

Quick Reference Facts:

“The Link” is fast becoming the most accepted and researched theory behind the interconnectedness between animal abuse and domestic violence.

- **63% of Australians** own a pet
- **Over 70% of women** reporting domestic violence incidents said their abusers hurt, killed or threatened their pets
— (*Ascione, 1998*)
- **Males** are responsible for almost all acts of violence towards humans and pets.
— (*Arkow 2016; Tong 2015; Tiplady 2013*)
- **Animal cruelty** is a way of exerting power and control in domestic violence situations.
- **18% and 48%** of battered women have delayed their decision to leave their batterer or have returned to their batterer out of fear for the welfare of their pets or livestock
— (*Ascione, 2007*).
- Australian study – when leaving with their animals:
 - **92%** were turned away from refuges,
 - **70%** from government rental,
 - **60%** from private rental
 - and **33%** from family and friends— (*Tong 2015*)
- Only a few women's refuges in Australia offer a safe haven for both pets and their families.
- Domestic violence and animal abuse happens in both rural and urban areas.
- It's not just cats and dogs that are targeted. Chickens, horses and even lamas have been harmed.
- Animal abuse is a red flag that other people in household are being abused.

- **53% of the women** in violent relationships had pets hurt or killed compared with 0% in the community.
— *(Johnson)*
- Animal abuse is not just violence but neglect as well
- Children who witness acts of animal cruelty were are more likely to engage in cruelty to animals
- **96% of animal abusers** had also abused children
— *(Humane Society, 2002).*