

Violence Prevention and Intervention

The Problem: Few Sentencing Alternatives for Animal Abuse Offenders

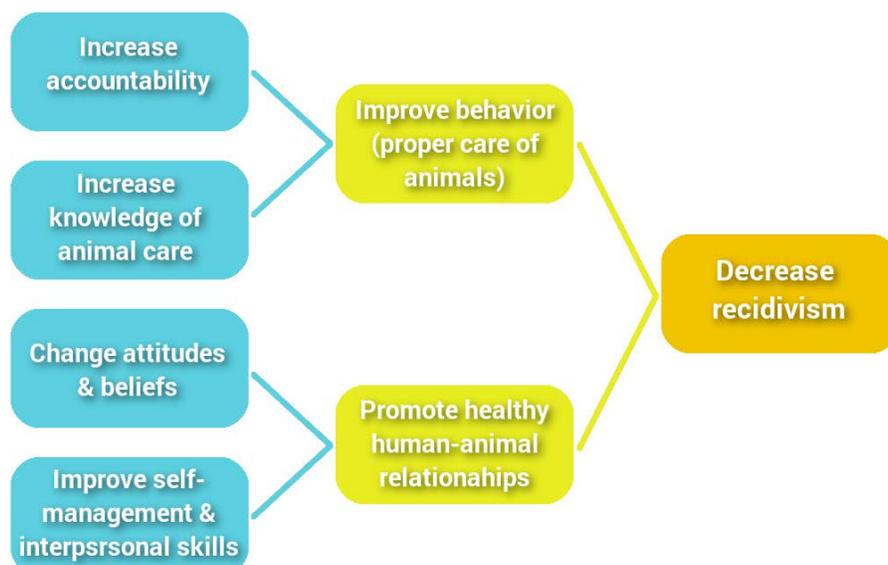
- Most animal abuse charges are misdemeanors, resulting in nothing more than a small fine.
- There is a significant gap in meaningful sentencing alternatives for animal abuse offenders, both pre- and post-adjudication.

ASI's Solution: Diversion programs offer a viable option to address the gap in sentencing alternatives in animal cruelty cases.

Three Program Levels Based on Severity of Offense:

- Level I: CARE (Companion Animal Responsibility and Care)—Minimum standards of care and knowledge of companion animals' basic needs
- Level II: BARK (Behavior, Accountability, Responsibility, and Knowledge)—Focused on accountability and factors that motivated the abuse or neglect, including attitudes, beliefs, and other risk factors
- Level III: AniCare—One-on-one psychological intervention focusing on animal abuse and co-occurring issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse

The Program Model



How Does Diversion Work?

- Assignment to diversion program at judges' discretion based on severity, background, and other relevant factors
- Participants who complete program may have misdemeanor charges dismissed and/or fines reduced
- Participants may be required to complete the program in lieu of jail time (or reduction of jail time)

Update 2017

We are thrilled that ASI's diversion program for animal abuse offenders kicked off in Syracuse on October 23 with 16 participants. The 16-week program is the first of its kind in the country and offers prosecutors and judges an alternative for holding offenders accountable and reducing the likelihood of future offending. We are working to get it adopted in jurisdictions nationwide. This innovative program was featured on all of the major media outlets in Syracuse. This [two minute video](#) from Spectrum News explains ASI's Diversion Program that was the "missing piece" for the Central New York Animal Cruelty Task Force.

