

“Until we have the courage to recognize cruelty for what it is—whether its victim is human or animal—we cannot expect things to be much better in this world.”

—Rachel Carson

Signs of Domestic Violence:

- Your partner tells you who you may be friends with, how you should dress, or tries to control other elements of your life and relationship.
- Your partner threatens to hurt you, your friends, family members or pets.
- You are expected to spend all of your free time with your partner and must tell that person where you are at all times.
- You go along with the desires and actions of your partner because you are afraid.
- You have been hit, kicked, shoved or had things thrown at you by your partner when they were jealous or angry.
- You have been verbally abused by your partner.
- You are frightened by your partner's temper.
- Your partner gets jealous when there is no reason.
- You apologize for your partner's behavior when you are treated badly.
- Your partner drinks heavily, uses drugs or tries to get you drunk.

Signs of Child Abuse in the Child:

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance.
- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parent's attention.
- Has learning problems or difficulty concentrating that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes.
- Comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home.
- Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen.
- Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn.
- Lacks adult supervision.

Signs of Child Abuse in the Parent:

- Shows little concern for the child.
- Denies the existence of, or blames the child for, the child's problems in school or at home.
- Asks teachers or other caretakers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves.
- Sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome.

What you can do:

- Take all forms of abuse seriously.
- Early intervention can help break the cycle of violence.
- Become aware of the signs of abuse and cruelty.
- If you know of someone who is being abusive then report them.
- Educate others about the connection between animal abuse and human cruelty.

“One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it.”

—Margaret Mead