



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

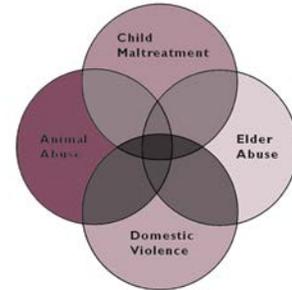
*Working together to stop violence against people and animals*

## The LINK-Letter Vol. 6, No. 1 January 2013

*A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse, cruelty and neglect and other forms of violence*

[www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



## Mississippi Veterinarians Aid Domestic Violence Survivors

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University has entered into a partnership with the [Care Lodge Domestic Violence Shelter](#) in Meridian, Miss., to provide foster care for the animal survivors of domestic violence situations.

Dr. Sharon Fooshee Grace, a clinical professor in the vet school and a long-time advocate of The Link, told the [Jackson Clarion-Ledger](#) that in private practice she saw first-hand the impact of animal abuse and the difficult dilemmas many women face when trying to escape violence. “They may not have a place to go with their pets, and they may be afraid of what could happen to a pet if left behind.”



**Sharon Fooshee Grace, DVM**

She brought this awareness to MSU where she has taught over 300 students about The Link to help them overcome their fears about involvement. “Veterinarians may be reluctant to get involved in these potentially volatile cases. Most of them have had very little training in animal cruelty issues. They may not want to risk their reputations or they have fears for their own safety. Another consideration is the cost of helping, both financially and emotionally,” Grace said.

“The ripple effect of our little program will, we hope, be powerful and change many lives,” she added. Today’s students, she said, “get it.”

Grace and women’s shelter director Leslie Payne crafted a Memorandum of Understanding through which the vet school provides cage space for the women’s pets. MSU representatives pick up the pets, usually in less than a day, and transport them to the animal holding area.

Payne said the shelter now routinely screens for the presence and welfare of pets in the home when calls come in. Many victims are relieved to find there is a safe place for their pets, she said.

“Children, often very young children, witness violent relationships between their parents and sometimes their pets. I’ve encountered an 8-year-old boy whose abusive dad had taken him to cockfights, and I’ve talked to children whose parents killed puppies in front of them,” said Payne. “Unfortunately, we find that children who grow up in these environments often become abusive themselves.”

## Link Cited in New Law Enforcement Training Manual



A new training manual to help criminal justice officials investigate and prosecute animal cruelty cases includes extensive sections on the links between animal abuse and other crimes, particularly domestic violence, with guidance on how law enforcement officers should approach these cases. [\*Animal Cruelty Investigation and Prosecution: A User Manual for New Hampshire Law Enforcement\*](#) includes a history and analysis of the Granite State’s animal cruelty laws, background on various types of cruelty, and recommended procedures for handling all stages of the process from investigation through sentencing. The 113-page Manual, a

product of the [Governor’s Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals](#), also includes extensive resource lists including sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking support services.

Observing that “an act of animal cruelty can be a precursor to more violent crime towards humans as well as animals,” and that “violence towards animals is one of the earliest, if not the earliest, warning signs that a young child might have the potential to become a violent offender,” the Manual states that “acts of animal cruelty are linked to a variety of other crimes, including violence against people, property crimes, drug crimes and disorderly conduct offenses. Reporting, investigating, and prosecuting animal cruelty can help take dangerous criminals off the street.”

The Manual advises that if animals are being abused in a family, a child or other family member may also be hurt or threatened. Animal control officers, the Manual notes, often have easier access to homes than do representatives of other law enforcement or social service agencies, and neighbors may witness and report the abuse of animals sooner than they report abuse of human family members.

Officers dispatched to domestic violence scenes are urged to be cognizant of animals in the household and those kept outside. Human victims who are interviewed should be asked about animal ownership and actual or threatened injuries to the animals. If injuries are reported the officer should observe the animals for evidence. If a protective order is in effect, the officer should ascertain whether no-contact provisions extend to the animals. Even if there is no protection order, injuring or threatening the pet may constitute an act of stalking under New Hampshire statutes. If a domestic violence arrest is made, officers should consider whether there is sufficient evidence to bring an animal cruelty charge as well.

Officers are encouraged to advise survivors that emergency plans should be made for the animals, either separately or through the crisis center, and to include them on any protective orders that are sought.

### Visit our New and Improved Website!

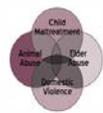
The National Link Coalition is pleased to announce a major expansion of our website with a much more extensive collection of materials in our free online

[National Resource Center on The Link](#). You’ll also find handy suggestions as to how you can get involved in building Link programs and community awareness, Frequently Asked Questions, updated lists of community Link coalitions, links to other organizations – and lots more.

Our sincere thanks go out to Eric Harris of the [American Humane Association](#), Hugh Tebault of the [Latham Foundation](#), and Emily Patterson-Kane of the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) for their tireless assistance and technical expertise in shepherding our website into its most recent configuration. Visit [www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org) to see what we’re talking about!



NATIONAL LINK COALITION  
Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals



## National SAF-T Day Celebrates Pet Care in Women's Shelters

Eight of the 70 domestic violence shelters that have [SAF-T \(Sheltering Animals and Families Together\)](#) provisions to allow survivors to bring their pets with them commemorated Domestic Violence Awareness Month with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National SAF-T Day. Events included dog walks, blessings of the animals, pet parades, safety classes, dog costume contests, dog fashion shows, and pony rides. SAF-T founder Allie Phillips reports the 4<sup>th</sup> annual National SAF-T Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013.



**First Families of Whiteville, N. C., held a dog walk and blessing of the animals. The organization has participated in all three years.**



**The Little Grass Ranch of Comfort, Texas held a dog fashion show and raised enough money to feed three horses for a month.**



**A large turnout paraded their pets to benefit the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Coalition of Medina, Ohio.**

## Link Survivor Highlights Humane Education Program

When humane society educators bring animals into classrooms, it is always an unusual learning experience. But “Sophie,” an Italian greyhound who accompanies Sherry Mangold of Albuquerque’s [Animal Protection of New Mexico](#) as part of a unique 10-week curriculum, is both a therapy dog and a Link survivor.



**Sherry Mangold and Sophie**

The [Albuquerque Journal](#) described how Mangold tells fifth-graders Sophie’s story: six years ago she was stabbed by a man who was angry at his wife and took it out on her dog. When the woman tried to rescue Sophie, she was stabbed as well. Both survived (although Sophie lost a lung), and the husband went to jail.

It turned out that the husband had had a long, unrecognized history of animal abuse. As a small boy he killed his sister’s goldfish after his parents refused to buy him a toy truck. When he was 10, his parents grounded him for a weekend for failing to clean his hamster’s cage; he responded by flushing the hamster down the toilet.

“I think by the time the hamster incident occurred, it would be pretty clear to me that there was a serious problem,” Mangold said, adding that had he gotten some help as a boy he might have never harmed his wife or Sophie.

Mangold’s Link unit on animal abuse and anti-social behaviors, which includes bullying, is the eighth in a 10-part series designed to build empathy in children. Other units include compassionate animal care, life in an animal shelter, the animal welfare officer, pet overpopulation, bite safety, and animal fighting.

“We hope [the students] take home not only empathy for animals, but empathy for their peers and family – and a sense of responsibility to their community,” said Mangold.

## The Link and the Newtown School Shootings: A Connection?

While the motivations that prompted Adam Lanza to kill 26 children and teachers in the horrific Newtown, Conn. school shootings are unknown, one writer has argued that more attention should be paid to animal abuse as a predictive precursor to violent episodes such as these. In an op-ed in the [Nashville Tennessean](#) on Jan. 5, Dr. Mark H. Anshel, professor of health and human performance at Middle Tennessee State University, criticized an earlier article that identified five risk factors for violence but omitted animal abuse.



Mark Anshel, Ph.D.

Citing extensive research that animal abuse often is a predictor of later aggressive acts, Anshel concluded, "Reporting animal abusers not only protects our community, but may prevent the individual from committing very serious crimes against humans, including mass murders and other highly aggressive and destructive behaviors."

## Child Abuse Victims Find Comfort with Therapy Dog

"Harper," a yellow Labrador named after Harper Lee, the author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is one of the newest therapy dogs to assist children who have been victims of, or witnesses to, violence. Harper and child forensic interview specialist Gina Coslett are working with children at [Dawson Place](#) in Everett, Wash., where more than 1,000 children a year need comforting.



Gina Coslett and Harper

Harper snuggles with physically and sexually abused kids as they recount horrific crimes in the child advocacy center. She senses when kids need to be nuzzled or when a good doggie trick will chase away the hurt. Coslett expanded her practice to include the child advocacy center after working with "Stilson," a therapy dog who has been working at the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office since 2006.

Coslett's salary and Harper's expenses are paid by a partnership among local law enforcement agencies. Coslett must remain neutral and disconnected from the emotions that arise during the interviews. She can't hug the child or offer any comforting words – but that's where Harper comes in. Sometimes it is easier for the kids to talk to Harper than to Coslett. "She knows she's there to comfort," Coslett told the [Everett Herald](#). "She takes over and knows what to do."



## Orlando Kennel for Domestic Violence Pet Survivors Opens

Orange County, Florida's long-awaited shelter for domestic violence pet survivors opened on Dec. 6, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the Paws for Peace Kennel. The \$500,000 kennel – the only one of its kind in Central Florida – is one of the largest of 70 such [SAF-T](#) shelters in the country and has been three years in the planning. "Two or three times a week we hear, 'I'm not coming because I can't leave my pets. And those are just the ones we hear from,'" said [Harbor House](#) CEO Carol Wick. The Harbor House facility will house at least 10 dogs and 10

cats and includes a screened cat-visitation porch, outdoor dog park, grooming station, and veterinary exam area. Harbor House PR director Kathleen Kennedy reports the kennel already has two residents, and an album of photos and videos are available on the Harbor House [Facebook page](#).

## Child Abuse Center Helps Tucson Get First Courthouse Dog



The [Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center](#) partnered with the [Pima County Attorney's Office](#) to bring "Russell," a two-year-old golden retriever trained by Assistance Dogs of the West, to become Tucson's first [Courthouse Dog](#). Russell will help children and other vulnerable victims of crime cope with the stress and trauma that can accompany forensic examinations, investigations and courtroom testimony. His primary duty will be assisting children at the Advocacy Center, but he will also be working at the County Attorney's Office and the Pima County Superior and Juvenile Courthouses when needed.

"Abused children or domestic violence victims are often too afraid or ashamed to confront their abusers, and when you add law enforcement and court rooms it can be a terrifying experience. These dogs help assure victims they are not alone and are safe," said County Attorney Barbara LaWall. Courthouse Dogs have been in place in similar settings in Colorado, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Maryland, and Washington State since 2004.



## News from the Link Coalitions

### Link Task Force Launched in Upstate New York



[Jessica Hartley](#) testifies before the [Essex County, N.Y. Board of Supervisors](#) this is that history of pet abuse is one of the foremost significant indicators that someone will become a domestic batterer."

Citing The Link – the term used by social service and animal welfare groups to discuss the correlation between animal cruelty, domestic violence and child abuse – the Essex County, N.Y. Board of Supervisors in August appointed an interdisciplinary animal cruelty task force. The group will monitor pet abuse cases in advance of considering tougher local laws.

"This is more than just an animal welfare issue. It really is a public safety and a public welfare issue," Jessica Hartley, a member of the North Country SPCA, [told the supervisors](#). "The takeaway from all of

Essex County D.A. Kristy Sprague said there is a need to update town and county laws on animal cruelty and that her office is fully committed to the task force and to prosecuting abuse cases. "We sort of have to take it into our own hands at this point and maybe sit down and start going over what we can do locally until the state amends the statute," [she said](#). New York State animal cruelty laws are embedded in the Agriculture & Markets Law which Hartley called weak, archaic, ambiguous, and ill-defined.

### Link Cited in KC-CAN Girl Scout Video

Working under the guidance of KC-CAN, the Greater Kansas City Link Coalition, Girl Scout Troop #75 sought to raise public awareness about the plight of abused animals. They created a three-minute YouTube video, "[Be My Voice – Be My Hero](#)," that addresses animal abuse and neglect as precursors to domestic violence. The video describes different types of animal abuse, including hoarding and abusive training, and warns that mistreated animals in a home may be a sign that others are not safe as well. Almost one-half of the video incorporates the Link message. "They did a great job for a group of 13-to-15-year-olds," said KC-CAN Coordinator [Heddie Leger](#).

## The Link in the Literature

### ***Spanking Linked with Childhood Animal Abuse***

Despite recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics against the use of corporal punishment, and considerable evidence weighing against the practice, spanking children remains a common form of child discipline. This study of 2,462 families participating in the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being study (1998-2005) gauged mothers' reports of their children's aggressive behaviors at 3 and 5 years of age. Frequent use of spanking of 3-year-olds was associated with higher levels of child aggression when the child was 5, including temper tantrums and lashing out physically against other people and animals.

-- Taylor, C.A., Manganello, J.A., Lee, S.J., & Rice, J.C. (2010). Mothers' spanking of 3-year-old children and subsequent risk of children's aggressive behavior. *Pediatrics*, 125(5), 1057-1065.

### ***First Reports of Animal Cruelty Research in Romania***

Preliminary data emerging from the first study of the impact of animal abuse on youth in Eastern Europe are revealing that 97% of teenagers in Bistrita, Romania have observed animal abuse in public places, and 79% of them said the incidents had upset them. Researcher [Mal Plant](#) reports that further psychometric analysis will reveal the extent of the impact on youths' social and psychological development.

## The Link in the News

### ***Child Abuse, Animal Cruelty Charges Filed against Mother and Daughter***



**Virginia Stone (left) and Karla Stone**

A mother and daughter were charged with child abuse and animal cruelty by neglect after police found a baby lying on a couch surrounded by animal feces and urine and an emaciated dog tied up in the yard. Virginia Stone, 60, and Karla Stone, 40, of the Florida Panhandle town of Marianna, were booked into jail.

The [Jackson County Floridan](#) reported that police were assisting the Department of Children and Families in investigating an abuse report. The officer said the odor of cat urine was so strong that "the ammonia was believed to be at a toxic level."

Feces was reportedly found on all the furniture in the home, as well as the beds and clothing. A 13-year-old boy in the home had to sleep on recliners due to all the fecal matter on the beds.

### ***Man Who Killed Puppy During Fight with Wife Gets Prison***

A Tucson, Ariz. man who killed a pit bull puppy during an argument with his wife was [sentenced](#) to 1-½ years in prison and three years probation on Dec. 12. Kevin Michael Davis, 46, who has an extensive history of criminal violence with seven prior felony and 21 misdemeanor convictions, had pleaded guilty to aggravated animal cruelty and domestic violence charges. Pima County Superior Court Judge Paul Tang said he had a hard time imagining what Davis had done to the puppy in an effort to emotionally torture his wife. "It's beyond disturbing and deplorable," Tang said. Davis got into an argument with his wife over whether he should stop drinking and he twice took the puppy by its hind legs and slammed its head into concrete.

### ***Dog Breeder Held in Death of Police Officer***

Canadian dog breeder Trevor Kloschinsky, 46, was charged with first-degree murder for allegedly fatally beating Rod Lazenby during an investigation to check on the welfare of Kloschinsky's 30 blue heelers whose barking had triggered complaints from neighbors. Lazenby was a retired RCMP officer who was serving as a bylaw enforcement officer in Foothills, Alberta. Alberta SPCA officials had received complaints in June and July and were considering impounding the dogs pending an investigation. Kloschinsky had been evicted from another home in 2009 after neighbors complained about the dogs' barking; Alberta Health Services subsequently declared the site unfit for habitation. [Legal proceedings are expected to continue](#) in Calgary in January.



**Trevor Kloschinsky**

### ***Florida Pair Charged with Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty***

An Oldsmar, Fla. couple were [charged with animal cruelty and child abuse](#) after sheriff's deputies responding to a call about a missing child found 298 neglected and dead snakes, lizards, rats, birds, and rabbits in their home. Jeffrey O'Neil, 28, and Jennifer Kovacs, 26, had called authorities to report their 16-month-old daughter's disappearance. The child was later found at the home of a relative who had taken her after trying unsuccessfully to awaken the unemployed and allegedly intoxicated couple. Pinellas County sheriff's officials called the living conditions "deplorable." O'Neil and Kovacs both have prior criminal histories.



**SPCA officials are caring for the seized animals**

### ***Man Charged with Homicide, Animal Cruelty in Domestic Dispute***

Donnalynn Schroeder, 51, of Newfoundland, Penna., died on Sept. 9 after she was allegedly shot by her husband, Bernard Schroeder, 59, who was charged with criminal homicide and 50 counts of animal cruelty involving the couple's 50 beagles. He [reportedly told police](#) he had been drinking most of a case of beer and accidentally shot his wife while trying to unload a rifle. Police said he had an extensive criminal history including aggravated assault and other felony charges, which should have prohibited him from owning a gun. He reportedly said the couple had been arguing prior to the incident and acknowledged that he had once pointed a gun at his wife during an argument. The beagles were taken into protective care at two Luzerne County animal shelters.

### ***Couple Charged with Child Endangerment and Animal Hoarding***



**Jennifer and Scott Corneliuson**

Three children and 35 dogs were removed from a home in Glenview, Ill., a Chicago suburb, after police and child welfare workers found the animals in a home filled with feces and urine. Scott and Jennifer Corneliuson were arrested and charged with animal hoarding and endangering the life of a child. DCFS officials said the three children, whose ages were not disclosed, were relocated to a relative's home. The couple are scheduled to appear in court Jan. 14.

## ***Child Abuse/Animal Abuse Link Fly “Under the Radar”***

The Moscow, Idaho/Pullman, Wash. *Daily News* published a lengthy op-ed article about how the public often dismisses incidents of animal abuse and



fails to recognize that these are often precursors to child abuse or children developing violent tendencies. Shelley Calissendorff, executive director and founder of [Smile At Your Baby](#), a Pullman organization working with children experiencing Reactive Attachment Disorder, wrote the column to draw attention to respect for animals as being an often-overlooked component of the healthy emotional foundation that babies need to grow up to be well-adjusted, functional adults. Phil Arkow, coordinator of the National Link Coalition, provided her with pertinent statistics and perspectives on The Link.

## ***Animal Torturer and Potential Psychopath Released Under Extreme Supervision***



Canadian probation officials are preparing what a [TV station](#) called “extreme supervision” provisions for a 23-year-old woman who was incarcerated for eight months for mutilating an animal, and who allegedly expressed “an extreme propensity for violence” and who had called murder “a hobby and a supreme pleasure.”

**[Kayla Bourque in a photo from VampireFreaks.com](#)**

Kayla Bourque was sentenced to eight months in jail in a 2009 animal cruelty case in which police were notified only after she told a fellow student about disemboweling a cat. Search warrants uncovered evidence that she had fantasized about killing people since childhood, including a “kill kit”, depictions of sexual homicide, dismemberment and a tortured cat, and alleged statements about wanting to get a gun and kill homeless people, her mother and younger brother. CTV British Columbia called her a “suspected psychopath” who showed a fascination with serial killers in a criminology class she took with professor Robert Gordon at Simon Fraser University, who said, “What we had here was arguably a serial killer in the making. It was an outstanding case, probably the worst one I’ve ever come across.”

The B.C. Justice Ministry issued an unusual public warning regarding her “escalating criminal history.” Following her animal cruelty conviction, she was convicted of possessing a weapon for dangerous purposes, but charges of possessing child pornography were dropped.

Her probation includes an extensive order with 46 provisions, including a 6 p.m. - 6 a.m. curfew; no access to animals, people under age 18, social networking media, weapons, and knives; and three years of counseling.

Gordon told [Canadian news media](#) that the harm Bourque inflicted on animals may be a precursor for what she may do to humans. “It’s what it predicts that is of concern,” he said.

## **LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**Jan. 10 – Albuquerque, NM:** Martha Grace and Tamara Ward of the Animals & Society Institute will present a training on The Link and the cycle of violence for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual [Children’s Law Institute](#).

**Jan. 15 – (online):** Allegheny County, Pa. Asst. District Attorney Deborah Jugan will present a free webinar on “Allegheny Abused Animal Relief Fund: Getting Prosecutors and Allied Professionals Involved in the Care of Seized Animal Victims” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

**Jan. 28 – San Diego, CA:** Allie Phillips will present on “Caught in the Cross Fire: When the Abuse of Animals Co-occurs with Family-Violence” at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual [San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment](#).

**Feb. 3 – 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. 7 – Boise, ID:** Allie Phillips will train on “Effectively handling and responding to animal abuse cases” at the [Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association](#)’s annual winter conference.

**Feb. 16 – Grand Rapids, MI:** Phil Arkow will conduct a Link training for the Animal Law Society at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Contact [Renee Edmondson](#) for details.

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

**Feb. 22 – Washington, DC:** Randy Lockwood will present on “The CSI Effect in a High-Profile Animal Cruelty Case” about the “Phoenix” case that led to the formation of the Baltimore Anti-Animal Abuse Commission, at the [American Academy of Forensic Sciences](#) national conference.

**Feb. 24-26 – Sacramento, CA:** Rachel Touroo, ASPCA Forensic Veterinarian, will lead workshops on veterinary forensics and animal hoarding at the California VMA/California State Humane Association/California Animal Control Directors’ Association [Animal Care Conference](#).

**Feb. 26 – (online):** Geoff Fleck of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present a free webinar on “Blood Sports: Investigating and Prosecuting Animal Fighting Cases” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

**March 7 – Portland, OR:** Diane Balkin, Philip Tedeschi and Lacey Levitt will present programs concerning forensic animal maltreatment evaluations at the [American Psychology – Law Society Conference](#).

**March 14 – (online):** Amanda Fitch, veterinary forensic analyst at the University of Florida, will present a free webinar on “Unique Aspects of Processing Animal Crime Scenes” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

**March 17 – Austin, TX:** Phil Arkow will discuss how The Link can shift the paradigm in animal care and control agencies to improve their service delivery, funding and respect in the community at the 5<sup>th</sup> [Texas Unites for Animals](#) conference.

**April 1-30 – various locations:** April is [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), proclaimed in 1983 and coordinated nationally by the U.S. Children’s Bureau’s Office of Child Abuse and Neglect.

**April 4-6 – Virginia Beach, VA:** Phil Arkow will conduct Link training at the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies annual conference. For details contact [Virginia Kilmer](#).

**April 9-10 – Knoxville, TN:** Elizabeth Strand and Nancy Bell will [train](#) on the AniCare Approach of assessment and treatment of animal cruelty offenders to interrupt the cycle of animal abuse and violence towards humans.

**May 10-12 – Milan, ITALY:** A workshop on domestic violence and animal abuse will be featured at the International Congress of Criminological Sciences. Contact [GEVHA](#) for details.

**May 15 – Kitchener, Ont., Canada:** Phil Arkow will present Link trainings on behalf of the [Human-Animal Violence Link Coalition](#).

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



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

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

To subscribe to The Link-Letter (free!) – Just send an e-mail to Coordinator Phil Arkow ([arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)) and tell us what organization you're with and where you're located.

## Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee:

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