

Protecting Animals from Abuse in Remote Communities

Animal abuse is a warning sign for other forms of abuse. If you see or suspect animal abuse finding a safe way to intervene may help to protect more than the animal alone.



Prevention through education

Community led discussion on the importance of animals and their care, including Indigenous teachings surrounding ways of being, reduces the likelihood of animal abuse.

Positive interactions with animals at an early age builds understanding and affection for animals, reducing the risk of abuse.

Recognize that inter-generational cycles of trauma and abuse increase the likelihood of abuse occurring. Support and counselling for victims of abuse and people with tendencies towards violence provides an opportunity to break these cycles.



Intervention must be done safely

Intervening in cases of abuse is a potentially dangerous situation. Ideally have another person available to help you, if possible someone trained to do so.

Bystander intervention strategies include:

- Distracting an abuser's attention to allow the victim to escape
- Directly confronting a person on their behaviour e.g. "That's not okay"*
- Delegating one of these tasks to someone whilst contacting emergency services
- Delaying intervention and offering support afterwards is okay if your safety is at risk



Contacting Animal Protective Services (APS) or the RCMP is a safe means of intervention. APS and the RCMP coordinate to provide education whilst protecting the animal.

*A person committing abusive acts may not understand what they are doing is wrong or why that is the case. The behaviour is wrong, but both the perpetrator and the victim need to be treated with care.



Understanding the link

The link between animal and other forms of abuse is well documented.

Trauma and experiences leading to violence towards animals can progress to violence towards people; animal abuse may also be used to coerce other victims.

For more information on this and further resources relating to education on animal welfare please visit: <https://nationallinkcoalition.org>



Resources

Animal protective services SK 1 844 382 0002 (Toll Free) or 306 382 0002

Saskatchewan SPCA 1 877 382 7722 (Toll Free) 306 382 7722

WCVN Veterinary Social work Program 306 966 2852

<https://nationallinkcoalition.org>

<https://humanecanada.ca/violence-link/>

<https://students.usask.ca/essentials/safety/sexual-assault.php#Interventionstrategies>