



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



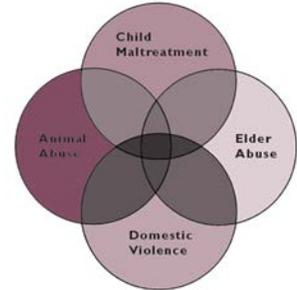
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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*April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month
April 10-16 is National Animal Care & Control Appreciation Week
and National Crime Victims' Rights Week*

THE LINK AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Bill Would Include Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Link in California P.O.S.T. Training

Growing awareness of the impact of domestic violence on survivors of domestic violence has prompted California State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson to introduce **SB 1200**. The measure would require the course on domestic violence within California's Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) curriculum to include adequate instruction on "the seriousness of animal cruelty and its link to violence against humans."

Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson Existing law directs the P.O.S.T. Commission to establish minimum standards, implement courses of instruction, and develop guidelines for law enforcement response that are applicable to specific types of cases, including domestic violence. Such training includes instruction in specified procedures and techniques, including the legal duties imposed on peace officers in domestic violence cases and the services and facilities available to victims and batterers. The bill would add awareness of the animal abuse/domestic violence Link to these provisions.

The bill would also add probation officers to the list of peace officers who receive P.O.S.T. training.

SB 1200 was introduced Feb. 18 and was sent to the Senate Public Safety Committee, where a hearing was scheduled for April 12.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Albany D.A. Aims to Stop Domestic Violence By Reporting Animal Abuse to 911

Milwaukee's pioneering Link-based domestic violence prevention program, spotabuse.org (See the [January 2015](#) and [June 2014 LINK-Letters](#)) has spawned an offshoot in Albany, N.Y. On March 9, the Albany County District Attorney's Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT) unveiled a dramatic [TV public service announcement](#) which, like its Milwaukee predecessor, encourages residents to stop domestic violence by calling 911 to report animal abuse.



District Attorney P. David Soares

Based on research from the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys that 76% of animal abusers also abuse a member of their family, the initiative aims to have more people call 911 when they suspect life-threatening animal abuse. Such calls will afford police a greater opportunity to uncover more domestic violence cases, said District Attorney P. David Soares in making the announcement.



The Milwaukee campaign depicts dramatic, graphic photos of battered women, children and animals with text saying that there is not just one victim: another one will be next. The Albany 30-second PSA features a woman bringing a dog in to a veterinarian for treatment. When the veterinarian is skeptical of the woman's account of the injuries, she turns her head and we can see her severely blackened eye. The ad closes with a photo of a child and the caption, "He's next."

"The message of the initiative is simple," said Soares. "Please join us today in the fight to end domestic abuse and animal cruelty. Your 'ACT' could save a life."

Guidelines Published Addressing Service Animals in Shelters

In addition to the ongoing issue of accommodating pets of domestic violence survivors, domestic violence shelters must occasionally respond to disabled survivors whose service animals must be allowed to accompany them under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and various state laws. The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence has just [published guidelines](#) addressing this concern.



Service Animal Accommodation Information for Domestic Violence Service Providers is the result of a year-long effort. Modeled after an earlier [Model Protocol on Service Animals in Domestic Violence Shelters](#) published in 2009 by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the 31-page Maryland guidelines include basic information about service animals and the people who use them; laws applying to non-residential and shelter services; best practices for shelters and non-residential programs; ideas for partnerships and collaborations; and resources.

[Amber Guthrie](#), Project Manager of Coalition Training and Technical Assistance at MNADV, tells *The LINK-Letter* that the working group "dedicated time and energy to develop user-friendly, trauma-informed language that hones in on best practices as well as necessary collaborations. While the document was adapted specifically for Maryland, we hope that it will be helpful and widely utilized by advocates and activists around the world."

Ladies and Gentlemen: Start Your Leashes!

Harbor House – the pet-friendly domestic violence shelter in Orlando, Fla. – will give pet owners and their animals a chance to shed a few pounds and raise a few dollars with a dog walk on Saturday morning, April 23. The 6th Annual [Paws for Peace Walk](#) will raise funds for the sheltered pets of domestic violence survivors at Harbor House and will raise community awareness about the impact of domestic abuse on pets and their owners. The Paws for Peace kennel facilities remove a key barrier to survivors seeking safety and ensures that no family member is left behind in an abusive home.



Iowa City Shelter Expanding Its Services

Over the past 15 years, the Domestic Violence Intervention Program in Iowa City, Iowa has been raising funds and recruiting community support to provide foster homes and critical medical supplies and food for the pets of domestic violence survivors. In the past year alone, the program – known as [Cooper's House](#) – has fostered two horses, one donkey, one potbelly pig with eight piglets, three rats, one snake, one bearded dragon and one rabbit – not to mention 12 cats and seven dogs.

But the only safe-pet program in Iowa realized this wasn't sufficient. "Many times our volunteer foster parents work with our families to make sure they see their pets throughout their stay in shelter, but this doesn't replace being with your pet when you leave your home," say DVIP officials. So plans are underway for a major expansion.

Thanks to a \$6,000 capital construction grant from RedRover ([See the January 2016 LINK-Letter](#)), DVIP plans to expand the Cooper's House program this summer. Renovating a basement room will add three dog kennels, three cat havens and an outdoor dog run, plus add special venting and bathing facilities to assist an additional 20 pets per year.

The Iowa City Animal Care & Adoption Center will assist with training staff and volunteers committed to Cooper's House. DVIP has also recruited local veterinarians who will provide medical screening of pets coming into the shelter.

The foster care program will continue, but adding kennels will allow DVIP additional flexibility and unique support to help families in crisis, says Executive Director Kristie Fortmann-Doser. "We've known for a long time that a little over 70% of victims of domestic and dating violence have pets. We would constantly hear on the crisis line people saying they can't leave their home because they're worried about their pets," she told the [Iowa City Press-Citizen](#).

DVIP will also begin offering a therapy dog program to reduce stress among shelter residents, staff and volunteers and to provide support during times of crisis or conflict. The human-animal bond can facilitate healing, aid attachment, and provide comfort to survivors and their children, shelter staff note. Animal visits will help residents to nurture, to cope with grief and loss, and to rebuild trust.

BUILDING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK

Oklahoma Animal Study Includes Link Considerations

In 2012, the Kirkpatrick Foundation of Oklahoma City embarked on an ambitious 20-year-long campaign, the [Safe & Humane initiative](#) seeking to make Oklahoma the safest and most humane place in which to be an animal by the year 2032. Based on Link-like premises that “human and animal welfare are inextricably linked” and that “Oklahoma communities view themselves as rooted in proud traditions of cooperation and commitment,” the initiative seeks to convene, honor, promote, fund, and research efforts to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma’s animals and the people who care for them.



A major step forward in the campaign is the publication of an extensive, 200-page monograph defining issues affecting the state’s companion, farm, laboratory, exotic, and wild animals and offering dozens of policy and programmatic recommendations to address these concerns. *The Oklahoma Animal Study* is richly-illustrated with dramatic photos and is a user-friendly guide to a plethora of animal welfare issues, featuring informative maps and charts, end notes, appendices, and a glossary.

The report incorporates 114 interviews conducted over two years with state and national stakeholders from such sectors as animal welfare, domestic violence, child welfare services, law enforcement, veterinary medicine, agriculture and food producers, academia, zoos, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, wildlife conservation, and philanthropy. The *Study* is believed to be the first comprehensive analysis of the status of animals in any state.

Among the many observations and recommendations presented, several Link issues are addressed. The *Study* recommends:

- Expansion of the Oklahoma Link Coalition, currently focused in Oklahoma City, across the entire state to better advocate for change regarding the link between violence toward animals and other forms of violence including domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse.
- Encouraging and funding domestic violence shelters to accommodate pets with their owners. Currently, Tulsa has the only operational pet-friendly domestic violence shelter in the state.
- Promotion and support of animal-assisted therapy and service animal programs, including prison dog and cat programs, equine-assisted therapy, and veteran service-dog programs.

“The human-animal relationship and bonds are at the core of animal welfare issues, and animal welfare lies at this complex nexus of cultural events and changes,” the *Study* notes. “Scientific research and a growing body of evidence reveal the connection between animal cruelty and other violent behavior.

“Once viewed by law enforcement as a tangential concern better left to animal welfare organizations, animal cruelty is now becoming recognized as part of a larger network of violence and crime, including domestic and child abuse, drug trafficking, gambling, illegal firearms possession, rape, and murder. Many communities provide cross-training and cross-reporting for law enforcement personnel, social service workers, and animal control agencies to recognize signs of animal abuse and other forms of community violence.”

Link Cited as Rationale for Expanded Humane Education in California

Citing numerous academic studies that “have established a correlation between animal cruelty during childhood and interpersonal violence in adulthood,” and the potential for humane education to “disrupt the cycle of human and animal abuse by decreasing a child’s potential to be abusive or neglectful,” California State Assemblymen Matt Dababneh and Ian Calderon have introduced **HR 28** that would expand the humane education offerings already recommended for California public schools.



Assemblymen Matt Dababneh and Ian Calderon

Since 1977, California’s Education Code §60042 (the Hate Violence Prevention Act) has required that schools’ governing boards shall require such instructional materials as necessary and proper “to encourage thrift, fire prevention and the humane treatment of animals and people.” This section, however, does not provide funding nor does it specifically require a humane education curriculum.

HR 28 calls on the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, and the California Department of Education to ensure compliance with the Education Code relative to humane education in California’s public school system. It includes educating students on the principles of kindness and respect for animals and observance of laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the humane treatment of animals, including wildlife and its environment.

“Humane education programs seek to prevent violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all living beings and help children develop into caring, responsible citizens,” reads the preamble to the bill. “Reputable nonprofit organizations are working to implement humane education programs through in-classroom presentations, teacher training, and the provision of relevant resources, and these organizations could assist California schools in complying with the Education Code’s humane education provisions without burdening school budgets.”

The measure also resolves that the Superintendent of Public Instruction be encouraged to ensure the incorporation of humane education in the core curriculum. The bill is in the House Education Committee, where a hearing was scheduled for April 6.



Hugh and Mary Tebault (standing) honor Judy Johns on her celebrating 25 years as editor of the Latham Foundation’s *Latham Letter*. The foundation and its quarterly magazine have long been advocates for humane education, animal-assisted interventions, and raising awareness of the Link between animal abuse and human violence. Congratulations, Judy, for all you have done – and continue to do – for the cause!



Municipal Workers to be Trained to Recognize and Report Animal Abuse

A City Commissioner in Tallahassee, Fla., is using the potential for animal abuse to escalate into violence against humans as the rationale for a proposal that all city workers who go door-to-door watch for signs of animal abuse. Scott Maddox told [WTXL-TV](#) that animal abuse can grow into family abuse. “We need to crack down on pet abuse now, make it tougher, make the penalties tougher,” he said. “We want to take animals away from people that are abusing them and we want to make sure that we hit them in the pocketbook so they know not to do it again.”



Scott Maddox

A City Commission meeting on March 23 concluded with plans to train city employees in the field on how to detect and report animal abuse. The move came in response to concerns about possible lapses in the enforcement of animal cruelty ordinances.

Maddox, a former Tallahassee Mayor, had been “astounded” when a judge returned a dog to a defendant who admitted he was fighting dogs amid evidence of a dogfighting ring, guns and drugs.

“There is a direct link to animal cruelty and child abuse, domestic abuse and illegal activity,” Maddox told the [Tallahassee Democrat](#). “We must do whatever we need to to strengthen our law enforcement efforts to stop animal cruelty and educate the public to report animal cruelty when they see it.”



One SIU raid seized an illegal caiman kept in an Edinburgh bathtub. “His girlfriend had had enough of not being able to have a bath so she phoned us,” said a SIU investigator. “You’d be amazed at how many people are prepared to break the law.”

Scottish SPCA Addressing The Link

Founded in 1839, the Scottish SPCA has been preventing animal abuse for more than 175 years and in more recent decades has linked animal cruelty to human violence. A new, super-secret program called the Special Investigations Unit recently received unprecedented media coverage.

It was only with the passage of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act in 2006 that SSPCA investigators could issue care notices and seize abused animals. The law imposed fines of up to £20,000 and one-year jail sentences. Uniformed police officers soon were inundated with cruelty complaints. The SSPCA began to hire former police officers to staff a SIU. To keep operations fully secret, officers work under aliases, out of a building and vehicles leased by a dummy corporation. They receive 140 tips a week.

[The Sunday Post](#) followed the five-man undercover SIU task force for two months through puppy mill raids on animals smuggled in from Eastern Europe, animal fighting, and outlawed wildlife trafficking. Raids uncovered suspected links to organized crime and illegal drugs being traded for smuggled dogs.

“I’ve seen people subject animals to all sorts of horrific abuse in the name of entertainment,” said one SIU officer. “Dog fighting, badger baiting and shooting defenseless animals. The state they’re left in is sickening. People sometimes say ‘they are only animals, why does it matter? It’s very simple. People who are capable of battering animals often end up battering humans. By then it can sometimes be too late.”

THE LINK AND... VETERINARY MEDICINE

Guide for Reporting Animal Abuse Published

A 128-page manual to assist Minnesota veterinarians in establishing standard operating procedures for reporting suspected animal abuse has been published by [Animal Folks](#), a research-based animal protection nonprofit in St. Paul. The manual, produced as part of the organization's Animal Law Resources program, is [available online](#) and in a limited number of hard-copy editions with an accompanying flashdrive containing evidence collection and veterinary forensic forms and pain scales, and is also available as a free online download.



Reporting Animal Cruelty: Establishing Protocols to Identify and Report Suspected Animal Cruelty in Minnesota addresses the concerns of veterinarians and the veterinary team who are, as the manual notes, “on the frontline of animal cruelty. The veterinary profession is complicated. As a health professional you may be introduced to situations in your practice where animals have been mistreated. This maltreatment may also suggest other violence within the home toward humans.”

The spiral-bound manual, lavishly illustrated, features seven sections addressing:

- **Fundamentals:** Veterinarians' unique role, key considerations, changing societal values about animals, motivations for and types of animal abuse, and the Link between animal abuse and human violence.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** Minnesota's mandatory reporting law, applicable statutes, myths and facts about reporting suspected abuse, and professional codes of ethics.
- **Standard Operating Procedures:** Five steps for creating a systematized response protocol.
- **Legal Actions:** The judicial system's process of charging and trying defendants, and how veterinarians can serve as expert witnesses.
- **Other Considerations:** Confidentiality and immunity, culpability for failing to report, compensation, and dealing with the media.

Although written for Minnesota veterinarians, the general concepts could be easily modified in other states by substituting those states' relevant statutes. Animal Folks hopes to revise the manual as new information becomes available, and to produce similar manuals for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, and perhaps mental health professionals, said Ann Olson, Executive Director.

Several members of the National Link Coalition served as advisors to the project.

Virginia Expands Veterinary Reporting of Animal Abuse

In 2010, the Code of Virginia was amended to add §54.1-3812.1 which granted veterinarians immunity from civil and criminal liability or administrative sanction for reporting, in good faith, suspected animal cruelty. This provision was expanded on March 1 when Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed into law **HB802**. The new law expands the definition of those who are granted this immunity to “any person regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine,” thereby including veterinary technicians.



Gov. Terry McAuliffe

Veterinary School Students Aid Pets of Domestic Violence Survivors

Among the difficult decisions that a woman in an abusive relationship may face is the dilemma of what to do with her pets: shelters for her and her children often can't accept pets. If she leaves the pets behind, the abusive partner might neglect, abuse, kill them, or give them away.

But women in Central Illinois can have a little peace of mind knowing that their pets are safe and lovingly cared for when they seek respite from violent partners in two area shelters. Since 2001, A Pet's Place – an outreach program of the University of Illinois' College of Veterinary Medicine – has been a temporary pet shelter for pets of domestic violence survivors staying at A Woman's Place in Urbana or BETHS (Because Eventually the Healing Starts) Place in Tuscola.



Cheryl Weber and Marcella Ridgway

When a woman decides to leave her home, but has no one to provide foster care for her pets, she and shelter staff members can arrange for a volunteer from A Pet's Place to pick up the pets at the shelter and keep them safe for up to 30 days.

Pet's Place volunteers are on call seven days a week to transport pets. Kennels and pet food also are at the shelters to keep pets fed and comfortable in the event a woman and her pets enter the shelter when a volunteer isn't available.

"I think this program helps vet students understand about domestic violence and family violence," said Cheryl Weber, MSW, assistant professor, grief educator and coordinator of A Pet's Place. "Domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and animal abuse can be interrelated. It's a public-health issue, and I think vets have a role to play in trying to make 'every home a safe home,' which is the goal of domestic violence professionals. I sense that most students haven't really thought about this before they get here."

Marcella Ridgway, associate professor in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, agreed. "The people here who get involved with A Pet's Place change as people. They have an understanding of other people at a level which they'd never have attained without the experience they've had in the program.

"As vets, we're so intimately involved with the family because pets are family members. If you're dealing with the pet family member and you don't understand the family environment where that pet lives, there's a big piece missing from that and in the communication with the family that belongs to the pet."

Robert Reisman Honored for Veterinary Service

Dr. Robert Reisman, a long-time pioneer in the veterinary forensics movement and author of numerous articles on veterinary responsibilities regarding The Link between animal abuse and human violence, was recognized on March 19 with the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City's prestigious 2016 Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine Award.



"The advancement of veterinary forensic sciences is essential to the fight against animal cruelty," said Randall Lockwood, Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects, ASPCA Anti-Cruelty. "Dr. Reisman's work in New York City and his ongoing research have advanced the application of veterinary medicine **Robert Reisman, DVM** to the prosecution and prevention of violence against animals. His efforts throughout the years have given countless animal victims a voice."

Reisman first joined the [ASPCA](#) (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in 1988 and now is the Supervisor of Forensic Sciences at the ASPCA Animal Hospital in Manhattan. He founded the ASPCA's forensic sciences department and oversees forensic evaluations for animal cruelty victims in New York City. He has served as an expert trial witness in more than 60 cases in the city and across the U.S. He has also a founding member of the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association.

The veterinary association also awarded the 2016 Service to the Veterinary Community and the Welfare of Animals Award to the New York City Police Department for its contributions to animal welfare. The NYPD in 2014 began taking the lead role in responding to all animal cruelty complaints in the five boroughs, and the ASPCA began providing direct care support for the victims and conducting police training and forensic analysis. The partnership has broken records, with the number of animal cruelty arrests and animals being treated increasing by nearly 200% in the first year.

Three Veterinary Social Work Positions Available



The **Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center**, in Pittsburgh, Pa., is hiring a Veterinary Social Worker to provide emotional support to clients, consultation services to clinical staff, short-term interventions, and psychoeducational programs for 330 employees who see 55,000 patients a year. The Veterinary Social Worker will also develop an internship program with the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Details and a job application are [available online](#). For further questions contact [Sandra Brackenridge](#).

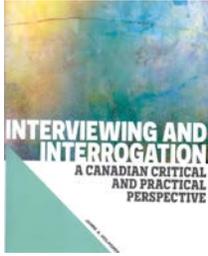


The **Argus Institute** at the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital is hiring an additional clinic counselor. Integrated into the veterinary medical team, this position facilitates client decision-making about their pets' medical treatment, quality of life and end-of-life assessment. This position provides crisis intervention, brief counseling, and grief support for people with pets as well as the faculty, clinicians, staff and students of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Details and a job application are [available online](#).

Michigan State University is seeking applicants for a Coordinator of Veterinary Social Work Services who will also develop and teach a Human-Animal Bond certificate program. [Apply online](#) by April 28 and enter Posting # 3137.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILD MALTREATMENT

Interviewing Children in Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty Cases



Frequently overlooked in the investigation of crimes is the skill needed to interview suspects, witnesses and victims effectively. Interpersonal communication, plus interview and interrogation techniques, can dramatically affect the success or failure of prosecutions. In this practical manual for law enforcement and social service agencies, Dr. Janne Holmgren, associate professor of economics, policy and justice studies at Mount Royal University, presents 10 chapters on forensic interviews, report writing, non-verbal behavior, false confessions, and interrogation models.

Chapter 8 covers interviews with children who have experienced trauma. It includes an extensive section by National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow on child abuse and companion animals, with background on the child-animal bond and what happens when this bond breaks. Best practices in forensic child interviews are also presented. Though written primarily for Canadian criminal justice proceedings, the book has wide applicability in other nations as well.

-- Holmgren, J.A. (2016). *Interviewing and Interrogation: A Canadian Critical and Practical Perspective*. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.

THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE

Distinguishing Non-Accidental Injury from Motor Vehicle Traumas

Perpetrators and survivors of intimate partner violence often attempt to disguise the physical violence committed against their pets as something other than non-accidental injury (NAI), such as claiming the animal was hit by a car in a motor vehicle accident (MVA). To help establish evidence-based patterns of injury that will help veterinarians differentiate NAI from MVA blunt-force traumas, the authors compared medical records of 426 dogs and cats treated after known MVA trauma with 50 NAI victims. Injuries associated with NAI were fractures of the skull, teeth, vertebrae, and ribs, scleral hemorrhage, damage to claws, and evidence of older fractures. MVA rib fractures were found to occur in clusters on one side of the body, with cranial ribs more likely to fracture, while NAI rib fractures were found to occur bilaterally with no cranial-caudal pattern. Odds ratios were reported for NAI injuries. Such veterinary forensics findings will aid in the documentation and prosecution of animal abuse.

-- Intarapanich, N.P., McCobb, E.C., Reisman, R.W., Rozanski, E.A., & Intarapanich, P.P. (2016). Characterization and comparison of injuries caused by accidental and non-accidental blunt force trauma in dogs and cats. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* (in press: doi: 10.1111/1556-4029.13074)

Veterinary Recognition and Intervention in Animal Cruelty Described

Trying to resolve the many moral, ethical and legal complexities involved with veterinarians' reporting suspected abuse is an ongoing challenge. [Veterinary Practice News](#) has just published a cover article summarizing veterinary obligations, and telltale signs of neglect, hoarding, animal fighting and intentional injuries. The article describes how to have an animal cruelty response plan in place and considers how to move "beyond animal cruelty" when other forms of family violence are suspected.

-- Duncan, S. (2016, April). A cry for help: Learn to recognize animal abuse & know how to intervene. *Veterinary Practice News*, 28(4), pp. 1, 14, 42.

Veterinary Pathologists' Response to Crime Scenes Discussed

As the public has become more aware of animal abuse and its connection to human violence, society is demanding that these crimes be investigated. Law enforcement and attorneys require experts trained in veterinary forensic medicine to assist them in building strong cases. In this article (which will be published in a special forensics edition in July but is currently available online), Rachel Touroo and Amanda Fitch describe the obligation of the veterinary forensic pathologist to be competent in identifying, collecting, and preserving evidence and in understanding the relevance of conditions at the crime scene. These factors will assist the veterinary forensic pathologist in the interpretation of necropsy findings. The article calls on veterinary pathologists to include animal abuse within their differential diagnoses.

-- Touroo, R., & Fitch, A. (2016). Identification, collection, and preservation of veterinary forensic evidence: On scene and during the postmortem examination. *Veterinary Pathology*, 1-8. (In press: doi: 10.1177/0300985816641175)

NEWS from LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

New Mexico Coalition Becoming a Nonprofit



Our New Mexico Link coalition – [Positive Links](#) – has announced that it passed a milestone. After 10 years of offering annual Link conferences, the group has decided to incorporate as a nonprofit. “We have a board of directors and bylaws, and a fresh set of goals including many more trainings in remote

corners of the state where animal cruelty is a serious problem,” coordinator Tammy Fiebelkorn tells The LINK-Letter. “Nonprofit status gives us the ability to apply for grants and raise money through tax-deductible donations, lending legitimacy to our project as a charitable cause.”

The move coincides with a shift to expand the conference to reach communities in surrounding states and to hold it on a biennial basis, with the next one set for 2017. Crucial media outreach and policy advocacy are also being added to the group’s mission.

The group is appealing to Link supporters to help raise \$800 in order to apply for federal 501(c)3 status, plus \$200 to incorporate with the state (where nonprofit status has already been granted) and to set up point-of-sale credit-card donations. Anyone who donates at least \$100 will be named a Founding Sponsor on their website and other materials.

Donations can be mailed to Positive Links Inc., 1445 Adams St NE, Albuquerque NM 87110 or online at www.thelinknm.com/support-the-link.aspx.



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 have appropriated \$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 was been sent to the Finance Committee, where it was postponed indefinitely.



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 SB 97 was signed into law on March 1 by Gov. Scott Walker. Judges or circuit court commissioners issuing temporary restraining orders or injunctions not only in domestic violence cases but also in child abuse, individual-at-risk and harassment situations may order the respondent not to remove, hide, damage, harm, mistreat, or dispose of a household pet. Petitioners or family members acting on their behalf may retrieve a household pet.

Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child



Idaho HB399 would make the torture of a companion animal in the presence of a minor a felony. The bill is in the House Ways & Means Committee.



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 for a third reading.

“CASA for Animals”

 **Connecticut HB 5344** would allow courts to appoint attorneys or law school students as advocates for any animals involved in prosecutions concerning custody of the animals or their welfare. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

 **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 Joint Committee on the Judiciary approved the bill on April 4 and referred it to the Joint Rules Committee.

 **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.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes

 **California HR28** would encourage the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure the incorporation of humane education in the core curriculum in order to disrupt the cycle of human and animal abuse by decreasing a child’s potential to be abusive or neglectful. On April 6 the bill was unanimously approved by the House Education Committee.

 **California SB 1200** would require the course on domestic violence within California’s Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) curriculum to include adequate instruction on “the seriousness of animal cruelty and its link to violence against humans.” The bill is in the Public Safety Committee, where a hearing was scheduled for April 12.

 **Florida S314** and **HB129** would have amended juvenile justice provisions to allow prosecutors to charge juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 as adults for committing any of 17 crimes including aggravated animal cruelty by intentional acts. Prosecutors would have been required to gather considerable data regarding the children, including any histories of abuse or neglect. **S314** passed the Senate by a vote of 40-0 but died in the House. **HB 129** died in the House Justice Appropriations Committee. 

 **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 passed the Judiciary Committee and is in the Committee of the Whole. **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** and **S6919** would create a statewide task force to study how to improve investigations of animal abuse and enforcement of anti-cruelty laws. The bills are in the Agriculture Committees.



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 March 7 and was sent to 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.

Animal Sexual Abuse



Michigan SB 219, which amends several sections of the state penal code regarding animal cruelty crimes, adds a provision that anyone convicted of animal sexual abuse (called “the abominable and detestable crime against nature” in the bill) is not only guilty of a felony but shall be prohibited from owning or possessing an animal for five years. The prohibition appears to also apply to persons convicted of anal sex with a human being. The bill has passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.



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 unanimously passed the House and was scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 29.

Animal-Assisted Therapeutic Interventions for Abuse Victims



Connecticut Raised Bill No. 5140 would allow volunteer teams of therapy animals and their registered handlers, with whom a child victim of assault, sexual assault or child abuse feels comfortable, to be present during courtroom testimony. The bill was approved by the Joint Committee on Children and is in the House Committee on Judiciary.

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.

Cross Reporting



Georgia HB 892 would clarify that a veterinarian can report suspect animal cruelty without violating confidentiality requirements. The bill is in the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee



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 passed the House Agriculture & Small Business Committee and the Rules Committee and was approved by the House 67-30. The bill is now in the Senate Agriculture Committee.



Maryland SB 722 and **HB 1586** would require a veterinarian who has reason to believe that an animal has been subjected to abuse or neglect to make a specified report. **Senate Bill 722** received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial proceedings Committee. **House Bill 1586** is in the House Rules and Executive Nominations 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** was approved on April 4 by the Joint Judiciary Committee and was referred to the Joint Rules 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.



New York's SB 6659 and **AB9346** would change language regarding reporting of suspected animal abuse from "the veterinarian may report" to the appropriate law-enforcement agency to "shall report." The bills are in the Higher Education 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.



Tennessee is reportedly considering an amendment to its **Veterinary Practice Act** to include protection from liability for veterinarians who report suspected cases of abuse.



Virginia HB802 expands the definition of those who are granted immunity from civil or criminal liability or administrative sanction for reporting, in good faith, suspected animal

cruelty from “veterinarian” to “any person regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine,” thereby including veterinary technicians. The bill passed the House and Senate and **was signed into law on March 1.**



Wisconsin SB 727 would have expanded the reporting requirement to apply to a violation of any animal cruelty law; a veterinarian making a report of animal mistreatment in good faith would be immune from civil liability. (Current Wisconsin law requires a veterinarian to report to a humane officer or law enforcement officer only when the veterinarian has reason to believe that an animal has been in a fight in violation of the law relating to animal fighting.) The bill was in the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety when the legislative session ended.



Animal Hoarding



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

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Teen Pleads Guilty in Double Homicide Following Years of Animal, Child and Domestic Abuse

A teenager who hated her mother and stepfather after both women endured years of mental, emotional and physical abuse that included having been burned and raped at the age of 9 and being forced to watch him kill baby animals pleaded guilty on March 11 to two counts of homicide.



Ashlee Martinson

Ashlee Martinson, of Piehl, Wis., who had just turned 17 at the time of the March, 2015 incident, told the court that she woke up on her birthday to seeing her stepfather, Thomas Ayers, 37, beating her mother, Jennifer Ayers, 40, and feared he would kill her. After the parents forbade her to see her boyfriend, she took one of the many shotguns in the home and retreated to her bedroom with the intention of killing herself. When Thomas Ayers began banging on the door, she shot him twice. She sought comfort from her mother, who instead grabbed a knife; Martinson wrestled the knife away from her and stabbed her mother 30 times.

After a nationwide manhunt, Martinson and her boyfriend were apprehended in Indiana. The [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel](#) and [People Magazine](#) reported that Martinson was a horror blogger who wrote about her macabre obsession with death under the name “Vampchick.” Court records said she suffered from severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder from numerous traumas including her stepfather making her and her siblings watch him kill baby animals in front of their parents to see the reaction of the animal parents. Court filings also said that Jennifer Ayers had been serially sexually abused by her own father and had experienced a series of abusive relationships herself. Martinson faces up to 40 years in prison at a sentencing hearing scheduled for June 17.

Man Charged with Beating Puppy to Death in Domestic Violence Case



John Varcadipone

Police in Wayne, N.J., responding to sounds of shouting and the crashing of household items coming from a mobile home, found blood, broken furniture and a dead 6-month-old husky. John Varcadipone, 23, was charged with beating the dog to death with a kitchen chair plus other charges including assault in an incident of domestic violence, according to [news media reports](#). Varcadipone is alleged to have terrorized the unnamed woman by beating her dog to death while she hid in the next room. He also is accused of biting her ear and banging her head against the wall, and assaulting his brother. Varcadipone, who had been sentenced to three years probation last May on drug charges, pled not guilty and was being held in the Passaic County Jail on \$75,000 bail. Charges of animal cruelty had not yet been filed but were said to be forthcoming.

Woman Who Allegedly Stabbed Her Dog to Death to Save on Euthanasia Costs also Charged with Child Abuse and Drug Counts



Laura Beth Hesse

Teen Gets 32 Days in Jail in Tortoise Torture Case Prior to Sex Abuse Trial



Jennifer Greene

A 19-year-old girl who had been charged with cruelty to animals and lewd and lascivious battery with a 14-year-old boy ([see the March 2015 LINK-Letter](#)) has been sentenced to 32 days in jail prior to her standing trial on the sex charges. Jennifer Eموke Greene, of Callahan, Fla., pled guilty to the cruelty charges after a 2014 Facebook video showed her and a 15-year-old friend setting a gopher tortoise on fire, then stomping it to death as it tried to crawl away, the [Florida Times-Union](#) reported. The unnamed 15-year-old was charged as a juvenile in the cruelty incident in which the two girls were laughing and heard to say “Let’s light his head on fire” and “Burn baby, burn baby.” Greene was slated to be released from the Clay County jail on March 19 and face a preliminary hearing on March 22 on the sexual abuse charges.

A Reno, Nev. woman has been charged with child neglect, drug possession, driving under the influence, and willful and malicious animal torture and killing for allegedly stabbing her dog to death to avoid having to pay a veterinarian to euthanize it. Washoe County sheriffs arrested Laura Beth Hesse, 30, on March 1, the [Reno Gazette-Journal](#) reported. Police in Reno found the body of Hesse’s female boxer in a dumpster with multiple stab wounds and blunt force head trauma. At the time of her arrest authorities said she had left a young child at home with methamphetamine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Five Charged in Child Exploitation and Bestiality Case

Detectives in the New South Wales, Australia Sex Crimes Squad arrested four men and one woman who allegedly conducted an online child exploitation network that also involved bestiality. Australia’s [7 News](#) network reported that police seized child abuse material, including a photo of a naked child related to one of the men, and images depicting sexual activity with a dog. Police alleged that one of the men had planned a meeting with the intention of engaging in sexual activity with an infant. The four men, aged 47, 49, 50, and 61, and the woman, aged 45, were not named in the report. Multiple charges of child pornography, bestiality and child abuse were filed.

Suspect Gets 15 Years in Double Homicide-Arson-Animal Cruelty Case

A Leon County, Fla. court sentenced a suspect to 15 years in prison and five years probation in a plea bargain after pleading no-contest to a variety of charges in a double homicide that included animal cruelty. Brandon Chisholm, 23, will serve time in the case that involved murder, armed robbery, arson and burglary in a burned-out apartment in Tallahassee. Fire investigators found the two victims with gunshot wounds, bound in the bathtub; one victim's dog was killed in the fire, the [Tallahassee Democrat](#) reported. As part of the plea arrangement, Chisholm will testify against co-defendant Walter Rayborn, 21.



Brandon Chisholm



Giordano hears court sentencing

Dispute over Pet Birds Leads to Manslaughter Conviction

An altercation between two neighbors over noisy pet birds led to a tragic ending and one of them sentenced to eight years in prison for aggravated manslaughter. David P. Giordano, 65, of Voorhees, N.J., was sentenced on March 30 in Superior Court in the killing of Michael Taylor, 52, during a knife fight over Taylor's pet birds in 2012. [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) reported that after Giordano threw a pot of water from his balcony to quiet more than a dozen pet birds that were chirping loudly on Taylor's patio, Taylor rushed up Giordano's steps and threatened to kill him. Giordano grabbed a kitchen knife and in the ensuing struggle Taylor was stabbed three times and died 12 days later.

Bestiality, Child Abuse, Teen Sex Surface in Manslaughter Conviction



Drs. Chamari Liyanage & Dinendra Athukorala

A Western Australia physician charged with killing her husband was acquitted of murder, but convicted of manslaughter, in a three-week trial in which both the sexual abuse she had experienced at his hands for years and the trove of bestiality and pornographic images found on his computer were described. Bestiality images seized from the computer of deceased Geraldton doctor Dinendra Athukorala, and the recovery of hundreds of pornographic videos and images obtained through such search words as "rape," "dog," "lesbian," and "sex," were described on Day 14 of the trial of Chamari Liyanage. She murdered Athukorala on June 24, 2014 with a heavy mallet after he said he wanted to consummate his relationship with a 17-year-old girl whom the couple had befriended. Liyanage testified she had experienced years of domestic abuse, three failed attempted suicides, child pornography, and had been forced to take part in threesomes with other women, the [Geraldton Guardian](#) reported. Athukorala made his wife perform sex acts on Skype and used child exploitation and bestiality materials as stimulation while having sex with her.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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, Fla.: 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 20 – West Palm Beach, Fla.: [The South Florida Link Coalition](#) will meet at the county Emergency Operations Center.

April 20 – Pittsfield, Mass.: The regular meeting of [HAVEN](#) (Human-Animal Violence Education Network) will be held at the Berkshire Humane Society.

April 20 – Alfred, N.Y.: The ASPCA’s Randall Lockwood and Allison Cardona will conduct a day-long [training on Animal Hoarding](#) sponsored by the SUNY-Alfred Center for Community Education.

April 22 – Denver, Colo.: Laura Bruneau will present on “‘Fur Babies’ and Bettered Women: The Link between Animal Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence” at the [Colorado Mental Health Professionals Conference](#).

April 25 – (Online): Allie Phillips, Lisa Lunghofer and Maya Gupta will provide an online webinar training for the [Safe Havens Network](#) and [Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network](#) on safe housing of pets of domestic violence.

April 28 – Fresno, Calif.: Phil Arkow, Madeline Bernstein and local humane officers and prosecutors will conduct Link trainings at a workshop hosted by the Central California Animal Disaster Team and the Fresno County District Attorney’s office. [Registration](#) is limited to law enforcement, governmental agencies and prosecutors only.

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 4 – Red Deer, Alta., Canada: Tim Battle will present on “The Cruelty Connection and Pet Safekeeping for Domestic Violence Victims at the [Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association](#)’s annual conference, as part of the Alberta SPCA’s half-day session on Emerging Trends.

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 6 – Brunswick, Ga.: [Allie Phillips](#) will train the Navy Criminal Investigative Service at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center on “The Co-Occurrence of Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Strategies and Policies for Keeping Families Safe.” The class is limited to NCIS investigators and military prosecutors.

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

May 12-13 – Denver, Colo.: Frank Ascione will present on “Implications of Animal Cruelty on Child Psychosocial Development” at the Denver University Institute for Human-Animal Connection’s [Animals on the Mind conference](#) on the social neurobiology of human-animal interactions.

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.

May 25 – (Online): Allie Phillips will present on her Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) Program on a [webinar](#) for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

June 2-3 – Boise, Idaho: 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.

June 8 – Piscataway, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train on “Breaking the Chain of Domestic Violence by Preventing Animal Abuse” at the [14th Annual Conference](#) of the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence Professionals.

June 20 – Hartford, Conn.: Phil Arkow will conduct a multi-disciplinary training for the [Connecticut Department of Children & Families](#)’ child abuse and domestic violence divisions, and animal control officers.

June 25 – San Francisco, Calif.: Jennifer Woolf, DVM will present on “The Veterinarian’s Role in Animal Abuse Cases” at the [Pacific Veterinary Conference](#).

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.

Aug. 3 – Baton Rouge, La.: Phil Arkow will present at the [Louisiana Animal Control Association](#) conference.

Sept. 13 – (Online): Allie Phillips will present on her program Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) on a webinar for the [Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance](#).

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 how The Link can shift the paradigm of animal shelters at the [Colorado Animal Welfare Conference](#).

Oct. 6 – Seattle, Wash.: Phil Arkow will deliver the keynote presentation at the [National Animal Care & Control Association](#) 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. 3 – (various locations): The One Health Commission, One Health Initiative, and One Health Platform will sponsor the 1st Annual [One Health Day](#), a worldwide series of events highlighting transdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to overarching community health and welfare issues.

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.

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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.