Including Animal Abuse in the 8 Stages to Domestic Homicide Timeline



STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

STAGE 4

Pre-relationship History

Early Relationship

Relationship

Trigger(s)

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

Relationship tends to develop quickly with early declarations of love, possessiveness and jealousy. May move in together quickly. Relationship dominated by coercive control, patterns of abuse, usually with some of the high risk markers present. An event occurs which threatens the control of the perpetrator. Usually separation: actual, threatened or imagined. Life change event.

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History of animal abuse, torture, neglect and killing and/or engaging with animal abuse imagery. May or may not be formally recorded. Use of animals in the entrapment process, gifting animals, doting on victims existing animals, becomes jealous of bond between victim and animal.

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

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

Badham, M (2024). Including Animal Abuse in the Eight Stages to Domestic Homicide, Loop Centre for Animal Inclusive Safeguarding Monckton Smith, J. (2020). Intimate Partner Femicide: Using Foucauldian Analysis to Track an Eight Stage Progression to Homicide.

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STAGE 5

STAGE 6

STAGE 7

STAGE 8

Escalation

Change in Thinking

Planning

Homicide

Attempts to reinstate control, stalking, grand gestures, threats of harm or suicide, breach of orders or conditions.

Behavioural change, feelings of revenge, injustice, or humiliation may drive a decision to resolve issues, through either moving on, stalking or a decision to kill. May involve web searches about homicide or covering up murder, gathering weapons, comments about plans, threats, seeking opportunities to get victim alone, stalking.

Homicide, staged suicide, missing persons, suspicious death, could involve suicide or death of children.

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Escalation of animal abuse and neglect. Using animal GPS trackers to stalk the victim. Possible killing of animals. Jealousy/hatred towards the animal may increase, may inc elements of escalation in animal abuse Testing mettle to kill & murder method on animals, leaving dead animals for victim to find as 'message', may rehome/dump animals, may inc animals in plan.

Animals go 'missing', animals included in the homicide/suicide.

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