



Navajo Governmental Official
Window Rock, AZ 86515

**RE: "ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION AND TREATMENT OF PERPETRATORS:
PREVENTING THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE TO HUMANS"
One Day Conference on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at Navajo Nation Museum**

Dear Sir or Madam:

You and your staff are cordially invited to attend a one-day conference on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 to address the animal cruelty investigation, prosecution and treatment of perpetrators. This conference is being sponsored by the Navajo Nation Animal Control Program with the goal of heightening awareness of how the investigation, prosecution and treatment of animal cruelty can provide early intervention into domestic violence situations. This conference is only open to government professionals, officials, leadership and employees who work in law enforcement, prosecution, domestic violence situations, as first responders and in the treatment of violent behaviors. There is no charge to attend. The draft Agenda for this conference and registration form is attached.

Animal Cruelty Escalates to Human Violence

- People who abuse animals are 5 times more likely to commit violent crimes against people (Mass. SPCA 1997)
- A history of pet abuse is one of the four most significant risk factors for becoming a batterer.
- 83% of homes with abused and neglected pets also had abused and neglected children (Boat, B.W. 2000)
- 71% of battered women report their abusers hurt, killed or threatened their pets to control them and their children.

LINK Between Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty

Domestic violence is a critical and serious problem on the Navajo Nation. Children learn to act violently from their parents by growing up in a violent home. Children then repeat the violence they learned with their own spouses and children in a generational Cycle of Violence. One of the best ways to break this Cycle of Violence is early intervention to remove children from violent living conditions. Perpetrators of domestic violence frequently use the love that their spouses, children, and elders have for their pets to control them:

*"If you leave me, I will kill the dog."
"If you don't let me have my way with you, I will torture your cat."
"If you don't give me money, your dog will disappear."
Or they will brutalize the dog, and say, "If you don't do what I tell you, that is what is going to happen to you!"*

Please join us for this groundbreaking conference and learn how you can use animal cruelty investigation and prosecution to achieve critical early intervention for families in domestic violence situations. Please feel free to call me with any questions at (928) 871-7066.

Best regards,

Glenda Davis, Program Manager, Navajo Nation Animal Control