



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



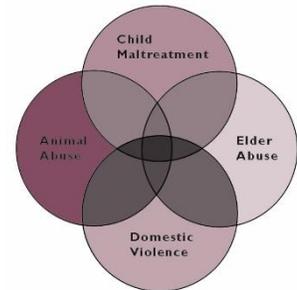
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... AND THE LINK

RedRover Expands Grants for Animal Survivors of Domestic Violence



Nicole Forsyth

RedRover, the Sacramento-based nonprofit that pioneered funding for domestic violence shelters wishing to co-shelter pet survivors, has announced an additional \$100,000 in grant funding to expand Safe Housing grants to support animal shelters that want to create on-site housing in partnership with community domestic violence agencies.

The Safe Housing Animal Shelter grants, made possible by an anonymous donor, are available to animal shelters and rescue organizations to build housing at their facility specifically for animals whose owners are staying at, or receiving services from, a domestic violence organization.

One-time capital construction grants of up to \$20,000 are available throughout the U.S. to pay for building materials and supplies to create designated housing areas in communities where pets are not allowed in domestic violence shelters. The housing should be offered at no charge to the survivor or to the domestic violence organization.

The animal shelter grants are an extension of Safe Housing grants that have been awarded to 100 domestic violence shelters in 36 states since 2012.

“RedRover’s new Safe Housing grants for animal shelters enable more domestic violence survivors to leave an abusive relationship knowing their pet has a safe place to stay. Animal shelter staff have the experience to care for animal victims and give them the TLC they need to begin the road to recovery. We know that not one program fits all, so we hope these additional programs can get more people and their beloved pets to safety,” said Nicole Forsyth, RedRover President and CEO.

To qualify for the grants, animal shelters must have 501c3 status and an MOU with one or more domestic violence agencies. The 2020 deadlines to apply for Safe Housing grants are May 15 and October 15. Eligibility requirements, FAQs and application forms are available from [RedRover](#).

Saskatchewan Survey to Identify Impact of Animal/Domestic Violence and Community Needs

The Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) is conducting what may be [one of the most comprehensive surveys](#) ever undertaken to identify the scope of animal abuse in the context of domestic violence. PATHS, in partnership with the Saskatchewan SPCA, is undertaking the research, which involves four surveys in the vast Canadian province targeted to:

- **People who have owned pets, livestock, or service animals** and have experienced violence or abuse from an intimate partner (physical, psychological, emotional, verbal, financial, sexual, and spiritual abuse; excessive jealousy and control; and harassment after separation).
- **Domestic violence service providers** (shelters, counselling/outreach centers, victim services, police, first responders, lawyers, and mediators).
- **Animal service providers** (SPCAs, humane societies, veterinary clinics, animal rescues, and animal fostering).
- **Member of the public.**



Did you experience domestic violence/abuse and own animals?

We would like to hear from you.

Confidential interviews are conducted over the telephone.
paths.research@sasktel.net (306) 522-3573

pathssk.org/animals-ipv

The surveys will improve understanding of the impact of concern for the safety of companion animals, livestock, and service animals as a barrier to individuals leaving situations of intimate partner violence and abuse. Responses are being solicited until March 31, after which the results will be compiled.

The surveys ask: whether respondents believe that concern for the safety and welfare of animals prevents individuals from leaving abusive relationships; whether questions about the safety of animals, children and adults are asked at intake; whether they have seen such cases in their work; what collaborative programs are in place; and

what programs are available to care for animal survivors. They also ask whether respondents' awareness of The Link has increased in recent years, whether more training and awareness are needed, and suggestions for outreach.

The researchers are also conducting confidential personal interviews with survivors of intimate partner violence who have also experienced animal abuse.

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE... AND THE LINK

Groundbreaking Link Legislation Considered in Guam

What is believed to be the first Link legislation introduced in the U.S. territory of Guam is proposing a ban on bestiality, inclusion of animals in protection orders, mandated reporting of animal abuse, post-conviction community service, evaluation and treatment for offenders, and increased penalties for animal maltreatment committed by abusers with a history of family and sexual violence. **Bill No. 185-35**, introduced by 10 legislators in the American territorial island in the Pacific, is called Pugua’s Law and the PAWS (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety) Act.



The comprehensive bill renames the crime of “animal cruelty” with more expansive and descriptive terms: three degrees of “animal neglect”; “sexual assault of an animal”; and first- or second-degree or aggravated “animal abuse.” It adds increased penalties if the offender has a similar prior conviction or if the offense is committed in the presence of a child. It adds a major section changing the prohibition of dogfighting to a ban on “animal fighting,” but specifically excludes cockfighting which is apparently still legal in the territory.

The bill expands the concept of “pet protection orders,” in which courts in 34 states can now include animals in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. Under the terms in Guam, a mandatory restraining order would be created against any person charged with a violation from contacting, harassing, molesting, intimidating, retaliating against, or tampering with any animal victims, their guardians or owners, and witnesses. Courts could also include an animal in any other protective order.

The bill would require psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, attorneys, and licensed professional counselors and marriage and family therapists to report suspected violations of the PAWS Act to animal control unless it is the result of a privileged communication. Good-faith reporters would be immune from civil and criminal liability. Failure to report would result in a potential loss of professional license. But veterinarians and animal control personnel are excluded from the reporting requirements to avoid deterring the public from seeking care for injured animals, according to the Legislature.

If enacted, the PAWS Act would require community service, education and court-ordered mental health evaluation and treatment of animal cruelty offenders. Convicted individuals would have to register with a PAWS Act Offender Registry and could be barred from owning animals for one to 15 years. The law would be enforced by all peace officers and animal control officers.



The Link provisions are included among many other animal welfare issues, including dyeing of baby animals, failure of a motorist to aid an injured animal, leaving animals in a hot car, and humane euthanasia.

The measure is in response to a case in 2018 when a pet dog named “Pugua” was found shot and killed. The bill is designed to reinforce existing standards for animal welfare and add best practices to previously unaddressed forms of violence. Guam instituted a felony-level animal cruelty statute only in 2011 and the first prosecution occurred in 2015.

ABA Resolution Encourages Training to Avoid Shootings of Dogs

The ongoing issue of adverse encounters between law enforcement officers and dogs – in which police are likely to shoot dogs that they mistakenly believe are going to attack them – has received significant attention with the passage of a [resolution by the American Bar Association](#) encouraging police agencies to provide comprehensive training on animal encounters.



Resolution 103A, approved by the ABA House of Delegates at its midyear meeting in Austin in February, encourages the use of laws and policies that provide training on the amount of force that is reasonably necessary during encounters with family pets and other animals to protect both the officer, the animal and the public. Such training can reduce potential legal liability and negative impressions of the police and ensure that animals are treated humanely.

A Department of Justice study reported that the primary reason officers fire their weapons is at a dog; one study in Milwaukee reported that nearly 75% of shooting incidents involved shots fired at dogs. States and cities that have implemented non-lethal animal encounter training have significantly reduced unnecessary accidents and subsequent liability for settlements with victims' families.



NACA Updates Logo

The [National Animal Care & Control Association](#) has updated its logo and marketing materials to reflect growing involvement by the law enforcement community in investigating crimes against animals. The new logo replaces what had been a brown background on a shield featuring a dog and cat with a vibrant blue.

The blue draws a connection to the law enforcement community that is becoming more involved in animal-related crimes, many of which also involve Links with crimes against people. Simultaneously, the blue also connects the professionals in the animal care and control field to their law enforcement capacity in addressing those same crimes, according to NACA officials. NACA views the role of the profession as being first responders, and the change in color better reflects this approach.

The National Link Coalition's [National Directory of Abuse Investigation Agencies](#) identified which agency in 6,513 cities and counties in the U.S is primarily responsible for investigating animal cruelty cases. Of this total, 47% of the agencies are animal control or animal services; 46% are police or sheriffs; and 7% are humane societies and SPCAs (*See the [December 2017 LINK-Letter](#)*).

NACA notes that animal control officers make four times as many contacts with the public over the course of a work shift than do law enforcement officers.

Link Awareness Helps Court Response to Animal Cruelty Offenders

We recently received an unsolicited letter from a humane educator who found the information from the National Link Coalition to be extremely helpful when offering their first court-ordered educational intervention for an animal cruelty offender. Thalia Arenas, Humane Education Coordinator for the [Central California SPCA](#) in Fresno, writes:



Thalia Arenas

“I wanted to let you know that we mentioned The Link at the first Animal Offender’s Class I just taught as part of a new curriculum designed for people who have committed some form of animal cruelty and were directed by the court to take our class. We had one student who neglected her dog. The court’s decision was to minimize her charge from a felony offense to a misdemeanor if she followed a few guidelines as part of her punishment (like taking this class). It was determined by the court that since this was her first offense regarding any type of crime and also since she came from a place of ignorance rather than psychopathic behavior, this was the appropriate punishment.

“I just thought I’d mention this to you because I read through your website to help me as I prepared and built this class to make sure I properly defined the areas of abuse and explained the difference between the Cycle of Violence and The Link. This was our starting student, but we expect to grow this class as our humane investigations are ongoing.

“Unfortunately, in our community animals are neglected left and right and in very serious ways. We have also dealt with even more serious type of offenders through our investigations. A few weeks ago the District Attorney finally had a candidate who could take this class. The reason I started following your newsletter about a year ago is because we had been thinking about starting this class two years ago. But as you know, things can be kind of slow to process sometimes. But now that we have it running we are ecstatic as this is one of the biggest goals, to educate and minimize the possibilities of current or future mistreatment.”

ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE... AND THE LINK

Wisconsin Increases Animal Sex Abuse Penalties

After a tumultuous four-year battle, Wisconsin has increased penalties for animal sexual abuse and animal pornography, which has been linked with child sexual abuse and pornography. A similar measure introduced in 2018 had wide bipartisan support but was killed on the final day of the legislative session when Senate Majority Chair Scott Fitzgerald said he “doesn’t want the press to talk about sex with animals on the last day of session.” (See the [April 2018 LINK-Letter](#))



The 2019-2020 iteration of the measure, **SB 139**, increases 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 are further enhanced if a child is involved. The new law also requires offenders to register as a sex offender; current law only permits courts to order such registration. The was approved by the Senate and Assembly and was signed by Gov. Tony Edwards on March 4.

NEWS FROM LINK COALITIONS

Hit Free Zone Campaign Being Implemented

The National Link Coalition's Hit Free Zone poster campaign ([See the February 2020 LINK-Letter](#)), designed to reduce acts of interpersonal and interspecies violence in places of caring, is already starting to be implemented around the country.

Bethanie Poe, Middle Tennessee Coordinator for the University of Tennessee's Human Animal Bond in Tennessee ([HABIT](#)) program, tells *The LINK-Letter*, "the Hit Free Zone is a great idea!"

Poe personalized the poster a bit, as it was designed to be customized. Because HABIT is a volunteer-based animal-assisted therapy program, volunteers go into a lot of different agencies. Poe changed "facility" to "organization" in the hopes of conveying that people and animals are hit-free wherever they are, not just in a specific building.



Bethanie Poe

The poster is also on the bulletin board outside Poe's office. She shared materials on the National Link Coalition's website with the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and one of the members said she would share it with her public health colleagues at the Metro Animal Control Center. Poe has also shared it with students in the Veterinary Social Work Certificate Program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Poe also plans to share the materials on the UT Veterinary Social Work Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

[Let us know](#) how you're using the posters and what kind of feedback you're getting!



British Coalition Offers Free Online Link Course

Our British affiliate, The Links Group UK, has initiated an educational outreach featuring a [free online course](#) on The Link. The one-hour self-study certificate program, entitled "Understanding Animal Welfare in Violent Homes," is offered through the Virtual College. Its target audience is professionals working with vulnerable children, young people and at-risk adults with pets to help them recognize those that are of risk of physical and mental abuse. It is particularly appropriate for child protection services, children's and adult social care, housing authorities, health professionals, police officers, and educators.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...
Intervention...
Networking...
Knowledge...

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



Kentucky Link Coalition Coordinator Honored

Joye Keeley (right), coordinator of the Kentucky Link Coalition, received the Social Justice Star of the Year Award for 2020 from the National Association of Social Workers/Kentucky Chapter. The presentation took place during the Kentucky Social Work Lobby Day at the State Capitol.

From left, Karen Moore, President, and Brenda Rosen, Executive Director of the NASW Kentucky Chapter, join Joye for the celebratory photo. Congratulations, Joye!

CHILD PROTECTION... AND THE LINK

Maryland Courts May Allow Facility and Therapy Dogs

Two bills working their way through the Maryland General Assembly would extend a program piloted in two counties, that allows therapy dogs to accompany child witnesses and victims in courtrooms, to be implemented statewide. Advocates say that traumatized children can be calmed by having a dog with them, making it easier to answer difficult questions about crimes and face their abusers.

SB 101 and **HB 311** would establish the Court Dog and Child Witness Program in circuit courts of participating counties. Both “facility dogs” and “therapy dogs” would be included. Facility dogs approved for the program will need at least two years of training from an assistance dog organization with a trained facility dog handler. Therapy dogs will be those that have received training to provide affection and comfort to children who need emotional support. Dog and handlers will not be allowed to interfere with evidence collection or the effective administration of justice.



Gov. Hogan & “Tobin”

A lead sponsor is State Sen. Bryan Simonaire (R – Anne Arundel), who introduced an original version of the bill in 2016. It was defeated, but a later version, modified to allow the dogs only in Anne Arundel and Harford Counties, was passed, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported.

“It’s gotten rave reviews in both locations, so we’re excited about the idea of having it statewide to help children in difficult situations,” said Del. Michael Malone (R – Anne Arundel) who is sponsoring the bill in the House of Delegates.

SB 101 is in the Judicial Proceedings Committee and **HB 311** is in the Judiciary Committee. The measures have the support of Gov. Larry Hogan.

CROSS-REPORTING... AND THE LINK **Veterinarian Charged with Failing to Report Cruelty in Animal and Elder Abuse Case**

A veterinarian who treated animals in a massive hoarding case has been charged with four counts of animal abuse and failing to report animal abuse as required by state law. Dean Bader, of Shingle Springs, Calif., is facing possible jail time and loss of his license.



Dean Bader

In May 2019, after neighbors had complained for years, more than 300 animals in deplorable condition were seized from Alma and Charel Winston, who claimed they were running an animal sanctuary. Dead animals were also found in a freezer. Alma Winston was also charged with injuring her elderly mother, who lived in the home, under “conditions likely to produce great bodily harm or death,” according to court documents.

Bader, who has been practicing for 50 years, had been treating many of the animals, but his attorney told the [Placerville Mountain Democrat](#) that Bader had not been on the Winstons’ property for many years. Prosecutors, however, maintain that Bader was the Winstons’ veterinarian of record and a search of their home in 2019 found prescriptions for different animals that were being treated by Bader.



Charel and Alma Winston

Bader’s attorney said his client believed the women cared for the animals by bringing them in for treatment, according to [CBS-13 TV](#) in Sacramento. Bader admitted treating animals at the house but did not know about the conditions inside. A judge is allowing Bader to keep his veterinary license while the legal process plays out.

The Winstons accepted a plea agreement where they were given five years of probation after pleading guilty to five felony animal cruelty counts and agreeing to pay restitution to El Dorado County Animal Services for the costs of treating and caring for the animals. The status of the elder abuse charge was unclear.

Alabama Proposal Could Deter Reporting of Abuse

A bill in Alabama could have unintended consequences of deterring people from reporting suspected animal abuse by making it a crime to file a report that proves unfounded, and requiring agencies to turn over donations collected for the care of seized animals to offset the defendant’s legal expenses.

SB 196 would make it a Class C misdemeanor to submit a “frivolous” complaint “clearly lacking any basis in fact or law” alleging that an “animal enterprise” has engaged in animal cruelty. Persons found guilty of making a frivolous complaint would be required to pay the county or municipality the costs of conducting the investigation and any animal boarding fees that ensued.

The aesthetics of the animals, or animals that are in good health or under a veterinarian’s care, would not constitute probable cause for an investigation. Animal enterprises would be given 10 days to correct any alleged abuses. Only animals determined to be in danger of imminent death or severe physical injury could be seized. It would be a misdemeanor for law enforcement agencies to assist news media or other entities with any crime scene photos until after conviction of the alleged crime.

Allison Black Cornelius, CEO of the [Greater Birmingham Humane Society](#), told [WBRC-TV](#) that the bill would create another barrier that would deter people from reporting suspected abuse and could put organizations like hers out of business.



“If we take animals in for law enforcement and impound them, if we raise any funds during that impoundment period, even if the person or persons are found guilty of animal abuse or neglect, this bill requires us to take all the money the donors gave us to care for these animals and to give it to the convicted person to offset their fines,” she said.

Cornelius suggested the measure is promoted by agricultural interests and by [Allison Black Cornelius](#) the Department of Agriculture, which claims it lacks resources to investigate puppy mill allegations.

The bill is called the Working Animal Protection and Animal Enterprise Freedom Act. Its premises include guaranteeing animal enterprises the right to engage in business and to “utilize working animals for the mutual benefit and welfare of the animals and those they serve.”

Cross-Reporting Bills Gain Veterinary Support, Improve State’s Reputation

New legislative efforts that have raised Kentucky’s perennial last-place rankings for animal welfare by the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) to No. 47 were the focus of a February 27 feature in the [Lexington Herald-Leader](#) that mentioned the National Link Coalition’s data.



[Bonnie Barr, KVMA President](#)

Kentucky had ranked dead last for animal welfare every year since 2007. A new law 2019 finally making sex with animals illegal lifted its reputation three notches to No. 47 (followed by New Mexico, Louisiana and Mississippi). But Kentucky’s ranking is still weakened by a law barring veterinarians from reporting suspected animal abuse which “certainly makes Kentucky a dramatic outlier,” according to the ALDF, noting that failure to report prevents appropriate interventions.

Three bills in the Legislature may change that, with [SB 21](#), [HB 60](#) and [HB 108](#) vying for attention. Supporters cite the National Link Coalition’s data on the connections between animal abuse, domestic violence and child abuse, emphasizing that a veterinarian could help protect people by reporting suspected abuse of an animal. “This is really a public health situation,” Jim Weber of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association told state senators. “We might be able to help in a situation where domestic violence is going on.”

KVMA is supporting measures which allow, rather than mandate, veterinarians to report, in keeping with practitioners’ oath to prevent and relieve animal suffering and comparable to pediatricians’ requirements, said Bonnie Barr, KVMA President. Veterinarians “would like to be able to do right by the animal and in some cases the family, if there is some domestic violence,” she said, adding that the law would be applied sparingly and should not adversely impact agricultural interests. Although animal abusers might not take their animals to a veterinarian, other family members might, said supporters of the measures. And although the need to report suspected abuse would be infrequent, even if there were just one case in a practitioner’s career the law would still be worthwhile, said veterinarian Chris Albert.

THE LINK... IN THE LITERATURE

Study Reviews Barriers to Treatment for Animal Hoarding

Hoarding disorder is characterized by persistent struggle to part with excess possessions, and debilitating distress when prevented from acquiring items. Treatment compliance for hoarding is low, with a nearly 100% recidivism rate among animal hoarders. The chronic, disabling nature of the disorder as well as a high rate of treatment dropout among hoarders make it treatment resistant. This theoretical study was conducted to determine current treatments of hoarding disorder, review barriers, and suggest strategies to enhance treatment compliance. An extensive review, analysis, and interpretation of 85 studies published globally determined that no new clinical treatments for hoarding have been introduced since its inception as a clinical syndrome in 2013, with the primary interventions in use being those developed for previous iterations of hoarding behavior. This study focused on animal hoarding and the two main treatments for hoarding, cognitive behavioral therapy and psychopharmaceutical interventions, both of which demonstrated a low to moderate impact on hoarding. A third, novel strategy of using a multiagency-based approach was found to have promise. Research showed that increasing the scope of interventions to include an array of non-clinical responding agencies can be beneficial in the treatment of hoarding.

-- Clark, T. (2019, Oct. 1). *Understanding Barriers to Treatment Compliance in Hoarding Disorder*. Doctoral project in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Ph.D., School of Behavioral Sciences, California Southern University.

Applications Open for Two Research Fellowships in Colorado

The Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work is accepting [applications for a paid two-year research fellowship](#). The position is available to a recent graduate or anticipated 2020 graduate of a MSW program seeking robust training in social science research with a focus on the Human-Animal-Environment field in preparation for a career in research. IHAC works in education, research and advocacy in three core areas of therapeutic human-animal interventions, animals in communities, and One Health. Applications are due April 1.

The [School of Social Work at Colorado State University](#) is seeking a dynamic Postdoctoral Scholar in the area of health/behavioral health with a demonstrated commitment to instruction and research related to Human-Animal Interaction and Animal-Assisted Interventions. The full-time position begins on July 1 and is for two years with a possible third-year renewal. Applicants must have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. in Social Work or allied field before the position start date. The scholar will teach and conduct research related to health and mental health on the physical, cognitive, socio-emotional, and/or environmental factors and mechanisms that influence health, well-being and patient care, particularly in underserved and underrepresented populations.



VETERINARY MEDICINE... AND THE LINK **Veterinary Public Health Text Raises Link Awareness in Brazil**

The growing interest in The Link in Brazil received an additional impetus in February with the publication of a new Portuguese-language textbook featuring more than 80 veterinary, public health and animal welfare collaborators. The 506-page book is drawing attention to The Link between animal abuse and human violence in its examination of veterinary medicine and “collective health,” management and population control of dogs and cats, shelter medicine, and veterinary forensics. Two of the book’s editors, Rita de Cassia Maria Garcia and Néstor Calderón, are well-respected figures in Latin American Link work.

The section on veterinary public health includes four chapters on The Link:

- Vulnerability, social assistance policy and animal abuse: indicators of an intrinsic relationship
- Intersectionality in supporting multi-species families in vulnerable situations
- Link Theory: the relationship between animal abuse and interpersonal violence
- Animal hoarding

The section on veterinary forensics includes four chapters on The Link:

- Identification and management in cases of non-accidental trauma in domestic animals
- Forensic veterinary pathology: external evaluation and necropsy in the identification of mistreatment in dogs
- Municipal inspection of animal abuse
- Management systems for control of maltreatment inspections

-- Garcia, R. deC. M., Calderón, N., & Brandespim, D.F. (Eds.). (2020). *Medicina Veterinária do Coletivo: fundamentos e práticas [Veterinary Medicine of the Collective: Fundamentals and Practices]*. Campo Limpo Paulista, São Paulo: Medicina Veterinária Integrativa.

Study Describes First Veterinary Forensic Conviction in Brazil

There are numerous studies regarding cruelty against animals as a component of the behavioral history of serial killers or other psychopaths, in which the culprit often starts his cruel activities against animals in childhood or as a teenager. Although serial killings of humans are largely acknowledged worldwide, this type of crime against animals is seldom discussed. This report describes the necropsy and toxicological findings of 37 dogs and cats which were found dead in plastic bags in São Paulo, Brazil. The animals had all been in the care of an alleged animal rescuer and were to be referred for adoption before being found dead. The suspect declared that she had killed only five of the animals and that they had all been fatally sick. The necropsy proved that all 37 animals were killed in the same way, that none of the animals had any terminal diseases and that a restricted drug was used. The suspect was sentenced to 12 years, 6 months and 14 days of prison for the killing of the 37 animals -- the first conviction for the crime of animal cruelty in Brazil. The combined role of police, forensic veterinary pathologists and prosecutors were essential to the conviction, which was a great historical occasion in the fight against animal cruelty.

-- Salvagni, F.A., De Siqueira, A., Fukushima, A.R., Landi, M.F. de A., & Ponge-Ferreira, H., et al. (2016). *Animal serial killing: The first criminal conviction for animal cruelty in Brazil. Forensic Science International, 267, e1-e5.*

BUILDING LINK AWARENESS

Link Cited in Review of Ontario Cruelty Investigations Transformation

The transformation of animal cruelty investigation from the Ontario SPCA to a government agency in the Canadian province was the focus of an 18-minute educational news feature that described animal abuse as a potential “gateway crime” and the new process as a way to potentially uncover more crimes against humans.



“The Agenda” host [Steve Paikin interviewed Kendra Coulter](#), Chair of Labor Studies at Brock University, on TVO, Ontario’s public charity promoting learning inside and outside the classroom and citizen engagement through in-depth current-affairs journalism. Coulter observed that the new system offers a potentially better way to protect animals and vulnerable people.

Canadian courts ruled that the century-old process of having a charity conduct law enforcement was unconstitutional. Coulter noted that the only analog was in children’s aid societies, but they at least received substantial government funding and regulation. The court ruling forced the provincial government to initiate a new procedure involving 100 animal law inspectors, a toll-free reporting hotline, and harsher penalties for offenders.

“Now that we have this robust public investment, I think we’re going to be discovering more and more things that we didn’t know were going on and undiscovered crimes including helping women and children who are being abused that we might not have found otherwise. It’s sometimes hard to self-report. Children are hiding their abuse. If we use the animal investigations, that opens the door for new possibilities for protecting vulnerable people as well,” she said.

Coulter described The Link and noted that animal abuse is sometimes a precursor for the future harming of people, and sometimes part of a more generalized pattern “with a lot of sentient beings being harmed.” She cited animal fighting in particular as often being Linked to additional crimes, such as firearms, narcotics and human trafficking, and animal hoarding as likewise necessitating multi-agency community responses.

Expressing cautious optimism about the new system as additional hiring and training are still being implemented, Coulter emphasized how physically and emotionally challenging and risky animal cruelty investigation work can be ([See the March 2019 LINK-Letter](#)) and called for a greater investment in veterinary forensics. But the new procedure, she said, should lead to more concerted and dedicated record-keeping systems and help correct what is part of a worldwide shortage of data about the incidence of animal abuse. “All of us will be better served by evidence-based policy-making,” she added.

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 and **SB 1626** 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. **SB 1626** is in the Judiciary and Rules Committees.



Connecticut Raised Bill 107 would establish a task force to address various issues at shelters for the homeless, many of whom are survivors of domestic violence, including accommodating homeless persons who have pets and service animals. The bill is in the Housing Committee.



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 bills are in the House State Affairs and Senate Rules Committees.



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** was approved by the Judiciary Committee and is in the House.



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.



Mississippi SB 2299 would authorize courts to include pets in orders of protection from domestic abuse. 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 Children & Families 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 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.

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. **HB 1618** died for lack of a hearing; **SB 2718** passed the Senate unanimously.

 **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 where a Study Order was issued.

 **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. Images used in evidence would be exempt. The bill was stricken from the docket of the Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources.

 **Wisconsin SB 139** increases 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 are further enhanced if a child is involved. Offenders must register as a sex offender; current law only permits courts to order such registration.



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.

 **Maryland SB 101** and **HB 311** would establish the Court Dog and Child Witness Program in the state's circuit courts allowing "facility dogs" and "therapy dogs" to accompany child witnesses. **SB 101** is in the Judicial Proceedings Committee and **HB 311** is in the Judiciary 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 Judiciary Committee issued a Study Order to review the bill.



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.

“CASA for Animals”



California AB 2645 would allow courts to appoint an attorney or law student advocate to represent the interests of an animal that is the subject of criminal abuse or neglect proceedings.

Florida SB 1048 would provide for the appointing of an advocate for the interests of an animal in certain court proceedings, at the court’s discretion, and require the Florida Bar Association’s Animal Law section to maintain a list of attorneys and certified legal interns who meet specified requirements to be appointed as advocates. The bill was approved by the Agriculture Committee and sent to the Judiciary Committee.



Illinois HB 3995 and **HB 5530** 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 bills are 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.



Rhode Island S 2698 would authorize courts to appoint pro bono attorneys and supervised law students to serve as animal advocates in animal cruelty and abuse cases, to serve the interests of justice. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Animal Abuse and Elder Abuse

 **Maryland HB 33** and **SB 153** would add “the destruction of or harm to an animal” belonging to a vulnerable adult to the definition of severe emotional distress and abuse of a vulnerable adult. The bills are in the respective Judiciary Committees.

 **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 Abuse and Other Crimes

 **Guam Bill No. 185-35** would ban bestiality, enact pet protection orders, mandate reporting of animal abuse, impose post-conviction mental health evaluation and treatment, and increase penalties for offenses committed in the presence of a child or by persons with histories of family or sexual violence.

 **Mississippi HB 272** would require law enforcement agencies investigating crimes against animals to use forms consistent with the FBI’s National Incident-Based Reporting System and to label such crimes as animal abuse. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

 **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. **A 2509** is in the Assembly Codes Committee; **S 609** passed the Senate but died in the Assembly and was referred back to the Senate 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.

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

 **Alabama SB 196** would make it a Class C misdemeanor for someone to submit a “frivolous” complaint alleging that an “animal enterprise” has engaged in animal cruelty. Persons found guilty of making a frivolous complaint would be required to pay the county or municipality the costs of conducting the investigation and any animal boarding fees that ensued. The bill was approved by the Senate Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee.

 **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 was approved by the Senate Education Committee and is in the Rules 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 Rules 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 and Judiciary Committees and was sent to the Finance Committee; **HB 2130** and **HB 2453** were referred to the Agriculture, Judiciary and Finance Committees. **SB 2985** was approved by the Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health Committee and was sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

 **Iowa SF 2029, HF 2374 and HHB 556** 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. **HF 2374** passed the House 97-0.

 **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.

 **Michigan SB 780** would require animal control officers to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The bill is in the Committee on Families, Seniors & Veterans.

 **Minnesota HF 1530 and SF 1517** would grant veterinarians immunity from civil and criminal liability for reporting suspected animal cruelty in good faith and in the normal course of business. **HF 1530** is in the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division; **SF 1517** is in the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee.

 **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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Carjacker Gets 25 Years in Prison in Death of Phoenix Police K-9



Jairo Quintero and “Bane”

A man who carjacked several vehicles at gunpoint and led police on an extended high-speed pursuit involving a helicopter was sentenced to 25 years in prison for killing a Phoenix police K-9 named “Bane” who tried to apprehend him. Jairo Adair Contreras Quintero, 27, had been charged with animal cruelty, killing a service animal, armed robbery, theft of a motor vehicle, weapons violations, burglary, unlawful flight, and trespassing. [The Arizona Republic](#) reported that after stealing several cars, Quintero entered a stranger’s home, took a shower and clothing, helped himself to food, and fell through the attic roof. When he did not respond to police orders to come out, Bane, a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois, was sent in to take Quintero into custody. When Quintero was finally apprehended, he had injuries consistent with dog bites and Bane was dead from apparent strangulation.

Man Gets Year in Prison After Trying to Drown Stolen Dog



Aaron Davis and “River”

A man who took a puppy following a domestic dispute and left it to die in a cage on a river bank as a rising tide nearly drowned the dog was sentenced to a year in state prison. Aaron Davis, 36, of Long Branch, N.J., had taken the 8-month-old pit bull named “River” and left it in a wire cage on a bulkhead on Sandy Hook Bay. A passerby saw the dog in the water and rescued it with help from the Monmouth County SPCA, which later adopted the dog into a new home, [NJ.Com](#) reported. Davis was also ordered to make restitution and perform community service. “Abusing defenseless animals is an intolerable act and even more despicable when the animal was abused in retaliation to ‘get back’ at its owner,” said Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni.

Louisiana Couple Indicted on 150 Counts of Child and Animal Sexual Abuse

In a case that Louisiana Assistant Attorney General Matt Derbes called “horrific,” a Livingston Parish grand jury indicted Dennis Perkins, 44, a former Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office lieutenant, and his wife, former middle school teacher Cynthia Perkins, 34, on 150 counts of rape, producing child pornography, sexual battery of a child under age 13, obscenity, video voyeurism, and animal sexual abuse of a dog. The investigation followed a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding possible child pornography, the [Livingston Parish News](#) reported. “The allegations are horrific,” Derbes told a news conference, declining to go into



Cynthia and Dennis Perkins

graphic detail to protect the identity of four juvenile and adult victims in incidents from November 2014 through July 2019. The charges include allegations that as many as 50 children may have eaten contaminated small cakes that contained semen. The two could face multiple life sentences and up to 6,000 years in prison. Cynthia Perkins later filed for divorce and asked for a restraining order against her husband, even though they are being housed in separate prisons, citing threats made against her.



Allen Bostic

Man Accused of Killing Girlfriend’s Cat that Peed on the Bed

A man who returned home after back surgery and tried to kick his girlfriend out of their trailer after he allegedly killed her cat for peeing on the bed was charged with assault on a family member and cruelty to animals. Allen George Bostic, 36, reportedly started drinking and taking pain medication upon returning from the hospital; after the cat peed on the bed, he allegedly cut the cat’s throat with a knife, slicing his own hand in the process, [ABC Fox Montana](#) reported. He allegedly then ran over the cat as he was leaving, but returned later to find the girlfriend, fearing for her safety, armed with a can of bear spray. A struggle apparently ensued, during which

he threatened to kill more cats and she fell on the ice. Court documents said Bostic had previously harmed her in separate incidents.

Four Nevadans Charged with 135 Counts of Child Sex Abuse and Bestiality



From left: Eric Garcia, Danny Hicks, Vicki Bachli, & Mickey Cagle

Four residents of Pahrump, Nev. were arrested by Nye County Sheriff’s deputies on suspicion of 135 counts of child sex crimes that include child abuse, sexual assault, pornography, and bestiality. Authorities said the investigation, which included a

partnership with the Department of Family Services, found that the children were given alcohol that made them sick, and were sexually abused by all four suspects. The [Pahrump Valley Times](#) reported that the victims were able to describe in detail numerous acts involving all four suspects including acts of bestiality. Booked into the Nye County Detention Center on bail amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 were Eric Garcia, 39; Danny Hicks, 50; Vicki Bachli, 49; and Mickey Cagle, 30.



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– Just send an e-mail to Coordinator Phil Arkow
arkowpets@snip.net
Please tell us what organization(s) you're with
and where you're located.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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 Janet Hoy-Gerlach will speak about The Link at the [Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services’ 35th Annual Conference](#).

March 13 – Dallas, Texas: Stephen Knight will introduce the [North Texas Link Coalition](#) to “Dogs Matter.”

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 1 (online): Dr. Edward Schettino of the Animal Rescue League of Boston will present a webinar on “Reporting Animal Cruelty: The Role of the Animal Welfare Professional” for veterinarians and animal shelter personnel on behalf of the [Association for Animal Welfare Advancement](#) and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

April 3 – Cleveland, Ohio: Six speakers will address “Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Understanding The Link and Local Resources” for social workers at the [Greater Cleveland Elder Abuse/Domestic Violence Roundtable](#).

April 13 – Columbus, Ohio: Vicki Deisner will speak on “Fair Housing: Animals in Housing & Shelters” at the [Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio](#).

April 15 – London, U.K.: [The Links Group UK](#) will meet.

April 21 – Forsyth, Ga.: John Thompson, Claudine Wilkins, and Jim Crosby will speak at the [Crimes Against Animals Symposium](#) at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center on: the connections between gang investigations, animal abuse and animal fighting; The Link in domestic, child and elder abuse; Correlations between human trafficking and sex crimes against animals and children.

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.

April 29 (online): Phil Arkow and Jessica Bibbo will conduct a webinar on The Link between animal abuse and elder abuse for the [National Adult Protective Services Association](#).

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 (online): Phil Arkow will conduct two webinars on the Impact of Animal Abuse in Domestic Violence in Civilian and Military Families for the [National Organization for Victim Assistance](#).

May 20 – Dallas, Texas: Allie Phillips will present on “Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)[®]: 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 18-19 – Providence, R.I.: Shelley Prebenda of the Animal Law Committee will present on The Link at the [Rhode Island Bar Association](#)’s Annual Meeting.

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 [6th International Veterinary Social Work Summit](#) will focus on Animals and Poverty: How Poverty Impacts the Human-Animal Relationship.

Oct. 16 – Quincy, Ill.: Phil Arkow will headline the 8th Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council’s Domestic Violence Summit at the [Quincy Humane Society](#).

Oct. 25-26 – Alpharetta, Ga.: Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the 23rd 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.

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