


# Cruelty to animals leads to domestic violence


👤 Alexandra Ross • October 20, 2022



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A family member remembers that the brother's dog was put in the oven and then disappeared, her brother was later stabbed

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (WTVQ) – Amy Schumacher recalls the relationship between her brother Todd Schumacher and Matt Donaghy.

A relationship that would end fatally in the end.

“The thing is, when you look back and retrace those steps, you’re like, ‘Oh, I should have seen something here,’” says Schumacher. “But you know, at the time you’re just like, ‘Oh, they could have that

I’ve had a day off or something, and you go about your business,’” says Schumacher.

The relationship would ultimately show the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

Schumacher says her brother loved his dog Monroe, more than a companion but a best friend.

“He disappeared five days before my brother was murdered, and so friends and neighbors would be looking for Monroe, and even Matt would, but something didn’t seem right about it,” Schumacher said of Monroe’s disappearance.

**Also read: [Animal cruelty, domestic violence are closely intertwined](#)**

Amy says her brother called her frantically, adding that the stress he was experiencing trying to find his dog was making him nauseous.

“All I knew was that my main concern was my brother and the stress because the dog meant everything to him,” she adds.

“He used Monroe because he knew that was a weakness of my brother, he loved that dog and there was something that made him jealous. It was about jealousy, the dog got more attention than he did.”

But for Amy, things were about to get even more troubling.

“In my brother’s case, it came from his, you know, Monroe in the oven, which I didn’t know about, and he kept it from me, I think it was a protective measure, then people do that. They’re trying to protect, people to protect around them,” she said.

Amy finds out that before her brother died, Matt had put her brother’s dog in the oven.

A case she only found out about after finding her brother the next day.

“And using a pet when someone really loves their pet is one of the most focused ways to get someone’s attention,” Amy said.

"Matt was charged after my brother's murder. He was serving that sentence in connection with ... he was actually only convicted of second-degree manslaughter and is on the street," she says when asked about Matt.

Amy is now coping further by helping to spread the message of consciousness.

"I wish I had seen the signs. I'm so sorry, nobody deserved this. Monroe didn't deserve it, you didn't deserve it. Nobody, nobody deserves it," she wrote to her brother Todd.

She also adds that if you see something, you should say something.

"If there's any concern, it doesn't matter how small you think it is. It can be bigger than what you even think you need to reach out, please reach out, it's important, it can be a matter of life and death," she says.

If you or someone else is a victim of domestic violence or if you suspect animal cruelty, you can contact GreenHouse17 for help at the 24-hour emergency hotline at 1 (800) 544-2022.

There have been other cases of animal cruelty and domestic violence in Lexington, in one case the girlfriend shot the friend's dog in the head during a domestic argument and was charged with torture.

The dog later died from his injuries.

#### Source

