



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter

October 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

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



Link Training for Law Enforcement Officers Available Online

The Latham Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of a free training curriculum to help law enforcement personnel understand The Link between animal abuse and family violence.



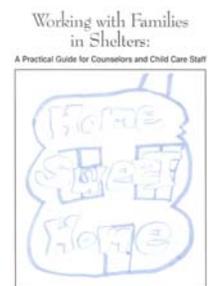
“Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Partners in Crime” is a three-part self-guided training presentation featuring PowerPoint slides and an accompanying script. Written by Phil Arkow, National Link Coalition coordinator and chair of

Latham’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, the curriculum helps police officers to understand the significance of animal cruelty as a potential indicator and predictor of other crimes. It discusses investigations, gathering of evidence, and resources for resolving animal abuse/domestic violence cases.

The 71-slide program is divided into three parts. Part 1 is an introduction to the links between animal abuse and family violence. Part 2 covers the definitions and identifying characteristics of animal cruelty, abuse and neglect, as well as domestic violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse. It also includes a digest of state anti-cruelty statutes. Part 3 discusses the management of animal cruelty cases: crime scene interview and investigation techniques, management of animal victims, risk assessment of perpetrators, challenges in cruelty cases, and effective law enforcement responses.

“Law enforcement officers are often brought in to investigate animal cruelty cases but relatively few of them have had training in the complexities of these cases. By showing them how animal abuse is not just a minor ‘animal’ crime and has serious human safety and welfare implications as well, we hope to inspire police and sheriffs to begin to take these cases more seriously and give them, and the victims, the respect they deserve,” said Arkow. The outline and presentation slides are available at <http://www.latham.org/link/linktraining.html>.

Two other resources available on the Latham Foundation website are a [collection of more than 50 Latham Letter articles](#) about The Link; and a [downloadable pdf](#) of the 1994 training guide, “Working with Families in Shelters: A Practical Guide for Counselors and Child Care Staff,” written by Lynn Loar and John Weakland.



Anti-Bullying Campaigns Linked with Humane Education



While humane education programs have traditionally inspired empathy by promoting kindness to animals, many newer programs are linked to school campaigns to stop violence and bullying. Several humane education/ anti-bullying programs were featured in [USA Today](#) on Sept. 28. Sharon Peters described the No More Bullies curriculum offered by [Wayside Waifs](#) in Kansas City, MO, which has been running for five years and has a year-long waiting list. Other programs teaching conflict resolution include [Mutt-i-grees](#), used in 900 schools in 28 states; and [Healing Species](#), an Orangeburg, SC education intervention that has decreased aggressive acts by 62% and suspensions by 55% locally and which has spawned similar programs in Wisconsin, Texas and New Zealand.

Second NY County Enacts Animal Offender Registry

[Albany County, NY legislators](#) on Oct. 11 unanimously established the nation's second registry of convicted animal abusers. Under local law K, which sponsors call the state's toughest animal abuse legislation, first-time offenders will be prohibited from buying, adopting or otherwise taking possession of an animal for 10 years. A second offense would ban the person from having animals for life.

"We know that animal abusers are the same people who commit violent acts toward children and other innocent victims in our community," said lead sponsor Bryan Clenahan. "By taking a stronger approach to animal abuse, we are working to create a safer, more peaceful community for pets and people alike."

The law is modeled after the nation's first such ordinance, established last year in Suffolk County, NY, but Albany County's is even tougher, Clenahan said. Convicted animal abusers, 16 years and older, will have to give their name, address, photograph and a \$50 annual fee to sheriff's officials. Failure to register is a misdemeanor punishable by a year in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine for each day the offender fails to register.

County animal shelters, pet stores, breeders, or individuals wishing to sell, adopt or transfer a pet must check first with the registry or face a fine of up to \$5,000. Fines will help maintain the registry, to be housed at the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society and overseen by the sheriff.

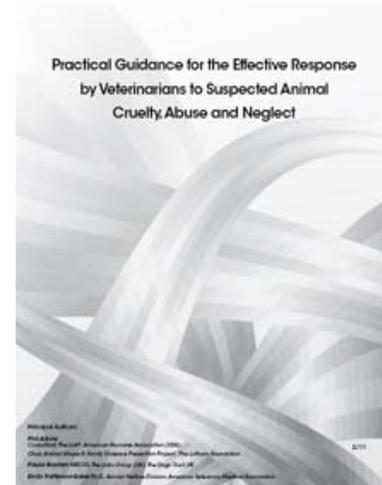
Webinar Series Addresses Prosecution of Animal Abuse

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) have teamed up to offer a free monthly series of webinars for prosecutors and law enforcement officers handling animal abuse cases. The webinars, offered in partnership with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, are also relevant to animal control and humane investigators, veterinarians, shelter staff, and rescue organization volunteers.

Dr. Randall Lockwood presented "Prosecuting Animal Hoarding" on Oct. 17. Coming webinars include "Investigating, Prosecuting and Protecting Families and Animals" with Allie Phillips, J.D. on Nov. 10, and "The Veterinarian as Expert Witness" with Diane Balkin, J.D. and Rob Reisman, DVM, on Dec. 7. To register, visit the [ASPCApr website](#).

Practical Guidance Offered for Veterinarians Encountering Suspected Animal Abuse

In recent years, training has become available to help veterinarians make clinical diagnoses of suspected animal neglect, cruelty, maltreatment, abuse, starvation, and fighting. But little has been written to guide the practitioner through problematic practice management issues when such cases are suspected. This new publication helps small- and large- animal practitioners and their staffs to develop policies, protocols and procedures for effective responses when animal maltreatment is encountered.



Practical Guidance for the Effective Response by Veterinarians to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect was published by the American Veterinary Medical Association. It was written by Phil Arkow, with The National Link Coalition, Latham Foundation and ASPCA; Paula Boyden, MRCVS, with The Links Group (UK) and the Dogs’ Trust; and Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D., with the AVMA. It is available as a free pdf download in the “Store” section of the [AVMA](#) website and in the “Resources” section of the [National Link Coalition](#) website.

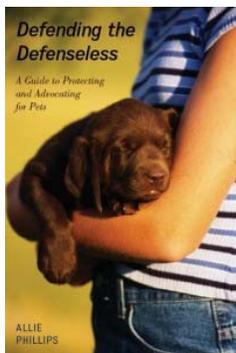
The Link in the Literature

Bahamian study looks at childhood animal cruelty

The first known study on childhood harm towards animals in The Bahamas surveyed 1,558 Bahamians to explore children’s acts of animal abuse in the context of other violent behaviors in the home. Using the Children and Animals Inventory (CAI), the authors reported that the homes of children who did not harm animals were less violent than the homes of children who did. Consistent with other studies, males were more likely than females to hurt animals. Domestic violence and the presence of a gun in the home were associated with higher CAI scores.

Fielding, W.J., Oenbring, W.J., Brennen, S., Caroll, M.C., Bethel, N. & Minnis, J. (2011). A first look at harm toward animals by Bahamians in childhood. *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*, 17(2), 27-49.

Defending the Defenseless



Allie Phillips’s second book is a guide for anyone who loves animals and wants to do more to help them live safely. *Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets* is written for individuals who want to get involved in animal protection. The book guides readers through the variety of ways they can help companion animals and offers practical tips to get involved, from donating money to volunteering at animal shelters, from opposing animal experimentation to raising children to protect animals. The book includes a chapter on establishing pet safekeeping programs for domestic violence survivors. Reviews by NLC’s Maya Gupta and Randy Lockwood are on the back cover.

Phillips, A. (2011). *Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

News from Local Link Coalitions

Wichita



A new Link coalition is creating a multi-disciplinary team of professionals advocating for educational opportunities, cohesive investigation, prosecution, and other issues impacting animal neglect and cruelty. The [Animal Justice Coalition of South Central Kansas](#) was formed in March, 2011 by concerned law enforcement officers, animal control and prosecutors' offices from Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita. The coalition meets monthly to discuss training opportunities, trends and cases and to build partnerships to combat cruelty and animal fighting. A website has been launched.

Fifteen agencies are coalition partners. A series of trainings have addressed equine neglect investigation techniques, working a criminal case from start to finish, report writing and courtroom testimony for veterinarians, and investigating animal fighting. A resource list helps officers dealing with unusual species. Spearheading the coalition are Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputies Christy Fischer and Joe Page. Wichita joins Leavenworth and Kansas City with Link groups in the Sunflower State.

Kansas City

The greater Kansas City Kansas/Missouri area KC-CAN (Caring Animal Network) will be holding an organizational meeting on Nov. 4. The coalition's theme is, "Together we CAN create a more humane community." Persons interested in participating should contact [Heddie Leger](#) at 816-820-5829.

Washington, DC

SNAAP – the Safety Network for Abused Animals and People – has published a one-page flyer describing the organization and its pet safekeeping programs. Other coalitions may be interested in using this as a model. For a copy e-mail Executive Director [Blair Warner](#) or call 818-261-1579.

The Link in the News

California Man Convicted of Child Abuse for Shooting at Dog

A Baldwin Park, CA man was convicted on Oct. 5 of child abuse for shooting at a barking dog in front of a 7-year-old girl. Jurors deliberated for more than a day to also convict Carleton Raye States, 31, of discharging a firearm with gross negligence and having a concealed weapon. The girl had been playing outside her home with her terrier when States began to provoke the dog, said Los Angeles County prosecutors. The dog started barking, and States pulled out a gun. The girl ran inside her home as States fired a shot at the dog. Authorities said States followed the two inside, pointed his gun at the girl -- who held the dog in her lap -- and threatened to shoot the terrier. States is to be sentenced Oct. 25 in West Covina Superior Court where he faces a maximum sentence of 17 years and four months in state prison.

THE LINK IN THE LEGISLATURES:

Link Bills We're Watching

PET PROTECTION ORDERS:



NEW JERSEY – A1633/S540, which would allow judges to include pets in domestic violence protection orders, has passed both the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees.



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.”



OHIO - H25, which would include animals in domestic violence and anti-stalking protection orders, passed the House on June 21 and has gone to the Senate Judiciary/Criminal Justice Committee. The bill would also increase penalties for animal cruelty, and include provisions for psychological assessment and counseling for animal abusers.

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



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.

Link Training Opportunities

Coming Soon to a City Near You...

Rough River Dam State Park, KY – Oct. 19-21: The [Kentucky Animal Care and Control Training Conference](#) will feature workshops on animal hoarding, animal fighting and related issues with Randall Lockwood, Pam Reid, Tim Rickey, Kat Destreza, Terry Mills and Kyle Held of the ASPCA.

Warren, PA – Oct. 24-25: Phil Arkow will conduct two Link trainings under the auspices of [A Safe Place](#).

Ocean City, MD – Oct. 26: Allie Phillips will speak on “Caught in the Cross-Fire: When the Abuse of Animals Co-Occurs with Family Violence” at the [Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

Plantsville, CT – Oct. 27: Phil Arkow will train on “The Impact of The Link on Medical Professionals” at the [Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians’ 2011 Scientific Symposium](#).

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

Oviedo, Spain – Nov. 2-5: Nuria Querol i Vinas will present a paper on “The Prevention of Animal Abuse and Family Violence” at the 33rd [Spanish National Congress of Family Medicine](#).

Myrtle Beach, SC – Nov. 2-4: Randall Lockwood will speak on Threat Assessment of Animal Cruelty Offenders and “Rescue Hoarding” at the [South Carolina Animal Care and Control Association Conference](#).

Nassau, Bahamas – Nov. 3: [William Fielding](#) will discuss The Link in “Rearing Violence in the Bahamas” at the [Violence Research Symposium](#) at the College of the Bahamas.

Lake Charles, LA – Nov. 5: Lesley Ashworth and [Barbara Boat](#) will present on “Preventing Family and Animal Violence.”

San Marcos, TX – Nov. 7-8: The [Texas Animal Control Association](#) will include a keynote on Animal Hoarding presented by Randall Lockwood.

Salt Lake City, UT – Nov. 8: Allie Phillips will conduct a workshop on “Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T): An Innovative Solution to Protecting People and Pets from Family Violence” at the National District Attorneys Association’s 21st Annual [National Multidisciplinary Conference on Domestic 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](#).

(Online) – Nov. 8-17: Nuria Querol i Vinas will present on “Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals” at the [International Congress on Domestic Violence](#) organized by the International University of Andalusia, Spain.

(Online) – Nov. 10: Allie Phillips will lead a free webinar on “The Linkages between Violence to Animals and People: Investigating, Prosecuting, and Protecting Families and Animals” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, a program of the National District Attorneys Association, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

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.

London, UK – Nov. 23: The Links Group UK will hold a [conference](#), “Joining the Dots: The Link Between the Abuse of Vulnerable People and Animals,” featuring 11 speakers. Topics include: non-accidental injury in people and animals; a critical review of Link evidence; the Link in homicide prevention; confidentiality; pet fostering; and guidance for veterinarians.

(Online) – Dec. 7: Diane Balkin and Dr. Rob Reisman will present a free webinar on “The Veterinarian as Expert Witness in Animal Abuse Cases” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, a program of the National District Attorneys Association, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Phoenix, AZ – Jan. 20, 2012: Allie Phillips will present on “The Linkages between Violence to People and Animals” at the [Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council](#) winter conference.

Washington, DC – Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2012: Allie Phillips will train on “Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T)” at the [2nd World Conference on Women’s Shelters](#).

Camden County, NJ – Mar. 11, 2012: Phil Arkow will train volunteers of the Center for Family Services’ [Services Empowering Rights of Victims](#) program on The Link.

Harford County, MD – Apr. 27, 2012: Allie Phillips will present on “Caught in the Cross-Fire: When the Abuse of Animals Co-Occurs with Family Violence.”

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

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:

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