



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 5, No. 10 October 2012 A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence

www.nationallinkcoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



Link Cited in Police Crackdown on Animal Abusers



The potential for animal abusers to go on to commit crimes against people is prompting the St. Louis, Mo., Police Department to dedicate an officer to investigate animal abuse cases full time. Officer Louis Naes, a nine-year veteran of the force, has been named the department's first animal abuse investigator and a member of the new Animal Abuse Task Force which includes the circuit attorney's office, mayor's office, the health department, and Stray Rescue of St. Louis.

"This is a pivotal moment for police understanding that these are violent crimes that need to be taken seriously," said Randy Grim, founder of Stray Rescue, which provides dog rescue and shelter operations for the city.

Officer Louis Naes is the animal abuse investigator in St. Louis Facing potential criticism for allocating scarce resources to animal cases while St. Louis is facing a 19% increase in aggravated assaults with firearms, police officials quickly justified the position as showing intolerance to all forms of violence and being a good use of resources. "Violence is violence in a community and I think all of it is related. We have 1,301 officers in the police department and we're dedicating one officer to the animal cruelty task force. I don't think that's a stretch," said Police Chief Dan Isom.

Other law enforcement officials think it pays off in terms of human — as well as animal — victims. "There is a direct relationship to animal crimes and domestic violence abusers, who think of their victims as an object," Officer Kim Lormans of the Los Angeles Police Department, which already has five animal abuse investigators, told the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#). "They start with the family pet and ... use it as tool to manipulate and control. If that's not stopped and investigated, it will get higher and higher then on to the kids and spouse."

Officials also noted that some criminals arm themselves with dangerous animals, so investigating animal abuse may lead police to someone who has eluded arrest for other crimes.

Officials said that dedicating an officer solely to animal cases will help raise awareness about animal cruelty and allow the courts an opportunity to give extra attention to such cases. A billboard campaign

will be launched shortly in targeted problem neighborhoods with signs reading, “Wake Up St. Louis: Abuse an animal, lose your freedom.”

The announcement was made nine days before Darick Dashon Stallworth, 31, was scheduled to be sentenced for torturing, mutilating and killing five dogs. The case – the first felony animal abuse conviction in the city in recent memory — provided impetus for more police involvement.

Grim said that Naes will be spending most of his time investigating cases in which dogs have been shot and left to die, which occur weekly, sometimes daily. “St. Louis can be a very violent city when it comes to being a dog,” he said.

“It is up to all of us to stand up for animals right here and right now,” said St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay. “We’re sending a message that we will not tolerate people who torture animals.”

Women & Animal Groups Observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The month of October, which is [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#), is seeing an increase in the number of collaborative fund- and awareness-raising events staged by community shelters for battered women and abused animals. In Cincinnati, the [SPCA](#), [YWCA](#) and [Women Helping Women](#) will hold their 2nd Annual Bark Out Against Battering Pet Fest on Saturday, Oct. 20. National Link Coalition Steering Committee member Barbara Boat will be among a number of speakers giving presentations. The event will feature a pet costume contest, pet trick-or-treating, pet portraits, and adoptions.



Meanwhile, Saturday, Oct. 6 is [National SAF-T Day](#), celebrating programs that shelter animals and families together. Allie Phillips reports the following women’s shelters will host dog walks in their communities: Safe and Fear-Free Environment (Dillingham, Alaska); Arising Hope (Eastlake, Colo.); Women’s Shelter of Mid-Minnesota (Brainerd, Minn.); Rose Brooks Center (Kansas City, Mo.); Domestic Violence Advocacy Center (Medford, N.J.); Families First (Whiteville, N.C.); Battered Women’s Shelter (Akron, Ohio); and Little Grass Ranch (Comfort, Texas), which will also hold pony rides. The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence is providing SAF-T dog leashes and educational materials to participating shelters.

Grants Available for Housing Pets at Women’s Shelters

Grants from \$2,000 to \$3,000 are available to help women’s shelters construct facilities that allow domestic violence survivors to keep their animals with them. The grants are being made available by Red Rover, working with [Sheltering Animals and Families Together \(SAF-T\)](#). Applications for the Red Rover Domestic Violence Safe Housing grants must be received by Nov. 15, according to program manager Esperanza Zúñiga. Applicants must be 501-c-3 organizations whose primary mission is sheltering victims of domestic violence. Additional information and grant application forms are available at the [Red Rover website](#).



Join Us on Facebook!

The National Link Coalition has launched a Facebook page to further link our growing network of individuals and organizations who care deeply about the crossroads where animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse intersect. Our friends and “likes” include people working in nonprofit and government human services, animal welfare and academic research. Together, we are collaborating to recognize the commonalities of all forms of family and community violence and working together to protect all members of society. Visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NationalLinkCoalition>



We also have a LinkedIn page! Join the discussion and follow the LinkedIn Link links at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3741944>

The Link in the Literature

Animal Abuse Among Female Batterers

While the overwhelming majority of domestic violence/intimate partner violence cases are perpetrated by men, a number of incidents are caused by women who batter. Research on the likelihood of women batterers to be aggressive to non-intimate partners, children and animals has been minimal. In this study, 17% of women who battered reported having committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18, compared to a prevalence rate of .28% of women in the general population. The over-representation of animal abuse among this sample was consistent with that of men arrested for domestic violence. Furthermore, women who reported committing animal abuse were found to also show moderately higher rates of committing psychological aggression and physical assault against their partners, compared to women who did not report committing animal abuse.

-- Febres, J., Shorey, R.C., Brasfield, H., Zucosky, H.C., Ninnemann, A., et al. (2012). Adulthood animal abuse among women court-referred to batterer intervention programs. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 27*(15), 3115-3126.

Adolescents' Barriers to Stopping Animal Abuse

Sociologist Arnold Arluke has written previously about how bystander apathy affects the willingness of children and adolescents to intervene when they observe animal abuse committed by strangers. In this study, Arluke explores adolescents' reluctance to intervene when the perpetrators were family members, friends or other known persons. Most interviewees claimed that although feeling disturbed by the animal abuse they did little to stop it or report it to authorities. Friendship norms and breeches presented most of them with significant barriers that either stopped or tempered their intervening.

-- Arluke, A. (2012). Interpersonal barriers to stopping animal abuse: Exploring the role of adolescent friendship norms and breeches. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 27*(15), 2939-2958.

Romanian Research Project to Examine Impact of Community Animal Abuse on Child Development

Eastern European countries, such as Romania, are marked by excessive numbers of stray and aggressive dogs roaming freely, the result of decades of political neglect of effective animal control programs. To see whether exposure to these animals has emotional effects, [Malcolm Plant](#) of the U.K.'s Teesside University is conducting a [research project](#) to identify the psychological effects of endemic community animal abuse upon children and to evaluate the efficacy of interventions.



“If natural psychological development requires a transition from egocentricity to empathic, then the postulation is that children exposed to regular abuse of animals have their psychological development inhibited and distorted and in particular their ability to be empathic. Should this be verified, it would identify serious consequences for individuals living in regions where abuse remains uncontrolled,” said Plant. The study’s objective is to prompt the European Union to address stray animal issues which have serious ramifications for the health of children. The study will also be the focus of a TV documentary.

A control study will be conducted in Berlin, Germany, where exposure to widespread abuse is said to be much less. Following analysis, programs will be initiated in Greece and Crete. National Link Coalition steering committee member [Phil Tedeschi](#) is providing support for the study.

News from the Coalitions

Two New Coalitions in Process of Forming

Two new local Link coalitions are being organized, with local advocates securing interdisciplinary interest for multi-faceted, coordinated responses to animal abuse and other forms of family violence.



In **Lake Charles, La.**, [Beth Zilbert](#) and Shannon Cox founded [The People’s Advocate of Southwest Louisiana](#). Since 2008 this collaborative foundation has promoted civil rights and social justice, advocated for children caught in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and worked to end violence against women, children and animals.

Following several successful “Campaign to End Family Violence” conferences that brought nationally-recognized Link experts to Lake Charles, the group is now undergoing a facilitated process to utilize this Link information in coordinated programs. A meeting is scheduled for November 2.

In **St. Louis, Mo.**, [Andrea Schwartz](#) of [Stray Rescue of St. Louis](#) is seeking to connect with other individuals and agencies in the greater St. Louis area who would like to combine their efforts to end animal abuse and family violence. For details please contact Andrea at 314-771-6121 ext. 227.



The Link in the News

Domestic dispute leads to unusual animal cruelty charge



Mother and pups were reported to be doing well.

A Longmont, Colo., woman was [charged with animal cruelty](#) after she reportedly stuffed a days-old Chihuahua puppy in her pants. Police cited Johna Turner, 39, when they responded to a domestic dispute call and found her allegedly intoxicated and arguing with a man in the apartment. She offered to leave and return when she sobered up to retrieve her dog and its three puppies. However, a witness told police Turner had allegedly stuffed one of the puppies down her pants. An officer ordered her to remove the dog, so she shook her leg and the puppy fell out of her right pants leg onto the floor. She then threw the dog into a stroller where the other puppies were resting. The man reportedly took the dogs to the Longmont Humane Society claiming he could not care for them. The dogs were all said to be in good shape and Turner's case is expected to come to court on Oct. 18.

Vet Reports Bestiality; Defendant to Plead Guilty

A Vancouver, B.C., man accused of having sex with his Rottweiler is expected to enter a guilty plea to bestiality charges after a veterinarian reported the case out of concern for the animal's welfare. It was not immediately clear why Brian Anthony Cutteridge, 37, who has been a vocal opponent of laws that condemn sex between humans and animals, decided to enter the guilty plea, although [news media](#) reported that an incriminating video may have been involved.

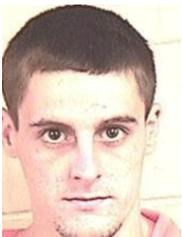


Brian Cutteridge and canine friend

In online writings, Cutteridge has actively opposed laws against zoophilia as being logically incoherent and inherently unjust, claiming that it doesn't cause harm to animals. The B.C. SPCA expressed pleasure with the court's decision, feeling strongly that bestiality does cause distress to animals victimized by the crime.

Cutteridge was scheduled to plead guilty to one charge of bestiality and be sentenced on Oct. 2 on what would have been the first day of a scheduled two-week trial.

Suicidal/homicidal father tortures cat to keep from killing himself



Brandon Krahenbuhl

A Blue Springs, Mo., man was [charged with felony animal abuse](#) after police said he told them he tortured and killed a cat, while recording the event on his cellphone, so he wouldn't kill himself. Court records revealed that Brandon Scott Krahenbuhl, 23, also claimed to be both suicidal and homicidal. Police responding to a call regarding a possible suicide heard Krahenbuhl make suicidal statements before admitting the incident. A detective examining the cellphone video reported seeing a small cat being

hanged from a noose. After the cat escaped, Krahenbuhl allegedly caught it, slammed it into a wall twice with such strength that it caused dents in the Sheetrock, then stomped the cat to death. Officers also found Krahenbuhl's three-month-old daughter in the apartment. He was being held on \$50,000 bond.

Physician commits suicide after being charged with animal cruelty



Dr. Isaias Lerner Biber

A doctor in the Miami, Fla., area killed himself on Sept. 5, two days after police charged him with felony animal cruelty for killing a beagle by clubbing the dog with a hammer and stabbing it with a screwdriver. Dr. Isaias Lerner Biber, 65, told police he was fed up with the dog's misbehavior. Witnesses said they saw the doctor repeatedly hit the dog, which was tied to a tree outside the doctor's home, on the head with a hammer and then impale the dog with a screwdriver near the dog's throat and ear. The suicide culminated an apparent series of tragic events in the doctor's life, including his mother suffering a mini-stroke and his being sued for medical malpractice. An attorney specializing in medical licensure cases told the [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#) that while a state board may have argued that acts of cruelty hindered the doctor's ability to practice medicine and therefore merited discipline, the doctor could have argued that the animal cruelty case did not pertain to his duties since there is nothing about animals in the Hippocratic Oath.

Adult Abuse Case Linked to Child and Animal Abuse

A caregiver caught on tape allegedly abusing repeatedly a non-verbal man with severe autism has had brushes with the criminal justice system in the past that involved both child and animal abuse.

Michael Garritson, 61 was one of two caregivers seen allegedly abusing Jamie Oakley, 23, hundreds of times while he was under their care, according to the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Oakley's parents, concerned about their son's welfare, installed a surveillance camera in Jamie's room. The footage reportedly shows Oakley being slapped, kicked and punched. Garritson has pleaded not guilty and a judge set bail at \$1 million.

After running a records search, [San Diego's NBC 7](#) found that Garritson was tried for second-degree murder back in the in 1980s in connection with the death of a 13-month-old boy who was under his care. A jury deadlocked 11 – 1 and a mistrial was declared.

In 2002, more than 150 dogs were taken from Garritson's home in Valley Center where they were living in filthy conditions, being bred and sold online and at pet stores. Garritson pleaded guilty to felony animal neglect and received three years' probation.

Couple in Animal Hoarding Case Charged with Child Abuse

A Fayette County, Tenn., couple charged with hoarding 168 animals and 25 dead birds in a home that investigators described as a "house of horrors" appeared in court for what they thought was a child custody hearing only to find themselves charged with aggravated child abuse for subjecting the two teenagers to a house filled with animal feces, urine, debris, and trash. William and Rocio Parr had \$110,000 bonds placed on each of them and the home-schooled children were placed in DCS custody. The charges came after Collierville police received a tip about deplorable conditions in the home, where the dogs, cats, rodents, and dead birds were removed in a Sept. 14 raid. "It's one of the most horrific scenes that any of us had been on," said veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Dunlap. [WAFF-TV](#) reported the couple had been cited in 2004 in another animal hoarding case.



William & Rocio Parr

“Career Criminal” Charged with Animal Cruelty

A man whom the [New York Daily News](#) called a “career criminal” was charged with animal cruelty for allegedly kicking a small dog viciously and repeatedly in a Harlem apartment house elevator. The incident was captured on surveillance video. Brian Freeman, 28, was taken into custody while appearing in a Manhattan Criminal Court proceeding for a marijuana possession charge when detectives recognized him from the video. Freeman is said to have a lengthy criminal record dating back to 2000 that includes arrests for assault, robbery and drug possession. Police do not know the relationship of the dog to Freeman or its whereabouts.



Police distributed pictures to catch the alleged perpetrator.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Coming Soon to a City or Computer Near You...

Oct. 1 – 31 – Various locations: [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#), organized by the Domestic Violence Awareness Project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Many local events coordinate programs benefiting the animal survivors of domestic violence.

Oct. 3-5 – Universal City, CA: The [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, will present the 3rd National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference, “Prosecuting Animal Cruelty & Preserving Community Safety.” Maya Gupta and Mary Lou Randour will discuss “The Link with Domestic Violence.” Several other Link speakers will address veterinary forensics, courtroom testimony and prosecution techniques, animal fighting, puppy mills, and the benefits of collaborative investigations.

Oct. 5 – Loveland, CO: Lila Miller will discuss “The role of the veterinarians in handling animal abuse” at the [Colorado Veterinary Medical Association](#)’s Convention.

Oct. 5-7 – Knoxville, TN: Maya Gupta and Elizabeth Strand will [train](#) on the AniCare Approach of assessment and treatment of animal cruelty offenders to interrupt the cycle of animal abuse and violence towards humans.

Oct. 6 – National SAF-T Day, celebrating [Sheltering Animals and Families Together](#).

Oct. 9-10 – Wellington, New Zealand: Phil Arkow, Nik Taylor, Michael Roguski, Lisa Wood and other speakers will address The Link at the [22nd NZ Companion Animal Conference](#).

Oct. 11-12 – Rotorua, New Zealand: Phil Arkow will discuss empathy and The Link at training sessions for the [Royal New Zealand SPCA](#).

Oct. 13 – Denver, CO: Diane Balkin will speak on The Link at the 7th Annual [CSI Conference at Regis College](#). The event is free and open to the public.

Oct. 15 – Jacksonville, FL: Phil Arkow will discuss the links between animal cruelty and child maltreatment at Prevent Child Abuse America’s [National Conference for America’s Children](#).

Oct. 16 – (online): Diane Balkin of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present a free webinar on “Anticipating Defenses in Animal Abuse Cases” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, a program of the National District Attorneys Association, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Oct. 17 – Hillsboro, OR: The Washington County Animal Protection Multidisciplinary Team will present an all-day seminar, “Paws for Justice: Successfully Investigating and Prosecuting Animal Crimes.” Contact [Whitney Kubli](#) for details.

Oct. 19 – Barcelona, Spain: Nuria Querol i Vinas will present on “Violence and Animal Abuse” at the [Southern European Veterinary Conference](#), organized by AVEPA and the Affinity Foundation Chair on Animals and Health.

Oct. 19-20 – Charlottesville, VA: Phil Arkow , Allie Phillips and Clifton Flynn will speak to the University of Virginia Law School and the Central Virginia Link Coalition on “A Community Approach to Breaking The Link of Violence” to organize the [Central Virginia Link Coalition](#). Contact [Julie Palais](#) for details.

Oct. 19 – Kansas City, MO: The KC-CAN Caring for All Network Link coalition will hold its regular meeting. Contact [Heddie Leger](#) for details.

Oct. 22 – Portland, OR: Maya Gupta and Scott Heiser will train on “Protecting All Creatures from Domestic Violence: Civil and Criminal Approaches, Challenges and Solutions” at the 20th Annual [Lewis & Clark Animal Law Conference](#).

Oct. 23 – (online): Allie Phillips will lead a webinar on the SAF-T program and Safe Housing grants for [Red Rover](#).

Oct. 25 – Annapolis, MD: Allie Phillips will present on Sheltering Animals and Families Together at the [Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

Nov. 2 – Lake Charles, LA: Lesley Ashworth will be among the speakers at an organizational meeting to organize the Anti-Animal Cruelty Task Force. Contact [Beth Zilbert](#) for details.

Nov. 7 – Greenwich, CT: Phil Arkow will train on The Link for Domestic Abuse Services and the Center for Youth Leadership. Contact [Bob Kocienda](#) for details.

Nov. 13 – (online): Clifton Flynn, professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina – Upstate, will present a free webinar on “Understanding Animal Abuse – A Sociological Analysis” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, a program of the National District Attorneys Association, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Nov. 14-17 – Chicago, IL: Nuria Querol i Vinas will present on “Cruelty to Animals and Antisocial Personality Disorders: Criminological and Forensic Correlations” at the [American Society of Criminology](#) conference.

Nov. 25 – Tokyo, Japan: Dr. Toshiro Sugiyama, Dr. Chizuko Yamaguchi, and Noriko Yabuki will present on the implications of animal abuse on human health at the [Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare](#)

seminar on the association between interpersonal violence and animal cruelty. For details please contact [Sakiko Yamazaki](#).

Dec. 5 – Lawrenceville, NJ: Phil Arkow will train [New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Project](#) representatives on “The Links between Child Assault and Animal Abuse.”

Dec. 7 – Tampa, FL: Maya Gupta and Nancy Bell will [train](#) on the AniCare Approach of assessment and treatment of animal cruelty offenders to interrupt the cycle of animal abuse and violence towards humans.

Dec. 11 – Apr. 2 – Barcelona, Spain: Nuria Querol Vinas will teach a [course](#) on “Psychopathic Personality and Violent Crimes,” with a focus on animal abuse in the context of violent criminals and family violence, at the University of Barcelona School of Law.

Dec. 12-13 – Surfers Paradise, Qld., Australia: Catherine Tiplady and two roundtable discussions will consider the Link between domestic violence and animal abuse at the [Australian Veterinary Forensics, Law and Animal Conference](#).

Jan. 28, 2013 – San Diego, CA: Allie Phillips will present on “Caught in the Cross Fire: When the Abuse of Animals Co-occurs with Family-Violence” at the 27th Annual [San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment](#).

Feb. 3, 2013 – Indianapolis, IN: Phil Arkow will present “Practical Guidance for Veterinarians and Their Staffs for an Effective Response to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect” at the [Indiana Veterinary Medical Association](#) Annual Meeting.

Feb. 21-23, 2013 – Kansas City, MO: Phil Arkow will present a program on The Link, and Maya Gupta and Nancy Bell will train on AniCare and AniCare Child, for the [KC-CAN Link Coalition](#)’s meeting on “Protecting People – Protecting Pets – Protecting Society.”

April 1-30, 2012 – various locations: April is [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), proclaimed in 1983 and coordinated on the national level by the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect within the U.S. Children’s Bureau.

April 9-10, 2013 – Knoxville, TN: Elizabeth Strand and Nancy Bell will [train](#) on the AniCare Approach of assessment and treatment of animal cruelty offenders to interrupt the cycle of animal abuse and violence towards humans.

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.

OUR VISION: The Link between violence against humans and violence against animals is widely known and understood. We believe that through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, humans and animals will be measurably safer.

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

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