

Child Abuse

80% of perpetrators of animal cruelty abuse children.

Animal cruelty is an early indicator of interpersonal violence as the abuse graduates from animals to humans.

Animal Cruelty

A child who is exposed to animal cruelty is **3x** more likely to abuse them.

Children who hear and witness the abuse of their pets in the context of family violence are more likely to abuse animals.

Family Violence

A child who harms an animal is **5x** more likely to commit acts of violence

Children re-enact learned behaviours of punishment, coercion, and control. Child animal cruelty may indicate developmental delays, physical and sexual abuse or emerging mental health problems.



Early Intervention

- > Children and the non-abusing parent may find discussing the concerns they have for their animals easier to talk about.
- > Do you have a pet or animals at home?
- > Have you ever been worried about your pets or the animals?
- > Has anyone threatened to hurt, hurt or acted violently towards your pet?

Safety Planning

- > Include animal protection measures in family safety planning to reduce risk of harm to children.
- > Children protect animals during incidents of family violence.
- > Children hear and witness animal cruelty.
- > Children are coerced to commit acts of animal cruelty.



When a child has been abused contact:

Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry for Children (0508 FAMILY)

If an animal has been harmed contact the SPCA:

SPCA New Zealand Targeted Intervention Manager 027 700 3495

SPCA[®]