

**Addressing Animal Abuse  
And Its Relationship To  
Interpersonal Violence  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023  
Safer Talk-Live Webinar**



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**[www.qcfc.org](http://www.qcfc.org) [www.nyc4c.org](http://www.nyc4c.org)**

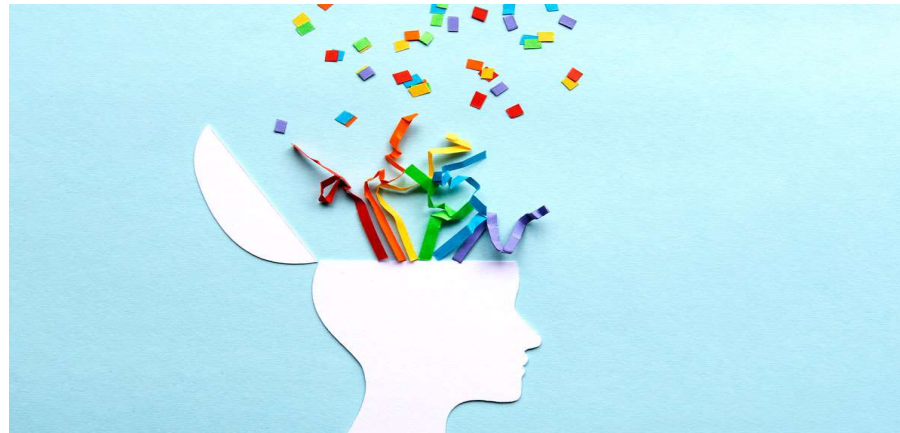
# Welcome



Today will be informative but can be disturbing at times.

These are necessary and difficult conversations when addressing animal abuse and other forms of violence

Please be aware of that as we begin the presentation.



A LITTLE BIT

**ABOUT**

*me . . .*



## Links Used for Presentation



# LINKS & RESOURCES

<https://leb.fbi.gov/>

<https://nationallinkcoalition.org/>

<https://www.humanesociety.org/>

<https://www.justice.gov/>

<https://www.aspca.org/>

<https://www.animalsandsociety.org/>



# B.A.R.K. Program

Behavior, Accountability, Responsibility and Knowledge

► The BARK program was developed by Dr. Kenneth Shapiro and Dr. Kimberley Sanjol based on the ***identification, Assessment, and Treatment of Adults who Abuse Animals: The AniCare Approach (Shapiro & Henderson, Springer, 2016)***, the approach includes cognitive behavioral, psychodynamic, family systems, and attachment theory therapies.

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- Session 1: Establishing a working therapeutic relation
- Session 2: Identifying and working through denial of accountability
- Session 3: Attitudes towards and beliefs about animals
- Session 4: Emotions and empathy
- Session 5: Respecting animals and accommodating to their needs
- Session 6: Tolerance of differences and nurturance
- Session 7: Anger management and stress management
- Session 8: Concluding session

# Animal Abuse

- ▶ There is no commonly accepted definition of animal abuse.
- ▶ It can be influenced by personal experiences, upbringing, cultural standards, spiritual beliefs and geographical location.



# Animal Cruelty

- ▶ Animal Cruelty has many legal definitions depending on the State you reside in.
- ▶ It generally falls into 2 categories (Passive vs Active Cruelty):
  - ▶ Acts of neglect
  - ▶ Intentional acts of harm inflicted upon an animal



# Warning signs you should ask about or look for if you are in the field...

- ▶ Adequate shelter
- ▶ Adequate water/food
- ▶ Access to needed veterinary care
- ▶ Health of the animal's coat
- ▶ Does the animal look healthy (coat, walking, approachable or scared)
- ▶ Appropriate collar/leash
- ▶ Appropriate crate for the animal's size
- ▶ Signs of violence (dog fighting, violence towards the animal)





# Animal Hoarding

While not directly related to interpersonal violence, hoarding can be dangerous to the animals and the humans involved and intervention of some type should be considered.

Signs of hoarding:

- ▶ Not providing a full accounting of the animals in the home/property
- ▶ Being secretive/evasive about the animals and/or their care
- ▶ Isolation to outsiders
- ▶ Attempting to provide their own veterinarian care
- ▶ Not being able to cover monthly basic costs



# Who to contact if you believe you have someone at risk for animal hoarding...

County Adult Protection Agency

Community Animal Organization for support

County Animal Protection Agency

Refer to Community Mental Health/Wellness support



# More Extreme Examples of Animal Abuse and Risk Indicators



# Bestiality / Sexual Molestation

Bestiality refers to sexual activity between a human and animal

Zoophilia OCD (ZOCD) is considered a “paraphilia” that usually involves a “sexual fixation” on animals. Although the terms, “zoophilia OCD” and “bestiality” are often used interchangeably, most researchers agree that they are different.

More specifically, “zoophilia OCD or ZOCD, involves a sexual obsession with animals, while bestiality involves acting on the urges to have sex or engage in sexual acts with animals.

Zoosadism a paraphilia in which sexual arousal and satisfaction are obtained from torturing an animal.

Paraphilia, or a condition characterized by atypical sexual desires.



# Bestiality / Sexual Molestation

I do not believe there would be much debate that any sexual contact with an animal is unhealthy and a dangerous indicator that should be explored further.

Most states have laws outlawing sexual acts between animals and humans. At this time Hawaii, New Mexico, West Virginia and Wyoming do not.



# Timeline...

- ▶ In 1828 NY became the first state to Pass an animal protection law.
- ▶ In 1866 the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is founded in 1866. This predates in 1875 the forming of the NY Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.
- ▶ In the 1960's the link is beginning to be made with animal abuse/cruelty and antisocial behaviors in the literature.
- ▶ There begins to be a better understanding in the 70's and 80's on the link between interpersonal/domestic violence and animal cruelty.
- ▶ It is only 2016 that the FBI begins collecting detailed case information on animal cruelty incidents from participating law enforcement agencies. This is reported to the nations National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
- ▶ Based on preliminary analysis of NIBRS data from 2018, there were 4.43 animal cruelty incidents nationally per 100,000 of the population, compared to 106.68 for assault, 65.77 for robbery, and 799.40 for drug offenses.



# Statistics

Review of statistics found during preparation.





# Statistics

Review of statistics found during preparation.





# Statistics

Review of statistics found during preparation.



# Statistics

Review of statistics found during preparation.



## Animal Abuse and Racially & Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism Issues to Explore and Think About Further....

- ▶ [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/radicalisation-awareness-network-ran\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/radicalisation-awareness-network-ran_en)  
European Commission Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN)
- ▶ <https://www.mccaininstitute.org/programs/preventing-targeted-violence/>  
McCain Institute
- ▶ <https://www.dhs.gov/CP3>  
Department of Homeland Security Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships



# Questions to ask / explore...



- ▶ What is the degree of injury to the animal?
- ▶ What was the frequency?
- ▶ What feelings the person indicates arouse before, during and After?
- ▶ How the person feels looking back?
- ▶ What was their relationship to the harmed animal?
- ▶ Was the act committed alone?
- ▶ Did they tell anyone?
- ▶ Was it filmed?



# Validated Risk Tools



None to identify potential perpetrators of abuse



**Tools practitioners already use can be of assistance understanding dynamic risk and criminogenic risk factors to triage and/or determine risk.**



# Screening Questions

- ▶ Are there pets in the home?
- ▶ How does each family member treat them?
- ▶ Do you worry something bad may happen to them?
- ▶ Have you or anyone in your family ever been accused of harming an animal?
- ▶ How many animals are in the home/property?
- ▶ Who is your local veterinarian?
- ▶ When was the last time an animal visited the veterinarian and why?
- ▶ Do you have unmet needs regarding your pets/animals that concern you?
- ▶ Have others in your life raised concern about your pets/animals?
- ▶ Do you have the needed information on how to care for your pets/animals? Where do you generally get this information?



Decisions to be made from those answers  
and your clinical knowledge of the case~





# How to report suspected abuse of an animal...

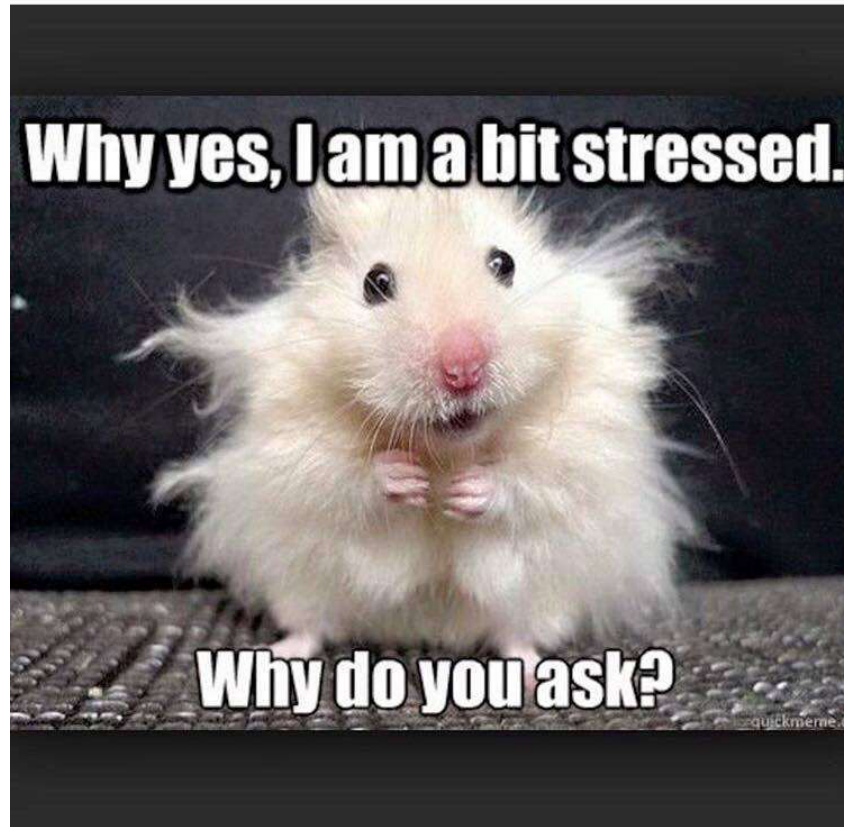
National LINK Coalition has a state-by-state page on information related to who you may contact if you suspect animal abuse or neglect.

**<https://nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse>**

Check with supervisors, and peers for guidance on your duty to report related to your State and your Profession.

20 States do mandate that veterinarians report suspected animal cruelty to the “proper authorities”

## Caretakers must take care of themselves



<https://www.thedodo.com/>



# Importance of Self Care



# Importance of Ongoing Training/Professional Development

<https://web.cvent.com/event/d0f8185c-d71c-4f87-97f5-f4877c6ec7ee/summary>

NYS Alliance and ATSA Conference May 22-24<sup>th</sup> Saratoga Springs NY

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/assessing-for-animal-cruelty-in-sex-offense-specific-treatment-tickets-533899918027?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Assessing for Animal Cruelty in Sex Offense Specific Treatment April 5<sup>th</sup>

This event provides attendees with an overview of BARK, a psycho-educational diversion program for animal abuse.

<https://safer societypress.org/>

Safer Society



# Importance of Peer Support

<https://www.amhca.org/home>

American Mental Health Counselors Association

<https://www.apa.org/>

American Psychological Association

<https://www.socialworkers.org/>

National Association of Social Workers

<https://eapassn.org/>

International Employee Assistance Professionals Association



# Importance of Peer Support

<https://www.atsa.com/>

Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse

<http://nysatsa.com/>

NYS Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse

<https://nysalliance.com/>

NYS Alliance for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse



# Contact Information

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# The End

