



# Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.  
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

Post Office Box 7  
Lindisfarne TAS 7015

[www.dogshomesoftas.com.au](http://www.dogshomesoftas.com.au)

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## Canine Connections ~ Pets at Risk



For the vast majority of us, our relationship with our animal companions is a very positive one.

However reports of animal abuse can sometimes be so disturbing that we lose sight of the fact that animal abusers are the exception to the rule. Nevertheless, animal abuse is a very disturbing behaviour which needs addressing. In addition, research suggests that children who are cruel to animals are also more likely to become adults who harm people.

Adults charged with crimes such as theft, assault, arson, domestic violence and malicious damage often admit to having engaged in animal abuse as children and adolescents.

The challenge for parents, teachers, vets, animal welfare agencies, law enforcement agencies and the community as a whole is to work together to identify animals at risk of abuse by troubled children.

The need to identify children who are abusing animals is twofold. It is both the animals and the children who require support.

When children commit acts of cruelty something is wrong in their lives; they are suffering too, along with the animals they come into contact with. They may be witness to someone else's abusive treatment of an animal. They may be experiencing domestic violence in their home. They may be feeling powerless, fearful or angry.

In their frustration and confusion they take out their feelings on an animal.

These children can be assisted by professionals to resolve their issues and prevent anti-social behaviour patterns becoming established.

By speaking up to identify animal abusers, we protect the animals and the children who at risk.

### **Burnie Dogs' Home**

**170 Stowport Rd.,  
Burnie TAS 7320**

**Ph: (03) 6431 6199**

### **Devonport Dogs' Home**

**Spreyton Park Racecourse  
Devonport TAS 7310**

**Ph: (03) 6427 2178**

### **Hobart Dogs' Home**

**101 Scotts Rd.,  
Risdon Vale TAS 7016**

**Ph: (03) 6243 5177**

*The information in this brochure offers general advice on animal care and responsible dog guardianship. This information is offered in good faith however the TCDL cannot accept any responsibility for acts or omissions based on this advice.*