



Intersection of Human Violence with Animal Abuse: A Study from Legal Perspective

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INTRODUCTION

- Animal abuse and interpersonal violence frequently co-occur.
- Companion animals are often harmed as tools of coercion and control.
- Early exposure to animal cruelty correlates with later violent behavior.
- One Welfare framework recognizes interconnected human-animal harm.
- Growing empirical evidence suggests, animals in violent households exhibit measurable behavioral and physiological stress responses.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How do legal systems recognize animal abuse within violent human environments?
2. What behavioral and physiological indicators are observed in abused animals?
3. How can veterinary detection and cross-reporting improve welfare outcomes.

METHODOLOGY

- Comparative legal analysis (USA, UK, India)
- Review of veterinary forensic literature
- Behavioral and stress physiology synthesis
- One Welfare analytical framework

VETERINARY DETECTION ROLE

- Injury inconsistencies
- Repeated trauma cases
- Delayed treatment patterns
- Behavioral red flags in clinical settings

REFERENCES

- Ascione (1998), Munro & Thrusfield (2001)
- McGuinness et al. (2005), Simmons & Lehmann (2007)
- Walton Moss et al. (2005), Benetato et al. (2011)
- DeGue & DiLilio (2008), Elyra (2019)
- Rembony (2017), Kulas (2002), FAO
- FAO & WOAR One Welfare Framework, UNDDC Guidance on Violence and Animal Abuse.

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS IN ABUSED ANIMALS

Observed patterns:

- Hypervigilance
- Fear-based startle avoidance
- Withdrawal / social avoidance
- Defensive aggression
- Learned helplessness
- Trauma-associated reactivity

These behaviors reflect chronic stress exposure and compromised welfare.

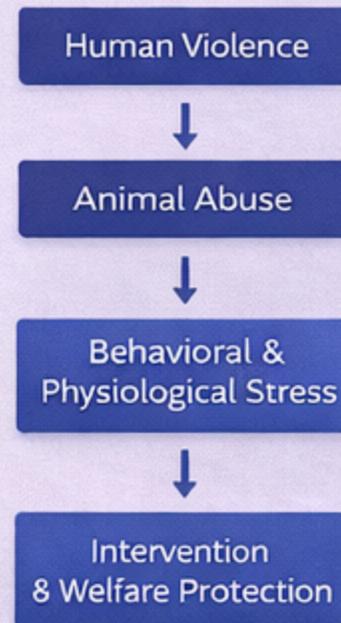


Figure 1. One Welfare Conceptual Model

PHYSIOLOGICAL STRESS EFFECTS

- HPA axis dysregulation
- Elevated cortisol levels
- Increased heart rate variability
- Stress-induced immunosuppression
- Delayed care seeking
- Behavioral distress during examination

COMPARATIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Jurisdiction	Key Provisions	Identified Gaps
• USA	• Cross-reporting between veterinarians and humane investigators	• Uneven reporting mandates
• UK	• Mandatory reporting for suspected cruelty	• Limited veterinarian reporting obligations
• India	• Prevention of cruelty to animals	• Weak cross-reporting mechanisms

CONCLUSION

Animal abuse is both a welfare violation and a predictor of interpersonal violence. Comparative legal perspectives can inform stronger policies to improve **One Welfare** outcomes.