



# Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People

By Linda Merz-Perez, Kathleen M. Heide

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Practitioners in the animal welfare field, law enforcement circles, and social services arena have often maintained that childhood cruelty to animals is a forerunner to violence against people. Does this behavior serve as a red flag with respect to extremely violent offenders, such as serial killers? Is it part of the cycle of violence associated with domestic abuse? Perez and Heide provide the first scientific examination of this relationship and examine issues of cruelty across different types of animals (pet, wild, stray, farm). The authors evaluate both qualitative and quantitative data to identify correlations between childhood cruelty and adult violent behavior, utilizing interviews and criminal records of violent and nonviolent inmates in a maximum security prison. Their findings will be of importance to a diverse audience, including researchers and practitioners in the field of juvenile justice, violence and domestic abuse, social welfare, animal welfare and animal rights and developmental psychologists and counselors, as well as law enforcement officers, district attorneys and judges, county and municipal officials, animal control officers, veterinarians, and school administrators, especially those concerned with intervention and prevention strategies.

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## Bibliography

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

Our understanding of the phenomenon of animal abuse has been advanced significantly by Merz-Perez and Heide's efforts. Their work should attract the attention of students and professionals who work in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, law, criminology, social work, child welfare, and family violence. The interested layperson will also benefit from this book since it presents a thoughtful and concise overview on animal abuse and the characteristics of those who perpetrate it. The book will no doubt become a classic reference in this field. . . . Healing often begins with a journey of understanding—Merz-Perez and Heide have hastened our travel along this path. (Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D., Utah State University)

One of the greatest challenges to those of us concerned about crime and violence is that there are so many potential forces at work that can lead an individual down many different paths. . . . This collaboration has brought an original orientation to these issues that has combined careful attention to quantitative method and strongly held concern for the victims of violence, regardless of their species. . . . Ultimately this work, like other important research that has proceeded it, is aimed at better understanding one of the greatest questions we face—the nature and origins of evil. . . . Rarely do such problems arise without warning, but the warnings may be unheeded if the victim is 'only an animal.' Merz-Perez and Heide have given us new and stronger reasons to take animal abuse very seriously. (Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., The Humane Society of the United States)

#### About the Author

Linda Merz-Perez is the former Executive Director of the Humane Society of Shelby County, Alabama. She currently serves on the boards of Hand-In-Paw and the SPCA, West Pasco, has served as court-appointed Animal Cruelty Investigative Officer, and has been involved in the field of animal welfare for the last 14 years. Kathleen M. Heide is professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, and a licensed mental health counselor. She is an internationally recognized consultant on adolescent homicide, family violence, personality assessment, and juvenile justice, and the author of *Why Kids Kill Parents: Child Abuse and Adolescent Homicide* (1992) and *Young Killers: The Challenge of Juvenile Homicide* (1999).

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#### **Douglas Henry:**

The book *Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People* to get your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like start and read a book *Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this e-book?

**Levi Ryan:**

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People is kind of reserve which is giving the reader erratic experience.

**Filiberto Dacosta:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both daily life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People.

**William Kavanaugh:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence Against People, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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