



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence against people and animals*

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 8, No. 3 March, 2015**

*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... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

### **Kentucky Considers Pet Protection Orders**



The Commonwealth of Kentucky is the latest state to consider legislative action that would allow courts to include pets in emergency or permanent protection-from-abuse orders in cases of domestic violence. House Bill 216 was introduced on Feb. 3 by Rep. Joni Jenkins and is currently in the House Judiciary Committee.

**Rep. Joni L. Jenkins**

The law, if enacted, would allow courts that determine that a petitioner's allegations indicate the presence of an immediate and present danger of domestic violence and abuse to issue a protection order that directs the care, custody or control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept or held as a pet by either party or by a child residing in the home. Livestock, which are included in PPO laws in some states, would not be covered under the proposed Kentucky legislation.

A similar bill was introduced in Kentucky in 2013 but failed. Currently, 28 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have enacted statutes extending domestic violence protection orders to family animals.

### **Video Describes British Pet Fostering Program**

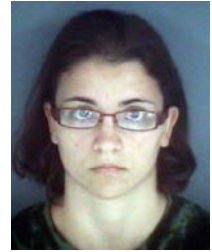
The United Kingdom's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has produced a 9-minute video describing its pioneering PetRetreat program which has cared for more than 1,200 animals belonging to 800 families since 2002. The video features survivors, RSPCA inspectors and directors, and pet fosterers providing first-hand accounts of their work. The service provides a retreat for pets whose human family members are going into domestic violence refuges until they have a safe place where they can live and be reunited with their animals. The PetRetreat program has also produced several guidebooks for survivors. The video and booklets are available at the RSPCA [PetRetreat website](#).



## *THE LINK AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE*

### Teen Girls Charged in Animal Cruelty, Sex Abuse Cases Draw Link Response

The potential for juvenile animal cruelty offenders to escalate into interpersonal violence in adulthood was the focus of a response to a dramatic incident in Orange Park, Fla. in which two teenage girls allegedly abused and killed a threatened species of gopher tortoise last July and boasted about it in a video they posted online.



Jennifer Greene

[WJXT-TV reported](#) that the girls posted a cellphone video on Facebook of the tortoise being lit on fire, thrown on the concrete and being stomped on until it died. The girls were heard laughing and saying “Let’s light his head on fire,” “Burn baby, burn baby,” and “Ugh, I just want him to die.”

Lynn Wadelton, a local mental health expert, told the station that incidents like these among teenagers demonstrate a lack of empathy and conduct disorder, often stemming from adverse childhood experiences.

The Clay County Humane Society issued a statement: “Animal abuse is a key indicator of future violence towards human beings. These acts of cruelty typically escalate to future abuse of animals and people. It is vital that anyone who learns of violence towards animals contact the police immediately. We commend the young people who saw this animal abuse online and alerted the Clay County Sheriff’s Office to help prevent future crimes like this one.”

The investigation led authorities to charge the older girl, Jennifer Eموke Greene, 18, and her unnamed 15-year-old friend with animal cruelty and killing a threatened species. The investigation also led authorities to charge Greene with lewd and lascivious battery for a game of hide-and-seek that turned into a sexual encounter with a boy, the [Florida Times-Union reported](#). The younger girl’s case was being handled in juvenile court.

### Japanese Animal Abuse Hotline Reports Figures

Growing awareness of how animal abuse often serves as an indicator and predictor of crimes against humans prompted the Hyogo Prefectural Police in Japan to inaugurate a telephone hotline in January, 2014, where the public could report suspected animal abuse (See [LINK-Letter, March 2014](#)). The department recently compiled statistics from its first full year of operation. There were 194 calls to the hotline in 2014, including 57 calls from outside the prefecture, which is the area around Kobe. The department [reported](#) one particular case in which two minors who shot cats with airguns were taken into custody.



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)). Please tell us what organization(s) you’re with and where you’re located.

## BUILDING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK



### New Pet Magazine Debuts, to Feature Link Articles

A new monthly pet-themed digital magazine and website are helping to build awareness of animal abuse's links with human violence in the area around Myrtle Beach, S. Car. Elizabeth Harris launched *Grand Strand Pet Magazine* on March 1 to complement her [website](#), promoted as the ultimate guide for animals in Horry and Georgetown Counties. Regular news features from the National Link Coalition and other sources will help educate the public about animal cruelty.

### Domestic Violence Coalition Educating About The Link

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which recently debuted [domesticshelters.org](http://domesticshelters.org), an entire website dedicated to helping survivors find safehousing for their pets, has undertaken an awareness campaign to alert the field to the animal abuse-domestic violence Link. A weekly e-mail blast to NCADV's members on Feb. 4 addressed "Safety Planning for Pets" with an extensive article called "[No Four-Legged Family Member Left Behind](#)" that appeared on the home page of the [domesticshelters.org](http://domesticshelters.org) website ([See LINK-Letter, September 2014](#)).



The article cited statistics and how animal abuse is part of the "power-and-control wheel" of dynamics that batterers use to intimidate their victims. The article encouraged domestic violence survivors to include pets in their safety plans and guided them to find pet-friendly domestic violence shelters.

### Visual Representations of The Link

The concepts behind The Link are intuitively simple, but trying to put them into words can be devilishly difficult. In addition to our standard Venn diagram showing how the four types of family violence are intertwined, we have also come up with some other ways to help visualize The Link. Over the next few months we'll share these with you to help you better present this topic to your colleagues.

This month we look at The Link as part of the intergenerational cycle of violence impacting children in homes marked by domestic violence.



## ***ANIMAL ABUSE AND... HUMAN HEALTH***

### **Cross-Training Opportunities in Human Medicine**

The “One Health” movement has been growing over the past few years to help bridge the gaps between veterinary and human medicine. One Health programs are expanding the usual interdisciplinary focus on such issues as zoonotic diseases, epidemiology and comparative anatomy to look at issues affecting the human-animal bond, including the prevention of animal abuse and human violence.

One potential opportunity for furthering professional awareness in this area may lie in various states’ requirements for Continuing Medical Education. For example, Connecticut requires physicians to take two classes on sexual assault and domestic violence in order to renew their licenses, and the National Link Coalition has presented training on animal abuse as a domestic violence indicator and predictor to meet this requirement.

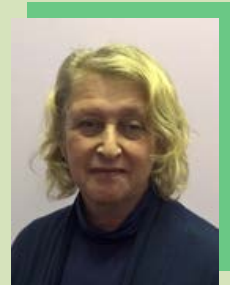
Kentucky and Florida also require CME training on domestic violence. Iowa requires CME on child abuse. Iowa requires CME on identifying and reporting suspected child and dependent adult abuse. Remarkably, 45 states do not yet require a class on interpersonal violence.

Similarly, CE requirements for nurses may present opportunities to sensitize and train professionals about the Link. Of the 12 states that require CE courses for nursing licensure renewal, only four include interpersonal violence: Florida (domestic violence), Kentucky (pediatric abusive head trauma), New York (child abuse and maltreatment), and Texas (elder abuse and sexual assault). Eight jurisdictions (Delaware, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico) require CEs for nursing licensure renewals but do not mention interpersonal violence.

Training on interspecies violence as it impacts interpersonal violence would seem to be an opportunity for engaging the medical community in The Link.

### **Eve Pearl Joins National Link Coalition Steering Committee**

The National Link Coalition is pleased to announce the appointment of Eve S. Pearl, Executive Director of the [Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio](#), to serve on our Steering Committee. Pearl has been with the Council since 1980 following a career as an elementary school teacher, enrichment specialist and staff development coordinator in Cincinnati schools. She has served as a federal grant reviewer for the Children’s Bureau, Administration on Children Youth & Families. She has taught in the University of Cincinnati’s College of Education Division of Criminal Justice. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University and holds a Master’s of Education degree from the University of Cincinnati. She is a certified trainer in child abuse prevention for preschool teachers and daycare providers. She has served on the Prevent Child Abuse Ohio Advisory Board and the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Advocacy Center. She currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Hamilton County Violence Prevention Project.



Pearl received the Greater Cincinnati Convention & Visitors Bureau’s *Spirit of Achievement Award* for her role in having Cincinnati selected as the host city for the 12<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in 1998. She has also received recognition from the Boys and Girls Club of America for her consulting work with “Project Key” and was named one of six new Outstanding Teachers in 1972 by Cincinnati Public Schools.

## NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

### Link Coalition Launched in Columbia, Mo.

The latest community Link coalition to organize is the Animal Welfare Law Enforcement Committee in Boone County, Mo. The group was initiated by [Boone County Prosecuting Attorney](#) Daniel K. Knight, who tells *The LINK-Letter* that the coalition is meeting monthly. For more information as to how your multidisciplinary group can form and work together for an integrated approach to preventing various forms of family and community violence, visit the National Link Coalition's [Toolkit](#) and list of [community Link coalitions](#).



Dan Knight

### Ottawa's Link Coalition Reports Progress



SafePet Ottawa, our Link coalition in Canada's capital, reports that its members have made considerable progress and its activities are continuing with great enthusiasm. The organization is a group of eight veterinary clinics, 27 foster families, behaviorists, retailers, and community members who provide short- and long-term fostering for companion animals of women and children who need to exit from domestic violence into local Violence Against Women shelters.

A [new website](#) has been designed that offers immediate steps to help women in crisis who need assistance with their animals. Its resource section includes handy tips on pet healthcare and links to local organizations and several Link organizations, including the National Link Coalition.

The group believes strongly in the power of networking. Requests at a local synagogue for people to foster pets led to an opportunity to present to the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women's Justice Committee, which in turn led to the Ottawa Police's Partner Assault Unit. Semi-annual "Best Practices" sessions are bringing together law enforcement, the legal profession, women's shelters and animal behaviorists to exchange ideas and for orientation, updates and feedback.

"Coalitions work well for us," the group reports. "Participants each contribute to the flow of information within our group and then move that information out through their own networks."

### *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).

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

### **Student Develops Statistical Model to Identify Non-Accidental Injury**

*Cummings Veterinary Medicine* magazine at the Tufts University College of Veterinary Medicine featured Nida Intarapanich, a third-year student who developed a statistical modeling tool that looks at injury patterns to help veterinarians distinguish between accidental and intentional injuries. The model is said to identify car-strike victims with 92% accuracy and abuse victims with 81% accuracy, based on different injury patterns. The article described indicators of animal cruelty and called abused animals a “canary in a coal mine that brings to light a whole broken and hurt family.” The National Link Coalition’s Phil Arkow was interviewed for the feature. The cruelty cases came from the ASPCA Bergh Hospital, and the vehicular trauma cases were from Tufts’ Foster Hospital for Small Animals. The ASPCA’s Randy Lockwood, Rob Reisman and Rachel Touroo are research advisors.

-- Rajewski, G. (2015). *Anatomy of an abuser*. *Cummings Veterinary Medicine*, 16(1), 12-15.

### **Animal Abuse, Bullying, Victimization and Behavioral Difficulties Linked**

To examine the relationship between behavioral difficulties, animal abuse, and bullying among women, 500 female undergraduate students completed surveys assessing animal abuse experiences, bullying behaviors, and victimization of bullying during their K-12 school years, and evaluated their behavioral difficulties. Results revealed a significant relationship between animal abuse, bullying, and victimization experiences. Moreover, animal abusers displayed significantly more behavioral problems compared to non-abusers. Animal abuse, bullying and victimization were significant predictors of various behavioral issues. Results suggest that behavioral difficulties associated with female animal abusers are similar to those related to male perpetrators.

-- Sanders, C.E., & Henry, B.C. (2015). *Nonhuman animal cruelty, bullying, and behavioral difficulties among women*. *Society & Animals* [in press].

### **Equine-Assisted Therapy Can Help Survivors of Domestic Violence**

Anecdotal accounts support the effectiveness of equine-facilitated psychotherapy (EFP) with women who have experienced abuse, but there is a lack of supporting research. This qualitative study examined the stories and effectiveness of EFP for 5 women who had experienced abuse. Data analysis identified four patterns in the participants’ stories: I Can Have Power; Doing It Hands On, Horses as Co-Therapists, and Turned My Life Around. Overall, EFP was found to be an effective intervention for women who have experienced abuse.

-- Meinersmann, K.M., Bradberry, J., & Roberts, F.B. (2008). *Equine-assisted psychotherapy with adult female survivors of abuse*. *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services*, 46(12), 36-42.

Female survivors of domestic violence may experience symptoms of low self-esteem, insecurity, difficulty with problem solving, low self-efficacy, and high anxiety with regard to their economic future. Creative methods are needed to help abuse survivors overcome these factors so they are able to set and attain career goals. This article discusses an overview of the literature regarding career-related consequences for female survivors of intimate partner abuse, describes equine assisted therapy, and details a creative career counseling method.

-- Froeschle, J. (2009). *Empowering abused women through equine assisted career therapy*. *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*, 4(2), 181-190.

## *THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES*

### *Bills We're Watching:*

#### *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



**H.R. 1258 – the Pets And Women’s Safety (PAWS) Act** – was re-introduced with a new number and 48 co-sponsors (12 Republican, 36 Democrat). The bill 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. Supporters are seeking a few more Republican co-sponsors to help keep sponsorship bipartisan.



**Kentucky HB 216** would allow courts to issue a protection order that directs the care, custody or control of any pet by either party or by a child residing in the home. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**Michigan SB 28** would make it a crime to knowingly kill, torture, mutilate, maim, disfigure, or poison an animal, or threaten to do so, with the intent of causing mental suffering or distress to a person or to exert control over a person. The bill passed the Judiciary Committee and is in the Committee of the Whole.



**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.



**New Mexico S 178** would appropriate \$300,000 to the Children Youth & Families Department to pay for temporary care and housing of animals of domestic violence survivors. The bill is in the Senate Public Affairs Committee.

#### *Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child*



**New York A534** defines “aggravated” animal cruelty as causing extreme physical pain or done in an especially depraved or sadistic manner, a Class E felony. It would make the commission of aggravated cruelty in the presence of a child a Class D felony. The bill is in the Codes Committee.



**New York A944** and **S1795** would criminalize knowingly causing a minor to attend a place where exhibition of animal fighting is being conducted. The bills are in the Agriculture Committee.

#### *Interventions for Animal Abuse Offenders*




**New Jersey S2449**, “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.





**New York A1445** and **S1174** would increase penalties for animal fighting and aggravated cruelty to animals and would require a psychiatric evaluation for defendants convicted of aggravated cruelty. **A1673** and **S814** would require that juvenile offenders convicted of animal cruelty undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment where necessary. The bills are in the Agriculture Committee.

## *“CASA for Animals”*


 **Connecticut HB 6187** would establish a process for appointing an advocate to investigate and advocate for the welfare or custody of animals that are subjects of civil or criminal court proceedings. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.


## *Cross Reporting*


 **New York A5082** would require anyone mandated to report suspected child abuse who also encounters suspected animal abuse in the course of their duties to make an immediate report to local police or SPCA agencies. Failure to report would be a Class A misdemeanor and civilly liable. An extensive list of medical, social work, therapy, education, camp, day care, counseling and law enforcement professionals are mandated reporters of child abuse. The bill is in the Social Services Committee.


 **Rhode Island H.R. 5194** would initiate a mandatory child abuse/domestic violence and animal abuse cross-reporting system. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.


## *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*

 **Arizona SB 1105** would define animal fighting and cockfighting as racketeering in the state’s organized crime, fraud and terrorism statutes. The bill is in the Judiciary and Rules Committees.


 **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 A346** would create a statewide task force to study how to improve investigations of animal abuse and enforcement of anti-cruelty laws. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

 **New York A1596** and **S2936** would expand the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to animals during the commission of a felony. The bills are in the Agriculture Committee.

 The **Oregon** Veterinary Medical Examination Board has proposed Rule No. [875-030-1101](#) which would provide for a screening of applicants and licensees to determine if they have a history of criminal behavior that would preclude their fitness to practice as a veterinarian or certified veterinary technician.

## *Therapeutic Interventions for Child Abuse Victims*

 **New Jersey A2155** 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*



**Arizona HB 2429** and **SB 1265** would make it illegal to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly hoard animals. The bills would also allow courts to require offenders to undergo psychiatric evaluation and counseling. **HB 2429** passed the House and was referred to the Senate Government and Rules Committees. **SB 1265** is in the Senate Judiciary, Natural Resources and Rules Committees.



**New York A1265** would create the crime of companion animal hoarding. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

## ***THE LINK... IN THE NEWS***

### **Alleged Animal Abuser Held as Suspect in Homicide**

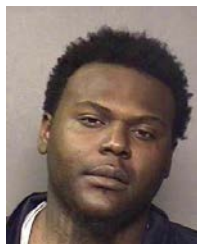


**Tyler Pierce and Samantha Shilts**

has an open court case from July, 2014 charges of second-degree misdemeanor animal neglect.

Two Jackson County, Ore. residents – one of whom is facing court action on charges of animal neglect – were arrested in Northern California in conjunction with the murder of a North Carolina motel manager and the theft of his car. The [Medford Mail Tribune](#) reported that Samantha Lynn Shilts, 21, and Tyler Mark Pierce, 21, were awaiting extradition back to North Carolina. The hotel manager, Jakir Mohammed Sheikh, 58, was found strangled in a room the couple had rented. While Pierce has no previous criminal history in Oregon, Shilts has an open court case from July, 2014 charges of second-degree misdemeanor animal neglect.

### **Police Seek Convicted Dog Burner in Motor Vehicle Death of Child**



**Juan Daniels**

Police told [WSFA-TV](#) that Daniels was allegedly trying to hit a man with whom he had been arguing but instead ran over Aiden Howard, 6, who died 10 days later of severe injuries. Scott Hill, Daniels' arresting officer from the 2007 cruelty case, questioned why the convicted felon had been released from prison. "There's studies out there that show the link between animal abuse, child abuse, elderly abuse, domestic violence, so it's definitely there," Hill said.

Police in Montgomery, Ala., spent Valentine's Day weekend putting out an alert for Juan Daniels, 28, charged with homicide after he fled the scene where he allegedly drove his SUV into an apartment complex and ran over a child. Daniels, who was considered armed and dangerous, had been released from prison in 2013 after serving four years of a nine-year prison sentence for beating a dog with a shovel, dousing it with lighter fluid and setting it on fire. The dog survived but with severe burns.

### **Arrest Made in Triple Homicide/Dogfighting Case**

A triple homicide in Holbrook, Idaho, on April 4, 2013, believed to be linked to a dog-fighting ring ([See LINK-Letter May 2013](#)) led to the arrest on Jan. 30 of Severo Luera, 35, on felony charges stemming from the three murders. Police said the investigation was ongoing, according to the [Salt Lake City Deseret News](#). Luera was already being held in Utah on misdemeanor drug charges and was awaiting extradition to Idaho.

Luera reportedly had prior convictions including possession of a dangerous dog, drug possession and distribution, and supplying alcohol to minors. Oneida County sheriff's deputies investigating the 2013 murders found 63 pit bulls and 38 marijuana plants on the remote property.



**Severo Luera**

## ***LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES***

**March 13 – Seattle, Wash.:** Jenny Edwards will speak on The Link at the [Washington State Bar Association’s seminar](#) on Animal Sexual Crimes, Overbreeding and Overpopulation.

**March 21 – Fredericksburg, Va.:** Chris Brosan will describe the Stop Abuse & Violence Effort (SAVE), focusing on the connection between animal abuse and familial and societal violence, at the [Virginia Federation of Humane Societies’ Annual Conference](#).

**March 24 – Columbia, S.C.:** Chris Risley-Curtiss will present on “Poly-victimization, Childhood Animal Abuse and Trauma-focused Interventions at the [NASW-SC Spring Symposium](#).

**March 30 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** Phil Arkow will discuss “The Link Across the Lifespan: Animal Abuse as an Indicator and Predictor of Human Violence” at the Kirkpatrick Foundation’s [Animal Conference](#).

**March 31 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** Phil Arkow will train staff at the [Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division](#) shelter on The Link.

**April 9 (online):** A webinar on the USDA and the Animal Welfare Act in regards to animal fighting enforcement will be held in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse.

**April 15 – June 10 – (Online):** A 40-hour, 9-week distance-learning Victim Assistance Academy, which will include Link programming, is being offered by the [National Organization for Victim Assistance](#).

**April 16 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will meet at Chesapeake Community Plaza.

**Apr. 17 – Ashland, Ohio:** Barbara Boat will discuss “The Links between Toxic Stress and the Toxic Triad” at the [Ashland Mental Health and Recovery Board](#).

**Apr. 23 – Phoenix, Ariz.:** Phil Arkow will be the keynote speaker at the [Association of Professional Humane Educators](#) conference, speaking about how focusing on The Link can advance humane education efforts.

**April 23-24 – Portland, Ore.:** Allie Phillips will present on “The Co-Occurrence of Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Strategies and Policies for Keeping Children Safe” at the 2015 Clackamas County [Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit](#).

**Apr. 30 – Clovis, Calif. :** Phil Arkow will present multidisciplinary trainings on The Link on behalf of the [Central California Animal Disaster Team](#).

**May 1 – Merced, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will present multidisciplinary trainings on The Link on behalf of the [Central California Animal Disaster Team](#).

**May 2-5 – Richmond, B.C., Canada:** Michelle Lem, DVM, will present on “One Health, One Welfare: The Relationship between Human and Animal Welfare,” including issues of domestic violence, at the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies’ [National Animal Welfare Conference](#).

**May 7 – San Bernardino, Calif.:** Allie Phillips will present on “The Danger of When Animal Abuse Co-Occurs with Family Violence: Strategies and Policies for Keeping Families Safe” at the [Animal Cruelty Task Force](#) meeting.

**May 8 – Manchester, N.H.:** [Lindsay Hamrick](#) will lead a panel discussion on child and animal abuse at the Department of Children Youths & Families’ Conference.

**May 12 – Seattle, Wash.:** Barbara Boat will discuss “The Impact of Toxic Stress and Exposure to Animal Cruelty on the Developing Brain: What Every Professional Should Know” at the [Children’s Justice Conference](#).

**May 20 – (online):** Phil Arkow will lead two webinars on “Interpersonal Violence and Animal Cruelty” for the [National Organization for Victim Assistance Academy](#).

**June 8 – Bloomington, Ill.:** Mark Kumpf will address “Workplace Violence and the Animal Profession” at the [Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference](#).

**June 11-12 – Denver, Colo.:** Phil Arkow will introduce The Link as a species-spanning approach to animal shelter administration at the [Society of Animal Welfare Administrators’](#) Management Conference.

**June 18– (Online):** Phil Arkow will discuss “Putting the LINK Puzzle All Together: Building Community Partnerships to Protect Animals and People” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse.

**June 30 – Baltimore, Md.:** The [National Coalition on Violence Against Animals](#) will hold a one-day conference on The Link.

**July 7-9 – Saratoga Springs, N.Y.:** Phil Arkow will give the keynote address on “The Link Across the Lifespan” at the Special Session on Vulnerable Populations and their Pets at the 2015 [International Society of Anthrozoology](#) conference.

**July 24 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** Paul Needham and Jeanene Lindsey will present on “Animal Abuse, Elder Abuse and Hoarding: Challenges and Strategies for Adult Protective Services” at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual [Summer Geriatric Institute](#).

**Sept. 22 – Fort Wayne, Ind.:** Phil Arkow will conduct a Link training on behalf of [Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control](#).

**Nov. 4-5 – Knoxville, Tenn.:** A post-conference workshop on The Link between Human and Animal Violence will be held following the [Veterinary Social Work/Veterinary Health and Wellness](#) Summits at the University of Tennessee. Speakers will include Maya Gupta discussing “Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adults Who Have Engaged In or Witnessed Animal Abuse” and Jenny Edwards speaking on “Bestiality: The Best Kept Secret in America.”

**Nov. 16 – Phoenix, Md.:** The Baltimore County State’s Attorney’s Office Animal Abuse Unit will hold an [Animal Abuse Leadership Summit](#).



## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multi-disciplinary collaborative network of individuals and organizations in human services and animal welfare who address the intersections between animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse through research, public policy, programming and community awareness. We believe that human and animal well-being are inextricably intertwined and that the prevention of family and community violence can best be achieved through partnerships representing multi-species perspectives.

### Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

#### Phil Arkow, Coordinator

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

#### Lesley Ashworth

Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund  
Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,  
Columbus City Attorney's Office/Prosecution Division  
Worthington, Ohio

#### Diane Balkin, J.D.

Contract Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund  
President, International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Assn.  
Denver, Colo.

#### Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Exec. Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

Executive Director,  
Animals and Society Institute  
Atlanta, Ga.

#### Jane A. Hunt

Coordinator, Community Health Improvement Plan  
Larimer County Department of Health  
Ft. Collins, Colo.

#### Mark Kumpf, CAWA

Past President, National Animal Control Association  
Director, Montgomery County Animal Resource Center  
Dayton, Ohio

#### Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Senior Vice Pres., Forensic Sciences & Anti-Cruelty Projects,  
ASPCA  
Falls Church, Va.

#### Anna Melbin, MSW, MPP

Dir. of Network Growth & Strategy, The Full Frame Initiative  
Founder, Catalyst Consultant & Training  
Yarmouth, Maine

#### Paul Needham

Programs Field Rep, Adult Protective Services, Oklahoma DHS  
Chair, Education Committee,  
National Adult Protective Services Association  
Norman, Okla.

#### Maria Luisa O'Neill

Former Director of Programs  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Denver, Colo.

#### Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D.

Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Welfare Division  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Schaumburg, Ill.

#### Eve Pearl

Executive Director, Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio  
Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Allie Phillips, J.D.

Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse  
Dep. Dir., National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse  
National District Attorneys Association  
Lansing, Mich.

#### Chris Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor/Animal-Human Interactions Coordinator  
Arizona State University School of Social Work  
Phoenix, Ariz.

#### Michele Robinson

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

#### Hugh Tebault III

President,  
The Latham Foundation  
Alameda, Calif.

#### John Thompson

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