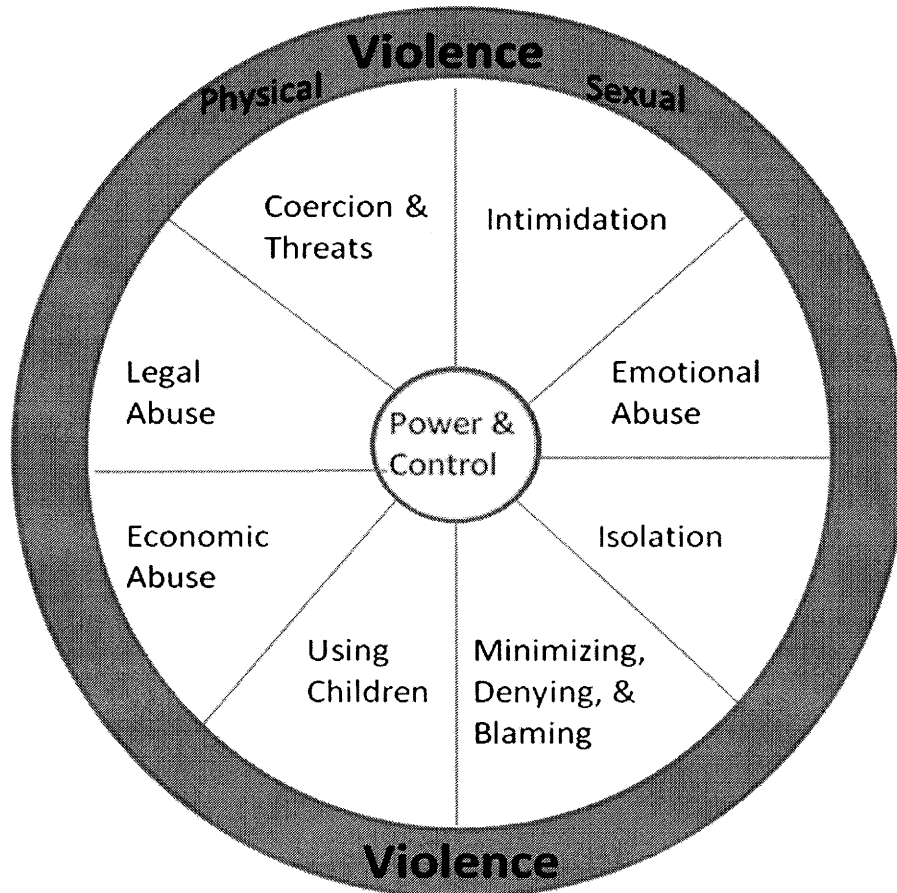


POWER & CONTROL TACTICS: USING ANIMAL CRUELTY AS PART OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



- ✦ **Intimidation:** Harming or killing a pet and threatening that the same thing will happen to you if you don't comply with abuser's demands.
- ✦ **Emotional Abuse:** Calling your pet names ("Your stupid, ugly dog is useless. We should just put him down!") Giving away or killing a pet to take away your primary source of comfort and unconditional love.
- ✦ **Isolation:** Refusing to allow you to take your pet to your preferred veterinarian. Prohibiting you from socializing your dog with other dogs.
- ✦ **Minimizing, Denying, & Blaming:** Blaming you or your pet for the cruelty. Killing a pet and then saying that it doesn't matter because the pet was old.
- ✦ **Using Children:** Harming or killing the children's pet in order to intimidate the children, or blaming the "disappearance" of the family pet on you in order to create a wedge between you and the children.
- ✦ **Economic Abuse:** Refusing to allow you to spend money on adequate pet food and/or veterinary care. (Then, blaming you when neglect is noticed by authorities.)
- ✦ **Legal Abuse:** Trying to take possession of a pet for which you have been the primary caretaker, or filing charges of pet theft against you if you leave with the pet.
- ✦ **Coercion & Threats:** Threatening to harm or kill your pet if you leave or assert any independence.

Safe Passage • 43 Center Street, Suite 304, Northampton, MA 01060 • 413-586-1125 (office) • 888-345-5282 (hotline)

This Project was supported by grant #2005-WR-AX-0009 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.