

Contact the Animals and Society
Institute to:

**The AniCare and Rapid Response programs
have had real-world impact in these cases:**

- A Michigan judge ordered AniCare for a young man who bludgeoned his girlfriend's rabbit to death
- Three Massachusetts middle school students who blew up frogs with firecrackers and blow-torched chickens to death were ordered to complete AniCare Child therapy
- Michigan judges in two separate dog-fighting cases included AniCare treatment in their sentences
- After a Denver DJ was convicted of animal cruelty for ordering an intern to drop a hen from the studio window, the judge included AniCare in his sentence
- A New Mexico judge ordered AniCare treatment for a woman who adopted a rescued greyhound but kept the dog crated and nearly starved her
- Two Washington men who killed a stray Siberian Husky by shooting him multiple times with a bow and arrow were required to complete AniCare treatment
- In addition to receiving jail time, a Colorado man who tortured and beat two ferrets and five dogs was required to complete AniCare treatment



- host an **AniCare** workshop
- register for a workshop
- purchase handbooks and *Beyond Violence* (a DVD on the relationship between animal abuse and human violence)
- bring **Rapid Response** to your community

Visit: www.animalsandsociety.org/anicare and
www.animalsandsociety.org/rapidresponse

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The AniCare Approach: Interrupting the Cycle of Violence

*A systematic assessment and
treatment of animal abuse
designed by experienced
therapists and researchers*

The AniCare Approach is a response to a societal need.

Why AniCare?

Over the past two decades, a growing body of empirical research has documented an association between violence toward humans and animal abuse: animal abuse more often occurs in families where there is also spousal, child, or elder abuse. Twenty-seven states (as of 2010) authorize judges to order counseling for individuals convicted of animal abuse. The AniCare Approach is a response to this societal need.

What is the AniCare Approach?

The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse and AniCare Child are the first published therapies to focus exclusively on cruelty to animals. The two practitioners' handbooks offer a comprehensive and detailed therapeutic program for adults and juveniles who abuse animals. The AniCare Approach is an important tool for interrupting the cycle of violence in which animal abuse repeats or co-occurs with violence against humans.

What does the AniCare Approach involve?

The two handbooks combine cognitive behavioral and psychodynamic theories. Both provide detailed and practical suggestions for assessment and treatment and include assessment inventories, case studies, and a DVD demonstrating therapy sessions. Both give special attention to beliefs and attitudes about animals, whether arising in personal, familial, or subcultural contexts. The length of treatment—typically in weekly sessions—varies depending on diagnosis.

“Thanks to AniCare and AniCare Child, New Mexico now has over 150 trained clinicians in the treatment of animal cruelty.”

Delores Stroud, Grants and Prevention Coordinator, Mental Health Dept., Albuquerque, NM

AniCare (Adult)

Based on a well-established and validated intervention for perpetrators of domestic violence, AniCare (Adult) emphasizes client accountability, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal skills. It also specifically addresses the common but recalcitrant problem of hoarding.

AniCare (Child)

Based on adaptations of validated interventions for juvenile conduct and related disorders, AniCare Child uses drawings, puppet play, and stories to teach empathy and self-management skills. An appendix provides an adaptation of attachment theory to the problem of treating animal abuse.

“Children are our future. To interrupt the cycle of violence will be of lasting benefit.”

Samuel Ross, PhD, Director, Green Chimneys, Brewster, NY

How can I use the AniCare Approach?

The Animals and Society Institute (ASI) offers training workshops led by certified AniCare trainers in various locations in the United States throughout the year.* An online course is offered through a partnership with Arizona State University's School of Social Work.

*49 workshops in 22 states, through 2010

Rapid Response: Bringing AniCare to the courts, the public, and the media

Prosecutors and judges are becoming increasingly aware that those who commit animal abuse often commit other violent acts. Rapid Response complements our AniCare Approach with outreach and education to the criminal justice system and the public. We identify animal abuse cases and send letters to media, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers, alerting them to AniCare and urging the prosecution of these cases with the sentence to include AniCare.

“We prosecute individuals who abuse animals and, if convicted, ask the judge to order them to AniCare counseling sessions.”

Diane Balkin, Deputy District Attorney, Denver, CO

