

Emily Hausman

Mrs. Rutan

English IV

17 April 2014

Six Things You Should Know About Animal Abuse

Imagine living in a tiny stall too small to even turn around. You live on concrete which causes bed sores and joint problems. Like pigs on Iron Maiden Farms in Kentucky, you could be fed laxatives and intestines instead of real, nutritious food. What about being starved to an extremely emaciated condition, and then stuffed into a garbage bag and thrown down a garbage chute? These examples of animal abuse cases could go on and on for miles. Of course humans would never wanted to be treated that way, yet we treat animals with inhumane methods everyday. There are no excuses or explanations as to why these animals are treated this way. Over the years, the number of abused animals have shrunk immensely; it now needs to be stopped completely.

1. Reasoning Behind Animal Abuse

Animal abuse has a pretty obvious definition: the crime of inflicting physical pain, suffering, or death upon an animal. This definition is known around the world to mostly everyone. But what are the facts behind animal abuse? What causes the urges for this social issue? Behind the scenes, animal abuse holds scary facts like how “10,000 dogs die from illegal dog fighting every year” (“Abuse Rescue Ink”). Domestic violence is one of the main reasons behind animal abuse. “13% of animal abuse involves domestic violence. Women in abusive relationships often don’t leave their abuser because they worry what will happen to their pet if they leave; men who abuse their partners tend to be more violent, aggressive people who seem to have no problem ‘taking it out on the dog’” (“Abuse Rescue Ink”). One of the most common reasons for cruelty upon animals are personal problems at home. Even though the animal had nothing to do with those problems, they are an easy target. Personal problems can vary from divorce, financial issues, fighting with the spouse, etc. More reasons behind animal abuse are the owners trying to control the pet, and will abuse it when the “pet owner believes that the best way to train an animal is to ‘punish it’ when it does something wrong” (“Nine Reasons”). One of the most common reasons is for pure amusement—drawing attention from others. One of the most famous examples of this abuse is the young girl who put her kitten into a microwave while her friends filmed it and put it on YouTube. Animal abuse may have a simple definition, but the reasons and facts behind it could go on and on.



2. Different Types of Animal Abuse

There are many different types of animal abuse, and they vary from case to case. Violent acts toward animals can be unintentional or overt. Overt abuse is “intentional abuse, which occurs when a person purposely causes physical harm, injury or the death of an animal” (“Learning Cruelty”). An unintentional abuse would occur when the owner cannot afford to care for the animal, or abuses the animal—unaware that they are doing so. Since there are so many forms of animal abuse, “state and territory animal welfare legislation does not attempt to define it in an exclusive way; rather, animal cruelty is described generally as any act or omission that causes unnecessary or unreasonable harm to an animal” (“Animal Cruelty”). Most animal welfare Acts will provide examples of cruelty such as torturing or beating an animal, confining or transporting an animal in an inappropriate way, killing an animal in an inhumane way, failing to provide food and water to the animal, failing to provide treatment or care for the animal’s illness or disease, and failing to provide the appropriate living conditions for the animal. The list of different forms of animal abuse is very long; the people and the state all have different views of the different forms. It is so unfortunate when there are lists of over twenty different ways to abuse an animal. A few of these methods include fur farming, dog fighting, animal experimentation, crush videos, traditional Chinese medicine, slaughter houses, factory farming, and puppy mills. Of course, these are not even half of the list. Animals are kept in places such as puppy mills that are “cruel prisons full of suffering that are only interested in profit and not animal welfare” (Donaldson Susan). Puppy mills is one the most deadly ways to abuse an animal. That is only one method of many. Some of these methods are sorted into groups—dog fighting is an organized abuse. Dog fighting is an organized abuse because of the ‘behind the scenes’ organization and planning for these people to run their business of dog fighting. Other groups include ritual and sexual abuse. Both are very rare and disturbing—we are glad we do not hear of it often. Ritual abuse includes animal sacrifices, etc. With all the different methods and forms of abuse toward animals, this should help people realize how badly we need to help put an end to animal abuse.



3. Animal Abuse Often Leads to Other Crimes

It is believed by many that people who abuse animals are often involved in other crimes as well. In a study done by the MSPCA and Northeastern University found that, “Seventy percent of the violent people that committed crimes against animals also had criminal records for violent, property, drug, or disorder crimes” (“Cruelty to Animals”). When this study went more into depth, it was found that “people who abused animals were five times more likely to commit violent crimes against people, four times more likely to commit property crimes, and three times more likely to have a drug or disorderly conduct offense” (“Cruelty to Animals”). Based on animal abusers criminal records, “38% of abusers committed violent crimes, 44% committed property crime, 37% committed drug crime, 37% committed disorder crime, and 70% committed any of the four” (“Cruelty to Animals”) In another study, of 36 convicted multiple murderers “46% admitted committing acts of animal torture as adolescents” (“Animal and Human Violence”). It was also found that out of seven school shootings that took place between 1997 and 2001, “all involved boys who had previously committed acts of animal cruelty” (“Animal and Human Cruelty”). Domestic abuse is a key feature in animal abuse and takes up “13% of animal abuse” (“Abuse Rescue Ink”). Domestic violence is one of the four predictors of domestic partner violence. In a study conducted in 11 metropolitan cities, it was learned that “in both domestic violence and child-abuse situations, abusers may manipulate and control their human victims through threatened or actual violence against family pets” (“Animal and Human Cruelty”). It isn't fair that animals take the beating; especially for problems that are not theirs. So there awaits the lingering question: *Why are these criminals owning animals in the*

first place? There are not many ways to prevent people from owning animals, or abusing them as a child. For the sake of these animals, we hope something will change in the future—something that will stop these criminals from hurting innocent animals.



4. Animal Abuser Do Not Receive Enough Punishment

In eyes of many, animal abuse is a very serious crime—the person committing the crime should go away to prison for many, many years. Depending on the state, some abusers go away for several years; others can go away for a maximum of 90 days. Some say that the amount of prison time should be based on the severity of the crime. Some question why that is even being considered. Animal abuse is animal abuse—years in prison should be in effect for anyone who commits a crime even remotely related to animal abuse. Some states don't take animal abuser's punishment too seriously, like in "South Dakota, poisoning, intentionally killing and inhumane treatment of an animal are all Class 1 Misdemeanors with up to \$1,000 in fines and with up to 1 year imprisonment" (Strohm Mitch). Killing an animal results to **one year** of prison? People who commit robbery spend more years in prison than that. People who have the mind to abuse an animal should face more than a year and a thousand dollars. Criminals need to face something that will tell them they can't, and won't do something like that to an animal again. Since every state differs in punishment, it is hard to list all the penalties. Some states follow through with a strong punishment for animal abusers—which is an accomplishment. What about the ones that haven't? If it's a fine, or years—these criminals need more of it.



5. Animal Abuse is Becoming More and More Inhumane

Over the years, ways to abuse animals have become more and more inhumane. With new technology that has come with time, animals have had abuse that would not even be considered in the past. Animals are facing a “life sentence of solitary confinement in a coffin, punctuated by artificial insemination and birth” (Kristof Nicholas). The hog operation, Iron Maiden Farms treats their hogs inhumanely everyday. They “gut dead piglets and turn their intestines into a pure that is then fed back to the mother pigs” (Kristof Nicholas). This is meant to “immunize the sows against a virus, porcine epidemic diarrhea, that has ravaged in the hog industry, killing million of piglets.” (Kristof Nicholas) The animals are even fed laxatives because they do not get enough exercise to defecate. The concrete causes the pigs to have sores and joint problems. *Now what is humane about that?* Industrial farming is very much to blame when we talk about animal abuse. Arson is another popular inhumane way of abusing animals. Like the man and women who set a pet store with 27 puppies inside on fire. No living creature should have to endure such inhumane treatment. In another case, a dog was starved, shoved into a garbage bag, and thrown down the garbage chute. There are so many cases where people are treating these animals in ways you couldn't even imagine. Animal testing, and dog fighting—who would think of such a thing? What is even harder to believe is that they are doing it for no apparent reason.

6. We Can All Help the Effort

It is nearly impossible to end animal abuse, but there are always ways to help stop it from occurring so often. When you notice a hurt animal, or know someone who is abusing an animal, just call your nearest humane society or shelter. There is always someone to call. It is known that many abusers start as children—teach your child that abuse is wrong. If you treat pets with kindness, and teach your kids to do the same, they will. Donations always help animals in need. Local shelters always appreciate a little help with paying for food and helping care for these animals. Go help out at the nearest humane society or shelter—it is fun, and a great way to connect with animals and help them at the same time. A lot of products are used on animals, so avoid using products unless they say, “Not tested on animals.” Watch for the signs of abuse; they can vary from hoarding, chained dogs, abandonment, etc. There are always ways to help, and always someone to call if you don't know how to help. These animals would greatly appreciate it.



Works Cited

"Animal Abuse Is a People Problem." Rescue Ink Fighting Animal Abuse and Neglect. Rescue Ink, 2012. Web. 5 May 2014. <[http%3A%2F%2Frescueink.org%2Fblog%2F%3Fm%3D201302](http://3A%2F%2Frescueink.org%2Fblog%2F%3Fm%3D201302)>.

"Nine Reasons For Animal Abuse." Rising Phoenix Charitable Foundation. Rising Phoenix Charitable Foundation, 2013. Web. 05 May 2014. <<http://risingphoenixcharitablefoundation.com/why-this-is-important/nine-reasons-for-animal-abuse/>>."What Is Animal Cruelty?" RSPCA For All Creatures Great & Small. RSPCA, 2014. Web. 6 May 2014.

Donaldson, Susan. "Types of Animal Cruelty That Need To Stop. NOW!" Animal Rights Action. Animal-Rights-Action, 2014. Web. 06 May 2014. <<http://www.animal-rights-action.com/animal-cruelty.html#Types%20Of%20Animal%20Cruelty>>.

"Animal Cruelty." Learning to Give. Learning to Give, 2014. Web. 06 May 2014. <<http://learningtogive.org/papers/paper359.html>>.

"Cruelty to Animals and Other Crimes." Mspca.org. MSPCA, 1997. Web. 06 May 2014.

"Animal Cruelty and Human Violence : The Humane Society of the United States." RSS. The Humane Society of The United States, 2014. Web. 06 May 2014. <http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse_neglect/qa/cruelty_violence_connection_faq.html>.

Strohm, Mitch. "Animal Cruelty Laws: Are They Strict Enough?" The Law.TvV. THELAW.TV, 25 June 2013. Web. 06 May 2014.

Kristof, Nicholas. "Is That Sausage Worth This?" New York Times 20 Feb. 2014: A21(L). General Reference Center Gold. Web. 18 Mar. 2014.

Picture Cites

http://cdn2-b.examiner.com/sites/default/files/styles/image_content_width/hash/1f/cf/bubba_5.jpg?itok=dKEDmrdQ

http://allaboutpuppymills.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/1/5/12153625/1354762_orig.jpg

<http://www.animal-rights-action.com/images/animal-rights-animal-abuse-awareness-purple-ribbon-n-paws.jpg>