

Forensic Psychology of Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty

Insight into those that commit domestic violence and animal cruelty

Presented by Mauro Paulino



Intersection of Psychology and Veterinary



Intimate Partner Violence



Animal Cruelty



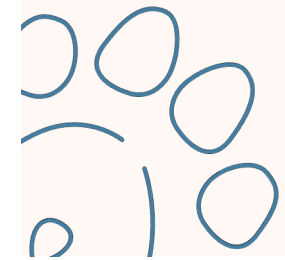


UNIQUE JOURNEY

TOWARDS ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON ANIMAL CRUELTY



Sprinkle some humour





“Pawsitive”
attitude



Interdisciplinary
understanding





Animals are not only your patients

- They can be a red flag of violence in a family



Against a woman;
Against a child;
Against elderly people.

**TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE
CARE AND ADVOCATE
FOR THE WELL-BEING
OF ANIMALS.**



**UNDERSTANDING THE LINK
BETWEEN ANIMAL CRUELTY
AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

ONE HEALTH



Animal cruelty



Profile of an
offender

Neglect

Physical
abuse

Abandonment

Hoarding

←  →
**ALL THESE
DIFFERENT
FORMS ARE
"UN-FUR-GIVABLE"!**
← →

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About Me

**with relevance
for this issue**

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Testimonies

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Testimonies

Portuguese News



FC PORTO CAMPEÃO 2017/2018 LIGA EUROPA OPERAÇÃO MARQUÊS: OS CONFRONTOS

MENU **SIC** NOTÍCIAS

NOTÍCIAS ▾ OPINIÃO ▾ PROGRAMAS GUIA TV

PAÍS

Mulher encontrada morta em Vila Real com "sinais de grande violência"

Uma mulher de 48 anos foi encontrada esta quinta-feira morta em casa, em Vila Real, com vários golpes de arma branca. No apartamento, estavam ainda mortos os dois cães da mulher de 48 anos. O corpo foi descoberto pelo filho de 14 anos, que alertou as autoridades, como conta a repórter da SIC, Manuela Carneiro.

Portuguese News

P

AZUL

P2

ÍPSILON

ÍMPAR

FUGAS

P3

CINECARTAZ

CLUBE P

ACADEMIA P

TRANSPORTES

ITÁLIA

GOVERNO

AEROPORTO DE LISBOÁ

CÓVID-19

GUERRA NA UCRÂNIA

ÚLTIMAS

CRIME

Condenado a prisão efectiva por esventrar cadela grávida

Enfermeiro no Ultramar fez cesariana a sangue frio a cadela, que veio a morrer, e depois pôs os cachorros vivos no lixo. Juiz aplicou 16 meses de prisão pela "crueldade". Decisão é considerada histórica.

Francisco Alves Rito e Ana Henriques

31 de Outubro de 2018, 13:24

🔔 Receber alertas

Portuguese News



SICNOTÍCIAS.PT
Homem detido por matar com violência o cão da ex-namorada
© 26.12.2019 11h06

Caso aconteceu no Montijo.

Um homem de 38 anos foi detido, no domingo no Montijo, por matar com violência o cão da sua ex-namorada.

Em comunicado hoje divulgado, a PSP adianta que os agentes foram chamados a casa da ex-namorada do detido pelas 19:00, tendo encontrado um "cenário macabro", no qual o cão havia sido morto, esfolado e esquartejado.

O detido era visado em outros processos crime por violência doméstica contra a sua ex-namorada, tendo a PSP promovido a reavaliação do nível de risco, de forma a que possa haver necessidade de serem disponibilizadas à mulher medidas de segurança.

Portuguese News



PORTUGAL

OUVIR ARTIGO

Condenado a seis anos casal que espancava filhos e enforcou o cão

Um casal impediu um menor de comer e prendeu-o no quarto com fita adesiva. Também o obrigou a deitar o corpo do cão no lixo e a bater à irmã.

JN IN Direto Nacional Local Justiça Mundo Economia Desporto Pessoas

Lousada

Matou gatos a pontapé para ameaçar ex-namorada



Caso aconteceu em Lousada e agressor foi detido
Foto: Arquivo/Global Imagens

Roberto Bessa
Moreira
20 Janeiro 2021 às 16:32



Além das ameaças de morte e insultos à ex-companheira, um homem matou, a pontapé, os dois gatos da vítima e, juntamente com promessas de que a ia assassinar, enviou-lhe fotografias dos animais mortos.

Portuguese News

REGIÃO DE LEIRIA

SOS UKRAÍNA SOS UCRÂNIA Covid-19 Saúde Desporto Mercado

Joana Magalhães
joana.i.magalhaes@regiodeleiria.pt
5 de março de 2020 17:28

CANTINHO DOS BICHOS

Grupo de alunos agride gata dentro de escola em Leiria

A Associação Zoófila de Leiria deslocou-se à escola para recolher a gata, depois de ter sido contactada por uma aluna que tentou impedir a situação.



JN JN Direto Nacional Local Justiça Mundo Economia Desporto Pessoas

Crianças de escola de Barcelos ensacaram gato para o esmurrar

Maus tratos

Crianças de escola de Barcelos ensacaram gato para o esmurrar



Emilia Monteiro
06 Novembro 2021 às 13:58

Um gato foi colocado dentro de um saco e esmurrado por algumas crianças de uma escola de Barcelos. A denúncia foi feita pela "Streetdogs", uma associação de proteção animal que tenta agora arranjar uma casa para o felino.



PhD Research

- Sample of 133 victims
- 84 had a pet (63.2%)
- Of these, 47 suffered animal cruelty
- 7 offenders killed the animal (14.9%)





**You have a
primary and
crucial role in
addressing
animal**



WARNING!



Animal Abuse

The cycle must be broken



Domestic Violence



Child Abuse



Elderly abuse



Science-based Evidence

Victims and Offenders, 2:21–43, 2007
Copyright © Taylor & Francis Group, LLC
ISSN: 1556-4886 print/1556-4991 online
DOI: 10.1080/15564880600934187

 Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

Cruelty to Animals and Violence to People

Marie Louise Petersen and David P. Farrington

Case histories of serial killers and mass murderers suggest that many were cruel to animals in their childhood. Furthermore, it is argued that cruelty to animals in a family tends to be associated with domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse.



The absence of intervention allows offenders to become more violent towards people and animals.



The maltreated pet is an indicator that others could be at risk.



Animals aren't just cute faces

- There is evidence that an animal has the capacity to experience pain.
- They require professionals to take an active role in their protection.



- Animal cruelty cannot be analysed in an isolated way.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Potential indicator of a high or lethal risk of violence in the family

The impact of witnessing on child development



The Significance of Animal Cruelty in Child Protection Investigations

Alberta Girardi and Joanna D. Pozzulo

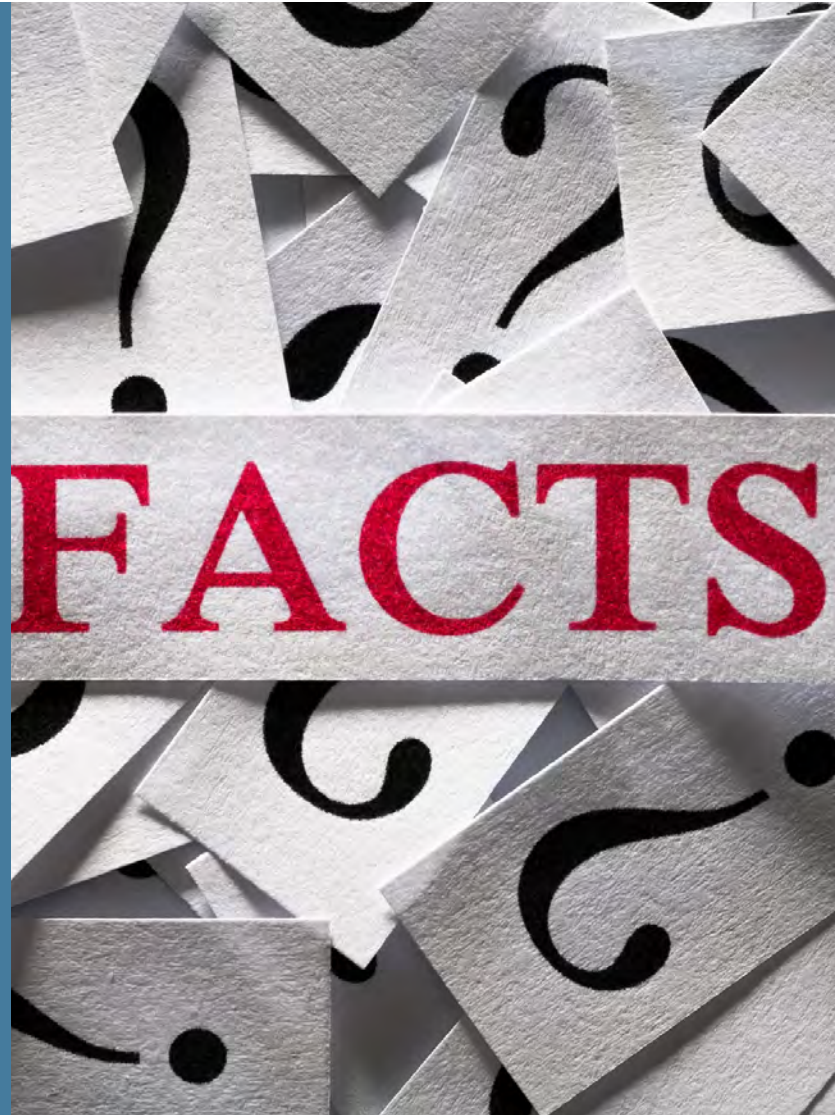
The results suggest that CPWs should consider routinely asking children and caregivers questions about animal cruelty and observe the behavior and living conditions of family pets when conducting risk assessments. Future research should determine whether animal cruelty is a reliable indicator of exposure to family violence.

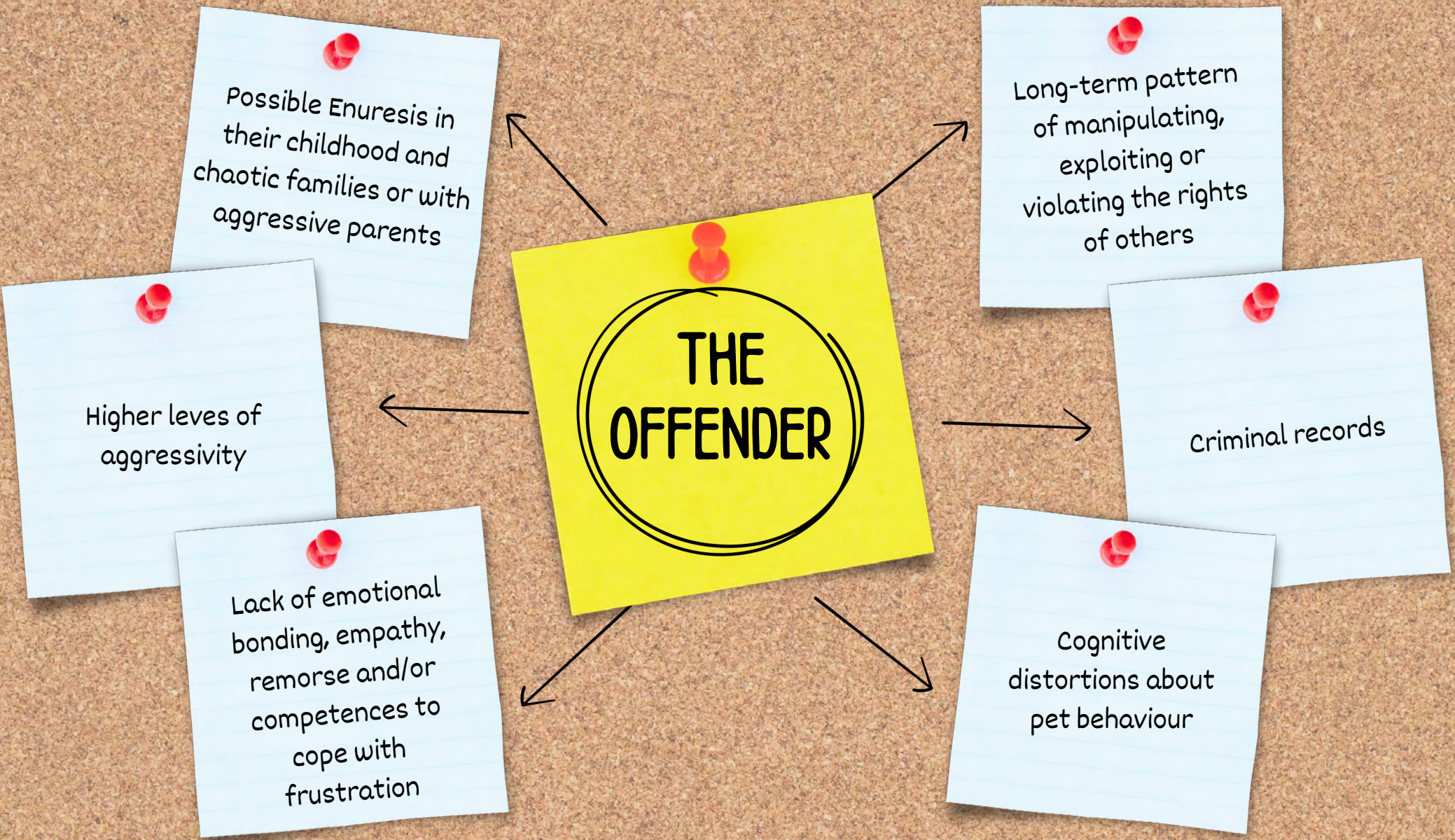
KEY WORDS: *animal cruelty; child abuse; child protection; domestic violence; risk assessment*

Other Important Facts



- 25% to 40% of the victims don't end their relationship with the offender because they don't want to abandon their animals (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
- More than 70% of the victims reveal that the offenders threaten, beat or kill their pets (Sojourner Center)





Possible Enuresis in their childhood and chaotic families or with aggressive parents

Long-term pattern of manipulating, exploiting or violating the rights of others

Higher levels of aggressivity

Criminal records

THE OFFENDER

Lack of emotional bonding, empathy, remorse and/or competences to cope with frustration

Cognitive distortions about pet behaviour



The offender

- Higher levels of animal cruelty are directly related to alcohol abuse, personality disorders, pathological gambling, and antisocial family history.
- 17 times more likely to assault someone, 12 times more likely to set fires, 12 times more likely to threaten someone (Vaughn et al., 2009).



- Retrospective analysis with 20 mass murderers (Arluke, Lankford & Madfis, 2018).



Animal maltreatment is a sign of serious maladjustment in pet owners with the aforementioned profile.

**The
Telltale
signs and
“claws”**

The way they lose
the control

Imposition of
mindsets about life

Mood swings without
apparent reason

Excessive planning
and rigidus

Ensuring the victim and/or
animal is not left alone in
the office with the
veterinarian

Intentions to isolate
the victim

Trying to reply to everything

Try to put the blame on the animal for its misbehaviour

**The
Telltale
signs and
“claws”**

Try to put the blame on the victim or other family members

Victim, person or animal could show some fear or act submissively in the presence of the offender

**To be the voice of
those who cannot
speak!**

**It's time to unleash
your superhero
powers!**





One health's idea

Challenge

Psychological
intervention
with victims

Commit

Psychological
intervention
with
offenders

Act

Support the
Psychological
Recovery of
Animal
Cruelty
Victims

Change

Case studies
with
successful
rehabilitation



**The veterinarians' role
as expert witnesses in
legal proceedings
involving animal
cruelty cases**

**You can play delivering
"purr-suasive"
testimony in court in
defence of the animal**





Conclusion

- Who commits an offence against an animal can do it easily to another human being too.
- Animal cruelty is not only a violation of ethical and moral principles.
- As veterinarians, you have a unique position and responsibility to address this issue effectively.

As veterinarians, you have a unique position... and responsibility!



To be the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Let's stand tall, "pawsitive" and proud.



Further reading

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	<i>Sara C. Haden, Shelby E. McDonald, and Wyatt D'Emilia</i>	
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One Health Domestic Violence Workshop
WSAVA World Congress 2023