

**MANDATORY ANIMAL CRUELTY  
REPORTING STATUTES AS A TOOL TO  
COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

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Considering the utilization of pets by batterers as a means of coercion and control over their victims, states should legislate mandatory reporting statutes for animal cruelty in an effort to help identify domestic violence and provide support for animal and human victims. Section II of this Article examines the intersection of animal cruelty and domestic violence as contemporaneous crimes. Section III explores current animal cruelty reporting statutes and contrasts them with child abuse reporting statutes as a well-established foil. Finally, Section IV advocates for mandatory animal cruelty reporting statutes and considers the importance, feasibility, and probability of a national database for cross-referencing state and local level reports.