

# Including Animal Abuse in the 8 Stages to Domestic Homicide Timeline



S.A.H.S.D.A

## STAGE 1

### Pre-relationship History

Criminal record or allegations from former partners of control, domestic abuse or stalking. Victims often aware but do not always believe reports.

**History of animal abuse, torture, neglect and killing. May or may not be formally recorded.**

## STAGE 2

### Early Relationship

Relationship sped up with early declarations of love, possessiveness and jealousy.

**Use of animals in the entrapment process, gifting animals, doting on victims existing animals, becomes jealous of bond between victim and animal.**

## STAGE 3

### Relationship

Relationship dominated by coercive control, usually with some of the high-risk markers.

**Using animals as a tactic of coercive control. Turning animal into weapon. Animal abuse as a high-risk marker.**

## STAGE 4

### Trigger(s)

An event occurs which threatens the control of the perpetrator. Usually, separation or its potential. May be a physical or mental illness or financial problems.

**Animals as a barrier to leaving, victim threatens to take animals with them when they leave, animal care as an additional financial burden.**

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## STAGE 5

### Escalation

An increase in frequency or severity of control tactics, like suicide threats, begging, violence and stalking. Attempts to reinstate control.

**Escalation of animal abuse and neglect. Using animal GPS trackers to stalk the victim. Possible killing of animals.**

## STAGE 6

### Change in Thinking

Feelings of revenge, injustice or humiliation may drive a decision to resolve issues, through either moving on, revenge or potentially homicide.

**Jealousy/hatred towards the animal may increase, may include elements of escalation in animal abuse**

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## STAGE 7

### Planning

May include buying weapons, seeking opportunities to get victim alone, stalking and threats.

**Hurting or killing animals (testing murder method and mettle to kill), may kill animal and leave for victim to find as 'message', may rehome/dump animals, stalking e.g., staking out dog walking routes, dog grooming parlour or veterinary clinic/Pet GPS trackers.**

## STAGE 8

### Homicide

May involve extreme violence, suicide, suspicious death, missing person, multiple victims (including children).

**Animals go 'missing', animals included in suicide, animals also killed.**