



Components of control

when family violence involves animals



Intimidation

Using harm towards a companion animal as an indication of capabilities and intent towards the victim-survivor.

Child abuse

Exposing children to animal abuse by forcing them to watch or participate. Harming a child's beloved companion.

Emotional Abuse

Giving away or killing pets to cause emotional harm to the human victim-survivor by permanently removing someone they love and who loves them.

Threats & Manipulation

Threatening or actually harming the animal to force the victim-survivor into staying in or returning to the abusive situation.

Stalking & Tracking

Using an animal to locate a victim-survivor who has escaped - e.g. via microchip databases or veterinary practices.

Financial abuse

Withholding money needed to fulfil a companion animal's needs. Not allowing the victim-survivor to spend money on veterinary care.

Systems Abuse

Filing theft charges if the victim-survivor leaves with the animal, making accusations of animal abuse to the authorities.

Sexual abuse

Engaging in sex acts with the companion animal. Forcing the victim-survivor to watch or participate.