

Teen Dating Violence and the Link



What is teen dating violence?

Teen dating violence is a type of violence that occurs between two young people who are, or once were, in an intimate partner relationship.

Teen dating violence can look like one, or a combination, of any of the following from someone a teen is (or was) in a relationship with:

- Physical, Sexual Abuse and/or Stalking
- Emotional Abuse: Behavior that diminishes a sense of self-worth such as a dating partner making degrading comments followed by compliments; reacting in confusing, unexpected, and disproportionate ways to mild events; gas lighting

How common is teen dating violence?

Nationally, 1 in 3 teens report that they have experienced abuse from a dating partner.

What does teen dating violence have to do with animals?

In any type of intimate partner relationship, including teen dating violence, abusers may harm or threaten to harm animals to instill fear or maintain control over their partner.

- Many of these may seem obvious, such as physical violence or abuse to a pet.
- But even the more subtle forms of abuse are equally as harmful and potentially dangerous to the victim and others.
- For example, psychological aggression includes both verbal and non-verbal threats made toward the victim and/or the victim's loved ones, including pets.
- Another example is extreme jealous or attempting to control the victim's behavior by leveraging a victim's desire to protect loved ones, including pets.

Abuse or threats of abuse to a victim's animals are a red flag and are never okay. Teens should tell a trusted adult.