REPORTING ANIMAL ABUSE IN THE VET’S CONSULTATION

Ainoa Rodríguez Lázaro

June 2018 - Final degree project

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Nowadays, society requires the prevention, early detection and intervention of animal abuse. The veterinarian may be in a unique position to recognize the signs of not only animal abuse but also human violence. However, the abilities of veterinarians to intervene in these situations as well as their responsibilities have not been well defined.

2. OBJECTIVES:

- To know the current status of the issue both in the society and the vet field.
- Find out if similar actions have been done in other fields.
- Is a protocol needed to success in the cause?

3. ANIMAL WELFARE → THE FIVE FREEDOMS:

1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST
2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT
3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY AND DISEASE
4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR
5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS

4. ANIMAL ABUSE:

Socially unacceptable non-accidental behavior that causes distress, suffering, pain and/or death of an animal.

- Physical abuse
- Neglect / abandonment
- Verbal or emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse

Linked to human violence

5. MANAGEMENT & PROTOCOL [4,5]:

ASK ☁

VALIDATE ✓

DOCUMENT ✌

REPORT / REFER 📞

6. DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION:

a) Risky situation/mild abuse
b) Suspected maltreatment
c) Conviction maltreatment

7. INTERVENTION 🌍

a) Talk carefully with the owner
b) Additional test needed?
c) If animal’s danger → take it from the owner

8. NOTIFICATION 🌅

a) No immediate notification → follow up
b) i c) To Oficina de Protecció dels Animals and to Guàrdia Urbana.

9. FOLLOW UP ☐

a) Medium/long term appointment
b) Short – term visit
c) Visit animal’s refugee + no other animals owner

10. CONCLUSIONS:

- The development of policies and protocols within practices is necessary for practitioners to respond effectively to suspected abuse.
- Respond to interpersonal violence as well
- Form connections with other professional bodies
- Improve education and the access to resources for veterinarians, veterinary students and society

FIGHT TO ACHIEVE ANIMAL WELFARE

BIBLIOGRAPHY: