



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 7, No. 8 August 2014**

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



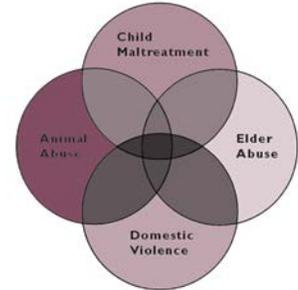
**ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE**



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

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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## **ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **NYPD Animal Abuse Investigations Get Off to a Roaring Start**



Citing the likelihood that people who abuse animals are often also likely to abuse children and women, the ASPCA issued a [report](#) on July 9 describing the first few months of New York City's pioneering animal cruelty investigation program (*See LINK-Letter, September 2013*). Cruelty cases that were previously handled by the ASPCA's limited staff have been turned over to thousands of NYPD officers, and the results have been dramatic.



The NYPD has recorded 68 arrests and issued 43 summonses for animal cruelty and neglect since January 1 – double the rate of ASPCA-handled cases in prior years. And thanks to the assistance of the NYPD, the ASPCA expects to save five times as many victims of cruelty this year than in any year in recent history, said George Kline, ASPCA law enforcement liaison. Some 188 dogs and cats have already been treated by the ASPCA this year as a result of the NYPD interventions.

Cops are “really embracing” their new duties, said Kline, a retired NYPD officer. “A lot of cops are animal owners. They own pets and they work with animals also. Police officers and law enforcement in general have always had a soft spot in their hearts for animals.”

Animal abuse falls naturally into the purview of law enforcement, Kline explained, because “there’s a high correlation of domestic violence and animal abuse.” Meanwhile, Dr. Robert Reisman, supervisor of forensic sciences for the ASPCA Animal Hospital, cited high incidence of animal abuse being linked with child maltreatment.

## ***ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

### ***New Hampshire Becomes 26<sup>th</sup> State to Enact Pet Protection Orders***

The Pet Protection Order movement crested the vital halfway point on July 21 when New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan signed into law **HB 1410**. The new law, which took effect immediately, allows courts to include both pets and farm animals in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. Courts can include animals 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.” The Pet Protection Order concept was introduced in neighboring Maine in 2006 amid growing recognition that animal abuse is closely linked with domestic violence and serves to intimidate thousands of women and their children from leaving abusers for fear of what might happen to their pets and livestock.



**Gov. Maggie Hassan**

### **Long Island Shelter to Provide Free Protection for Pets of Domestic Violence Survivors**

Good news came out of Long Island, N.Y. on July 10 when Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano announced that the Nassau County SPCA will be offering free pet protection to domestic violence survivors who have fled to The Safe Center.

“Domestic violence victims are often reluctant to seek shelter because they don’t want to leave their pets behind in an unsafe environment. The [SPCA](#) and [The Safe Center](#) are partnering to help victims by assuring them that their pets will be well cared for by the SPCA at no cost to the victim or taxpayers,” Mangano announced.

Under the new program, domestic violence survivors can call the Safe Center hotline. The Nassau County SPCA will pick up the pets at the Safe Center and bring them to a private facility for housing and veterinary care.

**We Know That Your Pets are Family**

The Nassau County SPCA & The Safe Center LI  
**Will Keep Your Pets Safe So You Can Be Too!**

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline  
**516-542-0404**

sponsored by

NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
**ED MANGANO**  
www.nassaucountyny.gov

NASSAU COUNTY  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
TASK FORCE

### **Domestic Violence/Animal Abuse Link Featured in Livestream Broadcast**

National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow was interviewed on July 30 for a 26-minute segment on the “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” videostream program. Hosted by Hilary Platt of the Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Southern New Jersey, the podcast is available at [TalkExchangeRadio.com](http://TalkExchangeRadio.com).



## Shelters to Celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> National SAF-T Day

Domestic violence shelters with on-site pet safekeeping programs are invited to participate in the [5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ANIMAL ABUSE AND... ELDER ABUSE

### Conference Scholarships Available for Those Working with Victims of Crimes

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Training and Technical Assistance Center at the US Department of Justice is offering professional development scholarships to the National Adult Protective Services Association's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Elder Financial Exploitation. Persons who provide direct services to victims of crime are eligible; conference speakers are not. Details are available at the [OVC website](#).

## ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILDREN'S VIOLENCE

### Children's Advocacy Centers Learn About The Link

Our grateful appreciation goes out to the [National Children's Alliance](#). This organization, formed in 1988,



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE®

is the national association and accrediting body for Children's Advocacy Centers, child-friendly facilities where children who have been victimized by sexual abuse can be interviewed by law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, forensics, victim advocacy and medical personnel. Such interviews help with the investigation and prosecution of the abuses, hold offenders

accountable, and help children to heal. The Alliance publicized the announcement of Allie Phillips' new monograph, [Understanding The Link Between Violence to Animals and People: A Guidebook for Criminal Justice Professionals](#) (see [LINK-Letter July 2014](#)) to over 800 Children's Advocacy Centers. Thank you for helping to spread the word!

## NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

### Kansas City Coalition Gets Boost from St. Louis

Our Greater Kansas City LINK Coalition – KC-CAN (Caring for All Network) – was spotlighted in a feature article in the St. Louis edition of July’s [MetroPet](#) magazine. KC-CAN coordinator Teresa Bradley Bays, DVM, wrote an extensive article to help parents recognize when their children are playing too roughly with pets. Parents can inspire their children to be empathetic toward animals by being gentle role models, by using the incident as an opportunity to teach children that animals have feelings, and by not excusing aggressive behavior as a normal process that children will outgrow. The National Link Coalition and KC-CAN were cited as resources to help parents learn about how animal abuse is linked to interpersonal violence.



Teresa Bradley Bays, DVM

### New Mexico Link Conference Plans Outreach to Native Americans

The annual [New Mexico Conference on The Link](#) has taken on a unique new sponsor, reports Tammy Fiebelkorn, coordinator. The Native America Humane Society is enabling any Tribal Member and Tribal Staff to attend the conference, scheduled for Sept. 22 in Albuquerque, free of charge. The Native America Humane Society’s Diana Webster will also present at the conference on “Protecting All Our Relatives: Identifying and Addressing Violence Against Animals in Tribal Communities to Protect Native Women.”



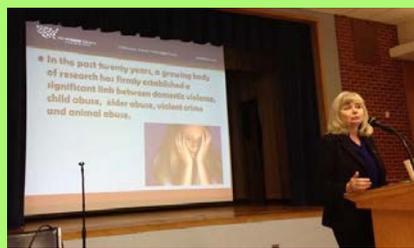
According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Native American women experience battering at a rate of 23.2 per 1,000—compared with 8 per 1,000 Caucasian women.



Domestic violence in tribal communities is clearly an epidemic. With animal abuse presenting a clear indicator that other violence may be occurring in the home, training tribal agencies, law enforcement, educators, and community members on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse can encourage early interventions along with promoting the development of

tools to help Native American victims and their pets. This presentation will address the challenges for tribal communities and also discuss establishing delivery systems for training and education that recognize tribal values and culture.

Other sponsors include the ASPCA, N.M. CYFD, e-solved, Bernalillo County, NMDOG, RedRover, Crone Productions, the Animal Law Section of the NM State Bar, and numerous individuals.



### Oklahoma Coalition Learns About Animal Cruelty Prosecutions

Sherry Ramsey, Director of Animal Cruelty Prosecutions for The Humane Society of The United States, gave a presentation to the Oklahoma Link Coalition on July 17. Ramsey’s program highlighted how growing interest and research linking animal abuse with human violence has enhanced the ability to prosecute cases of animal abuse and neglect.

## Chicago Coalition Changes Name, Launches New Website

Our Link coalition in Chicago -- SNAAP-Chicago, the Safety Network for Abused Animals and People -- has undergone some changes. Coordinator Jessica Katz reports that the organization has changed its name to the Safe Haven Network to establish some separation from the original SNAAP coalition in Washington, D.C. The Chicago coalition has a new website at [thesafehavennetwork.org](http://thesafehavennetwork.org), and a new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SafeHavenNetwork>.



Katz tells The LINK-Letter that the Safe Haven Network stills run the referral program for domestic violence advocates to connect to emergency pet boarding, but is launching a website to automate the application process and make the process faster and more efficient. “Once we have the website up and running, I plan to start recruiting foster homes to add to our network of safe havens. I just filed our Articles of Incorporation, and I plan to file for 501(c)(3) status within the next month or so,” she reports.

### *THE LINK... IN THE LITERATURE*

Efforts to address animal cruelty are confounded by the absence of any single theory to explain animal abuse and the lack of a single definition of what constitutes animal abuse. However, extensive empirical studies link animal abuse with antisocial behaviors, although whether such linkages represent a graduation hypothesis or a general deviance theory remains unclear. Regardless, the perpetration or witnessing of animal abuse is a risk factor for antisocial behaviors. Tolerating animal abuse only increases level of violence and its acceptance in society and leads to moral degeneration.

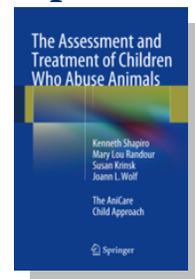
-- Yamazaki, S. (2014). “Associations between antisocial behaviors and animal abuse: Why animal abuse should be perceived as a risk factor for antisocial behaviors.” Presentation at 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Animal Care, Kobe, Japan, July 19.

### *THE LINK... IN THERAPY*

## Manual for Assessing and Treating Juvenile Animal Abusers Updated

AniCare Child, a step-by-step guidance on how to assess and treat children who have abused animals, has just been re-issued in a new second edition. Originally published in 2002 by the [Animals and Society Institute](http://Animals and Society Institute), the second edition, published by [Springer](http://Springer), contains new and supplemental materials and aids, including:

- A theory section with emphasis on attachment theory
- An expanded “Working with Parents” section
- Material on trauma-informed narrative
- Updated research findings on witnessing abuse
- A DVD that illustrates assessment instruments and interventions through role-played interviews
- A companion workbook that provides homework and exercises for clients
- AniCareAction, a [listserv](http://listserv) that allows therapists and other interested parties to share their experiences with the AniCare approach.



## ***BUILDING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK***

### **The Link Comes to Japan**

Kobe, Japan – a city of the future, extensively rebuilt after the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake took the lives of 6,500 people and 9,000 dogs and cats – has celebrated the renaissance and resilience of the community with three international conferences to consider the interdependence of people and other animals. The 2014 conference included extensive Link training for a global audience of “people who live to love animals” from Japan, Australia, Canada, Italy and Bangladesh.



National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow and Humane Society International representative Sakiko Yamazaki, Ph.D., presented a three-hour symposium on “The Cycle of Violence: The Connection between Violence to Animals and Humans.” With simultaneous translations and dual-screened PowerPoints in both Japanese and English, the symposium approached the Link as a species-spanning approach to end violence that crosses cultural and language differences.

A poster presentation by Italian Ph.D. candidate Alessia Parrino called animal protection “the virile choice,” proposing that aggression is traditionally considered a positive aspect of males’ personality manifested by rates of femicide and animal cruelty that are highly over-represented by male perpetrators. Parrino argued that this trend can be reversed by making kindness an attractive image for boys and popularizing a new model of “real men” who are empathetic towards animals.



The Kobe conference was followed by an all-day training seminar in Tokyo, where the Japan Federation of Animal Welfare and the Human-Animal Study Group “Go” organized a program that attracted a multidisciplinary audience of 35. Arkow introduced the audience to the principles underlying The Link and strategies employed in other nations that integrate these concepts into practice, in hopes that Japanese officials will model them as well.

### **Link Programs Lead to School Curriculum**

Emphasizing the Link between animal abuse and human violence is an effective way to get school administrators who traditionally have been reluctant to consider animal welfare issues to realize the importance of animal cruelty upon the lives of their students. A recent example comes from Uvalde, Texas. Local resident Melissa Garnett heard National Link Coalition coordinator Phil Arkow speak at a conference. She invited Phil to write three op-ed columns for the Uvalde *Leader-News*, which resulted in the Uvalde school superintendent initiating a program to teach all students in the district about pet ownership responsibilities and animal welfare. Garnett tells The LINK-Letter, “Yay!”





## Link Interview Available as Podcast

AnimalWise Radio, heard live in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area on KYCR and KDWA radio and streamed live online, interviewed Phil Arkow on July 27, 2014 about growing interest in The Link in the law

enforcement community. [Click here](#) to hear a podcast of the 22-minute interview with hosts Beth Nelson and Mike Frye.

## Link Included in Victim Assistance Training Academy

The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) has announced its Fall 2014 NOVA Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA). Offered through the National Advocacy Leadership Center, the NVAA is a 40-hour live distance learning training designed for aspiring and new victim assistance professionals. The training provides comprehensive, skills-based training including the Link between animal abuse and domestic violence. Classes are approved by the National Advocate Credentialing Program, meet on nine consecutive Wednesdays starting Sept. 14, and are limited to 30 participants to maximize faculty-student interaction. More information and a registration form are available from [NOVA](#).



## THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

### “I Wanted to Kill Someone,” Says Girl, 16, bored with Killing Animals, in Gruesome Murder

A 16-year-old Japanese girl with an apparent history of killing small animals, arrested July 27 for allegedly murdering her classmate with a hammer and using a saw to dismember the body, said she “wanted to kill someone,” the [Japan Times](#) reported. The girl, whose name was withheld because of her age, was charged with beating Aiwa Matsuo, 15, with a hammer, then strangling her and severing the girl’s head and left hand and slitting open her belly. Police in Sasebo, Nagasaki prefecture found the severed head of a cat in the refrigerator of her apartment; psychiatrists reportedly recommended that she live alone after she struck her widowed and remarried father with a baseball bat. She reportedly told her stepmother that she planned to murder a person after she got bored with killing animals.



Media gather as a police van transports the girl to the prosecutor’s office.



Matthew Wisell

### New York Man Pleads Guilty to Drowning Girlfriend’s Dog

A New York man who responded to his girlfriend’s request to find a new home for her dog, “Murphy,” by binding the dog’s snout and legs with electrical tape and drowning it in the Hudson River has pleaded guilty to aggravated animal cruelty. As part of a plea bargain, Matthew Wisell, 28, was sentenced to six months in the Warren County Jail and five years’ probation. The charge is New York’s second-most serious animal cruelty crime after animal fighting. [WRGB-TV](#) reported that Wisell told his girlfriend he was going to give the dog away because it had behavior problems.

## Two Link Cases in Week Rock Prince William County, Va.

### *Dead Dog Found in Bathtub During Domestic Violence Arrest*

A Woodbridge, Va. man was charged with felony animal cruelty and nine domestic violence charges for allegedly assaulting two women during a domestic dispute. David Joseph Ault, 31, was charged with animal cruelty after police found a dead dog in his bathtub. One of the victims told police Ault had previously threatened to kill her dog, the [Woodbridge Patch](#) reported. Prince William County officers responding to a report of domestic assault on July 13 were told by one victim, 24, that Ault had previously struck her in the face during an altercation. When she returned to the apartment with two friends, he allegedly pulled out a BB gun and began assaulting her and one of her friends. The third woman pepper-sprayed Ault, according to police. Animal Control was reportedly conducting a necropsy to determine the cause of the dog's death.



**David Joseph Ault**

### *Dog Stabbed to Death in Domestic Dispute*



Meanwhile, in an unrelated case, Gerard Darvell Williams, 32, was charged with felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty, domestic assault & battery and destruction of property after two dogs were found dead in Dumfries, Va. Officers responded to a report of a domestic dispute with weapons at Williams' home on July 21. The victim, a 29-year-old woman, told police that the couple were arguing when he pushed her and threw her phone against a sliding glass door, shattering it.

**Gerard Williams**

"After the parties had separated, the victim attempted to gather her belongings and leave the home," police spokesman Jonathan Perok told the [Woodbridge Patch](#). "At that point, the victim stated she witnessed the accused use a kitchen knife to stab her dog."

Officers found an adult male pit bull dead with a stab wound in its back. A 2-week-old puppy was also deceased and a second puppy was critically injured — both apparently due to blunt force trauma. Three other puppies and an adult female pit bull appeared to be unharmed. Williams was being held without bond with additional charges pending further investigation.

### *Domestic Violence Offender Charged with Animal Cruelty*

A man convicted in 2010 of domestic abuse against a woman whom he knew to be pregnant has been charged with animal cruelty after two emaciated dogs were found abandoned in a Midwest City, Okla. apartment. Corey Marion Harrison, 26, turned himself in to police on July 23 after an arrest warrant had been issued. One of the dogs, a six-month-old puppy, died as a result of numerous medical complications, [NewsOK reported](#). Harrison received a one-year deferred sentence in the 2010 domestic violence case.



**Corey Marion Harrison**

## *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.

#### *Reporting and Cross-Reporting*



**Massachusetts S. 1914, the PAWS Act** (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety), was renumbered on July 21 as **H. 4328** after passing the House Ways & Means Committee. It was passed by the House on July 31 and read by the Senate. It would 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 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 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.



**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 passed 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.

### *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.

### *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.

### *Therapeutic Interventions for Child Abuse Victims*



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

### *Animal Hoarding*



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



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

## *LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES*

**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 “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. 21 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will hold a meeting.

**Aug. 26 – Las Vegas, Nev.:** John Thompson will speak on “The Link: Have You Been Missing It?” at the [National Native American Law Enforcement Association](#)’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Training Conference.

**Aug. 28-29 – Williamsburg, Va.:** Phil Arkow and Allie Phillips will discuss “Women’s Best Friend,” “SAF-T,” “Investigating and Prosecuting Link Crimes,” and “Animal Therapy for Sexual Assault Victims” at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual [Historic Triangle Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

**Sept. 3 (online):** Esperanza Zuñiga of RedRover will lead a webinar on “Pets and Domestic Violence: Preserving the Human-Animal Bond” on behalf of the [Humane Society Academy](#) in partnership with the Association of Professional Humane Educators.

**Sept. 4 – Santa Barbara, Calif.:** Allie Phillips will conduct a day-long training for the [Santa Barbara District Attorney](#)’s animal abuse task force and community on “Understanding the Link between Violence to Animals and People: Keeping Communities Safe.”

**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 internationally 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. 23 – Phoenix, Ariz.:** Chris Risley-Curtiss will present on Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence at the [Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence](#) conference.

**Sept. 23 – Darwin, Australia:** Frank Ascione will give the keynote address on “Animal Abuse and Psychopathology, Conduct Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder” at the [Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities](#)’ annual conference.

**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. 24 – Hillsboro, Ore.:** The [Washington County Animal Protection Multidisciplinary Team](#) will present an all-day workshop on Animal Hoarding: Psychology, response, Intervention and Prosecution.

**Oct. 1 – Columbus, Ohio:** Phil Arkow will speak to two veterinary college classes and the [Albert Schweitzer Fellowship](#) event.

**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. 9 – Virginia Beach, Va.:** Chris Risley-Curtiss and Chris Brosan will describe the Loudoun County Stop Abuse and Violence Effort at the [Virginia Animal Control Association](#) 2014 Conference.

**Oct. 17 – Salt Lake City, Utah:** Barbara Boat will present on “Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence: A Toxic Triad” at the [Academy on Violence and Abuse conference](#).

**Oct. 17-19 – Barcelona, Spain:** Núria Querol, Sònia Pujol and David Carrasco will participate in a roundtable about The Link and the Freedom Paws Link Project at the [AnimalADDA Fair](#).

**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](#).

**Oct. 30-31 – San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain:** Núria Querol will discuss “Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence” at the University of Alicante [Congress on Criminology](#).

**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. 20 – Anchorage, Alaska:** Allie Phillips will conduct a day-long training on The Link for first responders in conjunction with the [Alaska Child Maltreatment Conference](#).

**Nov. 20-21 – San Francisco, Calif.:** Nuria Querol i Vinas will present on how Spanish law enforcement agencies are incorporating animal abuse in policing, and on cooperative research between health and law enforcement professionals regarding domestic violence and animal abuse, 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](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)) and tell us what organization(s) you’re with and where you’re located.**

### ***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).



## 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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Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,  
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