



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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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*** **High Court Upholds Warrantless Seizure of Pets in Domestic Violence Case**



The Massachusetts Supreme Court on April 11 [upheld the power of police](#) to use the “emergency aid” exception to seize animals in a domestic violence situation that were in imminent danger without violating the U.S. Constitution’s prohibition of warrantless searches and seizures. In *Commonwealth vs. Duncan* ([Decision No. 11373](#)), the high court ruled that police acted properly on Jan. 8, 2011, when they responded to a neighbor’s complaint of two dead dogs and a third emaciated dog. The officers observed two dogs chained and frozen to the fence on a snowy day, and the third dog also chained to the fence and whimpering. No food or drinking water were visible.

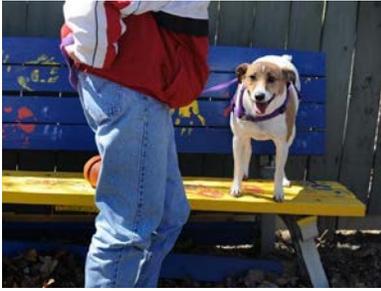
Unable to contact the resident, police contacted the fire department to open a padlock securing the gate and animal control to remove the dogs. On April 19, 2011, a judge ruled the police had had probable cause to believe the crime of animal cruelty had been committed, charged the owner with three counts of cruelty, but questioned whether the “pure emergency” exception to the warrant requirement extended to animals. The defendant subsequently filed a motion to suppress the evidence obtained as the result of a warrantless search.

Many states allow police and animal control officers to seize animals at imminent risk of death without warrants, such as being locked in a hot car.

The court’s ruling cited Massachusetts’ domestic violence pet-protection order law which allows judges to consider whether an imminent threat of bodily injury to a pet exists when issuing protective orders.

A disturbing situation in this case was that six days earlier, on Jan. 2, 2011, police had arrived at the property at the request of a woman who wished to serve a restraining order on her husband. While at the home, police noticed dogs in the front yard that were “in bad shape” and “in need of help,” according to court documents. The officers did not follow up on the state of the dogs at that point, nor did they call an animal control officer to the residence.

## Pet-Friendly Shelters in Michigan, Minnesota Spotlited



One of the first domestic violence shelters to build pet-friendly facilities that allow entire families to remain together during difficult transitions was featured in the April 16 issue of the [Detroit News](#). LACASA, in Howell, Mich., was one of the first of now 77 shelters that accommodate pets. Fifteen more are in the process of building pet facilities, said the National Link Coalition's Allie Phillips who designed the [Sheltering Animals and Families Together \(SAF-T\)](#) program.



**Shelter residents in Port Huron and New York City enjoy time with their pets.**

Phillips said she realized the importance of such facilities while she worked as an Ingham County, Mich., prosecutor. "It was really frustrating to see my domestic violence victims not have a safe place to go with their pets," said Phillips. "A lot of times, they don't leave because they are afraid of what will happen to their pets."

Bobette Schrandt, CEO of LACASA, said pets were included in new facilities built in 2001 because having pets close by can be important to the healing process. "One of the things we know about in domestic violence, it's typically about power and control over another person. Pets can be used as a tool to control a victim," said Schrandt. "We do know a victim may not leave a violent situation because she doesn't want to leave her pet behind."

LACASA has separate kennels for cats and dogs as well as space for mice, gerbils, birds, and snakes. The shelter works with another organization to provide foster care off-site for horses and livestock.

"I think it's important for people working with domestic violence victims to always ask about their pets and take it seriously," said the National Link Coalition's Randall Lockwood. "Because if you belittle that relationship as well, you're sharing the mindset of the abuser."

The article also spotlighted the pet sanctuary at Port Huron's Blue Water Safe Horizons shelter for elder abuse, homeless and domestic violence clients, and the "Walk a Mile in Their Paws" fundraiser to build kennels at the Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence Shelter in Coldwater.

Meanwhile, Anna Marie's Alliance in St. Cloud, Minn., which is also raising funds to build a pet center, was featured in the [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#). The articles were triggered by [Associated Press coverage](#) of New York City's new pet sanctuary at the Urban Resource Institute domestic violence shelter.

## First Pet-Friendly Shelter in Oklahoma Planned

A \$22 million capital campaign is under way in Tulsa, where Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc., is planning to build a new 80 bed emergency shelter with kennel facilities to house dogs and cats. The new shelter will also feature a 20-unit transitional living apartment complex, counseling offices, and a room specifically designed for male clients. Executive Director Tracey Lyall tells *The LINK-Letter* that this will be the first domestic violence shelter in Oklahoma with pet safehousing capabilities. The campaign has currently raised over \$16 million towards the goal.



Artist's rendering of the new DVIS shelter

## Victory in Iowa: 25 States Now Have Pet Protection Orders



**Gov. Branstad signs SF 2118**

Iowa became the 25<sup>th</sup> state to allow courts to protect pets in homes marked by domestic violence when Gov. Terry Branstad signed into law on April 25 Senate File 2118. The law specifically allows judges, when issuing temporary or permanent protection-from-abuse orders, to include any “pet or companion animal” belonging to the petitioner, respondent, or minor child “whose welfare may be affected by the controversy.” In language similar to that enacted in other states Iowa courts may now prohibit the respondent from approaching, taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing, molesting, attacking, striking, threatening, harming, or otherwise disposing of the pet or companion animal. The [Greene County News](#) traced the four-year history of the law.

The new provisions specifically exclude livestock held solely or primarily for commercial purposes. Pet protection orders have been gaining in increasing popularity since first introduced in Maine in 2006. Similar laws are also in place in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Pet protection order bills are currently pending in Ohio and New Hampshire. Visit the [National Link Coalition website](#) for a complete state-by-state list of these laws.

## ANIMAL ABUSE AND CHILD PROTECTION

### Children’s and Animals’ Protection Agencies Team Up Over the Link

A Suffolk County, N.Y. nonprofit that assists victims of sexual abuse has teamed up with the Long Island county’s animal protection agency to train investigators on the Link between animal cruelty and child and spousal abuse. More than 50 investigators of the [Suffolk County SPCA](#) received training on April 22 from [Parents for Megan’s Law](#), a Stony Brook organization that runs the county’s sex offender monitoring program, [Newsday](#) reported.



**Officials from Parents for Megan’s Law and the Suffolk County SPCA discuss mutual concerns at the training session.**

“A batterer’s first target is often an animal living at home. The second target is a spouse or a child,” Paula Ryder, senior advocate, told the investigators, citing statistics regarding convicted child molesters who had childhood and adolescence histories of animal abuse and of animal abuse offenders with histories of sexual abuse and assault.

#### EXAMPLES OF THE LINK FROM THE FILES OF THE SUFFOLK SPCA

**A Dix Hills man kept his wife and children chained for long periods of time, threatening them with his collection of exotic animals that included a leopard.**

**A Selden woman was sentenced to two years in jail after investigators unearthed the bodies of 42 pets buried in her back yard. Her children said she would torture dogs and cats to death in their presence.**

SPCA Chief Roy Gross said his officers “quite often” encounter suspected child abuse and domestic violence that had previously gone unreported. The SPCA investigates some 3,000 reports of suspected animal abuse each year. Additional cross-training workshops are planned for the future.

## *THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE*

### **Study Reports Intergenerational Linkages between Animal Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence**

A common premise underpinning Link philosophy is that cycles of violence are intergenerational and that animal abuse is a predictor of subsequent family violence. Testing this concept outside of a few limited studies has been difficult, with abundant methodological challenges. A new study is believed to be the first of its kind to examine, on a national level, evidence for an intergenerational continuity of animal abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV) using independent measures from each generation.



**Kelly E. Knight, Ph.D.**

Kelly E. Knight, Colter Ellis, and Sara B. Simmons, of the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Tex., analyzed the National Youth Survey Family Study, a national, longitudinal study of 1,614 individuals, representing two generations from 1990 to 2004. Their findings included:

- 3% of the parents' generation reported having perpetrated animal abuse in their youth, with an average age of onset of 12 years of age.
- 33% of the parents reported histories of perpetrating violent IPV; 34% reported histories of violent IPV victimization.
- 3% of their children, surveyed 14 years later, reported histories of perpetrating animal abuse, with an average age of onset of 11 years.

Parents' history of animal abuse was predictive of later IPV perpetration and victimization:

- Parents with early histories of animal abuse were **3.61 times more likely** to be violent IPV perpetrators than were parents without animal abuse histories. This finding lends support to the "graduation hypothesis," they noted, in which animal abuse serves as an introduction to increasingly escalating forms of interpersonal violence.
- There was a stronger intergenerational pattern for victimization: parents with early histories of animal abuse were **19.46 times more likely** to be victims of violent IPV than were those without animal abuse histories. This finding lends support to the need to consider social environments and family contexts as contributing risk factors, they said.

There was mixed support for the hypothesis that parents' IPV is positively and significantly related to their children's abuse of animals. Children of violent IPV-perpetrators were **2.65 times more likely** to be animal abusers, but **no such links** were found among children whose parents were IPV victims. Parents' histories of animal abuse were **not predictive** of animal abuse among their children.

The authors called childhood histories of animal abuse "uniquely predictive" of later involvement in IPV perpetration and victimization, regardless of other problem behaviors. These findings have practical implications for victim services, improving knowledge of the various pathways and consequences of IPV which can then better inform policy and programs, they wrote.

-- Knight, K.E., Ellis, C., & Simmons, S.B. (2014, April 27). Parental predictors of children's animal abuse: Findings from a national and intergenerational sample. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1-21. doi: 10.1177/0886260514527825.

## Animal Abuse as Domestic Violence “Emotional Blackmail”

The depth of individuals’ attachments to their pets, particularly among women and children in homes marked by domestic violence and child abuse, makes companion animals frequent targets and collateral damage by abusers seeking emotional blackmail to gain additional power and control. This article reviews current research, laws and novel responses that address pets as important, albeit non-human, members of the family. It includes a modification of the Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel that demonstrates how animal abuse is linked to the coercion, emotional abuse, intimidation, denial and blaming, legal abuse, isolation, economic abuse, and child maltreatment typically found in intimate partner violence.

-- Arkow, P. (2014). *Form of emotional blackmail: Animal abuse as a risk factor for domestic violence. Domestic Violence Report, 19(4), 49-60.*

## Impact of Animal Abuse on Children Discussed

Several noted Link authorities are included in a new self-published book depicting atrocities in Romania’s stray animal control program, in which animals are routinely killed via a mass eradication policy. Philip Tedeschi writes about the deleterious impact of animal abuse as a form of psychological violence adversely affecting young children’s development. Eleonora Gullone describes the implications upon society of a culture that condones aggression against helpless victims.

-- Tedeschi, P. (2014). *The emergence of callous and emotional traits in the developing child: Exposure to animal abuse as a form of psychological violence, pp 18-19.*

-- Gullone, E., & Plant, M. (2014). *Nothing happens in isolation, pp. 12-13.*  
In, *Occupy for Animals (2014). The Invisible Rape of Europe: The Psychological, Financial, Political, Human and Legal Aspects of the Romanian Stray Animals Eradication Program. Blurb.*

## NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS



### *Ontario Coalition Brings Therapy Dog to Abused Families*

The newest program of the [Human-Animal Vulnerability Coalition of Waterloo Region](#), founded in 2012 with the inspiration of the National Link Coalition, is a therapy dog outreach program called “Healing Hearts.” Through a partnership between the Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society and Anselma House/Women’s Crisis Services, “Mac,” an 18-month-old black Lab, visits with women and children who are in crisis, bringing a healing presence and stress reduction to the intake process, interviews and group sessions.

Anselma CEO Mary Zilney tells *The LINK-Letter* that two staff therapists act as Mac’s handler when he’s on-site at the 45-bed shelter. “Mac,” who visits for an hour twice a week, is believed to be the first therapy dog in Canada to work in a domestic violence shelter.

“It’s hard to quantify the good Mac does for each client. It’s so individualized. What we do know is that when children come here, some of them don’t talk at all, they’re so traumatized. If Mac helps them and is an aid in getting them talking, that’s all good,” says Zilney.

“He’s helpful for clients to talk about their problems, but also not to talk about them,” therapist Jennifer Clarke told the [Record](#) newspaper. “They can forget for a moment and just be.”

## National Coalition Initiates Website and Newsletter



The National Coalition on Violence Against Animals (NCOVAA), formed in January by the National Sheriffs Association (*See LINK-Letter, February 2014*), has launched a [new website](#) and a newsletter. Director John Thompson invites interested parties to sign up on the website and to participate in discussion boards and forums in the “members only” section. Members can post questions and gain input from others in the field.

## BUILDING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK

Claudia Swing, of the San Bernardino County, Calif. District Attorney’s Office and the regional Animal Cruelty Task Force, and Amy Raines, DVM, Chief of Staff for the Humane Society of San Bernardino, presented on The LINK, cockfighting and dogfighting at the 2014 National WeTip Conference in Ontario, Calif. on April 11. This was the first time many participants had heard about The LINK. WeTip is a national nonprofit anonymous crime reporting hotline.



National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow was honored in March with a Lifetime Achievement Award by New Jersey Child Assault Prevention, in recognition of his work in bringing the links between child abuse and animal cruelty to the attention of child protection personnel worldwide.



## Connecticut Radio Series Building Link Awareness

Clear Channel’s Communities Access program, which airs on eight radio stations across Connecticut, is running a six-part series designed by radio host Renee DiNino to show “that there is a link between animal abuse and people abuse.” The first 30-minute segment aired May 4, featuring National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow and animal control and domestic violence advocates from the Connecticut Coalition for Children & Animals. The broadcast is available as [an online podcast](#).



## THE LINK IN THE LEGISLATURES

### Bills We’re Watching:

#### 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.

### *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 in the Rules Committee.



**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.

### *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.

### *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. The bill is in the Joint Committee on Children.



**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 have permitted (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. The bill was postponed indefinitely when the legislature adjourned.



**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 have required 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 died on April 8.

### *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.



**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 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 has just passed the Senate Judiciary Committee.



**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.



**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.



**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. The bill is in the House Judiciary 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. The bills are in the Agriculture Committee.



**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 being held for further study 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 have prohibited offenders convicted of serious felony crimes from possessing, controlling or residing with a vicious dog for a period of 10 years. The bill died on April 8.

## *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 animal hoarding as a third-degree misdemeanor, and require psychological evaluation prior to sentencing. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

## *THE LINK IN THE NEWS*

### **Feds Bust Drug Parolee with Animal Sex Links**

A parolee convicted on felony drug smuggling charges who is an advocate of zoophilia, or love between people and animals, was arrested by federal officers on March 4 on charges of violating parole by having unapproved contact with animals. Six U.S. Marshals, three federal probation officers and four Jefferson County, Wash. sheriff's deputies took Douglas B. Spink, 42, into custody after he was found at an unregistered address with dogs and horses present. The Port Townsend, Wash. [Leader](#) reported Spink was wearing a dog collar with dog tags on it when police arrested him. Spink is also facing three animal cruelty charges in Whatcom County stemming from a 2010 arrest.

### **Man Accused of Beating his Father, and Stealing, Raping and Killing Dog**



**Steven Errante**

Steven Errante, 25, of Suffolk County, N.Y., pleaded not guilty on Feb. 24 to charges of animal cruelty and larceny. Prosecutors allege that Errante stole a Rottweiler-Labrador mix named "Beauty" from a fenced pen last October, had sex with the dog, then beat it on Dec. 22 so badly with a baseball bat that it had to be euthanized, [Newsday reported](#). Errante was also charged last December with breaking his father's ribs with a baton before beating the dog.

## *LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES*

**May 14 – Lawrenceville, N.J.:** Phil Arkow will train staff 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.

**May 29, June 5-6 – Montclair, Hammonton & 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 17 – (online):** Allie Phillips will discuss "Handling the Stress of Combating Animal Abuse," 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 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 13-15 – Portsmouth, N.H.:** Chris Risley-Curtiss, Lisa Lunghofer and Mary Lou Randour will conduct a panel discussion on “Childhood Animal Abuse, Polyvictimization and Trauma –focused Intervention” at the [International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference](#).

**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.

**July 26-27 – Denver, Colo.:** Randy Lockwood, Rachel Touroo, Diane Balkin, and Gary Patronek will present workshops on the psychology of animal abuse, veterinary forensics, dogfighting, prosecuting animal cruelty, and animal hoarding at the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) 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

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