



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 7, No. 4 April 2014

A monthly report of news from **THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER**



**ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE**



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

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor

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## **ANIMAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **Dog Park Debuts at Pet Friendly Domestic Violence Shelter**



Officials and pets were on hand (and paw) in New York City on March 18 for a [ribbon-cutting ceremony](#) to celebrate what is believed to be the first-ever dog park in a domestic violence shelter. The Purina Play Haven and Dog Park is an expansion of the Urban Resource Institute's People and Animals Living Safely (URIPALS) program, launched in June 2013 as a pilot program to shelter domestic violence survivors with their cats and small pets (*See LINK-Letter, March 2014 and June 2013*). The Dog Park now allows survivors to bring their dogs as well.

"Since launching URIPALS, we've seen how transformative it is for families in domestic violence situations to go through the healing process together with their pets," said URI President Nathaniel Fields. "As we open our doors to families with dogs, we hope to continue the momentum and inspire other organizations in major cities nationwide that this initiative is possible. We are grateful to Purina for helping make this dog park a reality and for their shared commitment to keeping people and pets together, especially in times of crisis."

URI is the only one of New York City's 50 domestic violence shelters that accepts pets. The unique dog park features a ramp, tunnel, bridge, and platform for dogs to play and exercise, as well as overhead trellises to ensure the privacy and security of shelter residents. "We share the belief that when pets and people are together, life is truly better," said Lindsey Hogan, Purina brand manager.

"The pets that are normally a source of comfort in families can become targeted, particularly if the abuser sees that as a way to get the power or control they're looking for without inflicting harm directly on the child or spouse," Dr. Randall Lockwood of the ASPCA, another sponsor of the project, told the [Associated Press](#) in a report about several pet-friendly shelters.

## Pet-Friendly Shelter Opens in Florida

One of the newest domestic violence shelters to be pet-friendly is [Micah's Place](#), a Certified Domestic Violence Shelter in Nassau County, Fla. Board member Adrienne Burke tells *The LINK-Letter* that the shelter has started SPIN – Saving Pets In Need – an on-site housing program for small animals and a foster outreach program for larger animals.



“We have lots to do to improve our little shelter area, but it is heated and cooled and safe,” Burke reports. We've had several residents with dogs recently, so it's been a blessing. Our rural outreach advocate just had a poster printed about our pet program with a tear away for our hotline number. We'll be putting them in women's restrooms in the rural part of our county to start.”



## Pet-Friendly Shelter Coming to Minnesota

A pet-friendly shelter for the pets of domestic violence survivors is a few steps closer to realization in St. Cloud, Minn. Margaret Bushinger, domestic violence advocate with [Anna Marie's Alliance](#), reports that the City Council recently approved construction plans for a facility that will accommodate five dogs, five cats and small caged pets. The space will also have room for residents to interact with their animals to enable children to be kind to them and counter the abuse they may have witnessed in their homes. The kennel is the result of a \$10,000 grant from PetSmart and a matching \$10,000 grant from local resident Cheryl Lightle in honor of her dog, Willie. Anna Marie's currently has a small outdoor kennel for emergency pet placement and a foster care program of community volunteers who keep pets in their homes.

City Council also approved a request to allow residents to stay beyond a 45-day limit if they are still in a dangerous situation and have no place to go. “Victims of domestic abuse are remaining at home or afraid to leave their situation because their pets are there,” said Jacque French, Anna Marie development director. “Often when women call to come into the shelter they ask if they can bring their pets. The abuser often retaliates.”

## Federal Funding Approved for Pet Safety Programs

In what is believed to be the first victim-assistance federal funding being made available for an organization focused on pet support services for domestic violence survivors, Atlanta's [Ahimsa House](#) has received approval for a four-year grant to fund a victim advocate position.



The grant is from the [U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime](#). After the application was initially rejected, a nine-month-long appeals process, and a hearing in which the director of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence testified on Ahimsa House's behalf, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council approved the grant, reports Maya Gupta, former executive director of the Atlanta nonprofit that provides emergency pet safehousing, veterinary care, safety planning, legal advocacy and a crisis line for domestic violence survivors.

“I hope this will pave the way for other such programs, and serve as evidence of the increasing legitimization of this issue within the criminal justice and victim services systems,” Gupta tells *The LINK-Letter*.

## ***ANIMAL ABUSE AND CHILD PROTECTION***

### **More Schools of Social Work Addressing The Link**



In our March *LINK-Letter*, we referenced the small number of schools of social work of which we are aware that include coursework covering the human-animal bond and the links between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. We have since learned of another program. [Dr. Cheryl Resnick-Cortes](#) tells us that for the past seven years she has been teaching SW 220 – The Human-Animal Bond as a social work elective in the BSW program at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, N.J. The syllabus also includes pet loss and human grief, animal-assisted therapy, and controversial issues linking humans and other species.

Amy Johnson reports that while not a school of social work, the School of Nursing at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich. incorporates The Link in the community nursing course, an online animal-assisted therapy course, and a social science elective through the Honors College.

## ***NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS***

### **Colorado LINK Project Website Offers Resources**



The Colorado LINK Project, a statewide initiative of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, has created an [extensive website](#) with resource information. The Project collaborates with multiple Colorado and national partners to raise awareness and focus practical and scholarly interest on The Link. Its goal is to establish community partnerships in Colorado that strengthen effective Link-informed responses to animal cruelty.

The website offers information on animal abuse and The Link, the human-animal bond, interpersonal violence, child maltreatment, criminal behaviors, and maltreatment of at-risk adults. It offers details on why asking about animals is important, how to report various forms of abuse, guidance for parents, and profession-specific resources for educators, prosecutors, mental health practitioners, and veterinarians. Relevant Colorado statutes are also presented.

### **Oklahoma Organizing Link Coalition**

[Paul Needham](#), Programs Field Representative for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services' Adult Protective Services Division, and [Phil Arkow](#), National Link Coalition Coordinator, will be on hand with a multi-disciplinary group of community leaders, to assist in the formation of a new Oklahoma Link Coalition. The initial meeting is scheduled for June 19 in Oklahoma City, with the generous support of the Kirkpatrick Foundation and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.



## **PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK**

### **Newspaper Editor “Discovers” The Link**

Tilly Dillehay, Editor of the Macon County (Tenn.) *Times*, admitted in a March 12<sup>th</sup> editorial that she was “flabbergasted” that an animal cruelty case her newspaper covered had gone viral and generated 255,000 hits, dozens of outraged comments, and a national petition asking for justice. The “avalanche of emotional, livid responses” about one awful case of animal abuse far exceeded any public outcry the newspaper has ever received about “a lot of terrible things that people do to each other: child abuse, drug trafficking, rape and murder,” she wrote.



Such response is not surprising to animal welfare advocates, but Dillehay, trying to understand why such a response occurred, asked an animal control officer who replied that animal cruelty has been “linked to other criminal activity.” She went to the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) website and found Link statistics. The incident prompted her to write an editorial, “[Animal cruelty: the gateway crime?](#)”, noting that, “Animal cruelty is serious, yes. It’s serious because human beings were created to be stewards of creation, not abusers. It’s serious because life is something to treasure, not something to destroy.”

“Cruelty is like a snowball. It builds on itself and is never content to stay the same shape and size,” she wrote.

### **Blog Summarizes Significance of The Link**

Abigail Perdue, Associate Professor at Wake Forest University School of Law and co-author with Randall Lockwood of the forthcoming book, *Animal Cruelty and Freedom of Speech: When Worlds Collide*, took the occasion of South Dakota’s becoming the 50<sup>th</sup> state to enact felony-level animal cruelty penalties (*see Page 5*) to post [a blog about The Link](#) on the *Huffington Post*. In “A Bone to Pick About Animal Protection Legislation,” Perdue concisely summarized Link evidence about how animal abuse impacts child maltreatment and domestic violence and serves as a gateway crime.



**Abigail Perdue**

“Growing awareness of the undeniable link between animal cruelty and violence against humans has spurred Congress and state legislatures to enact measures to prevent and punish animal cruelty. These laws reflect Americans’ increasing recognition that animal abuse, although unacceptable in its own right, too often escalates into violence against humans.

“Measures to prevent, prosecute and punish animal cruelty are just as beneficial to Man as they are to Man’s Best Friend,” she wrote.

## *THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE*

### **Coercive Control, Pets, and Abused Women's Decisions**

This qualitative study with a small sample size of 19 residents of a women's shelter sought to explore animal abuse within the context of coercive control often perpetrated by men in intimate partner violence. The study examined abusers' treatment of pets, and women's emotional bonds, decisions and future plans for pets, among women whose abusers did or did not use pets as a control tactic. In both groups, women reported little planning before seeking shelter and limited awareness of their options for safe placement of their pets. Almost half saw current and future pets as instrumental in their process of recovery. Fourteen sought veterinary care during their relationships and 11 felt it would have been acceptable for veterinarians to screen for intimate partner violence. Seventeen said they would have liked to have been asked about their pets by shelter staff and told about resources available to them for their pets.

-- Hardesty, J.L., Khaw, L., Ridgway, M.D., Weber, C., & Miles, T. (2013). *Coercive control and abused women's decisions about their pets when seeking shelter*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(13), 2617-2639.

## *THE LINK IN THE LEGISLATURES*

### **South Dakota Becomes 50<sup>th</sup> State with Felony Cruelty**

The long-awaited goal of having felony animal cruelty laws in all 50 American states came to reality on March 14 when South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed Senate Bill 46. Previously, inhumane treatment of animals in South Dakota was only a misdemeanor and animal welfare advocates were known to have boycotted the state's tourism sites.



The law represents a dramatic denouement to an effort that began in the early 1990s, when only five states had felony-level penalties for animal abuse. The proliferation of tougher penalty provisions coincided with growing evidence of how animal abuse frequently is linked with human violence as an indicator or predictor crime. The South Dakota legislature had repeatedly rejected such measures amid concerns from livestock producers. The current bill was sponsored by the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at the request of the Animal Industry Board because it included compromise language, similar to that in many other states, exempting "properly conducted scientific experiments," animals under veterinary care, and "persons engaged in standard and accepted agricultural pursuits or animal husbandry practices."

The new law makes animal neglect, mistreatment or abandonment a Class 1 misdemeanor, but animal fighting and animal cruelty – intentional, willful and malicious infliction of gross physical abuse that causes prolonged pain, serious injury or death – is now a Class 6 felony. Felony crimes: carry heavier penalties; allow state investigative agencies rather than just local law enforcement to become involved; send offenders to state prison rather than county jails; and have greater significance for future prohibitions such as gun ownership and voting rights.

## *Bills We're Watching:*

### *Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child*



**Illinois HB 3768** would make it a Class 4 felony, with subsequent violations classified as Class 3 felonies, to commit aggravated animal cruelty or abuse in the presence of a minor. The bill is awaiting a third reading in the House.



**Massachusetts SB 1914**, the PAWS Act (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety), would define animal abuse committed in the presence of a child as “extreme atrocity and cruelty” with enhanced penalties. It would mandate veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty with immunity from civil and criminal liability for good-faith reporting. The bill would create a statewide animal abuse hotline and registry of animal abuse offenders. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



**New York A-706** 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. The bill is in the Codes Committee.

### *Animal Abuse Committed by a Child*



**Ohio HB 243** would require a child who is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing cruelty to a companion animal to undergo a psychological evaluation and, if recommended, counseling. The bill would also require courts to sentence adult offenders to probation. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**South Carolina SB 846** would require a child under age 12 who is convicted of animal mistreatment to undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### *Therapeutic Interventions for Child Abuse Victims*



**New Jersey A-2155** would establish a three-year pilot program within DCF to provide animal-assisted therapy to victims of childhood violence, trauma, or children with behavioral healthcare needs. The bill is in the Assembly Women & Children Committee.

### *Animal Hoarding*



**New York AB 1466** would create a new crime of Companion Animal Hoarding, based upon recognition that living conditions in these homes frequently fall well below accepted standards for animals and human beings, and that such cases are frequently accompanied by self-neglect and neglect of children and the elderly living in the household. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



**Pennsylvania HB 860** would establish a new crime of animal hoarding, a third-degree misdemeanor, and require a psychological evaluation prior to sentencing. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

### *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



**Indiana SB 251** would make it a Level 6 felony to commit “domestic violence animal cruelty” – the mutilation or killing of an animal with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family member. The bill passed the Senate on Feb. 4 and was in the House Courts & Criminal Code Committee when the legislature adjourned.



**Iowa SF 2118** would allow judges to include pets and companion animals (but not commercial livestock) in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. The bill has passed the House and Senate but is awaiting concurrence between two versions of the bill.



**New Hampshire HB 1410** would include household and domesticated animals under the domestic violence protection statutes by adding animal cruelty to the list of conducts that constitute a credible threat to the petitioner’s safety or which reflect an ongoing pattern of behavior which causes the petitioner to fear for her or his safety or well being. Courts could grant petitioners exclusive care, custody or control of any animal and order defendants to stay away from any animal. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



**Ohio HB 243** and **SB 177** would allow courts to include companion animals in domestic violence, anti-stalking and temporary protection orders. **HB 243** would also require children adjudicated as delinquent for committing animal cruelty to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling, and adult offenders to be sentenced to probation supervision. The bills are in the House Judiciary and Senate Criminal Justice Committees.



**Michigan SB 285** would make it illegal to kill, torture, maim, disfigure, or poison an animal with the intent to cause mental suffering or distress to another person or to exert control over another person. The bill passed the Senate and is in the House Committee on Criminal Justice.



**New Jersey A 494** would provide specific statutory authority to allow courts to include animals in domestic violence restraining orders. The bill affects animals belonging to either party or a minor child in the household. The bill is in the Assembly Women & Children Committee.



**Vermont HB 342** would hold a person who intentionally kills a pet liable to the pet’s owner for non-economic damages for emotional distress resulting from loss of love, companionship and affection of the pet.

### *Reporting and Cross-Reporting*



**Connecticut HB 5037** would clarify the state’s landmark cross-reporting law (*see LINK-Letter July 2011*) between animal control officers and child abuse caseworkers. The amendments would require reports to be written and require an annual reporting to the General Assembly of the number of such reports filed.



**District of Columbia B20-0153** amends the DC Official Code to define veterinary medicine as a health profession. Under this new classification, veterinarians and veterinary technicians are theoretically mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect. The law became effective March 26.

 **Massachusetts SB 767** would allow any person to file a nuisance suit against another person or entity that subjects an animal to conduct which poses a risk to its life, health or safety. The bill is in the Joint Judiciary Committee.

 **Nebraska LB 204** would permit (not mandate) any person who reasonably suspects that an animal has been abandoned, cruelly neglected or cruelly mistreated to report the incident to the investigative agency in that jurisdiction, with immunity from liability except for false statements of fact made with malicious intent. The current law allows such reports only for employees for child or adult protective services and animal control and welfare agencies.

 **New York A-3766** 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 A-3283** 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.

 **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.

### *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*

 **Arizona HB 2215** and **SB 1036** would add animal fighting and cockfighting to the list of offenses defined as "Racketeering."

 **Georgia HB 724** would make it a "misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature" to be a spectator at a cock fight.

 **Illinois HB 3284** would declare any building used in animal fighting a public nuisance and would allow authorities to abate such building and seize any vehicle, vessel or aircraft used in such fights. The bill is in the Rules Committee.

 **Indiana SB 6** would have made attending an animal fight a Level 6 felony rather than a Class A misdemeanor. The bill was in the Corrections and Criminal Law Committee when the legislature adjourned.

 **Massachusetts HB 1594** would replace the archaic definition of bestiality as "the abominable and detestable crime against nature, either with mankind or with a beast," with more contemporary terminology making it illegal to "commit a sexual act upon an animal, use an object to sexually abuse an animal, or knowingly permit a sexual act with an animal."



**Michigan HB 5063** and **SB 605** would require prosecutors handling animal abuse offenses to report the individuals to the state police for entry into the department’s criminal history database (ICHAT – Internet Criminal History Access Tool). Companion bills **HB 5062** and **SB 603** would waive the normal fees when animal control or animal protection shelters request criminal background checks from the state police’s ICHAT files.



**New Jersey SB 736** would create a new crime of “leader of a dog fighting network” which would be added to the list of offenses considered “racketeering activities” under New Jersey’s anti-racketeering (RICO) law. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



**New York AB 893** and **AB 1659** would recodify animal cruelty laws and move them from the Agriculture and Markets laws into the Penal Code. The bills are in the Codes Committee.



**New York AB 4517** and **SB 2560** and **SB 5112** would classify physical injury or death occurring to animals during the commission of a felony or the immediate flight therefrom as Aggravated Cruelty.



**Rhode Island HB 7099** would allow judges to impose more severe sentences than those specified in animal cruelty statutes when “substantial and compelling” circumstances exist, including the character and background of the offender and the extreme nature and circumstances of the offense. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**Tennessee SB 1499** would make it a Class E felony or Class A misdemeanor to use a fighting dog, guard dog or vicious dog in the commission of a crime or to guard illegal activities or property. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



**Wisconsin AB 223** would prohibit offenders convicted of serious felony crimes from possessing, controlling or residing with a vicious dog for a period of 10 years. The bill is in the Rules Committee.

## ***THE LINK IN THE NEWS***

### **Teen Girls Charged with Forcing Autistic Boy to Have Sex with Dog**

Two teenage girls have been charged with assault, soliciting child pornography and false imprisonment for allegedly torturing a 16-year-old autistic boy with a knife and forcing him to engage in a sex act with a dog while they filmed the incident. Lauren Bush, 17, and an unnamed 15-year-old accomplice were arrested by St. Mary’s County, Md. sheriff’s deputies after one of their mothers found the video on a cell phone and alerted the girls’ high school.



The New York [\*Daily News\*](#) reported the pair allegedly put a knife to the boy’s throat and **Lauren Bush** made him walk out on a frozen pond, failed to help him as he fell through the ice several times, kicked him in the groin, and dragged him by the hair. He was apparently forced to masturbate and copulate with a family pet. More charges may be filed.

## Police Officer Charged with Killing Girlfriend's Dog



Alec Taylor

A Baltimore, Md. city police officer has been suspended without pay and charged with felony and misdemeanor counts of animal abuse for allegedly beating a seven-month-old puppy with a mop and choking it to death with his hands – and then texting a photo of the dog's body and the details of the incident to his girlfriend. Montgomery County authorities arrested Alec Taylor, 27, of Silver Spring, a five-year veteran of the Baltimore police force. According to police and [media reports](#), Taylor told his girlfriend that he killed "Rocco," a Jack Russell terrier the two of them shared, because he was tired of it soiling the carpet.

## Inmate Arrested for Animal Torture Later Charged with Sodomy

Shaun McKinney, 26, serving time in Louisville, Ky. Metro Corrections for torturing an animal by beating a cat to death with a broom in 2012, was charged in March with sodomy after being seen on video allegedly performing non-consensual oral sex on another inmate. The victim, who claimed he was under the influence of narcotics at the time, told police he did not consent to the act and could not remembering it happening, [WAVE-TV](#) reported.



Shaun McKinney

## Pedophile Rapist with Animal Abuse History Convicted in Child's Death

A serial pedophile rapist with an extensive history of child sex molestation and animal cruelty was convicted on March 14 in the murder of Daniel Morcombe, a case that rocked Australia for a decade. Prosecutors were unable to gain a murder conviction but Brett Peter Cowan, 43, was sentenced to life imprisonment for indecent dealing with a child and interference with a corpse in the death of the 13-year-old boy who had been abducted from a bus stop in 2003.



Brett Cowan



Daniel Morcombe

News media accounts described Cowan as a habitual drug user since the age of 11 whose first sexual abuse of a child occurred with a six-year-old girl when he was nine. His first conviction came at the age of 18 for molesting a seven-year-old boy while performing community service while on probation. In 1993 he raped a six-year-old boy outside a trailer park, leaving him seriously injured in an abandoned car. Cowan also had a record of breaking and entering, car theft and probation violations.

The [Queensland Courier-Mail](#) described an incident when Cowan showed enthusiasm when co-workers were helping to rid a workshop of pigeon nests. "They watched in alarm as Cowan grabbed at the birds and ripped their heads off, throwing their bloodied, feathered bodies on the ground. They looked at him differently after that," the newspaper wrote.

## Alleged Guide Dog Thief Arrested for Sex Crimes

A woman who allegedly stole a blind woman's guide dog and sold it on Craigslist was arrested on March 21 for sex crimes. Bonnie Ritchie, 21, was released from jail after being held for investigation of felony rape, abduction, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, and felonious assault, the Dayton, Ohio, [Daily News](#) reported. Ritchie is facing charges in connection with the theft of the service dog, whose new owner, responding to extensive media coverage, returned the dog to its owner.

## ***LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES***

**April 17 – (online):** Chris Risley-Curtiss will discuss “Intervening with Children Who Are Abusing Animals,” 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 – Seattle, Wash.:** Allie Phillips will present on The Link and sheltering pets of domestic violence survivors at the [International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence & Trafficking](#).

**April 24 – Columbus, Ohio:** Lesley Ashworth and Barbara Boat will conduct Link training for animal control, code enforcement and elder services field workers for the [Animals and Society Institute](#).

**April 25 – Stratford, Ontario, Canada:** Phil Arkow will present on Domestic Violence and The Link for [Optimism Place Women’s Shelter](#).

**April 25 – Scottsdale, Ariz.:** Jenny Edwards will lead an [all-day training](#) on investigating and prosecuting sex crimes against animals for The Humane Link and the Arizona Professionals’ Animal Cruelty Task Force.

**April 25 – Chicago, Ill.:** As part of Childhood Exposure to Violence Prevention Week, a [panel](#) will discuss how attention to children’s relationship with animals strengthens CEV prevention.

**May 1 – Columbus, Ohio:** [Lesley Ashworth](#) will present on the Link at the OSU 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Symposium for Project S.A.F.E.

**May 2 – New Orleans, La.:** Phil Arkow will present on the Link at the [19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

**May 2 – (online):** [Allie Phillips](#) will conduct a webinar on “When the Abuse of Animals Co-Occurs with Child Abuse” for Illinois Court Appointed Special Advocates.

**May 5-7 – Atlanta, Ga.:** Diane Balkin, Maya Gupta, Mark Kumpf, and Randy Lockwood will be among more than 40 nationally renowned speakers training on The Link and other criminal justice issues at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ [4<sup>th</sup> National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#).

**May 13 – Columbus, Ohio:** Lesley Ashworth, [Barbara Boat](#) and Maya Gupta will present on “Assessment and Treatment of Children Who Have Witnessed or Engaged in Animal Abuse” at the Ohio Attorney General’s Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance.

**May 19 – Lawrenceville, N.J.:** Phil Arkow will train staff and parents of [New Jersey Child Assault Prevention](#) on The Link between animal abuse and child maltreatment.

**May 20 – Jacksonville, Fla.:** Rita Smith and Barry Goldstein will present a workshop on “The Intersection of Domestic Violence, Animal Abuse and Child Abuse: How to Make Children Safer” at Prevent Child Abuse America’s [National Conference for America’s Children](#).

**May 20-21 – South Bend, Ind.:** Phil Arkow will train the [St. Joseph County Prosecutors Office](#) on The Link between Violence to People and Violence to Animals.

**June 5 – Hammonton, N.J.:** Phil Arkow will train employees of the [New Jersey Department of Children and Families](#) on “Species-Spanning Prevention: Animal Abuse as a Risk Factor for Child Maltreatment and Family Violence.”

**June 6 – New Brunswick, N.J.:** Phil Arkow will train employees of the [New Jersey Department of Children and Families](#) on “Species-Spanning Prevention: Animal Abuse as a Risk Factor for Child Maltreatment and Family Violence.”

**June 19 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** [Paul Needham](#) and Phil Arkow will facilitate the formation of an Oklahoma Link Coalition at the offices of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

**July 19 – Kobe, Japan:** Phil Arkow will present on “The Cycle of Violence: The Connection between Violence to Humans and Animals” at the [3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Animal Care](#).

**July 23-26 – Washington, D.C.:** Chris Risley-Curtiss will present on “Using Courage and Hope to Lead Social Work Practice into the Treatment of Childhood Animal Abuse” at the [National Association of Social Workers’](#) 2014 Annual Conference.

**Aug. 17-20 – Chicago, Ill.:** Phil Arkow will present on “‘Woman’s Best friend’: Animal Abuse and the Prevention of Domestic Violence in Military Families” at the 40<sup>th</sup> [National Organization for Victim Assistance](#) Conference.

**Aug. 19 – Denver, Colo.:** [Allie Phillips](#) will deliver a luncheon keynote on “Therapy Animals Helping Maltreated Children” at the 37<sup>th</sup> National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference.

**Aug. 28-29 – Williamsburg, Va.:** Phil Arkow and Allie Phillips will discuss “Women’s Best Friend” and “Animal Therapy for Sexual Assault Victims” at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual [Historic Triangle Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

### ***Permission to Reprint***

The news items and training opportunities contained in *The LINK-Letter* are intended to disseminate as widely and as freely as possible information about the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Permission is hereby granted to re-post these articles in other newsletters, websites, magazines, and electronic publications provided that appropriate credit is given to the National Link Coalition and with links to [www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org).

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## 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.

### Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

#### Phil Arkow, Coordinator

Consultant, ASPCA and 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

#### 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, Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Exec. Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

Executive Director,  
Animals and Society Institute  
Atlanta, Ga.

#### Jane A. Hunt

Coordinator, Community Health Improvement Plan  
Larimer County Department of Health  
Ft. Collins, Colo.

#### Mark Kumpf, CAWA

Past President, National Animal Control Association  
Director, Montgomery County Animal Resource Center  
Dayton, Ohio

#### Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Senior Vice Pres., Forensic Sciences & Anti-Cruelty Projects,  
ASPCA  
Falls Church, Va.

#### Anna Melbin, MSW, MPP

Dir. of Network Growth & Strategy, The Full Frame Initiative  
Founder, Catalyst Consultant & Training  
Yarmouth, Maine

#### Paul Needham

Programs Field Rep, Adult Protective Services, Oklahoma DHS  
Chair, Education Committee,  
National Adult Protective Services Association  
Norman, Okla.

#### Maria Luisa O'Neill

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

#### 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  
Dep. Dir., National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse  
National District Attorneys Association  
Alexandria, Va.

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

Associate Professor/Animal-Human Interactions Coordinator  
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