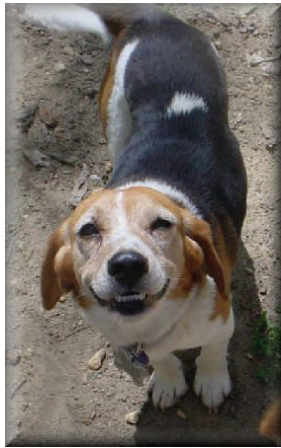


About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

Mission:

To provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters (we do not offer legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters). CLSMF provides community educational seminars and brochures regarding the major areas of law we practice. Contact your local office to learn if CLSMF can assist you. Please see the back of this brochure for a full listing of offices.



Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida Offices:

*BREVARD: 1-866-469-7444

CITRUS & SUMTER
106 N. Osceola Ave., Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 726-6592 — CITRUS
1-800-984-2918— SUMTER

FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417

HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566

LAKE— (352) 343-6351
226 West Main St., Tavares, FL 32778

MARION— (352) 629-6257
2300 SE 17th St. Suite 201
Ocala, FL 34471

*ORANGE — (407) 841-7777
122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200
Orlando, FL 32801

OSCEOLA — (407) 933-1791
800 North Main St., Kissimmee, FL 34744

PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928
216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

*SEMINOLE: (407) 322-6673

VOLUSIA — (386) 258-5600
128 Orange Ave., Suite 100,
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: (386)506-5396

info@clsmf.org
<http://www.clsmf.org>

*Offices currently not offering Family Law services



Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

Help break the cycle of violence



Teach children to respect animals

Does cruelty to animals lead to cruelty to people?

The forces and influences that foster **violence toward humans and animals** spring from the **same roots**, and may even be prevented or treated in the same ways. Although animal protection workers have long suspected this, only during the last two decades have scientists, psychologists and criminologists begun documenting this relationship.

The research indicates the following:

- *Young people who are cruel to animals are more likely to become aggressive toward humans;*
- *Violent, imprisoned offenders often had abused animals during childhood;*
- *Children learn cruel behaviors from adults and may re-enact them on animals;*
- *Children abuse animals to release the aggression they feel toward abusive adults or because of psychological trauma.*

This research is shaking society's nonchalant view of animal abuse. No longer is cruelty to animals passed off as just a phase in childhood or with a "boys will be boys" attitude. Parents, educators, therapists, law enforcement, judicial officials and social service workers are recognizing that animal abuse can indicate **serious maladjustment**.

Evidence shows that violent acts are not separate and distinct, but are **part of a cycle**. This research should alert everyone to the importance of animal cruelty as

a potential indicator of disturbed family relationships and future antisocial and aggressive behavior toward humans.

What is the cycle of violence?

How children are raised shapes their values and behaviors. They learn from adult role models and the society in which they live. A home of violence, abuse, or neglect produces children who may pass these behaviors on to the next generation.

Animals, especially pets, get caught up in this cycle of family violence:

- Partners, spouses, and children are sometimes intimidated into silence about sexual or other abuse through threats made toward a favorite pet.
- Pets are sometimes hurt or killed to punish a child for something he or she has done.
- Abused children may act out aggression and frustration on a pet they perceive as even more vulnerable than themselves.
- Physically or sexually abused children may kill their pets rather than have them hurt by the adult abuser in the home.



In most cases, the animal is the last victim in a chain of abuse that filters down from the **strongest family member to the weakest**.

What can you do?

Take animal and child abuse seriously, and **report it** to your local humane society or child welfare agency. People who repeatedly and intentionally hurt animals or children are in need of counseling or other therapeutic intervention. Help judges, animal control officers, doctors, social workers, teachers and ministers recognize the link between cruelty to animals and people. If you have children, practice **positive parenting** styles that do not rely on corporal punishment. To learn about such methods consult with your local mental health center, social service agency or the United Way.



Report all abuse!
1-800-96-ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)