



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

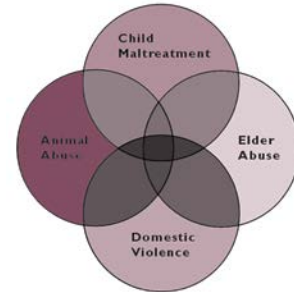
*Working together to stop violence against people and animals*

## **The LINK-Letter Vol. 6, No. 2 February 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



## **Ohio Study Reaffirms Animal Abuse Risks in Domestic Violence**



A [new study of women in Ohio domestic violence programs](#) updates and confirms consistent findings that animal abuse is a serious risk to pets and a significant barrier to women's leaving abusive situations.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network had previously conducted "[In Harm's Way](#)," a 2010 survey of that state's domestic violence programs to assess the needs and resources available to survivors who are concerned about the safety and well-being of their pets. Following up on that survey, which affirmed the strong connection between the safety of abuse victims and the safety of their animals but showed only a sporadic response to these needs, ODVN conducted a 2012 survey that gathered data from 21 of Ohio's 88 counties. Findings included:

- 55% of respondents currently had pets
- 42.5% indicated their pets had been harmed or threatened as part of the abuse in their relationship
- 96% of the abusers were adult males, segmented among boyfriends, husbands, fathers or stepfathers, or others
- 43% of persons with pets believed their pets may be killed, physically abused, neglected or abandoned if they left their home now
- 22% of all respondents, and 41% of persons currently having pets, indicated pet safety has or would have an impact on their decision of whether or not to leave.

Respondents related descriptive accounts of abuse including snapping a pet's neck and putting it in a trash bag, throwing a pet out of a second-story window, refusing to buy pet food, swinging a cat by its tail, and incurring a \$3,500 veterinary bill following an abusive incident.

"It is clear from the findings that victims seeking help regularly acknowledge serious risk to their pets from their abusive partner. This concern is another very real challenge for them to consider and negotiate as they try to seek support and safety; as such, developing community responses to this need are likely to increase safety for victims and their pets," the report concluded.

To facilitate women bringing their pets with them to shelters, OVDN has published sample [animal intake forms and guidelines](#) for shelters that have residents with pets.

## Adverse Impact of Animal Fighting on Youths and Domestic Violence Explored

The impact of animal fighting as a risk factor in the experience and development of children and youth is gaining increased attention in many communities. A recent report from Chicago reveals that substantial numbers of youths – both in the inner city as well as in more affluent suburbs – are aware of, and have participated in, dog and cock fights.



**Dogfights, like this one in Afghanistan, attract spectators of all ages.**

Chicago’s [Anti-Cruelty Society](#) conducted written surveys with 37,702 students in grades K-12 between 2003 and 2006. The surveys were administered at over 1,500 schools, summer camps, and other venues. The study is the only one known to exist and findings were dramatic:

	<u>CITY OF CHICAGO</u>	<u>SUBURBS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
No. of students surveyed:	35,815	1,887	37,702
No. who have attended dogfights	2,362 (6.6%)	323 (17.1%)	2,685 (7.1%)
No. aware of dog fights in the neighborhood	5,187 (14.4%)	623 (33.0%)	5,810 (15.4%)
No. who have attended cockfights	359 (1.0%)	93 (4.9%)	452 (1.2%)
No. of families entering dogfights	163	13	176
No. aware of serious dog bites	10,647 (29.7%)	636 (33.7%)	11,283 (29.9%)

Chicago authorities are concerned that with dogfighting rampant in some parts of the city, children are increasingly among the spectators in the crowd, where they are also exposed to guns, gangs, drugs, gambling, and other crimes. And that can have lasting negative effects on their personalities.

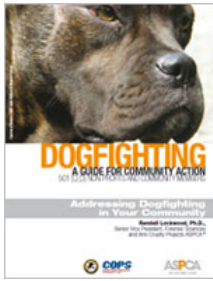
“Dogfighting is nothing new to kids these days. Unfortunately, it has become a part of life for many kids,” said Chicago Police Sgt. Mark George, who heads the Animal Crimes Unit.

The incidence of animal fighting varied by neighborhood, with the highest rates occurring in areas with large minority populations. The North Lawnside and Englewood neighborhoods with the highest incidence of animal fighting appear to correlate with the neighborhoods with the highest rates of domestic violence. (See *LINK-Letter January 2012*)

The prevailing attitude in many communities was summed up by Jason Walker, 14, a South Side 8<sup>th</sup> grader. “There were probably 100 people at the fight and half were people my age,” he said.

Animal advocates are expressing serious concern. “When a child witnesses the kind of violence in dogfighting staged by people, they can become desensitized to pain and suffering, less able to empathize, and more willing to accept physical harm in supposed ‘loving’ relationships,” Cynthia Bathurst of [Safe Humane Chicago](#) told [DNAinfo.com](#), a Chicago neighborhood news source. “They can learn that victims are expendable... and even learn to feel empowered by inflicting pain and suffering. They are at risk of repeating abuse.”

## Toolkit to Help Community Groups Combat Link-Related Dogfighting



To address the ongoing law enforcement challenges inherent in stopping dogfighting, which is “almost inseparable from drugs, illegal weapons and illegal gambling” and whose participants “have been or will be involved in many other serious crimes including interpersonal violence,” a community-oriented toolkit has been published by the ASPCA and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services. “*Dogfighting: A Guide for Community Action*” is a free 40-page manual for 501(c)3 nonprofits and community members.

Written by National Link Coalition steering committee member Randall Lockwood, the manual traces the history of animal fighting; the impact of the Michael Vick case; why dogfighting should be investigated and prosecuted; how to establish a community Task Force, with examples from across the U.S.; how to combat the “stop snitching” movement; FAQs for animal shelters and veterinarians; and a glossary of dogfighting terms.

The manual emphasizes that dogfighting can often be a “gateway” crime that involves a growing component of juvenile offenders, often as part of gang activities. “The sense of power and control gained from having an aggressive dog, as well as the potential financial gain, can lure juveniles into an underground scene that often includes other criminal activities,” it states. Dogfighting is also “a classic example of a broken-window crime” that serves to destabilize communities and creates the perception that law enforcement does not care about the threats it poses.

The booklet is available as a free download from the U.S. Department of Justice’s [COPS website](#).

## New Laws Impact Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse by Veterinarians and Animal Control Officers

California and Virginia enacted new laws in 2012 that affect veterinarians and animal control officers who encounter suspected child maltreatment.



**California SB 1264** amended reporting laws to require a mandated reporter, including a veterinarian, to report whenever he or she, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observed a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. The law increased the penalty for failure to report an incident to up to 12 months in a county jail, and/or a fine of \$5,000. The law also requires that any mandated reporter convicted of willfully failing to report abuse or neglect, or any person who impedes or inhibits a report of abuse or neglect, in violation of reporting requirements, where that abuse or neglect results in death or great bodily injury, be guilty of a felony, punishable by 1 – 5 years in state prison and/or a fine of not more than \$25,000.

**Virginia HB 74** and **SB 239** reduced the time limit for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect by mandated reporters from 72 to 24 hours. Virginia mandated reporters include any person licensed to practice medicine or any of the healing arts as well as animal control officers.

## **The Link in the Literature**

### ***Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Link Confirmed in The Netherlands***

In the first study of its kind examining whether Dutch women postpone their decision to flee to a shelter due to concerns about their pets' welfare, Wendy Garnier and [Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers](#) found that animal cruelty exists significantly more often among battered women than among women in the general population. 33% of battered women reported their (ex)partner had threatened, and 55% said their (ex)partner had hurt or killed their pets. 41% said the abuse had caused them to postpone their flight to a shelter. Most offenders engaged in multiple forms of animal abuse, often with six incidents spread out over more than six months. 11% of the women reported the abuser used the dog as a weapon to hurt her. In 60% of the cases, the children witnessed the violence. No significant differences were reported regarding the women or children committing animal cruelty compared to the general population. Another significant finding was that battered women visit veterinarians more frequently, with 88% going annually. "These results point out the need for domestic violence agencies to interface with animal welfare organizations with reference to expertise, prevention and care. Having pets shouldn't be an obstacle to seeking safety," the authors concluded.

-- Garnier, W., & Enders-Slegers, M.-J. (2012). *Huiselijk geweld en dierenmishandeling in Nederland [Domestic violence and animal cruelty in The Netherlands]*. Zwolle, The Netherlands: Kadera. [in Dutch: Abstract in English].

### ***Animal Therapy/Empathy Education Helps Abused Children***

Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia (CAPRA) conducted an evaluation of a long-established animal-assisted therapy program working with abused and homeless children living in transitional housing. WAYSS Ltd. has contracted with an Animal-Assisted Education and Therapy (AAET) group since 2005 to respond to the needs of children recovering from complex traumatic experiences including ongoing incidents of abuse and domestic violence. Traditional models of therapy were ineffective in reaching these children, whose experiences included domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, threats of arson, animal abuse, and road rage. Many had been drawn into violent behavior toward their mothers. Children had been taunted, threatened or abused in the presence of the mother, who was subsequently abused or assaulted when she tried to intervene to protect them.

The AAET interventions are weekly 1.5-hour group sessions designed to empower traumatized children and help them develop empathy through a continuity of care, a child-centered holistic approach and ongoing case-management support. This pilot evaluation of the trauma recovery program, which employed structured interviews with children, amplified earlier anecdotal evidence that children receiving Empathy Education & Training sessions showed "dramatic improvements" in many areas of their lives. Overwhelmingly, participants enjoyed the sessions. "Prior to attending the group, many described themselves as angry, scared or quiet and shy. After the group, they talked about gaining confidence, becoming independent and more sociable. Most significant was the knowledge and insight they had gained about animals and the empathy they experienced in comforting scared, frightened animals," the researchers reported. Many also demonstrated a capacity to transfer learned empathy into social and familial relationships and to reconnect with peers.

-- Mudaly, N. (2012). *"It Takes Me a Little Longer to Get Angry Now": Animal Assisted Education and Therapy Group: A Preliminary Evaluation*. Notting Hill, Vic., Australia: Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia

## It's Easy to Start Making a Difference!

People interested in getting Link programs going in their community often ask us: how do I begin? The answer can be as simple as a familiar advertisement: "Just do it!"



In Jacksonville, Fla., [Leslie Gillette](#), veterinarian for [Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services](#), shows how this is possible. Leslie first contacted the National Link Coalition regarding the Latham Foundation's online Link [training presentation for law enforcement officers](#). Then she attended a training NLC Coordinator Phil Arkow gave to [Prevent Child Abuse America's national conference](#) in Jacksonville. And now she's enrolled in the University of Florida's online course on Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence.

"My shelter has started the outreach process to other Jacksonville agencies," she writes. "Division Chief Scott Trebatoski gave it his blessing, without which we would not have moved forward. Thus far we have spoken to a group of DCF social workers, hosted a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office presentation given to our staff about domestic violence issues they encounter, met with representatives from Hubbard House about establishing pet housing for victims of domestic abuse, and we are in the process of putting together a DVD presentation on animal abuse and other crimes to the JSO Academy Officers and smaller groups of specialized agents (particularly the Narcotics agents)." Not bad for a couple of months' work!



## Two Link Podcasts Now Available



Phil Arkow, National Link Coalition Coordinator, was recently featured in two extensive radio interviews. A 20-minute radio interview aired January 11 on "Dog Talk (and Kitties Too)," a program hosted by "Radio Pet Lady" [Tracie Hotchner](#) on Peconic Public Broadcasting on Long Island, and in upstate New York, Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Phil's interview is about

1/3 of the way through the program. He discusses linking community agencies to approach violence holistically, how abusing animals controls battered women, incidence of animal cruelty among prison inmates, the impact of animal cruelty on children, legislative and criminal justice initiatives, the links between hoarding and elder abuse, and how the public can be part of violence prevention solutions. You can hear the interview at [http://www.podcasterhosting.com/podcasts/99/Dog\\_Talk\\_01\\_11\\_13.mp3](http://www.podcasterhosting.com/podcasts/99/Dog_Talk_01_11_13.mp3)



A second, similar interview, running 25 minutes, was conducted on Sentience Mosaic, a part of Animal Mosaic, an information portal for animal welfare professionals run by the World Society for the Protection of Animals in the U.K. Kate Turner-Mann, Asia-Pacific External Relations Advisor for WSPA in Australia, interviewed Phil in December. [Click here](#) to hear the interview.

## The Link in the Legislatures

### ***Cross-reporting:***



**New York AB 3468** would require any person charged with enforcing cruelty to animals laws to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment, and any person mandated to report child abuse or maltreatment to file a report of suspected animal abuse or maltreatment.



**New York AB 6666** would require any employee of a veterinary hospital or clinic, boarding kennel, shelter or rescue center, or facility that provides services for animals to report an animal's injury, illness, or condition to the police if animal cruelty or abuse is suspected. Employees who reasonably and in good faith file such reports would be immune from civil or criminal liability.



**New Mexico SB 83** would strengthen anti-cruelty laws and allow psychological counseling for animal cruelty offenders; such counseling would be mandated for offenders convicted of the new crime of "extreme" animal cruelty, and for children convicted of animal cruelty.

## The Link in the News

### ***Alleged Dog Beater Said to Kill Bus Driver and Abduct Child***



**Residents hold a candlelight vigil after the abduction**

A gunman reported to have a history of beating a neighbor's dog to death with a lead pipe was killed by police officers after a week-long standoff in an underground bunker with an abducted 5-year-old boy after allegedly shooting the child's school bus driver to death. SWAT teams, FBI agents and hostage negotiators converged on the bunker in Midland City, Ala., to rescue the kindergartener from Jimmy Lee Dykes, 65, said by neighbors to be an [anti-government radical survivalist](#) with a history of shooting at them. Authorities said the bus driver, Charles Poland, 66, was killed after refusing to hand over two children; the gunman then fired four shots and snatched the child for use in a hostage situation. The kindergartener, said to have Asperger's syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, was returned home apparently unharmed.

Ronda Wilbur, a neighbor, [told news media](#) that Dykes had once beaten her 120-pound dog with a lead pipe for coming onto his side of a dirt road. She had called animal control who came out and talked to Dykes but nothing else happened. The dog died a week later. "He said his only regret was he didn't beat him to death all the way. If a man can kill a dog, and beat it with a lead pipe and brag about it, it's nothing until it's going to be people," she said.

### ***Dog Slasher Gets Two Years in Domestic Violence Dispute***

A man who slashed the throat of his pregnant girlfriend's dog with a razor and then smashed the puppy's head on the sidewalk during a domestic quarrel was [sentenced to two years in prison](#) on Jan. 31. Esteban Gonzales, 25, of Jupiter, Fla., received the sentence in a plea bargain with the Palm Beach County State Attorney on the felony animal cruelty charge. Gonzales had pushed his girlfriend as she tried to protect her dog, which died before Palm Beach Animal Care & Control could transport the dog for emergency treatment. Gonzales will be given credit for one year already served.

### ***Manslaughter Parolee Pleads Guilty to Animal Cruelty***



**Lyda Miller**

A Hazelton, Penna. woman convicted in 2002 for starving her son to death [pleaded guilty](#) to animal cruelty charges on Jan. 9. Luzerne County SPCA animal control officer Wayne Harvey cited Lyda Miller, 47, and her boyfriend Michael Gozlan, 30, after finding an emaciated 5-month-old pit bull at the home where they previously lived. Judge Joseph Zola sentenced Miller to 10 days in jail, a \$750 fine, \$1,318 in restitution costs for care for the dog, and prohibited her from possessing or caring for any animal for the rest of her life. Gozlan’s case is still pending. Miller pleaded guilty in 2003 to involuntary manslaughter in the starvation death of her son, and served prison time and parole before being placed under house arrest. She told investigators that her then-boyfriend, Paul Hoffman, starved and abused the child and terrorized her to prevent her from feeding the boy. Hoffman pled guilty and was sentenced to 10-20 years in state prison.

### ***Suspect in Cruelty Case Charged with Elder Abuse***



**Charlotte Streeter**

A Jacksonville, Fla. woman charged with the brutal slashing of a dog was later charged with aggravated elder abuse and battery of an older person. Charlotte L. Streeter, 47, was being held under \$900,000 bail on the charges which stemmed from unrelated incidents. The Jacksonville Humane Society had received a tip about “Bo,” a dog that had been slashed 10 times with a Civil War-era sword for chewing through the plastic covering on a mattress. The witness who turned Streeter in said she had bragged about slicing the dog up. “We (expletive) that dog up, we sliced the (expletive) out of that dog. I ain’t even worried about the money of the mattress. That dog probably died!” she allegedly said. The incident triggered a second investigation involving the alleged abuse of an 83-year-old woman residing in the assisted living facility where Streeter worked, the [Florida Times-Union](#) reported. The elderly resident, who had two black eyes, cuts to her elbows and knees and a broken nose, told police that she was afraid of Streeter and didn’t want to report what had happened for fear Streeter would return and beat her. Bo was rescued by the humane society and underwent extensive surgery thanks to a \$2,100 reward fund.

### ***Three Roommates Involved in Bizarre Animal Cruelty/Double Shooting Case...***

Pinellas County, Fla. sheriff’s deputies were busy in December untangling two bizarre incidents in which two roommates were charged with attempted murder and a third charged with animal cruelty for stashing four kittens in his freezer in the mobile home they all shared. Officers arrested Francis James Bahr, 55, for allegedly shooting a man and woman after his efforts to have a relationship with her were rebuffed, and his roommate Damian William Blanchard, 24, who allegedly aided in the shooting. A day later, Rodney Blanchard, 49, a third roommate and Damian’s father, reportedly asked his girlfriend to get him a beer from the freezer, where she found four six-week-old kittens wrapped in individual sandwich bags. Three of the shivering, flea-infested kittens were still alive and turned over to the SPCA Tampa Bay. Rodney Blanchard was charged with animal cruelty and battery after [telling investigators](#) “he didn’t know what he was thinking” and “made some statements to the effect of putting the cats in timeout.” The shooting victims at last report were recovering from gunshot wounds to the upper body.



**Rodney Blanchard (left) and son Damian**

### **... While Man Charged in Domestic Violence/Animal Cruelty Incident**



**Dorell Maxwell Webb**

Meanwhile, just across Tampa Bay in [Hillsborough County, Fla.](#), [sheriff's deputies](#) arrested Dorell Maxwell Webb, 39 on felony animal cruelty, domestic violence battery and stalking charges for allegedly breaking a dog's leg during an argument with a woman. Fearing for her safety, the woman ran for her car but before she could leave, Webb broke the key after yanking it out of the ignition, smashed her cell phone, and tore two house phones out of the wall to keep her from calling 911, deputies said. Enraged, Webb allegedly grabbed the woman's dog and threatened to break its neck before slamming the dog against the driveway, fracturing a leg in two places.

### **Alleged Cat Torturer Charged with Attempted Murder**

A young mother who was stabbed 20 times while shopping for curtains in a Bed Bath & Beyond store was reportedly recuperating while her alleged assailant, who had been charged with animal torture a month earlier, was being held on \$1 million bail. Tyrik S. Haynes, 18, of Middletown, N.J., allegedly attacked Kerri Dalton in the January 17 incident while she pushed a baby carriage through the store. He was also charged with child endangerment and illegal weapons possession. Authorities said Haynes also tortured a cat to death on Christmas



Eve by using a lighter and aerosol spray can while the animal was in a cat carrier. **Tyrik S. Haynes** "Cruelty to animals is a big red flag to us because it represents not only a sense of lording over a defenseless creature, it represents some sense of power. Cruelty to animals is almost always associated with some type of psychiatric disturbance," Dr. Cheryl Kennedy, associate professor at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark, told the [Asbury Park Press](#).

## **Link Training Opportunities**

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

**Feb. 16 – Grand Rapids, Mich.:** 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. 18 – Camden, N.J.:** Phil Arkow will discuss "The Links Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence and Their Implications for the Criminal Justice System" at the [Rutgers University Law School](#).

**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, D.C.:** 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, Calif.:** 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.

**Feb. 27 (online):** [Allie Phillips](#) will present a free [webinar](#) on Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) for Progressive Animal Welfare Services in Ontario, Canada.

**March 7 – Portland, Ore.:** Diane Balkin, Philip Tedeschi and Lacey Levitt will discuss 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, Texas:** 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.

**March 20-21 – Huntsville, Ala.:** Allie Phillips will present on The Link at the National Children’s Advocacy Center’s 29<sup>th</sup> [National Symposium on Child Abuse](#).

**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 9 (online):** [Allie Phillips](#) will conduct a free webinar on animal abuse and child maltreatment for the National Children’s Alliance.

**April 9-10 – Knoxville, Tenn.:** 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.

**April 11-13 – Knoxville, Tenn.:** A track on the Link between violence to animals and people at the 3<sup>rd</sup> [Veterinary Social Work Summit](#) will include Phil Arkow on how social workers can use The Link to build empathy and social capital, Maya Gupta on ethical dilemmas and evaluations in domestic violence Safe Haven programs, and Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney on what mental and health professionals should know about animal abuse.

**April 14 – New York, N.Y.:** Phil Arkow will conduct a Link program for the [L.O.V.E. Task Force](#) of the Church of the Holy Trinity.

**April 16 – (online):** Judge Maria Felix and Deputy County Attorney Kendrick Wilson, of Pima County, Ariz., will present a free webinar on “Animal Welfare Court: The Development of a Specialty Court Focused on Animal Abuse 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.

**April 22 – Baltimore, Md.:** Allie Phillips, Michelle Welch and Caroline A. Griffin will present on “Dealing with Media, Public Pressure, and Scrutiny in Animal Cruelty Cases” at the Maryland Bar Association’s [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Animal Law Symposium](#).

**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 14 – Seattle, Wash.:** Allie Phillips will present on “Caught in the Cross Fire: When the Abuse of Animals Co-Occurs with Family Violence” at the Washington State [Children’s Justice Conference](#).

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

**July 26-27 – Bento Gonçalves, Brazil:** Phil Arkow will train on implications of The Link for veterinarians, and practical guidance to respond to suspected abuse, at the [Medvep](#) 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of Veterinary Specialties.

**July 30-31 – São Paulo, Brazil:** Phil Arkow will present [eight Link workshops](#) for ABMVL (Brazilian Legal Veterinary Medicine Association) and ITEC (Education, Conservation and Animal Welfare Institute).

## 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(s) you’re with and where you’re located.

### Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee:

#### Phil Arkow

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

#### Lesley Ashworth

Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund  
Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,  
Columbus City Attorney’s Office/Prosecution Division  
Worthington, Ohio

#### 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  
Deputy Director, National Center for  
Prosecution of Child Abuse  
National District Attorneys Association  
Alexandria, Va.

**Diane Balkin, J.D.**

Contract Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund  
President, International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Assn.  
Denver, Colo.

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

Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Executive Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Maya Gupta, Ph.D.**

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

**Jane A. Hunt**

Violence Prevention Specialist  
Loveland, Colo.

**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, MSW, MPP**

Director of Network Growth & Strategy, The Full Frame Initiative  
Founder, Catalyst Consulting & Training  
Yarmouth, Maine

**Maria Luisa O'Neill**

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

**Jane A. Raymond**

Representative, National Clearinghouse on Abuse  
in Later Life  
Madison, Wis.

**Chris Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor and  
Animal-Human Interactions Coordinator,  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University  
Phoenix, Ariz.

**Kathleen Schoen**

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

**Barbara Shaffer, MSW, LCSW**

Senior Director of Chapter Services  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Breckenridge, 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.

**Amanda Widup, MSW**

Policy Analyst, National Council of  
Juvenile & Family Court Judges  
Reno, Nev.