he once blew up a cow. Set a live cat on fire and dragged the creature down main street of town. Classmates rated him as “Most Likely to Start WWII.”
- **Albert De Salvo, the “Boston Strangler,”** placed a dog and cat in a crate with a partition between them. After starving the animals for days, he removed the partition to watch them kill each other. Later, as an adult, he raped and strangled 13 women. He often posed bodies in a shocking manner after their murders.
- **Richard Allen Davis** set numerous cats on fire. He killed all of Polly Klaus’ animals before abducting and murdering Polly Klaus, aged 12, from her bedroom.
- **11-year-old Andrew Golden and 13-year-old Mitchell Johnson** tortured and killed dogs. On March 24, 1998, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Golden and Johnson shot and killed 4 students and 1 teacher during a fire drill at their school.
- **16-year-old Luke Woodham** mortally stabbed his mother, killed 2 classmates and shot 7 others. During his prosecution, he confessed to bludgeoning his dog Sparkle with baseball bats and pouring liquid fuel down her throat and to set fire to her neck. “I made my first kill today,” he wrote in his court-subpoenaed journal. “It was a loved one...I’ll never forget the howl she made. It sounded almost human.” In June 1998, Woodham was found guilty of 3 murders and 7 counts of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to 3 life sentences and an additional 20 years for each assault.
- **Theodore Robert Bundy**, executed in 1989 for at least 50 murders, was forced to watch his grandfather torture animals. Bundy later heaped graves with animal bones.



- **Gary Ridgway, the Green River killer**, suffocated a cat as a child years before Washington State prostitutes began to go missing.
- **Michael Cartier**, at age 4, dislocated the legs of rabbits and hurled a kitten through a closed window. He later shot Kristin Lardner 3 times in the head and shot himself.
- **Henry Lee Lucas** killed numerous animals and had sex with their corpses. He killed his mother, common law wife, and an unknown number of people.
- **Edward Kemperer** cut up 2 cats. He killed his grandparents, mother, 7 other women.
- **Richard Speck** threw a bird into a ventilator fan. Killed 8 women.
- **Randy Roth** taped a cat to a car’s engine and used an industrial sander on a frog. Killed 2 of his wives and attempted to kill a third.
- **David Richard Davis** fatally shot 2 ponies, hurled a wine bottle at kittens and hunted illegally. He murdered his wife, Shannon Mohr Davis, for insurance money.
- **Peter Kurten, the Dusseldorf Monster**, tortured dogs, and practiced bestiality while killing animals. Murdered or attempted to murder over 50 men, women and children.
- **Richard Trenton Chase, “The Vampire Killer of Sacramento,”** bit the heads off birds, drained animals for their blood, killed animals for their organs, and later killed 6 people in random attacks. One police officer present at the scene of the first murder, confessed to having nightmares about the crime for months afterwards.
- **“The Kobe Killer,”** a 15-year-old boy in Japan, beheaded a cat and strangled several pigeons. Decapitated 11-year-old Jun Hase, fatally battered a 10-year-old girl with a hammer, and assaulted 3 other children in separate attacks.
- **Richard William Leonard’s** grandmother forced him to mutilate cats and kittens when he was a child. He later killed Stephen Dempsey with a bow and arrow. He also killed Ezzedine Bahmad by slashing his throat.
- **Tom Dillion** murdered people’s pets. He shot and killed Jamie Paxton, aged 21; Claude Hawkins, aged 49; Donald Welling, aged 35; Kevin Loring, aged 30; and Gary Bradely, aged 44.
- **Eric Smith**, at age 9, strangled a neighbor’s cat. At 13, he bludgeoned 4-year-old Derrick Robie to death. Smith lured the boy into the woods, choked him, sodomized him with a stick, and fatally beat him with a rock.
- **David Berkowitz, “Son of Sam,”** poisoned his mother’s parakeet out of jealousy. He later shot 13 young men and women. 6 people died and at least 2 suffered permanent disabilities.
- **Arthur Shawcross** repeatedly threw a kitten into a lake until the kitten drowned from exhaustion. Killed a young girl. After 15-1/2 years in prison, killed 11 more women.
- **Michael Perry** decapitated a neighbor’s dog. Later killed his parents, infant nephew and 2 neighbors.
- **Jason Massey’s** killing resume began with cats and dogs; at 20 he decapitated and disemboweled a 13-year-old girl and fatally shot a 14-year old boy. He claims to have killed 37 cats, 29 dogs and 6 cows.
- **Patrick Sherrill** stole neighborhood pets, tethered them with baling wire and encouraged his dog to mutilate them. He killed 14 co-workers and himself in 1986.
- **Keith Hunter Jespersen, “Happy Face Killer,”** bashed gopher heads and beat, strangled and shot stray cats and dogs. He is known to have strangled 8 women. He said: “You’re actually squeezing the life out of these animals...Choking a human being or a cat — it’s the same feeling...I’m the very end result of what happens when somebody kills an animal at an early age.”
- **Carroll Edward Cole**, executed in 1985 for an alleged 35 murders, confessed that his first act of violence was to strangle a puppy under the porch of his house.
- **Robert Alton Harris** murdered two 16-year-old boys, doused a neighbor with lighter fluid and tossed matches at him. In his initial run-in with police was accused of killing neighborhood cats.