



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILD MALTREATMENT

Connecticut Cross-Reporting Program Releases Figures



When the State of Connecticut implemented its pioneering cross-reporting program between the Department of Children and Families, which supervises child protection cases, and the Department of Agriculture, which

directs the state's animal control officers, it was not known how many cases might be reported. The first set of full-year statistics have just been released and the numbers show a definite need for such reporting procedures.

Between Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015, DCF received 87 written reports from the Department of Agriculture where animal control officers suspected child maltreatment. Of the 87 reports received, 38 (43.7%) involved families who had histories with DCF. Information provided in the reports in 8 of the 87 cases (10.9%) met the standard to trigger an investigation by DCF. At year's end, these 8 cases were still open.

Comparable figures of reports of suspected animal abuse filed by DCF personnel with the Department of Agriculture were not immediately available.

The Connecticut law requires local animal control officers to report suspected animal cruelty cases to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who in turn files a monthly report with the Commissioner of Children and Families. DCF then reviews those reports, cross-references them against addresses where they have ongoing investigations, and provides that information to caseworkers for inclusion in the department's record on the child. DCF workers are required to report suspected animal abuse to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The law also provides for DCF and animal control personnel to receive training on recognition and reporting of these forms of abuse.

Exposure to Animal Abuse Seen as Risk Factor for Children in Homes with Intimate Partner Violence

A newly-published study has looked at the impact of polyvictimization -- co-occurrence of exposure to different types of violence -- among children in homes marked by intimate partner violence (IPV) and has found exposure to animal abuse to be a particularly significant concern and a risk factor predictive of childhood behavioral problems. (See the [December 2015 LINK-Letter](#) for related study.)

Among the many socioemotional adjustment problems linked with childhood exposure to IPV, internalizing and externalizing behavior problems are the most consistently documented. Children who directly witness IPV are 1.9 times more likely to exhibit internalizing problems and 1.5 times more likely to demonstrate externalizing behaviors. Between 40 and 60% of children residing in domestic violence shelters are said to be in the clinical range of externalizing and internalizing behavioral problems. However, there is also evidence of children's resilience in the face of exposure to IPV.

This study examined profiles of adjustment in an ethnically diverse sample of 291 school-age children recruited from community-based domestic violence services. Six domains of children's adjustment were examined: social problems, attention problems, internalizing behavior, externalizing behavior, empathy, and callous/unemotional traits. Many variables were analyzed to determine children's levels of resiliency, struggling and severe maladjustment.

Exposure to concomitant animal cruelty was found to be significant and predictive. Results supported the hypothesis that exposure to animal cruelty would distinguish between resilient and maladjusted profiles. Children who were exposed to animal abuse were 3.26 times more likely to be in the struggling group and 5.72 times more likely to be in the severe problems group compared to the reference group of resilient children.

Because children often turn to animals as confidants and rely on them as a way to manage stress, and list animals as important social relationships, exposure to animal abuse may be particularly traumatic to children living in homes affected by IPV, they emphasized.

The authors suggest that incorporating assessments of children's exposure to animal cruelty in intake procedures may help identify children with the greatest risk of psychological maladjustment.

-- McDonald, S.E., Graham-Bermann, S.A., Maternick, A., Ascione, F.R., & Williams, J.H. (2016). Patterns of adjustment among children exposed to intimate partner violence: A person-centered approach. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*. DOI 10.1007/s40653-016-0079-y

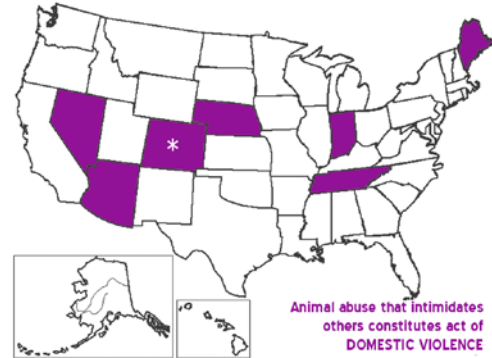
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ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Animal Abuse Defined as Emotional Abuse in Arkansas

Seven states have taken the pioneering step of defining acts of animal abuse intended to intimidate or coerce a spouse or partner as an act of domestic violence: Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, and Tennessee. In these states, prosecutors have multiple options for charging crimes involving both animal abuse and domestic violence: they can file under the animal cruelty statutes and/or the domestic violence provisions.



It has recently come to our attention that Arkansas has a possibly similar provision. Although Arkansas law does not define animal abuse specifically as domestic violence, the Spousal Abuse Safety Plan Act of 2007 (A.C.A. §9-15-403) includes “harming the pet of a spouse” within Arkansas’ definition of “emotional abuse.” “Spousal abuse” is defined as an act of physical, sexual or emotional abuse against a spouse.

However, it is not clear whether “spousal abuse,” in turn, is defined as an act of domestic violence under Arkansas statutes. Separate laws in the state (A.C.A. § 5-26-303 through 309 define conditions and penalties for domestic battering and assault, but emotional abuse is not included within those definitions.

If any of our Arkansas LINK-Letter readers could help clarify this situation, we would be appreciative!

Arkansas also allows courts to include pets in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders.

Ohio Shelter Gets Pet-Friendly Grant



[My Sister's Place](#), the domestic violence shelter in Athens, Ohio, was the recipient of a \$20,000 grant in December from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust. The grant will enable the organization to construct a small animal shelter on its premises to house residents’ dogs and cats. The new facility will be called “My Sister’s Paws.”

The facility operates out of a four-bedroom home at an undisclosed location in Athens. The organization also offers outreach and court advocacy services.

The Kenneth A Scott Charitable Trust, a private foundation focused on preventing animal cruelty and promoting humane treatment of companion animals, awarded \$978,575 in grants to 67 nonprofit humane organizations in Ohio, the Great Lakes region, and nationally in 2015. Since its inception the Trust has awarded over \$18.7 million in animal protection grants.

New Mexico Measure Would Enhance Pet Protection

In 2015, the New Mexico state legislature took the pioneering step of passing a bill that will authorize \$300,000 in funding, payable in six annual installments of \$50,000, to the Department of Children and Families. The funds will help pay for the costs of temporary care and housing for the pets of domestic violence survivors. This is believed to be the only such state-funded program in the U.S.A.



Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Sharon Jonas of Animal Protection of New Mexico tells The LINK-Letter that there are plans to try to increase this expenditure. Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (D – Santa Fe) has introduced SB 55 which would allocate \$500,000 for this purpose in FY 2017. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance left at the end of the year would revert to the general fund.

Pet Foster Program Gets Great Publicity

The plight of Mercedes Cecchin, her 6-year-old daughter Emma, and her dog, “Cody,” of New City, N.Y. was all-too common: they needed to escape from a desperate situation with an abusive husband. But none of her friends could take Cody in while they tried to get their lives back together. Fortunately, she called the [Center for Safety and Change](#) shelter in Rockland. And she was told to bring Cody with her.



The Center doesn’t have its own pet-keeping kennels, but it does have Paws for Safety, a foster care program available through the Hi Tor Animal Care Center in Pomona, N.Y. And four months later, Mercedes and her daughter were reunited with Cody and all are now living in an apartment that accepts pets.

Mercedes’ story was the basis for an extensive feature in the Jan. 25 editions of The [White Plains Journal-News](#). The Cecchins are among the 15 families whose pets have been temporarily fostered since Paws for Safety was initiated in 2012.

“Our goal with the Paws program really is to reunite the family in its entirety,” said Center executive director Elizabeth Santiago, noting that one of Mercedes’ biggest concerns was what she was going to do about Cody – who is as much a part of her life as Emma.

With the help of Nancy Donoghue, the Center’s legal advocate as well as its pet safety coordinator, Cecchin got assistance to divorce her husband. Donoghue well understands how The Link plays out in domestic violence situations.

“It’s about the power and the control the perpetrator has over their intimate partner and how those animals become pawns in a game of power and control,” she said.

THE LINK AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Vermont Legislature Receives Task Force Report on Animal Cruelty and Sexual Abuse

A special task force created by the Vermont Legislature ([See LINK-Letter September, 2015](#)) to identify issues and make recommendations regarding cases of animal cruelty, including animal sexual abuse, delivered its [Final Report](#) on January 15. The multi-disciplinary group was tasked with reviewing and comparing Vermont's animal cruelty response system with other states' systems in such areas as uniform operating protocols, training, data collection, and funding.

The report's recommendations included:

- **UNIFORM OPERATING PROTOCOLS:** The states with the most effective response programs centralize this function within a state agency and commit dedicated funding to it. A multi-agency Animal Welfare Advisory Board should be established within the Department of Public Safety to develop a systematic approach to investigations and training for local officers. The preferred model would have animal cruelty and/or animal control response managed under one umbrella within DPS or regional sheriffs' departments with specially trained law enforcement officers assigned regionally.
- **TRAINING:** Humane officers currently have no police powers and receive no mandated training to perform their jobs as investigators. The Task Force recommended that they should be mandated to complete a training curriculum, and that a two-hour module on animal cruelty investigations be incorporated into the Vermont Police Academy's Basic Training curriculum for Level III certified officers. Regular training for prosecutors at the annual Vermont Prosecutors Association conference was also endorsed.
- **DATA COLLECTION:** The Vermont Humane Federation's [online animal cruelty reporting hotline](#) is a voluntary, unfunded system that handles 400-500 reports per year. However, these cannot be merged with the new FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System data. The Department of Public Safety's computerized dispatch system recorded 40,466 animal-related complaints between 2008-2012, but it is unclear how many of these were animal cruelty rather than animal control issues. The Task Force recommended that all cruelty investigations be led by a law enforcement agency to capture data into the NIBRS system. Animal welfare, control, rescue and veterinary agencies would support this process. Currently, only 1.3% of cases result in court action.
- **FUNDING:** Dedicated funding is necessary to implement the recommendations but the Task Force recognized challenges inherent in various funding models.

Vermont Animal
Cruelty Task Force
Report to Vermont
House and Senate
Judiciary
Committees



**Review of Current Response Protocols,
Training, Data Collection, and Funding**

**Recommendations for Improvements
and Consolidation**
January 15, 2016

- **LIABILITY ISSUES:** Veterinarians who hold seized animals as “live evidence” have liability protection within state statutes; animal shelters and humane officers do not. The Task Force recommended adding these groups to existing statutes.
- **ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE:** The Task Force recommended adding this to Vermont’s statutes as a crime.
- Sexual abuse of animals is seen by Link experts as a particular problem in Vermont, one of only 10 states plus the District of Columbia where it is not expressly a crime. Cases have been successfully prosecuted in the state, but only where physical injuries allow for filing charges under the general cruelty statutes.

Noting that Vermont is believed to have the highest per-capita rate of pet ownership in the nation (71% of households), and citing public concern over “the well-documented link between animal cruelty and human violence,” the report concluded with a call to action.

“Until we take animal cruelty as seriously as we do other crimes, and dedicate the necessary resources to build an infrastructure to support a centralized and coordinated approach, our state will continue to struggle in this area, and animals will continue to suffer needlessly. We hope that our research and recommendations will be useful moving ahead toward the common goal of building safe communities here in Vermont for both people and animals.”



Joanne Bourbeau

It is unclear what the next steps will be. Task Force Chair Joanne Bourbeau tells *The LINK-Letter* that the House Judiciary Committee has been asked to introduce a bill since the Senate deadlines had already expired. The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to take up a bill once it has been reviewed by the House.

Florida Sheriffs’ Magazine Trains Deputies on The Link

A deputy sheriff enters a mobile home with hundreds of animals and a person who is in need of social services. Or a deputy responds to a domestic violence call and finds the victim is uncooperative but the family pet is displaying signs of abuse. Or the deputy stumbles over dogfighting paraphernalia and isn’t aware of it.



These are real-life scenarios demonstrating the need for additional training for law enforcement officers that were highlighted in an article in the Winter 2016 issue of [All Points Bulletin](#), the news magazine of the Florida Sheriffs Association. Written by Adam Leath, Southeast Regional Director for the ASPCA’s Field Investigations and Response team, the three-page article cited the growing evidence of how animal and interpersonal violence are linked and encouraged deputies to pay more attention to animal issues – and to be trained to respond appropriately.

Leath noted the differences between intentional animal abuse and equally devastating cases of animal neglect. He outlined 39 specific physical and environmental signs to look for that suggest abuse, neglect, animal fighting, animal hoarding, and puppy mill operations.



Florida Sheriffs
Association

The article concluded with advising deputies that the ASPCA provides grant funding to law enforcement jurisdictions to offset the costs incurred during animal cruelty cases, to support continuing education and skills training, and to purchase equipment that can enhance and

improve an agency's response to such cases.

"When animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk," Leath wrote. "Recognizing animal abuse as an indicator that something is wrong in a household may be the first step in stopping the cycle of violence."

Law Enforcement Agencies Spotlighted for Link Programs



Several law enforcement agencies that have included awareness of how animal abuse often interfaces with interpersonal violence were featured in the January 2016 newsletter of the [National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse](#). The agencies spotlighted are among a number featured in the newsletter

that have put animal welfare concerns at the forefront of their department's responsibilities.

The **Maricopa County, Ariz. Sheriff's Office**, which has made national news repeatedly for its innovative programs such as housing offenders outdoors in tent cities so animal cruelty victims can stay under air-conditioned cover in the jail – was spotlighted for its Animal Cruelty Investigation Unit. Outspoken Sheriff Joe Arpaio noted that he understands the connection between animal abuse and human violence and that he also believes that working with animals helps to instill confidence and compassion in his inmates. Frustration from what he sees as the judicial system's failure to take animal abuse cases seriously fuels Arpaio's animal advocacy work.

Law enforcement officers in the **Detroit** area are receiving specialized training from the Michigan Humane Society on animal-related issues. Humane Society President Matthew Pepper and members of his Cruelty Investigation Department, augmented by veterinarians, animal behaviorists and animal law experts, took to the Detroit Police Training Building. They educated officers on animal behavior in the field, Michigan animal law, animals as evidence, and human violence and animal cruelty. The program fills in gaps in state entry-level academies and in-service training and is approved by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

"Law enforcement officers are a key component of the legal system and its relationship to animals," said the humane society. "In their position on the front lines, their work arguably has the most significant impact on how the laws designed to protect humans and animals are administered."

The **Taylor, Mich. Police Department** was commended for its work in arresting a woman and her 19-year-old son after her neighbor videoed her 13-year-old daughter beating numerous dogs in the back yard. Officers found five dogs, one cat, several dead guinea pigs, piles of feces, and a stench of urine – and called Child Protective Services to check on the welfare of the five children living in the home.

Other articles in the newsletter described a Carver, Mass. police officer with a long history of rescuing animals; the K9s4COPS program in Houston, Texas which donated a dog to the French agency that lost a police dog in the November terrorist attacks in Paris; the Promote Animal Welfare Education (PAW.edu) program in San Antonio to educate animal cruelty offenders; a so-called animal “rescuer” who turned out to be an abuser and pled guilty to felony animal cruelty in Queens, N.Y.; animal hoarding cases handled by officers in Burke County, N. Car. and Newfield, N.Y.; and officers in Brooklyn, N.Y., Rockville, Md., and Middleton, Idaho who went out of their way to rescue animals.

Prosecutor’s Office Wins National Award, Initiates Animal Abuse Investigation Ride-Alongs

The San Bernardino County, Calif. District Attorney’s Office, which established a multi-disciplinary [Animal Cruelty Task Force \(ACT\)](#), has initiated a unique program to introduce animal cruelty prosecutors to animal abuse offenders and investigators – and vice versa. Assistant D.A. Debbie Ploghaus recently launched “ACT on Wednesday”.

Every Wednesday, she will contact animal control and humane officers to have them provide her with addresses of “problem places.” Then she will go on ride-alongs with law enforcement agencies to introduce herself and say hello to neighbors.

One objective is to let neighbors know that the county’s anonymous WE-TIP crime reporting hotline and the Humane Society of the U.S. offer rewards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for reporting cock fighting and animal abuse crimes.

Already, “Debbie is up to her eyeball in cases,” office administrator Claudia Swing tells *The LINK-Letter*. “On the first day out, she spent the entire day at one place as it was so awful. There is so much going on.”

Meanwhile, the office recently received its 2015 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties ([See LINK-Letter for July 2015](#)). The award is in recognition of the department’s groundbreaking and innovative programs in combating animal cruelty.

 San Bernardino County District Attorney
4 mins · 48
Chief Asst. District Attorney Michael Fermin accepted the National Association of Counties award on behalf of our office today for work in the area of animal cruelty.



BUILDING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK



Jeannie Wolicki-Nichols

Michigan Humane Group Holds Link Town Hall To Protect People and Animals

The Humane Society of Bay County, Mich. wants its community to know that where there's animal cruelty there's often abusive, violent crimes against people, so they sponsored a Town Hall meeting to educate the public on animal abuse and how to prevent it. The meeting, "Animal Abuse: What Is It? How to Report It?" was scheduled for Jan. 25 featuring a panel of city and county law enforcement and animal control officials and local and national humane society figures.

"This forum is designed to empower citizens to become more involved in reporting these suspected crimes, and helping to make our community safer for both animals and people, Jeannie Wolicki-Nichols, president of the society's board of directors, told Michigan's [MLive media](#).

Citing studies showing correlations between animal abuse and crimes against persons ranging from narcotics and firearms violations to battery and sexual assault, the humane society launched the \$100 Paws Club in August 2015. The club supports the victims of animal cruelty, educates the public, and promotes awareness of The Link.

Bay County was also the site of a Link workshop in October, 2014 featuring prosecutor Kurt Asbury and the Humane Society of the U.S.'s Sherry Ramsey. "In the past 20 years, a growing body of research has firmly established a significant link between domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, violent crime and animal abuse. It's never an isolated thing. It's always linked to other things," Ramsey said.



Pet-Friendly Shelters Get Publicity Boost

Nationally-syndicated pet columnist Steve Dale has lent his support to the need for domestic violence shelters to incorporate programs for survivors' pets with a simple message from Allie Phillips: "If a shelter is unable to accommodate a family with pets, they are not able to serve potentially two-thirds of their community."



Steve Dale (left) moderated the panel at the URIPALS roundtable discussion.

Posting on his blog, [Steve Dale's Pet World](#) on Jan. 28, Dale reviewed the pet-friendly URIPALS shelter in New York City (See the [December 2015 LINK-Letter](#)), noting that accepting pets in the shelter not only allows survivors a way out but also serves as a kind of therapy. Dale and Phillips, founder of the [Sheltering Animals and Families Together \(SAF-T\)](#) model, were panelists at a URIPALS forum last October.

According to the American Pet Products Association, 65% of all American homes have a pet. Dogs and cats are even more popular in households with children. “Pets are ubiquitous, so it’s no surprise that pets are also in homes where there’s domestic violence, which is also ubiquitous,” Dale wrote.

In addition to emotional and therapeutic benefits to keeping the entire family together, the presence of pets in a domestic violence shelter has proven valuable to other residents. Pets help elevate our mood, release hormones like serotonin and oxytocin that make us feel good, and encourage physical activity. Pets can support the overall health and healing in a shelter environment.

THE LINK AND... VETERINARY MEDICINE

British Veterinarians to Get Domestic Violence Sensitization



The British Small Animal Veterinary Association has announced that its [2016 Congress](#), to be held April 7-10 in Birmingham, will include an unusual production. Scottish actress Naomi Breeze will perform her one-woman mini-play on domestic violence at the BSAVA press conference. Freda Scott-Park of [The Links Group UK](#) tells *The LINK-Letter* that the production will do a superb, albeit depressing, job of bringing home to practitioners the reality of living with an abusive partner. “What is really exciting is that BSAVA has funded an extension to ‘Jackie’s Story’ to allow Naomi to write in the presence of an animal in the abusive household,” she says. “Exciting times... and I am really grateful to BSAVA for profiling our work and funding this powerful production!”

Bill Would Permit Kentucky Veterinarians to Report Animal Abuse



HB 269 would eliminate the provision that currently makes Kentucky the only state in which veterinarians are prohibited from reporting suspected animal cruelty, abuse or neglect. The measure would amend the veterinarian-client-patient relationship provisions in KRS 321.185 to state, “A veterinarian may provide information without the owner’s consent to public health, animal welfare, wildlife, or agriculture authorities employed by federal, state or local government agencies who have a legal or regulatory interest in the protection of animal or public health.” The veterinarian would be immune from liability from anyone, including the client, for making such a report. The bill is in the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee.

It is not clear from the statutory language whether such a provision would also permit a report to law enforcement or animal control agencies in areas of the state where nonprofit humane societies are not present to investigate animal abuse.

Current Kentucky law defines aspects of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship to include a confidentiality provision that information concerning a client or the care of a client’s animal shall not be released unless there is a written waiver from the client or a court order or subpoena.

Veterinarians in 17 states are mandated to report suspected animal abuse, and in 18 states they are permitted to make such reports, generally without fear of criminal or civil liability; 14 states say nothing regarding the issue. Kentucky is the only state with a specific prohibition against reporting suspected animal maltreatment.

What Are the Veterinarian's Responsibilities to Report Suspected Abuse?

Animal Sentience, a new online journal published by the Humane Society of the United States' Institute for Science and Policy, has recently published two articles regarding the dilemmas faced by veterinarians regarding the recognition and reporting of suspected animal abuse and other forms of family violence:



Martine Lachance

Martine Lachance, Professor in the Department of Judicial Sciences at the University of Quebec at Montreal, argues in one [report](#) that animals, like children and disabled elders, are not only the subjects of abuse, but they are unable to report and protect themselves from it. She cites Canadian studies suggesting that the life expectancy of a pet in a home where interpersonal violence is present is rarely more than two years: if the pet is not killed by negligence or harm or flees from an inhospitable environment, it may end up in a veterinary clinic where the practitioner serves as the first line of intervention beyond the locus of violence.

Consequently, veterinarians, like human physicians, are often the first to become aware of the abuse and the only ones in a position to report it when their human clients are unwilling to do so. This creates a conflict between professional confidentiality to the client and the duty to protect the victim and facilitate prosecution when the law has been broken. She argues that growing empirical evidence of sentience in many species, coupled with public tolerance of violence against animals becoming increasingly untenable, creates a moral justification for veterinarians to report abuse to appropriate authorities. Remaining silent, she writes, is a betrayal of the patient as well as of one's own conscience. She further explores the legal ramifications of breaking traditional client-practitioner confidentiality restrictions which, she notes, were never intended to be a shield for covering up criminal offenses. Lachance accordingly recommends that veterinary associations make reporting of suspected abuse mandatory.

-- Lachance, Martine (2016) [Breaking the silence: The veterinarian's duty to report](#) *Animal Sentience*, 1(6).



Anne Fawcett

In a [commentary](#) to the Fawcett report, Anne Fawcett, lecturer in veterinary science at the University of Sydney, Australia, notes that it is still unknown how many abused animals receive veterinary treatment nor whether those animals are presented immediately after the abuse or much later. Given a significant number of practitioners feeling ill-equipped to address concerns of abuse, she argues that the role for veterinary social work in clinical settings may be advanced. She recommends that mandatory reporting can only be supported in a context in which veterinary professionals are (a) trained to recognize the signs of animal abuse; (b) trained to elicit a history sensitively from clients who may themselves be victims of abuse or supported in doing so; (c) supported by appropriate, responsive authorities; and (d) reasonably protected from legal recriminations.

-- Fawcett, Anne (2016) [Veterinarians need support to break the silence](#) *Animal Sentience* 2016.069.

NEWS from LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Link Group Active on Social Media in Kentucky

A Link group is in the early stages of development in Kentucky, where a [Facebook](#) group has been renamed Kentucky Citizens Against Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence. Organizer Dee Robinson has been working with members of the Kentucky Legislature to advance several bills, including SB 14 which would make dogfighting a crime of the first degree, and SB 53 which would give citizens a Good Samaritan pass to break into a vehicle to rescue an animal. The group has over 2,000 participants from across the Bluegrass State.



Dee Robinson

THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE

Comparison of Animal Abuse and Other Family Violence Between U.S. and Bahamian Students

Building upon an earlier study examining the incidence of animal abuse in the histories of college students in the U.S. and The Bahamas, this study looked more generally at histories of various forms of family violence – including animal cruelty – cross-culturally. A number of the 740 students surveyed in the U.S. and The Bahamas reported incidents of parent-to-parent violence, parent-to-child violence, dating violence, and animal abuse perpetrated by themselves, their siblings, or their parents.

-- Fielding, W.J., Risley-Curtiss, C., & Cronin, T.W. (2015). A cross-cultural comparison of interpersonal violence in the lives of college students from two colleges from The Bahamas and United States of America. *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*, 21(1), 38-56 .

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Bills We're Watching... and Laws We're Celebrating:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



H.R. 1258 – the Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act – was re-introduced with a new number and 172 bi-partisan co-sponsors. The bill would expand existing federal domestic violence protections to include pets of domestic violence victims. It would prohibit crossing state lines to harm a domestic partner's pet, and establish a federal grant program to provide assistance and housing to victims' pets in need of emergency shelter. The bill has been assigned to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations. A companion measure in the Senate – **S. 1559** – with 23 co-sponsors has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.



Alaska HB 147 would allow victims to petition the court for a protective order that the abuser may not remove, harm or dispose of any animals in the household, and to grant her exclusive care and custody of them. Peace officers investigating domestic violence cases must inform victims of this provision. The bill would also declare pets to be marital property and give courts authority to decide individual or joint custody when people divorce, with consideration of what

would be best for the animal. The bill was held over in the House Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned and a hearing was scheduled for Feb. 10.



Indiana SB 343 would allow a court to grant an order of protection to: (1) grant possession and care of an animal to a petitioner; (2) prohibit a respondent from taking action against the animal; and (3) direct a law enforcement officer to accompany the petitioner to retrieve the animal. The bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.



Michigan SB 28 would make it a crime to knowingly kill, torture, mutilate, maim, disfigure, or poison an animal, or threaten to do so, with the intent of causing mental suffering or distress to a person or to exert control over a person. The bill passed the Judiciary Committee and is in the Committee of the Whole.



Michigan HB 4478 would allow courts to issue protection-from-abuse orders preventing respondents from injuring, torturing, neglecting, threatening, or removing the petitioner's animals. It would apply to current or former spouses; individuals with whom the petitioner has a child in common or where there has been a dating relationship; or an individual presently or formerly residing in the same household. The bill passed the full House on Oct. 15 by a vote of 96-9 and the Senate Judiciary Committee and is heading to the Committee of the Whole.



New Mexico S 55 would appropriate \$500,000 to the Children, Youth & Families Department to enhance the system of providing temporary care and housing for animals belonging to victims of family violence. In 2015 the Legislature enacted a statute appropriating \$300,000, to be paid in six annual installments of \$50,000 each. The bill was approved by the Public Affairs Committee and has been sent to the Finance Committee.



Pennsylvania SB 594 would increase penalties for killing, torturing, maiming or poisoning an animal belonging to someone who is protected by a protection-from-abuse order to a \$2,000 - \$15,000 fine and/or two years' imprisonment. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



Wisconsin companion bills **AB 141** and **SB 97** would add household pets under the provisions of temporary restraining orders or longer-lasting injunctions that can be issued by courts to protect victims of abuse, harassment or threats. The bills would also allow the petitioner or a designee to retrieve household pets. **SB 97** passed the Senate on May 6. **AB 141** was unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee on Aug. 20 and was sent to the Rules Committee on Sept. 10. **SB 97** was approved by the Assembly on Feb. 9 and was being sent to the Governor's office for signature..


Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child




Massachusetts H3446 would criminalize animal abuse in the presence of a child under age 14 and would increase penalties for such cruelty to up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.




New York A534 defines "aggravated" animal cruelty as causing extreme physical pain or done in an especially depraved or sadistic manner, a Class E felony. It would make the commission of aggravated cruelty in the presence of a child a Class D felony. The bill is in the Codes Committee.


 **New York A944** and **S1795** would criminalize knowingly causing a minor to attend a place where exhibition of animal fighting is being conducted. **A944** is in the Agriculture Committee. **S1795** passed the Senate, died in the Assembly, and was referred back to the Senate Agriculture Committee.


“CASA for Animals”

 **Massachusetts SB 851** would authorize actions to recover non-economic damages for the injury or death of companion animals and authorize a guardian ad litem to recover damages. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.


 **New York AB 3443** would authorize a guardian ad litem to be appointed by a court in tort causes of action for wrongful injury or death of a companion animal. It would also allow restraining orders and other injunctive relief for the wrongful injury or killing of a companion animal. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.


Interventions for Animal Abuse Offenders


 **New York A1445** and **S1174** would increase penalties for animal fighting and aggravated cruelty to animals and would require a psychiatric evaluation for defendants convicted of aggravated cruelty. The bills are in the Agriculture Committees.


 **New York A1673** and **S814** would require unsealing of court records that juvenile offenders convicted of animal cruelty offenses and require them to undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment where necessary. The bills are in the Agriculture Committees.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes


 **Michigan HB 4353** would allow animal shelters to consider an individual’s criminal history when determining whether or not to allow that individual to adopt an animal. Convicted animal abusers could not adopt for at least 5 years following conviction. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee. **Senate Bill 219** would prohibit offenders convicted of animal fighting or bestiality from owning animals other than livestock for 5 years. The bill cleared the Senate by a 37-1 vote on Jan. 28 and is now in the House Judiciary Committee.


 **New York A346** would create a statewide task force to study how to improve investigations of animal abuse and enforcement of anti-cruelty laws. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.


 **New York A1596** and **S2936** would expand the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to animals during the commission of a felony. **A1596** is in the Agriculture Committee. **S2936** passed the Senate on May 12 and is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.


 The **Oregon** Veterinary Medical Examination Board has proposed Rule No. [875-030-1101](#) which would provide for a screening of applicants and licensees to determine if they have a history of criminal behavior that would preclude their fitness to practice as a veterinarian or certified veterinary technician.


Cross Reporting

 **Kansas – HB 2451** would add animal control officers to the list of other professionals who are mandated reporters of child abuse, with immunity from civil liability for good-faith reporting. The bill is in the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice.


 **Kentucky HB 269** would amend the veterinarian-client-patient relationship provisions to allow veterinarians to provide information without the owner’s consent to public health, animal welfare, wildlife, or agriculture authorities employed by federal, state or local government agencies who have a legal or regulatory interest in the protection of animal or public health, with immunity from liability. The measure is in the House Agriculture & Small Business Committee.

 **Massachusetts S863** and **H132** would add domestic violence workers, animal control officers and humane officers to the list of mandated reporters of child abuse. **H132** was referred to the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and **S863** is in the Judiciary Committee


 **New York A5082** would require anyone mandated to report suspected child abuse who also encounters suspected animal abuse in the course of their duties to make an immediate report to local police or SPCA agencies. Failure to report would be a Class A misdemeanor and civilly liable. An extensive list of medical, social work, therapy, education, camp, day care, counseling and law enforcement professionals are mandated reporters of child abuse. The bill is in the Social Services Committee.


 **Pennsylvania HB 760** would protect veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians and assistants from civil liability if they report suspected cases of animal abuse in good faith to law enforcement authorities. The bill passed the House on Sept. 29 and is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Animal Hoarding

 **New York A1265** would create the crime of companion animal hoarding. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

Animal Sexual Abuse

 **Ohio SB 195** would prohibit a person from engaging in sexual conduct with an animal, and related acts. It would provide for the seizure of the animals involved and authorize the sentencing court to require offenders to undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. The bill is in the Criminal Justice Committee.

 **New Hampshire HB 1547** would establish the crime of bestiality as a Class B felony. Convicted offenders would be required to submit to psychological assessment and counseling at their own expense, and could be barred from residing with any animals for a time period deemed appropriate by the court. The bill is in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS



Kinny Redmon

Woman Acquitted of Baking Ex-Boyfriend's Puppy in Oven; Child Welfare Issues Also Raised

A Champaign County, Ill. woman who twice admitted to baking her ex-boyfriend's 3-month-old puppy in the oven was acquitted of felony animal cruelty charges when prosecutors failed to prove their case. A jury of three men and three women cleared Kinny Redmon last Sept. 17. Although the state played audio tapes of Redmon twice calling her ex-boyfriend Dimarrio Zander, the defense argued that it wasn't Redmon on one call and the second call was merely a conversation between friends and not an admission. [WCIA-TV](#) reported that Zander also recanted his testimony, as often happens in domestic violence cases. The station also noted that the couple have a 1-year-old child together and that Illinois Child & Family Services officials had issued a custody petition based upon potential neglect, but the status of that petition was not clear.

Teen Charged with Felony Animal Cruelty in Connection with Burglary

A Webster, N.Y. teenager was placed under house arrest after being charged with four felony counts of animal cruelty, burglary and criminal mischief following a break-in in which several pet birds and a pet lizard were killed.



Humane Law Enforcement officers from Lollypop Farm – the Humane Society of Greater Rochester that investigates cruelty cases in the region – responded to the case following the Dec. 12 burglary, [WROC-TV reported](#). The youth was arraigned in Monroe County Family Court on Dec. 18

“Lollypop Farm takes animal cruelty cases very seriously,” said Reno DiDomenico, Director of Lollypop Farm’s Humane Law Enforcement. “Studies show that violence to animals can indicate a propensity for future violence to humans. It is our hope that in filing charges, this young person will be held accountable and gain access to the psychological help that he needs to prevent any future violence, whether to animals or humans.”

Man with Prior Assault History Charged with Cruelty to His Son's Kitten



Jeremy Austin

A man with a prior history of assaulting a woman was charged by Rowan County, N. Car. authorities with felony animal cruelty for allegedly hurling his 7-year-old son's kitten 30 feet, causing severe injuries which resulted in Animal Control having to euthanize the pet. Jeremy Edward Austin, 30, of Salisbury was being held in the detention center under \$2,500 bond following the Jan. 9 incident, the Rowan [Free Press](#) reported. Austin was convicted in August, 2012 for assault on a woman and served five months on the misdemeanor charge. He also has a record of several probation violations. It was not known whether the son witnessed the incident or whether the case was referred to Rowan County Child protective Services.

Ex-Mayor Gets 40 Years for Child Pornography/Kitten Torture Videos

The former Mayor of Sorrento, La., charged with multiple counts of child pornography and possession of videos depicting the abuse and torture of kittens, pleaded guilty on Jan. 19 and was sentenced to 40 years in prison. Wilson Longanecker Jr., 43, took a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to 42 counts of child pornography, four counts of aggravated animal cruelty, and one count of obstruction of justice. Three counts of aggravated animal cruelty were dropped under the agreement.



Shortly before he was arrested, Longanecker adopted cats from two Louisiana animal shelters.

State District Judge Jessie LeBlanc noted that the videos – 30 of which involved children younger than 13 – included children having sex, being raped and involved in acts of bestiality, The [Baton Rouge Advocate](#) reported. Longanecker came to authorities' attention in September, 2014, when an agent with the Louisiana Attorney General's Cyber Crime Unit spotted his Internet address viewing child pornography. Later forensic analysis turned up videos and images of cat torture and abuse as well. (See [LINK-Letter February, 2015](#).) Longanecker has remained in jail under a \$1.025 million bail since his arrest.

Former Lawyer Gets Probation, One-Day Jail Term in Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Case

A former Birmingham, Ala. attorney who pleaded guilty to slitting his family dog's throat, texting a photo of it to his now ex-wife, and leaving her a voice mail stating "your day is coming, girl," was sentenced to probation – and also ordered to serve one day in jail for



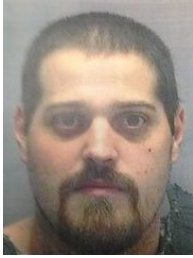
James Stewart Robinson and Rufus

violating a no-contact order. James Stewart Robinson, 48, was sentenced on Jan. 15 to a five-year suspended sentence and three years supervised probation on the Class C felony cruelty charge. He received a concurrent one-year suspended sentence with two years supervised probation on the misdemeanor domestic violence harassment charge, the [Alabama Media Group](#) reported. The domestic violence charge resulted from Robinson's emailing a Christmas greeting to his ex-wife in violation of a judge's no-contact order following his guilty plea last summer. Apologizing for killing "Rufus," an American Staffordshire terrier, by slicing his throat, Robinson noted that he has been a recovering drug addict for nearly 10 years. Robinson surrendered to police following a five-month probe that included exhuming the dog's body and an investigation by a Florida animal forensics lab.

Woman Reported to Stab Boyfriend to Death Because He Threw Her Cat against the Wall

An unnamed woman in Russia has reportedly stabbed her live-in boyfriend to death after he threw her cat against a wall in a fit of anger. The [London Express](#) said the woman, identified by police only as Natalia, has pleaded guilty and faces up to 15 years in prison. The boyfriend, identified only as Alexei, was stabbed in the liver with a kitchen knife and died en route to a hospital. The incident reportedly occurred after Alexei struggled unsuccessfully for three days to fix a broken TV set and took his frustration out on the cat named "Vasili." The case was reminiscent of a similar Russian incident two years ago when another woman allegedly murdered her husband by stabbing him three times in the chest after he tried to attack their cat with a rake during an alcohol-fueled argument.

Man Charged with Homicide, Animal Cruelty in Gruesome Shooting/Stabbing



Patrick Carlopoli

In what Lee County, Fla. Sheriff Mike Scott described as a gruesome and unthinkable crime scene, a woman, her two daughters, and a family dog were found shot and stabbed to death in their Fort Myers apartment on Jan. 24. Patrick Sean Carlopoli, 27 was charged with second-degree murder, conspiracy, aggravated child abuse and felony animal cruelty. [WINK-TV](#) reported that Carlopoli, who had visible blood splatters on his body and clothing, contacted emergency dispatchers and told deputies about the scene. Inside, deputies found Tammy Modlin, 37, and her daughter Montana Modlin, 16, shot to death on a bed. The bodies of Jeanne Carlopoli, 3, and “Milo,” the family’s Chihuahua-Jack Russell terrier mix, were found stabbed to death. Carlopoli was being held without bond.



Animal Cruelty Suspected in Arson Case

Firefighters and arson investigators in Dallas, Texas responding to a suspicious house fire also found a malnourished pit bull who appeared to be a victim of animal cruelty. Firefighters rescued the dog, who they named “Khaleesi,” whose neck appeared to have been slashed. “It was deep, fresh, very clean,” firefighter Joseph Nguyen told the [Dallas Morning News](#). “We suspected whoever lit the house on fire did this

to her. I’ve never seen an animal cruelty case like this. It was just heartbreaking. She was just so sweet when she walked up to us. You could tell she was a sweetheart; it broke all of our hearts.” Firefighters took her to a veterinary hospital where she underwent three hours of surgery to reattach her neck muscles. Khaleesi’s puppy was found unharmed in a nearby dog house. The fire – but not the animal cruelty case – are still under investigation.

Domestic Violence Suspect, Police K-9 Killed in Seven-Hour Armed Standoff



Police officers in Norfolk, Va. responding to a domestic violence incident shot and killed a suspect who killed a police K-9 dog during a seven-hour standoff on the night of Jan. 9-10. Keith Richardson, 58, died from multiple injuries two days later. After Richardson took his wife’s cell phone away and put a gun to her head and threatened to kill her, she escaped from the house and told police her husband had a gun. A negotiation process ensued that included rounds of tear gas and a battering ram to knock down the front door. Richardson was a manager and a firearms instructor at a gun shop and said his life was now over, according to a neighbor who texted back and forth with him repeatedly encouraging him to surrender, The [Virginian-Pilot](#) reported.

There were conflicting reports as to how the Belgian Malinois, named “Krijger,” was killed. Police said they gave Richardson several verbal warnings to drop the gun and surrender; when he instead opened fire and killed the K-9, police were forced to shoot the armed man. However, a neighbor said police had already shot him in the leg and he was on the ground being attacked by the dog, so he shot Krijger. He had been facing charges including abduction, robbery, and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Accused Dog Killer Said to Attempt to Kill His Cellmate

An Oregon man being held in jail for allegedly clubbing and stabbing his dog to death because he thought it had “bad ju-ju” was charged with attempted aggravated murder, assault and strangulation for allegedly trying to kill his cellmate. James Jay Parker, 51, was arraigned on Jan. 19 for the alleged assault on cellmate Michael Alan Hill, 66, while both were in the Jackson County Jail. Authorities told The Medford [Mail Tribune](#) that Parker “believed Hill was attempting to steal his soul through the bottoms of his feet.” The charges allege that Parker choked Hill with his hands, beat his head against a concrete floor, and then tried to “finish him off” by tying a bed sheet around his neck. Hill, who was hospitalized for his injuries but was transferred back to the jail, is being held on burglary, theft and car theft charges. Parker, who is now being held alone in a cell, had been arrested on Jan. 12 on felony animal abuse charges and being a felon in possession of a firearm.



James Jay Parker



Carlos Trinidad

Man Charged in Beating of Girlfriend’s Cat

Police officers in Hartford, Conn. responding to an animal cruelty complaint also found the aftermath of a domestic disturbance. Carlos Trinidad, 30, was jailed on charges that include nearly beating his girlfriend’s cat to death, disorderly conduct, tampering with evidence, and reckless endangerment. The [Hartford Courant](#) reported that Trinidad’s girlfriend had called police to report that he had hanged her cat from a closet door with a shoe string tied around the cat’s abdomen. The police report said that the couple had had a physical fight and he had kicked the cat, threatened to stab it with a knife and throw it out a window, then threw the cat at her. After she fled the apartment he allegedly put the cat in a white plastic shopping bag and smashed it against the apartment walls. The report said that when police questioned Trinidad about the incident, he said he didn’t understand what the big deal was since the cat was still alive. The cat’s status was unknown but an animal control officer believed it may have suffered brain damage.

Man Gets Probation for Hurling Girlfriend’s Dog to its Death

A Springfield, Mo. man who admitted having broken into the apartment of a woman who had spurned his advances, stealing her puppy and then killing it by throwing it 46 feet out of a third-floor window was sentenced on Jan. 22 to five years’ probation. A Greene County judge suspended a possible seven-year prison sentence for William Rabourn, 24, who had pled guilty last October to burglary, theft and animal abuse in the June 2015 incident. Although the probation terms include Rabourn’s completing



William Rabourn



“Oliver” was an 8-month old Maltese-poodle

40 hours of community service, an anger management course and avoiding alcohol and illegal drugs, the victim’s family was not satisfied. The [Springfield News-Leader](#) reported that the woman, Gabrielle Ervie, had testified at the October hearing that she was concerned Rabourn might receive too light a sentence. “He’s not sorry or remorseful. We’re scared it is going to be a human being next,” she told the court. Her mother said, “Your community should be very concerned if he is walking the streets. He is a danger.”

Cockfighting Bust Nets Cocaine, Cash, Weapons, and a Juvenile



Agents assess the crime scene following the raid

Forty people – including one minor and at least two undocumented Mexican immigrants – were arrested during a massive raid of a Midland County, Texas cockfighting ring that also netted 46 ounces of cocaine, \$32,000 in cash and weapons. Authorities told the [Midland Reporter-Telegram](#) that the fight’s host, Lionel Garcia, 35, is a “heavy cocaine distributor”. The Jan. 23 raid was staged by agents from the Midland and Ector County Sheriffs’ offices, federal agents from the DEA, Homeland Security and U.S. Marshals Service, and Texas Department of Public Safety agents coming in by helicopter.

Investigators also seized 30 live roosters, several dead birds, and a metal barrel containing burned rooster corpses. All the suspects are being held on felony charges. The rescued birds will be turned over to an outside group for adoption to better homes.

Garcia was said to have charged entry fees of \$1,000 for contestants and \$20 to \$100 for spectators. “It’s a very sad thing that people will fight animals to death. But these people do it for money — thousands of dollars, not just a few hundred,” Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter told a press conference. “Some of these animals are worth \$2,000 to \$3,000 or more.”

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Feb. 18 – Oklahoma City, Okla.: The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular meeting.

Feb. 21 – Davis, Calif.: Phil Arkow will present a lunchtime plenary session on The Link at the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine’s annual [Winter Conference](#).

Feb. 23 – Newark, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency staff on the implications of animal abuse in child welfare through the [Child Welfare Training Partnership](#).

March 5 – Norman, Okla.: Phil Arkow will deliver the keynote address on The Link at the [National Association of Social Workers – Oklahoma](#) Annual State Conference.

March 6 – Oklahoma City, Okla.: Phil Arkow will present on The Link to the Oklahoma Conference of Churches and the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice on behalf of the [Kirkpatrick Foundation](#).

March 7-11 – Woodward, Lawton, El Reno, Pryor and Ada, Okla.: The Humane Society of the U.S.’s [Oklahoma Law Enforcement Training program](#) will include a unit on how dog- and cock-fighting are related to other felony crimes.

March 9 – Brunswick, Ga.: Allie Phillips will present on “The Co-Occurrence of Animal Abuse and Family Violence” at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for the NCIS Advance Family and Sexual Violence Program.

March 9 – Pittsfield, Mass.: The regular meeting of [HAVEN](#) (Human-Animal Violence Education Network) will be held at the Berkshire Humane Society.

March 11 – Orlando, Fla.: Phil Arkow will discuss how The Link can bring animal control and humane organizations together at the [Florida Animal Control Association](#) conference.

April 6 – (online): Phil Arkow will present a webinar on Interpersonal Violence and Animal Cruelty for the National Organization for Victim Assistance’s [Victim Assistance Academy](#).

April 6 -- Alamosa, Colo.: Laura Bruneau will discuss “The Link between Human Violence and Animal Abuse: Creating Public Safety Through Community Partnerships” as part of Adams State University’s [Faculty & Staff Lecture Series](#).

April 7 – (online): Allie Phillips will present on “The Connection of Animal Abuse to Family Violence” for the [Battered Women’s Justice Project](#).

April 7-10 – Birmingham, UK: Scottish actress Naomi Breeze will perform a one-woman mini-play on domestic violence at the press conference at the [British Small Animal Veterinary Association](#)’s Congress.

April 14 – Atlantic City, NJ: Staff from the New Jersey Department of Child Placement & Permanency and the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence will present on “Domestic Violence and Child Abuse” at the [International Child Assault Prevention Conference](#).

April 18 – Dayton, Ohio: Phil Arkow will present on The Link at a community program sponsored by [Montgomery County Animal Services](#).

April 18-19 – Toronto, Ont., Canada: Tim Battle will discuss “Pet Safekeeping for Domestic Violence Victims: Starting, Operating and Sustaining a Program,” and several presenters will discuss Animal Hoarding at the [National Animal Welfare Conference](#).

April 20 – Niceville, FL: Allie Phillips will present on “The Danger of When Animal Abuse Co-Occurs with Family Violence: Strategies and Policies for Keeping Children Safe” at the 2016 Annual Child Abuse Conference.

April 28 – Fresno, Calif.: Phil Arkow, Madeline Bernstein and Claudia Swing will conduct Link trainings at a community event hosted by the [Central California Animal Disaster Team](#).

May 2-3 – Spokane, WA: Barbara Boat will present on “A New Advocacy Tool: Connecting the Links between “Toxic Stress” and “The Toxic Triad” (Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence) at the [Children’s Justice Conference](#).

May 4 – Virginia Beach, Va.: Phil Arkow will discuss “Practical Guidance for the Effective Response by Veterinarians to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect” with the [Virginia Beach Veterinary Association](#).

May 6 – Manahawkin, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency staff on the implications of animal abuse in child welfare through the [Child Welfare Training Partnership](#).

May 11-13 – St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.: Several Link programs will be offered at the 9th Annual [Veterinary Forensic Sciences conference](#).

May 14-15 – Prague, Czech Republic: Allie Phillips and Chuck Mitchell of the Florida Courthouse Therapy Dogs Program will give a presentation on “Therapy Animals in the Judicial System: How You Can Help Maltreated Child Witnesses” at the 2016 Animal Assisted Intervention International Conference.

May 16 – New Brunswick, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency staff on the implications of animal abuse in child welfare through the [Child Welfare Training Partnership](#).

May 24 – Newtown, Penna.: Phil Arkow will present on “Animal Abuse, Animal Hoarding and Elder Abuse: Challenges and Strategies for Adult Protective Services” at the [Neff Symposium](#) on the Prevention of Crimes Against Older Adults.

June 2-3 – Boise, ID: Allie Phillips will present at the [Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance](#) on The Danger of When Animal Abuse Occurs with Family Violence, Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T), and Therapy Animals Supporting Kids in the Judicial Process.

July 11-13 – Paris, France: Phil Arkow will participate in a global exchange examining research and practice aspects of animal abuse and domestic violence at the [International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations’](#) Triennial conference.

Sept. 15 – Mashantucket, Conn.: Phil Arkow will train on the domestic violence/animal abuse Link at the [Connecticut State Animal Control Officers’](#) conference.

Sept. 29 – Black Hawk, Colo.: Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the [Colorado Animal Welfare Conference](#).

Oct. 17-21 – Keene, Plymouth, Rochester, Manchester, & Concord, N.H.: Phil Arkow will present Link training to the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth & Families, and other government, domestic violence and animal care and control [agencies](#).

Nov. 4 -- Phoenix, Md.: Nancy Blaney will present at the Baltimore County State’s Attorney’s Office Animal Abuse Unit [Animal Abuse Leadership Summit](#).

Nov. 5-6 – Sydney, Australia: [Lucy’s Project](#) will hold its 2nd annual conference on Perspectives of Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse. Speakers will include Lydia Tong, Catherine Tiplady, representatives from RSPCA offices, academia, and domestic violence programs.

To subscribe to The Link-Letter (*it’s free!*) – Just send an e-mail to Coordinator Phil Arkow (arkowpets@snip.net) and tell us what organization(s) you’re with and where you’re located.



ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multi-disciplinary collaborative network of individuals and organizations in human services and animal welfare who address the intersections between animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse through research, public policy, programming and community awareness. We believe that human and animal well-being are inextricably intertwined and that the prevention of family and community violence can best be achieved through partnerships representing multi-species perspectives.

Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

Phil Arkow, Coordinator

Consultant, ASPCA
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,
The Latham Foundation
Stratford, N.J.

Lesley Ashworth

Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund
Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
Columbus City Attorney's Office/Prosecution Division
Blowing Rock, N. Car.

Diane Balkin, J.D.

Contract Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund
Past President, Int'l. Veterinary Forensic Sciences Assn.
Denver, Colo.

Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Exec. Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio

Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

Executive Director,
Animals and Society Institute
Atlanta, Ga.

Jane A. Hunt

Coordinator, Community Health Improvement Plan
Larimer County Department of Health
Ft. Collins, Colo.

Mark Kumpf, CAWA

Past President, National Animal Control Association
Director, Montgomery County Animal Resource Center
Dayton, Ohio

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Senior Vice Pres., Forensic Sciences & Anti-Cruelty Projects,
ASPCA
Falls Church, Va.

Natalie Martinez

Programs Manager
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Denver, Colo.

Paul Needham

Chair, Education Committee,
National Adult Protective Services Association
Shawnee, Okla.

Maria Luisa O'Neill

Bilingual Domestic Violence Expert, Trainer and Consultant
Denver, Colo.

Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D.

Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Welfare Division
American Veterinary Medical Association
Schaumburg, Ill.

Eve Pearl

Executive Director, Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio
Cincinnati, Ohio

Allie Phillips, J.D.

Director, Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T)
Lansing, Mich.

Chris Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor/Animal-Human Interactions Coordinator
Arizona State University School of Social Work
Phoenix, Ariz.

Michele Robinson

Program Manager, Family Violence & Domestic Relations
National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges
Reno, Nev.

Hugh Tebault III

President,
The Latham Foundation
Alameda, Calif.

John Thompson

Deputy Executive Director/Chief of Staff
National Sheriffs Association
Director, National Coalition on Violence Against Animals
Alexandria, Va.