

## **PET ABUSE ON THE RISE**

By: Asiya M.

In 2001, Bert, a cat was snatched from her home in Del Mar, California and was driven 15 miles to the next town. Then she was set on fire. After two days in one of the best veterinary emergency rooms, Bert died with third degree burns on 75% of her body. This is an example of animal abuse.

Neglecting, animal fighting, hoarding, poisoning, shooting, bestiality, bull baiting, and crush videos are ways people abuse animals, according to ASPCA (The American Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty to Animals).

“The most common type of animal cruelty is neglect or abandonment - that is, people not providing adequate care for animals in their charge. These types of cases often involve situations where an animal is left without food, water or shelter, or when proper veterinary care was not obtained. In many of these cases, the underlying reason can sometimes be explained by the caretaker’s ignorance. This is why many animal control officers and humane law enforcement officers will first attempt to educate the neglectful caretaker, rather than immediately citing them or arresting them,” says the ASPCA website ([www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)).

“Poisonings and [shootings](#) are the most common types of animal abuse we see in cases where a cat or dog was permitted to roam the neighborhood, either deliberately or by accident,” says Pet-Abuse.com, a citizen-led animal abuse watchdog group.

The site continues, “Bestiality (or zoophilia) is a paraphilia defined as an affinity, attraction or sexual attraction by a human to non-human animals.”

Animal hoarding is a type of animal abuse that most people don’t understand. Most people say persons that hoard animals are just trying to do something good, but the situation gets out of hand. People who hoard animals keep them in a house without veterinary care. Some of the animals starve to death. Somebody might even have hundreds of animals in a small room. It is also very common to find trash throughout the home.

Bull baiting is ring fighting with a bull against a dog with a sharp stick. According to The Animal Rights Movement, by Kelly Wand, in 1809 Lord Thomas Erskine proposed the first record effort to animal welfare: A bill prohibiting bull baiting.

A crush video is a way to see women crush small animals by stepping on them. Crush videos are also called squish videos or trampling videos. People get sexually aroused when they watch crush videos.

## **Why do people abuse animals?**

The first reason people abuse animals is because they don't realize what they are doing. For example, a pet owner may keep a dog in a doghouse on the ground, which gets flooded when it rains.

The second group of animal abusers is the biggest group. This group of people hurt animals intentionally. For example, a group of kids may decide to throw rocks at cat.

The third group is worst of all. They hurt animals because it makes them feel strong to hurt things. For example, someone might hurt an animal to tell people, "I am in control."

Since 2001, the number of people who abuse animals has been increasing.

*Asiya is a student at L'ETOILE DU NORD FRENCH IMMERSION in St. Paul, MN.*