

# THE LINK

Chris Laurence  
Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust



# INTRODUCTION

Non accidental injury

Domestic violence

Research

Consequences



# NON ACCIDENTAL INJURY

People

Animals:

US experience

UK experience



# NON ACCIDENTAL INJURY

Indications:

Injury related to  
history

Multiple injuries

Repeated injury

Owner admission



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - UK

1/4

women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime

1/6

men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime

2

women are killed by a current or former partner every week

1

every minute the police receive a phone call about domestic violence



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MYTHS

**Myth:** Domestic violence only happens in poor families

**Myth:** Alcohol and drugs cause domestic violence

**Myth:** Some religions allow domestic violence

**Domestic violence occurs across society, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexuality, wealth, and geography**



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXAMPLES

*“My ex-partner beat our dog – she was only trying to protect us. I tried to stop him so he beat me instead”*

*“It was difficult to leave my home especially as I had to give up my cat and that broke my heart”*

*“Daddy used to kick the cat and hit mummy - he scares me”*



# CHILD ABUSE – UK DATA

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Neglect</b>	10600	11000	11400	11800	12500
<b>Physical abuse</b>	4300	4100	3900	3600	3500
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	2700	2500	2400	2300	2000
<b>Emotional abuse</b>	5000	5100	5200	6000	7100
<b>Mixed</b>	4000	3600	3000	2700	2700
<b>Total</b>	<b>26600</b>	<b>26300</b>	<b>25900</b>	<b>26400</b>	<b>27900</b>



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANIMAL ABUSE

“If there is an animal in the household, has  
it been abused?”

Yes – 21%



## RESEARCH

Review by Simon Hackett 2007- 3 themes

1. Childhood violence or cruelty towards animals is predictive of future violent behaviour and psychopathology;
2. Domestic violence perpetrators frequently maltreat animals in the commission of their abusive behaviours, as a way of threatening, coercing, silencing or intimidating their human victims; and
3. Adults maltreating animals present a risk of abuse to children (or conversely, adults abusing children pose a risk to animals).



# CONSEQUENCES

Imitation

Perpetuation

Progression



# SUMMARY

NAI more recognised

Domestic violence common

Child abuse common

The Link

