

### What is the goal of TLC?

The TLC program is a step toward preventing violence in children. If students learn to accept animals as living beings with feelings and needs, compassion and empathy are the next steps in the process. Compassion and empathy toward animals prevents violence.

TLC is a necessary part of any community and should be implemented in all areas of the world. In order to do this, animal shelters and schools need to work together.

### How can you get TLC running in your community?

spcaLA offers a comprehensive manual on the TLC program that contains the components of implementation from start to finish. The manual includes the history of the cycle of violence, training schedules, daily activity schedules, staffing requirements, and budgetary needs. The program is available on CD for \$450.00. If you are interested in purchasing the TLC program or would like more information, please email the Director of Humane Education at [humaneeducation@spcaLA.com](mailto:humaneeducation@spcaLA.com) or call (562) 216-2544.



*Teaching Love  
& Compassion*

*"When animals are abused,  
people are at risk.  
When people are abused,  
animals are at risk."*

**END THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE**



**TLC:**  
A violence prevention  
program created to help  
stop the cycle of violence  
toward people and  
animals.

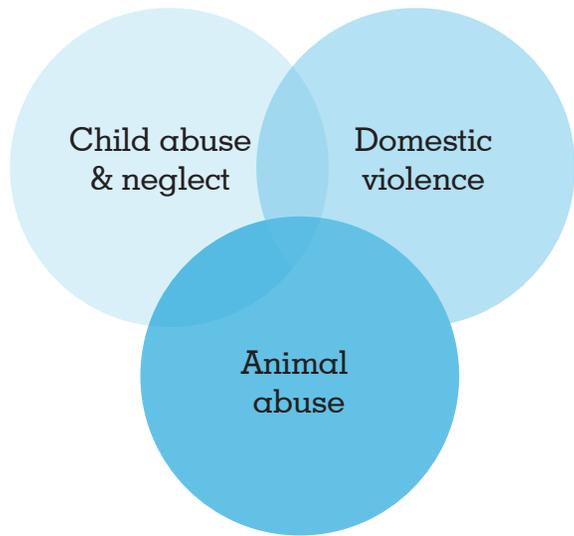


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## CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

"The Link" and the cycle of violence is a chain of circumstances in which an adult abuses a child or animal. The adult passes down the violent traits and patterns to the child, who continues the cycle of violence.

Domestic violence, child abuse, and animal abuse have a high correlation to each other, and this cycle of violence will continue until someone steps in to stop it.

### Some of the statistics are:

- 68% of battered women reported violence toward their animals by the batterer. 87% occurred in the presence of the woman and 75% occurred in the presence of children (Quinlisk, 1994-95).
- 71% of pet-owning women entering a shelter reported that their husband or boyfriend killed, harmed or threatened an animal. 32% of those admitted said that their children had hurt or killed an animal (Ascione, 1998).

- A survey of women in a safe house in Utah found that 20% delayed leaving the abusive situation out of fear that their pet would be harmed. Data currently being collected in Canada found almost 50% delayed leaving (Ascione, 1997).
- The 1995 Utah survey also found that children witnessed the animal abuse in more than 60% of the cases, and 32% of women reported that one or more of their children hurt or killed a pet.

The Latham Foundation Publication of "Breaking the Cycle of Violence: A Practical Guide," found adolescent histories of animal cruelty in:

- 25% of aggressive male prisoners
- 30% of convicted child molesters
- 36% of assaulters of women
- 46% of incarcerated sexual homicide perpetrators
- 48% of convicted rapists
- 89% of serial murderers



## THE TEACHING LOVE AND COMPASSION PROGRAM (TLC)

### What is TLC?

The Teaching Love and Compassion (TLC) program is a violence prevention program designed to teach empathy and compassion to at-risk youth. Violent behavior is seen by our youth everywhere: at home, on TV, in the movies, on the streets, in families, and with neighbors and friends. Studies show that cruelty toward animals by children

may be a symptom of existing domestic violence and stress, as well as a predictor of future violence toward people.



If compassion and respect for animals can be taught at a young age, the violence toward animals can stop and, in turn, lessen the violence toward people.

### How does it work?

TLC runs for four weeks with children ages 11-13. Students are exposed to a wealth of concepts and ideas that teach basic life coping skills such as anger management, conflict resolution, and teamwork. Students also learn the importance and value of caring for animals and respecting the natural world around them. Each student is teamed up with a partner and an "at-risk," non-trained shelter dog. Throughout the month, the student team and the shelter dog work together on building a bond by teaching the dog basic obedience.

At the end of the program, students demonstrate their dog-training skills at a graduation ceremony that friends and family attend. Here, the students often get a chance to meet with their dog's new family and give them advice about their new pet. Along with teaching love and compassion, students build new friendships, increase their self-esteem, grow as individuals, and discover patience.

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