

OVERLAPPING FORMS OF MALTREATMENT: A COMMUNITY SURVEY

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A Project Presented to

The Faculty of Humboldt State University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Social Work

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May 2014

ABSTRACT

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Domestic violence consists of a complex range of abusive and controlling behaviors between intimate partners that affects families and communities everyday in the United States. Often when there is domestic violence in the home other forms of abuse exist. This project consists of the analysis of several short surveys based on a prepared presentation, evaluating the current knowledge and resources available in Humboldt County that address the link between domestic violence, child abuse/neglect, elder abuse/neglect, and animal abuse/neglect and the effectiveness of the presentation. Reaching out to local organizations in human services and animal welfare, my community project is focused on what knowledge of the link of abuse there is, what do service providers need to include in their intakes to identify all forms of abuse and neglect and how a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach can ensure a more effective means of providing a safety plan that is inclusive of all family survivors of violence including pets and farm animals. This project is done in collaboration with the Humboldt Domestic Violence Coordinating Council All Species Protection Committee whose goal is to provide information and awareness in Humboldt County on domestic violence and abuse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my committee members, Dr. Cesar Abarca, Sheri Johnson, and Susan McGee, for the assistance, support, and guidance that they provided throughout the process of completing this project. I would also like to thank Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council All Species Protection Committee members Cynthia Ross, Meg Walkley, Sheri Johnson, Carey Call, and Paula Arrowsmith-Jones for their knowledge and support. Foremost, I would like to thank the community service volunteers who were willing to take the time to contribute their experience and knowledge, as well as the employees of the CASA of Humboldt, Area 1 Agency on Aging, Humboldt County Office of Education, North Coast Rape Crisis Team and Humboldt Domestic Violence Services. I would like to thank my cohort and the Humboldt State University Social Work faculty and staff for the support that they provided while I was enrolled in this program. I would especially like to thank my children, sister and friends for their unconditional love and support.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this project in memory of my son, Aaron Hagan, who had the utmost compassion and love for all animals. Aaron continuously advocated for peace, understanding and nonviolence for every living being. Aaron you are my inspiration for pursuing my dream and continuing with yours as an advocate for children, families, and animals in crisis. You are in my heart and mind every minute of the day.

Aaron Christopher Hagan

June 17, 1982 – April 26, 2000

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INTRODUCTION

This project is done in collaboration with Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC) All Species Protection Committee (ASPC). HCDVCC mission statement is a partnership of public and private agencies and individuals who are committed to a constant and coordinated county wide response to domestic violence. HCDVCC primary focus is the safety of victims/survivors and the accountability and treatment of the people who batter. The ASPC began when advocates for survivors of domestic violence became aware of the pioneering research of Dr. Frank Ascione of Utah University (presently University of Denver). His research found an empirical connection among domestic violence, child abuse, and animal abuse. The committee formed to train those who work in each discipline to identify, screen, and support survivors of domestic violence, child witnesses of domestic violence, children who themselves were abused and neglected, and animals who were maltreated. Some objectives/goals set by ASPC include a local animal shelter “safe house” program for companion animals; cross reporting and cross-training; promote incorporating a segment of the dynamics of domestic violence within national and local curriculum for animal cruelty investigations; cross investigation of animal cruelty connected with domestic violence; partnership with law enforcement surrounding animal cruelty investigations of the humane society; and public awareness.

Domestic violence consists of a complex range of abuse that affects families and communities everyday in the United States. Domestic violence and emotional abuse involves controlling behaviors and patterns of violence by one or both partners in an

intimate relationship (domesticviolence.org, 2009). Often when there is domestic violence in the home other forms of abuse exist. Studies have shown that domestic violence and child abuse are directly related (STAND, 2011). Additionally, acts of cruelty against animals can be an indicator of other forms of family and community violence. Animal abuse/neglect may also be linked to situations of elders needing assistance, domestic violence and /or child abuse and neglect.

Working at Humboldt Domestic Violence Services (HDVS) as a client advocate and crisis worker I have observed the gaps in services in the community where incidents of domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, and animal or neglect have not been cross-reported. In many cases, there are no trainings or updated intake forms that address the potential risk of other forms of abuse. Service providers that enter client's dwellings may not be sufficiently trained in responding to areas outside of their scope of work. HDVS is a member of the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT); a partnership between HDVS, North Coast Rape Crisis Team, Eureka Police Department, District Attorney Victim Witness (DAVW) and the DA office. The goal of DVRT is to provide the most effective wrap-around intervention and support services to survivors of intimate partner violence. Part of the wrap around services should include assessing for all forms of abuse taking place in the home. During the presentation, as an example and with prior consent from Humboldt Domestic Violence Services (HDVS), I demonstrated ways in which HDVS have amended many of their intake forms to be inclusive of different forms of abuse and neglect.

The purpose of this project is to explore the current knowledge and resources available in Humboldt County addressing the link between domestic violence, child abuse/neglect, elder abuse/neglect, and animal abuse/neglect and to get community feedback to assist in improving the presentation for future HDVCC ASPC workshops. Reaching out to local organizations in human services and animal welfare, this community project evaluates what knowledge of the link of abuse there is, what do service providers need to include in their intakes to identify all forms of neglect and how a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach can ensure a more effective means of providing a safety plan that is inclusive of all family survivors of violence including pets and farm animals.

Statement of the Problem

Since 1985, twenty seven women, two men, one child, and two companion animals were killed in acts of domestic violence in Humboldt County (Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, 2013). Children of mothers who experience prenatal domestic violence are at an increased risk of aggressive, anxious, depressed or hyperactive behavior. According to Dr. Bruce Perry *First Impressions...Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain*, the youngest child that is in the house during the time of violence is the one that is the most affected. "The tragic reality of children growing up in a domestic violence is that they end up with mental health problems at a rate higher than children who are actually the direct victims of physical abuse" (California Attorney General's Office, 2008).

Animals are frequent targets in domestic violence relationships because they often represent an extension of the person who is abused. Pets are used to demonstrate power and control over the family as well as means of maintaining control. Animals are threatened, beaten, or killed in an effort to maintain control over the person who is being hurt. Animal abuse is a recognized form of domestic violence because of the deep implications it has for a survivor. Between 25% and 40% of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave (Arkow, P.2007). Threatening, injuring, or killing animals indicates the potential for increased lethality in the relationship.

Domestic violence survivors and advocates have long recognized the abuse of pets; however, due to funding constraints and safety issues, shelters have been unable to provide shelter for animals. This inability has created a tremendous barrier to survivors as they contemplate leaving the relationship. Without a guarantee of pet safety, survivors are highly reluctant to leave.

On February 20, 2007 Jennifer Alyson Bushnell from Garberville, California was killed by the hands of her perpetrator. Jennifer loved animals and had her beloved dog, Gucci, with her at the time of her death. Jennifer had been threatened and coerced to stay out of fear that Gucci would be killed. At the time there were no local shelters that would take her and her dog. Gucci survived this horrific tragedy. Humboldt Domestic Violence Services currently has funding to shelter animals due to a memorial set up in Jennifer Bushnell's name. The greatest tragedy is the loss of life before action is taken.

Aim of the Project

There is an increasing amount of research documenting the co-occurrence of animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, particularly domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse. Paying attention to the victimization of animals can lead to the discovery of people who have been harmed or at risk of being harmed. In Humboldt County, there is an overall need in the community for cross-training and collaboration of human and animal service providers to effectively protect and serve individuals experiencing domestic violence and abuse along with their companion pets and farm animals.

Human and animal welfare agencies offer survivors sometimes the only opportunity to develop and create a safe means for leaving violent situations. Collaboration of human and animal violence prevention service providers is a complex community issue that needs a community response. Having an effective educational tool and public awareness forums to present throughout the community will help enable and educate service providers and community members in developing a more effective emergency service system for survivors and their pets.

Project Framework

A systems theory of planned behavior is applied to this research. This theory illustrates a possible explanation for the responses to human and animal abuse by service providers. Most service providers are trained and mandated specifically for their field of work. One anticipated outcome of this project is to expand the knowledge of how domestic violence prevention services and animal welfare are related when creating a safe plan and sheltering program.

The eco-feminism theory challenges the hierarchical and oppressive power structures in predominantly male dominated society. It rejects the human centeredness and separateness from nature, and analyzes how modern societies give privilege to humans over nature and men over women (Robbins, Chaterjee, and Canda, 2006). Studies indicate that a majority of survivors of domestic violence are females and refer to male use of controlling and violent behavior. Many women seeking shelter from male violence have a special connection with their companion animals. Research supports the hypothesis that individuals who are aggressive towards humans are also aggressive toward animals (Simmons, C. & Lehmann, P. 2007). Therefore pet abuse used as a tool of controlling behavior by men who abuse women is a major indicator that there is domestic violence or other abuses in the home.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this literature review is to provide a general overview of what information is currently available on the link and relatedness between four aspects of violence. According to the research, there is growing evidence that people who abuse animals often go on to attack humans. While researching the literature, similar themes within the articles were discovered including current work and collaboration within organizations and other agencies to create a better response system in their communities on the correlation between domestic violence and other forms of maltreatment. The literature compiled has raised questions about the current knowledge and resources available in Humboldt County addressing the link between domestic violence, child abuse/neglect, elder abuse/neglect, and animal abuse/neglect. As a result, this research includes an overall description of the different forms of abuse and neglect, how each is correlated, and both national and local articles on current response systems addressing the overlapping form of maltreatment.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence consists of a complex range of abusive and controlling behaviors that affects men, women, children and animals everyday in the United States. Domestic violence and emotional abuse involves controlling behaviors and patterns of violence by one or both partners in an intimate relationship (domesticviolence.org, 2009). Domestic violence may range from threats of violence, manipulation and control, hitting, severe beating, rape, and sometimes murder.

According to the 2003-2012 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), domestic violence accounted for 21% of all violent crime with the majority of this violent crime committed against females (76%) compared to males (24%) (Truman, J., & Morgan, R., 2014). On average one in four women will experience violence in a relationship, making it possible that at least 25% of all women in the US at some point in their lives will be physically hurt by someone they love (DVRC, 2011). This number is even higher in California where nearly 40% of women will experience abuse in a relationship (CPEDV.org, 2011). Since 1985, twenty seven women, two men, one child, and two companion animals were killed in acts of domestic violence in Humboldt County (Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, 2013).

Connection Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

Pets are part of the family in a majority of American households. Philip Tedeschi, professor at the University of Denver and co-founder and director of the Institute of Human/Animal Connections Program, states out of 71 million homes 62% are pet owners and 87% consider their pets' family (Tedeschi, P., 2010). Tedeschi states that dogs are the perfect human companion, are great sources of comfort, and aid people suffering from stress, depression, anxiety, trauma, and other life issues.

When the family is impacted by domestic violence, these pets often become the target of violence. In one study of women seeking shelter at a safe house, 71% of those with animals said their partner had threatened, hurt, or killed their pet (Appleton, A. 2010). The occurrence of animal abuse or neglect may also be an indicator that other forms of abuse or neglect are present putting family members at risk. In a study of 1,624

animal abuse cases across the U.S., 21% also involved some form of family violence. According to this study, 13% involved domestic violence, 7% involved child abuse and 1% involved elder abuse (Arkow, P., 2007). Studies have identified that individuals who abuse the family pet use more forms of aggressive violence and demonstrate a greater use of controlling behaviors than those who do not (Simmons, C. & Lehmann, P. 2007).

Children Exposed to Family Violence and Animal Abuse

Nearly seventy-five percent of families with school-age children have at least one companion animal (Ridge, 2008). Most cases of domestic violence and animal abuse are done when children are present. Children who have witnessed domestic violence or are survivors of physical or sexual abuse are at greater risk of becoming animal abusers themselves, imitating the violence they have seen or experienced (Randour, M., Davidson, H., 2008). Sometimes perpetrators kill, harm, or threaten partners and children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about the abuse. Children impacted by abuse such as this may end up killing or harming animals to imitate their parents' conduct, to prevent the perpetrator from killing the pet, or to take out their aggressions on another victim. In a study by Frank Ascione, 32% of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their children had hurt or killed animals (Ascione, 2005).

According to authors of *A Common Bond*, as a predictor of crime, animal cruelty can be the earliest warning signal of a child or family at risk (Randour & Davidson 2008).

During assessment, working with children and their families, suggested guidelines were discussed on how to ask questions that will assist in identifying risk and safety (see Appendix F).

Connection Between Elder Abuse and Animal Cruelty

Elder mistreatment refers to intentional actions that result in harm or serious risk of harm to an elder, or failure to protect from harm or meet the elder's basic needs (Foster & Smith, 2003). According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, the breakdown of confirmed perpetrators on older adults is 40% are adult children, 15% spouse, 9% grandchildren, 8% other relative, 6% siblings, 6% parents, 3% service providers, 1% friend, and the remainder unspecified. Potential perpetrators of older adults include any individual in the older adult's environment and abusive adult children that intimidate elders, retaliate against them, or control their assets by threatening or removing their pets (Arkow, 2007).

Many older adults are particularly attached to their pets. Pets, especially cats and dogs, are the perfect human companion adding sources of comfort and aid to people suffering from stress, depression, anxiety, trauma and other life issues. Pets provide humor, affection, and protection as well as fostering social interaction. Elders who have pets tend to live longer stressing the importance of pets in the lives of elders. This special bond makes pets vulnerable to abuse by those that want to coerce and control an older adult. In more than two-thirds of domestic elder abuse cases the perpetrators are family members who may neglect or abuse a pet (Foster & Smith, 2003).

Another form of animal abuse is animal hoarding. A large number of animal hoarders are older women who are unable to adequately care for several animals putting the animals and themselves at risk of neglect and health issues indicating a need for social services intervention (Arkow, 2007). According to the National Link Coalition in Stratford, New Jersey, Adult Protective Services caseworkers found animal neglect co-existing with clients who were unable to care for themselves. Seventy five percent of the participants noted their clients concern for their pets' welfare affected decisions about accepting services or interventions (Arkow, 2007).

Community Action Addressing the Overlapping Forms of Maltreatment

Researchers and advocates suggest that using the identification of a home with one form of violence as an indicator that other members of the household may also be at risk of victimization should be part of the assessment. This is the basis for cross-reporting legislation that permits or requires child welfare, animal control, and adult victims of violence (elder abuse, partner abuse) investigators to refer families for investigation by parallel agencies (DeGue,S.& DiLillo, D, 2009). An article in the Baltimore City Paper discusses trainings facilitated by Frank Ascione to Baltimore City Agencies and social services organizations on the overlap between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Baltimore developed a poster that shows a woman, child and dog cowering in a corner under a presumably male shadow. It reads "Love Should Not Mean Fear" and "Domestic Violence Includes Every Member of the Family". It also gives contact information for the police department, counseling and domestic violence organizations, and the Snyder Foundation for Animals (Appleton, A. 2010).

Shelters in St. Cloud Minnesota and Detroit Michigan have been raising money to build heated and air conditioned shelters as an extension to their women's domestic violence shelter which includes a space for a living room area with furniture and a television for humans to spend time with their animals. Shelter leaders also plan to use space to teach children from abusive homes how to properly care for animals (Louwagie, P., 2014)

Animal hoarders, people who keep large numbers of pets without providing for their basic needs, can cost counties large sums for cleanup costs and care of rescued animals. More than 30 states now have laws that shift the financial burden of caring for abused or neglected animals from taxpayers to defendants. These states now authorize veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse (Urbina, I. 2010).

PROJECT METHOD

Introduction and Overview

The Humboldt Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HDVCC) All Species Protection Committee (ASPC) developed and presented workshops in the past on the link between domestic violence, animal abuse and child abuse. Working in collaboration with HDVCC-ASPC, the power point was revised to incorporate elder abuse and neglect into the content of the presentation. After reviewing some of the information about past workshops and their evaluations, a pre-presentation questionnaire (see Appendix B) was developed to assess what knowledge of the link of abuse there is before the power point presentation. Both the pre and post questionnaires (see Appendix C) included questions related to what service providers need to ask in their intakes to identify all forms of neglect and how a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach can ensure a more effective means of providing a safety plan that is inclusive of all family survivors of violence including pets and farm animals. These questions are used to measure the validity and effectiveness of the visual presentation and provide data to community partners about the need for continued public awareness on the interwoven aspects of abuse and neglect. The presentation encouraged discussion of ideas of how providers of human services and animal welfare can collaborate to meet the needs of Humboldt County communities.

Research Sample

Participants for my community project/presentation and survey included undergraduate students in Social Work attending the "Ecology of Family Violence"

course, volunteer drivers for Area I Agency on Aging, students who attended Humboldt State University's Social Justice Summit, client advocates at Humboldt Domestic Violence Services, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Humboldt County. The total number in attendance of all five presentations was n=45; total number of completed pre and post surveys with informed consent n=36.

A recruitment letter (see Appendix A) was sent via e-mail to each agency explaining the purpose of the presentation, a sample of the pre-survey questions (see Appendix B) and post-survey questions(see Appendix C), informed consent (Appendix D), and a copy of the power point presentation (Appendix E). The letter included a request for presenting the community project and a request for the agency to notify any employees or volunteers that may be interested in attending along with a date and time for the hour long presentation.

Research Design

For this project, I developed an hour long educational power point presentation, in collaboration with my community partner, showing the importance of community collaboration of service providers to ensure a more effective approach to breaking the cycle of violence and protecting vulnerable community members and their animals. One focus of presenting the power point and collecting surveys was to get community feedback and assist in improving the presentation for HDVCC ASPC for future workshops. I presented this to different populations of services providers in Humboldt County for the purpose of creating a link of resources available for providers to turn to

during a crisis situation and to raise community awareness about the connections of these issues.

Participants were notified by their agency at least one week in advance about the presentation/survey to ensure giving the participants enough time to decide if they would like to participate. During the presentation I introduced and explained the informed consent forms, then administered and collected the pre-presentation survey by individuals that signed the consent forms and delivered a power point presentation on different forms of abuse and how the abuse/neglect may sometimes be linked together. After the presentation and discussion that followed, participants completed the post-presentation surveys that were distributed on the effectiveness of the presentation and ideas of what service providers and volunteers can do in their organizations to change the way client information may be assessed.

Data Collection Methods

The pre-presentation survey consisted of four questions, the first being a close-ended yes/no question while the remainder were open ended questions. The post-presentation survey consisted of three open-ended questions. These questions are used to measure the validity and effectiveness of the visual presentation and provide data to community partners about the need for continued public awareness on the interwoven aspects of abuse and neglect.

The presentation encouraged engagement in appreciative inquiry and reflective dialog with community members and discussion of how providers of human services and

animal welfare can collaborate to meet the needs of Humboldt County communities.

Many related social issues and questions were raised during the presentation.

For example, there was a question asked on where elders can obtain free veterinarian care for their companion animals due to the fact that many elders are forced to give up their longtime companions because of limited income and resources. Participants were able to share knowledge of resources during this time that otherwise would not have been available.

Analysis and Synthesis of Data

This qualitative research project utilizes participatory action research methods whereby the knowledge gained through the research process is used to advocate for larger multidisciplinary approach and systemic changes in the community that empower and protect the lives of families and survivors of violence (Chilisa, B, 2012). Participatory action research (PAR) is a research method that emphasizes the role of the community and community members as active participants at every stage of the research process (Van de Sande & Schwarz, K., 2011). The goal of PAR is to engage the community in research that is tied to and promotes beneficial change for that community. The pre and post presentation surveys collected were administered to evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation along with the collection ideas of what service providers can do in their organizations to change the way client information may be assessed in identifying any overlapping forms of maltreatment.

A logic model was created to help describe the effectiveness of the program (Figure 1). The logic model describes logical linkages among program resources,

activities, participants, short- medium-, and long-term outcomes related to a specific problem or situation. Ideally critical measures of performance can be identified once a program has been described in the model (McLaughlin, J.,& Jordan, G., 1999).

Ethical Considerations

Reaching out to local organizations in human services and animal welfare, my community project surveyed what knowledge of the link of abuse there is, what do service providers need to include in their intakes to identify all forms of neglect and how a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach can ensure a more effective means of providing a safety plan that is inclusive of all family survivors of violence including pets and farm animals. Some ethical considerations for service providers are based on the limits in confidentiality when cross-reporting. According to Evidence Code Section 1037.1, the domestic violence victim-counselor privilege protects the confidentiality of the victim. (leginfo.ca). Additionally, cross-reporting suspected abuse of animals or elders is crucial. Two states have made cross-reporting a requirement: A California law requires animal control officers to report suspected elder abuse and Illinois requires the same of veterinarians (Hallett, J., 2013)

Project Limitations

The specific limitations to this project were dependent on the time frame and availability of the service providers. Service providers in the animal welfare field such as Companion Animal Foundation, Sequoia Humane Society, and Humboldt Spay and Neuter, to name a few, had conflicting schedules with the time I was allotted and thereby were not able to schedule a presentation for their volunteers. The surveys collected during

presentations affiliated with Humboldt State University's Social Justice Summit and the "Ecology of Family Violence" course were limited in the numbers of service providers in attendance in which the surveys were directed towards.

There was some difficulty and limitations of compiling all the surveys during the process of examining and analyzing the survey data. The open-ended questions were very broad and time consuming. In the past ASPC has used Likert-scaled questions that were easier to evaluate. In the future it is recommended to use close ended questions with the option of additional comments at the end.

The resource list at the end of the power point was incomplete because of limited space on the slide and fear that too much information would be overwhelming for participants. Additional resources could be available on separate handouts which include a list of tribal agencies in the surrounding community that have domestic violence programs. Also, a list of all the local animal rescue facilities needs to be included. While this knowledge was brought to my attention it has been added to the resource book at HDVS for the client advocates and crisis workers to refer to (Appendix G).

RESULTS

While researching the literature several articles contained information on the link of the quadrant of abuse and ideas of community action. In Humboldt County there is a lack of community organizations participating in working together to create a better response system between domestic violence and other forms of maltreatment. During my presentations several similar themes were identified about the need for more public awareness and resources available. I was able to give my presentation to five different groups of community members. The total number in attendance of all five presentations n=45; total number of completed pre and post surveys with informed consent n=36.

At the beginning of each of the presentations I explained the informed consent form, collected signatures and pre-presentation survey questions. There were no demographic questions on the surveys regarding gender or age so there is no data on that specific information. The first question on the survey was Likert-scale, close ended question asking if the participant entered individuals' dwellings as a service provider or volunteer.

Pre-Presentation Questionnaire

Out of n=36 individuals that completed both surveys 39% (14) answered yes to entering individuals dwellings as a service provider or volunteer, 53% (19) answered no, and 8%(3) answered with sometimes. Of the 39 % (14) answered yes to entering individuals dwellings, 17% (6) answered no specific questions were asked during an intake interview for risk assessment. Of the 53% (19) individuals that stated they did not

enter homes, 36% (13) answered no specific questions were asked during an intake interview for risk assessment.

The remainder of the answers to the survey will be categorized into common themes according to participant's response to the questions.

Question#2: What questions do you ask now or could your agency or you ask when entering a client's home or during an intake interview that would assist with risk assessment of abuse to children, elderly, pets or adults?

28% (10) answered they would ask: How are you? Are you safe? How can I help you?

3% (1) Do you have any needs or concerns?

3% (1) Where are the children?

6% (2) Has there been any history of violence or similar service in the past?

3% (1) Is there anyone else living in the home?

6% (2) Are there any weapons (guns) in the house?

Question# 3: Are you aware of resources in the community that provide immediate shelter or crisis intervention for human and animal victims of abuse? If yes, please list any that are applicable.

69% (25) participants responded that they did not know of any resources.

1% (11) responded with HDVS, NCRCT, RCAA, HSU counseling, Humboldt county sheriff, police, Adult protective services, sequoia humane society, SPCA, Raven, mental health, MAC, Arcata House, and Family resource centers.

Question# 4: Further suggestions of what the community could offer in respect to linking human protective services and animal welfare?

58% (21) participants responded with no answer or don't know

42% (15) participants responded with more trainings and community outreach, more (comprehensive) resource list, awareness opportunities, "spread the word on radio and T.V.", defining abuse and placing the definition in public places, pet foster network, interdisciplinary trainings, get funding for existing services and emergency shelter for animals.

Post-Presentation Questionnaire

After the power point presentation the post questionnaire was distributed and collected. Three open-ended questions are listed with a summary of the results:

Question#1: Are there questions that were mentioned in this presentation that your agency or you could ask when entering a clients home or during an intake interview that would assist with risk assessment of abuse?

22% (8) answered no known

78 % (28) answered yes with sample questions such as: Are there children, elders or animals in the house? Has any animal ever had been hurt in the house? Are you being hurt by anyone? Have you recently lost a pet? Do you have a safety plan? Also two additional comments "The Ted talk is something Paso a Paso agency can use to validate the family system and importance" and "the importance of catering the questions to individual people and keeping them comfortable".

Question#2: Has this presentation added to your awareness of resources in the community that provide immediate shelter or crisis intervention for human and animal victims of abuse? If yes, please list any that are applicable.

11% (4) answered no

89% (32) answered yes with resources listed such as HDVS, Jennifer Bushnell memorial fund for sheltering pets through HDVS, humane society, HCDVCC, NCRCT, sheriff's office and police department, companion animal foundation, ASPC, Adult protective services, hospice, and vets. One person responded with "all resources on p.5 (of power point handout) are helpful but probably not complete".

Question # 3: Could you provide further suggestions of what this presentation could offer the community in respect to linking human protective services and animal welfare?

39% (14) answered no or left it blank

61% (22) wrote suggestions which are listed below:

A full list of available resources updated every quarter "like a telephone directory"

"More information about bonding with animals and elders"

"Make fact sheet to be distributed to law enforcement agencies as part of the project"

"I hope this presentation can be made often to various groups in community"

"How to talk to a friend and a pocket card with resources"

"More help with financial costs, grants out there to help those unable to properly care for their pets"

"More shelters that is inclusive and welcoming"

Examples of what is being done locally and how important animals are in the community

“How to get proof of ownership of a pet and more in depth about animal welfare”

“The link between the 4 elements was enlightening”

“What is being done now by agencies?”

“Is there a hotline you can call about animals?”

“Mandated reporting laws, codes, and penal codes to abuse for California”

“Mandated reporting from DV agencies, APS, and other, info for people doing foster care and animal foster care, and Companion animal Foundation”

“It could provide an unbiased perspective toward the help of animal also”

“The first video was a waste of time, covering info that was either obvious (ie: children who see abuse experience trauma) or unnecessary how many trillions of brain cell connections kids have “(referring to *First Impressions* with Dr. Bruce Perry)

“I liked the Ted Talk video” (referring to Phillip Tedeschi video)

14% (5) people responded with “it was great” and understood the connection of abuse.

In summary, n=36 completed pre and post survey questionnaires with informed consent. Before the presentation, 69% participants responded that they did not know of any resources in the community that serve domestic violence and related abuses. After the presentation and discussion, 89% of the participants responded that the presentation added to their awareness of resources in the community for crisis intervention.

Program: Community Presentation Project (All Species Protection Committee)

Situation: There is a need for continued community awareness and feedback on what resources are available addressing the link between domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and animal abuse along with a means to improve the ASPC presentation for future workshops to assist in implementing change and effectiveness in service systems.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes-Impact		
	Activities	Participants	Short	Medium	Long
Humboldt Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HDVCC) Training curriculum Funds/grants for training All Species Protection Committee (ASPC) individuals Humboldt State University (HSU) Professors and instructors	PowerPoint presentation Pre-survey questions Post-survey questions Evaluations Discussion	Educators CASA staff and volunteers Area 1 Agency on Aging HSU Students Animal welfare services and shelters HDVS staff Community members	Awareness of ASPC, local resources, mandate reporting laws Identify the connection of all forms of abuse Identify additional resources needed in the community	Continued discussion and implementation of ASPC community workshops Prevent and interrupt child abuse, elder abuse, animal abuse and domestic violence	Create a fail proof safety plan for all survivors of abuse and their pets Create a means of identifying where abuse originated (eg: registry)and programs to prevent abuse from happening
<p>Assumptions: Having an effective educational tool and public awareness forums to present throughout the community will help enable and educate service providers and community members in developing a more effective emergency service system for survivors of abuse and their pets.</p>			<p>External Factors: Systems have a strong pull to stay the same. Systemic changes need to take place including community organizations that may not be willing to collaborate with other organizations. There is an additional need for more public awareness campaigns, more funding to implement change and add resources.</p>		

Figure 1: Logic Model

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

One major focus of presenting the power point and collecting surveys is to get community feedback and assist in improving the presentation for HDVCC ASPC for future workshops. While facilitating discussion during the presentations I was made aware of many ideas and resources that the power point is lacking. Additional resources that should be included are a list of tribal agencies in the surrounding community that have domestic violence programs and a list of all the local animal rescue facilities. While this knowledge was brought to my attention it has been added to the resource book at HDVS for the client advocates and crisis workers to refer to (Appendix G).

Originally the plan was to give four presentations to each area of service that is linked to the quadrant of abuse. I was not able to secure a time for presenting in the animal welfare area and instead had two presentations with the student population. The surveys were written for service providers to complete and may require further refinement and clarification. In the future survey questionnaires could include basic demographic information such as age, gender, and title with non-exclusive questions directed towards the general public.

Limitations were present during the process of examining and analyzing the survey data. The open-ended questions were very broad and time consuming. In the past ASPC has used Likert-scaled questions that were easier to evaluate. In the future it is recommended to use Likert-scaled, close ended questions with the option of additional comments.

For some of the presentations I was allotted more time than others. In the larger groups such as Area 1 Agency on Aging there were more discussion questions and it took more time to collect the informed consent forms and surveys which left less time to show all the videos. In that situation I was only able to show the short five minute video on elder abuse from the DVD *First Response to Victims of Crime* produced by Office for Victims of Crime and the first six minutes of *First Impressions...Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain* with Dr. Bruce Perry. I was not able to show the TEDxDU video with Professor Phillip Tedeschi due to time constraints. During both presentations at Humboldt State University I was able to show all the videos which identify how the different forms of maltreatment are related.

There was much discussion and confusion on what determines when a mandated reporter reports what they have seen or heard. According to Evidence Code Section 1037.1, the domestic violence victim-counselor privilege protects the confidentiality of the victim. (leginfo.ca). The DV counselor may disclose they are a mandated reporter when child abuse allegations are communicated but the victim holds the privilege of confidentiality when disclosing abuse they have received whether it is elder or animal abuse unless the victim gives consent that the counselor may report. This places limitations on how much cross reporting a DV counselor can do. At Area 1 Agency on Aging there were specific questions on when the volunteer drivers were to report on information disclosed to them by an elder that was being abused by their spouse.

Many related social issues and questions were raised during the presentation. For example, there was a question asked on where elders can obtain free veterinarian care for their companion animals due to limited income and resources. Participants were able to share knowledge of resources during this time. One of the benefits of delivering multiple presentations to different agencies in the community is the opportunity for discussion on topics that may not have otherwise been considered.

The All Species Protection Committee in the past has had workshops around the topic of the overlapping forms of maltreatment mainly directed towards service providers. There is a need to create new informational brochures with updated information and resources to be used at these workshops. It would be important to continue these mini- presentations throughout the county for all community members especially survivors of domestic violence and related abuses and to have updated brochures available. Listening to the voices of those who have experienced safety issues and sheltering constraints could assist in developing a more thorough needs assessment for service providers.

The results gathered from this research will ideally contribute to future presentations for respective service providers. Creating public awareness and a better understanding of how the quadrant of abuse is linked, a move can be made to broaden resources available for all people and their pets affected by domestic violence. By examining the problems that people face at a community level, policies can be created that will have an impact on making change at the governmental level.

Future graduate level social work students may consider elaborating on this project as a basis for continuing community partnership with HDVCC-ASPC. It would also be beneficial to include this presentation and information in the domestic violence 40 hour training.

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APPENDIX A: Recruitment Letter

Dear Service Provider,

Greetings!

My name is Debra Patton and I am a Graduate Student of Social Work at Humboldt State University and Chair of the Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council All Species Protection Committee. One of the requirements as part of the Master's program at Humboldt State is to develop a community project that will have a positive impact on the community. The project I would like to present to your staff, employees and volunteers is an hour long which would include a power point presentation focused on the correlation of four different areas of abuse/neglect (domestic violence, child abuse, animal abuse and elder abuse/neglect), what service providers can look for and resources available or what is needed in Humboldt County.

There will be two identical surveys distributed, one before the hour long presentation and one after the presentation. Filling out the questionnaire is estimated to be around 5-10 minutes each. The purpose of the pre-questionnaire is to assess what is known of the link of abuse before the presentation. The post-questionnaire is to measure the effectiveness of the presentation. The presentation and questionnaire will also encourage discussion of ideas of how providers of human and animal services can collaborate to meet the needs of Humboldt County communities.

This questionnaire may be stopped at anytime. There will be an informed consent form explaining the details about the project, questionnaire, and the presentation that will

need to be signed and dated before the questionnaire is completed. I have attached a copy of the presentation, informed consent form and survey questions.

I am available to present this at your agency beginning the end of January through the first week of April. Please contact me with any questions and to schedule a date that is convenient for you and your staff. You may also contact my research instructor, Dr. César G. Abarca, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Humboldt State University. Office (707) 826-4552. Email: cesa.abarca@humboldt.edu for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Debra Patton, BSW

ddp35@humboldt.edu

(714)482-8286

APPENDIX C: Post-Presentation Questionnaire

Overlapping Forms of Maltreatment: A Community Survey

Please answer to the best of your knowledge; if unknown please state NK

1. Are there questions that were mentioned in this presentation that your agency or you could ask when entering a clients home or during an intake interview that would assist with risk assessment of abuse?
2. Has this presentation added to your awareness of resources in the community that provide immediate shelter or crisis intervention for human and animal victims of abuse? If yes, please list any that are applicable.
3. Could you provide further suggestions of what this presentation could offer the community in respect to linking human protective services and animal welfare?

APPENDIX D: Informed Consent

This presentation and questionnaire has been created by a Graduate Student of Social Work at Humboldt State University. The presentation and questionnaire/survey is a part of a community project that is focused on correlation of four different areas of abuse/neglect (domestic violence, child abuse, animal abuse and elder abuse/neglect), what service providers can look for and resources available. This questionnaire is completely optional, and you may stop at anytime. The following Consent Form is to explain the details about the questionnaire.

I understand that the investigator will answer any questions I may have concerning the investigation or the procedures at any time. I also understand that my participation is entirely voluntary. I understand I will receive no monetary compensations for participation in the survey and there are minimal risks associated with this project. I understand that I may decline to enter this study or may withdraw from it at any time without jeopardy. I understand that the investigator may terminate my participation in the study at any time.

The survey/questionnaire will be administered by Debra Patton, a Graduate Student of Social Work at Humboldt State University. There will be a 30 minute power point presentation with discussion on overlapping forms of maltreatment including domestic violence, child abuse, animal abuse and elder abuse. There will be two identical surveys distributed, one before the presentation and one after the presentation. Filling out the

questionnaire is estimated to be around 5-10 minutes each. The purpose of the pre-questionnaire is to assess what is known of the link of abuse before the presentation. The post-questionnaire is to measure the effectiveness of the presentation. The presentation and questionnaire will also encourage discussion of ideas of how providers of human and animal services can collaborate to meet the needs of Humboldt County communities.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The information received by the participants and any identifying data will remain confidential. The responsible investigator will be the only one with access to the data. Anonymous direct quotations will be used in the findings. The participants' identities will not be connected with the data in reporting any of the findings.

If I have any concerns regarding this project, or any dissatisfaction with any part of this study, I may contact the Committee Chair Faculty Advisor: Dr. César G. Abarca, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Humboldt State University. Office (707) 826-4552. Email: cesa.abarca@humboldt.edu.

After the pre and post survey questionnaires are filled out, the graduate student will place them in a folder. No names or other identifying information will be asked. The questionnaires will be kept confidential, and will be destroyed on May 21st, 2014. If I have any additional questions about the study I may contact the student researcher, Debra Patton, at ddp35@humboldt.edu.

If I have any concerns with this study, contact the Chair of the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human subjects, Dr. Ethan Gahtan, at eg51@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-4545. If I have questions regarding my rights as a participant, any concerns

regarding this project, or any dissatisfaction with any part of this study, I may report them to the Dean for Research & Sponsored Programs, Dr. Rhea Williamson at Rhea.Williamson@humboldt.edu or 826-5169.

Thank you for your time. The information will help the community work together to ensure a more effective means of providing services to all family survivors of violence including pets and farm animals.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

APPENDIX E: PowerPoint Presentation

**Humboldt County
Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council**

Working towards
safety,
accountability,
peace and justice
in our community.



**Humboldt County
Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council**

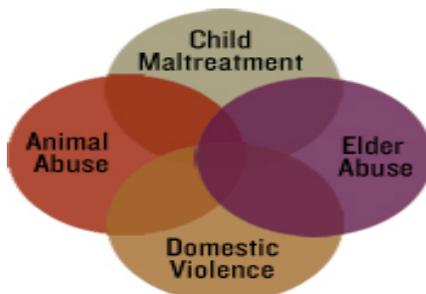


A partnership of public
and private agencies and
individuals who are
committed to a constant
and coordinated county-
wide response to domestic
violence.

*The Interwoven
Aspects
of*

Domestic Violence
Child Abuse & Neglect
Elder Abuse & Neglect
Animal Abuse & Neglect





Connections

www.nationallinkcoalition.org

First Impression: Exposure to Violence and the Child's Developing Brain
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brVOYiNMmKk>

Discovering the Connections...



- Individuals who batter in domestic violence hurt partners, children, and elders.
- Individuals who act with violence also hurt animal companions and farm animals.
- Early research documents the connections between human problems and animal cruelty and the need for intervention.
 (Carlisle-Frank, 2006)



FACTS



- In 2006, seven million U.S. children were living in families in which severe partner violence occurred. (McDonald, et al, 2006)
- Children exposed to domestic violence are three times more likely to be cruel to animals. (Currie, 2006)

Facts

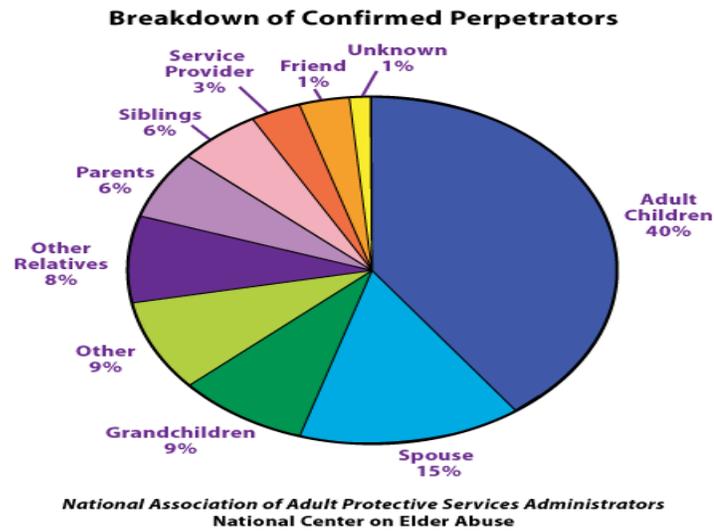
- Children in homes which experience domestic violence are abused at a rate higher than the national average.
- Family members who have problematic substance use, who have mental/emotional illness, and/or who feel burdened by their care-giving responsibilities, abuse at higher rates than those who do not.



Facts

- In more than 2/3 of domestic elder abuse cases, the perpetrators are family members who may neglect or abuse a pet or service animal as a form of control and retaliation. (Prevas, 2003)





Role of animals

- Animals are a key part of the American family.
- They are sources of unconditional love, support and stability.
- Pets provide comfort and stress relief, humor, affection, and protection for elders.



Role of animals



“An animal doesn't see a disability. It doesn't see that you're having a bad day or coming out of a stressful therapy treatment. It just wants someone to love and pet it.”

Phil Arkow, an instructor specializing in animal-assisted therapy

Fear hinders leaving



- Individuals who act with violence use animals as a terror tactic.
- Animals are targeted because it is an effective method of controlling, intimidating, and silencing human victims.
- Perpetrators of domestic violence threaten, abuse and/or kill animals to retaliate, to use as a source of discipline or to prevent their partners and children from leaving.

Quadrant Considerations for Safety Planning with Survivor

- Who?
- What?
- How?
- Where?



Safety planning with a pet

- Establish proof of ownership of the animals.
- Get any veterinary records and vaccination certificates and keep them with other identity documents.
- Get new tags with the phone number of a trusted friend, family member or your veterinarian so that your animal companions can be located if lost.
- Stash leashes, carriers, medication and food in a safe location.
- Request law enforcement accompaniment if necessary.



What can be done?

Recommendations for service providers

- Understand the connection of the quadrant of abuse and neglect.
- When reporting, cross reporting and referrals are crucial.
- In assessment, consider all aspects of the quadrant.
- Collaborate with others. Join the ASPC in our efforts to end violence against all living species.



Resources:

<p style="text-align: center;">Domestic Violence Support</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Humboldt Domestic Violence Services 707-443-6042</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Coast Rape Crisis Team 707-445-2881</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WISH in Southern Humboldt 707-923-4100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">To report Child Abuse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Child Welfare Services 707-445-6180</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To report Elder Abuse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adult Protective Services 707-445-6180</p>
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Resources:

To report Animal Cruelty

- Humboldt County Sheriff's Dept. 707-445-7251

If abuse is occurring within city limits:

- Eureka Police Dept. 707-441-4060
- Arcata Police Dept. 707-822-2428
- Fortuna Police Dept. 707-725-7550



APPENDIX F: Suggested Guidelines on Questions to Ask About Animal Cruelty

(Randour, M., Davidson, H., 2008)

- Ask animal treatment related questions to screening, intake, investigation and risk and safety assessment.
- Ask questions about exposure to animal abuse.
- Integrate information on the common bond between children and animal into the education and training programs of relevant professional groups.
- Understand the system of animal cruelty investigations, as well as the relevance of animal cruelty laws, as they relate to child welfare goals of child safety.
- Use or adapt available instruments and subscales to identify animal maltreatment in and outside of home when conducting child protection investigations.
- Use appropriate treatment approaches for children who abuse animals or who have witnessed animal abuse.(Using animals in treatment)
- Use animal assisted therapies in child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention activities.
- Reporting and cross-reporting procedures, and collaborative training between child protective services and animal services agency personnel, should be specified in law.
- Where no cross-reporting procedures are specified in law, child protective services workers and agencies, juvenile courts, and animal services agencies should collaborate and share information and resources whenever possible.

- The laws, policies, and professional norms surrounding the issue of confidentiality should be thoroughly studied with the goal of finding ways to encourage collaborative interagency interactions when reporting and investigating child and animal abuse and neglect.
- Laws should recognize the evidentiary importance of facts related to animal cruelty at trial and at disposition/sentencing in child maltreatment cases.
- Animal cruelty, and the presence of animals in the home that may have been adjudicated as dangerous or otherwise determined at high risks to children, should be listed in the law as factors relevant to: custody and visitation decisions (for children and animals); judicial consideration of removal of children and animals from the family home; and court-imposed conditions of current or future possession of animals.
- Criminal laws related to animal cruelty should be strengthened and should be in the penal code.
- Every state animal cruelty law should contain a provision that mandates counseling for juveniles adjudicated for animal cruelty.
- Information on coinciding animal cruelty should be included in the collection and analysis of federal incidence study data or annual state statistics on child abuse and neglect.

From: A Common Bond: Maltreated Children and Animals in the Home Guidelines for Practice and Policy. American Humane and American Humane Society of the United States, 2008.

APPENDIX G: Animal Welfare and Tribal Domestic Violence Resources**Local Tribal Domestic Violence Resources:**

Karuk Tribe Pikyav DV Services Program (530) 493-1630 ext. 4

Siskiyou Domestic Violence 1-877-842-4068 or (530) 842 6629

Yurok DV & Sexual Assault Program (707) 954-8938 or (855) 945-4357

Hoopla Project Connect (530) 625-4261 ext. 331

Hoopla Tribal Police (530) 625-4202

Yurok Public Safety (707) 842-8185

Rural Human Services Harrington House (Crescent City) - (707) 465-3013

Local Animal Welfare and Sheltering Resources:

Companion Animal Foundation (707) 826-7387

Humboldt Dog Obedience Group (HumDOG) (707) 444-3862

Humane Society (707) 442-1782

Heart of the Redwoods Horse Rescue (707) 440-9140

Miranda's Rescue (707) 725-4449

Myrtle Ave. Pet Center (707) 443-3171