



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 6, No. 7 July 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



DA, Court, and SPCA Team Up for Juvenile Offenders

A unique collaboration between the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office, the Juvenile Division of Los Angeles Superior Court, and the Los Angeles SPCA is re-instilling empathy into teenaged juvenile offenders with an animal therapy approach to curing violence.

jTLC™ – the Teaching Love and Compassion Program for Juvenile Offenders – is a two-day court-mandated course in which teens are paired with shelter dogs and offered intensive sessions on teamwork and interpersonal skills to help them break the cycle of violence. jTLC was run as a pilot program for the past two years; 80% of the offenders have not reoffended, said [spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein](#).

It is an extension of spcaLA’s Teaching Love and Compassion (TLC) violence-prevention program that since 1996 has helped over 500 at-risk youths with behavioral problems or antisocial tendencies. The two programs help participants identify and break the cycle of violence through positive feedback, building self-esteem, and increasing respect for all living creatures.



jTLC attendees include teenage girls convicted of bullying and a 14-year-old animal abuse offender who was sentenced to jTLC for hitting a dog in the head with a brick; at the age of 8, he had been bullied by his brother to injure a rabbit. “jTLC is a different approach with teens who are entering the juvenile system,” Bernstein said. “These kids learn coping and anger management skills and gain self-esteem. With the help of our shelter dogs, we instill in them compassion and empathy – which steers them into a more positive direction.”

“With few exceptions the minors who participate come away from the experience with new-found respect for animals and people. The weekend class focuses on teaching minors how damaging abuse can be not only to animals and people but also to the person inflicting the abuse,” said Lianne Osendorf, hearing officer for the district attorney’s Juvenile Offender Intervention Program.



“The cycle of abuse will continue unless there is intervention. The direct correlation between animal cruelty and domestic violence, child abuse, bullying and school fights is factual,” she added.

D.A.'s Violence Intervention Program Considers Animal Abuse



The District Attorney in Doña Ana County, N. Mex., is reportedly establishing a family violence intervention and prevention program that may include animal cruelty issues. Frank Bryce, president of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, welcomed the information at a monthly town hall meeting held by D.A. Mark D'Antonio.

D.A. Mark D'Antonio "Family violence is often preceded by animal abuse, cruelty and neglect," said Bryce. "The District Attorney's Office effort is greeted as a very positive step in recognizing and addressing family violence through early identification of animal abuse, cruelty and neglect."

Citing information from a recent issue of *The Link-Letter*, [Bryce described the links](#) between actual and threatened animal abuse with domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse cases. "Professionals in all these fields are not surprised when they learn that often they are dealing with the same families, the same perpetrators, and the same overarching problems," he said.

"All our families are at risk, so we all have to be involved with keeping them safe," a representative from the District Attorney's Office said. The public was encouraged to report animal abuse, cruelty and neglect as an important aspect of this intervention and prevention effort, and to visit the [National Link Coalition website](#) for more information.

The Link Comes to the Windy City

Chicago Probation Officers Learn About The Link

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Services invited the [Animals and Society Institute](#) to conduct two workshops for Juvenile Probation Officers on animal abuse, its relevance to their work, and its importance as an early tool for identification and intervention. Cynthia Bathurst, executive director of [Safe Humane Chicago](#), a violence-prevention and youth leadership organization that recognizes that community safety and humane treatment of animals are closely related, conducted the trainings. The workshops were supported by a grant from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, a KeyBank Trust.

Chicago Safe Start Educates on the Child Abuse/Animal Abuse Link

Chicago Safe Start, one of 11 demonstration projects on children's exposure to violence funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, has included an extensive information section about Animal Abuse and Human Abuse in its [Exposure to Violence Toolkit](#). Chicago Safe Start considers the animal/child abuse link an extended learning opportunity in its Bringing the Kids Back into Focus curriculum, a bilingual training guide to provide caring and concerned adults with a deep understanding of how children are adversely affected by exposure to violence. Chicago Safe Start works to prevent and reduce children's exposure to violence and strengthen response systems on the community, city and state levels.



The Link section describes key concepts in recognizing animal abuse not as a minor personality flaw in the abuser, but a potential symptom of deep mental disturbance. It discusses the links between animal abuse and domestic violence. It offers strategies as to how schools, parents, courts and communities can stop the cycle of abuse by aggressively penalizing offenders, examining families for other signs of violence, and requiring intensive counseling for perpetrators.

Paul Needham to Represent Elder Abuse Issues on Coalition



Paul Needham, Chair of the Education Committee of the [National Adult Protective Services Association](#) (NAPSA), has been named to the National Link Coalition’s Steering Committee. Needham is a Program Field Rep for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services’ Family Support Services Division Training Unit. He has been Lead Trainer and Training Developer for the APS Academies since 2003.

He has 32 years of experience with the Department, 31 in Adult Protective Services. A 1975 graduate from Oklahoma Baptist University with a degree in Business Administration, he obtained his MBA from Oklahoma’s Central State University in 1990. He has been the chairperson for the elder abuse track for the Oklahoma Conference on Aging since 2005.

Needham serves on the Board of Directors of the National Staff Development and Training Association, an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association. He recently took part in the Domestic Violence Instructor Training Program with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and is now a certified FLETC trainer. Needham was a co-trainer in elder abuse for the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life. He has trained thousands of professionals and lay people on adult abuse issues.

The NAPSA Education Committee develops educational content for APS workers on skills such as identifying symptoms of abuse, neglect or exploitation; how to best work with allied professionals; and when to involve other professionals to determine an individual’s cognitive capacity.

Research-to-Practice Brief Explores Elder Abuse/Animal Abuse Links

The National Adult Protective Services Resource Center has published a [one-page brief](#), “Adult Protective Services and Animal Welfare: Should Animal Abuse and Neglect Be Assessed During Adult Protective Services Screening?” The brief builds upon a 2012 study by Terry Peak, Frank R. Ascione and Jylisa Doney.



The study found that 51% of APS representatives in 41 states did not ask questions relating to pets in their client assessments; of those that did, only one state asked about pet-related concerns beyond the initial inquiry of whether the household had a pet. Among pet data collected, the three most commonly reported concerns were safety issues: the owner’s inability to care for pets; owners spending money on their pets instead of themselves; and what to do with an animal in the event of an emergency situation.

The brief noted the complicated nature of addressing animal welfare in elder abuse cases, including whether the focus of such assessments should be on the welfare of the animal or of the elderly owner. Other issues include: owners’ inadvertent maltreatment of animals due to their inability to care for pets; animal hoarding behaviors; and animals being harmed to coerce elderly owners similar to animal abuse coercion in domestic violence. The brief also links to initial and follow-up APS assessment tools that the authors had created.

The [Research-to-Practice briefs](#) are part of a series produced by the NAPSRC sponsored by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) and the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) as a project partner. The goal of the series is to integrate findings from cutting-edge research into everyday APS practices.

“Zoosexualism”: An Emerging Issue in Human/Animal Violence

It may be called bestiality, sodomy, zoophilia, animal sex abuse, interspecies sexual assault, a deviate act, or a crime against nature depending on the jurisdiction. It’s a phenomenon that’s been documented since Biblical times, the topic of crude jokes, the object of increasing study by researchers, and a growing problem for legislators. To mental health professionals it’s a paraphilia. To police it’s a crime, And to perpetrators it’s a lifestyle.

Whatever you call it, human sexual interaction with animals is an emerging issue with implications for all involved with preventing violence to humans and animals. [Jenny Edwards and Brian Kiernan](#) , who provide training on the topic for law enforcement officers, define “zoosexualism” as “an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction of humans to animals” that includes a range of behaviors which may or may not involve physical contact.

Edwards and Kiernan told the [2013 Veterinary Social Work Summit](#) that many questions remain unanswered. We know today that interspecies sexual involvement is not just a rural phenomenon, but we do not know if the incidence is growing. How often are children also victims? As many perpetrators also collect pictures of animals and videotape their encounters with animals, what is the role of pornography? Do offenders have prior histories of human sexual assaults? And who is most likely to report these cases?

It is unknown whether zoosexualism is related to child sex abuse: are animals easier targets and substitutes for children, are there cross-overs, or do these incidents run in parallel? Developmental trajectories involving other crimes and antisocial acts vary widely in their frequency and intensity.

We do not know the root causes, or whether there are effective intervention and treatment protocols for offenders. While some states have decriminalized bestiality because there is no evidence that the animals are harmed, others are placing perpetrators on “Megan’s Law” lists of sex offenders. There may be lasting behavioral issues to humans and animals yet to be identified. Some cases involve necrophilia with deceased animals.

Perpetrators fit into four main categories: curiosity and thrill seekers; role playing “furrries” who dress in animal suits; lovers; and criminals. There do not appear to be many overlaps between bestiality and domestic violence, but there are considerable overlaps between cases of animal and child pornography, they said. Some cases have been linked with illegal drug and animal trafficking.

Meanwhile, law enforcement tends to not give these cases high priority, veterinarians have not been routinely trained to consider animal sexual assault among their differential diagnoses, and cross-reporting of cases has been minimal.

Register Now for National SAF-T Day Events

The 4th Annual National SAF-T Day, Oct. 5, 2013, will bring communities together in dog walks and other events to raise awareness about The Link and funds to support domestic violence on-site pet housing programs. It can also be for shelters interested in starting an on-site pet housing program. Domestic violence shelters interested in participating should contact SAF-T Founder Allie Phillips at allie@alliephillips.com. Registration closes on August 26th.



Link Interest Raised in Nicaragua, Bulgaria, Romania

A Nicaraguan attorney with expertise in animal law is attempting to raise interest in The Link as a way to educate law enforcement and other officials throughout Central America as to the importance of animal cruelty and its adverse impacts on human welfare. [Alberto Arguello](#) has established a [Facebook page](#) as a first step to what he sees as a full-fledged Link program.



Alberto Arguello

Meanwhile, Link interest is growing in Eastern Europe, where animal cruelty reporting [Helplines](#) are planned in Romania and Bulgaria, based on the Link premise that animal abuse is a risk to human health and a component of family violence. National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow was interviewed by Karina Karanjotova for the Bulgarian National TV network. Karanjotova produced a [26-minute video](#) on The Link and the plight of stray dogs in Bulgaria last November.

Puppy Death Cited in Child Abuse Investigation Standards

A case in which an abusive father killed his daughter's puppy to warn her what would happen to her if she disclosed the sexual abuse occurring in the home was cited by child protection advocates in a debate about whether the thresholds to trigger a child abuse investigation should be raised. Barbara Brown-Johnson, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center in Springfield, Mo., told the [Kansas City Star](#) about the incident in a feature article about investigative standards.



Child Advocacy Center, Springfield, Mo.

Faced with protests that too many children were being removed from their homes and too many parents were unfairly being added to state child abuse registries, Missouri legislators enacted a tougher enforcement law in 2004. The new law raised the standard of proof that Children's Division investigators must weigh when deciding whether to file charges from "probable cause," meaning a reasonable basis exists for thinking that abuse or neglect may have occurred, to "preponderance of evidence," meaning that 51% of the evidence must support a finding of child abuse or neglect. Concurrently, Kansas enacted an even more stringent law that raised its standard from "preponderance of evidence" to "clear and convincing" proof.

The higher bar makes it more difficult to substantiate allegations and remove a child from a home, say children's advocates. In the nine years since the laws were enacted, Missouri hotline calls have increased 11% but the number of substantiated cases has decreased 32%. In Kansas, the substantiation rate decreased from 12% to 7%.

Brown-Johnson testified against the Missouri bill in 2004, arguing that children would die or be abused multiple times if the standard were set higher. She related an incident of a young girl who had told her teacher that she and her siblings were possibly being sexually abused. A forensic investigator interviewed the girl, who remained in her home; during a subsequent interview at the center, the girl disclosed the animal abuse incident.

"They came home and their puppy was dead on the front steps," said Brown-Johnson. "Their father told them, 'This is what will happen to you if you tell again.'"

In this case the children were removed from the home.

News from the Link Coalitions

Baltimore Commission Optimistic for Progress in 2013

Community leaders in Baltimore, Md., are optimistic that 2013 will be better for the [Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission](#), a community coalition with representatives from law enforcement, City Council, environmental health, juvenile services, veterinary medicine, city and state prosecutors, animal care and control, public schools, and national Link authorities. Caroline A. Griffin, then-chair of the Commission, hoped in its [2012 annual report](#) that the group would rebound from serious setbacks from personnel changes, understaffing, underfunding, and confounding court rulings.



Caroline A. Griffin
Commission Chair

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake recently met twice with members and expressed her support for the Commission's work. The deputy police commissioner is evaluating best practices for responding to animal abuse crimes. The State Attorney's Office continues to devote significant resources to the prosecution of animal abuse cases and anti-cruelty initiatives and best practices, she wrote.

The Commission, the first of its kind in the U.S., has achieved other progress through:

- The Department of Public Works will insert a brochure about how to report animal abuse in 207,000 water bills; costs for the brochure were paid by the Snyder Foundation for Animals.
- A Comcast Newsmakers [video interview](#) with Griffin on how to report animal abuse is posted on the Commission's website.
- Several Commission members participated in the U.S. Department of Justice's listening session in April, 2013 (*see Link-Letter May 2013*).
- The Judicial Institute of Maryland accepted a Commission proposal for a half-day training for judges on "Animal Abuse and the Link to Personal Violence" and asked that it be expanded to a full-day training in 2014.
- The Commission collaborated with the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation's [We Can Achieve](#) program to build doghouses to help animals in need and inspire empathy in youths as part of the CDC's community revitalization and anti-gang and -drugs efforts.
- Veterinarians now call 911 in all cases of suspected animal abuse.
- Patrol officers assist animal control in bringing critical expertise in processing crime scenes.

The report details 28 recommendations to help eradicate animal abuse and dogfighting, improve training for law enforcement, and to improve responses to cruelty incidents. Recommendations include establishing an interagency cross-reporting agreement between Animal Control and the Department of Social Services to reduce violence, "The benefits of cross-reporting cannot be overstated," Griffin wrote, but unfortunately there has been "no traction" with DSS on this issue.

"For many Baltimore City residents, animal abuse is a crime for which there is zero tolerance and our Commission has broad public support. As with other types of violence that are no longer tolerated, such as child abuse and spousal abuse, the struggle for credibility was long, frustrating and arduous. We know the path to progress is not always easy, but fortunately there are many individuals on this Commission who are deeply committed to this initiative," Griffin wrote.

"Animal cruelty can be a violent crime that is deeply destabilizing in the neighborhoods in which it occurs. These cases are of great public interest and media coverage can be helpful. Unlike so many other social issues that divide us, the fight to end animal abuse is a cause that unites many people."

Phoenix Humane Link Absorbs Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Group



The Humane Link coalition in Phoenix, Ariz., has expanded its programs with a new committee dedicated to the uniform investigation, enforcement and prosecution of animal cruelty laws across the state of Arizona. AFACT – [Arizona Professionals Animal Cruelty Task Force](#) – was formed by Assistant Gilbert Town Prosecutor Alison Ferrante for law enforcement, humane investigators and prosecutors. AFACT’s co-leader is Mike Duffey of the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, who also heads the [Animal Cruelty Task Force](#) in Tucson.

AFACT membership includes representatives from 20 police, prosecution, humane, animal control, veterinary, probation, and domestic violence organizations. AFACT seeks to promote and support community, law enforcement and judicial awareness about the many facets of animal cruelty and their potential connection to escalating acts of human and animal violence, and create coordinated responses to animal cruelty cases.

Oregon Coalition Wins Community Award



The Washington County, Ore., Animal Protection Multi-Disciplinary Team has received the prestigious Cameron Award as the best community collaboration in the Portland suburb. The award has been presented annually since 2005 by the [Vision Action Network](#) to recognize individuals and organizations that embrace collaboration and epitomize a commitment to working across multiple sectors of the Washington County community.

“This is the first time this award has been given to an effort that helps animals. We are thrilled that our groundbreaking work is being recognized in the community,” said [Deborah Wood](#), manager of [Animal Services](#) and co-chair of the MDT.

Deborah Wood receives the award as Linda

Keast, Tina Arth, and Andrew Freeman look on.

The MDT brings together many organizations needed to respond to animal crimes, including the D.A.’s office, animal services, domestic violence resource center, police and sheriff, animal-assisted therapy programs, DHS, and juvenile services. The MDT has already: made Monika’s House domestic violence shelter pet-friendly; provided foster care for pets whose owners do not go to Monika’s House; offered specialized therapy dog visits; and obtained a 100% conviction rate in prosecuting animal cruelty crimes, with more than half of offenders spending time in jail.

“Our goal is to break the cycle of abuse and make sure that people who are committing these crimes are brought to justice,” said Deputy District Attorney Andrew Freeman, the other co-chair of the MDT.

A seven-minute video was produced for the award, and is posted on [YouTube](#). The event also garnered extensive [news media](#) coverage.

Medina, Ohio to Hold Fundraiser



Link proponents will “strut their mutts” to raise money for the Battered Women’s Shelter of Medina County, Ohio, on October 5 ([National SAF-T Day](#)). The 6th annual fundraiser, which involves the local SPCA, helps support 1,000 domestic violence survivors, raises awareness of the Link and recognizes that pets are family, too. The 2013 event will feature a Link presentation by Seth Kujat, Executive Director of the United Way of Medina County, plus a one-mile walk and dog costume events.

Washington, D.C. Link Coalition Incorporates

[SNAAP](#) (the Safety Network for Abused Animals and People in the nation’s capital region), has received its incorporation papers in the District of Columbia. The group is in the process of obtaining its 501(c)3 nonprofit status from the IRS. Blair Warner reports the group has seen a significant increase in the number requests for Safe Havens for pet victims of domestic violence and is having difficulty finding enough foster homes to meet the demand.



The Link in the Legislatures

Animal-Assisted Therapy Training Mandated



Rep. Diana S. Urban

In what is believed to be the first legislation of its kind anywhere in the world, the State of Connecticut has enacted HB 6465 that requires the Commissioner of Children and Families to develop and implement training for DCF employees and mental health providers on the healing value of the human-animal bond for children, the value of therapy animals in dealing with traumatic situations, and the benefits of animal-assisted therapy programs.

The new law, which allows appropriated funds, also requires creating a coordinated volunteer canine crisis response team who will provide aid to individuals during and after traumatic events, such as the school shootings in Newtown, Conn. The crisis response program will also provide animal-assisted therapy to children and youths living with trauma and loss.

“I am so thrilled this bill passed both chambers. There is well-researched evidence that children and families respond to animal therapy in times of crisis. The animal/human bond helps children as well as their parents process and cope with tragedy,” said [State Rep. Diana Urban](#), who introduced the bill after out-of-state canine response teams converged on Newtown because Connecticut did not have a mechanism to organize and deploy its own animal crisis responders. “When Connecticut’s volunteer teams are deployed, they will be able to stay indefinitely,” she said.

Reporting and cross-reporting:



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.



New York A3766 would require anyone who enforces animal cruelty 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 is in 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



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.

Advocates for Animals



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.

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.

Domestic Violence Pet Protection Orders Reviewed

The Bangor, Maine, *Daily News* ran a [two-part series](#) tracing the history of Maine's pioneering law which initiated the concept – now found in 23 states and Puerto Rico – whereby judges can include pets in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. "Breaking Barriers for Escaping Domestic Violence," written by Debra Bell in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, described Susan Walsh's harrowing testimony to the Maine State Legislature which led to the world's first pet protection order law in 2006, and the new 2013 legislation which extended these provisions to include temporary protection orders as well as permanent ones. Extensive documentation on the links between domestic violence and animal abuse were presented. "For many victim of domestic violence, the pets are their one comfort. Children, in particular, bond with the pets because they are both so vulnerable," said Gail Crowell, chair of Maine's [York County Linkage Coalition](#). Bell plans to expand the story in her ["Critters" blog](#).

The Link in the News

Couple Convicted of Child Endangerment in Pet Ferret Attack

A Grain Valley, Mo. couple have been [convicted of child endangerment](#) for allowing their pet ferret to chew off seven fingers on their 4-month-old son. Prosecutors charged Carrie and Ryan Waldo with leaving their baby alone at home and unsupervised, which caused the incident. The couple claimed they were at home asleep at the time. Ryan Waldo said he caught the ferret and threw it against the dishwasher, killing it after the attack. The boy had to have seven fingers amputated. Carrie Waldo was sentenced to two years probation and 30 days in rehab. Ryan Waldo pleaded guilty to child endangerment and was sentenced to two years probation, community service and parenting classes. The couple are barred from seeing any of their children during their probation periods. The child, now two, is said to be doing fine and living with his siblings with a relative.



Carrie Waldo and her attorney leave court

Woman Charged with Throwing Boyfriend's Puppy Out Car Window



Christa Floydroy

An Alabama woman [faces animal cruelty charges](#) after she allegedly got into a fight with her boyfriend and threw his puppy out of the window of a moving car. Authorities said Christa Deann Floydroy, 40, and her boyfriend were driving at 60 mph in Escambia County, Fla. on June 7 when she reportedly grabbed the dog, a one-year-old puppy named "Little Bit," and threw it out of the car. The boyfriend stopped the car, let Floydroy out, retrieved the dog, and took it to a veterinary hospital where it was expected to recover fully from "road rash." Floydroy was jailed with a bond set at \$1,500.

Link Training Opportunities

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

July 12 – (online): Allie Phillips will conduct a webinar on “Sheltering Animals and Families Together” for the [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#).

July 17 – (online): Allie Phillips will conduct a webinar on “Sheltering Animals and Families Together” for the [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#).

July 18 – (online): Scott Heiser of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present a free webinar on “Investigating and Litigating Equine 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.

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 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](#).

Sept. 22 – Loveland, Colo.: Diane Balkin & Jim Pyle will present on “The Role of Veterinary Professionals in Public Safety” and “The DA’s Perspective” at the [Colorado Veterinary Medical Association](#) conference.

Sept. 25-26 – Hampton, Va.: Allie Phillips will present on “When Animal Abuse Co-Occurs with Family Violence” and “Therapy Animals Helping Maltreated Children” at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services’ [Intervening at the Crossroads: Child Abuse & Juvenile Justice Conference](#).

Sept. 28 – (online): Allie Phillips will conduct a webinar on “SAF-T™” for [Red Rover](#).

Aug. 22 – (online): Phil Tedeschi will present a free webinar on “A Protocol for the Evaluation of Risk and Improved Accuracy in Forensic Animal Abuse Evaluations,” 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.

Sept. 10 – (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a training webinar on The Link for child abuse workers with the [Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services](#).

Sept. 13 – Chicago, Ill.: [Maya Gupta](#) and Charyl Durbin will train Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services on the AniCare model for assessment and treating animal cruelty offenders.

Sept. 17 – (online): John Goodwin of the Humane Society of the U.S. will present a free webinar on “Bloodstained Dirt: Cockfighting in the United States,” 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.

Oct. 5 – (various locations): Participating women’s shelters with on-site domestic violence pet support housing programs will celebrate [National SAF-T™ Day](#) with fundraising dog walks and presentations about pets caught in the crossfire of human violence.

Oct. 5 – 7 – Knoxville, Tenn.: [Maya Gupta](#) will train at the University of Tennessee on the AniCare model for assessment and treating animal cruelty offenders.

Oct. 15 – (online): Stacy Wolf of the ASPCA will present a free webinar on “Managing Live Evidence in Animal Cruelty and 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.

Oct. 23 – Valencia, Spain: Nuria Querol i Vinas will train on “Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence” at the [Congress on Animal Protection of the Association of Social Educators](#) (SPERA).

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](#).

Nov. 20-23 – Atlanta, Ga.: Nuria Querol i Vinas will discuss “Animal Abuse and Family Violence in Spain” at the [American Society of Criminology](#) Annual Meeting.



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.

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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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