



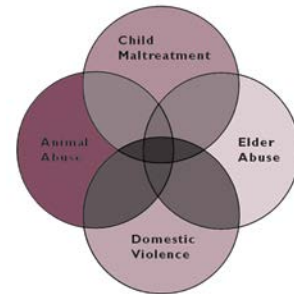
NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 5, No. 8 August 2012
A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence

www.nationallinkcoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



Massachusetts Joins States with Pet Protection Laws

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts became the 23rd state since 2006 to enact legislation allowing courts to include pets in protection-from-abuse orders in domestic violence cases when Gov. Deval Patrick signed S. 2192 on August 2. The new law allows courts to order defendants to refrain from abusing, threatening, taking, interfering with, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming or otherwise disposing of any “domesticated animals” in the household. The procedure can apply in any temporary or permanent vacate, stay-away, restraining or no-contact order in any domestic relations, child custody, domestic abuse or abuse-prevention proceeding.



Gov. Deval Patrick is all smiles as he signs the historic bill, with enthusiastic officials and a few furry friends.

A provision in the new Massachusetts law requires courts to notify law enforcement agencies, and for those agencies to take necessary actions, when a warrant has been issued for violation of the protection order when the court believes an “imminent threat of bodily injury” exists to any person or domesticated animal involved in the proceedings.

The provisions were part of a larger measure which also establishes a donor-supported statewide fund for spay and neuter surgeries in animal shelters, bans inhumane methods of euthanasia, and creates statewide oversight and mandated training for animal control officers. It allows towns to eliminate license fees for senior citizens, prohibits cruelty offenders from working with animals, and restricts outdoor tethering of dogs.

“I’m proud of this important animal protection legislation,” said State Sen. Katherine Clark. “The inclusion of the provisions that will allow a court in cases of domestic violence to include animals in protective orders will increase the safety of both people and their pets.”

Twenty-three states and Puerto Rico have enacted pet-protection-order provisions since Maine introduced the concept in 2006. The District of Columbia also had a similar provision which was inadvertently rescinded during a statutory recodification.

San Bernardino DA Launches Southern California Link Coalition



The San Bernardino County ACT – Animal Cruelty Taskforce – was started in January, 2012 under the aegis of the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office. Chief of Administration [Claudia Swing](#) reports the group has quickly expanded and is doing quite well. It has established a mission statement, logo, and is holding regular monthly meetings with speakers and instructional information.

Current participants include: District Attorney and investigators, Probation, Sheriff’s Department, Code Enforcement, County Animal Control, County Farm Bureau, Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, a veterinarian, San Manuel Tribal Police, local city police departments and Animal Control, Victim Services, USDA, Rural Crime Task Force, domestic violence shelters, the School District, and HEAL – Healing Everyone Animal League animal rescue group. Los Angeles Riverside and San Diego Counties are also participating. Swing reports the group is still seeking the participation of CPS, the County School District and school resource officers.

“We have a media contact with the county newspaper and he has attended one of our meetings and wrote an article about the task force. Additionally the District Attorney has created a [link on our web-site about the task force](#). We are currently working on pamphlets to pass out and trying to find funding to bring speakers to the group, and for the cost of printing the pamphlets,” she says.

During the task force’s first six months, four cockfighting busts due to collaborative efforts resulted in over 50 arrests, felony and misdemeanor charges filed and cash seized at the scene.

“We additionally are working on obtaining a 7-8 minute briefing/roll call training for local police departments related to dog fighting, cockfighting and the link between animal cruelty and human violence. We are expanding in many different directions,” she reports.

The taskforce is joining with the DA’s Gang Resistance Intervention Program targeting 2nd and 5th graders and the next program will include a block of instruction about animal abuse and animal fighting.

Oregon Court Rules Animals Can Be Treated as Victims, Not Property

In a potential landmark case, the Oregon Court of Appeals has [ruled](#) that animal victims of cruelty can be considered as sentient beings rather than merely as property. The Aug. 1, 2012 ruling involved the conviction of Arnold Weldon Nix, 68, who had dozens of emaciated horses, goats and animal carcasses on his Umatilla County farm. The Appeals Court ruled the lower court had erred in consolidating the original 20 counts of animal abuse guilty verdicts into a single conviction in 2010.

Scott Heiser of the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#), who filed a brief in the case, said it is rare for animals to be considered victims: most laws allow people and some other entities, such as corporations, to be considered victims, but animals are usually treated as property without legal standing.

In its 15-page ruling, the Court sought to understand the Oregon Legislature’s intent regarding the laws covering animal neglect. “It appears that the Legislature’s primary concern was to protect individual animals as sentient beings, rather than to vindicate a more generalized public interest in their welfare,” said the Court.

Link Training Brought to National Domestic Violence Audience



The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence welcomed the National Link Coalition to present two workshops, two strategy sessions, and a half-day institute at its biennial conference in Denver, Colo., which drew over 500 participants. Ten Link speakers addressed a wide range of topics including caring for the animal victims of domestic violence, animal-assisted interventions with children in shelters, strategies for prosecuting animal abuse/domestic violence cases, and ideas for building collaborative community coalitions. The National Link Coalition thanks the NCADV for their encouragement and support of link programs.

Orlando Domestic Violence Pet Shelter Opens Oct. 3

An October 3 opening is planned for the Paws for Peace Kennel, the innovative pet housing facility being built by the Harbor House domestic violence shelter in Orlando, FL. The 3,000-sq. ft. kennel will be able to house up to 40 pets in state-of-the-art housing with a grooming room, outdoor play area, screened sun porch and donation center for residents of the emergency shelter. During a recent preview tour, Harbor House CEO Carol Wick noted the facility will accommodate cats and other pets as well as dogs. (See the [April, 2011 LINK-Letter](#) for more information.)



Allie Phillips (left) presents a SAF-T certificate to Kat Kennedy in anticipation of Harbor House's opening.

The Link in Popular Media



The diagnostic potential for animal abuse to be linked with other forms of violence often makes its way into popular literature, TV, movies and other media. Julie Palais, who is organizing a Link coalition in Charlottesville, VA, found this gem in a comic strip called "The Other Coast" by cartoonist Adrian Raeside. It was published on July 3, 2012.

The Link in the News

Georgia Couple Jailed After He Beats Her with Her Dead Dog



Emmanuel Tadeo



Andrea Armintrout

A Sandy Springs, Ga. couple were arrested in a [bizarre domestic violence case](#) in which Emmanuel Alfredo Tadeo, 27, was charged with killing a 9-pound Pomeranian belonging to his wife, Andrea Jill Armintrout, and using it to beat her. Armintrout, 40, was also charged with obstruction for not cooperating with investigators.

The bizarre case began May 20 when Tadeo was arrested for beating Armintrout while drinking heavily and blaming her for his misfortunes in life. At some point he stomped and kicked the dog to death, then used the dead animal as a weapon to beat his wife more, police said.

Tadeo was initially charged with battery and misdemeanor cruelty to animals, and released after posting \$5,000 bond. In July he was re-arrested when prosecutors upgraded the charges to aggravated assault and battery and two counts of cruelty. Meanwhile, Armintrout was arrested and charged with one count of misdemeanor obstruction.

“It is probably one of the worst cases of animal cruelty that we’ve ever seen,” Sandy Springs Police Capt. Steve Rose said. “It was a very graphic scene. The dog was dead. The man had not only kicked the dog and stomped on the dog, [he] snapped the dog’s neck. The animal was totally defenseless.”

On Aug. 9, Tadeo pleaded guilty. He faces up to 20 years in prison on the aggravated assault charge and five years on the felony animal cruelty charge. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Shawn LaGrua withheld sentencing pending a psychological examination.

Five Family Members Charged with Elder Abuse and Animal Neglect



The unlicensed group home where a dozen mentally disabled adults were confined in abject squalor with 25 malnourished dogs is located in an upscale neighborhood.

Five members of a San Jose, Calif. family were charged with elder abuse and animal neglect after police discovered about a dozen elderly and mentally disabled men and women living in squalid conditions with 25 scrawny dogs. Some victims told investigators that the caretakers regularly beat them, fed them poorly, stole their Social Security and disability checks, and withheld medications. Investigators were neither clear why there were so many dogs on the premises, nor why another 21 dogs were found at the unlicensed group home a month after the arrests.

permission they were slapped, punched, kicked, or swatted with canes, brooms or belts.

Bail was set at \$500,000 for each defendant, each of whom faces a possible 18 years in prison. The victims, all of whom were Asian-American, said if they ever left the house without

Investigators responding to a complaint found a scene that the [San Jose Mercury-News](#) described as “more like a kidnapping than kid-glove care,” with the house’s interior reeking with the stench of rotten food, urine and dog feces everywhere. The refrigerator was locked and there was no running water.

Oklahoma Man Charged in Beheading Puppy and Beating Woman and Child



Authorities have arrested a Rose, OK man on charges of beating a woman and a child with a whip and broom handle and forcing the girl to watch as he decapitated a puppy with an axe. Cherokee County prosecutors charged Brandon Hubbard with felony counts of child abuse by injury and cruelty to animals, and a misdemeanor charge of domestic assault and battery in the presence of a child.

Brandon Hubbard The [Tahlequah Daily Press](#) reported that District Attorney's investigators said the 8-year-old girl had been beaten with the broom handle until it broke. Hubbard allegedly forced the girl and another child to watch as he beat the woman, and threatened to beat the woman with a braided whip if she did not beat the girl. Court documents also allege that Hubbard grabbed a puppy from the girl, held it down and decapitated it with an axe because she hadn't cleaned up after it.

Diane Balkin Named to NLC Steering Committee



Diane Balkin, J.D. has been named to serve on the National Link Coalition's "G-10" Steering Committee. Balkin is a contract attorney with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. She is a graduate of Tulane University and the University of Denver Law School. She worked as a trial attorney for the Office of the Denver District Attorney for 32 years, where she prosecuted all types of felonies, served as director of the Economic Crime Unit, Juvenile Court Division and Family Violence Unit, and oversaw all investigations and prosecutions of crimes against animals. She works on the local and national levels training and consulting with veterinarians, law enforcement officials and others on how to successfully investigate and prosecute animal cruelty cases. She also serves as president of the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association.

Wanted: Pet Sheltering Forms

With the rapid increase in the number of domestic violence shelters that offer either on-site kenneling or off-site foster care for the animal victims of family violence, the National Link Coalition frequently receives requests from organizations considering implementing such programs. We hope to compile a resource library of materials that can be shared so new programs do not have to "reinvent the wheel."

If your organization is willing to share any brochures, intake forms, needs assessments, program guidelines, inter-agency agreements, pet owner consent and release forms, shelter protocols, foster family guidelines, or other materials that would help your sister agencies, please share them with us. You can e-mail pdfs or Word documents of your materials to NLC Coordinator Phil Arkow at arkowpets@snip.net, or mail them to Phil at 37 Hillside Road, Stratford, NJ 08084.

Who Started the First Domestic Violence Pet Sheltering Program?

In tracking the history of the Link movement, the National Link Coalition is interested in learning who started the first foster care program for the pet victims of domestic violence. Frank R. Ascione's classic [Safe Havens for Pets](#) guidebook identified some 113 such programs as of 1999, but there was no indication as to who may have initiated this idea. Several organizations, including the Rancho Coastal Humane Society (Encinitas, CA), Greenhill Humane Society (Eugene, OR), Tulsa (OK) SPCA, and the Shelter for Abused Women (Winchester, VA) reported programs as early as 1992, but it cannot be determined which of these may have come first or if there were any earlier pet sheltering programs. (The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, in Colorado Springs, CO, had a sheltering program circa 1990 for pets of persons in the homeless shelter, but this was not specifically for domestic violence survivors.)



So we thought we'd put the question to our readers: if your organization has had a pet foster care program in place since the early 1990s or earlier, please e-mail Phil Arkow, NLC Coordinator, at arkowpets@snip.net with the date when this program was officially launched. We'll report the findings in a subsequent *LINK-Letter* – and offer our heartiest congratulations to the pioneer who launched a national movement that at last count lists some 900 such programs.

News from the Coalitions

Kansas City, MO/KS

KC-CAN (Caring for All Network) Link Coalition has launched its own [Facebook page](#). The page includes photos and upcoming events.



Boston, MA

The Safe People Safe Pets Coalition has posted an effective 1:53 video on its [website](#), describing entirely in pictures its work to foster pets, raise awareness, and change the story about the animal victims of family violence. Coordinator Jim Knight DVM reports that the group has suspended its name and is in the process of reverting back to its original organizational name, the LINK-Up Education Network.

Austin, TX

The Safe People and Pets Coalition of Austin has launched a Facebook page. Organizer [Georganne Duron](#) says, "Our mission is not just to make a statement, but to make a difference in the lives of our community's at-risk families and their pets." The coalition's vision is "a world where families, including children, the elderly, and their pets, are all provided safe havens from abuse; abusers of both pets and people are punished to the full extent of the law; and the innocent victims of abuse can be kept together, along with their pets, as they seek safety."



Position Available: American Humane Endowed Chair, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver

The University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work has announced the opening of a tenured faculty position for the American Humane Endowed Chair. The position, to be appointed at the rank of Professor, was vacated by the resignation of Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D. The Chair also supports ongoing research at the school's Institute for Human-Animal Connection, including research on the co-occurrence of animal cruelty, child abuse and domestic violence. The position will begin Sept. 1, 2013 and applications will be reviewed until the position is filled. Details are available at the University of Denver [Human Resources department](#).



The Link in the Legislatures

The National Link Coalition is not taking a position on the following bills, but presents them for your information.



VIRGINIA: HB 363 which would have allowed the court to include pets in protective orders, died in the House Appropriations Committee when the legislature adjourned.



NEW JERSEY: Assembly Bill 347 would expand courts' ability to issue pet protection orders. The original PPO bill went into law this past January to affect animals harmed or threatened in domestic violence cases. The new provision would allow courts to issue protection-from-abuse orders against any individual convicted of abusing an animal or of the state's anti-cruelty laws. The bill passed the Assembly and has been sent to the Senate Economic growth Committee.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Aug. 16 – Denver, CO: [Phil Tedeschi](#) will conduct a training utilizing a new animal abuse risk assessment tool for registered forensic domestic violence and sexual offender evaluators.

Aug. 23 – (online): Joel Lopez, Sr., Manager of Operations, Field Investigations and Response for the ASPCA, will present a free webinar on "Planning for a Large-Scale Seizure" 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.

Aug. 23 – Farmington, NM: The Animals & Society Institute, Animal Protection of New Mexico, and the N.M. Children, Youth and Family Department will conduct a training on the cycle of violence. Contact [Sharon Jonas](#) at APNM for details.

Aug. 23 – Greenfield, MA: The Franklin County Link Coalition will meet to celebrate the passage of S. 2192, allowing courts to include pets in protection-from-abuse orders, and to discuss next steps. For details contact [Amy Olson](#).

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

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

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

Sept. 20 – (online): Dr. Randy Lockwood, Senior V.P. of Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects for the ASPCA, will present a free webinar on “Combating Animal Cruelty: The Past, Present and Future” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, a program of the National District Attorneys Association, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

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

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

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

Oct. 3-5 – Universal City, CA: The [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, will present the 3rd National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference, “Prosecuting Animal Cruelty & Preserving Community Safety.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oct. 19-20 – Charlottesville, VA: Phil Arkow and Clif Flynn will speak to the University of Virginia Law School and a community group to organize the [Central Virginia Link Coalition](#). Contact [Julie Palais](#) for details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multi-disciplinary collaborative network of individuals and organizations in human services and animal welfare who address the intersections between animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse through research, public policy, programming and community awareness. We believe that human and animal well-being are inextricably intertwined and that the prevention of family and community violence can best be achieved through partnerships representing multi-species perspectives.

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

Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee:

<u>Phil Arkow</u>	Consultant, ASPCA; Animals & Society Institute; Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project, The Latham Foundation, Stratford, N.J.
<u>Lesley Ashworth</u>	Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund, Worthington, Ohio
<u>Diane Balkin</u>	Contract Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund President, International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Assn., Denver, Colo.
<u>Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.</u>	Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Executive Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
<u>Maya Gupta, Ph.D.</u>	Executive Director, Ahimsa House, Inc., Atlanta, Ga.
<u>Jane A. Hunt</u>	Violence Prevention Specialist, St Paul, Minn.
<u>Mark Kumpf, CAWA</u>	Past President, National Animal Control Association, Dayton, Ohio
<u>Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.</u>	Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects, ASPCA, Falls Church, Va.
<u>Anna Melbin, MSW, MPP</u>	Director of Network Growth & Strategy, The Full Frame Initiative Founder, Catalyst Consulting & Training, Yarmouth, Maine
<u>Maria Luisa O'Neill</u>	Program Services Coordinator, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Denver, Colo.
<u>Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D.</u>	Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Welfare Division, American Veterinary Medical Association, Schaumburg, Ill.
<u>Allie Phillips, J.D.</u>	Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse Deputy Director, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse National District Attorneys Association, Alexandria, Va.
<u>Jane A. Raymond</u>	Retired, Advocacy & Protection Systems Developer, Wisconsin Bureau of Aging & Long-Term Care Resources, Madison, Wis.
<u>Chris Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D.</u>	Associate Professor and Animal-Human Interactions Coordinator, School of Social Work, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ
<u>Kathleen Schoen</u>	Director, Family Violence Program, Colorado Bar Association Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention, Denver, Colo.
<u>Barbara Shaffer, MSW, LCSW</u>	Senior Director of Chapter Services, Prevent Child Abuse America, Breckenridge, Colo.
<u>Hugh Tebault III</u>	President, The Latham Foundation, Alameda, Calif.
<u>Philip Tedeschi, MSSW, LCSW</u>	Clinical Director, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, Colo.