



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 13, No. 2 February 2020**

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



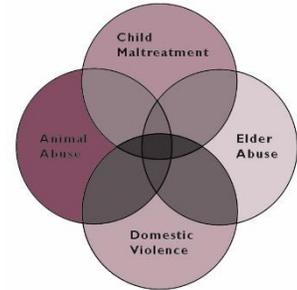
**ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE**



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

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... AND THE LINK**

### **Updated Co-Sheltering Manual Now Available**



The internationally acclaimed *Start-Up Manual for Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)*® has been significantly updated with a new 3<sup>rd</sup> edition available shortly in a digital format. Allie Phillips, Founder and CEO of the SAF-T program, wrote the first edition of the Manual in 2008 to help domestic violence shelters overcome the obstacles involved with accommodating the animal survivors of families fleeing abusive homes. SAF-T started what is now a worldwide initiative with over 200 pet-friendly domestic violence shelters across the globe.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition has been reformatted and continues to be the go-to source for written guidelines for domestic violence shelters. It has been expanded with new photos and stories from participating shelters. It also addresses such issues as pets in transitional housing, assistance animals, additional partnerships, healing programs, and new phases to make the implementation steps easier from start to finish.

Phillips' [directory](#) currently lists 192 shelters in 42 states that are either pet-friendly or are in the process of creating pet co-sheltering facilities. She also counts an additional 18 pet-friendly shelters in Australia, Canada and the Netherlands. Spain is also believed to have a number of pet co-sheltering sites.

The Start-Up Manual will be free to all domestic violence shelters when it becomes available at the end of February. [Click here](#) to be placed on a waiting list receive a free digital copy.

## Kentucky Bill Addresses Two Key Link Issues

A bill with potentially landmark implications for Kentucky has been introduced into the state General Assembly which, if passed, would simultaneously add coercive animal abuse to the statutory definitions of domestic and dating violence and abuse, and allow courts to protect pets when issuing protection orders.



**HB 216** would cause Kentucky to join the 34 other states that have enacted pet protection orders since 2006 in recognition of how animals are harmed or threatened as coercive control tools used by abusers to keep other family members trapped in fear for their animals' welfare. Simultaneously, 10 states have more recently modified their statutory definitions of domestic violence to include coercive acts of harm against animals.

The Kentucky measure would re-define domestic and dating violence and abuse to include acts of animal cruelty "conducted towards a domestic animal when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a family member or member of an unmarried couple." The pet protection order provisions would apply to "any shared domestic animals."

The measure was introduced by a bipartisan group of four Democrats and five Republicans, including Speaker of the House David Osborne. It is in the House Judiciary Committee.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE... AND THE LINK



### Maine Enacts Courtroom Advocates for Animals

**Maine** has become the third state to implement programs to represent the interests of animals in cruelty cases, similar to established Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) that have long been employed in the prosecution of child abuse and child sexual abuse cases.

**LD 1442** became law on Jan. 12 without the signature of the Governor. The new law allows a court to appoint volunteer advocates for justice in animal cruelty cases, either under its own initiative or upon the request of a party or counsel. Advocates will be able to monitor the proceedings, consult with individuals and records relevant to the case, and present appropriate information and recommendations.

Advocates will be selected from a list, to be compiled by the Maine State Bar Association, of attorneys and law school students who have knowledge of animal issues and the legal system. Attorneys and law students serving in these procedures would do so on a voluntary basis.

The "CASA for Animals" movement has spread through New England, with Connecticut and Rhode Island also implementing such laws. Similar bills have been introduced in New York, New Hampshire, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois, and Michigan but have not yet been enacted (*See the [May 2019 LINK-Letter](#)*).

## NEWS FROM LINK COALITIONS

### National Link Coalition Launches “Hit Free Zone” Campaign

No person or animal should have to experience fear of being disciplined with pain or threats of harm. In settings such as animal shelters, domestic violence shelters, veterinary clinics, and other facilities where stressed people and pets come together, staff may witness children and adults hitting or threatening each other or their pets. Such behaviors are clearly unacceptable.

In response, the National Link Coalition has created a free campaign enabling facilities such as these to declare themselves a “Hit Free Zone,” an oasis where violence, in any form, is not acceptable. The Hit Free Zone concept is part of the National Link Coalition’s overall mission to create safer and healthier communities for people and animals.

The campaign offers a free Word document poster which is designed to allow facilities to download it, customize it with their name and logo, print copies, and display in their lobby and offices.

Also available on our website are accompanying customizable Guidelines which present staff with suggested language that can be used to start discussions and undertake simple actions to support and/or distract a child or adult who appears to be behaving inappropriately toward another child, adult or animal. The goal is to get people to recognize that positive reinforcement works better than punishment, and that emotional or physical violence in any form will not be tolerated in your facility.

The poster and guidelines are available as free downloads in the [Resource Materials tab](#) on our website. Just scroll down to the bottom of the page under “National Link Coalition Organizational Documents”

Please feel free to use these documents. [Barbara Boat](#), a member of our Steering Committee who helped develop this campaign, has asked that organizations using the posters share their experiences with her and suggest any adaptations that improve this process. Thanks for all that you are doing to protect vulnerable people and animals.

The Hit Free Zone workplace has been promoted by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC). A recent issue of the *APSAC Advisor* (Vol. 31, No. 1) described No Hit Zones as “a simple solution to address the most prevalent risk factor in child abuse” and a way to shift long-standing social norms surrounding the use of corporal punishment as an acceptable form of discipline. The National Link Coalition materials are the first to include animals as vulnerable subjects.



## Hit Free Zone

**This facility is a Hit Free Zone**  
Hitting hurts people and animals. This is a  
safe place where:

- Grownups don't hit grownups
- Grownups don't hit kids
- Kids don't hit grownups
- Kids don't hit kids
- No one hits animals

*Staff members are happy to speak with you if you have questions or would like more information*



The National Resource Center on  
The Link Between  
Animal Abuse and Human Violence  
[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)

(Optional: Insert your logo and  
office information here)

## Kentucky Coalition Event to Raise Awareness of The Link and the Legislative Process

The [Kentucky Link Coalition](#) is planning the first [Kentucky Animal Action Day](#) with a free event scheduled for Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at the state Capitol Annex in Frankfort. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with legislators about animal welfare issues and pending legislation in Kentucky.



Featured speakers for the day will include:

- Lt. Joye Keeley, retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department and coalition founder, will address The Link Between Animal Abuse and Violence Against Humans.
- Brenda Rosen, President of the Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, will speak on The Importance of Pets in the Lives of our Clients.
- Sgt. Lisa Nagle of the Louisville Metro Police Department will discuss Animal Fighting.
- Hannah Truxell, attorney, will explain the Legislative Process.
- Mychell Lawson, animal advocate, will review Current Bills and Why They Are Important.
- Nolia Batey, attorney, will review Current Laws and their Inadequacy.
- Melissa Bowman, President of Kentucky Vote for Animals, will review a Survey of Legislators and Candidates.
- Also scheduled to speak are State Sen. Morgan McGarvey and Rep. Cherlynn Stevenson.



### Academy on Violence & Abuse Promotes Oklahoma Link Coalition Video

The Oklahoma Link Coalition's [new informational video](#) (See the [December 2019 LINK-Letter](#)) got a nice publicity boost in January when it was spotlighted in the newsletter of the Academy on Violence and Abuse. We thank our colleagues at AVA for helping to draw additional attention to The Link between animal abuse and human violence. AVA published an extensive 16-page monograph on The Link in 2015, entitled [The Link Across the Lifespan](#), written by the National Link Coalition, that described animal abuse as a significant public health issue and an under-recognized Adverse Childhood Experience (See the [August 2015 LINK-Letter](#)).

### *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)

## ***CHILD PROTECTION... AND THE LINK***

### **Link Focus Can Enhance Successful Child Abuse Prosecutions**



**Michelle Welch (left) and Diane Balkin**

“Look at the animal piece – it may get you justice for the child or domestic violence victim.”

That was the advice from Virginia Assistant Attorney General Michelle Welch in a webinar on “The Link between Child Abuse and Animal Abuse” presented by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in partnership with the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The webinar offered valuable information on co-occurring child and animal abuse and strategies for successful prosecution of cases involving victims from multiple species.

“There’s a huge amount of co-occurrence. If we don’t investigate the animal cruelty we’re missing a huge part of violence and bad conduct that can occur under one roof,” noted co-presenter Diane Balkin, retired Denver Chief Deputy District Attorney and Animal Legal Defense Fund criminal justice attorney.

Balkin noted that animal cruelty prosecutions face many challenges including time-and labor-intensive investigations, crime scenes that are not processed adequately, mainstream and social media pressure, and victims who cannot tell you what happened. Meanwhile, there is no fixed trajectory of animal crimes preceding or co-occurring with human violence, it’s impossible to stereotype animal abusers or the degree of a defendant’s culpability. “There’s no cookie-cutter approach to these offenses.”

But by presenting animal cruelty as a matter of public safety, human welfare and animal welfare, and by Linking not only the crimes but also human and animal services agencies, successful Link prosecutions achieve justice for all involved, Balkin said. “Awareness of The Link is important for preventing crimes, whether against persons or property.”

Welch said that prosecutors who focus on the animal cruelty aspects of a case involving crimes against both animals and people, and who prepare themselves and their witnesses extensively, stand a better chance of gaining convictions. “The Link is well-documented and we see co-occurrences all the time,”

She encouraged prosecutors to tell the case history from the animal’s point-of-view and to recognize that children are often exposed to acts of violence or neglect against animals, especially in animal hoarding cases where child neglect often occurs. While anthropologist Margaret Mead said that the worst thing that can happen to a child is to commit animal cruelty and get away with it, “the second worst thing is to witness animal cruelty.”

Preparation is essential for successful prosecutions. “Most animal abuse cases hinge on circumstantial evidence and connecting those dots takes time,” Welch said. “Prepare thoroughly and don’t cut corners.” She recommended presenting a timeline, having veterinarians offer Body Condition Scores and before-and-after photos and testifying about how the animal suffered, and getting access to the defendant’s cellphone. “You know what people are by their text messages,” she said.

“You can make lemonade from lemons,” said Balkin. “Take these cases seriously. Educate judges that animal cruelty is against the law. Putting The Link into your cases is very important.”

## ***ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE... AND THE LINK***

### **Hawai'i May Become 47<sup>th</sup> State to Outlaw Animal Sexual Abuse**

With a highly informative preamble noting that 46 states have already outlawed sexual assault of animals and that the “sexual molestation of animals by humans” is not currently addressed adequately in Hawai'i, state Rep. Gregg Takayama (D – Pearl City) has introduced **HB 1618**. The bill would prohibit subjecting an animal to sexual contact, permitting such activity to occur, or obtaining or organizing an event with the intent of subjecting an animal to sexual contact.



The bill notes that many incidents of animal sexual abuse cannot be prosecuted under current Hawai'i law because they do not inflict bodily injury or because these acts are discovered long after the incident occurred, severely limiting the availability of evidence. “The legislature further finds that the sexual assault of an animal can be a strong predictor of a tendency to commit other violent and sexual crimes,” it adds, citing several studies and the FBI’s tracking of animal sexual abuse as a Group A offense – the same category used to track rape and murder.

**Rep. Gregg Takayama**

Establishing sexual assault of an animal as a separate crime will allow law enforcement officers “to better identify potentially dangerous and violent sexual predators in their communities,” it states.

Offenses would be considered a Class C felony unless a minor was exposed to the crime, in which case it would be a Class B felony. Convicted offenders would be required to: surrender all animals in their custody; reimburse animal services agencies for the costs of the animals’ care; undergo psychological or psychiatric treatment; make restitution to the animals’ owners; and be barred from being around animals for at least five years.

A companion measure, **SB 2718** was introduced by Sens. Mike Gabbard (D – Kapolei), Gil Riviere (D – Kane’ohe) and Brian Taniguchi (D – Manoa).

In addition to Hawai'i, sex with animals is still legal in Wyoming, New Mexico and West Virginia. **Wisconsin SB 139** would increase penalties for bestiality from current misdemeanor levels to a variety of felony charges, with enhanced penalties if a child is involved, and would also require offenders to register as a sex offender; current law only permits courts to order such registration. A bill in **Massachusetts, S.891**, would replace the archaic legal definition of the “abominable and detestable crime against nature, either with mankind or with a beast” with a more contemporary terminology of a “sexual act on an animal.”



### **What is The LINK?**

**Legislation...**

**Intervention...**

**Networking...**

**Knowledge...**

*...to protect ALL vulnerable members of the family*

## ***SOCIAL WORK... AND THE LINK***

### **Link Training, Cross-Reporting Can Benefit Social Work and More Comprehensive Support Services**

A new journal article is using Ohio legislation and community efforts as a case study to examine how although animal abuse and cruelty have been identified as potential indicators and precursors to interpersonal violence, incongruence in the definitions of animal maltreatment and the lack of training about The Link in human service professions impede the implementation of more comprehensive services that can improve safety and quality of life.

Writing in an animal-themed issue of [\*Society Register\*](#), Aviva Vincent, Shelby McDonald, Bethanie Poe, and Vicki Deisner argue that including The Link in social work curricula and cross-reporting suspected abuse and neglect across professional disciplines can help communities build stronger support networks for those in need.

“Rather than considering violence against pets as separate to IPV, considering animals as part of the family structure, impacted by violence in the same manner as their human counterparts, sheds light on instances of animal abuse and neglect as part of the familial cycle of violence,” they write. But because social work remains a human-centered field of study and practice, many social work professionals lack the inclusion of pets which is “vital to understanding the health and well-being of clients holistically.”

The authors extensively examine the current state of research and cross-reporting, and their limitations, covering animal abuse Linked with intimate partner violence and between childhood animal cruelty and adult violence.

“While the primary discussion is on the role of social workers and animal control in cross-reporting, there are several other key professions who must be engaged to be successful. At a minimum, veterinarians, legal professionals, and medical doctors should also be active contributors and collaborators,” they write.

“Fields allied to social work, such as child protective services and departments for aging are also assets to effective community service. Specifically, the inclusion of veterinarians among required reporters of animal abuse may aid in saving animals’ lives as well as their human counterparts.”

The authors conclude that “pets are vital and vivacious members of the family unit throughout millions of American homes. *The Link* recognizes the multifaceted relationship between child maltreatment, domestic violence, elder abuse, and animal abuse that may co-occur in household or community. Interdisciplinary education, with a unified definition of animal abuse and neglect and clear professional standards of practice, may help professionals to identify suspected maltreatment, and initiate effective support inclusive of reporting. In particular, social work education is encouraged to move away from its human-centered roots and embrace our multispecies homes.”

**-- Vincent, A., McDonald, S., Poe, B., & Deisner, V. (2019). *The Link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse. Society Register, 3(3), 83-101.***



**From top: Vincent, McDonald, Poe, Deisner**

## *VETERINARY MEDICINE... AND THE LINK*

### **Veterinary Publication Features Need for Pet Support in Domestic Violence**



The veterinary profession's response to growing awareness of how animal abuse is often intertwined with domestic violence was the subject of a feature article in [dvm360](#). Senior Editor

Erica Tricarico described on Dec. 23 how a number of industry leaders are helping to keep survivors of domestic violence and their pets together by committing thousands of dollars toward building supplies, training and other resources that are making domestic violence shelters pet-friendly.

Tricarico cited the Purple Leash Project partnership between Purina and RedRover that awards grants of up to \$20,000 to help fund shelter renovations, and Bayer's donation of \$90,000 to nine shelters through its Grants Fur Families program (*See the [March 2019 LINK-Letter](#)*). The Banfield Foundation has committed \$1,000,000 over four years through its Safer Together initiative and has partnered with Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson to raise awareness of the issue (*See the [October 2019 LINK-Letter](#)*).

The article quoted Kris Neuhauser, a veterinarian in Kansas City, Mo., who provides veterinary care for animals in the pet-friendly Rose Brooks domestic violence shelter (*See the [July 2012 LINK-Letter](#)*), about how co-sheltering gives survivors support through their recovery. "Try to picture yourself in that situation: you can get help for yourself and your children, but you're going to have to leave your pets behind," Neuhauser said. "How hard would it be to leave?"

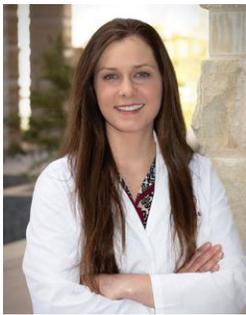
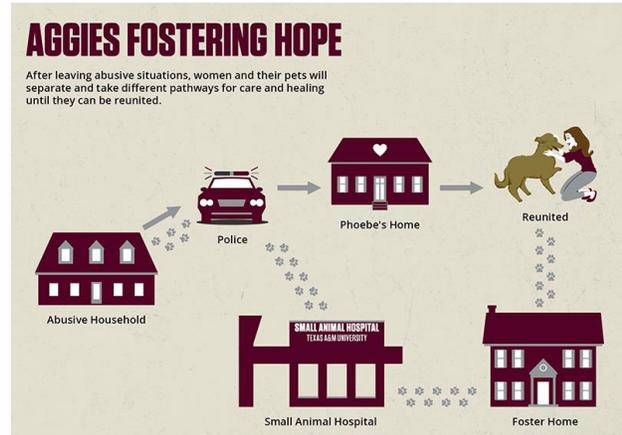
"Our mission at Rose Brooks is to break the cycle of domestic violence, and we recognize pets as part of that cycle," said Zoë Agnew-Svoboda, Paws Place program coordinator at the shelter.

The article offered resources for practitioners, including the National Link Coalition and awareness of domestic violence protection orders that include pets. It featured the Paws Place pet-friendly apartments at New York City's URI PALS program. "Shelters that allow pets are filling a gap in services that is often missed," said PALS Director Danielle Emery. "So many of our residents with pets either lived in their cars or stayed in a dangerous situation longer because they couldn't leave their pet behind. It's also important to spread the word because not many people understand the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence and how sheltering pets could save a person's life."

## “Aggies Fostering Hope” Helps Pets and People at Texas A&M

The Texas A & M University College of Veterinary Medicine has joined a growing list of veterinary schools that are recognizing The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence by creating a program to help local survivors and their pets. To help abused women and their pets, a group of students created [Aggies Fostering Hope](#) to provide safe shelter for the animal survivors of domestic violence.

The program emerged from a course entitled “Veterinarians Impacting their Community” which encourages students to find innovative ways to combine community service and veterinary medicine. Students Melodie Raese, Jamie Foster and Hunter Greer were researching The Link and discovered that many of the safe houses in the Bryan-College Station area were not equipped to take in animals.



**Hunter Greer**

Greer said her inspiration for the program arose when she was an undergraduate volunteering at Phoebe’s Home, the Bryan/College Station safe house for women fleeing domestic abuse.

“After learning about the link between domestic violence and pet abuse in the CVM curriculum, I learned that veterinarians have the ability to impact the community beyond the clinic doors,” Greer said. “With the known challenges of our profession, I believe dedicating time to helping others provides a newfound gratitude for our own stresses.”

Aggies Fostering Hope takes a three-pronged approach to the problem. Students and the university Health Promotion Office are working with local police departments to safely transport pet survivors to the vet school hospital for medical treatment and then into a foster home until they can be reunited with their owners.

Part two involves building public information about the program and The Link. The third component is to inform veterinarians. “75% of the animals that are in abusive homes are being seen by veterinarians. More than likely, there is a chance that there are signs that are just not being observed or recognized. There are ways for veterinarians to intervene to help these women and these animals,” said Raese.

Several other veterinary colleges, including Mississippi State and the University of Georgia, are believed to have established sheltering programs for the animal survivors of domestic violence.



**Melodie Raese**

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

### Link Bills We're Watching

As we enter the 2020 legislative season, we're keeping an eye on 69 bills that have already been introduced – with many more to come. Please let us know if you hear of other bills not included here:

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



**Arizona HB 2321** would allow courts to issue “severe threat orders of protection”, which would prohibit respondents from possessing firearms based upon a credible threat of death or serious injury, against individuals who committed or attempted to commit acts of violence including cruelty to animals involving torture, serious injury or protracted suffering within the previous six months.



**Florida HB 705/SB 752** would require every county in the state to designate at least one shelter that can accommodate persons with pets. Pets would have to be contained in secure enclosures in a separate area. The bill is in the Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee.



**Florida SB 1082/HB 241** would allow courts to award temporary exclusive custody and care of non-agricultural animals to petitioners and to order defendants to temporarily have no contact with the animal and to not harm or take the animal away. **SB 1082** was approved by the Agriculture Committee and sent to the Judiciary and Rules Committees; **HB 241** is in the Criminal Justice Subcommittee.



**Georgia HB 582** would allow courts to create a pet animal care plan in marriage dissolution proceedings that would include the prevention of cruelty to animals and the provision of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. Courts would have to determine whether the parties have joint ownership of the animals and recognize that a close and continuing owner-pet relationship and continuity in the pet's life will be in the pet's best interest.



**Indiana HB 1423** would exclude a party's service animals from a court's division of property in any actions for a dissolution of marriage. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**Kentucky HB 216** would include violence against an animal used as coercive conduct within the definitions of “domestic violence and abuse” and “dating violence and abuse” and would allow judges to award possession of a domestic animal to the petitioner in a protection-from-abuse procedure. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**Massachusetts H.3833** would cause individuals convicted of animal cruelty to be civilly liable to another individual for the infliction of emotional distress if the person knew, or should have known, that the conduct was extreme and outrageous and would cause severe emotional distress. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



**Michigan HB 4498** would enjoin and restrain respondents served with personal protection orders, which include protection of pets, from possessing, using, transporting, selling, purchasing, carrying, shipping, receiving, or distributing a firearm or ammunition. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

 **New York A 588** would create a felony crime of animal cruelty to companion animals that is intended to threaten, intimidate or harass a family or household member, with additional penalties if committed in the presence of a minor child. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.

 **New York A 767** and **S 1251** would amend language in pet protection orders to allow the court to grant petitioners exclusive care, custody and control of animals kept by the petitioner, respondent or child, and to order the respondent to stay away from, take, transfer, conceal, harm, or dispose of the animal. The bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Rules Committees.

 **New York A 1097** and **S 6222** would require courts to consider the best interest of companion animals in awarding their possession in a divorce or separation proceeding. The bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committees.

 **Pennsylvania SB 90** and **HB 1075** would create “Extreme Risk Protection Orders” that would allow courts to prohibit persons from having or obtaining a firearm upon a finding that the person presents a risk of suicide or of causing death or serious bodily injury to another person. Factors that could help make such a determination include a history of domestic abuse and/or animal cruelty. **HB 1028** would allow household members to file a petition for a “Firearm Restraining Order” prohibiting a respondent from having firearms, weapons or ammunition if the respondent presents an immediate and present danger to physical safety, as represented by acts of domestic violence or killing or threatening to kill pets or other animals. The bills are in their respective Judiciary Committees.

 **Pennsylvania HB 1432** would recognize that “companion animals are living beings that are generally regarded as cherished family members that offer their owners companionship, security and assistance,” and as a “special category of personal property” need to be granted special consideration in the division of property during marriage dissolution. Parties could enter into an enforceable agreement regarding the care and possession of companion animals, and the court shall consider all relevant factors. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment*

 **H.R. 2808**, the Child & Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act, would amend the Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA) to include data on animal abuse in the National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The bill was introduced by Rep. Ann McLane Kuster (D – N.H.) and John Katko (R – N.Y.) with 20 co-sponsors and is in the House Education and Labor Committee.

 **Massachusetts S.1027** would allow juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18 to be prosecuted if the criminal offense involved the infliction or threat of serious bodily harm to a person or an animal. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

 **New York A 831** would increase the penalty for aggravated animal cruelty from two to four years if committed in the presence of a child. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

 **New York A 955** would make it a misdemeanor to knowingly cause a minor child under age 16 to attend an animal fight. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



**New York A 1211** and **S 3415** would permit mandated reporters of suspected child abuse to report suspected animal cruelty, notwithstanding confidentiality provisions, if the act were committed by a person also suspected of child abuse or maltreatment. Individuals already permitted to report suspected child abuse (which includes everyone in New York State) could also report suspected animal cruelty. Reports made in good faith would be immune from civil and criminal liability. **A 1211** is in the Children and Families Committee. **S 3415** passed the Senate but died in the Assembly and was referred to the Domestic Animal Welfare Committee.



**New York A 2664** and **S 3327** would amend the definition of child endangerment and other related statutes to include committing acts of animal cruelty in the presence of a child and to strengthen penalties for existing animal cruelty charges when committed in the presence of a child. The bills are in the Assembly Codes and Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committees.



**North Carolina H 507** would make it a felony to bring a minor under the age of 18 to a dog- or cockfight. The bill passed the House 113-0 and is in the Senate Rules & Operations Committee.



**Rhode Island H 7030** would allow parents, guardians and DCYF requesting a protective order for a child who is suffering from domestic abuse or sexual exploitation to award the plaintiff custody of the household pets. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**Rhode Island H 7130** would authorize courts to award sole possession of a domestic companion animal in a divorce or separation proceeding by considering the best interests of the animal, including: how, when and by whom the animal was acquired; who has assumed most of the animal's care; who spends the most time with the animal; which living arrangement would be best; and whether it would be in the best interests of the children to keep the animal in their domicile for care and affection. Joint custody decisions would include: length of the animal's stay with each party; costs of veterinary visits, daycare and the pet's other needs; and additional criteria the court deems important. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**South Carolina S 908** would allow individuals to remove a minor or an animal from a motor vehicle if either is experiencing a life- or extreme health-threatening situation and provide that individual with immunity from civil and criminal liability. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Elder Abuse*



**New York A 1153** would bar landlords from denying residential occupancy or evicting persons over age 62 solely for keeping a common household pet. Property owners could establish reasonable rules for the care and handling of pets. The bill is in the Assembly Housing Committee.



**Pennsylvania SB 819** would extensively revise the Older Adults Protective Services Act and would impose a 25-year ban on individuals convicted of having sexual intercourse with animals from working in long-term care nursing facilities, personal care homes, home health care agencies, and adult daily living centers. The bill passed the Senate and is in the House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee.

## *Animal Sexual Abuse*

 **Hawai'i HB 1618/SB 2718** would prohibit subjecting an animal to sexual contact, permitting such activity to occur, or obtaining or organizing an event with the intent of subjecting an animal to sexual contact. Offenses would be a Class C felony or a Class B felony if a minor were exposed to the crime. Convicted offenders would be required to: surrender all animals in their custody; reimburse animal services agencies for the costs of the animals' care; undergo psychological or psychiatric treatment; make restitution to the animals' owners; and be barred from being around animals for at least five years.

 **Massachusetts S.891** would replace the archaic "Crime against nature" – the "abominable and detestable crime against nature, either with mankind or with a beast" – with a new crime of a "sexual act on an animal." The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

 **New York A 8744** would establish the crimes of sexual conduct with an animal, a Class A misdemeanor, and sexual conduct with an animal resulting in injury or death, a Class E felony. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

 **Pennsylvania HB 1312** would deny offenders convicted of sexual intercourse with animals the right of having their criminal records expunged. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

 **Virginia HB 1065** would make it a Class 6 felony to create, record, distribute, sell, advertise, or appear in any video or still image of animal cruelty. Such images used as evidence would be exempt. The bill is in the Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural resources.

 **Wisconsin SB 139** would increase penalties for bestiality from current misdemeanor levels to a variety of felony charges for sexual contact with an animal; advertising, harboring, transporting, providing or transporting animals for sexual contact; and creating, distributing or possessing animal pornography. Penalties would be further enhanced if a child is involved. The bill would also require offenders to register as a sex offender; current law only permits courts to order such registration. **SB 139** was passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly.

## *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*

 **New York A 1834** and **S 186**, "Kirby and Quigley's Law," would expand the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to a companion animal during the commission of a felony. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and the Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committees.

 **New York A 2509** and **S 609** would add animal fighting as a criminal act when referring to enterprise corruption. The bills are in the Assembly Codes Committee.

 **Pennsylvania HB 1071** would allow the state's sentencing guidelines to provide an enhancement in cases where a domestic animal is harmed or killed during the course of a criminal trespass or burglary. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

## “CASA for Animals”



**Florida SB 1048** would allow courts to appoint an advocate for the interests of an animal in certain proceedings and require the Florida Bar Association’s Animal Law section to maintain a list of qualified attorneys and certified legal interns to be appointed as advocates. The bill was approved by the Agriculture Committee and sent to the Judiciary and Rules Committees.



**Illinois HB 3995** would permit courts to appoint a legal aid to represent the interests of a cat or dog when a person is facing charges of animal neglect or abuse. The Department of Natural Resources would have to create a database of legal professionals and paraprofessionals willing to provide such representation. The bill is in the House Rules Committee.



**Maine LD 1442** allows a court to appoint volunteer advocates for justice in animal cruelty cases, either under its own initiative or upon the request of a party or counsel. Advocates will be able to monitor the proceedings, consult with individuals and records relevant to the case, and present appropriate information and recommendations. The bill passed both the House and Senate and became law on Jan. 12 without the signature of the Governor.



**Michigan HB 4592** would allow courts to appoint pro bono lawyers or law students as advocates to represent the interests of animals in criminal prosecutions. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**New Hampshire HB 1164** would create a special advocate for cats and dogs that are neglected or otherwise treated cruelly. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**New York A 25, S 3027** and **A 702** would create court-appointed advocates for animals. **A 25** and **S 3027** are in the Judiciary Committees; **A 702** is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

## Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



**California SB 580** would amend current procedures requiring animal abuse offenders on probation to complete counseling for behavior or conduct disorders, to instead undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, treatment, and a responsible animal owner education course as the court deems appropriate. The bill passed the Senate 38-0 and is in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.



**Missouri HB 1320** would allow courts to impose psychological or psychiatric evaluation or treatment upon animal cruelty offenders as a condition of probation; evaluation or treatment would be mandatory upon second or subsequent offenses or if the crime involved animal torture or mutilation. *The bill also addresses cross-reporting.* The measure is in the Judiciary Committee.



**New Hampshire HB 1449** would allow courts to order an animal hoarder to undergo a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and to undergo appropriate treatment. If the person were found to be not competent to stand trial, the court may order custody of the seized animals to be given to another person, shelter or rescue organization. The bill is in the Environment & Agriculture Committee.



**New York A 984** and **S 385** would require courts to impose mandatory psychiatric evaluation and treatment for juvenile and adult offenders convicted of aggravated cruelty to animals.

**S 384** would require juvenile offenders to undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment where necessary. The Assembly bill is in the Agriculture Committee. The Senate bills are in the Domestic Animal Welfare Committee.



**New York A 987** and **S 2007** would prohibit a person convicted of “Buster’s Law” from having a companion animal unless authorized by court order after they complete appropriate psychiatric or psychological testing. **A 987** is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee; **S 2007** is in the Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committee.

### *Cross-Reporting*



**Florida S 7000** would declare that “early identification of animal abuse is another important tool in safeguarding children from abuse and neglect, providing needed support to families, and protecting animals.” It would require child protective investigators to report suspected animal abuse to a supervisor within 72 hours for submission to a local animal control agency. Reporters would be presumed to have acted in good faith and would be immune from civil and criminal liability and administrative penalties. Animal control officers would have to report suspect child abuse to the central child abuse hotline. Failure to cross-report would be a second-degree misdemeanor for child protective workers and a third-degree felony for animal control officers. The Department of Children and Families, in conjunction with the Florida Animal Control Association, would develop a one-hour training curriculum for all child protective investigators and animal control officers on the identification of and accurate and timely cross-reporting of abuse. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee.



**Florida HB 621/SB 1044** (“Allie’s Law”) would require veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty to a dog or cat with immunity from civil and criminal liability; prohibit the alteration or destruction of certain records; and specify that failure to report is grounds for disciplinary action. The bills are in the House Business & Professions Subcommittee and the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.



**Hawai’i SB 2985/HB 2528, HB 2130** and **HB 2453** would require veterinarians who have reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been killed or injured through participation in a staged animal fight or has been a victim of animal abuse or cruelty to promptly report the case to an appropriate law enforcement authority, with immunity from civil liability. **HB 2528** was approved by the House Agriculture Committee and went to the Judiciary Committee with amendments; **HB 2130** and **HB 2453** were referred to the Agriculture, Judiciary and Finance Committees. **SB 2985** is in the Senate Judiciary and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health Committees.



**Iowa SF 2029** would grant veterinarians immunity from administrative, civil and criminal liability for assisting in the investigation or prosecution of animal abuse, neglect, torture, fighting, or bestiality. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

 **Kentucky SB 21**, which would have required veterinarians to report suspected abuse and provide immunity for a good-faith report, was amended to merely permit veterinarians to report; it would also allow veterinarians to release information in order to report abuse. The bill was approved by the Agriculture Committee and is in the Rules Committee. **HB 60** would require veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to an animal control officer. The bill is in the Licensing, Occupations & Administrative Regulations Committee. **HB 108** would provide civil and criminal immunity to veterinarians who, in good faith, report suspected animal abuse to animal control or peace officers, provide records relating to such reports, and testify in any judicial proceedings relating from such reports. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

 **Michigan SB 352** would require Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services workers to report suspected animal abuse or neglect to an animal control or law enforcement officer, with confidentiality and immunity from civil and criminal liability. Failure to report would be a crime, with escalating penalties based on whether the animal abuse is a misdemeanor or a felony. The bill passed the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee and is in the full Senate.

 **Michigan SB 429** would permit veterinarians to report suspected abuse or neglect of a companion animal to an animal control shelter or law enforcement agency. The bill is in the was approved by the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and is in the full Senate.

 **Missouri HB 1320** would grant immunity from civil liability to veterinarians, teachers, school personnel, and others who report suspected animal cruelty to law enforcement agencies. *The bill also addresses psychological evaluation and treatment.* The measure is in the Judiciary Committee.

 **New York A 1170** would require veterinarians who reasonably and in good faith suspect that a companion animal is the victim of cruelty, abuse or neglect to report the incident and disclose necessary records to law enforcement and humane investigators. Currently, N.Y. veterinarians are permitted to make such reports. Both the existing and proposed law accord veterinarians who report in good faith – to protect the health and welfare of the patient or the public – immunity from civil and criminal liability. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education.

 **Ohio HB 33** would require veterinarians, social services professionals, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists to immediately report suspected abuse of companion animals. Dog wardens and deputy dog wardens would be required to report violations concerning companion animals to appropriate social services professionals in situations where a child or older adult resides with the alleged violator and where the animal abuse has an impact on the child or older adult. Good-faith reporters would be immune from civil and criminal liability. The measure is in the House Criminal Justice Committee.

### *Animal Hoarding*

 **New York A 261** would create the crime of companion animal hoarding. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

 **New York A 4569** would add a new crime of aggravated neglect of a companion animal. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

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



### **Exotic Animal Park Owner Gets 22 Years for Murder-for-Hire Scheme and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking**

A former Oklahoma wildlife park owner who was convicted on nine counts of violating the Endangered Species Act and eight counts of violating the Lacey Act for falsifying wildlife records was sentenced to 22 years in federal prison for the wildlife violations and conspiring in a murder-for-hire scheme to kill an animal rights activist in 2017.

**Maldonado-Passage** Joseph Maldonado-Passage, 56, also known as “Joe Exotic,” had been found guilty last April of attempting to hire someone – who turned out to be an undercover FBI agent – to kill Carole Baskin, operator of a big-cat rescue and animal sanctuary in Florida. Baskin had secured a million-dollar judgment against Maldonado-Passage and his exotic animal park in 2011, prompting him to post numerous threats against her on Facebook. The [U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma](#) said Maldonado-Passage had falsified forms involving the sale of wildlife in interstate commerce, killed five tiger cubs to make cage space available for other big cats, and offered to sell tiger cubs in interstate commerce. Tigers are considered an endangered species. “Wildlife crime is often connected with other criminal activity such as fraud, narcotics, money-laundering, and smuggling. Mr. Maldonado-Passage added murder-for-hire,” said Edward Grace, Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Office of Law Enforcement.

### **Florida Businessman Charged with Child and Animal Abuse**

Damon Becnel, 47, of Destin, Fla., was charged with child abuse and animal cruelty after his 14-year-old daughter told Okaloosa County Sheriff’s officers on Christmas Eve that she had been physically abused and allegedly provided investigators with a video of the incident from a security camera she had installed. The [Walton Sun](#) reported that the video purportedly shows Becnel pulling out a knife and threatening one of two dogs while yelling, “I will cut this [expletive deleted] dog’s eyeballs out.” He could later be seen striking the dog, grabbing it by the throat and throwing it to the floor while the child tells him to stop, and then struck the girl several times, according to the arrest report. She later escaped the house while he was asleep and walked several miles to a Wal-Mart where she bought a burner phone and called her babysitter.



**Damon Becnel**

The arrest sparked a community backlash with the creation of a Facebook page, viewed more than 6,000 times, called “Justice for Daughter of Damon Becnel & Her Pets,” and re-ignited a bitter custody battle with the girl’s mother filing a petition for an injunction against domestic violence on behalf of the girl. The petition claims that Becnel has a criminal history, has committed or threatened domestic violence in the past, owns more than 20 guns, and has substance abuse issues and a history of mental health issues. Becnel was described as a prominent local businessman who is a managing partner of 26 businesses and is president of the Sandestin Police Department.

## Indiana Man Charged with Child Sexual Exploitation and Bestiality



**Robert W. Brown, Jr.**

Robert W. Brown, Jr., 47, of New Albany, Ind., was charged with two felonies for child exploitation – including one for bestiality with a child under age 14 – when police investigators seized two flash drives said to contain more than 1,000 images and videos of boys and girls aged one to 17 either nude or engaging in various sex acts. The [Jeffersonville News and Tribune](#) reported that investigators still had many more items of evidence to review and that more charges were expected.



**Anthony Todt is led away by police**

## Physical Therapist Sought for Alleged Fraud Charged with Homicide and Animal Cruelty

The father of a Connecticut family that hadn't been seen in weeks was arrested in Celebration, Fla. on four counts of homicide and one count of animal cruelty after the bodies of his wife, three young children and a dog were reportedly found inside a home on the outskirts of Disney

World. Anthony Todt, 44, was charged with the deaths of his wife Megan, 42, children Alek, 13, Tyler, 11, and Zoe, 4, and the family dog, "Breezy." The family had previously lived in Colchester, Conn., but rented the Florida home last May while they were being evicted from their home and Todt, a physical therapist, was facing eviction from his office.

Federal agents were attempting to serve Todt with a federal warrant in conjunction with a Connecticut investigation under the False Claims Act, which probes fraudulent claims submitted to the government, when the bodies were discovered, according to the [Orlando Sentinel](#). Todt was being sought for allegedly raking in more than \$130,000 in fraudulent bills he submitted to health insurers for hundreds of hours of care he didn't provide.

## Teen, Dogs Rescued from Feces- and Cockroach-Filled Home

A Largo, Fla., couple were each arrested on a count of felony child abuse and child neglect, and their four dogs were taken into protective custody by Animal Services, after their malnourished 14-year-old son was reportedly found with bruises and marks on his legs and living in squalid conditions in a feces-filled mobile home infested with 1,000 cockroaches. The [Tampa Bay Times](#) reported that Larry James Brown, 44, and Melanie Guy Brown, 36, had padlocked the refrigerator and freezer to keep their son from "stealing food." The parents allegedly told police they would wake the boy up between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. and beat him unless he cleaned the house, which was filled with clutter. The boy, who had been found at 1 a.m. lying on the ground near a supermarket, was taken to a children's hospital for medical evaluation.



**Larry and Melanie Brown**

## Man with Domestic Battery History Charged with Violently Kicking a Fawn

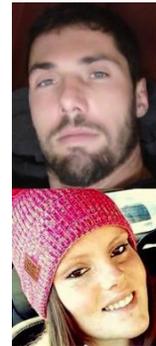


Jordan Anheuser

A man with an apparent history of domestic violence was charged with two counts of animal cruelty for allegedly kicking a downed fawn violently as seen in a video that went viral. Jordan Anheuser, 20, of Pinckneyville, Ill., was arrested by sheriff's deputies, according to the [Southern Illinoisan](#). The video shows a man violently kicking a young deer in the head and body as it flops around trying to get up. Anheuser was charged last April with domestic battery, battery and criminal damage to government property, and was convicted on the latter charge and sentenced to 24 months of probation.

## Five Family Members and Dog Killed in Murder-Suicide

Craven County, N. Car. sheriff's deputies said that Michael Ireland, 39, of Vanceboro, shot and killed his wife, three young children, and the family dog before turning the gun on himself. April Ireland, 26, and children Michael, 4, Bryson, 3, and Caroline, 8 months old, all died from a single gunshot wound, according to the Charlotte Observer. Authorities said there was no sign of a struggle and that they had been alerted to conduct a welfare check by a relative who had been unable to make contact with the family for two days.



At left: Michael and April Ireland

## Two Link Cases Roil Missoula, Montana



Nicholas Beres

### Estranged Husband Charged with Killing Wife's Puppy

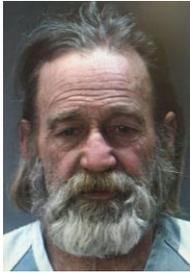
Nicholas Allen Beres, 29, of Missoula, Mont., was charged with animal cruelty for allegedly killing the 5-month-old puppy his estranged wife had obtained to help her through the emotional stress of her separation from him. [The Missoulian](#) reported that the misdemeanor charged triggered a potential revocation of a deferred sentence from a previous, undisclosed case which may have involved assault, burglary and criminal mischief. Beres reportedly told deputies that he had beaten the puppy, breaking its neck, because it had defecated in its crate

## Naked Man Charged with Break In, Child Sexual Assault, and Strangling Dog



Dirus Kane Jim

In an unrelated case also in Missoula, Mont., police arrested Dirus Kane Jim, 25, for allegedly breaking into a stranger's home, assaulting a 7-year-old girl in her bed, and strangling the family's dog. [The Missoulian](#) reported that after hearing the young girl's screams, a resident of the home found Jim naked in the bathroom with his hands gripped around the dog's neck. A blood test showed Jim's blood alcohol level to be .183, according to charging documents.



Luther Grubbs, Jr.

## Ex-con, Imprisoned 30 Years for Murder, Charged with Dragging Dog Behind Truck

A Tarrant, Ala. man who had spent 30 years in prison for homicide was charged with aggravated animal cruelty for allegedly fatally dragging his dog behind a pickup truck. [AL.com](#) reported that witnesses saw Luther Grubbs, Jr., 66, dragging the German shepherd on a two-foot nylon leash tied to his trailer hitch. Court records show that Grubbs was convicted of murder in 1985 and served 30 years before being released in 2015.



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.

## ***LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES***

**Feb. 12 – Pittsfield, Mass.:** HAVEN – the [Human/Animal Violence Education Network](#) – will meet at the Berkshire Humane Society.

**Feb. 14 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will meet at the SPCA of Texas. Attorney David Thomas Ritter will speak on “Animal Cruelty and The Link.”

**Feb. 18 (online):** Jake Kamins, Animal Cruelty Deputy District Attorney for Oregon, will present a [webinar](#) on “Animals as Victims: Charging and the Law” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**Feb. 19 -- Ithaca, N.Y.:** Phil Arkow will address the veterinarian’s role in responding to family violence to the Ethics and Animal Care class at the [Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#).

**Feb. 19 (online):** Allie Phillips will teach a class for [Alabama’s domestic violence shelters](#) on Sheltering Animals & Families Together®: A Life-Saving Initiative.

**Feb. 22 – Bryn Mawr, Pa.:** Phil Arkow will present a webinar for the Bryn Mawr College [Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research](#).

**Feb. 25 (online):** Claudine Wilkins of Animal Law Source will present a [webinar](#) on “Dangerous Dog Cases, Tips on Investigations and Prosecution” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**Feb. 27 – Philadelphia, Pa.:** Phil Arkow will present on “Connecting the Dots in Criminal Justice” to the [Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office’s CLE training](#).

**March 5-7 – New Orleans, La.:** Mary Lou Randour will present a report on initial findings of the FBI’s NBRIS data on animal cruelty incidents, and Kathleen Wood and Brittany Hill will present on mental health treatment options for animal cruelty offenders, at the [American Psychology-Law Society conference](#).

**March 9 – May 31 – (online):** The Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil will offer a free Portuguese-language [online course](#), “Capacitação sobre o Elo entre a Violência Humana e os Maus-tratos aos Animais.”

**March 11 – Louisville, Ky.:** Joye Estes will present on “Bestiality and The Link” to the [Kentucky Animal Care & Control Association](#).

**March 13 – Columbus, Ohio:** Vicki Deisner and Janey Hoy will speak about The Link at the [Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services’ 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#).

**March 21 – Long Beach, Calif.:** Jennifer Woolf and Christina Lindquist will present “Animal Forensics and DNA: The Whats, Whys and Hows of Animal Cruelty Investigations” at the [Animal Care Conference](#) pre-conference workshop.

**March 24 (online):** Andrew Campbell will review multidisciplinary responses to domestic violence, including animal welfare, child welfare, medical and social services, in a webinar on “All Eyes on DV: Developing a Multidisciplinary Perspective to Domestic Violence” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

**March 26-27 – Novato, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will present on The Link to the [Marin Humane Society](#) and community agencies.

**March 27 – Louisville, Ky.:** Joye Estes will teach at the University of Louisville Journal of Animal & Environmental Law [Symposium](#).

**April 22 – New York City, N.Y.:** Four speakers from the U.S., Canada, U.K., and Belgium will lead an interactive forum on “Facility Dogs Give Voice to Victims of Trauma and Violence Worldwide” as part of an effort to create courthouse dogs programs in the E.U. as part of the American Bar Association’s [International Animal Law Committee’s](#) Spring meeting.

**April 23 (online):** Jake Kamins, Animal Cruelty Deputy District Attorney for Oregon, will present a [webinar](#) on “Working with Your Local Vets: Creating Veterinary Partnerships among Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Your Veterinary Community” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**April 25-27 – Austin, Texas:** Melinda Merck will present on “Veterinary Forensics in Animal Investigations,” and Jessica Milligan and Lara Tomlin will present on “Dissecting Trending Challenges in Animal Cruelty Prosecution: From Initially Identifying Abuse Through Cruelty Convictions” at the [Texas Unites for Animals](#) conference.

**April 28 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will convene to discuss future plans.

**May 7 (online):** Virginia Senior Assistant Attorney General Michelle Welch will present a [webinar](#) on “Understanding The Link between Animal Abuse and Other Human Crimes: What Probation Officers Need to Know” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**May 7 – San Antonio, Texas:** Allie Phillips of SAF-T and Cappi Patterson of Buddy Nation will present on “In Harm’s Way with a Pet: Situations and Solutions” at the Humane Society of the U.S.’s [Animal Expo](#).

**May 8 – San Antonio, Texas:** Melinda Merck will present on “Analysis of Video Evidence and Patterned Injuries in Cruelty Cases: The Important Role of the Veterinarian” at the HSUS [Animal Expo](#).

**May 20 – Dallas, Texas:** Allie Phillips will present on “Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)<sup>®</sup>: A Global Initiative that Saves Lives” and “Family Violence: Investigation, Prosecution and Service Strategies to Keep Families Safe” at the [Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

**May 21 (online):** Andrew Campbell will discuss the impact on child development and toxic stress of witnessing threats or violence against animals in a webinar on “More than Words: The Emotional Maltreatment of Children” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

**June 16: Cheyenne, Wyo.:** Allie Phillips will present on “The Co-Occurrence of Animal Abuse and Child Abuse: Investigation and Prosecution Strategies” at the [Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth](#).

**June 16 (online):** Phil Arkow will present a webinar on “Improving Public Safety by Stopping Animal Cruelty: The Link” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

**June 21 – Tampa, Fla.:** The [National Coalition on Violence Against Animals](#) will hold its annual meeting.

**July 9 (online):** Martha Smith-Blackmore and Jessica Rock will present a [webinar](#) on “Processing Evidence in Animal Crime Cases” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**July 30 (online):** Jake Kamins, Animal Cruelty Deputy District Attorney for Oregon, will present a [webinar](#) on “Working and Managing Inter-Agency Relationships: Investigating and Prosecuting Animal Abuse Cases” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**Sept. 3 (online):** Katie Campbell will present a webinar on “Supporting Domestic Violence Survivors and their Pets through Collaboration” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

**Sept. 15 (online):** Andrew Campbell will discuss the need to extend domestic violence family services to include pets, gaps in domestic violence research and literature, and improving access to children in homes where domestic violence is present, in a webinar on “Domestic Violence: The Forgotten Frontier” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

**Oct. 8-10 – Knoxville, Tenn.:** The [6<sup>th</sup> International Veterinary Social Work Summit](#) will focus on Animals and Poverty: How Poverty Impacts the Human-Animal Relationship.

**Oct. 23 – Alpharetta, Ga.:** Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual [Animal Protection Conference and Expo](#).



## 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**

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Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,  
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Exec. Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
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Colorado State University School of Social Work  
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**Mark Kumpf, CAWA**

Director, Detroit Animal Care & Control  
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**Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.**

Consultant, ASPCA  
Falls Church, Va.

**Paul Needham**

Chair, Education Committee,  
National Adult Protective Services Association  
Shawnee, Okla.

**Maria Luisa O'Neill**

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