

Take every form of abuse seriously

The column "Where's outrage for athletes who abuse partners?" (Opinion Commentary, Aug. 8) complains that people appear to be more outraged by animal abuse than by domestic violence.

I understand the writer's frustration. But I find it strange to compare victims of violence.

Violence itself is the enemy and it should be taken seriously in all its forms. In fact, studies have shown that where there is animal abuse, there is often human abuse, too.

A man who beats his dog is far more likely, statistically, than the average man is to hit his wife and children.

That is why animal organizations such as the Maryland SPCA work with domestic violence groups to help both human and animal abuse victims.

Abusers prey on women, children and pets. Communities need to look out for all victims.

And taking all forms of violence seriously is important because it helps us to bring to justice those who harm any living creature.

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