



**NATIONAL LINK COALITION**

*Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals*

**Proceedings of the National Link Coalition 2012 Summit**

**July 26, 2012**

**Doubletree Hotel**

**Denver, Colorado**

**Edited by Phil Arkow**

*Held in conjunction with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference*



**Sponsored by**



**ASPCA**

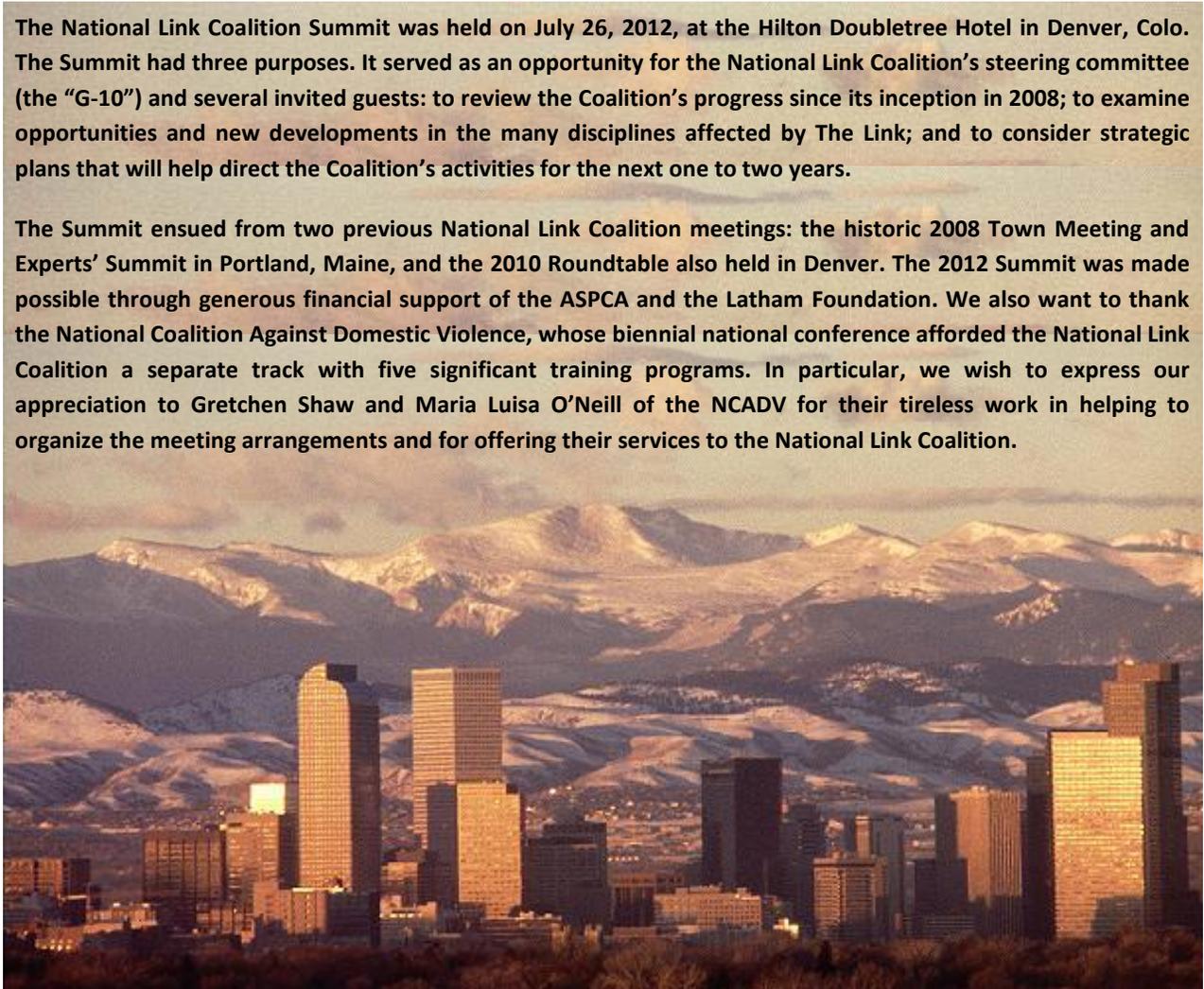


**The Latham Foundation**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Link Coalition Summit was held on July 26, 2012, at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Denver, Colo. The Summit had three purposes. It served as an opportunity for the National Link Coalition's steering committee (the "G-10") and several invited guests: to review the Coalition's progress since its inception in 2008; to examine opportunities and new developments in the many disciplines affected by The Link; and to consider strategic plans that will help direct the Coalition's activities for the next one to two years.

The Summit ensued from two previous National Link Coalition meetings: the historic 2008 Town Meeting and Experts' Summit in Portland, Maine, and the 2010 Roundtable also held in Denver. The 2012 Summit was made possible through generous financial support of the ASPCA and the Latham Foundation. We also want to thank the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, whose biennial national conference afforded the National Link Coalition a separate track with five significant training programs. In particular, we wish to express our appreciation to Gretchen Shaw and Maria Luisa O'Neill of the NCADV for their tireless work in helping to organize the meeting arrangements and for offering their services to the National Link Coalition.



## NOTE ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION 2012 SUMMIT

The participants in the Denver 2012 Summit hope that all readers will find workable ideas in these Proceedings. The objective of the Summit was not only to review current progress and direct future actions of the National Link Coalition, but also to inspire individuals, organizations and community coalitions worldwide to implement research, programming, public awareness, and public policy addressing the intersections of animal cruelty and neglect, child maltreatment, domestic violence, and animal abuse.

It is our hope that by using a multidisciplinary approach, numerous professions can find collaborative, effective strategies to reduce violence to humans and animals.



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

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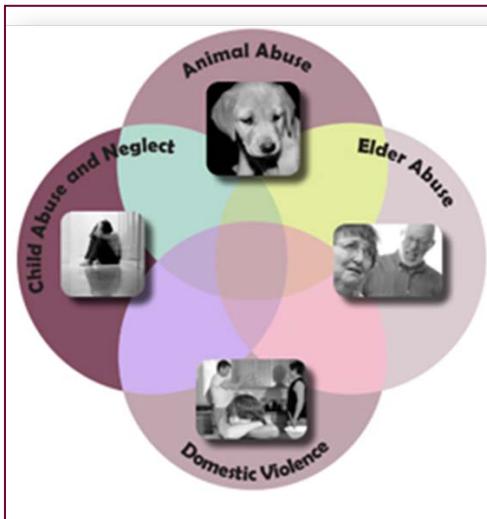
*Working together to stop violence  
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Phil Arkow, Coordinator  
37 Hillside Road  
Stratford, NJ 08084 USA  
856-627-5118  
**arkowpets@snip.net**  
**www.nationallinkcoalition.org**

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# INTRODUCTION

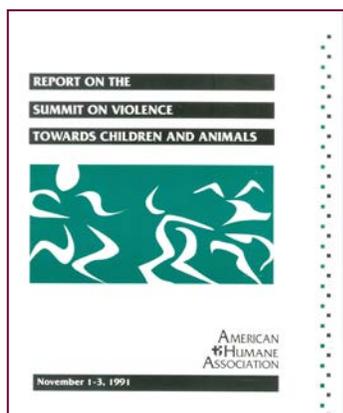


Since the National Link Coalition’s inception in 2008, there has been expanding interest in what we call The Link, the areas where animal abuse intersects with other forms of family and community violence, including domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and elder abuse. National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow described this growth as “a ripple effect,” where inroads with program leaders, public policymakers and academicians from many fields are blossoming into exciting new multidisciplinary programs, laws and scholarly research.

The renaissance of interest in The Link, an age-old concept by itself, is fueled by several forces. In addition to a growing public sensitivity to the welfare of animals, there is a mounting body of evidence informing veterinary medicine, psychology, the criminal justice system, law enforcement, social work, animal shelters, domestic violence prevention, and child and adult protective services that what were previously considered isolated incidents are often linked. These professionals are addressing cruelty, neglect and abuse of animals with a newfound vigor, recognizing that acts of animal maltreatment often indicate, and predict, crimes against humans – and vice versa. Where animal cruelty issues were formerly relegated to the periphery of public and professional concern, today there is growing recognition that when animals are abused people are at risk, and when people are abused animals are at risk.

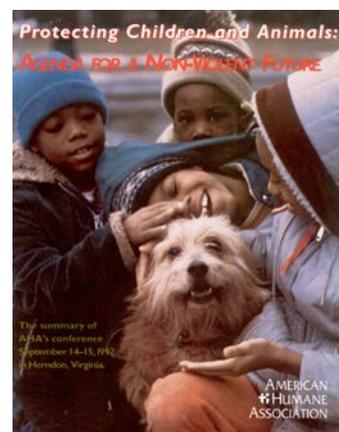
The response to this increased awareness has taken many forms. The National Link Coalition has been helping many communities to cross-train social service and animal care and control agencies on how to recognize and report signs of suspected animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse. State laws and national organizational protocols are providing mandates and guidance to facilitate these processes. In particular, the domestic violence field is recognizing that threats or acts of violence to companion and livestock animals are powerful intimidation techniques through which abusers gain control over and exact revenge against other family members. Twenty-two states and Puerto Rico now allow judges to include animals specifically in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. The corrosive and potentially life-altering impacts upon children who perpetrate or witness animal cruelty are becoming widely accepted. The National Link Coalition has been instrumental in facilitating the development of community, state, and even national coalitions bringing together individuals and organizations focused on The Link between animal abuse and other forms of violence.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



On **November 1-3, 1991**, the American Humane Association convened what is believed to be the first multidisciplinary gathering of authorities investigating the intersections of violence towards children and animals. This meeting, held near American Humane's headquarters outside of Denver, Colo., brought together 30 national leaders in four working groups to consider Link issues related to research, education and socialization, program and policy development, and intervention and treatment. The published report<sup>1</sup> provided recommendations in these four areas and identified representative programs addressing what would later be called The Link.

The American Humane Association convened a follow-up conference **September 14-15, 1992** in Herndon, Va., outside Washington, D.C. Seventeen prominent nationally-renowned speakers addressed participants on protecting children and animals and setting an agenda for a non-violent future. "The abuse of animals is a portent along the path that leads to the abuse of people, both as children and adults, and to the decay of our communities, both human and natural," said Scott McVay, Executive Director of the sponsoring Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. A subsequent report<sup>2</sup> from this conference identified representative speakers, programs and bibliographic materials and outlined an eight-step agenda for a non-violent future.



Over the next two decades, the American Humane Association, the Latham Foundation, and the Humane Society of the United States' First Strike campaign continued to raise awareness, develop programs and research, and encourage legislation aimed at reducing violence against all vulnerable members of the family and society. Eventually, both the American Humane Association and the Humane Society of the United States would discontinue their formal Link programs.



On **June 8-10, 2008**, a brain trust of 111 researchers, practitioners and organizational leaders from human and animal services met in Portland, Maine to evaluate the current state of affairs in The Link between animal abuse and human violence. They came together to strategize future directions in research, programs and public policy; to identify challenges and opportunities facing the field; and to create mechanisms for local and national collaborations to advance the Link agenda. One result of the gathering was the formation of a new, neutral entity called the National Link Coalition to carry this important work forward.

This historic meeting had two key components. A New England-style **National Town Meeting** enabled representatives from 22 states, two Canadian provinces and the United Kingdom to identify Link issues. Participants commented openly about public policy concerns, research accomplishments and needs, and examples of and challenges facing sustainable community Link coalitions. The perspectives of child welfare, veterinary medicine, adult protective services, animal control, law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and assessment and treatment providers were articulated. Challenges in public education, densely urban and remote rural environments, and confidentiality requirements were addressed. An extensive list of issues, public policy concerns, research agendas, strategies for starting and sustaining community coalitions, ideas for engaging various professions in The Link, and directions for the future was generated.<sup>3</sup>



The goals of the 2008 National Town Meeting were to:

1. **Strengthen community responses to family violence** by convening Link experts, community coalition members and other professionals to strategize a nationwide coordinated effort;
2. Determine how current and future **research, public policy initiatives, and coalition-building** successes will impact Link programming on the national, state and local levels;
3. Provide an opportunity to advance Link public policy by **prioritizing** legislative and program initiatives;
4. Use the successes of Link community coalitions and address the barriers, in order to develop models for successful **coalition program development, implementation of activities, and sustainability**; and
5. **Create a multidisciplinary, national network** to enable local coalitions and researchers to learn from one another in addressing The Link between animal cruelty and human violence.

Synthesizing the National Town Meeting's input, an **Experts' Summit** then met to chart a course for the future. The objectives of the Experts' Summit were to:

1. Develop a common vision to move The Link agenda forward
2. Identify critical issues facing The Link agenda
3. Create strategies and action plans for the coming year
4. Make organizational and individual commitments
5. Establish mechanisms to sustain this effort

From these findings, the National Link Coalition was formed. We created a challenging but attainable common vision statement for a desired future that would frame the Coalition and other Link efforts:

## VISION STATEMENT

**It is understood that there is a link between violence against humans and violence against animals. Through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, people and animals are measurably safer.**

To arrive at this desired future, the Experts' Summit used a collaborative process to rank-order issues and prioritize five strategic goal areas for the near future:

## STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

- 1. Building public awareness about The Link through marketing, messaging, and communications**
- 2. Overcoming the fragmentation of systems by building networks**
- 3. Providing education and training for professionals**
- 4. Addressing the root cause: Prevention, intervention, and prosecution (*was modified in 2012: see page 39*)**
- 5. Engaging academics to conduct research and data collection**

Implementation was left in the capable hands of a Steering Committee, a nucleus of 10 thought leaders (the "G-10")\* representing national and local organizations, to direct the Coalition. It would be an independent entity, not part of any existing organization. It would serve as a clearinghouse for information and an advisory council to work on the national level as a model for local Link coalitions.

The G-10 began to hold monthly teleconference calls to keep the momentum going and the organization together; although some initial members dropped off or experienced job changes, interest and commitment was unflagging. The Portland Proceedings were widely distributed to individuals and organizations furthering the Link agenda. A list-serve was developed and a website created, hosted initially by The Latham Foundation and later by the American Humane Association, to encourage information and communications. A monthly Link e-newsletter (*The LINK-Letter*) was produced.

Two years later, there was a need to evaluate progress and determine if any course corrections were needed for the next phase of our evolution. A select group of 40 Link authorities – many of whom participated at Portland and others who were new to the group – were invited to come to Denver, Colo. on **June 10-11, 2010** for a **Roundtable** with facilitated strategic planning. They represented 14 states, Canada and Spain, from the nonprofit, government and philanthropic sectors. They were a multi-disciplinary mix from social services, academia, child protection, animal welfare and control, veterinary medicine, criminal justice, community coalitions, and public health. Sharing a common compassion and passion for ending violence in all its interrelated forms, they hoped to leverage lessons learned and best practices to expand the Link network.

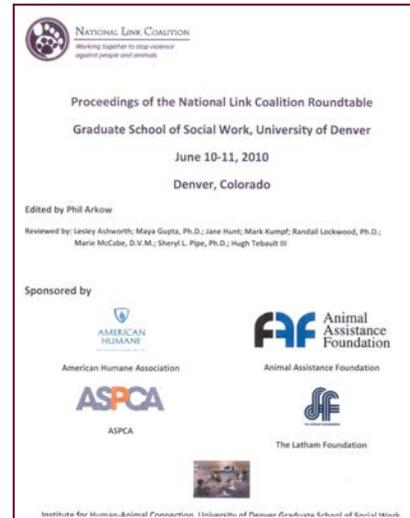
**\* At the time, there was worldwide economic turmoil and interest in the G-20 group of world finance ministers. Our committee jokingly called itself the G-10 and the name stuck, even though its composition has now grown to 19.**

The 2010 Denver Roundtable<sup>4</sup> reviewed progress made and challenges encountered since 2008. Best practices, lessons learned, obstacles, successful coalitions in four states, and Link programs in Spain and Canada were presented. Architecture and design for a website were discussed. A “Bring and Brag” session showcased exciting new developments and international programs. A facilitation reviewed the National Link Coalition’s organizational structure and its interface with local coalitions. The Coalition’s primary functions were said to be to serve as a mentor and clearinghouse for Link information and to help local organizations form and achieve their goals and missions.

Participants explored five scenarios to create an optimal, effective, successful, and sustainable future that fulfills the vision statement during the next stage of the Coalition’s evolution. Although discussion focused largely on organizational issues facing the National Link Coalition, many concerns and strategies were applicable to the start-up and sustainability of community and state Link coalitions as well.

The group felt that rather than try to do everything at once, setting achievable short-term goals would be more effective. It was recognized that the steering committee is working well, with self-set voluntary terms of service; its strength lies in the individuals who have stepped up to serve on it. The need for a part-time dedicated staff coordinator was seen as critical, with “champion” organizations providing funding to pay for such staff.

Participants preferred keeping the National Link Coalition as an independent, neutral entity rather than a component of another organization, and did not envision it becoming a tax-deductible 501-c-3 nonprofit. Having national organizations provide in-kind services was seen as more feasible with sponsorship for specific projects on an ad hoc basis. The Coalition’s creativity was said to come from its lack of structure, and the bureaucracy of a more formal organization might impede this creativity.



<sup>1</sup> Moulton, C., Kaufmann, M.E., & Filip, J., (Eds.). (1992). *Report on the summit on violence towards children and animals*. Englewood, CO: American Humane Association.

<sup>2</sup> American Humane Association. (1993). *Protecting children and animals: Agenda for a non-violent future. The summary of AHA's conference September 14-15 in Herndon, Virginia*. Englewood, CO: Author.

<sup>3</sup> Arkow, P. (Ed.). (2008). *Strategizing The Link: Summary report on the national town meeting and experts' summit on The Link between animal abuse and human violence, Portland, ME, June 8-10, 2008*. Englewood, CO: American Humane Association.

<sup>4</sup> Arkow, P. (Ed.). (2010). *Proceedings of the National Link Coalition roundtable*. Stratford, NJ: National Link Coalition.

## THE 2012 DENVER SUMMIT

On **July 26, 2012**, the National Link Coalition's G-10 Steering Committee and several invited guests convened once again in Denver, Colo., for a chance to renew old acquaintances, meet new members face-to-face, review past progress and current conditions, and chart a strategic direction for the next phase of the National Link Coalition's evolution. With the assistance of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, whose biennial conference accorded us five training programs and a venue for our own meeting, and the financial support of the ASPCA and the Latham Foundation, the **2012 Denver Summit** showcased Steering Committee members' passion, enthusiasm and commitment to The Link. Jill Buckley, Esq., Senior Director of Community Initiatives for the ASPCA and a veteran Link proponent with extensive experience in national policy development and local shelter collaborative, served as facilitator.



**A welcoming reception at Jon Zahourek's Anatomy in Clay studios in Denver gave the G-10 an informal chance to meet each other and have an educational enrichment experience. Zahourek pioneered a unique form of anatomical modeling which can replace traditional dissection in school and university classrooms and training for bodywork professionals. By building and studying anatomy in layers from the inside out, rather than dissecting from the outside in, students gain a greater appreciation for life and the comparative nature of human and non-human animals' biological systems.**

## PROGRESS REPORT: 2010 – 2012

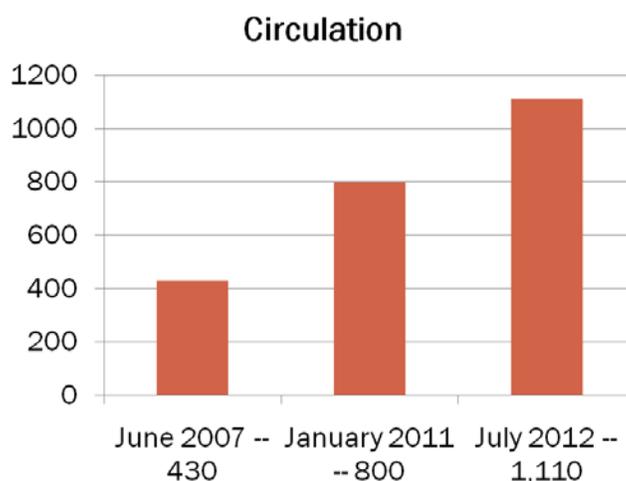
National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow opened the discussion with a review of the 2008 and 2010 meetings for the benefit of new Steering Committee members and a report of the Coalition's progress over the past two years. He summed up the Coalition's activities in 10 key areas:



### Organizational

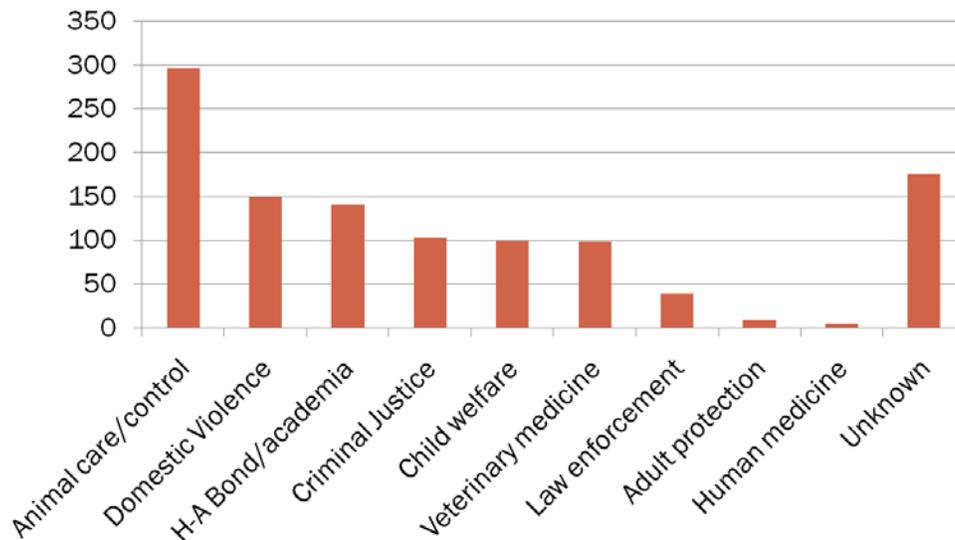
**1. Teleconference calls:** The G-10 convenes monthly via telephone conference calls, the costs of which are underwritten by the ASPCA. These calls are supposed to last an hour, but usually extend longer due to the great amount of information presented and members' eagerness to explore new Link developments.

**2. The LINK-Letter:** Originally produced intermittently as the *Link eNews* e-mail from the American Humane Association (April 2007 – August 2010), *The LINK-Letter* came into being in January 2011 and has been published monthly since then under the editorship of Phil Arkow. Readership has grown dramatically and Phil presented several charts depicting the increasing interest in The Link:

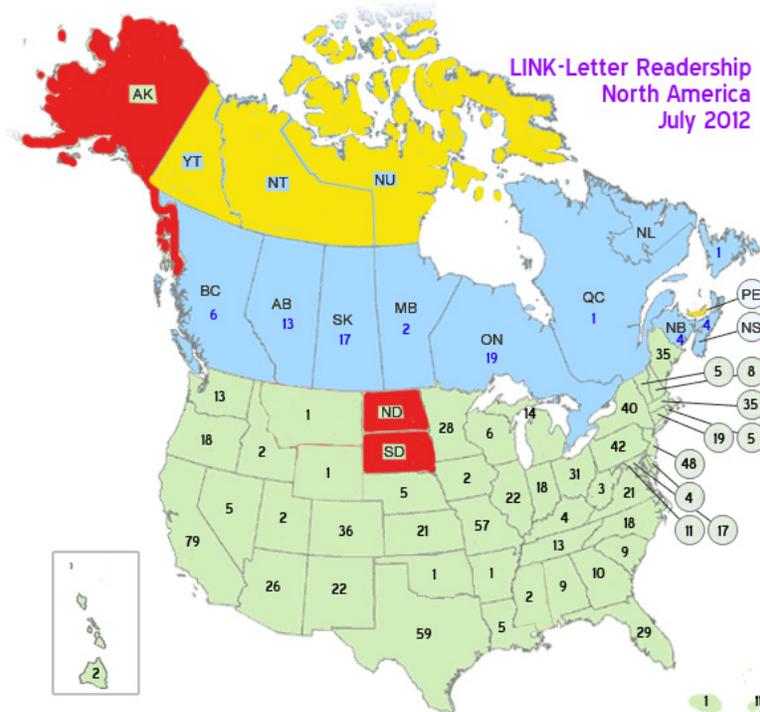


As befitting a multidisciplinary audience, readership is segmented among a wide range of professional specializations, many of which overlap. Phil presented the following approximate breakdown of *The LINK-Letter's* readers' primary (but not exclusive) interest areas:

### Readership - Primary Field of Interest



U.S. readers are located in 47 states, with only Alaska, North Dakota and South Dakota currently unrepresented. *The LINK-Letter* enjoys good exposure in Canada with all southern-tier provinces except Prince Edward Island represented, as depicted in the following map:





**4. Social Networking:** The National Link Coalition created a LinkedIn site, but utilization has been minimal. The G-10 will explore the feasibility and mechanics of implementing a Facebook page which may attract more interest.



## Capacity Building

**5. Coalition Development:** Allie Phillips and Jane Hunt conducted independent surveys of local and state Link coalitions to gather insights as to the needs and challenges of the movement. An ongoing issue remains the problem of sustainability: without the presence of dedicated staff persons to organize and coordinate activities, coalitions continue to have a difficult time keeping themselves together. Phil described coalitions that are in various stages of dissolution or reorganization in:

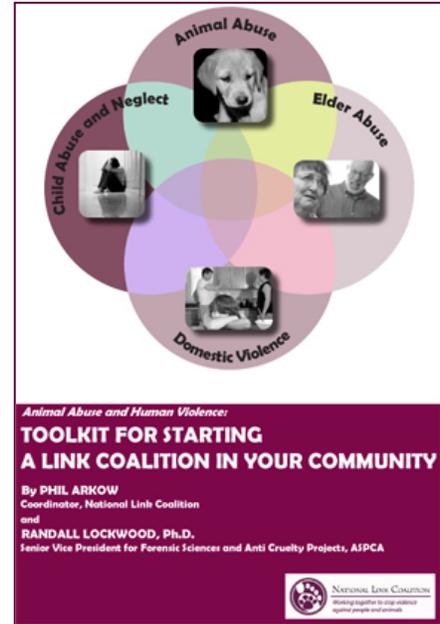
- Albuquerque, N. Mex.
- Boston, Mass.
- Cincinnati, Ohio
- the State of Connecticut
- Leavenworth, Kans.
- St. Paul, Minn.
- San Antonio, Tex.
- Sarasota, Fla.
- Springfield, Ill.

Countering this challenge is the continuing interest among new groups wanting to organize. In the 2010-2012 period, new Link coalitions have been launched in:

- Austin, Tex. (*via activist*) – Safe People and Pets Coalition of Austin
- Baltimore, Md. (*via Mayor*) – Anti-Animal Abuse Commission
- Chicago, Ill. (*via law student*) – Safety Network for Abused Animals and People – Chicago
- Greenfield, Mass. (*via family services*) – Franklin County Link Coalition
- Hillsboro, Ore. (*via D.A.'s office*) – Washington Co. Animal Protection Multidisciplinary Team
- Kansas City, Mo./Kans. (*via Animals and Society Institute*) – K.C. Caring for All Network
- Klamath Falls, Ore. (*via child protection agency*) – Purple Paws & People
- San Bernardino County, Calif. (*via D.A.'s office*) – Animal Cruelty Taskforce
- Washington, D.C. (*via law student*) – Safety Network for Abused Animals and People
- Wichita, Kans. (*via police department*) – Animal Justice Coalition
- Uppsala, Sweden (*via veterinary school students*) – V.O.O.V.

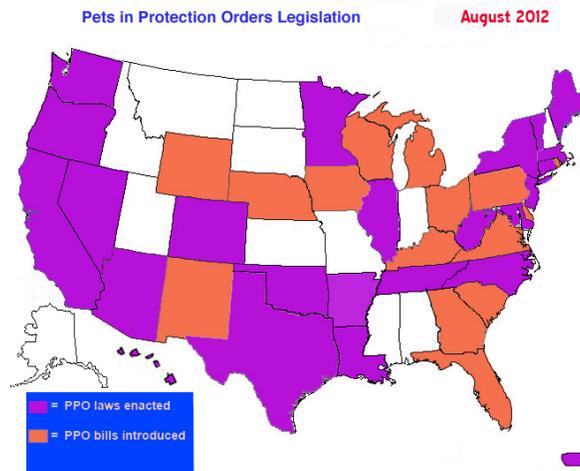
Currently, 25 U.S. and seven foreign coalitions are believed to exist. Charlottesville, Va. and the State of Alabama are attempting to organize coalitions.

Phil noted that the diversity of initiating agencies and individuals responsible for starting local coalitions, the differing sizes of communities involved, and widely disparate local needs contribute to the inability to define a universal, replicable or best-practices model for local coalition development. To assist groups in organizing and sustaining, Phil and Randy created a 36-page ***Toolkit for Starting a Link Coalition in Your Community*** in 2012. The four-color manual, which features a seven-step organizational process, is available as a free download on the National Link Coalition website and can be ordered as a print-on-demand PDF at a nominal price of \$7.20 from [www.magcloud.com](http://www.magcloud.com).



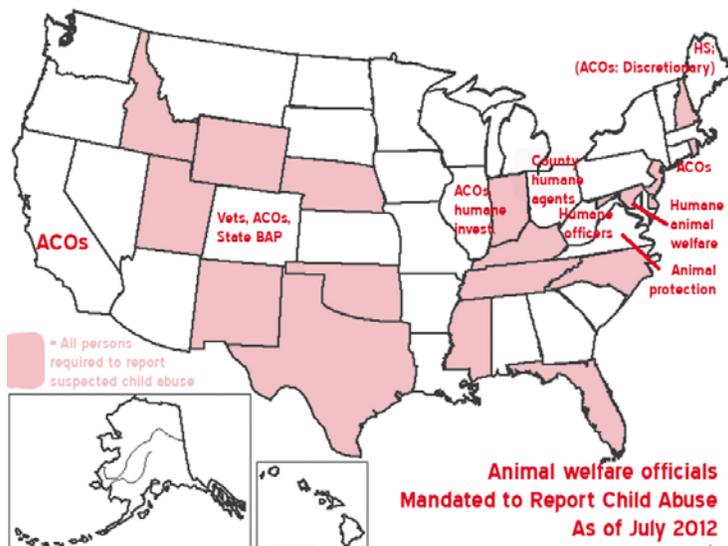
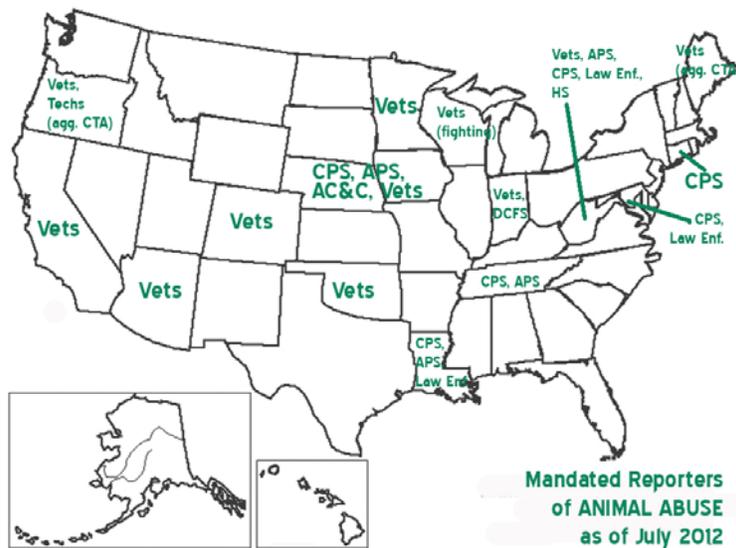
## Public Policy

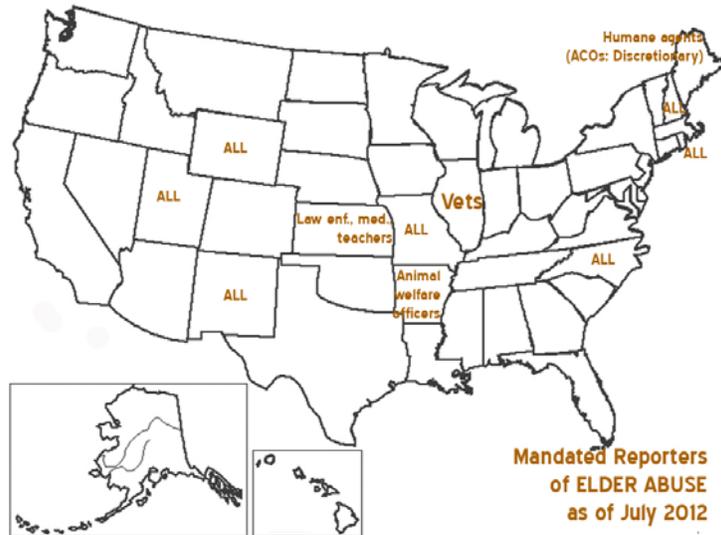
**6. Legislation:** The most widespread Link-related legislative efforts continue to be in the area of enacting “***pet protective orders***” (PPOs), statutes which specifically enable courts to include pets and/or livestock within domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. Since the first such law was enacted in Maine in 2006, 23 states and Puerto Rico have enacted similar provisions. (The District of Columbia also enacted a statute, but it was rescinded in 2012 due to a technical error and we have hopes that it will be re-introduced.) In the 2010-2012 period, PPO laws were enacted in Arkansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Texas; PPO bills in Florida, Kentucky and Virginia were defeated. Currently, the following states have either enacted (purple) or introduced (orange) PPO legislation:



While PPOs have dominated Link legislation, perhaps the most significant public policy development in 2010-2012 came from the State of Connecticut. Public Act 11-194, enacted in 2011, created what may be the nation's most comprehensive statewide system mandating the Department of Children and Families and local animal control officers to **cross-report suspected cases of abuse and neglect** to each other. Connecticut, Illinois and West Virginia are the only states with full two-way cross-reporting between child protection and animal welfare officials; the awareness, utilization and effectiveness of these statutes are currently unknown.

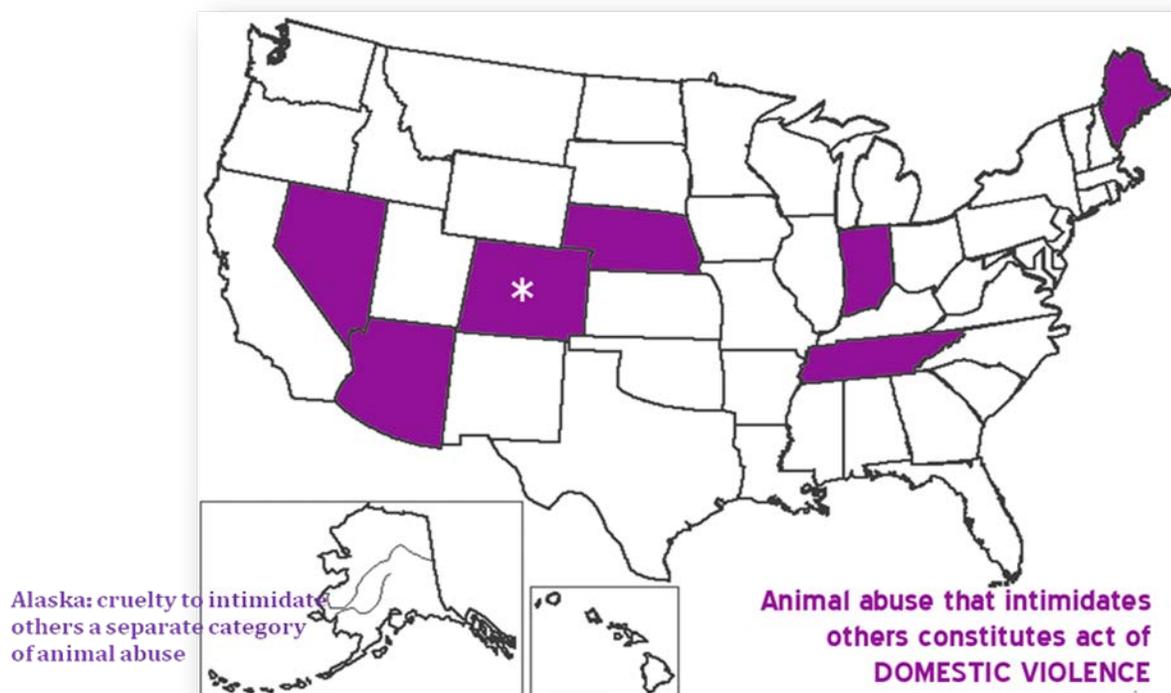
Phil noted that cross-reporting animal abuse, child abuse and elder abuse presents an inconsistent patchwork of varying state laws. The current status of cross-reporting provisions is believed to be:





(Albany, Rockland and Suffolk) are believed to be the only jurisdictions where such laws are in place, and their effectiveness is currently believed to be minimal. The State of Oregon enacted a statute that requires individuals convicted of animal sexual assault to register as a sex offender.

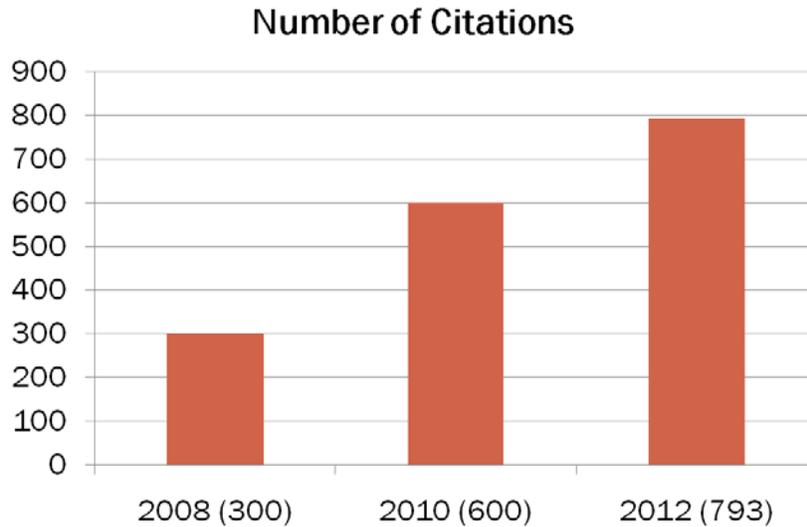
**Defining animal abuse as domestic violence:** With increasing evidence that animals are killed, hurt or threatened by abusers as “pawns” in the power-and-control mechanisms of intimate partner violence, and that fears of retaliatory animal abuse force many survivors to remain in abusive relationships, seven states have enacted laws defining animal cruelty intended to intimidate or control someone as being within their definition of domestic violence. Colorado also includes such acts within its definition of elder abuse. Alaska describes such acts as a separate category of animal cruelty.



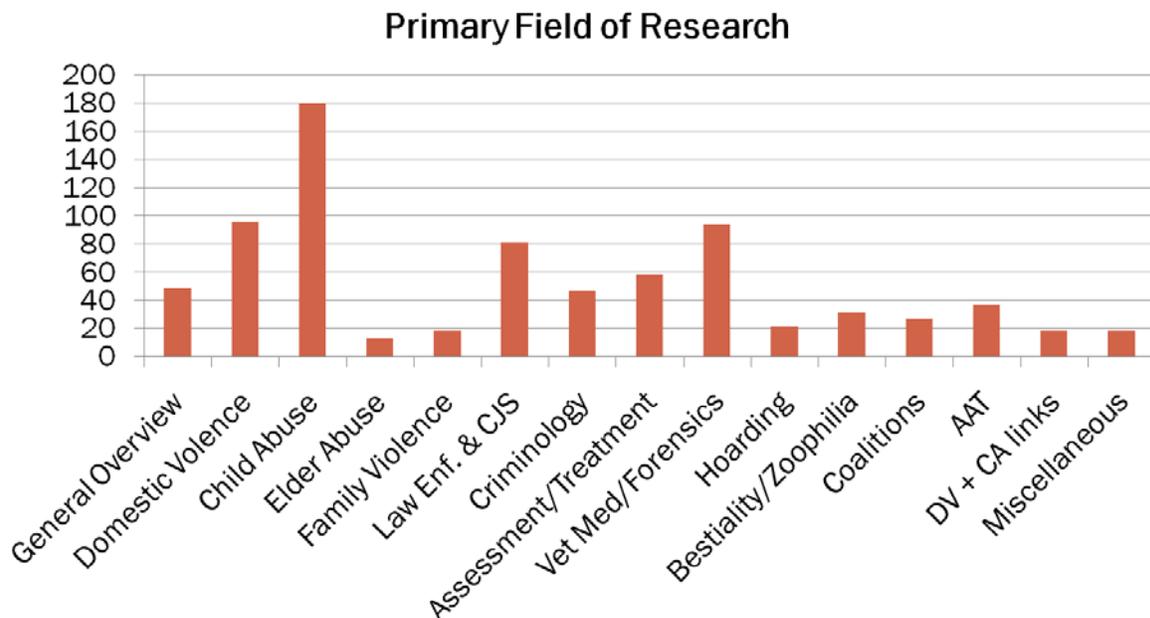
Phil reminded participants that the National Link Coalition does not take formal positions on pending legislation, but merely presents information about them for the benefit of our readers’ interests. He encouraged participants to continually notify the Coalition about pending bills that affect The Link.

## Research

**7. Research:** Phil compiles an ongoing, and ever-expanding, bibliography of Link-related articles in academic journals, books and professional publications on his website at [www.animaltherapy.net](http://www.animaltherapy.net). The list of citations continues to grow dramatically and consistently, as evidenced by the following chart:

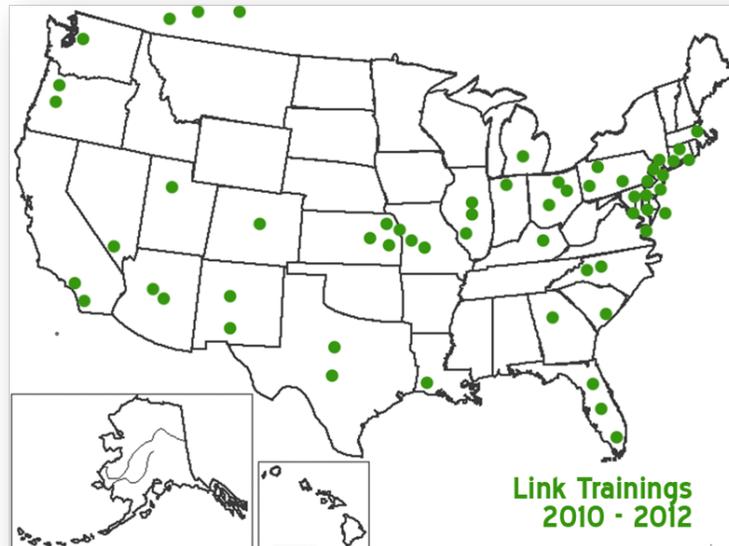


Attempting to categorize the nature of this research remains challenging due to its multi-disciplinary nature. However, one taxonomy of classifications describes the research as emanating from the following fields of interest:



## Professional Training and Development

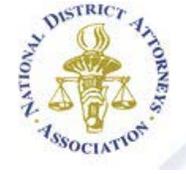
**8. Training:** Members of the National Link Coalition continue to be highly active in presenting Link training to a wide array of professional and public audiences, both domestically and internationally. While no accurate count of the number of people reached is available, it is believed to number in the thousands. An incomplete map of cities in which Link programs were presented in 2010-2012 is:



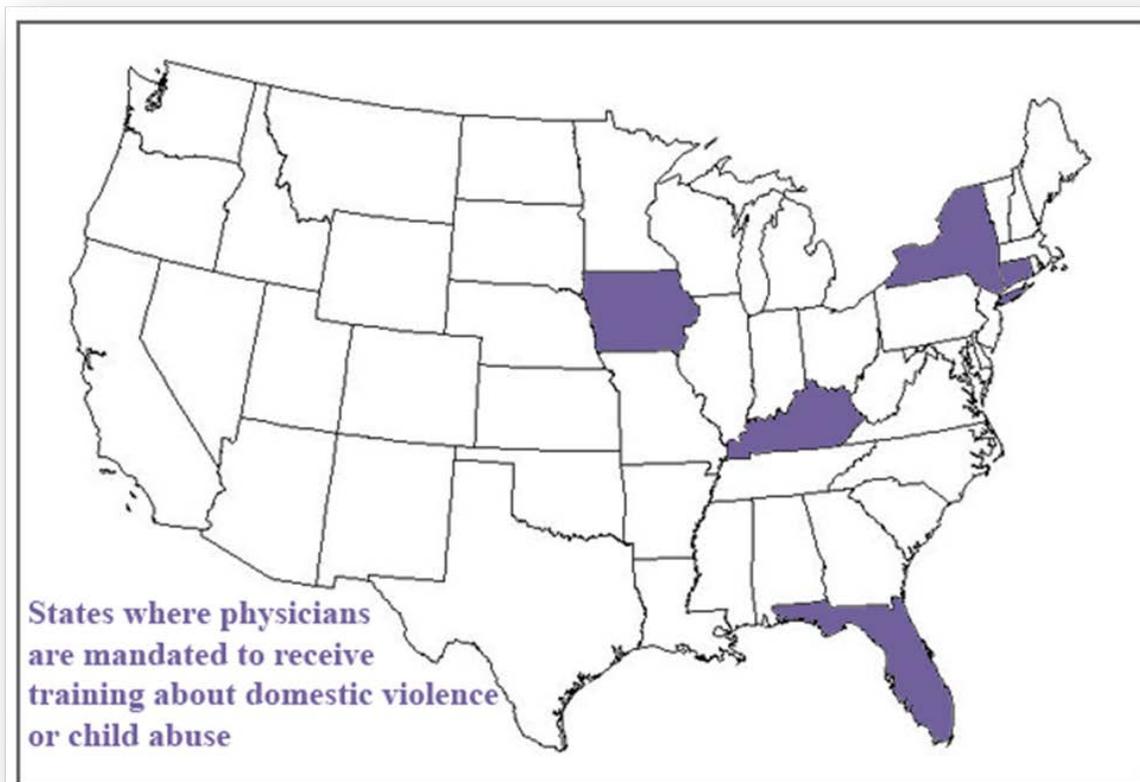
On the global level, trainings were held in at least 13 nations in 2010-2012, as depicted below:



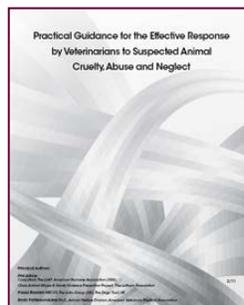
One highlight of Link training has been a series of monthly webinars conducted by the National Center for the Prosecution of Animal Abuse (a program of the National District Attorneys Association) created in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund and with the assistance of the National Link Coalition. These webinars, organized by Allie Phillips, attract between 100-200 participants each month. They address the human health and welfare aspects of animal cruelty and strategies for successful investigation and prosecution of animal abuse cases.



Phil also noted the Coalition's interest in the One Health Commission and One Health Initiative, which, like the Coalition, are multidisciplinary human-animal bond programs bridging the commonalities between human and veterinary medicine. We have maintained reciprocal relationships with these groups. He noted that a new potential area for Link training may exist in the human medical community: at least five states (Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, New York) require physicians to take continuing medical education training in domestic violence. The Link between domestic violence and animal abuse can fit within these requirements.

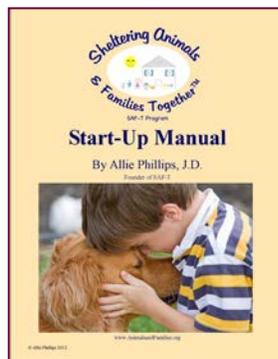


**9. Resources:** Despite the absence of funds to produce printed publications, the National Link Coalition made considerable headway in 2010-2012 in delivering quality resource materials to the field. Most recently, Phil and Randy created the abovementioned 36-page *Toolkit for Starting a Link Coalition in Your Community* which is available as a free download on the National Link Coalition website. It can be ordered as a print-on-demand PDF at a nominal price of \$7.20 from [www.magcloud.com](http://www.magcloud.com).



Working in collaboration with the American Veterinary Medical Association and the United Kingdom's Links Group, Phil, Emily Patterson-Kane and Paula Boyden co-authored the *Practical Guidance for the Effective Response by Veterinarians to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect*. This 56-page manual eases the practice-management concerns of veterinarians who encounter suspected animal maltreatment and guides them through the challenging legal, moral, ethical, and statutory considerations involved. The manual was published by AVMA and will be updated to reflect new statutory, regulatory and policy changes.

Three new **Link brochures** were produced to serve as handouts at training conferences. The brochures describe basic Link research findings vis-à-vis child maltreatment, domestic violence and elder abuse and how professionals can implement Link programming.



Several members of the G-10 have also published resource materials, most notably Allie Phillips' *Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T)*<sup>TM</sup> start-up manual for women's shelters considering on-site housing for the animal victims of domestic violence.

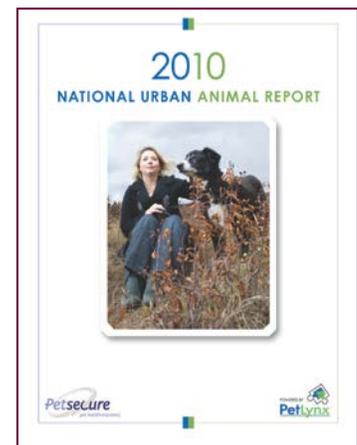
A training curriculum for police and sheriffs officers was produced and is posted online at the Latham Foundation's website. *Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Partners in Crime* is a three-part program designed to help law enforcement officers develop closer ties with the animal welfare agencies in their communities and recognize animal abuse as a serious crime affecting human welfare and safety.



## Shifting the Paradigm for Animal Welfare

**10. Using the Link to Increase Regard for Animal Welfare:** Underpinning the National Link Coalition’s work is the premise that acts of animal cruelty can no longer be trivialized, and animal care and control organizations can no longer be marginalized. We portray animal abuse as being not a stand-alone, isolated condition, but rather within the continuum of family violence. It is related to more recognized violence such as child maltreatment, domestic violence and elder abuse, often serving as an indicator and predictor of other crimes and frequently involving the same abusers. By changing this perception, government leaders, agency officials and the general public at all levels are coming to see animal cruelty as a serious crime that adversely affects not only animals but also human safety and welfare – issues which traditionally have received far greater support. The Coalition’s endeavors in this area were manifested in several key areas in 2010-2012:

**Animal Welfare:** Perhaps the most significant change was found in a management report<sup>5</sup> on the status of the animal sheltering industry which cited *The Link as a rationale for animal welfare*. The Calgary Humane Society and Ontario SPCA in Canada were cited in particular as being “innovators” who are transforming animal shelters from “inwardly focused and often isolated groups into community-focused open organizations” through collaborative programs. The report observed that animal shelters’ philosophy is evolving to recognize that “treating symptoms of animal welfare problems (animal homelessness, neglect and abuse) is only a stop-gap solution.... To be truly effective, the underlying causes must be addressed, specifically, community and family dysfunction, violence and irresponsible pet ownership....”



**Veterinary Medicine:** The American Veterinary Medical Association amended the veterinarians’ oath which now, for the first time, clearly identifies *animal welfare and the prevention of suffering as priorities of the veterinary profession*. AVMA also updated its policy on animal abuse and neglect to require practitioners who observe animal abuse or neglect as defined by law to report such cases promptly to appropriate authorities.



The National Link Coalition is partnering with the *One Health* Commission, and serving as a resource to the One Health Initiative, to explore the positive and negative aspects of human-animal interactions by bridging veterinary and human medicine. Several programs have emerged in Connecticut, North Carolina, Scotland, Sweden, Spain, Canada, and elsewhere, in which veterinarians and physicians direct their attention to common issues in domestic violence and animal abuse.

<sup>5</sup> PetLynx (2010). *2010 national urban animal report*. Calgary, AB: Author.



Some of the most dynamic developments involve the increased recognition of *veterinary forensics* as a distinct specialty within the profession. Members of the National Link Coalition and the ASPCA are working with the University of Florida in a new distance learning curriculum in this area, and serve in leadership capacities with the new International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association. As a result, veterinarians are now accepted as members in the prestigious American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Several animal protection organizations, including the New Jersey SPCA and the Dona Aña County, N. Mex. Sheriff's Department, have recently added veterinarians trained in forensics to their staffs.

**Domestic Violence:** Recognition of the connections between animal abuse and intimate partner violence continues to grow. The *National Coalition Against Domestic Violence* offered the National Link Coalition a special track featuring two workshops, two strategy sessions, and a half-day training institute at its 2012 national conference. Approximately 72 women's shelters have built, or are in the process of planning, *on-site animal housing facilities* to keep all survivors of abused families together. *National SAF-T Days*



(Sheltering Animals and Families Together) were held in October 2010 and 2011, with a third planned for 2012. *Safe Haven networks*, where women's shelters collaborate with animal groups to provide off-site foster care, are proliferating: Maya Gupta has recorded 232 such programs in 45 states, plus six more in Canada, the U.K. and Scotland, in her directory at [www.ahimsahouse.org](http://www.ahimsahouse.org).

Lesley Ashworth, working with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, conducted a *needs assessment* survey that identified significant gaps in pet services for domestic violence survivors in the southeast quadrant of the state. At least five states (California, Florida, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington) are believed to have communities in which *histories of pet abuse are included in domestic violence fatality reviews*. Sacramento-based Red Rover (formerly United Animal Nations) has implemented a new program of awarding *grants for pet care* to individuals escaping from domestic violence and to shelters providing housing for their pets.

**Child Protection:** In response to an invitation from U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., the National Link Coalition submitted testimony to the new *Defending Childhood Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence*, encouraging the group to recognize the deleterious impacts upon children who witness or perpetrate violence against animals.

**Criminal Justice System:** National Link Coalition G-10 member Allie Phillips was instrumental in creating the ***National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse***, which she directs, at the National District Attorneys Association; Allie also serves as deputy director for NDAA's National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse. NCPAA publishes a periodic *Tales of Justice* newsletter to assist prosecutors with the thorny issues involved with animal cruelty cases.



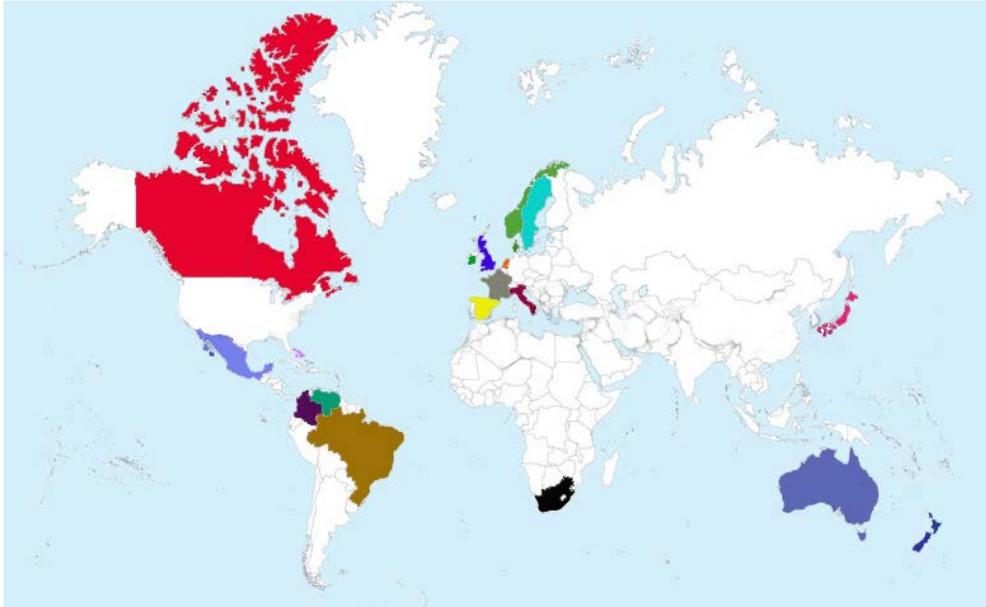
Since September 2011, the National Link Coalition has been working with the Center to conduct free monthly online ***training webinars***, each of which attracts between 100 – 200 participants around the world. The webinars cover such topics as The Link, animal hoarding, assessment and treatment of cruelty offenders, and veterinarians serving as expert witnesses.

Allie has identified at least 79 jurisdictions with ***prosecution and/or law enforcement resources dedicated to animal abuse*** crimes.

Some 141 law schools are believed to be offering coursework in the new discipline of ***Animal Law***, and several related academic journals are being published. ***Law school students are becoming increasingly more interested in The Link***, as evidenced by the University of Buffalo Law School, where students compiled a resource directory for domestic violence survivors, and Georgetown University Law Center, where two students created Link coalitions in Washington, D.C. and Chicago, Ill. At least one community (Tucson, Ariz.) has started bundling its animal cruelty cases into a special monthly ***Animal Welfare Court*** schedule.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Link momentum is vigorous in numerous foreign countries that continue to look to the U.S. for leadership – and that have developed many innovative programs of their own. Growing global interest has now spread to 19 nations:



**Australia:** Two new Link books, *Animal Abuse: Helping Animals and People*, by veterinarian Catherine Tiplady, and *Animal Cruelty, Antisocial Behaviour and Aggression: More Than a Link*, by psychologist Eleonora Gullone, are about to be published: National Link Coalition G-10 members have contributed chapters to these books. Two veterinary journals have published Link articles, and a landmark conference on veterinary forensics and veterinary medicine’s role in domestic violence is scheduled for December 2012.



**Bahamas:** Researcher William Fielding at the College of the Bahamas has published several journal articles on correlated histories of animal abuse and domestic violence among Bahamian youths.



**Brazil:** Several Brazilian veterinarians are active in the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association. Research papers described non-accidental injury in cats, and how sex with animals increases the risk of human cancer.



**Canada:** Several recent Link trainings have reached the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse, the Saskatchewan SPCA, and the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association. The Alberta SPCA is preparing a province-wide report of women's shelters' reporting of animal abuse incidents and their pet sheltering needs. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, which maintains an excellent website section on The Link, has a position statement that veterinarians have a moral obligation to report suspected animal abuse: such reporting is mandatory in five provinces (Manitoba, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec). Such reporting is not considered a breach of confidentiality, and Canada's veterinary schools are encouraged to discuss the issue.



**Colombia:** Nuria Querol, who heads Spain's GEVHA Link Coalition, spoke to the Forum of the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and the national police's first conference on animal protection.



**Denmark:** A progressive Danish law, enacted in 1991 and amended in 1993, requires veterinarians to report animal cruelty to police if the condition is serious and not corrected immediately by the animal's owner.



**France:** Andrew Linzey's recent book, *The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence*, was translated into French, where The Link is called Le Lien.



**Ireland:** Regrettably, little Link information has come out of Ireland in recent years. A 2005 study reported that 92% of veterinarians acknowledge non-accidental injury (NAI), and 43% have seen it in their practices. 12% of practitioners suspect that NAI indicates other forms of family violence, and that these cases seem to be more prevalent in urban areas. It is unknown whether any follow-up studies or Link programs have ensued.



**Italy:** Similarly, there has been no Link information emanating from Italy since a 2007 study by Camilla Pagani, Francesco Robustelli and Frank Ascione regarding Italian youths' histories of cruelty to animals.



**Japan:** Sakiko Yamazaki’s study reported that abused children engage in more activities with animals, see pets as sources of emotional support, and are more likely to witness and commit animal abuse. While animal abuse is not yet considered a serious social issue, several dramatic Link cases have surfaced in the news media.



**Mexico:** Nuria Querol, who heads Spain’s GEVHA Link Coalition, brought Link training to Mexico, where she spoke at a forum for legislators, received an award from the Mexican government, and was interviewed by CNN Mexico.



**The Netherlands:** Following the highly successful 2009 Cirkel van Geweld (Circle of Violence) conference in Utrecht, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers has been organizing Link programs. The new national “Animal Cops” (Dierenpolitie) is a Link-based abuse prevention and response program, including a nationwide animal abuse reporting hotline. Pet foster care, veterinary training and veterinary protocols to report suspected child and animal abuse are being developed.



**New Zealand:** Michael Roguski’s “Pets as Pawns” report for the New Zealand SPCA identified rates of animal abuse in domestic violence situations, barriers to survivors leaving, and the types of animal abuse likely to occur both during and following the human relationship. The New Zealand Veterinary Medical Association, which pioneered pet abuse reporting protocols in 1998, is currently considering similar procedures to respond to domestic violence. Phil Arkow and Randy Lockwood are slated to bring training on The Link, empathy, and veterinary forensics to the New Zealand Companion Animal Council and SPCA in 2012 and 2013.



**Norway:** In 2010, the Animal Welfare Act was passed requiring anyone suspecting animal maltreatment or neglect to report it to police or food safety authorities. Health professionals, including veterinarians, are exempted from making such reports when they are bound by patient/client confidentiality, but they have the right to alert authorities when they have reasonable suspicions and have carried out an assessment.



**South Africa:** Link-based humane education continues in Western Cape Province, led by the Humane Education Trust which posts *The LINK-Letter* on its website. A Link based empathy-building program is in the Johannesburg township areas.



**Spain:** GEVHA (Grupo para el Estudio de la Violencia hacia Humanos y Animales) continues to make great strides and has a multi-lingual website reporting much Link news globally. Several training programs have been conducted in Spain and elsewhere. Recent research includes two studies on the incidence of pet abuse in Spanish women's shelters, and histories of animal cruelty among incarcerated offenders in Spain.



**Sweden:** Link programs are just getting organized following a week-long training conducted by Phil Arkow in 2012. A group of veterinary school students called Veterinär Omtanke Om Våldsutsatta –V.O.O.V. (“voov” is also the Swedish word for “woof”) is leading the efforts in Stockholm and Uppsala.



**United Kingdom:** The Links Group continues its work to bring The Link, training, and innovative programs to Great Britain. The group co-authored the *Practical Guidance for the Effective Response by Veterinarians to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect* and recently published a British equivalent, *Recognizing Abuse in Animals and Humans: Guidance for Veterinary Surgeons and Other Veterinary Employees*. An extensive array of pet sheltering and cross-referral programs have been established with 19 prominent local and national social services and animal welfare organizations. The first successful prosecutions of non-accidental injury (NAI), the addition of reporting protocols to the British veterinary guide to professional conduct, a human/animal Medics Against Violence initiative in Scotland, and the inclusion of NAI training in British veterinary schools are among the Links Group's recent accomplishments.



**Venezuela:** Nuria Querol i Vinas, who heads Spain's GEVHA Link Coalition, brought Link training to a university and police officers in two cities.

## ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD

The 2012 Denver Summit also gave participants opportunities to initiate discussions about their particular disciplines of expertise and review new developments, policy, challenges, and opportunities that affect The Link. These “conversation starters” stimulated creative thought and helped the National Link Coalition to identify issues, trends and future directions.

### Prosecutors... and The Link

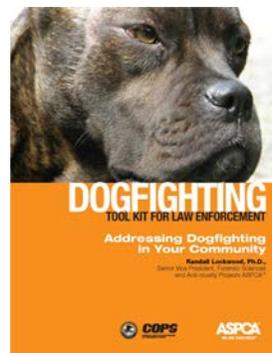


**Allie Phillips** reported that 141 law schools now include curricula in Animal Law. There are now Animal Law sections in 24 state bar associations plus the American and Canadian Bar Associations. The Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. conducts an animal law conference. Link training and online webinars are being addressed by both the National District Attorneys Association, through its national centers for prosecution of child and animal abuse, and by the Association of Prosecuting

Attorneys. Other resources are available through a Dogfighting Tool Kit produced by the ASPCA and the U.S. Department of Justice. The ASPCA and Animal Legal Defense Fund provide assistance to prosecutors handling animal cruelty cases.

An increasing number of prosecutors are showing interest in The Link, and Allie has identified 79 jurisdictions with district attorneys specifically tasked to animal cruelty cases: Honolulu, Hawai'i has made prosecution of cruelty to animals its number one priority, and Tucson, Ariz. now has a monthly Animal Welfare Court. However, staff turnover, term limits and failure to include cruelty cases in prosecutors' core competency training have made this interest difficult to sustain long-term. Animal cruelty is not addressed in civil law, family court or child protection training. A prosecutor in Pittsburgh, Pa. raised \$1,000,000 for the Allegheny Abused Animals Relief Fund to care for animals rescued in cruelty cases.

There is a need for a Court Watch program to monitor animal abuse cases, and for well-intentioned organizations that design protocols for treating animal cruelty offenders to include prosecutors in these designs.



## Elder Abuse... and The Link



**Bonnie Brandl**, Director of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, noted the many similarities between child abuse, domestic violence, animal cruelty and elder abuse: each field is marked by a patchwork of passionate programs operating with inadequate funding resources and limited national training opportunities. Abused elders face both resource issues and financial exploitation. Few agencies are prepared for the “silver tsunami” that is about to hit with the aging of the Baby

Boomer generation. However, the elder abuse field is starting to gain momentum and become a movement. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was proclaimed by President Obama on June 15, 2012.



Professionals in the elder abuse field, federal agencies, and advocacy groups such as AARP have yet to start considering animal abuse issues systemically, and only one book<sup>6</sup> has been published on the topic. The field should have a seat on the National Link Coalition Steering Committee, and Brandl was invited to serve or to recommend a delegate to represent this critical constituency. Link materials should be written to include language and photos that include elders.

Link coalitions offer good opportunities for collaboration, as multidisciplinary task forces may be the only viable approach to resolve animal hoarding cases involving elders. Groups such as Meals on Wheels could be trained to screen for animal welfare issues, and animal control officers could be trained to screen for elder abuse concerns. Adult protective services caseworkers encounter animal neglect and seniors who need assistance with low-cost pet food, veterinary care and spay/neuter programs. Animal-assisted intervention programs with seniors offer a natural animal-based entrance into the world of elders. Safe Haven programs could care for pets needing foster care while their elder owners are in the hospital.

<sup>6</sup> Humane Society of the U.S. and State of Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services, Division of Disability & Elder Services, Bureau of Aging & Long Term Care Resources (2003). *Creating safer communities for older adults and companion animals*. Washington, DC: HSUS.

## Domestic Violence... and The Link



**Anna Melbin**, director of network growth and strategy for the Full Frame Initiative, described some of the national trends affecting the domestic violence field.

The pendulum of the field is switching back to encouraging greater input from domestic violence survivors on local boards of directors, in organizational leadership, and in representation at many program levels.

Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is problematic. Because the field is experiencing demands for evidence-based practices, it is trying to find new ways to define survivors' successes in order to make program outcomes relevant. Many programs are viewing survivors not just within a domestic violence role, but within their entire social, family and community contexts: it may be possible to include their attachments to pets within this perspective.

Creative programs are working in new areas. "Mobile advocacy" does not require survivors to come in to shelters, but rather brings advocacy to them through home visits and meetings in neutral locations such as coffee shops. "Intersectionality" recognizes that survivors often face multiple challenges, such as substance abuse, poverty and mental health issues, and domestic violence interventions must incorporate multi-disciplinary community responses that could include animal care and control. There are new emphases on "accessibility" – ensuring that services are more flexible and available to anyone who needs them – and on "volunteer services" – no longer requiring survivors to partake of all programs. The interests of survivors with pets can be included in these newer program models.

Housing trends for survivors include a decrease in the number of shelters due to funding cutbacks. In response, "Rapid Rehousing" and "Housing First" programs are helping women to bypass the shelter stage and go directly into transitional housing through rent subsidies and landlord advocacy programs. However, women with pets have a more difficult time finding long-term transitional housing.

Domestic violence often creates situations of homelessness, with women forced out due to both economic and safety issues, and many domestic violence agencies are collaborating with programs for the homeless. "No Wrong Door" programs emphasize that every door she goes to should be able to assist her. Federal definitions of homelessness now include domestic violence survivors. Nonprofit groups such as the Nevada-based Pets of the Homeless provide pet food and veterinary care for the homeless: 23% of homeless persons have pets, which often provide them with a sense of safety and security. The National Alliance to End Homelessness now includes domestic violence as one of its major issues. These organizations may offer additional opportunities for Link programming.





**Maria Luisa O'Neill**, program services coordinator for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, described systemic problems with contested child custody cases when there has been domestic violence: batterers are getting more rights and in 70% of these cases the child is placed with the abuser. Civil and criminal courts are not in sync with each other. Even though the female survivor usually provides care for the pets, batterers often claim ownership of the animals, and judges rarely allow testimony about animal issues to be offered. There is no definitive way to get courts to include information about animal abuse in domestic violence risk-assessment protocols.

Some women's shelters include information about survivors' pets in their intake forms, but the process has not been standardized. Similarly, conducting individualized assessments of animal cruelty offenders has not become standard operating procedure.



**Maya Gupta**, executive director of Ahimsa House, noted that state standards for domestic violence programs rarely include animals in their requirements for sheltering, intake, providing services for disabled survivors with service animals, judges' benchbooks, protocols for stalking cases, or transitional housing. Currently, it is usually only the "animal lovers" in domestic violence programs who address these concerns, so there is a great need for institutionalizing procedures that include animals. Adding animal abuse awareness to domestic violence task forces' roll call training to law enforcement officers would be one way to initiate this.

Despite the rising interest in Pet Protection Order laws, many domestic violence groups have been reluctant to lobby for this provision because to do so runs the risk of opening up all domestic violence statutes to potentially unfavorable amendments. In the absence of PPO laws, advocates can attempt to change judges' protocols in issuing protection-from-abuse orders to include animals.

## Child Welfare... and The Link

**Barb Shaffer**, senior director of chapter services for Prevent Child Abuse America, and **Chris Risley-Curtiss**, associate professor and animal-human interactions coordinator at the Arizona State University School of Social Work, described a number of trends in the child protection field.



An earlier approach, whose watchword was “any abuser is a monster,” is being replaced with a newer awareness that many child abusers are family members and breadwinners: family ties and economic necessities frequently cause victims to not report the abuse and to return to their abusers. An ecological approach recognizes that family systems are complex. However, a challenge remains in getting companion animals recognized as parts of these ecosystems. Mandated cross-reporting of animal abuse and child abuse will be difficult until this recognition occurs. Such processes would generate more reports for child protective services agencies that are unclear as to whether they want more reports, fewer reports, or better reports. However, increasing the number of reports of suspected child abuse would lead to greater prevention efforts.

Current emphasis on evidence-based practices is necessary but often puts a damper on creativity.

Child protective services and foster care agencies are generally outside the public’s attention and generate media interest only when there is a tragedy in a case.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, one of the largest investigations ever undertaken to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being, is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente’s Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego. More than 50 scientific articles and 100 conference presentations have utilized data from the 17,000 participants. While domestic violence has been found to be a significant adverse experience for children, animal abuse has not been identified as a risk factor in the ACE study.

Under the Affordable Care Act, funding is available for children’s agencies to make home visits, in which caseworkers may have occasion to see animals. In some states, mandated in-home services do not require abused children to be removed. These present opportunities for caseworkers to identify pet welfare, nutrition, training, and veterinary care needs and to interface with animal protection organizations. There is a need to train social workers in the fundamentals of animal behavior and, conversely, for animal behaviorists to learn social services issues.

## Animal Sheltering... and The Link



**Joe Stafford**, director of animal law enforcement for the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, described current trends in animal care and control. Progressive agencies recognize that they protect both animals from people and people from animals. Budget cutbacks in the current economic downturn require that agencies abandon their “silo” approaches and work together collaboratively. The days of throwing endless money at a problem hoping it goes away are gone: today, everything is evidence-based and we need to embrace this concept, he said. Animal shelters need to learn other agencies’ perspectives, motivations and jargon.

Prioritizing animal cruelty cases among prosecutors and judges remains a large obstacle. The introduction of assessment and treatment programs for animal cruelty offenders is a good opportunity to reach professionals in the criminal justice system.

Particularly in larger animal shelters, there is more emphasis on training and public awareness. In many states, humane and animal control officers receive training and it is relatively inexpensive and easy to add Link training to these curricula. However, the National Animal Control Association does not yet include The Link in its basic core competency training materials. Link information is readily available: the field needs to find a way to institutionalize and standardize Link training in state animal control academies.

Some state animal control associations oppose mandated reporting of child abuse. This opposition could be overcome by encouraging animal control agencies to see themselves as members of community family violence prevention teams rather than as “dogcatchers.” Another approach would be to provide positive reinforcement through recognition of those animal agencies that go the extra distance in helping abused women and children.

Stafford observed that refocusing humane education on The Link provides opportunities. Humane educators can advance their programs by demonstrating the Link implications of animal abuse, and by promoting public safety through the prevention of dog bites. The Link meets teachers’ needs for curricula linked to human social skills by addressing bullying and character development. Ongoing challenges include gaining greater penetration of educational systems to incorporate these messages and demonstrating evidence-based practices that humane education works.

## Research... and The Link



**Chris Risley-Curtiss**, associate professor and animal-human interactions coordinator at the Arizona State University School of Social Work, provided a critique of some of the Link literature which has emerged in recent years. Some of this research is simplistic and tends to focus on how childhood acts of animal cruelty lead to adult violence without also considering how children’s violence against humans may also presage violent behaviors in adulthood. The “graduation hypothesis,” which proposes that animal cruelty desensitizes people to violence and causes them to escalate their antisocial behaviors against humans, is being over-emphasized.

The field is beginning to see more multi-dimensional research that demonstrates various pathways to individuals’ involvement in abuse.

Much research has focused on the links between child abuse and animal cruelty. An emerging point of entry for future research is animal hoarding, which may be intrinsically different from other forms of hoarding behaviors.

An ongoing concern is where Link research is being published. With only two human-animal studies journals (*Anthrozoös* and *Society & Animals*), most research appears in discipline-specific academic journals that may be inaccessible or unknown to researchers in other fields. There is a need for more open-source public access journals, such as PLOS (Public Library of Science).

Additional research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment programs for animal cruelty offenders. More research is needed regarding human-animal interactions among communities of color, especially Native Americans.

## Veterinary Medicine... and The Link



**Emily Patterson-Kane**, animal welfare scientist with the American Veterinary Medical Association, described the challenges of securing interest in such conceptual ideas as the human-animal bond and The Link among scientists and practitioners trained in highly technical, clinical skills who may not think holistically.

Human-animal bond programs are currently positioned where animal welfare programs were a decade ago, and even today animal welfare remains a contentious issue in veterinary medicine. There has been some “estrangement” between organized veterinary medicine and human-animal bond programs, marked by unfamiliarity with The Link and fear among large-animal practitioners that if human-companion animal bond issues were extended to include livestock they might hurt agricultural interests.

Model animal welfare curricula have been implemented in veterinary schools. Opportunities exist to add the new discipline of veterinary forensic sciences to veterinary medical education.



Collaborations are seen as important. AVMA will be hosting the 2013 conference of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO). Other collaborations exist with: the Human-Animal Bond Research Initiative, an interdisciplinary online platform for open research on the relationships between humans and companion animals; and the Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare, an alliance of 20 veterinary associations and animal health companies committed to improving pet health.



The Link is a key issue in human-animal bond studies, research and programs. However, the generally negative tenor of The Link serves as a barrier. Groups are more likely to support positive messages, such as “pets are good for you,” than negative messaging about cruelty, neglect and abuse.

AVMA is launching a new Steering Committee on Human-Animal Interactions and a new website with extensive resources on animal welfare and the human-animal bond. AVMA is collaborating with the ASPCA to create web-based resources and information about animal abuse for veterinarians.

Emerging issues include: taking steps to prevent the abandonment of pets; greater understanding of the role of animals in human health; and animals in the workplace.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

The third part of the 2012 Summit was dedicated to assimilating information from previous meetings and new developments in order to outline ideas and directions for the National Link Coalition for the next one to two years. The process was facilitated by **Jill Buckley, Esq.**, Senior Director of Community Initiatives for the ASPCA and a veteran Link proponent with extensive experience in national policy development and local shelter collaboratives.



The G-10 ratified the original five strategic goal areas from 2008, *but made a minor change in the wording of Goal #4, as reflected below*. The Steering Committee identified a number of specific tactics that could be accomplished in the next one to two years, as described below.

## STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

### **1. Building public awareness about The Link through marketing, messaging, and communications.**

- Gain greater control of the National Link Coalition website by migrating it to a content management system (CMS) that allows for immediate updates.
- Expand the resources on the website to serve as a single, unified portal for information about on-site housing and foster care for the animal survivors of domestic violence. Currently, this information exists on several sites.
- Include an interactive map on the website linking to local Link coalitions.
- Add a YouTube video of a Link training program to the website.
- Expand social networking by adding Facebook and Twitter accounts to our LinkedIn program.
- Explore the possibilities of assessing public awareness of The Link.
- Clarify the message for accuracy and avoid sensationalism when referring to such issues as the Macdonald Triad of sociopathic behaviors or the histories of animal abuse among serial killers. Frame these messages with talking points, question-and-answer reference materials and fact sheets for Link spokespersons.
- Standardize messaging so the term “link” is used only to refer to the connections between animal, child, elder, and domestic abuse. Refer to interagency connections as collaborations, partnerships, referrals, or other terms besides “links.”
- Promote positive Link examples rather than just “horror stories.”

## **2. Overcoming the fragmentation of systems by building networks.**

- Reach out to groups working in the elder abuse area to gain their interest and involvement.
- Secure an interested and committed delegate from a national adult protection group to serve on the G-10.
- Identify and reach out to groups that conduct home visits where multiple forms of family violence might be observed, such as visiting nurses, home health aides, Prevent Child Abuse, and cable installers.
- Identify and utilize conduits to communicate with relevant groups affected by The Link.
- Emphasize cultural competency and diversity across all Link issues. Ensure that Link materials represent a diversity of ages (including elders) and ethnicities.

## **3. Providing education and training for professionals.**

- Create an inventory of available Link programs and speakers.
- Expand the speakers' bureau of Link experts through train-the-trainer programs and quality control over messaging and presentations.
- Demonstrate the viability of animal-based careers in social work to help encourage schools of social work to include animal issues in their curricula.

## **4. Supporting the development of effective prevention, assessment, intervention, and prosecution programs.**

- Define what the National Link Coalition means as “best practices” and identify and promote them.
- Collect and share with the field an inventory of Link forms utilized by agencies for intakes, assessments, cross-reporting, and other interagency programs.

## **5. Engaging academics to conduct research and data collection.**

- Conduct mapping to identify gaps in the knowledge base of research in various disciplines.
- Encourage research into the effectiveness of animal-assisted interventions with at-risk populations.
- Promote avenues for open-source public access to scholarly research.
- Create annotated bibliographies with one-paragraph summaries of key Link literature.
- Encourage research into the Link connections between animal abuse and elder abuse.
- Make Link research more useful, and help bridge the gaps between academics and practitioners, by supporting practice-informed research and research-informed practice.

# DENVER 2012 SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

## Steering Committee Members (the “G-10”)

### **Phil Arkow\***

Coordinator and Editor, National Link Coalition  
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project, The Latham Foundation  
Consultant, ASPCA  
Consultant, Animals & Society Institute  
Instructor, Animal-Assisted Therapy & Activities, Harcum College and Camden County College  
Stratford, N.J.  
arkowpets@snip.net

### **Maya Gupta, Ph.D.\***

Executive Director, Ahimsa House  
Atlanta, Ga.  
director@ahimsahouse.org

### **Jane Hunt\***

Violence Prevention Specialist  
Minnesota Alliance for Family and Animal Safety  
St. Paul, Minn.  
janeannehunt@comcast.net

### **Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.\***

Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects  
ASPCA  
Falls Church, Va.  
Randall.lockwood@aspc.org

### **Anna Melbin, MSW, MPP**

Director of Network Growth & Strategy, The Full Frame Initiative  
Founder, Catalyst Consulting & Training  
Yarmouth, Me.  
anna@fullframeinitiative.org

### **Maria Luisa O’Neill**

Program Services Coordinator, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Denver, Colo.  
mloneill@ncadv.org

### **Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D.\***

Animal Welfare Scientist, American Veterinary Medical Association  
Schaumburg, Ill.  
ekane@avma.org

**Allie Phillips, J.D.\***

Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse  
Deputy Director, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse  
National District Attorneys Association  
Alexandria, Va.  
aphillips@ndaa.org

**Christina Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D.\***

Associate Professor and Animal-Human Interactions Coordinator  
Arizona State University School of Social Work  
Phoenix, Ariz.  
risley.curtiss@asu.edu

**Kathleen Schoen\***

Director, Family Violence Program, Colorado Bar Association  
Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention  
Denver, Colo.  
kschoen@cobar.org

**Barbara Shaffer, MSW, LCSW**

Senior Director of Chapter Services, Prevent Child Abuse America  
Breckenridge, Colo.  
bshaffer@preventchildabuse.org

**Philip Tedeschi\***

Clinical Director, Institute for Human-Animal Connection,  
University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work  
Denver, Colo.  
philip.tedeschi@du.edu

## **G-10 Members Unable to Participate**

### **Lesley Ashworth\***

Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund  
Worthington, Ohio  
lesleyashworth13@gmail.com

### **Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.\***

Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience  
University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center  
Director, The Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Barbara.Boat@uc.edu

### **Mark Kumpf\***

Past President, National Animal Control Association  
Director, Montgomery County Animal Resource Center  
Dayton, Ohio  
kumpfm@mcoho.org

### **Jane A. Raymond** *(named to G-10 following meeting)*

Retired, Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources  
Representative, National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life  
Madison, Wis.  
raymoja@charter.net

### **Hugh H. Tebault, III\*** President, The Latham Foundation

Alameda, Calif.  
htebault@latham.org

### **Amanda Widup, MSW** *(named to G-10 following meeting)*

Policy Analyst, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Reno, Nev.  
awidup@ncjfcj.org

*\* indicates those who also attended the 2008 National Town Meeting & Experts' Summit and 2010 Roundtable*

## **Invited Guests**

**Diane Balkin, J.D.** *(named to the G-10 at this meeting)*

Contract Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Retired Deputy District Attorney, Denver, Colo.  
dbalkin@aldf.org

**Bonnie Brandl, MSW**

Director, National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life  
Madison, Wis.  
bonnieb@wcadv.org

**Jill Buckley, Esq.**

Senior Director, Community Initiatives, ASPCA  
Pismo Beach, Calif.  
jill.buckley@aspca.org

**Jim Pyle, MSW, LCSW**

Colorado LINK Project Manager, Institute for Human-Animal Connection  
University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work  
Denver, Colo.  
jim.pyle@du.edu

**Joe Stafford**

Director of Animal Law Enforcement, Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region  
Colorado Springs, Colo.  
jstafford@hsppr.org

## ABOUT THE SUMMIT SUPPORTERS

### ASPCA



The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was the first humane organization in the Western Hemisphere. Founded by Henry Bergh in 1866, it provides “effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States.” The ASPCA believes that animals are entitled to kind and respectful treatment and must be protected under the law. Headquartered in New York City, the ASPCA maintains strong local presences that extend the anti-cruelty mission across the country. The ASPCA provides local and national leadership in three key areas: community outreach, animal health services and anti-cruelty initiatives. Recognized as a national animal welfare organization, the ASPCA has more than one million supporters. Visit [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) to learn more.

### The Latham Foundation



The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education is a unique institution, founded in 1918 by brother and sister Milton and Edith Latham. Based in Alameda, Calif., the Foundation: fosters a deeper understanding of and sympathy with animals who cannot speak for themselves; inculcates the higher principles of humaneness upon which the unity and happiness of the world depend; emphasizes spiritual fundamentals that lead to world friendship; and promotes children’s character through an understanding of universal kinship. Latham is a clearinghouse for information about humane issues and activities, the human-companion animal bond, animal-assisted therapy, and The Link. Latham publishes books , the quarterly *Latham Letter* magazine, and affordable videos. Visit [www.latham.org](http://www.latham.org) to learn more.

### National Coalition Against Domestic Violence



NCADV works to eliminate domestic violence, empower battered women and children, promote and unify direct services programs, alert and educate the public, and promote partnerships to end violence. NCADV strives for major societal changes to eliminate both personal and societal violence against all women and children. NCADV programs build coalitions at all levels, support community-based non-violent alternatives for battered women and their children, enhance policy development and innovative legislation, represent the concerns of under-represented groups, and eradicate social conditions which contribute to violence against women and children. Visit [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org) to learn more.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



**NATIONAL LINK COALITION**

*Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals*

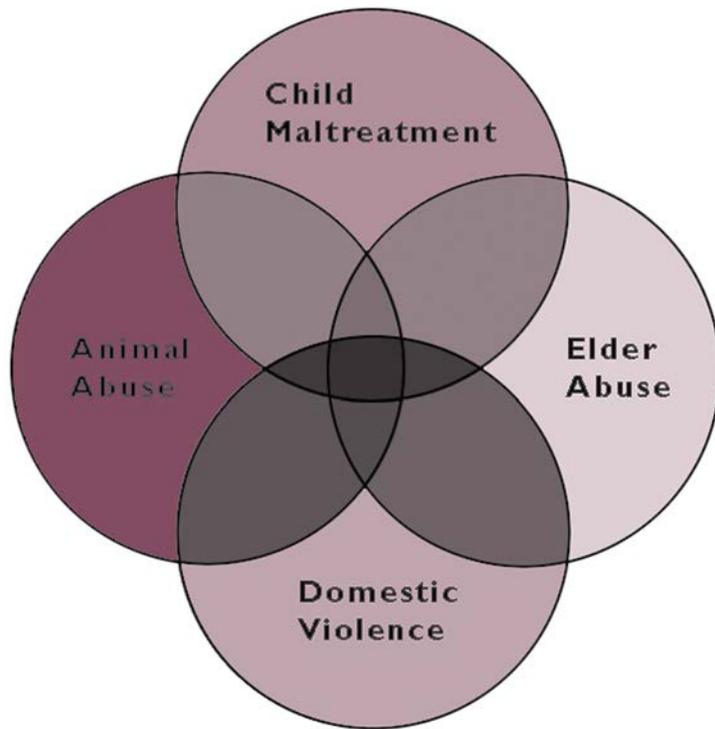
The National Link Coalition is an informal, multidisciplinary collaborative network of individuals and organizations in human services and animal welfare who address the

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 intertwined and that the prevention of family and community violence can best be achieved through partnerships representing multi-species perspectives.

The National Link Coalition believes that through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices, humans and animals will be measurably safer.

**“When animals are abused, people are at risk.  
When people are abused, animals are at risk.”**





## NATIONAL LINK COALITION

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*Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals*

**For more information, or to receive our free monthly *LINK-Letter*, contact:**

Phil Arkow, Coordinator  
National Link Coalition  
37 Hillside Road  
Stratford, NJ 08084 USA  
856-627-5118  
[arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)  
[www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)