



Prince George's County

7th GREEN SUMMIT

annual

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2021

P E T S E R V I C E S



MEET AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER



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ANIMAL CRUELTY

*There are two types of
animal cruelty...*

Neglect & Abuse



Neglect

(Not giving animals what they need.)

Definition:

Failure to provide adequate food, water, shelter, grooming, socialization, and veterinary care.

Examples:

- Keeping a cat locked in the garage without a litter box;
- Leaving a dog out in the rain;
- Not taking an injured rabbit to the vet;
- Regularly forgetting to feed a pet rat.



Abuse

(Hurting an animal on purpose.)



Definition:

Intentionally or maliciously torturing, maiming, poisoning, abandoning, or killing an animal.

Examples:

- Kicking a dog who growled at you;
- Poisoning a cat;
- Throwing rocks at a rabbit.

Why Are People Cruel to Animals?

- To make money via sport, poaching, breeding or entertainment;
- For animal sacrifice or cult activity;
- Peer-pressure;
- Cultural differences in the value placed on certain animals;
- Growing up learning that animals aren't important;
- Some people hurt animals as a way of expressing anger or stress – often associated with the Cycle of Violence.

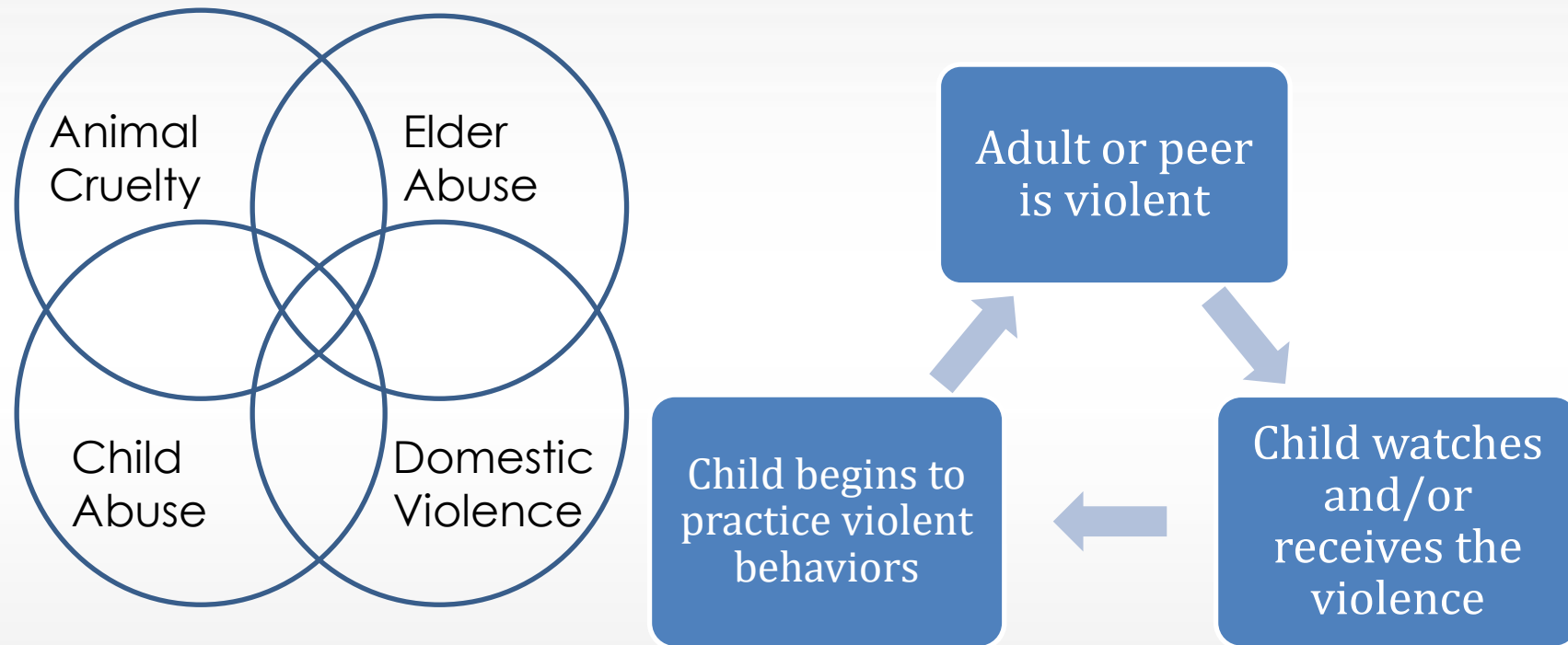




THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

*If animal abuse is happening, other forms of abuse
are often happening as well (“the link”)*

The Link & Cycle of Violence



Cycle of Violence & Animals

Almost 9 out of 10...

families reported for child abuse also had an animal abuser in the home.

1 million...

animals are abused or killed in connection with domestic violence every year.



*Statistics from AmericanHumane.org

The Cycle of Violence & Animals



43% of school shooters...

Between 1988- 2012 had
a history of animal cruelty.

Children are 3 times more
likely to be cruel to
animals if they are
exposed to violence at
home.

*Statistics from AmericanHumane.org

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What does this mean?

There is a high correlation between all forms of abuse. Until someone steps in to stop it, the cycle will continue.

Animal Welfare is a Human Welfare Concern

- Animal abuse is often more visible than other forms of violence.
- Animal abuse often indicates other types of violence.

By reporting animal abuse you will:

1. Help the person who is being abusive.
2. Help keep other people from being hurt.
3. Keep innocent animals safe from harm.



Test your Knowledge!

For the following slides, pretend you are a Humane Officer (Animal Cop). You have just responded to a call about the well-being of an animal. What do you do? Think about the following as you decide what you'd do:

1. Is it neglect? Is it abuse?
2. Would you give a warning and educate the owner or would you remove the animal immediately?
3. Should the animal's owner be prosecuted for animal cruelty? Why or why not?

Ending Animal Cruelty

- Report animal cruelty!
- If you know someone who is being violent towards people or animals, talk to an adult you trust.
- Educate the people around you who may not know what animal cruelty is.
- Help abused animals by volunteering, fostering or even adopting from your local shelter.



REPORTING NEGLECT OR ABUSE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S

To report an animal experiencing neglect or cruelty, contact the Animal Services Division at **301-780-7200**, and **select “0”** after the emergency message.

For more information, visit:

www.princegeorgespets4us.com

<http://www.pgspca.org/advocacy/animal-laws/prince-georges-county-animal-control-ordinance/>