



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 7, No. 7 July 2014

A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



www.nationallinkcoalition.org

Phil Arkow, Editor

SUBSCRIBE – It's Free!!



ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE

New Link Prosecution Guidebook Published



The National District Attorneys Association has announced the publication of an updated manual to help law enforcement and criminal justice professionals understand the Link between animal abuse and human crimes and effective strategies to prosecute animal cruelty cases. *Understanding The Link Between Violence to Animals and People: A Guidebook for Criminal Justice Professionals* was written by Allie Phillips, J.D., who has written and trained extensively on Link issues for prosecutors.

The 84-page monograph includes extensive sections on animal abuse's links with domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. A chapter on animal abuse and youth crimes explores the psychological impact on juvenile animal abusers and when youths are bystanders to animal abuse. Other chapters describe issues involved in animal hoarding and fighting, and the impact of animal abuse triggering fatal dog attacks.

A section on how agencies have changed procedures in response to Link awareness describes cross-reporting and cross-training initiatives, the creation of community Link coalitions, the use of therapy animals with abuse victims, and pet safety planning and safehousing in domestic violence situations.

Of particular interest to court officials are the sections on investigating and prosecuting Link crimes, including charging decisions, pre-trial and trial strategies, plea bargains, pre-sentence reports, sentencing and treatment options, and case law. Extensive resources and references are presented.

Publication was supported by grants from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The guidebook is available as a free download on both the [National Link Coalition](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org) and [National District Attorneys Association](http://www.ndaa.org) websites.

FBI Considers Adding Animal Cruelty to Standard Reporting Forms

One of the long-standing challenges facing animal cruelty investigators and organizations concerned with the Link between animal abuse and human violence is the lack of accurate data about the incidence of crimes against animals.

Although the U. S. has the world's oldest anti-cruelty laws, dating to 1631, we do not know how many animal cruelty cases are charged, nor the disposition of these cases in court.



The reason for this information gap is simple: there is no systematized process for capturing these data. Animal cruelty laws are often under-prioritized misdemeanors enforced by an unconnected patchwork of municipal police, county sheriffs, state-chartered SPCAs, humane societies with limited police powers, animal control officers, and code enforcement officers.

More than 18,000 law enforcement agencies participate in a system managed by the FBI since 1930 called the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). These agencies use a standardized Uniform Crime Report (UCR) which is then fed into a central database allowing the incidence and disposition of crimes to be tracked. The UCR's primary objective is to generate reliable information for law enforcement administration, operation and management; over the years these data have become leading social indicators as well.

Despite compelling research describing animal cruelty as a predictor and indicator crime frequently linked with other crimes of violence and antisocial behaviors, animal cruelty cases have never been identified in this system. The National Link Coalition is hopeful that this gap is about to change.

Thanks to an extensive effort led by the National Sheriffs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a proposal to include animal cruelty in UCRs was approved unanimously on June 4 by the last of several FBI review committees. The measure has been sent to FBI Director James Comey for his signature. ([See LINK-Letter February 2014](#))

The measure, part of a wholesale redesign and redevelopment of the UCR, would add Animal Cruelty as a Group A offense. It would expand Data Element 12 (Type Criminal Activity/Gang Information) to include four categories of animal crimes: simple/gross neglect; intentional abuse and torture; organized abuse; and animal sexual abuse.

Definitions of these crimes would include torturing, tormenting, mutilating, maiming, poisoning, abandoning, and failing to provide shelter, food, water and veterinary care. Transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death, causing animals to fight with one another, and inflicting repeated or excessive pain and suffering would also be included. Proper maintenance of show or sport animals, and the use of animals for food, hunting, fishing and trapping would be excluded.

Significant obstacles remain in implementing these changes, as each state has its own laws and definitions and many states do not participate in NIBRS. There are high standards on data validation and data entry and it may take several years for the new system to be rolled out. However, it is highly important symbolically that the U.S. Department of Justice now recognizes cruelty to animals as a matter worthy of law enforcement concern. It will also inspire state and local law enforcement agencies to initiate better tracking systems for animal cruelty, abuse, neglect and fighting. It will provide valuable information to assist communities in allocating animal care and control resources and training.

Colorado Special Prosecutor Assigned to Handle Animal Cruelty Cases



Some Colorado counties are dealing with so many animal crimes that several judicial districts have assigned special prosecutors to handle these cases – a pattern being repeated in many parts of the country. One such prosecutor is Justie Coyne, a Deputy District Attorney in the 18th Judicial District, encompassing Arapahoe, Elbert, Douglas and Lincoln Counties in the suburbs of Denver. She was spotlighted in an [interview](#) on Denver’s NBC-TV affiliate, KUSA 9News, where she described some of the 30 open cases currently on her plate – everything from long-term neglect cases to

extreme hoarding to a dog who was shot in the face.

“One of the reasons I am so passionate about this type of offense is it relates really well to other types of violence,” she said. “We see a link often between child abuse, elderly abuse, domestic violence and animal cruelty.”

Law Enforcement Leader Named to Steering Committee

The National Link Coalition is pleased to announce the appointment of John W. Thompson to its Steering Committee. Thompson is Deputy Executive Director and Chief of Staff of the [National Sheriffs’ Association](#), and is also the founder and director of the [National Coalition on Violence Against Animals](#).



John W. Thompson

Thompson began his law enforcement career as a Military Police canine handler in the U.S. Army. He worked for 28 years as a local police officer, serving for the last 15 years as a chief of police. He was appointed as an assistant sheriff and for the past 11 years has been with the National Sheriffs’ Association, a nonprofit organization founded in 1940 to advance the professionalism of more than 18,000 officials in public safety and criminal justice.

“John brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the National Link Coalition. We welcome the involvement of the law enforcement and criminal justice communities whose members see examples of The Link every day. Animal cruelty is a crime that invariably affects the human members of the family and community as well, and we are eager to see this more widely recognized by sheriffs, police and court personnel nationwide,” said Phil Arkow, National Link Coalition Coordinator.

Thompson replaces Phil Tedeschi, Executive Director of the [Institute for Human-Animal Connection](#) at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Shelter for Domestic Violence Pets Planned for Illinois

A unique shelter for the pets of domestic violence survivors in Illinois is under way in the northern Chicago suburbs. Victoria Velinski, Director of [Bailey's House](#), tells *The LINK-Letter* that this newly-incorporated, free-standing shelter is awaiting IRS approval of its 501c3



status. The facility hopes to be open in four to six months to accept pets and farm animals while their people are in transitional housing in Chicago-area women's shelters. Bailey's House will provide crisis housing for companion animals free of charge, for up to 90 days, to remove one more obstacle between abuse and escape. The shelter will be located on five acres of rural farmland, in a discrete location designed to enhance tranquility and routine in a time of residents' instability.

New Shelter Directory to Include Pet Safekeeping Details

For more than 30 years, the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) has published a *National Directory of Domestic Violence Programs*. This invaluable resource tool, which in the last edition (2008) comprised hundreds of pages of state-by-state listings profiling the programs of some 2,000 women's shelters, is widely used by both domestic violence advocates and survivors seeking information about programs across the nation.

The long-anticipated 2014 edition will be available later this summer as a download at a new website, [domesticshelters.org](#), thanks to the generosity of the Avon Foundation and a unique partnership with an Arizona-based domestic violence resource and change agent, Theresa's Fund. The 2014 edition will include more than 250,000 data points describing over 2,000 shelters, including whether the shelters offer shelter for survivors' pets. The data will delineate whether pet shelter services are available on- or off-site. The presence of pet therapy programs for children is also being included in the information.



The extensive data sets include detailed lists of various emergency, legal, financial, counseling, and housing support services offered.

The online access, available on desktops, tablets and mobile devices, will allow advocates and survivors to quickly locate shelters that match their needs, languages and other preferences, said Rita Smith, NCADV Executive Director.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinary Social Work Position at Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University Student Counseling Services is initiating on-site services with the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. The school is seeking LCSW-level applicants to fill this new position prior to the Fall semester. The position will involve clinical, outreach and teaching skills. A [job description](#) has been posted online.



ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILDREN'S VIOLENCE

Connecticut Updates Pioneering Cross-Reporting Law



Connecticut Gov. Daniel Malloy signed HB 5037 into law on June 3. The new measure clarifies and updates the state's landmark cross-reporting law requiring animal control officers and child abuse caseworkers to share information about common cases.

(See [LINK-Letter July 2011](#))

Gov. Daniel Malloy

The new law requires animal control officers to make written reports within 48 hours after the officer has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly. Beginning Nov. 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Agriculture will send monthly compilations of these reports to the Commissioner of Children and Families, who will determine, within one week of receiving such reports, whether any addresses are also locations where DCF has an open child protective service case. If so, the information shall be passed along to the social worker and included in the case file.

DCF employees who suspect an animal has been abused will also be required to submit a written report to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who supervises the state's animal control officers. Beginning January 1, 2015, both Commissioners will issue a joint report to the General Assembly detailing the number of cross-reportings.

THE LINK... IN ACADEMIA

Human-Animal Studies Positions at the University of Chicago



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO**

The interdisciplinary Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago has announced [two openings for tenure track assistant professors](#), including at least one appointment in sociology. Special attention will be paid to applicants whose research contributes to social scientific understandings of the relationship between people and non-human animals. Applicants must have a Ph.D. Applicants must apply online at the University of Chicago's Academic Career Opportunities website. The application process will continue until the position is filled or until the application deadline of September 1, 2014. The positions will begin on July 1, 2015.

BUILDING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK

Video Offers Introduction to The Link

The York County (Maine) Linkage Coalition has created a highly informative 32-minute video which serves as an excellent introduction to The Link for public and professional viewers seeking more information about how animal abuse frequently predicts and indicates other family violence.



The video is a panel discussion led by Lona Angeles, Humane Educator for Kennebunk's Animal Welfare Society. Participants are: Clare Fortune-Agan, of Caring Unlimited; Katie Lisnik, of the Humane Society of the U.S.; and Gretchen Pianka, pediatrician. Participants describe the various manifestations of The Link, provide statistics, and offer contact information for Maine residents who want to report family violence. The video is available on the [Animal Welfare Society's website](#).

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS



Oklahoma is OK! Louisa McCune-Elmore, Executive Director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation, meets with meeting participants.

Oklahoma Launches Link Coalition

The first day of summer brought a new era of Link awareness and activity to Oklahoma, as an energetic and committed group of 25 professionals from 13 organizations gathered at the [Oklahoma City Community Foundation](#) to inaugurate America's newest Link coalition.

The Oklahoma Link Coalition is "an initiative whose time has come," said Barbara Kidder, Adult Protection Services Supervisor for Oklahoma DHS, whose office coordinated the historic event. [Paul Needham](#), APS Field Representative and member of the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee, organized the meeting and will head the local collaboration, which is believed to be the only one of dozens of local Link coalitions worldwide to have been initiated by an Adult Protective Services agency.

"This is a huge day for Oklahoma's children, women, elders, and animals," said Louisa McCune-Elmore, Executive Director of Oklahoma City's [Kirkpatrick Foundation](#) which sponsored the meeting as part of their Safe & Humane initiative to make Oklahoma the safest and most humane state in which to be an animal.

Participants represented a multi-disciplinary mix from the fields of adult and animal protection, domestic violence, veterinary medicine, public health, social work, mental health, substance abuse, academia, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

They came from Tulsa and Enid as well as the greater Oklahoma City region for the all-day program which included an introduction to The Link by National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow, who facilitated a process that identified advantages, challenges, and action steps to get the coalition started. The coalition has already developed a mission statement and is considering launching a Facebook page, a website, and creating public awareness posters.



Participants broke out into small groups to identify benefits and challenges to establishing a community Link coalition. Tables were organized inter-disciplinarily to ensure a maximum diversity of input and exchange of ideas.



Thirty attendees representing a variety of professions came together in an enthusiastic, collaborative effort to forge the new Oklahoma Link Coalition. The group's immediate plans include a website and a Facebook page.

Participants' enthusiasm was effusive as they acknowledged how coordinated efforts can enhance and advance all aspects of violence prevention. "When you let people know that animal abuse can escalate against people, they begin to take us more seriously," said Kim Schlitter of Best Friends of Pets. "This is really a neglected area for our tribes," said Melissa Whiteside of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

APS Supervisor Melissa Kirk summed up the enthusiasm of all participants when she said, "This is a great opportunity for us to identify more resources, and I'm excited to see where we go with this."

Coalition Formation is Bearing Fruit



Ann Lowrance

The formation of the new Oklahoma Link Coalition is already bringing positive changes. Ann Lowrance, head of the Social Services Department at the [Oklahoma City campus of Oklahoma State University](#), tells *The LINK-Letter* that as a result of this meeting, the campus is developing information on the Link between violence against animals and humans. Link curricula will be implemented this Fall in courses in: Crime Victim/Survivor Services, Veterinary Technology, Police Science, Early Childcare Education, and Emergency Management Technology. The Verizon Foundation is funding the Crime Victim/Survivor Services Program to develop a lecture series on domestic violence. Link programming will also reach allied professionals in the community, including law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and Department of Human Services.

Meanwhile, Paul Needham created a jolly video showing film clips from the historic meeting. The video artfully depicts how, despite the tragic nature of the participants' work and the serious issues involved in coming together, building a community Link coalition can actually be a lot of fun! The video has been posted on [YouTube](#). Meanwhile, the Coalition has also launched a Facebook page.

Link Activity Expanding in The Netherlands

[Marie-José Enders-Slegers](#), coordinator of the Cirkel van Geweld (Circle of Violence) Link effort in The Netherlands, tells *The LINK-Letter* that specialists in animal welfare, trained to recognize The Link, have been added to police departments. She was interviewed in June on a national TV program where police asked Dutch citizens to be on the lookout for a sexual pervert known to be an abuser of horses. Such watchfulness will assist the police in searching for this individual.



Marie-José Enders-Slegers

Meanwhile, a grant from Stichting Zilverschoon (Zilverschool Foundation) is enabling the start of a foster care program for animals, Dierenpleegzorg of De Cirkel van Geweld.



Link Programs Advancing in Spain

Dr. Núria Querol, head of the National Link Coalition's Spanish partner agency [GEVHA](#) (Grupo para el Estudio de la Violencia hacia Humanos y Animales), spoke to the Barcelona Bar Association's Conference on Animal Law and the Human-Animal Bond about how the human-animal bond is crucial in domestic violence situations. She described GEVHA's Freedom Paws Link program for sheltering companion animals in domestic violence.

She also spoke to the I Conference on Animal Protection of the [Social Educators Association of Comunidad Valenciana](#), and gave an interview to the inaugural issue of [Magazine Digital](#), about animal protection. The [Institute for Investigative Psychology and Criminal Investigation](#) of the Barcelona University Law School is including The Link in its course on Criminal Profiling and Investigative Psychology. Police in the community of Sant Cugat del Vallès are also receiving training on The Link.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Bills We're Watching:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



Michigan HB 5658 would allow family divisions of circuit courts issuing personal protection orders to enjoin a spouse, former spouse, co-parent, date or household resident from injuring, killing, torturing, threatening or removing an animal, and from interfering with the petitioner's efforts to remove animals. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee. Another bill, **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. **SB 285** cleared the Senate and passed the House Committee on Criminal Justice and is awaiting a second reading on the House floor.



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 bills are in the respective Agriculture Committees.



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 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.



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 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." The bill will be reviewed by a study committee during the legislative recess.



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. **HB 5062** was passed by the House on June 12.



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, along with **AB4517**.



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.

Reporting and Cross-Reporting



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 S. 1914, the PAWS Act (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety), was renumbered on July 7 as **H. 4244** and sent to the House Ways & Means Committee. It would still mandate veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty with immunity from civil and criminal liability for good-faith reporting. It would establish a statewide task force to conduct a feasibility study for a registry of animal abuse offenders. The task force would also conduct a systematic review of the state's animal cruelty and protection laws and of the needs for training law enforcement, animal control officers, judges and veterinarians on animal hoarding and the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. The task force would also explore mechanisms for more comprehensive reporting of animal abuse and educating children about animal abuse. One key provision of the original bill – to define animal abuse committed in the presence of a child as “extreme atrocity and cruelty” with enhanced penalties – was deleted.



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 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.

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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Animal Cruelty Offender Charged with Two Child Sex Abuse Crimes

A man who had previously pled guilty to one of the most horrific cases of animal abuse ever seen by the British Columbia, Canada, SPCA was subsequently charged with two sex crimes. Rupert Wilson, 48, of the Fort Rupert First Nations Reserve, pled guilty on Feb. 25 to animal abuse and abandonment in the case of "Molly," an 18-month-old German shepherd mix who was found tied to a porch last November in critical condition, non-responsive, shivering, severely emaciated and near death. Her collar was also embedded into her neck. The Campbell River [Courier-Islander newspaper](#) reported that Wilson was charged in May with one count of sexual assault and one count of sexual interference with a child stemming from an alleged incident in 2007.

Women Wanted for Child Assault Arrested for Animal Cruelty – Twice!



A North Carolina woman with an outstanding warrant for child abuse was charged twice in one week for two separate incidents of alleged animal cruelty. Greenville police charged April Smith with animal cruelty for reportedly leaving "Star," a female pit bull, in a car with closed windows. Animal control officers who rescued the dog said the dog was panting heavily and showing signs of heat distress with the temperature inside the vehicle measuring between 101.9 and 107.9 degrees.

April Smith

While removing the dog, police learned that Smith had a warrant for her arrest for leaving the same dog in the same car a week earlier in Carteret County. Upon further investigation, police learned that Smith had additional warrants for her arrest on charges of assault on a child under 12, assault inflicting serious injury, and simple assault. [WCTI-12 TV](#) reported Smith was booked into the Pitt County Detention Center under a \$12,500 bond. Star was treated and released to the custody of Greenville Animal Control.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

July 15 – Portsmouth, N.H.: Chris Risley-Curtiss and Lisa Lunghofer will present on "Childhood Animal Abuse, Polyvictimization and Trauma-Focused Intervention" at the [International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference](#).

July 17 – Oklahoma City, Okla.: Sherry Ramsey, Director of State Animal Cruelty Prosecutions for the Humane Society of the U.S., will speak to the [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#).

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 21 – Tokyo, Japan: Phil Arkow will present on "A Species-Spanning Approach to Breaking the Cycles of Violence" to the [Companion Animal Study Group Go](#) and the Japan Coalition for Animal Welfare.

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.

July 29 (online): Allie Phillips will describe National SAF-T Day and expanding safety and support services for domestic violence survivors with pets on a [webinar](#) hosted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

Aug. 1 – Canton, Ohio: Lesley Ashworth will present a [workshop](#) on the relationship between animal abuse and other violent and criminal behavior at Walsh University.

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. 13 – (online): Adam Liebling of the ASPCA, will discuss “Grantwriting 101,” 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.

Aug. 14 – West Long Branch, 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.”

Aug. 15 (online): Allie Phillips will describe National SAF-T Day and expanding safety and support services for domestic violence survivors with pets on a [webinar](#) hosted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

Aug. 18 – Albuquerque, N.Mex.: Tamara Ward and Tammy Fiebelkorn of the Forming Positive Links Committee will present on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence at the [New Mexico Humane Conference](#).

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,” “Sheltering Animals and Families Together,” “Investigating and Prosecuting Link Crimes,” and “Animal Therapy for Sexual Assault Victims” at the 6th Annual [Historic Triangle Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

Sept. 12 – Plainfield, 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.”

Sept. 22 – Albuquerque, N. Mex.: The [New Mexico Conference on The Link](#) will feature 12 nationally renowned speakers covering such topics as pets and domestic violence, cross-reporting, elder care and the Link, animal cruelty therapy options, investigating and prosecuting animal cruelty cases, and defining success in Link initiatives.

Sept. 24 – Medina, Ohio: Lesley Ashworth will present on the Link between animal abuse and domestic violence for [Summit/Medina County domestic violence](#) officials.

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.

Oct. 6-10 – Phoenix, Ariz.: Diane Balkin, John Thompson, Chris Risley-Curtiss, Lisa Lunghofer, Barbara Boat, and Allie Phillips will conduct sessions on investigating and prosecuting child abuse/animal abuse cases, the poly-victimization of childhood animal abuse and trauma focused intervention, childhood animal cruelty as a toxic stressor on the developing brain, and the use of therapy animals in child sexual abuse cases, at the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse’s [Strategies for Justice](#) conference.

Oct. 22 (online): Phil Arkow will conduct two webinars on “The Prevention of Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse in Military Families” for the [National Organization for Victim Assistance Academy](#).

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.

To subscribe to The Link-Letter (*it’s free!*) – Just send an e-mail to Coordinator Phil Arkow (arkowpets@snip.net) and tell us what organization(s) you’re with and where you’re located.



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

Director of Programs
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
Arizona State University School of Social Work
Phoenix, Ariz.

Michele Robinson

Program Manager, Family Violence & Domestic Relations
National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges
Reno, Nev.

Barbara Shaffer, MSW, LCSW

Senior Director of Chapter Services
Prevent Child Abuse America
Breckenridge, Colo.

Hugh Tebault III

President,
The Latham Foundation
Alameda, Calif.

John Thompson

Deputy Executive Director/Chief of Staff
National Sheriffs Association
Director, National Coalition on Violence Against Animals
Alexandria, Va.