

Introduction to the Link, MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING:

“The Cruelty Connection: Breaking the Chain of Community Violence by Stopping Animal Abuse”

PRESENTER: Phil Arkow, Coordinator of the National Link Coalition

Phil Arkow is an acclaimed lecturer, author and trainer who has conducted over 200 trainings in 15 countries and authored more than 60 books, chapters and articles. He is Coordinator of the National Link Coalition which serves as the National Resource Center on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence. He also chairs the Latham Foundation’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project. He is a consultant to the ASPCA. He co-founded the National Link Coalition, the National Animal Control Association, the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey, and the Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies. He teaches Certificate courses in Animal-Assisted Therapy at Harcum College and Camden County College, and teaches in the University of Florida’s course on Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence. A former newspaper reporter and foundation communications officer, Arkow is a prolific authority on the human-animal bond, violence prevention, humane education, animal-assisted therapy, and animal shelter management. He has served on boards and committees with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Delta Society (Pet Partners), the American Humane Association, the Animals & Society Institute, the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians, and the National Coalition on Violence against Animals. He recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from New Jersey Child Assault Prevention.

DATE: December 2nd, 2015

TIME: 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Downtown, West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel: 1001 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

PURPOSE:

Renewed interest in how animal cruelty and neglect are frequently linked with domestic violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and elder abuse are prompting many communities to initiate multidisciplinary Link coalitions aimed to reduce all forms of family violence. These coalitions build upon the synergy and cross-fertilization that occur when multiple perspectives and resources are utilized collaboratively to solve overarching civic problems.

Some examples of goals of a Link organization would be to: establish protocols for cross-training and cross-reporting between animal welfare and human services agencies, new statistical collection methods, community awareness and education, domestic violence shelter and animal shelter partnerships, animal protection in the context of domestic violence, lobbying for legislation change regarding animal abuse and pet protection in domestic relationships, safety planning, redesigning crisis lines and lethality assessments, humane education, fundraising on behalf of these efforts, and more. According to evidence-based research, animal abuse does not occur in a vacuum and is a very essential piece of the family violence cycle. This interactive training incorporates an introductory workshop on The Link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence, with open discussion of the advantages of a multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of and response to family violence from your agency’s or your personal perspective. Participants will consider and give feedback regarding challenges of leadership establishing and sustaining a coalition. Practical coalition projects will be suggested. Participants will examine their organizations’ strengths and weaknesses that impact the formation of a community task force coalescing around a common cause. A 7-step process to establish a coalition will be described. Guidelines from existing coalitions and resources from national organizations will be presented. A facilitated exercise will help participants identify systems, organizations and individuals in their community that will form the nucleus of a local Link coalition. Participants will leave with defined action steps to help to carry the Link Coalition concept into reality.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Animal Welfare agencies, Human Services agencies, Victim Services agencies, Criminal Justice System, child protection agencies, the community, and more

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3M7T5Q8>

COST: FREE.

POINT OF CONTACT: Amber Ahern, [772-634-5682](tel:772-634-5682) or thesouthfloralinkcoalition@gmail.com

***Certificates of participation will be provided. CEUs/CLEs: Yet to be determined.

***Breakfast will be provided.

***National Link Coalition monthly newsletter: <http://nationallinkcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/LinkLetter-2015-August.pdf>