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**An Annotated Bibliography of Research Relevant to
Cruelty to Animals and Violence to Humans**

2014-2015

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy

**Compiled by Erich Yahner
(All Abstracts and Summaries from Authors or Publishers)**

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Arluke, A., & Madfis, E. (2014). Animal abuse as a warning sign of school massacres: A critique and refinement. *Homicide Studies, 18*(1), 7.

Although animal cruelty is often described as a warning sign of future human violence, particularly in the prediction of multiple homicides, prior studies reveal mixed support for this notion and lack conceptual clarity in the measurement of such cruelty. This study investigates the quantity and quality of cruelty present in a sample of 23 perpetrators of school massacres from 1988 to 2012. Findings indicate that 43% of the perpetrators commit animal cruelty before schoolyard massacres and that the cruelty is usually directed against anthropomorphized species (dogs and cats) in an up-close manner. The implications of these findings for reducing false positive cases of cruelty are discussed.

Baxendale, S., Lester, L., Johnston, R., & Cross, D. (2015). Risk factors in adolescents' involvement in violent behaviours. *Journal of Aggression, Conflict & Peace Research, 7*(1), 2.

Purpose -- The purpose of this paper is to examine risk factors associated with Western Australian secondary school students' involvement in violence-related behaviours. Design/methodology/approach -- This cross-sectional study examined data collected using an anonymous self-completion questionnaire from 542 school students aged 13-17 years. The questionnaire measured risk factors associated with being a perpetrator and/or victim of violence-related behaviours. Findings -- Gender was significantly associated with being a victim and perpetrator of violence-related behaviours. Males were significantly more likely than females to be a victim of threatening and physical violence at school, and to be a perpetrator of physical violence at school and in the community. Males were significantly more likely than females to watch violent media, with exposure to violent media associated with physically hurting someone at school. Students involved in greater acts of animal cruelty had increased odds of being involved in all forms of the violence measured. Research limitations/implications -- Limitations such as the cross-sectional nature of the study and the small sample size are noted, along with suggestions for future research. Practical implications -- Implications of the research for practitioners working with adolescents, with a particular focus on the school setting, are discussed. Originality/value -- Most previously published research on adolescent involvement in violence has been conducted outside Australia, and as such, may not be directly applicable to the experiences of young people in Western Australia.

Bucchieri, R. L. (2015). Bridging the gap: The connection between violence against animals and violence against humans. *J. Animal & Nat. Resource L., 11*, 115.

The article discusses about the link between violence against animals and violence against humans which is integral to the development of animal law reform. Topics include the progress in the development of animal cruelty laws in the U.S., the likelihood that animal abusers might be involved in violence crimes against humans, and the gap in the protection of animals and humans.

Febres, J., Brasfield, H., Shorey, R. C., Elmquist, J., Ninnemann, A., Schonbrun, Y. C., ... & Stuart, G. L. (2014). Adulthood animal abuse among men arrested for domestic violence. *Violence against women, 20*(9), 1059-1077.

Learning more about intimate partner violence (IPV), perpetrators could aid the development of more effective treatments. The prevalence of adulthood animal abuse (AAA) perpetration and its association with IPV perpetration, antisociality, and alcohol use in 307 men arrested for domestic violence were examined. Forty-one percent ($n = 125$) of the men committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18, in contrast to the 1.5% prevalence rate reported by men in the general population. Controlling for antisociality and alcohol use, AAA showed a trend toward a significant association with physical and severe psychological IPV perpetration.

Grant, H., Lavery, C., & Spanjol, K. (2015). Critical understandings about animal cruelty for law enforcement practitioners. *The Journal of Law Enforcement, 4*(5).

For years, law enforcement agencies across the nation have encountered disturbing animal cruelty cases involving youth, which has led to the development of a variety of new training programs for practitioners at all levels on the prevalence of animal cruelty and its identification. This article examines the logical pathway to violence for juveniles and how animal cruelty and abuse can lead to future offending, the links with social and emotional learning development and an examination of evidence based practices involving animals and assessment, and how further awareness and training for law enforcement agencies can lead to a better understanding of the link between juvenile violence and animal abuse.

Gullone, E. (2014). Risk factors for the development of animal cruelty. *Journal of Animal Ethics, 4*(2), 61-79.

Research shows that animal cruelty shares many of the aetiological pathways and risk factors that have been shown for other aggressive behaviors. The shared aetiology not only aids understanding of the co-occurrence that has been documented between animal cruelty and other aggressive and antisocial crimes, it also highlights the dangers over and above those to animals that are lurking where animal cruelty offenders remain unidentified and their crimes remain unsanctioned. This article reviews current understandings about the development of antisocial behaviors, including human aggression, and animal cruelty behaviors. Available research leads one to ask, when individuals have been found to be guilty of animal cruelty, what other aggressive behaviors might they be guilty of? For young children, one must ask, are they victims of child abuse, are they living in circumstances of domestic violence, and/or what is the aggression or violence that they may have been witness to? Animal cruelty, and most aggressive behaviors from the later childhood years onward, are indicators of non-normative development. Early detection of such behaviors can provide a valuable opportunity to engage in preventative intervention for young people or for appropriate sanctions to be applied for adults. Such interventions would be beneficial for all, humans and animals alike.

Knight, K. E., Ellis, C., & Simmons, S. B. (2014). Parental predictors of children's animal abuse findings from a national and intergenerational sample. *Journal of interpersonal violence, 29*(16), 3014-3034.

This study examines the intra- and intergenerational links between intimate partner violence (IPV) and animal abuse by analyzing a national, longitudinal, and multigenerational sample of 1,614 individuals collected by the National Youth Survey Family Study from 1990 to 2004. Using multilevel random-intercept regression modeling, parents' own history of animal abuse is predictive of their later involvement in IPV perpetration and victimization, net of important controls. In turn, parents' IPV violent perpetration (but not violent victimization) is predictive of their children's history of animal abuse—measured 14 years later. Intergenerational continuity of animal abuse, however, is not significant. Implications of these findings are discussed, as are the study's limitations, and future research directions.

McDonald, S. E., Vidacovich, C., Ascione, F. R., Williams, J. H., & Green, K. E. (2015). The Children's Treatment of Animals Questionnaire: A Rasch analysis. *Anthrozoös, 28*(1), 131-144.

The study of human–animal interactions is limited by a paucity of empirically validated measures of humane treatment of companion animals. The current study reports findings from a psychometric analysis of the Children's Treatment of Animals Questionnaire (CTAQ; thompson and Gullone 2003), an instrument that

assesses children's humane interactions with nonhuman animals. Specifically, the current study extends what is known about the psychometric properties of the CTAQ by using traditional and item response theory analyses. The CTAQ was administered to a sample of 217 school-age children whose mothers were currently receiving residential or non-residential domestic violence services. Item-analysis, exploratory factor analysis, and parallel analysis were conducted to replicate previous psychometric evaluations of the CTAQ. Rasch analysis of the CTAQ was also conducted to provide a stringent test of unidimensionality and to identify potential invariance in item functioning across various demographic variables. The CTAQ showed adequate fit to the Rasch model; one modification, removal of item 5, was required. A Rasch principal components analysis of residuals indicated a single latent dimension among the remaining 12 items. Scale use was appropriate; Rasch-andrich thresholds increased with category values and no disordering of categories was evident. Examination of item-person maps indicated the sample was also well-targeted. Notably, evidence of differential item function was found across Spanish and English translations. Overall, findings indicate that the CTAQ is an appropriate unidimensional measure of children's humane treatment of animals. The measure is particularly well-suited for children ages 7 to 12 years who are at risk for exposure to and perpetration of animal cruelty. We recommend use of a 12-item version of the CTAQ to enhance the utility of the total score as a latent measure of children's humane treatment of companion animals.

McEwen, F. S., Moffitt, T. E., & Arseneault, L. (2014). Is childhood cruelty to animals a marker for physical maltreatment in a prospective cohort study of children?. *Child abuse & neglect, 38*(3), 533-543.

Childhood cruelty to animals is thought to indicate that a child may have been maltreated. This study examined: (a) prevalence of cruelty to animals among 5- to 12-year-old children; (b) the association between cruelty to animals, child physical maltreatment, and adult domestic violence; and (c) whether cruelty to animals is a marker of maltreatment taking into account age, persistence of cruelty, and socioeconomic disadvantage. Data were from the Environmental Risk (E-Risk) Longitudinal Twin Study, an epidemiological representative cohort of 2,232 children living in the United Kingdom. Mothers reported on cruelty to animals when children were 5, 7, 10, and 12 years, on child maltreatment up to age 12, and adult domestic violence. Nine percent of children were cruel to animals during the study and 2.6% persistently (≥ 2 time-points). Children cruel to animals were more likely to have been maltreated than other children ($OR = 3.32$) although the majority (56.4%) had not been maltreated. Animal cruelty was not associated with domestic violence when maltreatment was controlled for. In disadvantaged families, 6 in 10 children cruel to animals had been maltreated. In other families, the likelihood of maltreatment increased with age (from 3 in 10 5-year-olds to 4.5 in 10 12-year-olds) and persistence (4.5 in 10 of those persistently cruel). Although childhood cruelty to animals is associated with maltreatment, not every child showing cruelty had been maltreated. The usefulness of cruelty to animals as a marker for maltreatment increases with the child's age, persistence of behavior, and poorer social background.

Teachout, D. (2015). The link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence. *Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation, 35*(2), 23-24.

The article discusses the association between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, focusing on the approaches of advocacy organization, Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), and the U.S. state and federal governments toward the enforcement of animal anti-cruelty laws. It mentions an adult male raccoon found bleeding in West Oakland after being shot with a crossbow. U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent Alan Brantley discusses the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

Walters, G. D. (2014). Testing the direct, indirect, and moderated effects of childhood animal cruelty on future aggressive and non-aggressive offending. *Aggressive behavior, 40*(3), 238-249.

The relationship between childhood cruelty toward animals and subsequent aggressive offending was explored in 1,336 (1,154 male, 182 female) participants from the 11-wave Pathways to Desistance study (Mulvey, 2013). Aggressive and income offending at Waves 1 through 10 were regressed onto a dichotomous measure of prior involvement in animal cruelty and four control variables (age, race, sex, early onset behavior problems) assessed at Wave 0 (baseline). Results indicated that childhood animal cruelty was equally predictive of aggressive and non-aggressive (income) offending, a finding inconsistent with the hypothesis that cruelty toward animals desensitizes a person to future interpersonal aggression or in some way prepares the individual for

interpersonal violence toward humans. Whereas a significant sex by animal cruelty interaction was predicted, there was no evidence that sex or any of the other demographic variables included in this study (age, race) consistently moderated the animal cruelty–subsequent offending relationship. On the other hand, two cognitive-personality measures (interpersonal hostility, callousness/unemotionality) were found to successfully mediate the animal cruelty–subsequent offending relationship. Outcomes from this study imply that a causal nexus—partially or fully mediated by hostility, callousness/unemotionality, and other cognitive-personality variables—may exist between childhood animal cruelty and subsequent offending, although the effect is not specific to violence.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Stanek, M. L. (2014). *The treatment of animals within families of young children: Antecedents of compassion and cruelty*. In *Teaching compassion: Humane education in early childhood* (pp. 77-88). Springer Netherlands.

Although research evidence suggests that violence against animals has been linked with the commission of future interpersonal violence, the idea is far from new and the results are sometimes unclear. Available research does document linkages between animal violence and behavioral issues such as conduct and antisocial personality disorders as well as correlations between violence within the home and abuse of companion animals. Recent acceptance of these results has led to various efforts including mandatory cross reporting, the inclusion of animals as victims in orders of protection, and the presence of animal-friendly shelters for victims of intimate partner violence. There is a growing acceptance of the concept that violence as well as the understanding that violence towards animals is an important predictor of an individual's propensity for future assaults and his or her level of danger/lethality. Empirical evidence also suggests that the experience of animal violence is significantly more widespread than previously considered, although the factors that influence the commission of these acts are not currently well understood. Educators are placed in a unique position to influence behavior as well as to cultivate relationships and increase understanding of the links between animal and human violence. Likewise, they can serve to model appropriate animal interactions by including humane education within their classrooms.

BOOKS

Jalongo, M. R. (2014). *Teaching compassion: Humane education in early childhood*. Springer. ISBN: 9789400769212

In response to highly publicized incidents of school violence, educators across the United States and in many other nations are seeking effective ways to prevent and modify aggressive and anti-social behaviors in students. One of the major recommendations of the research is that efforts to prevent cruelty need to begin early, during the early childhood years of birth through age eight. The focus of *Teaching Compassion: Humane Education in Early Childhood* is guiding young children to accept responsibility for and to be kind in their interactions with fellow human beings, animals and the environment. Although humane education is a relatively new concept in the field of early childhood education, professionals in the field are very familiar with many of the related concepts, including: promoting positive interpersonal interactions, teaching children the skills of self-regulation, giving children experience in caring for living things and protecting the environment. This edited volume is an interdisciplinary compendium of professional wisdom gathered from experts in the fields of education, child development, science, psychology, sociology and humane organizations. As the book amply documents, the concept of humane education is powerful, integrative, timely and appropriate in work with young children. *Teaching Compassion: Humane Education in Early Childhood* shows how it is possible for adults dedicated to the care and education of young children to balance attention to the cognitive and affective realms and, in so doing, to elevate the overall quality of early childhood programs for children, families and communities.

Shapiro, K., Randour, M. L., Krinsk, S., & Wolf, J. L. (2014). *The assessment and treatment of children who abuse animals*. Cham: Springer International, 10, 978-3. ISBN: 9783319010885

Empirical research has clearly demonstrated that animal abuse in childhood is associated with family violence and violent behavior towards humans in general. Such abuse is accordingly of increasing interest within human

services and the criminal justice system. This handbook will serve as an ideal resource for therapists in social work, psychology, psychiatry, and allied fields who work with children who have abused animals. It provides step-by-step guidance on how to assess, develop appropriate treatment plans for, and treat children who commit animal abuse, based on the AniCare model developed by the Animals and Society Institute. Exercises cover the identification and expression of feelings, the development of empathy, self-management skills, and working with parents. Careful consideration is also paid to the effects of witnessing animal abuse. The theoretical framework is eclectic, encompassing cognitive behavioral, psychodynamic, and attachment theories. A number of illustrative case studies are included, along with excerpts from treatment sessions. Accompanying electronic supplementary material demonstrates role-played assessment and treatment and includes workshop presentations of pedagogic material.