



# Cause for

# P.A.W.S.

Pet And Wildlife Stewardship

Animal abuse is terrible. Every living thing has the right to live without fear, distress or pain inflicted by others. People who abuse animals are not only stripping that animal of their rights as living beings, but they may suffer from emotional problems themselves. Individuals who engage in abusive behaviors toward animals can, and often do, go on to commit other acts of violence against humans too.

## Objective

Students will learn to identify what constitutes animal abuse, the connection between animal abuse and emotional problems, and they will learn what they should do if they suspect that someone is abusing animals.

## Required Materials

- Essay on The Link Between Violence to People and Violence to Animals <http://nationallinkcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/LinkSummaryBooklet-16pp.pdf>
- Computer access
- Internet access

## Overview

**1. Conduct a classroom discussion.** As a class, read the article linking violence to people and violence to animals. Facilitate a discussion on what types of behaviors are considered abusive both towards animals and humans. Knowing there is a link between animal abuse, emotional disorders and other forms of abuse, ask students to consider the possible repercussions of not reporting animal abuse.

**2. Student research.** Ask students to research the topic of animal abuse and the link to emotional disorders to write an essay. The essay should be 3 – 5 pages in length, include a minimum of five credible resources and offer an overview of the following:

- A. Introduction
- B. Defining abuse
- C. Exploring the link between animal abuse and people abuse
- D. The dangers of not reporting animal abuse
- E. How to report animal abuse

## STUDENT CONTEST

Students can mail their papers to

**Newspapers in Education | 100 W Main St. Ste 100 |  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102** with an official entry form or submit them digitally by visiting <https://nie.newsok.com/educators/curriculum/cause-for-paws/>.

Student entries will be divided into three categories by grade level. The winner in each age group will receive a recognition award and one project will be chosen as the Grand Prize Winner! The Grand Prize winner will be highlighted through The Oklahoman and NewsOK.com and will receive a \$500 cash prize to be shared by all group participants.



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