

Title: The Link between Family Violence and Cruelty to Family Pets

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Abstract:

Family violence remains a prevalent social problem crossing racial, geographic, social, & economic boundaries (World Health Organization, 2002). Different forms of family violence often exist in the same households. In the 1980s, researchers observed a connection between acts of animal cruelty & family violence. Since then other researchers have corroborated their findings. Despite these articles appearing in the scholarly literature, there has been relatively little attention given to this issue in mainstream literature on family violence & little evidence that this information has been used to inform prevention or intervention efforts. This article summarizes the empirical evidence on the link between family violence & cruelty to family pets & discusses the implications of these connections for professionals who work with women, children, families, or animals.