



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 6, No. 6 June 2013

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



www.nationallinkcoalition.org



[Phil Arkow](#), Editor



The Big Apple Gets Its First Pet-Friendly Domestic Violence Shelter



URINYC
Urban Resource Institute

“If I can make it there I’ll make it anywhere,” the definitive line from a song about New York, has come true in the world of The Link. At a May 30 press conference, the [Mayor’s Alliance for Animals and People](#) and the [Urban Resource Institute](#) announced the opening of

the first pet-friendly domestic violence shelter in the nation’s largest city.

Allie Phillips, who pioneered SAF-T™ (Sheltering Animals and Families Together) in domestic violence shelters, spoke at the press conference. “For the past five years, I’ve been working with the Mayor’s Alliance to shift their family violence shelters to being pet-friendly. They are now equipped to house pets onsite at one of their shelters. This is a monumental step given the bureaucracy of NYC. So if NYC can do it, anyone can do it!” she said.

There was significant [radio](#) and [newspaper](#) media coverage. “It was amazing to see the leaders of the city child protection and domestic violence agencies there with 100% support of the project,” she said.



NLC member Allie Phillips spoke at the URI press conference.

URI PALS (People and Animals Living Safely), is accepting cats, rabbits, birds and fish. It will run as a six-month pilot program, with 10 apartments in one shelter outfitted for pets, while URI seeks \$250,000 in funding to accept dogs and expand the program to three other shelters in the system. New York has the largest domestic violence network in the U.S. with more than 50 shelters, none of which had accepted pets in residence until now.

The Mayor’s Alliance will work closely with URI to provide staff training, pet safety education, pet food and supplies, and foster solutions for pets that PALS cannot accommodate.

“There has never been a more important time for the domestic violence shelter community to open its doors to pets,” said URI President Nathaniel Fields. “As we witnessed during Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy, pets are members of the family and no one should have to make the impossible decision to leave them behind during times of crisis.”

Veterinary Reporting of Animal Maltreatment Enacted in North Dakota & Washington, Introduced in Wisconsin



North Dakota became the 49th state to enact felony-level provisions for animal mistreatment when Gov. Jack Dalrymple signed [SB 2211](#) into law on April 29. The bill also requires veterinarians who have reasonable cause to believe an animal has been neglected, abused or treated cruelly to immediately notify law enforcement.

The bill creates new categories for acts of animal maltreatment, differentiating between “neglect,” “abandonment,” “abuse,” and “cruelty.” Abuse, defined as any act or omission resulting in physical injury or death, will be a Class C felony for three or more convictions within 10 years. Cruelty, defined as intentional breaking of bones, mutilation, torture, or prolonged impairment of health, is a class C felony. Various industrial, agricultural and sport interactions with animals are exempted, as in most states.

The new law also requires the State Board of Animal Health to provide law enforcement agencies with a list of veterinarians trained to provide assistance in criminal investigations, and grants veterinarians immunity from civil and criminal liability for rendering emergency treatment to sick or injured animals.

South Dakota remains the only state lacking felony penalties for animal cruelty.



Meanwhile, Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee signed [SB 5102](#) into law on May 15. The new law grants veterinarians immunity from liability in any civil or criminal action when reporting suspected animal cruelty to the proper authorities in good faith and in the normal course of business.

In Wisconsin, Sen. Fred Risser (D – Madison)’s SB 199 would require veterinarians to report all suspected animal mistreatment. Currently they are mandated to report only animal fighting. Veterinarians reporting animal abuse in good faith would be immune from civil liability. The bill has been referred to the Judiciary and Labor Committee.



“The mistreatment of animals is a serious crime and is one which we can better address with the help of veterinarians. As experts in assessing injuries and ailments, veterinarians are invaluable in identifying and protecting animals who have been subject to cruel treatment,” said Sen. Risser. **Sen. Fred Risser**

Maine Amends Domestic Violence Pet Protection Orders

Maine, which pioneered the inclusion of animals in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders in 2006, has further strengthened its historic law through a bill that sailed through the Legislature this session. LD 687, introduced by Rep. Andrea Boland, now allows pet protection provisions in temporary orders -- those in effect between a victim’s filing and a court hearing. The 2006 law only covered permanent orders.



“That time is a very dangerous one in a family’s life,” [said Boland](#), in introducing the bill at the request of a former judge who is one of her constituents. “It seems that as long as we have protection for these animals from abuse in final orders, it makes sense that we do it for temporary orders.” The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence supported the bill, which became law on May 21. **Rep. Andrea Boland**

National Link Coalition Publishes Guidelines for Domestic Violence Pet Support Services Directories

Hundreds of domestic violence shelters now provide safe pet housing options so families can leave abusers without having to leave their pets behind and at risk. In response, several organizations are compiling directories of these programs. But it has not been clear that these directories provide accurate, current information for families needing animal housing, usually under emergency conditions.

Concerned about the proliferation of such directories, the National Link Coalition has created [Guidelines for Directories of Domestic Violence Pet Support Programs](#). The Guidelines cover both on-site kennels and off-site foster care referrals. The Guidelines are based upon the Coalition's collaborative expertise, experience and lessons learned from extensive discussions with national and local organizations.

The guiding principles for such directories must be based upon:

- **Accuracy:** Giving domestic violence survivors outdated or inaccurate information only adds to the chaos of the emergency and can do more harm than good to someone in crisis.
- **User-friendliness:** The domestic violence survivor needs to easily determine the shelter's geographic service area and details of its pet support policies.

The Guidelines note that not all foster care pet support programs are formalized with written agreements. However, a simple referral by a domestic violence agency to a non-participating animal organization does not constitute a Domestic Violence Pet Support program.

Listings should be updated at least twice a year. On-site pet programs should be identified as such. Programs should be institutionalized so that persons answering telephone and e-mail inquiries are aware of the program and will provide the caller with accurate information regarding program details.

Because survivors may seek pet support services locally or in other locations, listings should be as user-friendly as possible with convenient search-engine optimization and organized geographically by county. Directories should include a Safety Alert warning and an immediate escape button from the web page. Recommendations are offered for both basic and more advanced directory listings. The Guidelines are available as a free download from our [resource center of Link materials](#).

International Link News



Nuria Querol

Link Message Spreads through Mexico

Dr. Nuria Querol Vinas, head of Spain's [GEVHA](#) Link organization, recently returned from Mexico where she conducted seven training programs on how violence to animals often presages violence against humans. Her presentations to Parliament, Congress, Anahuac University, and the United Academy of Psychology of the Autonoma University of Zacatecas received extensive media coverage in [Zacatecas Online](#), [NTR Zacatecas](#), and [La Jornada Aguascalientes](#).



Marie-José Enders-Slegers

Link Gains Academic Recognition in The Netherlands

[Dr. Marie-José Enders-Slegers](#), who is coordinating Link activities in The Netherlands, reports that she has been successful in including Link material in her academic curriculum. She recently got a position at the Open University of Heerlen where she is a professor of anthrozoology in the psychology department. “The Link is covered and now has a home at my new university,” she writes.

Canadian Link Coalition Holds Training Conference

Canada’s newest Link coalition, the Human-Animal Vulnerability Coalition of the Waterloo, Ontario region, held a highly energetic and successful all-day training conference on May 15. More than 175 professionals heard National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow describe The Link and its relevance to their various interests.

HAV’s steering committee is comprised of representatives from domestic violence, humane society, school of social work, family & children’s services, veterinary medicine, welfare, community services, and police agencies. The HAV team is working through five subcommittees:

- **HAV Link** investigates education and research;
- **Veterinary Care** provides pro bono care for animals in domestic violence, hoarding and at-risk situations;
- **Community Fostering** is finding temporary care for individuals who are incarcerated, in hospitals, or in domestic violence situations;
- **Service & Therapy Animals** is seeking opportunities to identify and fill service gaps with social work agencies to assist individuals with service animals and animal-assisted therapy programs;
- **Community Relations** is creating linkages with the public.



National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow (top left) and HAV Coalition organizers held a panel discussion at the conference

Funded by United Way, HAV’s vision is to “facilitate and advocate a coordinated, seamless and effective approach to responding to human and animal vulnerability and/or violence within the community.” Its mission is “to maximize capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of programs, services and systems supporting at-risk individuals, families and their pets through collaborative efforts.”

“The HAV Coalition is an excellent model of multi-sectorial cooperation of services and resources, all with the common goal of effectively intervening to address neglect, abuse and vulnerability with humans and animals alike,” says [Mary Zilney](#), CEO of Women’s Crisis Services of Waterloo Region and founder of HAV. “By addressing the entire family system, including animals, we eliminate silos and work together toward a common goal of eradicating abuse in our community.”

The community-coordinated committee is currently designing a website. Zilney was recently honored with the Humanitarian Award of the Animal Welfare Agency of South Central Ontario for her vision and perseverance in bringing the HAV coalition together. The conference was covered by [The Waterloo Chronicle](#) newspaper.

Pioneering Study Links Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty in Brazil

In the first study correlating acts of domestic violence with animal abuse in Brazil, psychologist [Maria José Sales Padilha](#) has found that 51% of battered women reported their abuser also attacked household pets or other animals.

The study, conducted by [Associação Amigos Defensores dos Animais e do Meio Ambiente \(AADAMA\)](#), surveyed 450 women seeking assistance at police stations in Recife specialized in attending to women's issues. The age and educational levels of survivors and aggressors ranged widely. Both groups were over-represented by individuals over age 30, which Sales Padilha attributed to older women being more aware of women's rights laws and older men being more entrenched in Brazil's "machismo" culture.

The types of violence inflicted upon the animals included:

- Physical beating: 50%
- Deprivation of food and water: 10%
- "Emotional blackmail": 9%
- Abandoning the animal in the streets: 22%
- Other violence: 9%



Survivors added such comments to their survey questionnaires as, "He kicked the turtle and skinned the cat and dog and said he would enjoy doing the same thing with her," and "He beat the dog to death, later saying that he did it to the dog in order not to do it to me."



The aggressors were the woman's partner (27%), husband (23%), ex-husband (16%), ex-partner (27%), or other household member (7%). "The percentages show that even after the end of a relationship women are not free from violence because the man generally does not accept the break and still wants to exert control over his ex-companion," she wrote.

Sales Padilha cited four cases of Brazilian serial killers and mass murderers who – like many counterparts in other countries – had histories of animal abuse. She reported estimates of Brazil's pet population at 25 million dogs and 7 million cats in a nation of 196 million people.

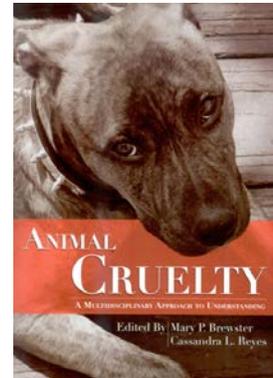
The 61-page study aimed to encourage the Pernambuco Departments for Educational Services to include respect to all life forms in school curricula; to alert teachers and parents that children's cruelty to animals can be a symptom of serious behavior disturbances; to include animal cruelty in violence prevention programs; and to encourage police officers to intervene when they encounter cruelty.

"Society generally disregards, underestimates or is ignorant of violence against non-human animals, but such violence is associated with conflicts in relationships between human beings. In recent decades, violence against non-human animals has been recognized as a possible sign of serious aggression that should be considered as latent psychopathology that could eventually be expressed through violent acts against human beings," she concluded, urging Brazilian officials to recognize animal cruelty as "a serious problem against life itself [that] can reinforce the circle of violence around women in society."

-- Sales Padilha, M.J. (2011). *Crueldade com Animais x Violência Doméstica Contra Mulheres: Uma Conexão Real (Cruelty Against Non-Human Animals versus Domestic Violence Against Women: A Real Connection)*. Recife, Brazil: Associação Amigos Defensores dos Animais e do Meio Ambiente (AADAMA).

New Textbook Explores the Criminology of The Link

A persistent challenge in any study of the links between animal abuse and interpersonal violence is the interdisciplinary nature of animal abuse and human violence connections. The Link affects veterinary, physical, public and mental health, activists and legislators, child and adult protection and domestic violence officials, police and prosecutors, and dozens of other specialties.



Trying to encapsulate this variety into one textbook presents an enormous difficulty, but Mary Brewster and Cassandra Reyes, professors of criminal justice at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, have succeeded admirably with an exhaustive, 436-page anthology. *Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding* utilizes the contributed expertise of 28 well-respected authorities (four of whom serve on the National Link Coalition Steering Committee). This book would be a valuable addition to the curricula of specialized criminal justice, criminology, psychology, law, and human-animal studies courses.

The book begins with an extensive review of the terminology, history and implementation of animal cruelty laws. The human-animal bonds affecting companion, farm, assistance and wild animals, and the implications of breaking these bonds via violence, set the stage for an examination of sociological theories of animal abuse and psychological approaches to cruelty offenders.

Comprehensive reviews describe animal cruelty as an antecedent and predictor of other violence. The book's 17 chapters consider in great detail animal cruelty's implications on youth delinquency, child abuse, domestic violence, firesetting, and homicide.

One novel section of the book describes the criminological aspects of specialized forms of animal cruelty: industrial and for-profit animal abuses, blood sports, hunting, sexual deviance, and hoarding.

Following a discussion of the challenges in gathering statistics and measuring animal cruelty, the editors examine emerging issues in public policy, prosecution, activism and legislation. This book has the hallmark of becoming a required undergraduate and graduate-level textbook in a variety of fields for many years to come.

--Brewster, M.P., & Reyes, C.L. (Eds.). (2013). *Animal cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding*. Durham, N. Car.: Carolina Academic Press.

Link Video Available

"*Pets in the Crossfire of Family Violence*," a one-hour video featuring numerous Link authorities, is being aired by Twin Cities Public Television and is [available as a free download](#). The video, compiled from a Link conference at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, discusses the evolving role of pets in society, the links between animal abuse and human violence, child abuse/animal abuse connections, and domestic violence/animal abuse links.



The video is built around a presentation by Phil Arkow, with commentaries by Link authorities Diane Balkin and Jane Hunt, plus experts from family & children's services, animal-assisted therapy, marriage and family counseling, human-animal bond, and the veterinary college.

Abuse-Healing Animal Therapy Program Film Wins Award

Faith and Hope on a Farm, an inspirational 15-minute video by [The Latham Foundation](#) about the nature-based therapies for abused and at-risk children at Forget Me Not Farm, has been awarded a Bronze [Telly Award](#) for Non-Broadcast Productions in the Social Issues category.



Founded in 1992, [Forget Me Not Farm](#) is a nonprofit subsidiary of the Sonoma Humane Society of Santa Rosa, Calif., that breaks the cycles of abuse by teaching abused and at-risk youth empathy through experiential learning and nurturing plants and animals. Working with a consortium of nine child welfare agencies in Sonoma County, Forget Me Not Farm also offers youth mentoring programs for graduates to learn real-life skills within the animal care industry.

The renowned program has been featured in several previous videos by The Latham Foundation, founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education.

Now in its 34th year, the Telly Awards honor excellence in local, regional and cable TV and non-broadcast video productions. The winning Latham submission was one of more than 12,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents.



The Link in the Literature

Feasibility of Social Workers Using Therapy Dogs with Abused British Children

Amanda Chase's 39-page dissertation in support of her B.S.W. degree at the University of East Anglia explores the feasibility of social workers utilizing therapy dogs as an intervention with child protection teams in the U.K. Citing evidence-based research from both the U.S. and U.K. to establish the relevance of animal-assisted interventions to social work practice, she noted that animal-assisted therapy is a "hidden field" and not yet recognized as a mainstream intervention. "Social workers have a duty to advance their practice to better serve children in residential and child protection settings. The evidence presented shows that therapy dogs could have great potential to transform practice," she wrote.

-- Chase, A. (2013). *Could Therapy-Dogs Be Another Tool in the Social Worker's Tool Bag?* Dissertation submitted in support of the degree of B.A. (Hons) Social Work, Martin Gill supervisor, University of East Anglia, U.K.

How to Pass a Cross-Reporting Law



Link advocates seeking to implement cross-reporting between child protection and animal welfare agencies now have a new model to look at – the Connecticut's pioneering cross-reporting law enacted in 2011. Lori Fogler-Nicholson, who served as an intern to State Rep. Diana Urban who introduced the measure, has written an enlightening article describing the processes and pitfalls through which Public Act 11-194 became law. Using graphic videos demonstrating The Link, advice from experts that prevention and containment were the best strategies for reducing recidivism, and testimony from mental health and animal welfare experts, the bill passed on its second go-around. The new law, which requires DCF and animal control employees to report suspected abuse or neglect to each other's departments, "aims at interventions while there's still a chance to affect positive change. It's good for children, pets, families, and the taxpayers," she writes.

-- Fogler-Nicholson, L. (2013). *Good legislation for children and animals: Connecticut's Cross Reporting Bill.* *The Latham Letter*, 34(2), 6-8.

The Link in the Legislatures

Reporting and cross-reporting:



Alabama HB51 would require a wide range of human and veterinary health professionals, teachers, law enforcement officials, social workers, mental health professionals and others to report suspected animal cruelty or torture. Good-faith reporters would have immunity from civil and criminal liability. Failure to report would be punishable by a fine. Law enforcement agencies receiving such reports “shall process the case in the same manner as any other criminal investigation.” The bill was in the Senate Judiciary committee when the legislature adjourned.



District of Columbia B20-0153 would amend the DC Official Code to incorporate veterinary medicine as a health profession. Under this new classification, veterinarians and veterinary technicians would become mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.



Missouri HB 890 would give veterinarians, teachers and school personnel immunity from civil liability for reporting suspected animal abuse. The bill would also allow courts to impose psychological assessment and treatment for convicted animal abuse offenders.



New York A3766 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. The bill is in the Social Services Committee.



New York A3283 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. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



North Dakota SB 2211 was signed into law April 29. It requires veterinarians who find reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been neglected or abused to report the incident to law enforcement officials. Veterinarians can retain protective custody of the animal. The provision is part of a larger bill that adds felony-level penalties for third convictions for animal mistreatment.



Washington SB 5102 was signed into law on May 15. The new law grants immunity from civil and criminal liability for veterinarians who report suspected animal cruelty in good faith.



Wisconsin SB 199 would require veterinarians to report all suspected animal abuse, with immunity from civil liability for good-faith reporting. Currently they are mandated to report only suspected animal fighting and lack immunity. The bill has been referred to the Judiciary and Labor Committee.

Abusers Registries:



Michigan HB 4535 and **4534** would require individuals convicted of animal cruelty to register for five years with the State Police, who would create a statewide database of offenders. Animal shelters that adopt to individuals on the registry would be guilty of a misdemeanor.



Washington HB 1786 would direct the attorney general to maintain a publicly available registry of persons convicted of animal abuse. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

Pet Protection Orders



Kentucky HB 195, which would have allowed courts to direct the care, custody or control of pets in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders, was in the House Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned.



Maine LD 687, introduced by Rep. Andrea Boland, became law on May 21. It extends protection for pets in domestic violence permanent protection orders to now include temporary protection-from-abuse orders as well.



New Mexico SB 473 which would have allowed courts to grant possession of animals and order any party to stay away from the animal during a protection-from-abuse order, died.

Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child



New York A706 would include animal cruelty in the presence of a child as an element in endangering a child’s welfare, and within the definition of a neglected or maltreated child. It has been referred to the Codes Committee.



Oregon SB6 defines animal abuse as a felony if the incident is part of an act of domestic violence or occurs in the presence of a minor child. The bill is in the Ways & Means Committee.

Other



Connecticut HB 5677, HB 6690 and HB 6310 would appoint a State Department of Agriculture veterinarian to act as an animal advocate in family relations matters, civil cases, and criminal proceedings (including cruelty cases) that involve the care, custody and well-being of animals.



New Mexico SB 459 which would have trained social workers and law enforcement personnel regarding animal cruelty laws and the social and legal consequences of animal cruelty, died.



New Mexico SB 83 and HB 224 which would have allowed psychological counseling for offenders of the new crime of “extreme” animal cruelty, and for children convicted of animal cruelty, has died.



New Mexico SB 473 which would have defined animal abuse used to coerce or control an intimate partner as meeting the statutory definition of domestic violence or stalking, died.

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

The Link in the News

Man Accused of Serially Killing Girlfriend's Pets



Cory Tittle

A man accused of serially poisoning and killing his live-in girlfriend's pets has been charged with three felony counts of animal cruelty. Lenexa, Kans. police say Cory Matthew Tittle, 23, poisoned a kitten, then suffocated a second kitten and a ferret with plastic bags, in three incidents over a period of several months. The girlfriend at first thought something in their apartment was killing the animals, then became suspicious of Tittle and called police. [KCTV reported](#) that the couple have subsequently split up.

Man Arrested in Case of Sex Abuse of Child and Peacock

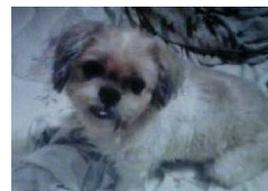


David Beckmann

A Roselle, Ill. man was charged with animal cruelty for allegedly sexually abusing his pet peacock in a police investigation stemming from alleged indecent solicitation of a child. Police learned the bird had died while investigating David Beckmann, 64, about the child solicitation case. Beckmann also faces charges of battery and possession of illegal drugs and paraphernalia. [The Daily Herald reported](#) that arraignment was scheduled in DuPage County Court for June 12.

Man with Assault History Charged with Beating Blind Dog to Death

A Kalamazoo, Mich. man with a history of assaults was charged with beating his neighbors' blind dog to death with a golf club. Christopher Brooks was arrested after putting up a fight with law enforcement officers who found him hiding in a basement and who had to drag him into a patrol car. [WWMT-TV reported](#) that "Baby Girl," a blind, 15-year-old, nine-pound shih tzu with no teeth, died from blunt force trauma. The dog's owner, Robin Sleeman, told the TV station that Brooks had threatened her and her son after a neighborhood dispute by saying, "I killed your dog, what more do I have to do to you guys? Next will be your son." Brooks reportedly has a history of assault charges and convictions dating from 2004.



Link Training Opportunities

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

June 17-18 – San Diego, Calif.: Allie Phillips will present on "Caught in the Cross Fire: How Animal Abuse Co-Occurs with Family Violence" and "How Therapy Animals Help Maltreated Children" at the National District Attorneys Association's [Career Prosecutor Course](#).

June 20 – (online): Allie Phillips will present a free webinar on "Sheltering Animals and Families Together: A Solution for Abused Families," 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.

June 21 – Kansas City, MO: Heddie Leger and [Kim Fletcher](#) will conduct a training on The Link for the Kansas City Caring for All Network (KC-CAN) Link coalition.

June 25-26 – Hampton, Va.: Allie Phillips will present on “Caught in the Cross Fire: How Animal Abuse Co-Occurs with Family Violence” and co-present with Michele Thames on “How Therapy Animals Help Maltreated Children” at Intervening at the [Crossroads: Child Abuse & Juvenile Justice conference](#) of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

July 8 – (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a webinar on “The Link, One Health and Social Capital: New Strategies for More Effective Community Outreach” for the [Association of Shelter Veterinarians](#).

July 11 – Philadelphia, Pa.: Phil Arkow will train the [Pennsylvania Council of Children Youth & Family Services](#) on “Implications of The Link on Child Welfare Practice.”

July 25 – Orlando, Fla.: Allie Phillips will present on “Caught in the Crossfire: The Co-Occurrence of Animal Abuse and Family Violence” and “Therapy Animals Supporting Abused Kids” at the [Florida Crimes Against Kids Conference](#).

July 8-11 – Brisbane, Australia: Robyn Kippenberger and Michael Roguski will discuss the New Zealand “Pets as Pawns” report on domestic violence and animal abuse at the [Crime, Justice and Social Democracy Conference 2013](#).

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

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

Sept. 20 – Saskatoon, Sask., Canada: Tim Battle will present results from the “Cruelty Connection” study at the 2013 [Saskatchewan SPCA Animal Welfare Conference](#).

Nov. 2 – New York City, N.Y.: The 3rd [Zoobiquity Conference](#) will present a species-spanning conversation among physicians and veterinarians treating similar diseases and public health issues.

Nov. 7-8 – Almoradi, Alicante, Spain: Nuria Querol i Vinas will discuss preventing future aggression by looking at the early indicators of family violence at the II [International Congress on Juvenile Violence and Juvenile Offenders](#).



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) and tell us what organization(s) you’re with and where you’re located.

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