



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence against people and animals*

## The LINK-Letter

June 2011

A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence from the National Link Coalition -- [www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



## Retired Judge Working to Advance The Link



Martha Grace (Photo by Alonso Nichols)

Martha Grace had always dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, but life sent her in a different direction and she eventually became a lawyer and a trial judge in the Massachusetts Juvenile Court. In 1998 she was named chief justice, but never lost her passion for animals. After retiring from the bench in 2009, she enrolled in the Tufts University master's program in Animals and Public Policy, where she met Lorna Grande of the [Human/Animal Violence Education Network \(HAVEN\)](#).

Grande described HAVEN's efforts to bring Berkshire County professionals together to address violence in all its forms, and Grace immediately saw the Link connection – and the challenges. “What was astonishing to me is that in my 20 years as a Massachusetts judge, I never heard the word ‘animals’ mentioned once,” she says.

After this epiphany, she served a month-long externship at HAVEN and began training judges about how to include pets in restraining orders. She realized even more education was needed and that she could assist the state in using the animal abuse connection as an important early warning system for child abuse. She helped HAVEN connect with the Massachusetts Division of Children and Families to discuss adding a session on The Link to its statewide training for case workers.

*“In my 20 years as a judge,  
I never heard the word  
‘animals’ mentioned once.”  
– Martha Grace*

In May, Grace led a training session on human/animal violence for the state's juvenile court justices. Although she's frustrated that she wasn't aware of these issues while serving on the bench, she's grateful that she can help now.

“About 90% of my court cases involved child abuse. If a veterinarian saw five cases of abuse a year, and those ended up being investigated, I bet three or four of them would show that there was also child abuse in the house,” she says. [Read more...](#)

## Texas, Oregon Enact Pet Protection Orders

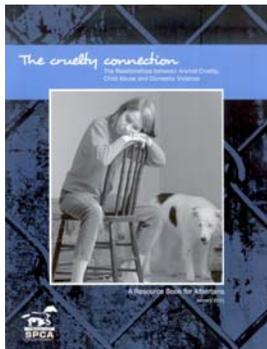


Twenty-three jurisdictions have now enacted laws enabling judges to include animals in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. In the Lone Star State, S279 was signed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry on May 27 and will become effective on Sept. 1. The new law prohibits respondents from removing, harming, threatening pets, companion animals or assistance animals in the household.

In Oregon, S616 was signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber on June 7. The law allows judges to order any relief it considers necessary to prevent the neglect and protect the safety of any service or therapy animal, or any animal kept for personal protection or companionship. Animals kept for commercial, business, agricultural or economic purposes are excluded.

Twenty-one states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have enacted pet protection order laws since Maine initiated this Link strategy in 2006.

## Alberta SPCA Updates Link Resource Booklet



The [Alberta SPCA](#) has updated its pioneering 2002 *Resource Book for Albertans*, one of the key guidebooks for both the general public and professional groups to describe The Link and appropriate responses. *The Cruelty Connection: The Relationships between Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence* has been extremely well-received. The 16-page booklet describes why animal abuse must be taken seriously, survivors' stories, and guidance for service providers, teachers, victims of domestic violence, police, prosecutors, veterinarians, and the public. While much of the legal underpinnings are based on Alberta and Canadian statutes, the booklet's concepts have universal applications.

Education director [Tim Battle](#) reports that the SPCA is also conducting a study of domestic violence survivors, how their ownership of pets and livestock affected their decisions to seek shelter, and the impact on their children. "Besides the survey (which I see as only the first step), we're identifying and clarifying several gaps in service and training," notes Battle.

## The Link in the Literature

[Clifton P. Flynn](#), of the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice and Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina – Upstate, has written a [review of the research](#) on the connections between animal abuse and interhuman violence. The article critically assesses the evidence for and against The Link, examines the graduation hypothesis vs. generalized deviance models for animal cruelty, and discusses the issues and challenges facing future research.

Flynn, C.P. (2011). Examining the links between animal abuse and human violence. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 55(5), 453-468.

## News from Local Link Coalitions

### *Berkshire County, Mass.*

**HAVEN**

HUMAN/ANIMAL VIOLENCE EDUCATION NETWORK

Making Berkshire County Safer  
For People and Animals

HAVEN – the Human/Animal Violence Education Network – is an all-volunteer coalition of professionals in Berkshire County, MA. Formed 10 years ago, HAVEN works to heighten public and professional awareness about the compelling links between animal abuse and domestic violence. Haven has produced two

videos – a 16-minute extended version and a shorter 1-½ minute extract including dramatic, disturbing stories from Link survivors and descriptions of the Berkshire Humane Society’s foster care program for animal victims of domestic violence. The videos may be seen on the [HAVEN website](#). “Violence is violence, and if we can intervene early we may be able to prevent some more serious violence in the future,” says Lorna Grande, DVM, HAVEN Coordinator.

### *Spain*

[GEVHA](#) (Grupo para el Estudio de la Violencia Hacia Humanos y Animales) reports that “Criminología y Justicia,” the first Spanish-speaking bulletin regarding criminology and justice, has decided to include an ongoing section regarding violence against animals. The [first page](#) was launched several weeks ago.



**Nuria Querol i Vinas**

Dr. Nuria Querol i Vinas, founder of GEVHA, also announces that she has been awarded the prestigious Premio Huella de Oro Footprint III Gold Award from the Asociación Nacional de Amigos de los Animales for being the most committed communicator regarding the protection of animals. The award was created to support and thank personalities from the worlds of culture, entertainment, media and associations, and their work, dedication and engagement in the world of animal protection and the "footprint" they have made in the fight against animal abuse and neglect.

## New York County Expands Animal Cruelty Offender Registry Program

Citing the link between animal abuse and domestic violence, Suffolk County, NY officials unanimously enacted the nation’s first animal abuse registry last October, requiring people convicted of animal cruelty to register or face up to a year in jail and up to \$1,000 in fines. In May, county legislators passed an additional ordinance banning pet stores, breeders and animal shelters from selling or giving animals to people listed on the registry.

The law requires sellers to check the ID of buyers against the registry, which went into effect May 23. Violators will be fined \$500 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second and \$1,500 for subsequent violations.

The registry, similar to Megan’s Laws designed to keep sex offenders from striking again, is the first in the country. It is publicly available online and funded by a \$50 fee paid by convicted abusers, who will remain on the registry for five years.

## National Link Coalition Cited in International News Story

Implementation of the Suffolk County, NY animal cruelty offender registry program prompted the Reuters news agency to write an article for their international media outlets about The Link, in which the National Link Coalition was cited. You can read the article [here](#).

## The Link in the Legislatures: Link Bills We're Watching

**OFFENDER REGISTRIES:** *Six bills have been introduced that would include individuals convicted of animal cruelty in registries or databases:*



**TEXAS – S779** would create a central, public database of certain persons who have been convicted of or received a grant of deferred adjudication for certain offenses involving animal cruelty. The database would be established and maintained only if funding is available for it. The bill passed the Senate and is pending in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.



**PENNSYLVANIA** - Two bills address animal abuse offender registries. **H354** would require felony offenders to register with the county sheriff within 10 days of residence and annually thereafter for 15 years. Failure to register would be a Class 3 felony. The sheriff would be responsible for notifying every residence, business, school and animal shelter within a half-mile radius. The State Police would maintain a central registry. **S921** is more comprehensive and also addresses illegal use of registry database information; registration would be required for misdemeanor as well as felony offenders, and be required for 10 years. Registrants would pay a \$50 fee.



**NEW YORK - A1766** would create a database of all animal cruelty and fighting crimes to be maintained in “a manner that facilitates analysis.” It would record names of all offenders convicted of cruelty or fighting, who pled guilty to another charge in satisfaction of the animal charge, or whose cruelty or fighting charges were not dismissed on the merits. The database would be available to law enforcement, prosecution, and humane officials. Two other bills – **A299** and **S2015** – would create an animal abuser registry of adults convicted of felony abuse in New York or other states. Abusers would register with county sheriffs within 10 days of residence and annually for 15 years thereafter. Failure to comply would be a Class E felony. Sheriffs would be responsible for notifying every residence, business, school and animal shelter within a half-mile radius. The state Division of Criminal Justice Services would maintain the central registry.



**OREGON - H3239**, which would require persons convicted of sexual assault of an animal to register as a sex offender, passed the House by a vote of 59-1 and cleared the Senate by a vote of 29-1.

### **PET PROTECTION ORDERS:**



**MASSACHUSETTS - S682**, which would include pets in protection orders, has been referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. State Rep. Cory Atkins has also introduced **Budget Amendment 753** into debate. The measures would enable judges to order an alleged abuser to “refrain from abusing, threatening, taking, interfering with, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming, or otherwise disposing of the animal.”



**NEW JERSEY – A1633**, which would allow judges to include pets in domestic violence protection orders, passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on May 5 by a 7-0 vote.



**OHIO - H25**, which would include animals in domestic violence and anti-stalking protection orders, is in the Criminal Justice Committee. The bill would also include provisions for psychological assessment and counseling for animal abusers and would also remove pit bulls from the definition of “vicious dog.”

**CROSS-REPORTING:**



**CONNECTICUT - H6226** would mandate animal control officers’ cruelty investigations to be forwarded to the Commissioner of Children and Families for inclusion in investigations at that address. DCF employees would be mandated to report suspected animal cruelty or neglect to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The two commissioners would develop and implement cross-training procedures.

## **Link Training: Coming Soon to a Venue Near You...**

**Barcelona, Spain – June 29 – July 1:** Nuria Querol i Vinas will present a paper, “Cruelty to animals and Antisocial Personality Disorder: Criminological and forensic correlations,” at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual [Conference of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health](#).

**San Sebastian, Spain – June 29 – July 1:** Nuria Querol i Vinas will present two papers on “History of cruelty to animals in a sample of forensic penitentiary inmates” and “Multidisciplinary Intervention Program for Women victims of domestic violence and their companion animals” at the [Spanish Congress of Criminology](#).

**Brisbane, Qld., Australia – July 11-12:** Two Link workshops are included in the [4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australian Animal Studies Group Conference](#). Gemma Golding and Tracy-Lynne Geysen will discuss Offenses of Cruelty and Future Interpersonal Violence. Tania Signal and Nicola Taylor will discuss Attitudes to Animals and Propensity for Aggression among Meatworkers and Farmers.

**Philadelphia, PA – Aug. 4:** Phil Arkow will conduct a webinar on The Link for the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services. For information contact the [Council](#).

**Shawnee, KS – Aug. 18-19:** Ken Shapiro will conduct two [training programs](#) for clinicians working with adults and children on the AniCare approach to interrupting the cycle between animal abuse and human violence.

**Las Cruces, NM – Sept. 9-11:** Ken Shapiro, Tamara Ward, and others will present a three-day workshop on AniCare, AniCare Child and AniCare Training for Trainers. Through a grant from the NM Department of Public Safety, these workshops are free to psychologists, therapists, and social workers. For details visit [NM AniCare](#).

**Christchurch, New Zealand – end of September:** Dr. Nik Taylor will give a lecture on Animal Abuse and Social Violence at the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury. For details contact [Annie Potts](#).

**Saskatoon, SK, Canada – Sept. 23:** Phil Arkow will conduct a workshop on The Link for the Saskatchewan SPCA’s annual Animal Welfare Conference. For details contact [Sandra Anderson](#) .

**Medina & Summit Counties, OH – Sept. 30:** Phil Arkow will present two trainings for the [Battered Women’s Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties](#).

**Chesapeake, VA – Oct. 5:** Allie Phillips will present on the Link at The Family Violence Awareness Conference. For more information, contact Carter McKay at (757)668-6122.

**Baltimore, MD – Oct. 28-29:** The Animals and Society Institute will conduct two [training programs](#) for clinicians working with adults and children on the AniCare approach to interrupting the cycle between animal abuse and human violence.

**Philadelphia, PA – Nov. 8:** Phil Arkow will conduct a training program on The Link for the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services. For information contact the [Council](#).

**Washington, DC – Nov. 16-19:** Nuria Querol i Vinas will present a paper, “Implementation of the Multidisciplinary Program for Woman Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Companion Animals at the [American Society of Criminology](#) annual conference.

**Calgary, AB, Canada – May 6-9, 2012:** Phil Arkow will conduct a workshop on Kids, Critters and Sexual Abuse at the [Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse](#) biennial conference.

## Link to the Link’s LinkedIn Link!



The National Link Coalition has established a LinkedIn social network site. Join us and connect with your colleagues. Just control-click on the LinkedIn logo and it will take you to the site.

## About the National Link Coalition

The [National Link Coalition](#) is an informal network of individuals and organizations addressing the intersections between animal abuse and other forms of violence through research, legislation, program implementation, and public awareness. Organized in 2008 at a historic summit in Portland, ME, the National Link Coalition’s vision is:

*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.*

## Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee:

### [Phil Arkow](#)

Consultant, ASPCA; Animals and Society Institute;  
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project, The Latham Foundation  
Stratford, N.J.

### [Lesley Ashworth](#)

Consultant, The Link, Worthington, Ohio

**Maya Gupta, Ph.D.**

Executive Director, Ahimsa House, Inc., Atlanta, Ga.

**Jane A. Hunt**

Violence Prevention Specialist, St Paul, Minn.

**Mark Kumpf, CAWA**

Past President, National Animal Control Association, Dayton, Ohio

**Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects, ASPCA, Falls Church, Va.

**Anna Melbin**

Housing Director, National Network to End Domestic Violence, Yarmouth, Maine

**Maria Luisa O'Neill**

Program Services Coordinator, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Denver, Colo.

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

Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Welfare Division,  
American Veterinary Medical Association, Schaumburg, Ill.

**Allie Phillips, J.D.**

Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse  
Senior Attorney, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse  
National District Attorneys Association, Alexandria, Va.

**Kathleen Schoen**

Director, Family Violence Program, Colorado Bar Association  
Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention, Denver, Colo.

**Hugh Tebault III**

President, The Latham Foundation, Alameda, Calif.

**Philip Tedeschi, MSSW, LCSW**

Clinical Director, Institute for Human-Animal Connection,  
University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, Colo.