

Animal abuse is a heinous crime, and it can get worse from there.



In many cases, it's a sign that people are also being abused - or soon will be.

Studies have found that people who abuse their intimate partners and/or family members often target the family's companion animal as well. An abused dog or cat often means there's an abused child, spouse or elder in the same home.

Many victims hope the violence will end or believe they can protect animals in the home.

Staying with an abuser puts every human and animal in the home at risk.



The truth is that a person who harms animals will likely harm humans – and a person who harms humans will almost certainly harm animals.

## An Undeniable Link

- Many victims entering shelters report that their abuser has hurt, killed, or threatened family animals. About 1/3 report their children have harmed animals.
- Victims often admit an animal is being abused before they admit their own suffering.
- Animal cruelty investigations frequently unravel chronic domestic abuse.



Animal abuse is often **the first visible sign** a family is in trouble

JBLM has a **24-hour safeline** for all Domestic Abuse issues

If you are experiencing, or have witnessed animal abuse related to Domestic Abuse, please call:

**253-966-SAFE (7233)**

An advocate will be there to provide resources and guidance. Calls can be made anonymously.



**JBLM Victim Advocacy**

DHR Family Advocacy Program

Multiple locations across JBLM

jblmDHR

JBLM Victim Advocacy

# Animal Cruelty & Domestic Abuse



**253-966-SAFE (7233)**

# The “Power and Control Wheel” of Animal Abuse and Domestic Abuse\*



**Animal Abuse is a form of power and control used to manipulate, intimidate, and retaliate against others in domestic abuse.**

It is one part of the Duluth Model of Power and Control used widely in the domestic violence field.

## Isolation

Refusing to allow them to take their pet to the vet. Prohibiting them from socializing their dog with other dogs

## Threats

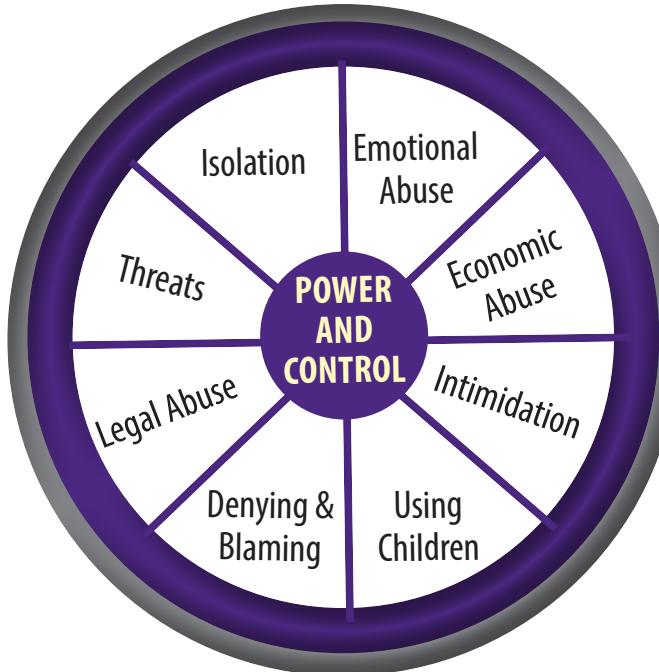
Threatening to harm or kill their pet if they leave or assert any independence.

## Legal Abuse

Custody battles over pets. Filing theft charges if they leave with the pet.

## Denying & Blaming

Blaming them or the pet for the abuser's cruelty. Killing the pet and saying it didn't matter because the pet was old.



## Emotional Abuse

Disappearing, giving away, or killing pets to take away their source of unconditional love. Forced participation in animal sexual abuse.

## Economic Abuse

Refusing to allow them to spend money on pet food or vet care.

## Intimidation

Harming or killing pet: "Next time, it'll be you." Targeting pets of family or friends who aid their escape.

## Using Children

Harming/killing children's pets to intimidate. Blaming the "disappearance" on them to create a wedge between them and the children.

\*Information sourced from the National Link Coalition (<https://nationallinkcoalition.org/>)

## Why do Abusers Batter Animals?

- To demonstrate power and control
- To isolate the victim and children.
- To enforce submission.
- To perpetuate an environment of fear.
- To prevent the victim from leaving or to coerce him/her to return.
- To punish the victim for leaving or showing independence.

## What Can You Do?

- Meet with a Domestic Violence Victim Advocate. They can help find immediate resources for you, your children & your animals.
- If you or someone you love is in a dangerous situation, have an escape and emergency plan for all - including pets.
- Make sure your pet is up to date on all vaccinations.
- Do NOT leave animals with the abuser.

**Animal Abuse is the  
TIP OF THE ICEBERG**

Child Maltreatment  
Elder Abuse  
Domestic Abuse

Investigators who find animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect are rarely surprised to see other issues lurking below the surface.



The way animals are regarded in a family is a window into interpersonal relationships and family dynamics.