



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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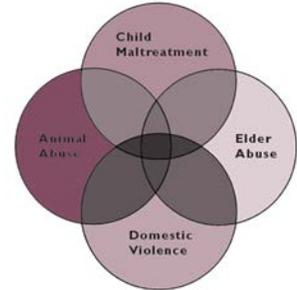
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

The LINK-Letter will be taking a much-needed vacation in December, so please enjoy this special double issue. Happy holidays, everyone, and we'll see you again in January!

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILD MALTREATMENT

Child Abuse Prosecutors Get LINK Training

The National Link Coalition was honored to present four workshops at the National District Attorneys Association's Strategies for Justice Conference for the [National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse](#). The week-long meeting attracted over 120 prosecutors, law enforcement officials and child protection professionals to learn about investigation, interviewing and prosecution techniques, case law, ethical issues, the use of therapy animals with abused children, and other current topics. Below is a synopsis of three of the Link presentations which brought this important subject to this audience.



Barbara Boat

The Impact of Toxic Stress and Exposure to Animal Cruelty on the Developing Brain

Animal abuse, domestic violence and child maltreatment conspire to create what Barbara Boat, Executive Director of Cincinnati's Childhood Trust, called a "toxic triad" that not only harms the architecture of the child's developing brain, but whose multiplying impact exacerbates the risk factors for antisocial behaviors and negative health outcomes.

Boat described the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [ACEs study](#) which identified significant negative long-term health and mortality outcomes for what are now called Adverse Childhood Experiences. Such ACEs unleash chronic neurochemical hormones which, without buffers, become major risk factors for the leading causes of illness, death and poor quality of life many years later. Boat called ACEs as toxic stressors.

Stress-released bursts of cortisol, for example, may trigger the fight-or-flight mechanism necessary for survival but which also lead to an “attack of the adrenals” that kills cells in the hippocampus. The phenomenon results in a faster heart rate, decreased bone density, lowered immunity against disease, increased blood pressure, and reduced ability to learn and remember things. Often, it takes the body from three to 72 hours to re-normalize after experiencing major stress.

Cumulative stress is unrelenting and puts the body in a constant state of arousal and fear. Children living under such stressors can develop lifelong hypersensitivity to perceived threats.

Early childhood adversity starts a vicious cycle of permanent alterations in brain architecture and functioning. New research into epigenetics suggests that chronic, toxic stress can affect synapses, neural pathways, and the brain’s plasticity and ability to respond and adapt. It can even turn genes on and off and lead to lifelong neurological and physiological changes. These changes can even be passed on inter-generationally to offspring.

“All of us are picking up the pieces of what has happened to these children while they’re growing up.”

The risk of such changes is particularly acute during childhood, when the developing brain is most malleable and subject to external influences, and in adolescence, when youths are what she called “junkies for attention” impacted by hormones. “Genes may load the gun but the environment pulls the trigger,” she said.

Regrettably, the ACEs study did not include the perpetration or witnessing of animal abuse as an Adverse Childhood Experience, which was a serious oversight. “Cruelty to animals is embedded in many ACEs and potentially multiplies the impact of ACEs,” she said, noting that childhood exposure to animal cruelty:

- Teaches children that they and their pets are expendable;
- Causes them to lose confidence that adults can protect them;
- Convinces them that physical harm is acceptable behavior in supposedly loving relationships;
- Demonstrates a way to seek power by inflicting pain and suffering;
- Desensitizes them to violence and decreases empathy;
- Leads to destructive behaviors; and
- Adds to the child’s other toxic stressors, resulting in a changed brain, unhealthy lifestyle and subsequent poor health.

Research has found that a child’s exposure to physical, emotional and sexual abuse is a risk factor for the child’s committing acts of animal cruelty. Meanwhile, links between high incidence of dog bites and child abuse should prompt hospital and healthcare personnel to routinely screen for child abuse and neglect when treating pediatric dog bites.

Why is this important to professionals who work with children? “Significant adversity in childhood is strongly associated with toxic stress,” she said. “Asking questions about animals in the lives of children often opens the door to much-needed information. All of us are picking up the pieces of what has happened to these children while they’re growing up.”



Chris Risley-Curtiss

Poly-Victimization, Childhood Animal Abuse and Trauma-Focused Intervention

“Social work is about people, but people live with animals, and for many people those animals are important,” said Chris Risley-Curtiss, associate professor of social work at Arizona State University.

She described to the prosecutors how animals can be protective factors for children, helping to promote and develop empathy, offering opportunities to learn responsibility, providing nurturance and comfort, and giving children a sense of self-esteem. All of these are especially important for children who have been abused or neglected.

Risley-Curtiss noted how numerous studies have identified animal abuse as part of a constellation of other antisocial behaviors, a marker for other family violence and bullying, and one of the earliest manifesting criteria for and predictors of conduct disorder. “Witnessing animal abuse creates a climate of emotional terror. It should be part of the definition of child abuse,” she said.

“Animal abuse should never be excused as an acceptable stage of development. It should be treated as a teaching moment – an opportunity to teach the child respect for other beings. While some children may kill insects and harm animals in exploring through curiosity, intentional animal abuse motivated by an intent to harm suggests a need to intervene.”

“Animal abuse should never be excused as an acceptable stage of development.”

Seeking to limit the damage already done, identify at-risk populations, and prevent further abuse, Risley-Curtiss started a trailblazing childhood assessment and intervention program for juvenile animal abusers in 2008 called CAT --Children and Animals Together. CAT is not a stand-alone program, but rather an adjunct to other therapies that children are receiving. She is hoping to replicate CAT in other cities.

Children in CAT, ranging in age from three to 16, are referred by animal abuse investigators, CASA, juvenile corrections, child welfare agencies, and domestic violence shelters. They undergo 14 weekly 90-minute sessions plus in-home consultations. Parental participation is required.

Of the 44 children who have already participated in CAT, 50% are currently involved with CPS, 55% have psychiatric diagnoses, 15% have bullied others, 18% were bullied themselves, 68% have been aggressive to other people, 22% have demonstrated sexual behaviors against people, and 13% have recounted sexual experiences with animals. 62% had experienced two or more forms of victimization. Most have had multiple behavioral problems. 77% had committed their first acts of animal cruelty before the age of 10 – in one case a 2-year-old who drowned a puppy. 55% were repeated abusers, and only 31% expressed remorse over what they had done.

CAT starts with an in-depth bio-psychosocial assessment of each child followed by a program tailored to his or her specific needs. It is based on an ecological systems approach about how children and families interact with their cultural norms, neighborhood, schools, and environment. CAT recognizes that acts of animal abuse rarely occur in a vacuum and that remediating the effects of animal abuse requires

including contextual factors. Assessment and intervention focus on the cumulative impact of compound traumas that the youths have experienced, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, domestic violence, family instability, immigration issues, the loss of or rejection by parents, and sibling abuse.

The CAT protocol strives to get children to become animal protectors rather than animal abusers. The program focuses on teamwork and holds children accountable but focuses on the positive aspects of human-animal interactions. “We’re trying to get kids to understand that animals have feelings and can feel pain,” she said.

Interventions focus on empathy, positive role modeling, problem solving, experiential animal care, responding to anger, and accountability. Children work with shelter animals and learn to model the caring behaviors shown by shelter staff. They have to write a story about protecting an animal, and a letter of apology to animals they abused. Follow-up presentations enable children to demonstrate what they have learned.

“Serious, repetitive aggression against animals by a child is a seriously deviant behavior,” Risley-Curtiss said. Early intervention that focuses on animal abuse and developing empathy from animal caregiving may help reverse these cycles of violence.



Diane Balkin

Investigating and Prosecuting Co-Occurrence Cases

“There’s a link not only between animal abuse and human violence, but also among the agencies involved. We cannot make a dent against violence if we don’t work together with a multidisciplinary approach,” said Diane Balkin, a contract attorney with the Animal Legal Defense Fund and a former prosecutor from Denver, Colo.

Beginning with a historical look at how animal abuse has been seen for the past 250 years as a precursor to acts of interpersonal violence, Balkin noted how taking animal cruelty cases seriously achieves greater and earlier benefits in crime prevention, helps break cycles of violence, and assists courts in assessing criminal offenders’ level of dangerousness.

Many court systems are making significant strides in addressing animal abuse, but others still have a long way to go, she said. “We face challenges today with animal cruelty cases similar to those that we faced decades ago with child abuse and domestic violence. We’re making baby steps but it’s difficult for many agencies to embrace this approach. It’s a profound problem in remote and under-resourced communities.”

Animal crimes are just like every other crime and should be prosecuted as such, she said, but these efforts face significant challenges. Some people are indifferent to or disinterested in animal issues. Jury selection may be confounded by the presence of animal advocates or hunters. Animal hoarding and fighting cases are extremely complex and difficult to prosecute, particularly in courts with under-resourced time, staff and finances. Crime scenes often are not adequately documented or processed. Animal abuse victims can’t tell you what happened. Many cruelty statutes are essentially unchanged since the 19th Century.

Meanwhile, animal cruelty cases guarantee tremendous interest from mainstream and passionate, often misinformed social media – many of whom experience “the CSI Effect,” unrealistically expecting cases to be resolved quickly. “Jurors expect justice to be fast and furious and that prosecutors always gets their man and woman. But the prosecutor has to be as careful about exonerating the innocent as convicting the guilty,” she said. “You have to be very, very careful to not go off the deep end.”

Balkin described parallels in prosecuting animal and child abuse cases: voiceless victims, unknown causation of injuries, difficulties in identifying suspects, determining whether there was pain or suffering as defined legally, and confusing definitions of abuse and neglect which can range from omission to commission, from benign neglect to active torture, from negligent to intentional.

Injuries are often hidden, and the field of veterinary forensics to illuminate these injuries is very recent. Establishing culpability to determine whether an action is criminally actionable can be difficult.

Many animal abuse cases involve a failure to seek veterinary care or follow medical advice. “Sometimes these are the most egregious cases and you have to prosecute them,” she said. “Inability to pay is no excuse for animal abuse. There’s always an option to surrender the animal to a shelter for adoption.”

Prosecutors have a responsibility to enlist veterinarians to testify as expert witnesses, she said. “A veterinarian does for crimes against animals what a pediatrician does for crimes against children. They can educate juries about the animal, the scene, and the nature of the injury or illness. Many veterinarians are reluctant to testify or don't feel adequately trained or qualified. It’s the job of the prosecutor to help veterinarians work through the process.”

Balkin emphasized the importance of prosecutors recognizing links between animal abuse and other family violence. Several states have enhanced penalties for animal abuse occurring in the presence of a child and mandated cross-reporting between child and animal protection agencies. “When considering co-occurring domestic violence, animal abuse and child abuse, it may be difficult to say which came first,” she said. “But putting a child in a hoarding environment that threatens the child’s welfare can be charged as child abuse.”

“A veterinarian does for crimes against animals what a pediatrician does for crimes against children.”

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Dog's Behavior Tips Family Off to Babysitter's Child Abuse

An alert Charleston, S.C. couple who noticed their dog acting strange and aggressive towards their child's babysitter conducted surreptitious surveillance with their iPhone that resulted in the filing of child abuse charges. Some five months after Benjamin and Hope Jordan had hired Alexis Khan, 22, to babysit their son, Finn, they began to notice that their dog, "Killian," was becoming very protective of the boy when she was around. "He was very aggressive towards her and a few times we actually had to physically restrain our dog from going towards her," Benjamin Jordan told [WCSC-TV](#).



Finn Jordan and "Killian"

Suspicious, they placed an iPhone under the couch and set it to record audio. When they returned home, they were horrified with the sounds of cursing, slapping noises and the child's cries of pain. Charleston police arrested Khan, who pled guilty. She was ordered to serve one to three years in prison and to go on a child abuse registry. Finn was reportedly doing well with no lingering effects from the abuse.

Courtroom Dog Helps Child Sex Assault Survivor Testify

Accompanied by "Oscar," a black Labrador from Michigan's Canine Advocacy Program enlisted by the Muskegon County, Mich. Prosecutor's Office, a 7-year-old girl calmly told District Judge Richard Kloote that Brian Lee Gillespie, 33, had sexually penetrated her on multiple occasions last year. At the [probable-cause hearing](#) on Oct. 16, Kloote ordered Gillespie – who allegedly gave the girl a sexually transmitted disease – bound over for trial. As a second-time habitual offender charged with first-degree sexual criminal sexual conduct with a child, Gillespie could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted.



Brian Lee Gillespie

Animal and Child Sex Abuse Bills Proposed in Australia

A [package of bills](#) introduced into the Queensland Parliament would allow the Australia state's attorney general to appeal cases of animal cruelty, child sex abuse, and would increase penalties for sex trafficking. Attorney General Jarrod Bleijie proposed the measures after he was unable to appeal the sentence handed down by a magistrate who allowed a man to walk free after causing \$24,000 worth of damage during an altercation with another man.



Atty. Gen. Jarrod Bleijie

The proposed changes include the creation of a new offense entitled "serious animal cruelty" with a maximum sentence of seven years, and the imposition of a mandatory one-year jail term for sex offenders who tamper with their GPS tracking bracelets. The measures would also raise from 14 years to 20 years the maximum sentence for procuring a child or person with a mental impairment for prostitution.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Congress “Goes to the Dogs” for Domestic Violence Measure



Rep. Katherine Clark

Congress may have taken a “paws” in advance of the mid-term elections, but that didn’t stop advocates for H.R. 5267 – the PAWS (Pets And Women’s Safety) Act (see [LINK-Letter September 2014](#)) – from doing a little canine-based promotion. In true “bi-paw-tisan” fashion, “Cash,” a coonhound belonging to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen’s chief of staff for, wore a blue backpack while “Maya,” a D.C. shelter alumna owned by Congresswoman Katherine M. Clark’s legislative director, wore a



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

red leash. The dogs visited a dozen legislative offices to drum up support for the bill, which would extend pet protection orders and anti-stalking provisions across state lines and provide federal funding for pet-friendly domestic violence shelters. “If we could do this with all legislation, I think Congress would get more done,” one delighted Hill staffer told the [Roll Call](#) newspaper regarding the pet visits. Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican, and Clark, a Massachusetts Democrat, are co-sponsors of the measure. The National Link Coalition has joined numerous other organizations in endorsing the bill.

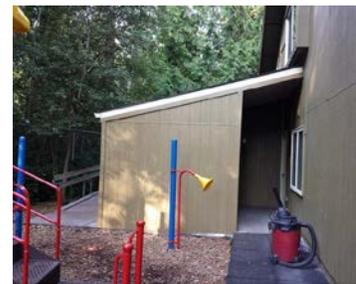
Animal Abuse Histories Found in 41% of Men Who Batter

Expanding on the subject of her master’s thesis, Jeniimarie Febres at the University of Tennessee joined colleagues in Ohio, Texas and Rhode Island to calculate the prevalence of adulthood animal abuse among men convicted of intimate partner violence, and its links with alcohol use and other antisocial behaviors. In a study of 307 domestic violence offenders, 41% had committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18, compared to a 1.5% prevalence rate reported by men in the general population. Animal abuse was seen as a significant association with physical and severe perpetration of intimate partner violence. Obtaining more information about factors relevant to the perpetration of IPV could lead to the development of more effective treatments to prevent recidivism.

-- Febres, J., Brasfield, H., Shorey, R.C., Elmquist, J., et al. (2014). Adulthood animal abuse among men arrested for domestic violence. *Violence Against Women*, 20(9), 1059-1077.

Leadership Group Helps SAF-T Pets Go Indoors

The SAF-T ([Sheltering Animals and Families Together™](#)) program at Monika’s House, the domestic violence shelter for families in Washington County, Ore., got a significant boost in August when 22 volunteers from the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Beaverton program completed an expansion that will allow pets of displaced domestic violence survivors to stay indoors.



The Pet Sanctuary at Monika’s House

Previously, Monika’s House had only five outdoor kennels, and had to turn away residents with pets due to lack of space. The volunteers raised \$16,120 in donations and secured in-kind contributions from Home Depot and elsewhere to build an indoor pet sanctuary that will accommodate four additional dogs plus other pets. The Chamber group logged over 700 hours and built the pet sanctuary in three months.

Founded in 1997, Leadership Beaverton is a 10-month program that helps participants to learn about their community through seminars and service projects, [The Oregonian](#) reported.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Training Monograph Educates Police about the Link



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CHIEFS OF POLICE

Serving the Leaders of Today,
Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

In the last several years, increased recognition that animal cruelty is a serious and violent crime frequently connected to other crimes including family violence has resulted in significant changes in law enforcement training, policies and procedures, and prosecution. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has helped accelerate these changes by publishing three “Training Keys” to help law enforcement officers appreciate the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence.

Following the successful release of Training Keys #392 in 1989 and #526 in 2000, IACP has just published Training Key #689, *Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence: An Update*. Written by Randy Lockwood, the most recent monograph – like its predecessors – is a pithy six-page synopsis of Link case studies; research linking animal cruelty and criminality; implications for preventing juvenile crimes; and animal abuse’s links with child and elder abuse and intimate partner violence.

New to the 2014 Training Key is a description of veterinary forensics, which did not exist when the earlier reports were published. The 2014 monograph also focuses on such new developments in animal cruelty law enforcement as the ASPCA’s pioneering collaboration with the NYPD; animal cruelty task forces launched by police departments nationwide; and national initiatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, the National District Attorneys Association, and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

Training Key #689 will be available shortly for \$3.00 from Vol. 42 of the [IACP Training Key library](#).

“Shyanne’s Law” Would Mandate Mental Health Evaluations

New Jersey State Sen. Jennifer Beck introduced a bill, S-2449, into the Assembly on Oct. 9 that would require convicted adult animal abusers to receive mental health evaluations. Currently, only juvenile offenders in New Jersey receive mental health screenings. The bill is in the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.



Sen. Jennifer Beck

The bill has been dubbed “Shyanne’s Law” in memory of a dog who died from multiple blunt force traumas while in the care of an animal behaviorist who had previously been convicted of animal abuse. “I can think of few things more vile than when a human would bring violence upon an innocent animal,” said Beck (R-Monmouth).

“Often, acts of animal cruelty are not just symptomatic of a personality quirk. Such behavior is often telling of a serious psychological issue that poses a greater threat to society. This bill will allow us to punish those who would hurt animals as well as prevent potential violence upon humans that could evolve from pattern acts of animal cruelty.”

“Game-Changer” High-Tech App Unveiled to Report Abuse

The reporting of animal cruelty and other Link crimes just received a high-tech boost with the unveiling by the National Sheriffs’ Association of its new, free ICE Blackbox app. The application for smartphones



allows users to stream videos of animals being abused in real-time to the NSA’s control center, where they will then be forwarded to appropriate local law enforcement officers who are responsible for enforcing animal abuse laws in that jurisdiction.

The goal of the app, which turns smartphones into surveillance cameras, is not to just help animals who have been abused, but also to help anyone who has felt victimized to stop the crime. Relying on statistics demonstrating that a high percentage of animal abusers will commit another violent crime, John Thompson, NSA Interim Executive Director, [told reporters](#), “When you go to a house for an animal abuse complaint, you can almost bet that something else is going on there. We think this is a game changer. It’s going to protect communities all across the United States.”

The app is designed in such a way that sending a video of animal maltreatment to “the cloud” means that even if the phone is confiscated or destroyed, the photographic evidence will still be there. Videos will be sent in brief segments so the user doesn’t have to spend time waiting for them to be uploaded. The app features a disclaimer alerting users that it is illegal for them to trespass or obtain the videos in any way that would break any laws. The app is not meant to replace calling police or 911 directly in a real emergency.

“We are asking citizens to get involved and be part of the eyes and ears for law enforcement to help root out this violence and cruelty from their communities,” Michael Markarian of the Humane Society of the U.S., which helped develop the app, told [WJLA-TV](#).

BUILDING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK

Frank Ascione Addresses The Link in Australian Indigenous Communities

Link pioneer Dr. Frank R. Ascione returned to the field of presenting trainings about the intersections of animal abuse and human violence with a presentation on Sept. 23 at the 10th anniversary AMRRIC One Health conference in Darwin, Australia.



Ascione, a scholar in residence at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver, gave three presentations on “Animal Abuse and Psychopathology: Conduct Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder,” “Animal Abuse and Its Relation to Intimate Partner Violence,” and “Societal Responses to Emerging Research on Animal Abuse.” [Video podcasts of his presentations](#) are available online. Ascione was invited to return to the conference on Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities, where he had lectured several years previously.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... ELDER ABUSE

Mandated Elder Abuse Reporting Enacted in Colorado

Many Link-related healthcare, social services and law enforcement professionals in Colorado are now mandated to report suspected abuse of elders and vulnerable adults under legislation effective July 1. Under the new statute (C.R.S. 26-3.1-102), actual or suspected mistreatment, neglect or exploitation must be made to county departments within 24 hours. The new law also allows any other person to make such a report within 24 hours. Reports made in good faith are immune from civil and criminal liability.



The list of mandated reporters includes physicians, dentists, occupational and physical therapists, nurses, EMTs, hospital and long-term care employees, mental health professionals, social workers, law enforcement personnel, court-appointed guardians, fire protection personnel, community-centered board staff, bankers, and employees and volunteers of care facilities and home health care agencies.

Challenges of Prosecuting Animal Hoarding in Canada Examined

In a 2012 [research paper prepared at Michigan State University College of Law](#), Kathryn M. Campbell examined the impact of animal hoarding on the animals, the psychological implications of this behavior, and Canadian prosecutors' legal challenges. She noted that there are human as well as animal victims.

She reviewed psychological disorders linked with animal hoarding, including obsessive compulsive personality disorder, addictions-based models, delusional disorder, dementia, borderline personality disorder, and attachment disorder. Hoarders commonly express consistent justifications for their actions, including denial, a "good Samaritan" strategy, posing as a rescue organization, and blaming "the system."



Declaring Canadian laws dating from 1892 to protect animals "woefully insubstantial," Campbell called the need to prove "wilful" intent "a real and significant barrier to prosecuting cases of animal cruelty in this country." Repeated efforts to have Parliament replace "wilful neglect" with a negligence standard and introduce the idea of recklessness when causing unnecessary pain, suffering or injury have failed.

"The current lack of a negligence standard is particularly problematic for prosecuting animal hoarders," she wrote. Animal hoarders are generally not willful or malicious in their neglect of the animals in their care, but rather are motivated by altruism, love of animals or mental health issues. Meanwhile, the criminal justice system is only one means of addressing this complex and disturbing problem, she wrote, and there is no specific Canadian law addressing animal hoarding.

Campbell cited Canadian case law, California and Illinois means of prosecution, and ASPCA estimates of animal hoarding. However, "Given the inherent difficulty in addressing animal cruelty more generally in Canada, the outlook for addressing animal hoarding is somewhat bleak. Such cases fall between the cracks of multiple jurisdictions. Early rationales offered for not intervening was that it was a 'lifestyle' choice and not a public health or mental health issue. There is now a greater recognition that this issue has mental health implications with concomitant implications for animal welfare that require a coordination of services from law enforcement, animal protection and mental health professionals."

-- Campbell, K.M. (2012) *The Paradox of Animal Hoarding and The Limits of Canadian Criminal Law*.
East Lansing: Michigan State University College of Law.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND HUMAN HEALTH

Albert Schweitzer Fellow Addresses The Link



Colleen Shockling Dent

Dent, a 3rd year veterinary student, is devoting her Fellowship to The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence.

Established in 1991, the [Albert Schweitzer Fellowship](#) supports 250 health-focused graduate students at American universities each year through an extensive service-learning experience. Creating a corps of leaders who carry forward the legacy of the Nobel Prize-winning physician-humanitarian, Fellows conduct 200-hour direct service projects that address clinical health issues and the social determinants of health among underserved people.

At The Ohio State University, Albert Schweitzer Fellows are participating in this multi-disciplinary program in the colleges of medicine, dentistry, optometry, nursing, public health, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. While Fellows in the human medical disciplines are aiding Somali refugees, conducting vision screenings and educating the homeless about healthy diets, Colleen Shockling

Her program is comprised of three components. An educational outreach campaign is training other veterinary students, alumni and others in the veterinary field about The Link. Through this effort, National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow presented three lectures at OSU on Sept. 30 to the Human-Animal Bond Club, the veterinary forensics class, and a public lecture on “Breaking the Chain of Violence.”

A second component brings Dent and her therapy Great Dane/Lab mix, “Zephyr,” twice a week to the CHOICES domestic violence shelter. The third part involves work with [Safe Haven](#), the Capital Area Humane Society’s 90-day foster care housing program for families in the CHOICES program.

“Domestic violence and animal abuse are despicable to me,” says Dent. “The more people I talk to about it, the more they say that The Link makes sense but they hadn’t thought about it before.” The National Link Coalition salutes Dent for spreading the word and helping more people to understand how animal abuse and human violence are linked.

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS



KC-CAN Can Do It... With a New Logo

Our Link coalition in the greater Kansas City metro area, KC-CAN (Caring for All Network) has come up with one of the most innovative logos we’ve ever seen. It depicts the linkages between animal abuse and various forms of interpersonal violence in a very novel way, and recognizes that prevention of family violence is literally in our hands. Congratulations, team!

NM Coalition Learns About The Link in Indian Country

Violence prevention advocates working in both humane and human services confront serious challenges in gaining progress on tribal lands, Diana Webster, President and Founder of the [Native America Humane Society](#), told participants at the [2014 New Mexico Conference on The Link](#). She sees identifying and addressing violence against animals in tribal communities as a key way to protect native women.



Native American women, once revered in their communities, today lead lives marked by illness, early death and domestic violence. Alcoholism, divorce, early mortality, depression, and suicide are endemic. American Indian and Alaska Native women experience the nation's highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault, at 23.2 per 1,000, compared with 8/1,000 among whites.

Native American children experience double the rate of abuse and neglect of white children, and are 2.5 times more likely to commit suicide. "Not every tribe with a casino is wealthy," Webster said: 30% of Native Americans live below the poverty level. Resources to control animal populations or provide basic care and vaccinations are lacking. The incidence of dog bites requiring hospitalization is twice that of the general population, and stray animals present ongoing public health and safety issues.



Diana Webster

Meanwhile, most reservations are severely under-resourced. Out of 566 federally-recognized tribes and 325 Indian reservations in the U.S., only one (Navajo Nation) has a tribal veterinarian. There is only one domestic violence shelter – and no shelters for juveniles – in Alaska's 229 federally-recognized native villages, said Webster, a California attorney and an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe of northern Minnesota.

Governmental policies of neglect, community acceptance of violence, complex jurisdictional issues, rural locations, and competing social problems are conspiring to make improvements difficult.

Despite these setbacks, Webster is optimistic that progress will be made. The 2014 Indian Law and Order Commission set a goal of ending public safety gaps that make tribal lands "frequently less safe and dramatically more dangerous than the rest of our country," she said. The Commission recommended respecting and reinforcing the power of locally-based tribal criminal justice systems to protect all residents within tribes' borders by achieving parity with other U.S. court systems.

Webster proposed an ambitious agenda of establishing zero-tolerance policies for animal abuse on tribal lands; consulting with tribal elders about traditional values toward animals; using storytelling to reach children and the community at large; setting up toll-free animal abuse hotlines; engaging the community in animal rescue and rehabilitation; and sharing knowledge among the tribes.

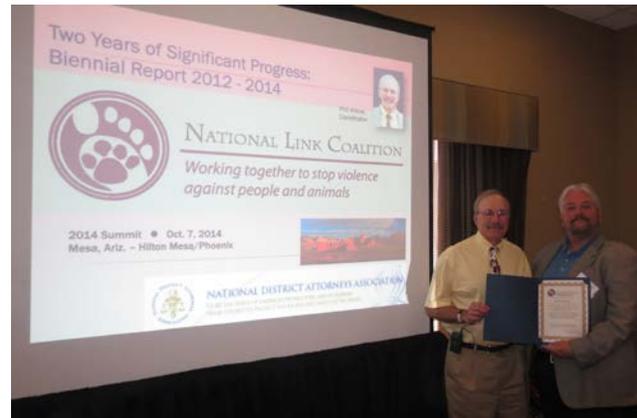
Participation by Native Americans at the Albuquerque Link conference was at its highest levels in a decade, and Webster plans to present on animal therapy for victims of violence at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute's [Tribal Nations Conference](#) in December.

"We can heal our communities by healing our animals," she said. "We are not the only communities to suffer from violence in our families and against our animals. But by working together, we can be an inspiration to other communities around the world."

National Link Coalition Steering Committee Convenes



The National Link Coalition's Steering Committee gathered in Mesa, Ariz. in October for our biennial Summit. It's the one chance we have to meet face-to-face and help set a path forward for the next two years. As in 2012, we coordinated our meeting in conjunction with another national organization. Our thanks go out to the National District Attorneys Association for helping coordinate the logistics and for placing several of our members on the training program for the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse (*see pp. 1-5*). And our deep appreciation also goes out to the Latham Foundation for underwriting the costs.



Above, the Steering Committee gathered for a group photo. At right, NLC Coordinator Phil Arkow (left) presented a certificate of appreciation to John Thompson of the National Sheriffs Association for steering the new procedure – by which animal cruelty will finally be listed as a crime in 18,000 police Uniform Crime Reports – through the FBI.

THE LINK... IN THE LITERATURE

Risk Factors for the Development of Animal Cruelty

This article, adapted from Gullone's 2012 book, *Animal Cruelty, Antisocial Behaviour and Aggression: More than a Link*, provides an extensive review of the literature describing risk factors for animal cruelty and the pathways by which individuals acquire and develop behaviors of violence against animals. These include: temperamental predisposition; age; gender; witnessing violence and animal cruelty; bullying; family and parenting experiences, particularly in "risky" families; displacement of aggression; and an environment sympathetic to antisocial behaviors. Gullone discusses a "vicarious learning theory," in which witnessing animal abuse is more significant if the model has a meaningful relationship with the observer; and a "hostile attribution bias," in which children attribute hostile intentions in response to such ambiguous stimuli and dogs' facial expressions and body language. She describes risk factors for animal abuse as being identical to those triggering other antisocial and aggressive behaviors, and posits that "legalized aggression" such as hunting, fishing, rodeos, and the media are strong influencers of young persons' developing cognitive structures and consequent behaviors. Contradictions and inconsistencies in how different species are regarded may be barriers to children's development of empathy and compassion.

-- Gullone, E. (2014). Risk factors for the development of animal cruelty. *Journal of Animal Ethics*, 4(2), 61-79.

Child Protection Workers' Response to Animal Cruelty

The purpose of this study was to investigate the frequency with which child protection workers in Ontario, Canada, seek information about animal cruelty during investigations of child maltreatment and the extent to which they consider information about animal cruelty when making decisions about whether intervention is required. 45% of the workers had directly observed children harming animals during investigative visits over the previous year and 28% had observed adult caretakers physically harming animals. Most indicated that such observed behaviors happened rarely. 94% had seen evidence of animal neglect. 44% had observed evidence that an animal had been physically abused. About two-thirds witnessed animals behaving in a physically aggressive manner towards people. However, only 23% reported that they usually reported animal cruelty to appropriate authorities. Further, most of the respondents did not routinely ask questions to determine whether or not children had engaged in or witnessed animal cruelty.

-- Girardi, A., & Pozzulo, J.D. (2012). *The significance of animal cruelty in child protection investigations. Social Work Research, 36(4), 53-60.*

Children's Animal Cruelty and Later Delinquency

This study assessed the correlation between self-reported delinquency and empathy and cruelty toward animals, taking into account personal background, personality characteristics, and social context. Surveying more than 3,600 pupils in 7th, 8th and 9th grades, the lifetime prevalence of animal cruelty in Swiss teenagers was found to be 12%. Asked how they feel about people hurting animals, 2.4% answered animals deserve it or it is fun. Animal cruelty was correlated to various forms of offending. Youth who admitted having maltreated animals had a higher likelihood of committing vandalism and serious violent acts. The correlation was weaker for minor violence and nonviolent offenses, such as serious property offenses and shoplifting. Boys were more likely than girls to be animal abusers. The odds of correlation were highest for offenses having a component of anger.

-- Lucia, S., & Killias, M. (2011). *Is animal cruelty a marker of interpersonal violence and delinquency? Results of a Swiss National Self-Report study. Psychology of Violence, 1(2), 93-105.*

Animal Abuse as a Form of Emotional Blackmail in Domestic Violence

The lead article in the current *Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly* journal is what editor Mo Therese Hannah calls "one of the more shocking but little-understood forms of interpersonal violence," one which is frequently "overlooked by family members and even clinicians who are less familiar with the more hidden ways in which abusers intimidate and threaten their victims." National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow's article describes how animal abuse or threats are an indirect means of manipulating, intimidating and retaliating in domestic violence situations – a situation he calls "emotional blackmail." The journal editor adds, "Advocates and others providing support for DV victims urgently need to understand this especially sinister form of intimate partner violence."

--Arkow, P. (2014). *Form of emotional blackmail: Animal abuse as a risk factor for domestic violence. Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly, 7(1), 7-13.*

Animal-assisted Therapy with Sexually Abused Children

This study evaluated and compared the effectiveness of three group interventions on trauma symptoms for 153 children aged 7 to 17 at a Child Advocacy Center who had been sexually abused, with two groups incorporating variations of animal-assisted therapy. Children in the groups that included therapy dogs showed significant decreases in trauma symptoms including anxiety, depression, anger, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociation, and sexual concerns..

-- Dietz, T.J., Davis, B., & Pennings, J. (2012). Evaluating animal-assisted therapy in group treatment for child sexual abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 21*(6), 665-683.

Animal, Sexual, and Physical Abuse in Military Veteran Populations

This study assessed the prevalence and impact of trauma events, including trauma involving animals, among male and female veterans. High rates of exposure to at least one trauma event were reported by males (95%) and females (97%). Females were more likely to report sexual and physical abuse by a significant other. Both genders experienced higher trauma rates in the military than in civilian settings. A survey of animal-related experiences showed similar rates of losing a special pet, being frightened or hurt by an animal, witnessing or perpetrating violence toward animals, and having sexual interactions with animals. Almost one-third of the veterans showed evidence of PTSD symptoms. Screening for traumas could identify veterans in need of further evaluation and treatment.

-- Baker, D.G., Boat, B.W., Grinvalsky, H.T., & Geraciotti, T.D. (1998). Interpersonal trauma and animal-related experiences in female and male military veterans: Implications for program development. *Military Medicine, 163*(1), 20-25.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Bills We're Watching:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



H.R. 5267 – the Pets And Women’s Safety (PAWS) Act – would expand existing federal domestic violence protections to include pets of domestic violence victims. It would prohibit crossing state lines to harm a domestic partner’s pet, and establish a federal grant program to provide assistance and housing to victims’ pets in need of emergency shelter.



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 Committee on Families, Children and Seniors. 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 and went to 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.

Reporting and Cross-Reporting



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 by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Oct. 1 and is awaiting action by the Committee of the Whole.

 **New Jersey SB 736** and a newer version, **AB 3596** 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 bills are in the Senate Judiciary and Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees.

 **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 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.

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.

Interventions for Animal Abuse Offenders



New Jersey S-2449, “Shyanne’s Law,” would require convicted adult animal abusers to receive mental health evaluations. Currently, only juvenile offenders receive mental health screenings. The bill is in the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS



Thomas Joseph Murphy

White Supremacist Gets 248 years for Assault and Animal Cruelty

A self-proclaimed white supremacist convicted on 16 counts in the 2009 kidnapping, assault and battery of three women, animal cruelty and dissuading a witness was sentenced on Oct. 2 to 248 years-to-life in prison. Thomas Joseph Murphy, 46, of Crestline, Calif., had been searching for his girlfriend when he forced a woman into her house and threatened to kill her and four other people if they tried to leave, the [San Bernardino Sun](#) reported. When one woman tried to escape, Murphy beat her and another woman who came to her aid with a hammer. One woman eventually escaped and police captured Murphy the next day after a 100-mph high-speed chase, during which he slammed into several vehicles and eventually jumped out of the vehicle. Murphy had also threatened his girlfriend and her child by putting a rope around her dog’s neck and hanging it from a second-floor banister, where it died. During a motion for a new trial, it was revealed that Murphy is now engaged to convicted murderer Carmen Montelongo, who was sentenced in September to 26 years-to-life for cutting her boyfriend into pieces. Montelongo had been caught while moving some of her boyfriend’s remains in a trashcan down a residential street in Ontario, Calif.; the man’s head and arms were later found in potted plants in Bell Gardens, while his torso and legs, showing evidence of having been stabbed 24 times, were found buried at her residence.

Couple Sentenced to Life for Animal Cruelty, Child Pornography

A court in The Philippines convicted Vicente and Dorma Ridon on charges of child abuse, animal welfare crimes, human trafficking, and wildlife protection violations for forcing young girls to torture and kill puppies, rabbits and other animals in “fetish” videos. The Ridons were sentenced to life imprisonment and each fined 9,000,000 pesos (approximately \$200,000 \$US) on Sept. 29, [according to CNN](#). The videos reportedly featured scantily clad girls, one of whom was only 12 at the time, skinning a dog alive and burning another with a clothes iron, cutting off rabbits’ ears and setting rabbits on fire while they flailed and screamed, hitting a monkey in the eye with the sharp end of a stiletto heel, and crushing puppies until they vomited their own internal organs. Purchasers of the videos, believed to be sexual fetishists in Australia, France, Korea, Malaysia, the U.S., and the U.K., are also subject to being charged.

Child Porn Suspect Said to Enjoy Sex with Stuffed Animals, Animal Torture



FBI agents on Long Island, New York, arrested Christopher Grief, 25, on Sept. 24 on child pornography charges for allegedly posting numerous files containing pornographic photos of children on an online bulletin board. The New York [Daily News](#) reported that Grief allegedly also chatted about torturing children, made a video about mutilating and torturing a rat, and told FBI agents that he liked to have sex with stuffed animals.

“Psychopathic” Pit Bulls’ Owner Gets Life Term in Fatal Dog Attack



Alex Jackson (right) and his attorney

The owner of four pit bulls that mauled a woman to death was sentenced to 15 years-to-life in a California state prison on Oct. 3. Alex Jackson, 31, whom a prosecutor said “has a nearly psychopathic disregard for the lives and well-being of others,” had been convicted in August of second-degree murder in the May 2013 death of Pamela Devitt, 63. Devitt suffered up to 200 puncture wounds and nearly all of her hair was gone and her skull was exposed by the attack which occurred while she was taking her daily walk in her Littlerock neighborhood, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reported. Prosecutors alleged that Jackson was not just negligent but showed a conscious disregard and knew that his animals could endanger someone’s life, in that they had been involved in at least seven other incidents in the 18 months prior to the Devitt fatality. A jury also found Jackson guilty of possession and cultivation of marijuana.

Student Charged in Death of Mother and Three Dogs

A student home for the weekend from the University of California at Santa Cruz has been charged with homicide and three counts of cruelly wounding an animal after allegedly stabbing his mother with a pair of scissors and killing the family’s three Chihuahuas. Hayward, Calif. police charged Joseph Badiali, 20, with the Oct. 4 death of Rosemary Badiali, 57, [according to KNTV](#). Rosemary Badiali’s 92-year-old mother reportedly found her daughter’s body with multiple stab wounds to her head. Police found the three dead dogs in the back yard. All appeared to have suffered severe trauma, police said.



Joseph Badiali



Kevin Davis

Teen with History of Bestiality Kills and Rapes His Dead Mother

A youth who reportedly told detectives that he had once choked and drowned a cat and then performed a sexual act with its remains admitted to killing and then raping his mother. Kevin Davis, 18, of Corpus Christi, Texas, pled guilty to killing his mother, Kimberly Hill, last March 27. On Oct. 8, jurors sentenced him to life in prison after watching a chilling confession videotape of how he tried to strangle her with a power cord from a video game console, [KZTV reported](#). Because she was screaming, he grabbed a hammer and struck her several times in the back of her head. He then told police he put his hand inside the open wound to move her brain around to ensure she was dead, and then had sexual intercourse with her corpse. “Guess I lost my virginity to a dead corpse,” Davis said to detectives. He also described a fantasy of dressing in a suit, decapitating a girl, putting her in a dress, and having sex with her corpse.

Man Charged with Assault in Stabbing Over Theft of Pig

A Winfield, Mo. man was charged with felony assault for allegedly stabbing his neighbor 23 times with a screwdriver over the theft of a pig. Lincoln County sheriff’s deputies responding to a domestic disturbance call on Oct. 6 said the unnamed victim and his roommates believed Joshua Alan Finke was involved with the disappearance of the 200-pound animal. When they confronted him, Finke stabbed the victim in the head and back, [KDVR-TV](#) reported. Finke was being held on \$100,000 bond and the pig had not been located.



Police Officer Gets Year in Jail for Killing Girlfriend's Dog



Alec Taylor

A Baltimore, Md. city police officer who had been charged with felony and misdemeanor animal abuse for beating a seven-month-old puppy with a mop and choking it to death with his hands – and then texting a photo of the dog's body and the details of the incident to his girlfriend ([see LINK-Letter April 2014](#)) received a one-year jail term on Oct. 8. Montgomery County Circuit Judge Richard E. Jordan sentenced Alec Taylor, 28, of Silver Spring, who had been a five-year veteran of the force prior to being suspended over the incident. "Your actions were cruel, callous, and without any apparent regret," said Jordan, in exceeding the suggested range of no jail time to three months. "It's absolutely disgusting what you did." According to the [Washington Post](#), Jordan was alarmed by a series of text messages Taylor sent to his girlfriend before and after killing "Rocco," a Jack Russell terrier the two of them shared, because he was tired of it soiling the carpet.

Man Charged with Stabbing Two Veterinarians Over Dead Cat

A Washington State man, distraught over the death of his cat, was arrested Oct. 9 on assault and weapons charges after he allegedly attacked employees at two Bellingham veterinary clinics whom he blamed for his pet's demise. Charles Anthony Smith, 57, allegedly held the veterinarians responsible for the deteriorating health and eventual death of his beloved cat. [Police say](#) Smith wielded a kitchen knife and attacked a female veterinarian at Maplewood Animal Hospital: she suffered a cut to her hand as she fled. Smith then reportedly drove to Fountain Veterinary Hospital where he allegedly stabbed a second veterinarian in the neck. Both practitioners were treated for non-life threatening injuries. The Whatcom Humane Society removed Smith's three other cats and seven parakeets from his RV home.

Burned Dog Recovering After Domestic Violence Retaliation

A 1½-year-old pit bull named "Moon" is recovering in a Hollywood, Fla. veterinary hospital with 2nd-degree burns over 40% of her body after she was apparently victimized in a retaliatory domestic violence dispute. Broward County Sheriff's deputies said that Alain Leclerc Williams, 27, had texted his ex-girlfriend, Mariya Facca, that he had poured hot, boiling water on the dog to get back at her for breaking up with him. [WFOR-TV in Miami](#) reported that Williams was in jail under an \$86,000 bond, charged with battery on a police officer, criminal mischief, and tormenting, depriving and mutilating an animal. "When the cops came to get [Williams] out, 'cause he was barricaded, they took him out, arrested him, they told me to come inside and in get the dog," Facca told reporters. "You couldn't even breathe in there. You just smelled flesh."



"Moon" is recovering in a veterinary hospital



Jason A. Bellamy

Alleged Puppy Batterer Charged with Attempted Murder

Jason Anthony Bellamy, 35, of Longs, S.C., was charged with two counts of attempted murder on Oct 15 for allegedly stabbing two of his neighbors for no apparent reason while sitting on a porch. Another neighborhood resident told police that earlier in the day Bellamy had thrown his puppy to the ground, killing it. The [Myrtle Beach Sun News](#) reported that the two neighbors were being treated for multiple stab wounds.

Habitual Offender Arrested for Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse



Larry Butler

A fourth-offense habitual offender has been charged with torturing an animal, assault by strangulation, resisting arrest, and two counts of domestic violence for allegedly throwing a dog named “Coco” against a wall during a fight with his girlfriend, in front of her children. Byron Township, Mich. police arrested Larry Butler, 36, on Oct. 7, following another domestic incident, on charges stemming from several incidents dating to last March, the [Grand Rapids Press](#) reported. Butler was released from prison in 2009 following felony firearms, armed robbery and assault convictions.

Woman Charged with Having Sex with 3-Year-Old Boy and Dog

Sheriff’s deputies in Jefferson Parish, La., arrested Angeline Lodice, 26, on Oct. 27 after she was allegedly caught on tape sexually abusing a 3-year-old boy and having sex with a dog. One of her relatives reached out to the boy’s father after receiving photos and videos of the sexual encounter, according to the [Times-Picayune](#). Lodice reportedly told police that she was the woman in the videos but that she did not remember the incidents because she was drugged and that she does not know either the dog or the boy. She was charged with child pornography, aggravated rape of a juvenile, sexual battery, and “crimes against nature.” If convicted she could face a mandatory life sentence.



Angeline Lodice

Drug and Animal Fighting Charges Filed in Tennessee Dogfighting Raids



Mark Heatherly

Mark Heatherly, 47, of Sevierville, Tenn., was charged with two counts of dog fighting and additional charges for possession of marijuana and hydrocodone after a dogfighting raid freed 50 pitbulls with scars consistent with dogfight injuries. [WBIR-TV reported](#) that his wife, Kimberly Heatherly, 45, and son Jacob, were also charged with conspiracy to commit dogfighting. Earlier this year, a federal grand jury indicted Nashville resident Michael A. Davis, 34, on 27 felony and three misdemeanor charges in conjunction with a large-scale heroin and cocaine trafficking bust: when dogs and evidence of dogfighting were discovered at his home during the arrest, authorities went back in 10 days later and seized 38 dogs, many of which had scars and open wounds. [WKRN-TV reported](#) the second raid also netted treadmills, syringes and other items typically used to train dogs to fight, and \$234,000 in cash stashed in a bag in the woods behind the home. Said Sevier County Sheriff’s Office Chief Deputy Michael Hodges following the Sevierville bust: “When you see a piece of property that has 42 adult dogs chained up using a car axle to secure the chain in the ground, they’re probably not raising pets.”



Michael A. Davis

Drug Raid Nets Eight Counts of Animal Cruelty

Sheriff’s deputies executing a search warrant in Seneca County, N.Y. also charged two people on four counts each of animal cruelty. Bobbie Rowland, 33, and Kyle Craig, 23 were arrested after deputies found four dogs in poor health and other conditions that could have been prevented with basic veterinary care. Craig was also charged with selling marijuana. The four dogs were examined by veterinarians at Cornell University, according to [Rochester-area news sources](#).

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 12 – Blacksburg, Va.: The Virginia Attorney General’s [Law Enforcement Conference on Combating Animal Fighting](#) offers CE training credits for law enforcement, attorneys and veterinarians.

Nov. 13 – Oklahoma City, Okla.: The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will meet at OSU-OKC.

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. 18 – Livonia, Mich.: [Maya Gupta](#) will close out the Madonna University’s 2014 Speakers Series with a program on “Recognizing and Responding to The Link between Animal Cruelty and Family Violence.”

Nov. 18 – Dover, Del.: Phil Arkow will discuss the role of veterinary personnel regarding animal abuse and interpersonal violence, and Rob Reisman will discuss animal abuse forensics and pathology, at the [Delaware Veterinary Medical Association’s](#) Winter CE Conference.

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 – San Antonio, Texas: Phil Arkow will present on Animal Abuse, Hoarding and the Elderly, and Animal-Assisted Interventions with the Elderly, at the 31st Annual [Adult Protective Services 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.

Nov. 21 – Phoenix, Md.: The Baltimore County and Maryland State’s Attorneys Associations’ Animal Abuse Leadership Summit will include Link presentations by John Thompson, Maya Gupta, Mary Lou Randour, and Ann Gearhart. [Registration](#) is free for the all-day event.

Dec. 11 – (online): Lora Dunn will present a free webinar on “Ethical Issues when Working on Animal Cruelty Cases,” 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.

Dec. 11-13 – Agua Caliente Reservation, Palm Springs, Calif.: Diane Webster will present on the use of therapy animals with victims of violence at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute’s [Tribal Nations Conference](#).

Feb. 19-22, 2015 – Columbus, Ohio: Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM, will present on animal sexual abuse and case reports of non-accidental injury and animal hoarding at the [Midwest Veterinary Conference](#).

Feb. 25, 2015 – Staunton, Va.: Allie Phillips will present on “How the Abuse of Animals Harms Children” at the 15th Annual [Shenandoah Valley Multidisciplinary Conference](#).



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
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,
The Latham Foundation
Stratford, N.J.

Lesley Ashworth

Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund
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