



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



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[Phil Arkow](#), Editor

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ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Milwaukee Campaign Aims to Increase Domestic Violence Arrests by Having People Call 911 When They Suspect Animal Abuse



A unique partnership has emerged in Milwaukee, Wis., where six agencies have pooled resources to initiate the [Spot Abuse campaign](#) to create awareness of the Link between animal abuse and domestic and family violence and to encourage those who witness animal abuse to take action and call 911.

Facing a 48% increase in domestic violence in Milwaukee in 2012, and research findings that 76% of animal abusers also abuse a human member of their family, community leaders decided that a new approach to breaking the cycle of violence was desperately needed. The premise is that if more people can be convinced to call 911 when they suspect animal abuse, police will have opportunities to uncover more domestic violence cases.

The Spot Abuse campaign aims to increase the number of reported cases of animal abuse by 15%, and of domestic violence arrests by 10%, over the next year. A series of public service announcements, featuring graphic photos of abused children and dogs with a message of "He's Next" or "She's Next," is designed to make people uncomfortable if they fail to report abuse.



The campaign was launched May 1 by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, Wisconsin Humane Society, Sojourner Family Peace Center, Serve Marketing, and the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission.

"This is a major law enforcement initiative, not just a one-off type thing,"

said District Attorney John Chisholm. "It has a broader importance that addresses issues that lead to these problems that are all so deeply connected. We want to address the issue as soon as we see it and now we have law enforcement that is getting extensive training."



Police are receiving training on how to identify, investigate and document animal abuse, and how to arrange for emergency shelter for pets belonging to domestic violence survivors. 911 operators and dispatchers are being trained as well.

To meet the needs of these families, the Wisconsin Humane Society and Sojourner Family Peace Center also announced a Safe Haven Foster Program which will provide up to 60 days of pet care so survivors can leave abusive situations without having to worry about their animals' well-being.

Shelters to Celebrate 5th National SAF-T Day

Domestic violence shelters that have on-site pet safekeeping programs are invited to participate in the [5th annual National Sheltering Animals and Families Together Day](#), scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014. The deadline to register is Sept. 1, says Allie Phillips, founder of the SAF-T program.

National SAF-T Day is held on the first Saturday in October to give shelters opportunities to stage dog walks, fun- and fund-raisers, and other events to help start or sustain pet safehousing programs and draw public awareness to the links between animal abuse and domestic violence. Participants in 2013 were the Family Assistance Program (Victorville, Calif.); Women's Center of Mid-Minnesota (Brainerd, Minn.); Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties (Amsterdam, N.Y.); Hope for Families (Robbinsville, N.C.); Mitchell County Safe Place (Spruce Pine, N.C.), [Families First](#) (Whiteville, N.C.); [Battered Women's Shelter](#) (Akron, Ohio), [The Hope Center](#) (Tarentum, Pa.); and Little Grass Ranch (Comfort, Tex.).

To register, e-mail [Allie Phillips](#). You'll receive a sample press release, ideas on how to set up a dog walk, flyers, and a packet of information.





An increasing number of domestic violence agencies are partnering with animal organizations in fund-raising activities, often involving a dog walk. The newest such linkage comes from Long Island, N.Y., where Patchogue Rotary Animal-Assisted Therapy teams on May 5 participated in the annual Pet Parade to benefit the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. PRAAT Director Dave Hensen, DVM, reports that PRAAT dogs all did well and the organization was well-represented.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... VETERINARY MEDICINE

Shelter Vets Prevent Animal Abuse, Get Official Recognition

While it is likely that all veterinarians will encounter suspected animal abuse, and possibly other forms of family violence, during the course of their careers, perhaps no area of veterinary practice is as likely to encounter The Link as practitioners of animal shelter medicine. This highly specialized discipline received significant recognition in April when the American Veterinary Medical Association's Executive Board voted unanimously to grant provisional recognition to Shelter Medicine as a veterinary specialty practice.



In less than two decades, what started as a grassroots movement has evolved into a field with over 700 practitioners and student chapters in 22 veterinary colleges. Training in shelter medicine is now offered at almost every veterinary school in North America. Dramatic advances have enabled shelter vets to address veterinary forensics and the prevention of animal cruelty as well as ensuring the well-being of millions of animals in shelters and the development of public health protocols.



Stephanie Janeczko, DVM

“Shelter medicine practice encompasses all aspects of veterinary medicine that are relevant to the management of shelter animal populations, including many skills beyond medical and surgical care,” says Dr. Stephanie Janeczko, president of the 1,000-member Association of Shelter Veterinarians and senior director of community outreach shelter medicine programs for the ASPCA. These include addressing cases of animal cruelty, as well as a thorough understanding of epidemiology, immunology, infectious diseases, and animal behavior.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILDREN'S VIOLENCE

Youths' Animal Cruelty Ignites Community Awareness

An incident in Paterson, N.J., in which three boys – aged 6, 10 and 12 – savagely stoned a cat to death, and two older youths came to the cat's rescue when police failed to respond, has prompted a Link-based community response to animal abuse perpetrated by children. Jeff Green, a reporter for the [Record newspaper](#), interviewed National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow, criminology professor Lisa Zilney, and child psychiatrist Tolga Taneli to shine a light on children's cruelty to animals as a potential indicator and predictor of other crimes.



"Quattro" receives consoling at Chance at Life Cat Rescue. The cat eventually had to be euthanized.

"These kids have to be caught early and helped by teams of providers working on the child and family," said Taneli. "This is not something to shake your head about and let it go," said Paterson Animal Control Officer John DeCando, who was planning to conduct a humane education assembly at the boys' school. A Facebook page launched in memory of the cat, "Quattro", announced plans for a candlelight vigil outside the police station. "If what comes out of this is a committed community effort that animal cruelty is a serious issue and the legal system is going to address it as seriously as other crimes, the word will get out that police do care and future cases will be headed off," said Arkow.

Suffering from two broken legs, a broken jaw, a fractured eye socket, and head trauma, Quattro had to be euthanized eight days after the attack. The three youths were suspended from school and charged with animal cruelty. If convicted, they will undergo psychiatric evaluation and receive mental health counseling, and may face fines and community service, prosecutors said.

Is children's animal cruelty a marker for their physical abuse?

Childhood cruelty to animals is thought to indicate that a child may have been maltreated. This study of 2,232 children in the United Kingdom examined: (a) prevalence of cruelty to animals among 5- to 12-year-old children; (b) the association between cruelty to animals, child physical maltreatment, and adult domestic violence; and (c) whether cruelty to animals is a marker of maltreatment taking into account age, persistence of cruelty, and socioeconomic disadvantage. 9% of children were cruel to animals during the study and 2.6% persistently. Children who were cruel to animals were twice as likely to have been physically maltreated as children who had not been maltreated. In disadvantaged families, 60% of children who were cruel to animals had been maltreated. Animal cruelty was not associated with domestic violence when maltreatment was controlled for. In other families, the likelihood of maltreatment increased with age (from 30% in 5-year-olds to 45% in 10-12-year-olds) and persistence. Although childhood cruelty to animals is associated with maltreatment, not every child showing cruelty had been maltreated. The usefulness of cruelty to animals as a marker for maltreatment increases with the child's age, persistence of behavior, and poorer social background. The researchers emphasize that "it is important that childhood cruelty to animals is not treated as evidence of child maltreatment in-and-of-itself. Instead, professionals should seek to understand the significance of the child's cruelty in the context of their other behavior, family and neighborhood environment."



Fiona S. McEwen

-- McEwen, F.S., Moffitt, T.E., & Arseneault, L. (2014). Is childhood cruelty to animals a marker for physical maltreatment in a prospective cohort study of children? *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(3), 533-543.

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Link Training Spreading Throughout Massachusetts

HAVEN

HUMAN/ANIMAL VIOLENCE EDUCATION NETWORK

Making Berkshire County Safer
For People and Animals

Western Massachusetts' HAVEN (Human/Animal Violence Education Network) has had an exceptionally busy spring, bringing the Link message and training to numerous groups throughout the Berkshires. [Educational seminars and events](#) this year have included presentations to Berkshire Citizens

for Peace and Justice, veterinary technician students at Holyoke Community College, the Springfield office of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Clinical and Support Options in Pittsfield, and the Franklin County Home Care Corporation. June's trainings include the Holyoke office of DCF and the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance's SafePlan Advocates. Lorna Grande tells *The LINK-Letter* that feedback has been exceedingly positive. HAVEN conducted 12 trainings and seminars in 2013.

KC-CAN Moving Ahead with Projects



Teresa Bradley Bays

The Greater Kansas City Link coalition – KC-CAN (Caring for All Network), has been very busy this Spring with numerous activities designed to inform the public and professional audiences about animal abuse and human violence.

Coordinator [Teresa Bradley Bays, DVM](#), reports that the group is submitting an article to *Metro Pet* magazine, participating in the *Deadly Link* documentary film, keeping up a FaceBook page, building a website, and designing a logo. Bays spoke to the Child Abuse Roundtable in April, addressing 45 child protection professionals, therapists, social workers, advocates, and legislators.

Virginia Link Group Illuminating Service Gaps, Increasing Awareness

A roundtable discussion in May, led by representatives of Loudoun County, Virginia's Animal Services department, considered a new Stop Abuse and Violence Effort (SAVE) program. SAVE's goal is to "facilitate the community's recognition and understanding of the dynamic connection between animal abuse and other violence." The group includes professionals in child welfare, domestic violence, mental health and juvenile justice. They plan to meet monthly to develop and implement education and outreach strategies. A focused humane education program in conjunction with Child Protective Services will help to identify abuse in the home and highlight empathy-centric education for students in classrooms and summer camps.



Loudoun County Animal Services Shelter Administrator [Amy Martin](#) tells *The LINK-Letter* that several presentations are being given each month to the domestic violence steering committee, the domestic abuse response team, public school teachers and students. "We have seen these presentations lead to conversations illuminating gaps in services among all Loudoun departments, as well as increased communication and awareness. Collaboration has been key for us," says Martin.

BUILDING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK

“No Dogs Left Behind”:

NPR Program Highlights Domestic Violence Link

The National Link Coalition and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence were among several organizations cited in Maria Hijojoza’s National Public Radio program, “Latino USA”. The May 9 program, [“Domestic Violence: No Dogs Left Behind,”](#) interviewed women in New York City’s new pet-friendly Urban Resource Institute (see *LINK-Letter*, April 2014) and described overwhelming anecdotal evidence that the absence of a shelter for pets puts domestic violence survivors at risk.



Op-Ed Addresses Objections to Pet Protection Order Legislation



D.J. Bettencourt

The debate over New Hampshire’s Pet Protection Order (PPO) bill, HB 1410, received a terrific public airing on May 2 when the [Eagle-Tribune](#) newspaper published an extensive op-ed written by D.J. Bettencourt, former state House of Representatives Majority Leader and current Director of Development and Community Relations for the Salem Animal Rescue League.

Bettencourt cautioned that adding animals to existing provisions in protection-from-abuse orders would neither bestow human rights upon animals nor be an animal-rights piece of legislation. The bill would be a natural progression of existing domestic violence and animal cruelty protections. It would give victims another tool to break free from the cycle of violence and keep themselves and their loved ones safe from abuse.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Bills We’re Watching:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders

New Hampshire Poised to Enact Pet Protection Orders

As this issue of *The LINK-Letter* was going to press, we were awaiting word from New Hampshire, where Gov. Maggie Hassan was expected to sign **HB 1410**, approved by a Senate and House conference committee on June 4. The new law, which would take effect immediately, would allow courts to include both pets and farm animals in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. It would allow such inclusion when the animal cruelty was caused “by a family or household member or by a current or former sexual or intimate partner where such conduct is determined to constitute a credible present threat to the petitioner’s safety” and which “reflects an ongoing pattern of behavior which reasonably causes or has caused the petitioner to fear for his or her safety or well-being.” New Hampshire would become the 26th state to enact Pet Protection Orders since the concept was introduced in neighboring Maine in 2006.





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.



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. **SB 177** cleared the Senate Criminal Justice Committee on May 13 and passed the full Senate by a unanimous 33-0 vote on June 3. It now heads to the House. HB 243 is in the House Judiciary Committee.

Animal Abuse Committed by a Child



New York A-4618 and **S-2656** would require juveniles and adult cruelty offenders to undergo psychiatric analysis and evaluation and, when necessary, treatment. The records of juvenile offenders would not be sealed and could be used in future prosecutions. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



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 stalled 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.

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.

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.

 **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 Children & Families 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.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes

 **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.

 **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. **SB 2560** was approved by the Senate and is in the Assembly 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.

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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Man Charged with Killing Wife and Parrot -- Because They Talked Too Much!



Robin Penton

A Huntsville, Ala. man who reportedly said he killed his wife and her pet parrot because they both talked too much has been charged with murder. Robin Penton was charged in the death of his wife, Colleen, who was found shot three times in the head and with a fractured skull. Homicide investigators told [WFLA-TV](#) that three family dogs were also found dead in the home. Penton reportedly also told authorities that he killed the dogs because Colleen had not trained them, and that Colleen “didn’t deserve this, but she wanted it.” Penton previously served time in prison for rape, sodomy, assault and indecent exposure. He has also been accused of threatening a former boss, Colleen’s ex-husband, and his step-children.

Domestic Abuse Complaint Leads to Animal Abuse Discovery

Deputies a humane agent responding to a domestic violence complaint in Lisbon, Ohio discovered a house filled with dead and malnourished animals and charged the couple, Matthew Devereaux, 23, and Jennifer Grimmett, 29, each with 12 counts of animal cruelty. Investigators found several starving dogs

in the house, crates lined with urine- and feces-covered rags, moldy food ground into the floor, and no water. The [Morning Journal News](#) reported deputies also found 10 horses and six ponies, seven of which were in varying degrees of emaciation. Two chickens, a duck, three alpacas, two sheep, a goat, a cat, and two rabbits were also found, some of which were underweight, ill or injured. Witnesses said several horses may have died of abuse or neglect or from eating food which had gasoline spilled on it.

Girlfriend Faces Shotgun While Stopping Animal Beating

A woman who tried to intervene while her boyfriend was allegedly beating their dog with a sawed-off shotgun found herself looking down the barrel of the gun. Police in Port St. Lucie, Fla., responding to investigate a possible domestic disturbance, wound up arresting Kyle Romain Hall and charging him with aggravated assault, possession of a short-barreled shotgun, and animal cruelty. [WPTV reported](#) that Hall was allegedly angry at the dog, an English bulldog named “Scrappy,” for defecating on the floor of the apartment. The girlfriend reported that Hall began beating the dog, filled a bathtub with water and held Scrappy’s head under water, and hit the dog repeatedly with the gun. When she tried to intervene he pointed the gun at her, police said. A “barely conscious, dazed and unresponsive” Scrappy was taken to a veterinary hospital for treatment.



Man Gets 15-1/2 Years for Beating Dogs and Threatening Roommate



A Sacramento, Calif. man arrested for assaulting and threatening to shoot his female roommate, and who was later charged with beating, choking and hanging his pet dogs, was sentenced on May 16 to 15-1/2 years in prison. Sacramento Superior Court Judge Steve White imposed the sentence on Robert Lee Brian, 49 on three counts of felony animal cruelty, one count of assault and one count of criminal threat. After Brian had been arrested on the assault charges, Sacramento County Animal Care and Regulation investigated multiple complaints from neighbors regarding his pit bull, “Bubba.” The dog was found to have a fractured skull and snout, trauma to the right eye and face, a massive infection and possible chemical burns. The remains of three other dogs, including one which a necropsy also revealed skull and facial fractures, were found in the back yard. Bubba has recovered but has lost the vision in his right eye, according to the [Sacramento Bee](#).

During a week-long jury trial in March, neighbors testified that Brian, who has a lengthy criminal history, repeatedly punched, kicked and choked Bubba and withheld food and water from him. One witness said he saw Brian hang the dog from a porch swing.

Deputy District Attorney Hilary Bagley-Franzoia, who works in the homicide unit, [told the newspaper](#) she is committed to prosecuting animal cruelty cases which are particularly difficult because the victims cannot testify in their own behalf and witnesses are often reluctant to testify against their neighbors or family members.

“I’m not the lone ranger anymore,” she said. “More and more attorneys are very interested in cruelty cases, because the public is enraged by it and they want us to do something about it. People need to do the right thing if they suspect abuse, and we need agencies to respond.”

Vet Staff Report Leads to Charges of Strangling Girlfriend and Beating Puppy



Duanying Chen

A man who reportedly strangled his girlfriend and seriously beat a 5-month-old puppy was arrested by Santa Barbara, Calif. police on May 20 after a veterinary hospital employee reported multiple suspicious injuries on a miniature pinscher that had been brought in for treatment. The puppy, who had broken bones, cuts, burns, and wounds on its rectum and genitals, was scheduled to be euthanized, the [Santa Barbara Independent](#) reported. Police arrested Duanying Chen, 19, a Chinese student in the U.S. on a student visa, on felony animal cruelty and domestic battery charges.

Investigators reported Chen strangled his girlfriend, to the point where she nearly lost consciousness, after a heated argument. The girlfriend told police she had found the dog hiding under a table, unable to walk; Chen reportedly said the dog had fallen off a ping-pong table.

Man Starves Dog to Try to Win Back His Girlfriend



Wiggles and Luis Moreno

Where most Link cases in domestic violence involve a batterer abusing an animal to keep his partner from leaving, a Phoenix man has been arrested for allegedly using their dog as bait to lure his live-in girlfriend back. Maricopa County sheriff's deputies claim that Luis Moreno, 38, starved "Wiggles," a pit bull adopted by the couple, after they broke up and could not reconcile, Moreno allegedly texted her a message reading, "Wiggles is dead, I hope you're happy," then told her the dog was fine when she finally called him back. He also reportedly told her the dog was sick and he lacked money for veterinary care, but when she turned down his request for a dinner date Moreno said Wiggles was fine.

As a last-ditch effort, he allegedly sent her a picture of a severely emaciated Wiggles, who was so badly starved that he later had to be euthanized. [ABC-15 TV in Phoenix](#) said Animal Crimes police charged Moreno with two counts of domestic violence and animal cruelty. Arizona is one of seven states where an act of animal abuse intended to terrorize or intimidate a partner meets the statutory definition for domestic violence.

Update: Sex Offender Gets 5 Years for Dog Torture

A sex offender convicted in 2011 on child endangerment charges and who was on a Megan's Law list for having sex with a teenage girl (see [LINK-Letter, March 2013](#)) received what may be the stiffest penalty in New Jersey history on an animal cruelty charge. Michael G. Rosenberg pled guilty on May 27 in a Mercer County court to one count of 3rd-degree animal cruelty for whipping and killing a German shepherd named "Shyanne". He will serve a five-year sentence. The incident occurred in August, 2012, when Rosenberg passed himself off as a dog trainer. Shyanne sustained four broken ribs, a punctured lung and hyperthermia. "I am absolutely relieved and elated that this nightmare is finally over and now I can move forward and honor her memory," Shyanne's owner, Tracy Stanton, told *The LINK-Letter*.



Michael Rosenberg

Man Charged with Killing Cat in Argument with Girlfriend



Keith Dement

A Fergus Falls, Minn. man was charged with felony animal cruelty after he allegedly sharpened a butcher's knife and used it to kill a cat during an argument with his girlfriend. Keith Dement, 28, was in Otter Tail County jail. Police said Dement argued with his girlfriend after their cat had knocked over a bird cage. After she told Dement that he needed to take better care of the cat, he allegedly killed the animal, [KFGO reported](#). Under Minnesota law, felony animal cruelty penalties can double if the abuse was intended to threaten, intimidate or terrorize another person.

Man Murdered While Trying to Rescue Dog



Miguel Ángel
Palacios Montoya

Police in Envigado, Colombia, charged Jesús Antonio Castaño, 33, with murder in the death of Miguel Ángel Palacios Montoya, 19, after the teen and his brother went to the defense of a dog named "Jerry." Montoya, a Colombian citizen born in Miami, and his brother, who was wounded in the attack, were reportedly in Envigado on their school break. Montoya, who volunteered at an animal shelter in Medellin, apparently heard Castaño threatening to behead the dog with a machete in an early-morning drunken rage, [Animals 24-7 reported](#). A new rescue group called Miguel Angel's Ark has been launched in the teen's memory by 25 Colombian animal rescue groups.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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 2 – Traverse City, Mich.: Allie Phillips will present on "Caught in the Crossfire: When the Abuse of Animals Co-Occurs with Family Violence" at the [Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan's](#) summer conference.

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 [3rd 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. 13 – (online): Dezarae Jones-Hartwig, Education Director of the Wisconsin Humane Society, will conduct a [webinar](#) on “An Introduction to the Connection between Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence” on behalf of the Association of Professional Humane Educators and Humane Society Academy.

Aug. 19 – Chicago, Ill.: Phil Arkow will present on “‘Woman’s Best friend’: Animal Abuse and the Prevention of Domestic Violence in Military Families” at the 40th [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 37th 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 6th Annual [Historic Triangle Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

Sept. 27 – New Haven, Conn.: The [Connecticut Bar Association](#) and Yale Law School’s Student Animal Legal Defense Committee will offer a conference on how “ag-gag” laws impact animals, consumers and the environment.

Nov. 14 – Ontario, Calif.: Phil Arkow will present on the impact of The Link for prosecutors and law enforcement agencies on behalf of the [San Bernardino County Animal Cruelty Task Force](#).

Nov. 19-22 – San Francisco, Calif.: Nuria Querol I Vinas will present on The Link at the [American Society of Criminology](#) conference.

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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.

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

Lesley Ashworth

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Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
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