

People who abuse pets often abuse their kids, vet says

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI-Kyodo) — The president of the American Veterinary Medical Association says people who abuse animals often abuse their children.

Dr. Everett Macomber, in Columbus for the annual Ohio Veterinary Association meeting, said beating animals is now being recognized as an important sign that child abuse might also be taking place.

Macomber said Friday leg-

islation targeting the problem of animal attacks include all breeds and he stated that aggressive dogs should not be family pets because they are not trustworthy with children.

Macomber also said:

- Certain breeds of dogs are not more predisposed to aggression toward children than other breeds. Individual animals of all breeds may be aggressive for a variety of reasons. In many cases aggressive dogs have been subject to

abuse, he said.

- Pets should be neutered by owners who do not plan to breed them. He estimated 35,000 pets are abandoned annually in the Columbus area.

- Would-be pet owners should take special care in the selection of a pet.

“Many times people will spontaneously walk by a pet store and see a cute little animal they would like to have around the house,” he said.

“If the two are not compatible, (the animal) ends up in abandonment.”

Macomber said the country will have to guard against an increased chance of transferring animal diseases between the United States, Canada and Mexico, when the North American Free Trade agreement takes effect.

He said it is the responsibility to veterinarians “to make sure diseases aren’t passed between countries.”

5-22/2/93