

Featuring: Warning Signs: Youth Cruelty Toward Animals

SECTION 1: WHAT'S NEW?

What's New (News Items, announcements from our partners etc)

Early Childhood Centre Encyclopedia The Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development is produced by the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development. It is intended for policy-makers, service planners and service providers and for parents. It brings together articles written by internationally renowned experts on topics having to do with the psychosocial development of young children, from conception to the age of five. Each of the 33 topics addressed is explored from three perspectives: development, services and policies. In addition, for each topic there is a synthesis that provides, in a simplified format, the key points that will be most useful to practitioners and planners. This synthesis addresses three questions: What is the importance of this topic? What are the most up-to-date and conclusive data available on this subject? And what can be done to improve services, policies and research?

European Parliament Discusses Sports in Schools.

There are already 3 million obese children in Europe and this figure is rising by an estimated 400,000 a year. Bad diet and a lack of physical activity are believed to be the causes. They form a part of the 14 million overweight people in the EU. This condition can lead to osteoporosis and heart disease - which can develop early. Next week MEPs will debate measures to tackle obesity. One option being considered is guidelines to ensure that children exercise at least 3 times a week at school. A report by Hungarian MEP and former Olympic Fencer Pál Schmitt (EPP-ED) forms the basis of the debate in Strasbourg on Monday 12 November. The report identifies a number of problems across the Union, including:

RESEARCH, REPORTS & SCHOOL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

Research Roundup

United Nations Association of Canada. Talking Back to Grown Ups: Healthy Children, Healthy Communities. A Report on the Social Determinants of Health and Middle Childhood in Canada <http://www.unac.org/hchc/files/Talkingbacksm.pdf>

Key findings:

Health inequities are appearing across population groups, and are being recognized in children as early as nine years of age. 71% of Caucasian youth self-report very good or excellent health, versus only 56% of Aboriginal Canadian young people.

Emotional well-being and the mental health of young people are under addressed. As early as nine years of age, young people are starting to feel the stresses of life. 40% of young people report worrying about life and 62% report worrying about their family's health.

Aboriginal youth are almost three times as likely to report lower emotional well-being compared to non-aboriginal youth.

73% of parents say that they are not spending enough time with their children because of work demands. Our data also shows us that parents are the singly source that young people turn to most to help them get through life.

Almost 40% of young people state that being treated differently because of race, religion or gender is a problem for people their age. Our data also shows that this issue is exacerbated in visible minority youth.

54% of Canadians believe that the health of children in this country is getting worse and 74% believe children are under more stress today than in the past.

61% of Canadians believe that the government is placing too low a priority on programmes that benefit children's health.

74% of Canadians agree that the government needs to do more to end child poverty in Canada, even if it means raising taxes.

Body Mass Index Measurement in Schools (From CDC SH Web Site)

Measuring the body mass index (BMI) of students in schools is an approach to address obesity that is attracting much attention

- Less time being available for sport: The average amount of time available is 109 minutes per week for primary school and 117 minutes for secondary school. Both of these have fallen since 2002.
- Sport options at school are not diverse or interesting enough for young people.
- Often the sport offered is too competitive.
- Under-funding of sports facilities.
- Insufficient coordination between sport at school and outside of school.

More information: [European Parliament](#)

Council of State Governments Policy Papers & Briefs for Legislators

This intergovernmental organization has prepared several policy briefs and reports on topics such as:

[State Laws Addressing Health Disparities](#)
[Using School Nutrition to Address Obesity](#)
[Preventing Diseases Through Physical Activity](#)
[School Mental Health Services](#)
[Comprehensive Smoking Prevention Programs](#)
[School Wellness Policies](#)
[Exemptions from School Immunization Requirements](#)

Health Canada Funding for Substance Abuse Prevention

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, today announced more than \$7 million for communities across Canada to tackle the increasing challenge of drug use among our young people. Funding is available through the Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund for 2008/2009 initiatives, and the deadline for proposals is February 29, 2008. For more information, please visit: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nrcp/2007/2007_177_e.html

Statistics Canada Reports on Literacy

The next issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication "Education Matters: Insights on education, learning and training in Canada", will be released on Monday, January 7, 2008 in the Statistics Canada Daily. The Daily

across the nation from researchers, school officials, legislators, and the media.¹⁻⁷ In 2005, the Institute of Medicine called upon the federal government to develop guidance for BMI measurement programs in schools.⁸ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention produced "Body Mass Index Measurement in Schools" to describe the purpose of school-based BMI surveillance and screening programs, examine current practices, and review research on BMI measurement programs. The article summarizes the recommendations of experts, identifies concerns surrounding programs, and outlines needs for future research. Guidance is provided on specific safeguards that need to be addressed before schools decide to collect BMI information. [Executive Summary: Body Mass Index Measurements in Schools \[pdf-1.6MB\]](#) The [full journal article](#) is available from the American School Health Association Web site.*

“Neighbourhood Design: How Does It Affect Children’s Physical Activity?” By P.K. Doyle-Baker, DPH/PhD, Associate Professor (Faculty of Kinesiology), Adjunct (Faculty of Environmental Design) (EVDS), University of Calgary, and Meaghan Nolan, Bachelor of Health Science student, University of Calgary. ALBERTA CENTRE FOR ACTIVE LIVING: DECEMBER 2007 RESEARCH UPDATE

<http://www.centre4activeliving.ca/publications/research.html>

From the National Center on Education Statistics

The NAAL health literacy report— [The Health Literacy of America’s Adults: Results From the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy](#)—provides first-hand information on the status of the health literacy of American adults age 16 and older. Results are reported in terms of the four literacy performance levels—*Below Basic*, *Basic*, *Intermediate*, and *Proficient*—with examples of the types of health literacy tasks that adults at each level may be able to perform.

Key Features

- Reports on the health literacy skills of target audiences.
- Sheds light on the relationship between health literacy and background variables such as educational attainment, age, race/ethnicity, where adults get information about health issues, and health insurance coverage.
- Examines how health literacy is related to prose, document, and quantitative literacy.
- Provides information that may be useful in the development of effective policies and customized programs that address deficiencies in health literacy skills.
- Guides the development of health information tailored to the strengths and weaknesses of target audience

can be downloaded at no charge from the Statistics Canada website (www.statcan.ca)
The issue contains two articles:

The first, "Literacy profile of off-reserve First Nations and Métis people living in urban Manitoba and Saskatchewan: Results from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey 2003", presents a broad portrait of the literacy proficiency of two specific segments of Canada's Aboriginal population. The second article, "Taking time off between high school and postsecondary education: Determinants and early labour market outcomes" uses data from the 2004 Youth in Transition Survey to compare employment and earnings of young adults who delayed the start of postsecondary studies to those who went directly to a postsecondary education program following high school graduation. The January 2008 issue of "Education Matters: Insights on education, learning and training in Canada" (81-004-XIE, free) will be available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca), beginning January 7. From the Publications module, choose Free Internet publications, then Education, training and learning, and finally "Education Matters".

Everybody Gets to Play Initiative The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (2007) launched their "everybody gets to play" initiative to assist recreation practitioners and volunteers to provide accessible recreation opportunities for children and youth in low-income families including: (1) research and facts about poverty in Canada, the health and social consequences of poverty, and how recreation can improve the lives of children, families, and communities; (2) resources to help practitioners and volunteers to build partnerships in their communities and to plan effective action; (3) workshops to help practitioners and volunteers build skills, raise awareness, and mobilize their communities; and (4) success stories about programs that have already made a difference.
<http://www.cpra.ca/main.php?action=cms.initEgtp>

Globe & Mail Editorial December 31-07 Statcan's misstep on health costs
A small but influential think tank has said Ottawa is incorrectly measuring what Canadians get for their health-care dollar. Teacups rat-

Resources:

Online Info on Pelvic Exams

It's normal to feel nervous or embarrassed about having your first pelvic exam at the doctor's office. After all, it's not every trip to the doctor that your pelvic organs are examined. That's why sexual-ityandu has produced [My First Pelvic Exam](#), an illustrated guide that lets you know how it works and what you can expect. Pelvic exams involve Pap tests to make sure your reproductive organs are healthy and working normally. The exams can detect infections that can cause vaginal discharge, pelvic pain, infertility, and HPV. That's why the exams are a must within three years of becoming sexually active or by age 21.

Ready-to-Use presentation for educators on Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide - First Nations, Inuit and Metis

A new ready-to-use powerpoint presentation to help nutrition educators introduce and share the information about healthy eating and physical activity. The presentation helps to explain the messages found in the food guide, and contains many attractive images, as well as a few interactive teaching activities to help keep audiences engaged. The speaking notes are there to assist the nutrition educator in delivering the presentation, as well as provide more detailed information on this food guide.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/educ-comm/fnim_pnim/ppt_e.html

Workbook for Influencing Physical Activity Policy This workbook, created by the Physical Activity Resource Centre, is for anyone that is trying to create a physical activity policy within their community, school, or workplace. The resource follows the Health Communication Unit's eight-step policy development model and is suitable for all levels of experience or comfort with policy development. <http://www.ophea.net/parc/policy.cfm>

Resources from the CDC School Health Program (United States)

Food-Safe Schools Action Guide (FSSAG) To help schools work with Cooperative Extension, health departments, and families in efforts to make schools food-safe. [Action Guide Tools*](#) (includes brochures, how-to guides, and PowerPoint presentations)

Making It Happen! (Nutrition & Healthy Eating) Any individual (e.g., principal, parent, school nurse, food service director, student) who wants to improve the food and beverage offerings outside of school meals can use MIH for practical ideas and examples of how to accomplish changes, how to overcome obstacles that may arise, and whom to involve.

Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) To help schools, school districts and others to analyze health education

tled in bureaucratic offices, if only because this is no arcane economic assertion. If Statistics Canada cannot calculate the outcome of this massive spending - more than 10 per cent of nominal GDP in 2006 - how can officials possibly adjust existing programs or better design new ones? There should be a way to determine whether Canadians are healthier and working longer as a result of that spending. With an aging population, such studies would be extremely important. But it took the Ottawa-based Centre for the Study of Living Standards to reach that valuable if commonsensical conclusion. The non-profit centre's 58-page report says Statscan simply doesn't know how to measure the economic output of the health-care industry. (Improbably, Statscan even lumps the numbers for the health-care and social-assistance sectors together, putting hospitals in another category.) It is easy to measure the output of a manufacturing sector by calculating the number of products and the value of those products, but health-care economics is highly unusual. There is generally no market where the quantity and price of the output can be observed.

Stats Can Report on Health Human Resource Info Needs Includes High School Health Courses

Statistics Canada has recently released a major publication (following a wide consultation) on data needs and indicators. Here's the link. Page 24 addresses the needs to collect, for example, aspirations of students wishing to take health-related disciplines and the tracking of such numbers through the learning systems.

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/81-595-MIE/81-595-MIE2006041.pdf>

Federal Government Supports 'Jordan's Principle' 'Jordan's Principle' is a child first principle to resolving jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations' children, in honour of a child that remained in hospital unnecessarily for over two years during a jurisdictional dispute. The Government announced its commitment to putting children first and its support for 'Jordan's Principle' (Government of Canada, 2007, December 12).

<http://news.gc.ca/web/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=367659>

curricula based on alignment with national health education standards and characteristics of effective health education curricula.

Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) A committee completes the preliminary curriculum analyses (accuracy, acceptability, feasibility, and affordability), analyzes the content and student assessment components of the written curriculum, and develops a curriculum improvement plan. Includes [Brochure](#), [FAQs](#), [PowerPoint presentations](#), [User Guide](#)

School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide (SHI) A school health team completes eight self-assessment modules to identify strengths and weaknesses of school health policies and programs. A step-by-step action plan to improve prioritized areas is developed. The SHI currently addresses physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco use prevention, unintentional injury and violence prevention, and asthma. Includes [Brochure](#), [FAQs](#), [Training Manual](#)

Improving the Health of Adolescents & Young Adults: A Guide for States and Communities The Guide provides a process for defining problems, identifying solutions, and evaluating the impact of a coalition's work. It provides information on using data to shape programs, bringing stakeholders together, and sustaining a coalition.

Psychotropic Drugs and Children: A 2007 Update (Dec. 2007) Recent increases in the use of psychotropic medications by children and adolescents, limited information on the benefits of these therapies for children, and concerns about the adverse consequences of certain drugs have prompted a growing disquiet. The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools has revised its fact sheet summarizing recent research and suggesting implications for school-based health care. [Download the fact sheet](#)

Promotion and Prevention in Mental Health: Strengthening Parenting and Enhancing Child Resilience (2007). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/svp%2d0186>

From the Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health (US) new Youth Participation handbook and quiz:

Is your organization supporting meaningful youth participation in collaborative team planning?

<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/PDF/pbAMPQuizBrochure.pdf>

Best practices for increasing meaningful youth participation in collaborative team planning

<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/PDF/pbAMPYouthParticipation.pdf>

Call for Speakers: Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference – June 1-3, 2008 Halifax, NS The Canadian Public Health Association announced its Call for Abstracts for the 2008 Annual Conference "Public Health in Canada: Reducing Health Inequalities through Evidence & Action". The major goals of conference are to: (1) provide a forum to critically reflect on our progress and to consider Canada's future role in the reduction of health inequalities in response to the anticipated report of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health; (2) showcase innovative research, policies, and practices that address the social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental determinants of health; (3) profile strategies for building the capacity of population and public health at all levels, and leverage the potential of partnerships and collaboration; and (4) provide a meeting ground for knowledge exchange. Presentation abstracts must be submitted online by January 30, 2008.

Website:

<http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/cphaconf.aspx>

Sask. Party targets couch potato kids (http://www.cahperd.ca/eng/story_detail.cfm?id=379)

January 4 2008 - REGINA -- Just as the new year brings to many adults a renewed resolve to get moving, the Saskatchewan Party government wants to help kids find fitness.

Active Kids Healthy Kids is a physical activity strategy for children, youth and families in Nova Scotia. It is a comprehensive strategy shared by government, non-government organizations, and residents of Nova Scotia. It was introduced in fall of 2002 and the renewed strategy was released in the fall of 2007. To view the strategy and background documents see:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/index.asp>

CSH Knowledge Network News

Post Secondary Report Touches on Health

The Canadian Council on Learning has released a report on post-secondary education that calls for better monitoring and reporting on progress and achievements. A "active and healthy citizenry" is one of eight goals defined for the PSE system in the [summary version of the report](#), but only three data sources are available in Canada to monitor results in achieving this goal. The report also calls for a comprehensive data collection strategy that would lead to a better monitoring and reporting system. The [full report](#) is available on the CCL web site at www.ccl-cca.ca.

Note: The [CCL Health and Learning Knowledge Centre](#) has sponsored and funded a working group on young adults that is concerned with healthy colleges/universities. This work group brings together a number of post-secondary organizations and networks and is led by the [Association of Canadian Community Colleges](#).

Note: Another Work Group of the CCL Health & Learning Knowledge Centre, led by the [Canadian Association for School Health](#), has drafted a position paper calling for a national effort to improve monitoring, reporting and indicators of the health, health learning and school health policies and programs. The draft paper is being considered by a network of over 45 national non-governmental organizations.

A [Drug Prevention Strategy for Canada's Youth](#) CCSA will lead a major new drug prevention effort as part of the new National Anti-Drug Strategy. The strategy will build on work done by CASH, CCSA and other partners in a national school-based prevention strategy. For more on the CASH led project, go to: <http://www.safehealthyschools.org/initiatives/initiatives.htm>

FEATURE ARTICLE

Warning Signs: Youth Cruelty Toward Animals

"Teen animal cruelty: 'Take it seriously'" Globe & Mail, January 8, 2007 Section I
Bill Pitt, a professor of criminology at the University of Alberta, said that violence towards animals is one of a triumvirate of behaviours, along with fire starting and bedwetting, that commonly indicate serious psychiatric problems".

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080108.wlmicrowave08/BNStory/lifeFamily/>

Mahatma Gandhi said, "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way it treats its animals." The truth in this statement should prompt police, investigators and prosecutors to vigorously investigate and prosecute – to the fullest degree possible – those who abuse animals in America. While cruelty to animals is a crime in all 50 states, and carries a felony sentence in 43 states plus the District of Columbia for severe animal abuse and 48 states for felony level dog fighting offenses – has, in the past, been a crime that is rarely investigated and prosecuted. Fortunately, this is now changing. The well-worn excuse by many law enforcement officials – that "it's just a dog," and "we should be focusing on crimes against people" -- shows a frightening lack of understanding of the ramifications of animal cruelty and its insidious affects on the animal's "human family," and other law abiding citizens. Animal cruelty can be linked to the vast majority of serial killers, many habitual violent offenders, and most children and teens who kill.

<http://communities.justicetalking.org/blogs/day17/archive/2007/08/14/animal-abuse-its-association-with-other-violent-crimes.aspx>

Many studies in psychology, sociology, and criminology during the last 25 years have demonstrated that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty. The FBI has recognized the connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Other research has shown consistent patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of more common forms of violence, including child abuse, spouse abuse, and elder abuse. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association considers animal cruelty one of the diagnostic criteria of conduct disorder.

<http://petloverstips.com/ForTheLoveoftheDog/news-updates/crimes-against-canines/the-abuse-connection-animal-cruelty-and-interpersonal-violence>

Cruelty Towards Animals

To quote Alert Schweitzer, "Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human lives." Domestic animals are the only friend some people may have. Pets protect and guard families. They provide independent living for many disabled people who otherwise would be institutionalized or totally dependent on their family or friends. Dogs tirelessly search disaster sites for signs of human life, they work with firefighters and police to save lives as well as search for drugs, bombs and other types of dangerous materials. They bring comfort and laughter to children, adults and the elderly in hospitals, hospices, and homes for the elderly. Studies prove that people who own pets are healthier, have lower blood pressure, and live longer than those who don't. Pets ask little in return for their loyalty and love – just food, water and affection. These are reasons enough to investigate, arrest and prosecute those who abuse, torture and kill animals. However, the recognized link between those who abuse animals and go on to commit violent

<http://ricp.uis.edu/ASPCA%5CASPCANDAAMarch2006.pdf>

Violent behavior in children and adolescents can include a wide range of behaviors: explosive temper tantrums, physical aggression, fighting, threats or attempts to hurt others (including homicidal thoughts), use of weapons, cruelty toward animals, fire setting, intentional destruction of property and vandalism.

http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/understanding_violent_behavior_in_children_and_adolescents

As an educator, why should I be concerned about childhood cruelty to animals?

It is well documented that animal cruelty is a sign of serious psychological distress. It often indicates that a child has either experienced violence firsthand or is at risk of becoming violent toward people. Many studies in psychology, criminology, and sociology have demonstrated that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty.

http://www.nahee.org/resources/animal_cruelty.asp

Cruelty to Animals: Most children can be cruel to animals, such as pulling the legs off of spiders, but future serial killers often kill larger animals, like dogs and cats, and frequently for their solitary enjoyment rather than to impress peers.

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Animal-Cruelty:-The-Key-to-Serial-Minds&id=35856>

Exploring the Link between Corporal Punishment and Children's Cruelty to Animals

Clifton P. Flynn

Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 61, No. 4 (Nov., 1999), pp. 971-981

doi:10.2307/354017

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-2445%28199911%2961%3A4%3C971%3AETLBCP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0&size=LARGE&origin=JSTOR-enlargePage>

Immediate warning signs that your teenager may be contemplating committing acts of violence include: regular loss of temper

- carrying a weapon
- being irritable over seemingly minor issues
- using threats of violence
- cruelty to animals
- increased risk taking behavior.

<http://www.psychiatric-disorders.com/articles/warning-signs/violent-behavior.php>

What is Conduct Disorder?

According to DSM-IV criteria, conduct disorder may be diagnosed when a child seriously misbehaves with aggressive or non-aggressive behaviors against people, animals or property that may be characterized as belligerent, destructive, threatening, physically cruel, deceitful, disobedient, or dishonest. This may include stealing, intentional injury, and forced sexual activity. Keep in mind that this behavior disorder consists of a pattern of severe, repetitive acting-out behavior and not of an isolated incident here and there.

http://www.teenswithproblems.com/conduct_disorder.html

Children of violent marriages may be more than twice as likely to set fires intentionally or be cruel to animals than those from nonviolent homes, according to new research.

The study shows that problems in the family, especially violent behavior among father figures, significantly increase the risk of fire setting and animal cruelty in children, and these behaviors set the stage for later adolescent delinquency.

<http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/news/20040702/violent-marriages-violent-children>

The first level of concern are the earliest warning signs. While rare in the general population, a history that combines fire starting, cruelty to animals and bed wetting has been linked with destructive, dangerous and violent behavior. Bed wetting alone is not significant. While there may not be a risk of violence when these three risk factors are present, the risk of future destructive behavior, violence or ongoing psychological and behavioral problems is very high.

<http://www.crisiscounseling.com/AbuseViolence/ChildViolence.htm>

What can be done if a child shows violent behavior?

Whenever a parent or other adult is concerned, they should immediately arrange for a comprehensive evaluation by a qualified mental health professional. Early treatment by a professional can often help. The goals of treatment typically focus on helping the child to: learn how to control his/her anger; express anger and frustrations in appropriate ways; be responsible for his/her actions; and accept consequences. In addition, family conflicts, school problems, and community issues must be addressed.

<http://www.familymanagement.com/facts/english/facts55.html>

What does animal cruelty indicate about family dynamics?

Researchers say that a child's violence against animals often represents displaced hostility and aggression stemming from neglect or abuse of the child or of another family member. Animal cruelty committed by any member of a family, whether parent or child, often means child abuse occurs in that family.

http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/first_strike_the_connection_between_animal_cruelty_and_human_violence/children_and_animal_cruelty_what_parents_should_know.html

Identifying Future Troubled Teens and Adults in Childhood

Problems such as aggression, oppositional behavior, stealing, and truancy are among the most persistent forms of childhood behavior problems. Additionally, they are associated with a broad array of negative outcomes, including poor school performance, problems with relationships, trouble with the law, poor mental health, and employment difficulties in adolescence and adulthood.

<http://www.srcd.org/journals/cdev/1-1/Bongers.pdf>

Common Characteristics of School Killers

In fact, school shooters almost always give off warning signs well in advance of their tragedies. They tend to brag to classmates about planned acts of violence, to show a morbid (beyond normal for juvenile males) fascination with weapons and death, and often to have a history of committing personal violence against other children, siblings, and small animals. They are usually unpopular with their classmates, and are often teased and ridiculed as "nerds" and nobodies until they develop an overpowering need to strike back.

http://www.violentkids.com/articles/violence_article_4.html

One of the major propositions being made within the research and professional community has been that child and animal maltreatment do not merely co-exist, but are “linked”. It has been suggested that the existence of animal cruelty in a family may be an indicator that children in that family are similarly at risk.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/publications/Downloads/animalabuseandchildmaltreatment_wdf51307.pdf

Animal abuse has long been recognized as a sign of family violence and a warning sign of future aggression in children and adolescents. As leaders in youth violence prevention, pediatric nurse practitioners need to be aware of the prevalence and types of juvenile animal cruelty and its relationship to human violence. In doing so, they can champion for health care and related policies for this disturbing problem, described by Ascione as an underreported and understudied issue that may add to the understanding and prevention of youth violence.

“[One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child] is when the child who kills or tortures [an animal] is not caught, or if caught is not punished.”

<http://www.jpedhc.org/article/PIIS0891524503001226/abstract>