



**GIVE  
A VOICE  
TO VICTIMS OF  
ANIMAL CRUELTY.**

**ARLBOSTON.ORG/TAKE-ACTION**

## **The Link Between Violence to People and Violence to Animals**

In 2013, the Animal Rescue League of Boston's Law Enforcement department assisted in the investigation of 576 cruelty cases.

Did you know a strong connection exists between animal cruelty and other forms of family and community violence?

### **The Link and Violent Crimes**

- Children's acts of animal abuse are some of the strongest and earliest diagnostic indications of conduct disorder, often beginning as young as six and a half (Ascione, 2001).
- The FBI identifies animal cruelty as one of several juvenile behaviors associated with increasingly violent behavior. The FBI uses reports of animal cruelty in analyzing the threat potential or suspected and known criminals (Lockwood & Church, 1996).
- In a Massachusetts study, 70% of animal abusers had criminal records including crimes involving violence, property, drugs, or disorderly behavior (Arluke & Luke, 1997)
- Half of school shooters have histories of animal cruelty (Verlinden, Herson, & Thomas, 2000).
- Of search warrants executed for animal abuse or dogrighting investigations, 35% resulted in seizure of either narcotics or guns. Of 22 offenders arrested for animal abuse violations, 18 had prior arrests for battery, weapons, or drug charges and 5 had subsequent arrests for felony offenses (Chicago Crime Commission, 2004).
- Adults who keep vicious dogs are more likely to have been arrested for violent crimes and drug-and-property-related offenses (Barnes, Boart, Putnam, Dates, & Mahlman, 2006).

Source: American Humane & The Link

**Animal Rescue League of Boston**  
10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116



[arlboston.org](http://arlboston.org)



[/animalrescueleagueofboston](https://www.facebook.com/animalrescueleagueofboston)



[@arlboston](https://twitter.com/arlboston)

ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON

