



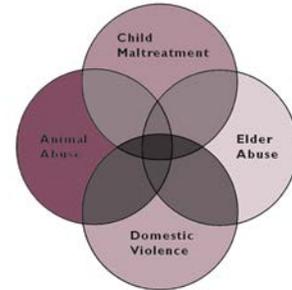
NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 5, No. 9 September 2012 A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence

www.nationallinkcoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



British Vets Gain Guidance in Reporting Violence

A guide to help British veterinarians recognize and report suspected animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse has been published by [The Links Group](#), our sister British organization that promotes the welfare and safety of vulnerable family members.

Recognising Abuse in Animals and Humans: Guidance for Veterinary Surgeons and Other Veterinary Employees is a companion to the earlier American publication, ***Practical Guidance for the Effective Response by Veterinarians to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect*** (see [LINK-Letter October 2011](#)). It follows the recent creation of the pilot Scottish Domestic Abuse Veterinary Initiative of Medics Against Violence and the Violence Reduction Unit (MAV/DAVI) (see [LINK-Letter November, 2011](#)).

Recognising abuse in animals and humans:



Guidance for veterinary surgeons and other veterinary employees

July 2012

Noting that different terms are often used interchangeably for animal abuse, and that animal abuse may occur within complex interrelationships of family violence, Links Group Chair Freda Scott-Park says the Guidance focuses on deliberate or non-accidental injury (NAI) and encourages veterinarians to craft straightforward practice protocols for staff members who have concerns that they may be observing NAI.

“Over the last 10 years, it has become apparent that veterinary surgeons must become an essential part of the team required to break the cycle of abuse. Our colleagues working with vulnerable children and adults have welcomed the active participation of veterinary surgeons through the Links Group in establishing a cross-reporting mechanism, so that suspicions of abuse, whether to animal, adult or child, may be reported to the relevant body,” Scott-Park wrote.

The Guidance:

- describes the veterinary profession’s responsibility and confidentiality considerations under the Animal Welfare Acts and RCVS Code of Veterinary Conduct;
- offers an overview of child, animal and domestic abuse and the links between them;
- defines types of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect and how to recognize them;
- explains the importance of a multi-agency approach; and

- gives practical advice on establishing channels of communication for cross-reporting.

“No one should doubt the complexities of deciding whether a situation warrants being reported,” she wrote, recommending that practitioners follow the principles of ADVOR – Asking, Validating, Documenting and Reporting – to yield extra information. “Every practice should have a protocol for members of staff to follow.”

The Guidance presents a decision-making cascade of when to report suspected abuse, based upon the degree of suspicion or injury, disclosure by the client or others, and clients’ fear of reporting because they may be victims themselves.

British practitioners may breach traditional veterinary/client confidentiality constraints if animal welfare or the public interest are compromised and if their concerns are based on first-hand knowledge rather than hearsay. NAI should be included in the differential diagnosis in cases where the injured animal’s clinical signs cannot be attributed to the history provided by the client.

Evidence for The Link prompted the RCVS’ Code of Conduct to say that vets should consider whether a child may be at risk, either in the presence or absence of animal abuse, and should consider reporting such matters to relevant child welfare authorities. “It is better to investigate every case where there might be risk of harm to children,” she wrote. “There is a risk that agencies become overloaded with cases which may have no substance; a balance must be struck between over-reaction and ignorance.”

Safe Havens for Utah Dogs Expanded Statewide



Friends of Animals Utah, an animal rescue organization in Park City, Utah that provides Safe Haven pet care for the animal survivors of domestic violence in collaboration with the Peace House women’s center, [has announced](#) its program will be available statewide. Executive Director Claudia McMullin reports that the Purple Paw Project foster care service will be available to any domestic violence shelter in Utah that does not have an existing relationship with an animal shelter. “We want to provide a place for people to feel safe in leaving their pets while they escape a domestic violence situation. We also want to stop animal abuse. And we want to try to stop people giving up their pets to animal shelters. We want to keep families and their pets together,” she says.

Therapy Dog Calms Victims and Witnesses of Crimes



Malvern

Santa Barbara, Calif. District Attorney Joyce Dudley has become the latest prosecutor to employ a therapy dog to provide emotional support to victims and witnesses in stressful criminal justice proceedings. “Malvern,” a two-year-old Labrador/golden retriever mix, is now a “canine consoler” comforting people dealing with the emotional, psychological or physical effects of crime. In his first week on the job, “Malvern” has already helped one woman calm down enough to be able to testify in court. The pooch was provided by [Canine Companions for Independence](#). If the program is successful, similar therapy dogs may be added to the department’s Lompoc and Santa Maria offices as well. “Malvern has a calming effect on not only the victims but also on our staff of secretaries and attorneys alike,” [said Dudley](#).

The Link in the News

Two Link Cases Surface in Toledo, Ohio



Aaron Nova was charged with cruelty in the incident involving “Marbles.”

A Lucas County, Ohio dog warden with a history of domestic violence was charged with one count of animal cruelty after a kennel security camera captured him allegedly using a chokehold to pick up a 46-pound Labrador/hound mix named “Marbles,” slamming it against a kennel door, and throwing it into a kennel. Aaron A. Nova, 26, was charged with a 2nd-degree misdemeanor in the July 22 incident. [The Toledo Blade](#) reported that Nova, who was employed at the kennel for six years, has a prior history of violent behavior. He had been sentenced on May 3 to a six-month suspended jail sentence and two years’ probation after pleading no contest to domestic violence and assault charges after striking the mother of his daughter with his fist and trying to pull her out of a motor vehicle. “Marbles” reportedly showed no ill effects from the incident.

In a second case in Toledo, Jason Burrell was sentenced on Aug. 28 for crushing a puppy to death and leaving the body in his yard. Burrell had been convicted in 2000 of a domestic violence charge. Ken Shapiro and Bee Friedlander of the [Animals & Society Institute](#) were interviewed by the [Toledo Blade](#) regarding these cases, describing both animal abuse and domestic violence as falling within “general deviance” behaviors. “It is important that all professionals who investigate violence in the home be trained on the cycle of violence so that they are better aware of the connection and better able to respond,” said Friedlander.

Animal Cruelty Investigation Uncovers Suspected Child Abuse



Mabel Jo Larson and Aaron Michael Parker

Liberty County, Tex. authorities investigating a report of suspected animal cruelty discovered a baby with roaches crawling over her head and out of her diaper in a filthy home filled with festering trash, feces and the stench of decay. Authorities also found a dead horse and dozens of severely malnourished dogs on the property where the one-year-old child, whose existence did not appear to be known to the outside world, lived.

The child’s mother, Mabel Jo Larsen, who allegedly said she had sometimes put the toddler in a dog cage, was arrested and charged with animal cruelty. Child endangerment charges were pending. The purported father of the baby, Aaron Michael Parker, was also arrested and charged with probation violations, the [Houston Chronicle](#) reported.

The parents were on probation for child abuse after pleading guilty to child injury last year after Child Protective Services officials removed five other youngsters in 2009 when Parker’s then-10-year-old daughter was found by a neighbor, malnourished and bruised, as she tried to run away.

Sheriff’s deputies and Houston SPCA investigators removed two horses, 16 dogs and one cat from the property. The infant was placed in foster care.

Felony Cruelty Initiative Proposed for North Dakota



Initiative supporters watch as North Dakota Secretary of State workers process initiative petitions.

In the absence of legislative support for a law to increase animal cruelty penalties to felony-level charges, activists in North Dakota have amassed thousands of signatures to put a [citizens' initiative](#) on the November ballot. The move, if enacted, would also require offenders convicted of felony aggravated animal cruelty to undergo psychiatric evaluation and not own a dog, cat or horse for up to five years. The measure is opposed by farm groups. North and South Dakota are the only two states lacking felony cruelty provisions.

Two Named to National Link Coalition Steering Committee

Jane Raymond to Represent Elder Abuse Community



Jane Raymond

Jane A. Raymond, who recently retired after serving 26 years as the Advocacy and Protection Systems Developer for the State of Wisconsin's Division of Disability and Elder Services' Bureau of Aging and Long-Term Care Resources, has been named to the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee.

Raymond was nominated to the committee by the [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life](#). Her appointment gives the National Link Coalition a welcomed liaison with the elder abuse and Adult Protective Services community. She worked at the state level to further develop domestic abuse, elder abuse, adult protective services, and aging network responses and landmark legislation for adults at risk. Raymond and Randy Lockwood co-authored the seminal 2003 manual, *Creating Safer Communities for Older Adults and Companion Animals*, currently the only Link guidebook for adult protection officials. Raymond has been recognized by the National Adult Protective Services Association and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence for her significant contributions to social justice.

Amanda Widup to Represent Family Court Judges



Amanda Widup, MSW

The National Link Coalition is pleased to welcome Amanda Widup, MSW to our Steering Committee. Amanda is a policy analyst with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, in Reno, Nev.

She was a graduate assistant in the Institute for Family Violence Studies in the Florida State University School of Social Work. She served as a victim witness assistant and social worker for the State of Wyoming. She has been a MDT Coordinator and Family Preservation Specialist working with youths in the juvenile justice system, and was the volunteer coordinator for CASA of Laramie County, Wyo. In her domestic violence social work she often saw how pet abuse was a precursor to child and spouse abuse, and how victims would not leave for fear their animals would be killed in retaliation.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network Features Animal Resources



In what may be the most comprehensive such resource in the U.S., the Ohio Domestic Violence Network has established a section on its website called “[Domestic Violence and Animal Issues](#).” The section includes sample procedures for shelter

residents with pets; a survey of Ohio’s domestic violence community’s responses to pets; statistics; and the Childhood Trust Survey of Animal-Related Experiences.

The extensive compilation of resources also includes a collection of forms covering animal intakes, agreements between the resident and the shelter, consent and release for boarding, foster owner agreement, foster caregiver agreement, safety planning for pets, shelter supply list, contract extension, extended care contract, program evaluation form, and a memorandum of understanding between the animal and domestic violence shelters.

The Link in the Literature

Conceptualizing Animal Abuse as Antisocial Behavior

Amid ongoing criticisms that the links between animal abuse and antisocial behaviors have not been firmly established and that the empirical research often lacks sound methodology, Australian psychologist Eleonora Gullone argues that current conceptualizations of antisocial and aggressive human behavior logically incorporate animal abuse. “It is not at all surprising that the two co-occur: indeed, it would be surprising if they did not,” she writes. By considering animal abuse as an aggressive behavior rather than as a behavior that is somehow different, a more practical framework emerges for the study of animal cruelty. The implications of such a framework are that law enforcement, health and other professionals should not minimize the presence of animal abuse in their enforcement, prevention and treatment decisions.

Gullone, E. (2011). Conceptualising animal abuse with an antisocial behaviour framework. *Animals*, 1, 144-160. doi:10.3390/ani1010144,

Ohio Groups Link Up for Link Awareness

For the fifth consecutive year, the Medina County, Ohio Domestic & Sexual Abuse Coalition and the Medina County SPCA are joining forces to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The 2012 “Walk With Your Best Friend Against Abuse” is a one-mile stroll for people and their furry friends to raise awareness of The Link on Saturday, Oct. 6.

The fun walk is a symbolic show of support that also includes a dog costume contest, activities for children and refreshments, said [Becky Hewit](#), chair of the Coalition and community services manager of the [Battered Women’s Shelter](#). October 6 is also National SAF-T™ Day, created to celebrate [Sheltering Animals and Families Together](#) in domestic violence safe houses and the comfort and healing that pets can bring to domestic violence survivors. 72 shelters, including two in Ohio, have on-site animal housing capabilities.

invites you to the
5th Annual
In Partnership With:

“Walk With Your Best Friend Against Abuse”

Saturday,
October 6, 2012
Medina Square Plaza
107-3PM

With Special Guest
Roxanna Mitchell
from 107-3PM

Events include:
One-mile walk against abuse with your furry friend, Dog Costume Contest, FREE activities for children, 500 items refreshments & 500% coffee.
For more information please call
330-723-9618

SAF-T™ recognizes the human-animal bond and that family pets can provide comfort, assistance and healing to child and adult survivors.
SAF-T™ has created an organization that focuses on the animal abuse and neglect of our pets and does not walk to be separated from their pets during their abusive lives.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Sept. 13 – Hyannis, MA: Barbara Boat will speak on “The Toxic Triad: Child Abuse, Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence,” at the 12th Annual [Children’s Cove Conference on Child Sexual Abuse](#).

Sept. 13 – Albuquerque, NM: Diane Balkin will present on The Link at the [New Mexico Bar Association’s](#) Animal Law CLE conference.

Sept. 14 – Chesterfield, MO: Phil Arkow and Heddie Leger will present a workshop on “Women’s Best Friend: Social Work and the Domestic Violence/Animal Abuse Link” for the [Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers](#) annual Training institute.

Sept. 17 – Albuquerque, NM: The 2012 [New Mexico Conference on The Link](#) between Animal Abuse and Human Violence will bring in national and state authorities on The Link, including Diane Balkin, Phil Arkow & Allie Phillips. Contact [Tammy Fiebelkorn](#) for details.

Sept. 20 – (online): Dr. Randy Lockwood, Senior V.P. of Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects for the ASPCA, will present a free webinar on “Combating Animal Cruelty: The Past, Present and Future” 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.

Sept. 20 – Nassau, Bahamas: William Fielding will speak on “The Link between the Harm of Non-Human Animals and Domestic Violence in The Bahamas” at the [Bahamas Crisis Centre’s](#) conference on “Peace at Home, Peace in Our Community.”

Sept. 20-21 – Chicago, IL: Maya Gupta 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.

Sept. 21 – Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Dr. Robert Reisman of the ASPCA will present on veterinary forensics in the investigation of animal cruelty at the conference of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association.

Sept. 27 – Tustin, MI: [Allie Phillips](#) will train on The Link at the Michigan Chapter of Public Safety Communications Officials’ Fall Conference.

Sept. 28 – Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Randy Lockwood will discuss “Prosecuting Animal Hoarding: When, Why and How” at the [Saskatchewan SPCA](#) Animal Welfare Conference.

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. 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. 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 Virginia Animal Control Association 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](#).

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.

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. 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](#).

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 Ken Shapiro will train on AniCare and AniCare Child, for the [KC-CAN Link Coalition](#)’s meeting on “Protecting People – Protecting Pets – Protecting Society.”

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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