



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



www.nationallinkcoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH *and*
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS MONTH

ANIMAL ABUSE linked to... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Alaska Measure Would Enable Pet Protection Orders, Declare Pets to be Marital Property

Rep. Liz Vazquez

A new bill in the Alaska State Legislature would take an unusual twist from the 28 states that have enacted laws to date enabling courts to include pets or livestock in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. HB 147 would also declare pets to be marital property and would give courts authority to decide who gets to keep the animals when people divorce, with consideration of what would be best for the animal. Ownership could be granted to an individual or joint custody.

The bill would also require peace officers investigating domestic violence cases to inform victims that she may petition the court for a protective order that the abuser may not remove, harm or dispose of any animals in the household, and to grant her exclusive care and custody of them. HB 147 was introduced by Rep. Liz Vazquez, a Republican from Anchorage, on March 16, with 13 bipartisan co-sponsors. The measure is in the House Judiciary Committee.

Wisconsin Bills Would Allow Petitioner to Retrieve Them

Two bills introduced into the Wisconsin State Legislature on March 27 would add household pets under the provisions of temporary restraining orders or longer-lasting injunctions that can be issued by courts to protect victims of abuse, harassment or threats. The bills would prevent the respondent from removing, hiding, damaging, harming, mistreating, or disposing of any household pet; they would also allow the petitioner or a designee to retrieve household pets. Companion bills AB 141 and SB 97 have 22 co-sponsors. The bills have been referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety where a hearing is scheduled for April 23.



Federal Pet Protection Order Bill Re-Introduced



Rep. Katherine Clark

U.S. Congresswomen Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Ileana Ros-Lehiten (R-FL) have re-introduced the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, bipartisan legislation to help the estimated one-third of domestic violence victims who delayed leaving their abusive relationships out of concern for the wellbeing of their pets. The bill, originally numbered H.R. 5267 when it was first introduced in 2014 (See [LINK-Letter September, 2014](#)), is now



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehiten

H.R. 1258, and has 48 original cosponsors (12 Republicans, 36 Democrats). Supporters are seeking additional co-sponsors, particularly Republicans to keep the measure truly bipartisan.

The bill would expand federal law to include protections for pets of domestic violence victims and establish a federal grant program to assist in acquiring a safe shelter for pets. The PAWS Act strongly asserts the need for states to expand their legal protections for the pets of domestic violence victims. Despite the urgent need, resource-strapped domestic violence shelters are rarely able to offer protection for pets accompanying families who are forced to leave a dangerous environment. To date, only 3% of domestic violence shelters nationwide can accommodate pets.

“Sadly, domestic violence is something one in every four women will experience at some point in their lives,” said Clark. “This isolating experience is made even worse for those who fear for the safety of their pet. Most pet lovers, including me, consider their beloved dog or cat a part of their family. No one should have to make the choice between leaving an abusive situation and ensuring their pet’s safety. I am grateful for the partnerships we’ve formed across the aisle and between organizations working to end both domestic violence and animal abuse. Together, we crafted a bill that will help save lives.”

“I’m proud to work with Rep. Clark on the PAWS Act in order to ensure that victims of domestic violence have all protections available to them,” said Ros-Lehiten. “Too many victims feel compelled to stay in abusive relationships to protect their pets. This bill protects both victims and pets. We should continue to work for the day when victims of domestic violence will not be hindered in their decision to leave an abuser.”

Endorsers of the PAWS Act include the the National Link Coalition, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of the United States, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Sheltering Animals & Families Together Program, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Animal Welfare Institute, RedRover, the National District Attorneys Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the YWCA USA, and the National Sheriffs Association.

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The news items and training opportunities contained in *The LINK-Letter* are intended to disseminate as widely and as freely as possible information about the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Permission is hereby granted to re-post these articles in other newsletters, websites, magazines, and electronic publications provided that appropriate credit is given to the National Link Coalition and with links to www.nationallinkcoalition.org.

Why is the PAWS Act Important?

The provisions of the PAWS Act would extend what 28 states have already done intra-state to prohibit interstate intimidation or stalking of a domestic violence survivor by threatening or harming the animals. It would also free up federal funds to help more domestic violence shelters to become pet-friendly. Maya Gupta, Executive Director of the Animals and Society Institute and a member of the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee, has had considerable experience assisting survivors in Georgia with their pets. She offered this comment about the proposed legislation:



“The PAWS Act represents a tremendous advancement in recognizing that the abuse of animals in domestic violence threatens the safety and well-being of animals and people alike. I have personally worked with hundreds of victims who escaped abusive situations with little more than the clothes on their backs and their pets in their arms. Not only were they struggling to find safety for both themselves and their pets, the abusers' control over their finances left them unable to afford necessary veterinary care for their pets who had been harmed by the abuse. While many kind-hearted veterinarians help greatly by discounting or donating their services, the PAWS Act would provide financial restitution for the costs of veterinary care in these situations, lifting the burden from the veterinary profession and greatly increasing access to essential veterinary treatment for animal victims of domestic violence.

Further, ongoing stalking of victims by their abusers is common – often for long periods of time, and even after a victim has relocated several times over long distances. I have seen many situations where abusers searched for and targeted the pets as well: ‘If I can get to your dog, I can get to you.’ Specific provisions in the PAWS Act that include threats and harm to pets under the offenses of stalking and interstate violation of a protection order directly address this problem, increase enforceability, and offer some peace of mind to survivors of abuse who – even after rebuilding their lives – must live in fear that the abuser will find and harm not only them, but also their pets. Sometimes the fear of a pet being harmed is greater than the fear of being harmed oneself.”

\$6,000 Grants Available for Pet-Friendly Domestic Violence Shelters



Domestic Violence Safe Housing Grants of up to \$6,000 are available from RedRover to enable organizations that shelter domestic violence victims to create space to house survivors' pets on-site. These grants hope to bridge a critical gap in funding to help pet housing projects get started. RedRover is working toward a goal of having one pet-friendly shelter in each state: shelters in the following states are especially encouraged to apply: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. The application deadlines for 2015 are May 15 and October 15. Visit the RedRover website to review funding guidelines.

WANTED: Information from Canada

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which recently created a searchable online database of 3,300 American domestic violence shelters that profiles their services and programs (including pet safehousing) is seeking to expand the directory to include Canadian shelters. The website, www.domesticshelters.org, is now available for Canadian agencies to add their organization and program details. Agencies can stake their “claim” to a territory by [searching by postal code](#). A [how-to video](#) is also available.



New York County Launches Pet Safe House, Task Force



Ulster County, N.Y. is the latest community to provide shelter for pets of domestic violence victims who leave their abusers. County Executive Michael Hein on March 19 unveiled the initiative, citing statistics that 59% of domestic violence victims report “delaying leaving the home out of fear of leaving their pets behind.”

Family of Woodstock, an emergency shelter and community service agency, will care for the animals with the county reimbursing the costs.

County Executive Michael Hein announcing the initiative “Unfortunately in domestic violence situations, a large percentage of victims enter shelters while their partner either injured, maimed or killed their pet,” Hein told the [Daily Freeman](#). “There is an unquestioned link between violence with animals and violence with people.”

Family of Woodstock Executive Director Michael Berg said threatening a pet is one way an abuser controls a victim. He said abusers often tell their victims, “If you leave, I’ll kill the dog.”

Merle Borenstein, of Have a Heart Animal Welfare, said the new program will help children during family crisis situations by allowing them to visit their pets. “The children of the families are devastated,” she said. “So for a person and their youngsters to know that the animal is safe ... and [they] can get them back when they’re in an apartment of their own, it’s just an amazing thing.”

Hein said the need for pet sheltering led to the need to address other issues through a multidisciplinary Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Task Force.

BUILDING AWARENESS about THE LINK

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.

We often say that animal abuse is “the tip of the iceberg” due to its predictive value as a sentinel for child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. Here’s a way to depict that.



The graphic is available for your use at <http://nationallinkcoalition.org/fags/what-is-the-link>. Just give attribution to the National Link Coalition.

ANIMAL ABUSE linked to... CHILD MALTREATMENT

Father Under DCF Investigation Sentenced in Fatal Dog Attack on Son

A Miami man pled guilty to aggravated manslaughter and will serve a 4-year prison term in the death of his son who was mauled by a pit bull – a death that critics say could have been prevented if Department of Children and Families caseworkers had known that pit bulls have been banned in Miami since 1989.



Javon Dade, Jr.

Javon Dade, 31, will also testify against his girlfriend, Alessandra Carrasco, 26, who was staying with him the morning Javon Jr. was killed. She is also charged with manslaughter. Had Dade not accepted the plea bargain, he faced a possible sentence of 13-30 years, [Animals 24-7](#) reported.

Miami-Dade placed a ban on pit bulls in 1989, a measure that was reaffirmed by 63% of voters in 2012. Apparently neither DCF caseworkers nor Miami-Dade Animal Services recognized that six of the household's dogs may have been pit bulls. After the fatal attack, Dade paid a fine of \$1,040 for failing to license and vaccinate his dogs, but was not penalized for illegal possession of a pit bull that an Animal Services veterinarian said had been among the most aggressive she had ever encountered.



Police responding to a missing child report in August, 2014 (See [LINK-Letter September, 2014](#)) found Javon Dade, Jr., 4, dead in the tall grass of the home's back yard. Dade Sr. and Carrasco had reportedly smoked several marijuana cigarettes laced with cocaine that night. Dade Sr. had been arrested at least 18 times, charged 12 times, and convicted seven times, mostly for possession of cocaine, marijuana, battery, and resisting arrest.

Javon Dade, Sr., and Alessandra Carrasco

Three years before the fatal attack, DCF workers had been warned about the smell and danger of six un-housebroken dogs, two of which were banned pit bulls, living in the home. A 2011 call to the child abuse hotline included allegations that the couple were fighting and had both been bitten breaking up fights. DCF investigated twice and reportedly found Javon Jr. and his siblings with cuts and bruises and living in a home filled with dog feces, and failed to notify Animal Services about the illegal dogs.

The [Miami Herald](#) reported that 477 children had died following DCF investigations. DCF Interim Secretary Mike Carroll told the newspaper that investigators had failed to view the totality of Javon's family history and had closed the case without adequately understanding the risks the boy faced.



Howard Davidson to Retire: Headed ABA Center on Children and the Law

A long-time friend of The Link has announced his retirement. Howard Davidson, who for the past 36 years has served as the director of the [American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law](#), announced plans to retire at the end of June or early July. The National Link Coalition congratulates Howard on his many decades of incredible effort to protect vulnerable members of the family and wishes him well as he takes a well-deserved break to travel, spend time with his family and enjoy his leisure. We will miss him! A [position description](#) for the directorship has been posted.

Howard Davidson

Leavenworth Humane Society Works to Prevent Child Maltreatment



The [Leavenworth County, Kansas, Humane Society](#) reports it continues to be highly active in interdisciplinary efforts to prevent family violence. “We still are active with our county’s Child Abuse Prevention Council,” reports Executive Director Crystal Swann Blackdeer. “I’m now part of the training the Council does for mandated reporters every year. My part is to talk about recognizing animal abuse / neglect and why it’s important to report that.”

The humane society has a seat at the Multidiscipline Child Protection Team that meets monthly to talk about children at risk. Most of these children are receiving services thru our mental health facility and/or are in alternative schools, or are getting intensive services at mainstream schools. The program is paying an AniCare therapist who serves on the team and is an ardent animal advocate.

The humane society is also working on a legislative initiative that would add Kansas animal control officers to the list of mandated reporters for suspected abuse/neglect of humans.

Meanwhile, Blackdeer was recently honored and received the 2014 Athena Award, presented by the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes women for professional excellence, community service and assistance to other women in realizing their leadership potential. Congratulations, Crystal!



Crystal Swann Blackdeer

ANIMAL ABUSE linked to... ELDER ABUSE

Elder Abuse Incidence to be Tracked

In several recent *LINK-Letters*, we have described the new program whereby four types of animal abuse will be added to the Uniform Crime Reports used by 18,000 local law enforcement agencies participating in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). When implemented in 2016, this process will give the animal protection field its first systematic look at data to track animal cruelty cases.

We thought we’d share with you exciting news about a similar process that will compile, for the first time, national statistics on elder abuse.



In September 2013, recognizing the lack of consistent national data on adult maltreatment, the [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Administration for Community Living](#), in partnership with the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, began a 2-year effort to design and pilot test a national reporting system based on data from state adult protective services agencies. This data collection system will provide consistent, accurate national data on the exploitation and abuse of older adults and adults with disabilities.

This National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS) will also collect quantitative and qualitative data on the practices and policies of state APS agencies and the outcomes of their investigations. Technical assistance to states will be provided to enhance what will be voluntary data submissions. The process is currently being pilot tested with the first data submissions scheduled for February 2017.

THE LINK and... VETERINARY MEDICINE
Is Veterinary Reporting of Abuse Being Taught in States Where Reporting Is Mandated?

Currently, 15 states mandate veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse, two states require that they report suspected child abuse, one state mandates they report elder abuse, and 18 states require everyone to report suspected child abuse. But how many of these states include training in the recognition and reporting of non-accidental injury, neglect, hoarding, animal fighting, child maltreatment, or elder abuse in veterinary school curricula?

The following is a list of U.S. veterinary colleges located in states where some forms of suspected abuse are mandated. The National Link Coalition would like to hear from our readers in these states as to whether veterinarians are receiving regular training in these issues, either in school or as part of continuing education. Please [send us an e-mail](#) and we'll report our findings.

State	Veterinary School	Veterinarians Mandated to Report Animal Abuse	Veterinarians Mandated to Report Child Abuse	Veterinarians Mandated to Report Elder Abuse	Everyone Mandated to Report Child Abuse
Alabama	Auburn, Tuskegee	X			
California	Davis, Western U.	X	X		
Colorado	CSU	X	X		
Florida	Univ. of FL				X
Illinois	Univ. of IL	X		X	
Indiana	Purdue				X
Kansas	K-State	X			
Massachusetts	Tufts	X			
Minnesota	Univ. of MN	X			
Mississippi	Mississippi State				X
Nebraska	Univ. of NE	X			X
N. Carolina	NC State				X
Oklahoma	OSU	X			X
Oregon	Oregon State	X			
Penna.	Univ. of PA	X			
Texas	Texas A & M				X
Washington	Washington State	X			
Wisconsin	Univ. of WI	x			

Veterinary Conference Learns About The Link

Ed Fritz, DVM, of Colfax, Calif., presented a lecture on veterinary forensics and The Link at the 2015 Winter Conference of the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Fritz is currently enrolled in the course on Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence en route to a certificate in Veterinary Forensics at the University of Florida.



THE LINK and... CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Animal CompStat Will Help ASPCA, NYPD Uncover Domestic Violence/Animal Abuse Link



A data-tracking system similar to CompStat – a data-driven police management technique developed to reduce and prevent crime – is being devised to help animal abuse investigators in New York City spot and respond to trends such as co-occurring domestic violence and animal attacks. The system is being created for the ASPCA to help the NYPD look for animal cruelty hot spots as well as larger, city-wide animal abuse patterns, the [New York Post](#) reported.



The ASPCA turned over animal cruelty enforcement to the NYPD in 2013 (*see [LINK-Letter September, 2013](#)*). With the new system and a veterinary forensics approach, police and prosecutors may be able to not only prevent more deadly crimes but also file more serious charges against offenders, such as felony animal cruelty if a person abusing his girlfriend also kills her pet, the *Post* said.

Multi-Agency Coordination in R.I. Increases Felony Cruelty Prosecutions

Better coordination and training among agencies, combined with greater public awareness and recognition of how animal abuse is often linked with domestic violence, have resulted in a four-fold increase in the number of felony animal cruelty cases prosecuted in Rhode Island, the [Providence Journal](#) reported.

Coordination among the Attorney General, Department of Environmental Management, state police and R.I. SPCA, plus training at state and municipal police training academies, resulted in an increase in felony-level cases from 3 in 2012 to 10 in 2013 and 12 in 2014. Several cases were linked with domestic violence incidents, including a Superior Court judge sending a Providence man to prison for two years – the maximum possible penalty and the first time it had been imposed in a cruelty case – for killing his ex-girlfriend’s Chihuahua. Luis Laboy, 44, of Providence, had smashed the dog’s skull, chased the woman out of the house and threw the dead dog at her as she drove away. In another case, Eric Lemire, of Burrillville, was sentenced to five months for breaking the neck of his girlfriend’s dog “Fifi,” and for holding a knife to her throat and threatening to kill her like he had killed her dog.

“Animal CSI” Goes Down Under

The growing use of veterinary forensics to help prosecute animal cruelty crimes has come to Australia, with that country’s first forensic veterinarian. Rebecca Belousoff, who was trained in the ASPCA/University of Florida Master’s Program in Veterinary Forensics, is working at the RSPCA. She has testified in Australian courts as an expert witness. In one case, she testified that injuries on a dog were not consistent with having been attacked by another dog, as the owner claimed, by taking a dental mold of the alleged attacking dog’s teeth.



Rebecca Belousoff and feline friends

The owner was found guilty of beating the dog, fracturing its skull. Belousoff was spotlighted in an article in [The Age](#) newspaper on March 5.

District Attorney's Taskforce Launches Innovative App

The Albany, N.Y. County District Attorney's new Animal Cruelty Task Force [\(See LINK-Letter September 2013\)](#) has a new high-tech campaign that adds a dramatic website and an app as part of its multi-agency response to animal abuse, neglect and hoarding.



Based on the premise that investigation into 90% of all crimes begins with citizens notifying authorities, the [website](#) alerts the public that "Animal Abuse Prevention Starts with You." It features signs of animal cruelty, background on current cases, and a list of agencies individuals can call if they suspect animal abuse. The newest feature of the campaign is a downloadable app from the New York State Animal Protection Federation that includes all New York anti-cruelty laws to assist both law enforcement officers and those who witness the crimes.

"The District Attorney's Office is tasked with prosecuting offenders who violate the law, and in cases of animal abuse or hoarding, it is vital to hold offenders accountable while also ensuring these crimes are never repeated. By forming this taskforce it is our goal to make sure all responders are employing best practices in Albany County, prioritizing prevention strategies in every community, and educating the public about what they can do to help," said District Attorney David Soares.



The taskforce combines law enforcement prevention efforts, public education outreach and intensified prosecution. Members include veterinarians, law enforcement officers, the Attorney General's office, animal shelters, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Service. A felony-level Assistant District Attorney from the Special Victims Unit oversees prosecution of all animal-related crimes. Prosecutors collaborate with medical and animal welfare professionals to train veterinarians, pet shop operators, groomers and others in the companion animal community. Future outreach will address livestock and farm animals in rural areas.

Det. Sgt. Dennis Durkin of the Child and Family Services Unit of the Albany Police Department, the newest member of the task force, told Albany's [News10 ABC](#) about how the crossover of abuse makes the app so vital. "If they have a bad temper, if they can't take it out on a child or their partner at that time, they will also abuse an animal," he said.

Other components of the campaign include a program at the Mohawk-Hudson Humane Society to care for the animals of domestic violence survivors who leave their abuser.

South Bend, Ind., PD Gets Animal Cruelty Investigator



Jenn Gobel and "Sarge"

South Bend – where law enforcement and prosecutors have attended two training conferences on The Link in recent years – is joining the ranks of cities that have responded to the severity and complexity of animal cruelty cases by assigning a police investigator to concentrate on the issue. Detective Jenn Gobel has been named the South Bend Police Department's first specially-trained animal cruelty investigator as city officials take a harder stance on animal abuse.

Gobel knows The Link first-hand: 10 years ago, she came home to find her then-boyfriend had beaten her dog to death. In retrospect, she now knows that her dog was just a physical victim of emotional abuse aimed at her, she told the [South Bend Tribune](#).

“It’s very true that animal cruelty goes hand-in-hand with a lot of other criminal cases. If someone is neglecting their animal, nine times out of 10 they’re neglecting their child, too,” she said. Gobel also founded the 360° Project, a nonprofit that allows at-risk youths at the county Juvenile Justice Center to learn life skills by training and finding homes for shelter dogs.

South Bend Animal Care & Control investigates some 550 cases of potential crimes each year. National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow presented Link trainings to the St. Joseph County Prosecutors’ Office in 2011 and 2014.

Supreme Court Denies Request in “Crush Video” Case



Nicole Richards and Brent Justice

The battle against “crush videos” – movies which offer viewers sexual thrills by watching animals being tortured and killed – got a boost on March 24 when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to dismiss federal charges against a Houston couple accused of creating and distributing them.

Nicole Richards, 24, and Brent Justice, 53, were indicted under both Texas and federal laws on allegations of creating and distributing at least eight videos, which show puppies, chickens and kittens being tortured and killed. In the state’s case, Richards pled guilty to three counts of animal cruelty and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Justice, also charged with animal cruelty, remains in the Harris County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

In the federal case, a U.S. district judge initially dismissed the charges, citing constitutionality issues; the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the decision. The couple then asked the high court for a review, which was denied. A new trial date has not been set, the [Houston Chronicle](#) reported.

If convicted, Richards and Justice face seven years in federal prison on each count, a \$250,000 fine and at least three years of supervised release following incarceration.

THE LINK... in the LITERATURE

(If you’re having trouble finding any of these articles, please let us know. We may be able to help you track them down.)

Animal Abuse Linked with Bullying Among Women

This study surveyed 500 female undergraduate students assessing animal abuse experiences, bullying behaviors, and victimization of bullying during their K-12 school years. Participants also completed the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire which evaluated their behavioral difficulties. Results revealed a significant relationship between animal abuse, bullying, and victimization experiences. Animal abusers also 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, 23(1), 68-80.*

Family Context and Externalizing Correlates of Childhood Animal Cruelty

This study suggested that animal cruelty not only correlates with a wide range of family context and externalizing variables, it may also serve as a marker of violent and nonviolent offending. The study aimed to determine whether childhood animal cruelty is primarily a feature of family context or of externalizing behavior. Twenty measures of family context and externalizing behavior were correlated with 1,354 adjudicated delinquents' retrospective accounts of childhood animal cruelty. All 20 family context and proactive and reactive externalizing variables correlated significantly with animal cruelty. The animal cruelty variable predicted future violent and property and drug offending when included with: parents' arguing, fighting, drug use, hostility, and knowledge of children's behavior; and with youths' interpersonal hostility, secondary psychopathy, weak impulse control, weak suppression of aggression, and short time horizon. The animal cruelty variable did not predict offending when included with early onset behavioral problems, primary psychopathy, moral disengagement, positive outcome expectancies for crime, and lack of consideration for others.

-- Walters, G.D., & Noon, A. (2015). Family context and externalizing correlates of childhood animal cruelty in adjudicated delinquents. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 30*(8), 1369-1386.

NEWS from the NATIONAL LINK COALITION



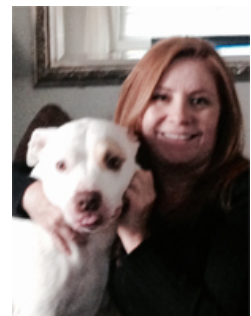
Congratulations to Lesley Ashworth!

Lesley Ashworth, who has served on the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee since our inception in 2008, was recently honored by the Justice League of Ohio as the recipient of the 2015 Advocate Model of Justice Award. The recognition, which will be presented in Columbus on April 23, recognizes Lesley for her years of tireless service and dedication to crime victims.

The [Justice League of Ohio](#) protects the rights of crime victims through legal clinics that provide free legal representation. Lesley has served as a consultant to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and worked for many years as the director of the domestic violence/stalking program of the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office. Way to go, Lesley!!!

Domestic Violence Official Named to Steering Committee

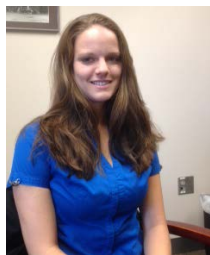
The National Link Coalition is pleased to announce the appointment of Sylvia Torralba to serve on our all-volunteer Steering Committee. After surviving an abusive relationship, Sylvia brought her administrative and organizational skills to the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) in 1998, where she has served as Office Manager, Membership Director, and is currently Project Manager.



Her work at NCAADV has included developing the Remember My Name™ project, a living memorial dedicated to those who have died as a result of domestic violence, and the NCAADV national directory of domestic violence, community shelter, safe home and service programs. She will be the lead on a new project she created, "When I Was Here," and is managing the Cosmetic Reconstructive Support program.

Link Presentation Now Available

In October 2014, National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow presented an extensive presentation, *“Breaking the Chain of Violence: Animal Abuse, Intimate Partner Violence, and the Role of the Veterinarian,”* at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The presentation, featuring video, audio and PowerPoint, is now available [online](#).



Colleen Shockling Dent

Colleen Shockling Dent, an OSU student and Albert Schweitzer Fellow who organized the public lecture, reports that the college is filming a training for hospital staff to help them recognize animal cruelty and domestic violence. The video will feature actors from the college’s medical school to create interactive scenarios.

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS for OFFENDERS

Juvenile Offenders Learn Empathy through Training Homeless Dogs



Marcellus and “Oreo”

A novel animal-assisted intervention program at the Kent County, Mich. Juvenile Detention Center, where incarcerated youths learn responsibility, self-confidence and empathy by training homeless dogs, is the subject of a new Latham Foundation video.

[BARC If You Need Help](#) is a 15-minute video describing Project BARC (Building Adolescents’ Responsibility and Compassion). The program is a collaboration with the Humane Society of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids. Students spend three weeks under the supervision of three occupational therapists training the dogs to succeed by passing the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen test using positive reinforcement and reward-based training.

The most important part of the program, says Superintendent Stacy McGinnis, “is that the kids learn to have empathy. The program doesn’t change their entire life and their home situation, but it honestly works with them on their emotions and just having feelings for others. They go through this program and learning how to take care of a dog and actually caring for someone and knowing that someone genuinely cares for you too – it makes a big difference.”

Students learn that animals will be adopted into new homes due to the hard work they’ve put into the training. Students bond with their dogs and learn the value of another life and how to be responsible. Emotionally detached students open up.

“I’m glad that she can move forward,” said one student, referring to his dog who had just “graduated” and was adopted into a new home. “Now it’s time for me to move forward.”



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.



Alaska HB 147 would allow victims to petition the court for a protective order that the abuser may not remove, harm or dispose of any animals in the household, and to grant her exclusive care and custody of them. Peace officers investigating domestic violence cases must inform victims of this provision. The bill would also declare pets to be marital property and give courts authority to decide individual or joint custody when people divorce, with consideration of what would be best for the animal. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



Kentucky HB 216 would have allowed 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 was in the House Judiciary Committee when the legislature adjourned.



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.




Wisconsin companion bills **AB 141** and **SB 97** would add household pets under the provisions of temporary restraining orders or longer-lasting injunctions that can be issued by courts to protect victims of abuse, harassment or threats. The bills would also allow the petitioner or a designee to retrieve household pets. The bills have been referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.


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 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.


“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 and was scheduled for a public hearing on April 1.


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.


 **Michigan HB 4353** would allow animal shelters to consider an individual’s criminal history when determining whether or not to allow that individual to adopt an animal. Convicted animal abusers could not adopt for at least 5 years following conviction. **Senate Bill 219** would prohibit offenders convicted of animal fighting or bestiality from owning animals other than livestock for 5 years. The bills are in the Judiciary Committee.

 **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.

 **Oregon HB 3468** and **2844** would add threats to cause physical injury to an animal as a means to induce another person to commit unwanted acts to the definition of coercion, a Class C felony. The bill is in the Judiciary 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.

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.

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.



Oregon HB 2694 would allow Department of Human Services regulated social workers to report suspected animal abuse or neglect, with immunity for good-faith reporting. The bill is in the Human Services & Housing 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 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.

Animal Sexual Assault



Oregon HB 2693 would create a new misdemeanor crime of encouraging sexual assault of an animal, defined as possessing or controlling a visual recording of a person engaged in sexual conduct with an animal, and would increase the penalties for sexual assault of an animal. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

NEWS from LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Oklahoma Link Coalition Unveils New Logo

The intertwined relationships between people and animals, and the ongoing continuity of those relationships in which each one's actions affect the other, are summed up in the logo of the new Oklahoma Link Coalition.



OKLAHOMA LINK COALITION



Meanwhile, the Coalition and The Link were prominently featured in the inaugural [Animal Conference](#) held March 30-31 in Oklahoma City. The Kirkpatrick Foundation organized this historic conference, which attracted some 300 participants and 60 world-

class speakers, as part of its campaign to make Oklahoma the safest and most humane state in which to be an animal by the year 2032. The National Link Coalition's coordinator, Phil Arkow, presented a workshop on "Animal Abuse as a Predictor and Indicator of Other Crimes" as one of 38 programs designed to provide ideas, impact and inspiration; Phil also gave a Link training to staff of the Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division and members of the public. Also presenting on The Link at the conference was Lisa Lunghofer of the Animals & Society Institute.

THE LINK... in the NEWS

Judge Calls Robert Durst a Serial Killer Who Practiced on Animals



Judge Susan Criss

The Texas judge who presided over the 2003 murder trial of multi-millionaire New York real estate heir Robert Durst has told news media that she believes Durst is a serial killer who left a severed cat's head on her doorstep and who practiced dismembering human bodies by cutting up animals. Judge Susan Criss acquitted Durst of murder in that case, but sentenced him to three years in prison for hacking up the neighbor's body.



Robert Durst

Criss told [Inside Edition](#) that Durst, who has since been arrested in the shooting death of his confidante and who is a suspect in the disappearance of his first wife, had seven different malamute dogs named Igor, each of whom met "very bizarre unnatural deaths." "He practiced on those dogs and that's where he got some of those skills at cutting people up," Criss said. Durst reportedly made a phone call from jail to his wife threatening to "do an Igor" on his brother, which Criss said was a euphemism for a murder. She also claimed that shortly after her trial concluded, she found a "perfectly preserved" severed cat's head on her doorstep which she believes was placed there by Durst. Durst was the subject of a six-part mini-series, "The Jinx," that aired in March.

Inspired by ISIS Beheadings, Teen Tries to Kill Goat

A teenager in the suburbs of Tokyo, reportedly inspired by online videos of gruesome beheadings of Japanese hostages by Islamic State extremists, was arrested after attempting to kill a goat as "practice" for his plan to kill someone, police said. The junior high student, whose name was not released, allegedly crept into an elementary school in Tachikawa at 1 a.m. on Feb. 15 to kill a goat kept there. He was arrested by a passing police officer who heard the goat screaming loudly in the shed where it was kept. Police said the boy had a saw and a crowbar and said he had told them he wanted to kill someone after watching the gruesome videos. A search of his computer found many instances of viewing websites related to ISIS, the [Japan Times](#) reported.

Sex Offender Convicted for Stabbing Police Dog



Rush is led away after sentencing

A 22-year-old convicted sex offender with a history of 20 prior assaults – and a mother who is so terrified of him that she sleeps with her bedroom door locked – was sentenced to 3-¹/₂ to 7 years in prison for stabbing the dog of a police officer who arrested him. With other charges for assaulting four Pittsburgh police officers, John Rush could serve as many as 44 years.

Police and sheriff's deputies were seeking Rush on a bench warrant on Jan. 28, 2014 in Lawrenceville, Pa. When Rush would not come out of hiding, they sent in "Rocco," a K-9 dog who died two days later from stab wounds. Following Rocco's death, an outpouring of public support for K-9 officers led to the passage of new laws in Pennsylvania – as has happened in many other states – increasing the penalties for killing a police animal. "I lost my partner from this. He was also a family member," officer Phil Lerza told the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#).



Anzastiga-Garcia

Boyfriend Arrested for Throwing Girlfriend's Dog Off Balcony

Taylorville, Utah police arrested Juan Arturo Anzastiga-Garcia on March 4 on felony charges of torturing a companion animal for allegedly throwing his girlfriend's dog, a Yorkshire terrier named "Bell," off a third-floor balcony after an argument, killing it. He was also charged with tampering with evidence and graffiti/vandalism/criminal mischief, and was booked on a warrant hold from Probation and Parole, [Fox 13 News](#) reported.



"Bell"

Sex Offender Charged with Beating Puppy to Death



James Strickland

A registered sex offender convicted in 1999 for taking indecent liberties with a minor was arrested in Fayetteville, N. Car. on March 3 on a felony charge of animal cruelty for allegedly beating his 10-week-old pit bull puppy named "8-Ball" to death. James Strickland, 34, was being held in Cumberland County Jail under a \$10,000 bond for reportedly grabbing the dog by its rear legs and slamming its head on the sidewalk, the [Fayetteville Observer](#) reported. He had also served time for forgery. Strickland "had an argument with his friend and took it out on the dog. There's no reason. No reason for this," said Dr. John Lauby, director of Cumberland County Animal Control.

Ex-Con with Domestic Violence History Charged with Hanging Pit Bull

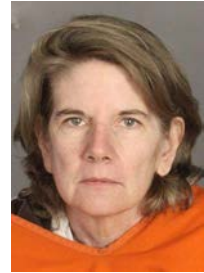
A Davenport, Fla. man with a history of domestic violence was charged with felony animal cruelty after he allegedly hanged his pit bull for making a mess in his trailer after he couldn't find a gun with which to shoot it. The [N.Y. Daily News](#) reported that Victor (Manny) Solano, 29, hanged the dog from a tree and then dragged its corpse behind an ATV to dump it in a pond; he allegedly even asked neighbors for a gun and when he came back empty-handed he decided to use a rope instead, Polk County sheriff's deputies said. Solano has been arrested at least six times since 2005 on charges of battery domestic violence, carrying a concealed weapon, and burglary and larceny for which he was sentenced to five years in prison.



Victor Solano

Woman Charged with Child Endangerment and Animal Hoarding

A woman was charged with animal cruelty and child endangerment after CPS caseworkers and animal control officers removed two girls and 56 dachshunds and bulldogs from a feces-filled duplex where she was reportedly trying to run an animal shelter. Melanie Barrier, 56, of Waco, Texas, arrested on Feb. 11, was described as an animal hoarder in a court affidavit, the [Waco Tribune](#) reported. A CPS worker said the smell of feces and urine was “horrific,” even outside the home, and the girls, aged 12 and 14, were forced to sleep either in a top bunk where the dogs couldn’t go or in beds that were filthy. Several people from across Texas have called police, claiming they recognized their own stolen pets in news coverage.



Melanie Barrier

Domestic Violence/Animal Torture Offender to be Sentenced

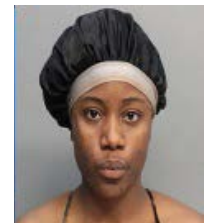


Randy DeJarnette

A Michigan man facing charges of animal cruelty and domestic violence has pled guilty to reduced charges in a plea bargain and was scheduled to be sentenced on April 14. After a veterinarian reported a cat being harmed, Randy DeJarnette was charged with punching a cat in the face and breaking both of her rear legs, plus beating his girlfriend, in 2011. Radiographs indicated the cat, named “Gabiella,” had 11 fractures and had been tortured on multiple occasions during the nine months she lived with the couple. DeJarnette fled Saginaw County with his girlfriend’s assistance to avoid arrest, but turned himself in last August, Michigan [news media](#) reported.

Pregnant Mother Charged with Child Abuse, Animal Cruelty and Battery

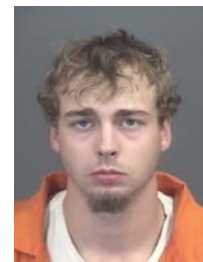
A Miami, Fla. woman was charged with child abuse, animal cruelty and battery for allegedly beating her son, killing her dog, and attacking the father of her unborn child. Charlotte Wonjah, 26, who reportedly told police she had “anger issues” and did not want to clean up after the dog, was jailed after repeatedly slamming the dog against the floor while her children were watching, [WPLG-TV](#) reported. Police said she also used a rope to beat her 8-year-old son, whose body had bruises and markings in different stages of healing. Wonjah, who was four months pregnant and recently released from probation at the time, also allegedly attacked the father of her unborn child after he returned home with gifts for the children from their mother.



Charlotte Wonjah

Man Gets Jail for Stomping Woman’s Kittens to Death

A man who believed a woman loved her cats more than her children was sentenced to one year in jail for stomping six kittens to death. Cody Michael Tyler told a Livingston County, Mich. judge on March 26 that he felt horrible for his actions, but he pled guilty to killing three of the kittens, who were three to four weeks old, in exchange for prosecutors dismissing three additional counts alleging the same offense. Tyler’s attorney [told the court](#) that her client believed a woman had hurt his young daughter and thought she loved the animals more than her children. Assistant Prosecutor Angela Del Vero called it a case of domestic violence, with Tyler trying to “extract the most pain out of his significant other.”



Cody Michael Tyler



Brandon Gulliver

Baltimore Man Charged in Domestic Assault and Animal Cruelty

Police in Baltimore, Md. arrested Brandon Gulliver following an incident on March 22 in which he is alleged to have badly injured two dogs and assaulted a woman. [Fox 45 News](#) reported that officers found one dog injured so badly that it had to be euthanized. Police said that Gulliver is a person of interest in a homicide that occurred last January 5.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

April 12-18 (various locations): National Animal Control Appreciation Week, sponsored by the [National Animal Care & Control Association](#).

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 hold its bimonthly meeting.

Apr. 17 – Ashland, Ohio: Barbara Boat will discuss “The Links between Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence: 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 3 – Williamsburg, Va.: Randy Lockwood will present on The Link at Virginia Commonwealth University’s [conference](#) on Wellness: Broadening Prevention.

May 4 – 10 (various locations): 99th annual Be Kind to Animals Week, sponsored by the [American Humane Association](#).

May 5 -7 – Norman, Okla.: Paul Needham will present “LINK 101” at the 40th Annual [Oklahoma Conference on Aging](#).

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 11 – Spring Lake, Mich.: Allie Phillips will join other presenters in an [all-day training](#) for law enforcement and prosecution officers on how dog and cock fighting are linked to other felony crimes.

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 13-15 – Orlando, Fla.: The [International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association](#) will hold its 8th Annual 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 2 – Washington D.C.: Allie Phillips will train at the [National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference](#) on “When the Abuse of Animals Harms Children: Unlocking a Child’s Story” and “Therapy Animals Supporting Children: Policy & Practice Supporting Your New Comfort Team Member.”

June 3 – Manassas, Va.: Randy Lockwood will present on The Link for the [Prince William County Police Department](#)’s physical abuse and special victims units, animal control, DSS adult and protective services, and the commonwealth attorney’s office.

June 5 – Toronto, Ont., Canada: Tim Battle will present on “The Pet Problem: Helping People by Helping their Animals” at the [Canadian Domestic Violence Conference](#).

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 15 (Various Locations): [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#).

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 23-24 – Orlando, Fla.: Allie Phillips will present at the [Florida Crimes Against Kids Conference](#) on “When Animal Abuse Co-occurs with Family Violence: Strategies & Policies for Keeping Families Safe” and co-present with Danielle Hughes of the Sarasota Child Protection Center on “Therapy Animals Supporting Children: Policy, Practice & Cases Supporting Your New Comfort Team Member.”

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 25th Annual [Summer Geriatric Institute](#).

Aug. 20 – (Online): Belinda Lewis and Matt Lewis will discuss “Animal Cruelty Crime Scene Forensic Photography” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse.

Sept. 14 – Albuquerque, N. M.: “Positive Links” -- the New Mexico Conference on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence – will hold an [all-day conference](#).

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

Sept. 26 – Blacksburg, Va.: Phil Arkow will discuss animal abuse as the “dark side” of the human-animal bond at the [CENTAUR](#) Human-Animal Bond Symposium.

Oct. 1 – Baltimore, Md.: Randy Lockwood and Sharon Miller will present on building community responses to animal cruelty at the [National Animal Care & Control Association](#) conference.

Oct. 15 – Charlottesville, Va.: Randy Lockwood and Sharon Miller will present on building community responses to animal cruelty at the [Virginia Animal Control Association](#) annual conference.

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](#).

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



ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



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

Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

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

Maria Luisa O'Neill

Centennial, Colo.

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
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National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges
Reno, Nev.

Mark Kumpf, CAWA

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

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The Latham Foundation
Alameda, Calif.

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Senior Vice Pres., Forensic Sciences & Anti-Cruelty Projects,
ASPCA
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John Thompson

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