



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



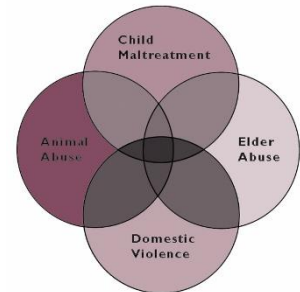
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE... and THE LINK

Patterns Beginning to Emerge in National Incidence Of Animal Abuse and Its Links to Other Crimes

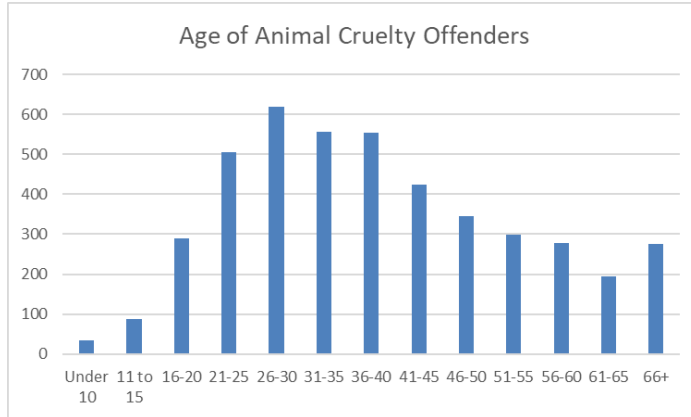
The historic inclusion of four types of animal cruelty crimes in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System is beginning to reveal intriguing patterns about who abuses animals and how and where they live. Further analysis will be able to shed greater understanding as to how these offenses are linked to other co-occurring crimes.

[Data from 2018](#) – the most recent year available – show a dramatic increase in the number of local law enforcement agencies participating in NIBRS and, accordingly, a significant increase in the number of animal abuse incidents recorded. The system is still incomplete, as not all law enforcement agencies participate yet and non-sworn animal control and humane officers are not permitted to submit their cases, but the 2018 figures nevertheless reveal much information. In 2018:

Agencies	Number	Population Served
Enrolled in system	16,659	320,040,056
Submitting data	7,283 (43 states & DC)	117,181,606
Total incidents reported	5,617,945	
Animal Cruelty incidents reported	5,201	
Animal cruelty offenders	4,999	
Animal cruelty offenders arrested	1,052	

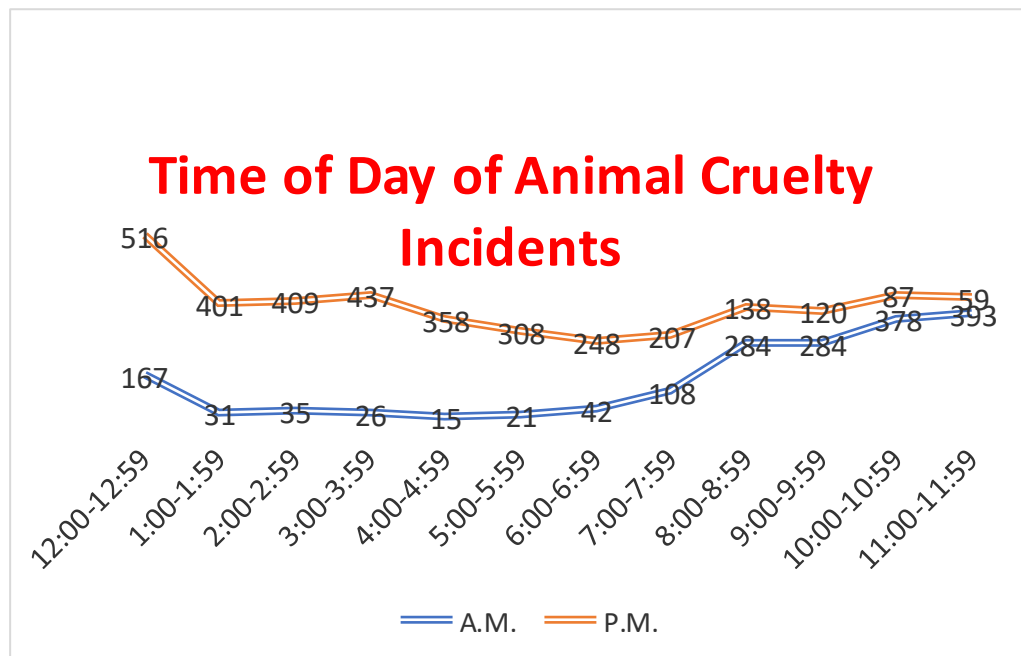
Characteristics of 1,052 Offenders Who Were Arrested									
Adult	Juvenile	Male	Female	White	Black/ African American	Amer. Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Unknown
1,021	31	642	410	844	162	12	10	3	21

Age of Animal Cruelty Offenders												
Under 10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66+
34	87	290	506	619	557	553	425	345	298	278	195	275



The bell curve of animal cruelty offenders, as in previous information, shows a distinct peak in the early adult years.

Locations of Animal Cruelty Incidents										
Home or other residence	Highway, street, sidewalk	Parking lot or garage	Store, restaurant, commercial building	Field, woods, lake, beach	Farm	Park, playground	Hotel, motel	School, college	Other	Unknown
3,513	533	399	233	159	55	36	31	22	22	195



As with previous years' data, animal cruelty investigations tend to begin to peak in daylight hours – when more humane and animal control officers report to work – and continue to accelerate through the day into the evening hours.

Animal cruelty incidents were divided pretty broadly among six types of cities with populations ranging from under 10,000 to 250,000 and over, and metropolitan and rural counties. But the number of agencies within each of the 43 states that submitted data ranged widely from only 1 to 631.

The unexpectedly high number of females involved (40%) may reflect a law enforcement emphasis on animal hoarding, where offenders are stereotypically women. The few incidents reported on farms may indicate animal abuse cases are less of a priority in rural communities.

Four types of animal cruelty were added into NIBRS in 2016 ([See the March 2016 LINK-Letter](#)), giving legislators, law enforcement and program administrators their first ability to understand the scope of animal abuse and its potential Link to other crimes. Significantly, these were included as a “crime against society” rather than the previous understanding of animal abuse as a property crime. The four types are:

- Simple neglect or gross neglect (animal hoarding)
- Intentional torture and abuse
- Organized animal abuse (dog- and cock-fighting)
- Animal sexual abuse

NIBRS data are keyed to incidents investigated by law enforcement agencies which may or may not result in arrests and formal charges. Data from 2016 ([See the January 2018 LINK-Letter](#)) and 2017 ([See the May 2019 LINK-Letter](#)) showed minimal but increasing numbers of animal abuse cases as more and more eligible law enforcement agencies began to submit information to the FBI.

Children’s Court Judges Briefed on The Link

The importance of The Link for juvenile and family court judges was the topic of a Aug. 10 webinar that brought three national authorities together to discuss “Animal Cruelty and Juvenile Offending: What Judges Need to Know and Can Do.” The webinar, the second in a [series](#) presented by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, offered court officials practical tips on what questions to ask, the evaluations that are recommended, who has the expertise to assist them when making decisions in delinquency cases where animal abuse is also involved, and how to intervene successfully.



Jamie Contreras

Jamie Contreras, ALDF Senior Attorney, described why animal cruelty committed by children “is something that should make everyone sit up and take notice that something else might be going on.” She emphasized how children who commit animal abuse have often been abused themselves or have witnessed domestic violence.

The bond between a child and an animal can be great and a source of strength and comfort. But it can also be a problem -- it can be dangerous for an animal to be part of the family if the home is a violent home, she said. Just like any child is vulnerable in a violent family, an animal as a family member is also vulnerable to that same violence.

“Children who have been traumatized by violence, especially exposure to domestic violence and child abuse, are more likely to commit animal cruelty. When both are present, the risk is even greater,” she said. Children who have more than four ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) are significantly more

likely to commit animal cruelty. “Crimes against animals are not victimless crimes. It’s also a marker of a potential delinquency risk.”

The Hon. H. Lee Chitwood, of Virginia’s 27th Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, discussed the context in which animal cruelty comes up in his courtroom and how he considers it in making determinations about child and family protective orders, custody and visitation. “It’s serious and you have to pay close attention,” he said.



H. Lee Chitwood

“I may have to go outside my normal role and ask more questions than I would normally,” he said. “What I want to know is whether this occurred in a vacuum or is it the first event of something we have to worry about in the future, of someone becoming a domestic violence abuser or worse, and what we can do to prevent it from occurring.” He noted that he can order animals to be removed from the home if that will safeguard the animals, the family and the public.

If a parent is committing cruelty to an animal, the child is going to be reacting to it. So that person is probably not going to get visitation rights. “It is just too scary and dangerous to ignore or to just lump it in with all the other factors we take into consideration. It has too many ramifications for everybody in the family and the animals in the family,” he said. “It’s interesting to me that it comes up so rarely in the context of a custody case.”



Barbara Boat

Barbara Boat, of the University of Cincinnati, described the questions she asks in the Childhood Survey of Animal Related Experiences when evaluating juvenile offenders. For example, asking whether the child has or had a favorite pet can help identify the child’s sources of vulnerability and comfort. Learning that none of the pets have remained in the home for long periods of time may indicate signs of a chaotic household that is not healthy for children and animals.

Asking children about their pets is not additional work, she advised. “In the context of talking about their pets, children will give you a window on their world, including a history of corporal punishment.” She cautioned, however, that learning about animal cruelty can be emotionally challenging for the interviewer. “This work is not for the faint-hearted – evaluators have to call on their colleagues for support.” You need to “unplug from the drama and treat the trauma.”

Focus Group Participants Sought for Pilot Training on Law Enforcement/Dog Encounters

The National Sheriffs’ Association’s National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse is seeking participants, especially from the law enforcement and animal control sectors, to take a pilot version of [Law Enforcement Dog Encounters Training](#) in an effort to avoid unnecessary shootings of dogs by police officers. Participants’ feedback will help inform the final project. The nine-hour, 11-module pilot training is free and scheduled over three days, Sept. 15-17, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm daily. [Click on this link](#) to register: no password is necessary.



COVID-19... AND THE LINK

Increases in Family Violence During the Pandemic Mirror Experiences Following Natural Disasters

Thinking of the COVID-19 pandemic as “a disaster in slow motion” provides social service and violence prevention agencies a unique opportunity to use the literature and experiences of disaster response to gain a better understanding of how vulnerable children, animals and women are being affected by the stressors of lockdowns and quarantines.

That’s one of the key takeaways from Indianapolis researcher Andrew Campbell’s [latest webinar](#) for Positive Links New Mexico in which he connected “the disaster without” to “the disaster within.” Many of the increases in family violence that occur during natural disasters are being seen during the current unprecedented pandemic. Looking at the field of natural disasters can provide great insights for current situations of domestic, child and animal abuse.

While 2020 has been a difficult and trying year for everyone, Campbell noted that the pandemic – like all disasters – offers opportunities to expand and grow our thinking. As with all disasters, vulnerable people and animals who were already at risk are at even greater risk during disasters and harming one member of the family hurts all members of the family.

“Family violence almost always increases following a natural disaster, but we rarely see that factor included in pre-disaster planning,” he said, citing statistics of significant increases in domestic violence, sexual assaults and suicides following earthquakes, volcanic eruptions,

Disaster	Data Source	Impact on Domestic Violence
Canterbury Earthquake	New Zealand Police	53% Increase in Domestic Violence
Hurricane Katrina	Schumacher et. al. (2010)	98% Increase in Physical Victimization of Women
Missouri River Flood	Enarson (2012)	400% Increase in Women’s Shelter Demand
Whakatane Flood (2004)	Houghton (2009)	200% Increase in Workload for DV Agencies 100% Increase in DV Calls to Police
Mount St. Helens Eruption	Adams & Adams (1984)	46% Increase in Domestic Violence
Loma Prieta Earthquake	Kelly (1990)	300% Increase in Sexual Assaults
Hurricane Andrew	Laudisio (1993)	50% Increase in Spousal Abuse Calls
Timaru Snowstorms (2006)	Houghton, et. al. (2010)	100% Increase in Family Violence For Entire Year After

hurricanes, and floods. Indiana has seen a 46% increase in 911 calls for domestic violence and an 86% increase in domestic violence homicides, and Campbell estimates as many as 85% of domestic violence incidents weren’t being reported during the lockdowns. “Victims have to be comfortable reporting and know how to report,” he said, and these systems often are compromised by a disaster.

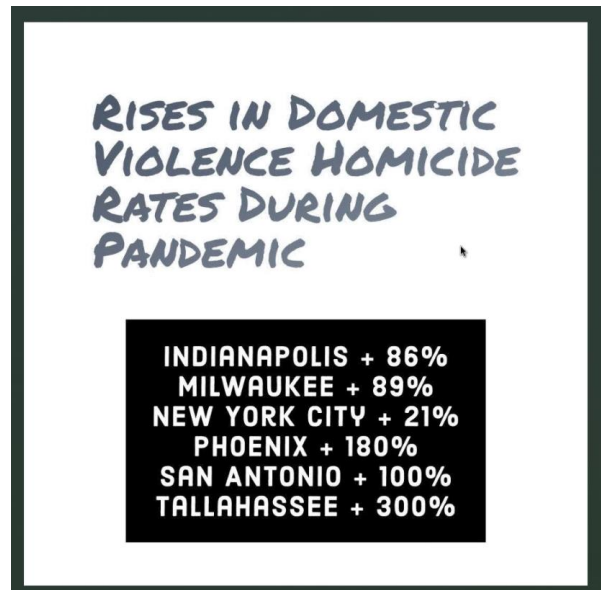
Disasters increase trauma, uncertainty, reliance on a partner or former partner who may be abusive, substance abuse, volatility in relationships, controlling behaviors, and mental health concerns. While the disaster event itself may be a short-term phenomenon, the psychological and emotional trauma can linger for up to 30 months – especially among vulnerable children. Experiencing a disaster makes people less likely to take risks, which may make women less willing to leave an abusive relationship.

Meanwhile, normal resources, routines, legal systems, and sources of social support may disappear. The inability to control the forces affecting the family can trigger damaging coping mechanisms, substance abuse and even more controlling behaviors. Violence and abuse become a control tactic. “I get extremely worried about children and pets in these homes. You can’t separate their wellbeing from that of the adults in the home,” he said.

“Disasters expose light in the dark corners of relationships,” Campbell said, noting that existing disparities in a family are only made worse in a disaster. The 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption led to increases in alcohol abuse, family stress and aggression while mental health clinics were already filled to capacity. Physical and sexual intimate partner violence were reported for up to two years after the 2010 Haiti earthquake where 52 aftershocks caused ongoing re-traumatization. A 98% increase in physical victimization of women was reported after Hurricane Katrina, where as many as 45% of residents had PTSD.

Disasters adversely impact children. Internalizing disorders, depression, anxiety, inattentiveness, aggressiveness, bedwetting, social withdrawal, and nightmares are more common for 18-30 months afterwards, and are likely exacerbated by family violence. Children’s behavioral changes add even more stress to an already stressed-out family. Reports of child abuse have surged during the lockdowns, he said.

Pets are also affected. Pets are attachment figures who provide us with psychological security and a safe haven. The disaster literature is filled with research on how families will risk their lives rather than evacuate without their animals, and often return to a danger zone to retrieve them. One study reported that 10% of all flood-related deaths in Australia were people who rescued a pet – even if it was not their own.



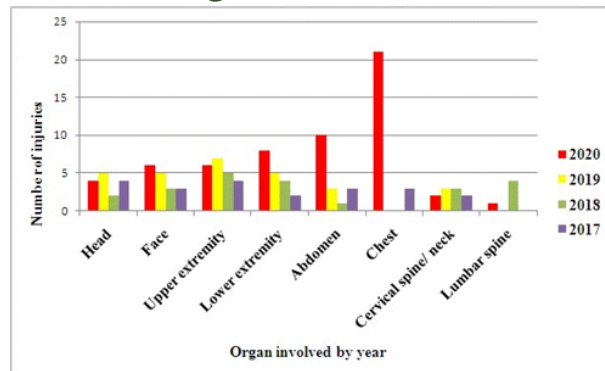
Hurricane Katrina – August, 2005

Meanwhile, it is not only unemployed or displaced residents who are affected, but also first responders and essential workers forced to work under difficult conditions. Campbell said these personnel reportedly commit more acts of family violence during and following disasters.

A forced separation from a pet during an evacuation can produce the same grief reactions as the death of a close human friend or family member and increase the risk of acute and chronic depression, anxiety and PTSD. Telling people to evacuate because their pets are at great risk if they stay may be the most powerful motivator to get people to leave – and can be a similar motivator to encourage domestic violence survivors to leave with their pets.

Similar to Veterinarians, Radiologists are Urged to Screen for Physical Abuse – Exacerbated During COVID-19

An extensive study of the incidence, patterns and severity of injuries in victims of intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, compared with the prior three years, found that although the number of patients reporting IPV decreased during the pandemic, the incidence and severity of physical intimate partner violence was higher. The findings suggest that IPV victims delayed reaching out to health care services until the late stages of the abuse cycle.



Locations of victims' IPV injuries, 2017 - 2020

A team of emergency room radiologists reported that they had expected to see a greater number of IPV victims as a result of their being forced to quarantine with their abusers at home, which is considered to be the most dangerous environment for victims. In addition, socioeconomic instability related to stay-at-home orders and business closures, increased substance abuse and a lack of community support exacerbated the risk of increased IPV. Meanwhile, the closure of ambulatory and community referral sites during the pandemic and fears of being exposed to the virus in a hospital ER caused many victims to delay seeking medical attention. Telehealth visits limit opportunities to visualize bruises or other signs of physical trauma and hamper physicians' ability to gather non-verbal cues. Victims at home may have difficulty in reporting IPV.

The radiologists reported a higher incidence of victims of high-risk abuse including strangulation, stab and burn wounds, and use of weapons. Curiously, the reported ethnicity of IPV victims in 2020 was 65% white, compared with 26% while in the prior three years.

Noting that 58% of all female homicides are the result of women being killed by intimate partners or family members, the radiologists added, "Because victims reach out to health care providers before they present to social service or criminal justice, IPV screening is recommended by many health care organizations." However, the actual rate of screening for IPV is woefully low, ranging from 1.5% to 13% and IPV is consequently under-diagnosed. "Especially in the time of the pandemic, in addition to underreporting, IPV-related injuries could be overlooked or misinterpreted while healthcare providers are overwhelmed by a vast number of COVID-19 patients in the emergency department," they wrote.

Much as veterinarians are learning forensic radiology to identify non-accidental injuries suspicious of animal abuse, radiologists can play a similar part in diagnosing domestic violence and responding appropriately. "We believe that it is the right moment for radiologists to play a critical role as a team in identifying victims of IPV and become an integral member of the multidisciplinary teams providing direct care to these patients. By recognizing high imaging utilization, location and imaging patterns specific to IPV, old injuries of different body parts, and injuries inconsistent to provided history, radiologists can identify victims of IPV even when the victims are not forthcoming," they concluded.

-- Gosangi, B., Park, H., Thomas, R., Gujrathi, R., & Bay, C.P., et al. (2020, Aug. 13). Exacerbation of physical intimate partner violence during COVID-19 lockdown. *Radiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1148/radiol.2020202866>

SOCIAL WORK...and THE LINK

National Link Coalition Compiling List of Schools of Social Work With Human-Animal Interactions Curriculum

Social workers can be key players in preventing and responding to the interconnected forms of family violence known as The Link. Whether working in child or adult protective services, victim services, veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, domestic violence shelters, children's advocacy centers, homeless and disabled populations or clinical practice, social workers can use their formidable skills in problem-solving, advocacy and social justice to help direct clients to resources and services for their pets.

However, most social work graduates never receive formal training on the scope of clients' emotional, social and familial connections with their companion animals. Of the 862 baccalaureate- and graduate-level schools of social work in the U.S., the National Link Coalition has been able to identify only 25 schools in which human-animal relationships are included – either formally or informally – in the curriculum; seven such programs have been identified in Canada. Other schools may allow students to conduct their field placements in veterinary or animal shelter facilities, but do not necessarily teach that animals can be part of a family's genogram or that clients' issues may involve their pets.

The National Link Coalition is compiling a list of schools of social work in which a faculty member is known to either teach a course in human-animal relationships or has an interest in the human-animal bond as it pertains to the field of social work. We invite *LINK-Letter* readers to inform us of any individuals and schools of social work that can be added to this list. Please contact National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow at arkowpets@snip.net if you can add any information:

SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK BELIEVED TO INCLUDE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND IN CURRICULUM		
State/Province	Institution	School
Colorado	Colorado State University	School of Social Work
	University of Denver	Graduate School of Social Work
Florida	Saint Leo University	College of Education & Social Services
Illinois	Trinity Christian College	Social Work B.S.W. program
Kansas	Washburn University	School of Social Work
Massachusetts	Simmons University	School of Social Work
Michigan	Michigan State University	School of Social Work and College of Veterinary Medicine collaboration on Veterinary Social Work Services
	University of Michigan	School of Social Work
Montana	University of Montana	School of Social Work
New Jersey	Georgian Court University	B.S.W. program
	Monmouth University	School of Social Work
New York	New York University	Silver School of Social Work
	Syracuse University	School of Social Work
North Carolina	Appalachian State University	Department of Social Work
	NC State University	School of Social Work
Ohio	Case Western Reserve University	Mandel School of Applied Sciences
	University of Toledo	School of Social Justice

Pennsylvania	Bryn Mawr College	Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research
	Slippery Rock University	B.S.S.W. program
	University of Pittsburgh	School of Social Work
	West Chester University	College of Education and Social Work
Tennessee	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	College of Social Work Veterinary Social Work program
Texas	Texas Christian University	AddRan College of Liberal Arts
	University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley	Graduate College
Virginia	Virginia Commonwealth University	School of Social Work/Children, Families & Animals Research Group
CANADA		
Alberta	University of Calgary	Faculty of Social Work
Nova Scotia	Dalhousie University	School of Social Work
Ontario	Brock University	Faculty of Social Justice and Equity Studies
	Seneca College	School of Community Services
	Wilfrid Laurier University	School of Social Work
	York University	School of Social Work
Saskatchewan	University of Regina	Social Policy Research Centre
CURRICULUM BELIEVED TO HAVE EXISTED IN PAST: UNCLEAR IF CONTINUING		
Alabama	University of Alabama	School of Social Work
Arizona	Arizona State University	School of Social Work
California	University of Southern California	School of Social Work
Florida	University of West Florida	College of Education and Professional Studies
Georgia	University of Georgia	School of Social Work
Indiana	University of Indiana at South Bend	School of Social Work
Pennsylvania	University of Pennsylvania	School of Social Policy and Practice
Texas	Texas Women's University/University of North Texas	Joint UNT/TWU M.S.W. program
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin	Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work

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For Additional Information

Just click on the blue underlined hyperlinks in these articles and it will take you to other websites with additional information about that topic.

DOMESTIC ABUSE... and THE LINK

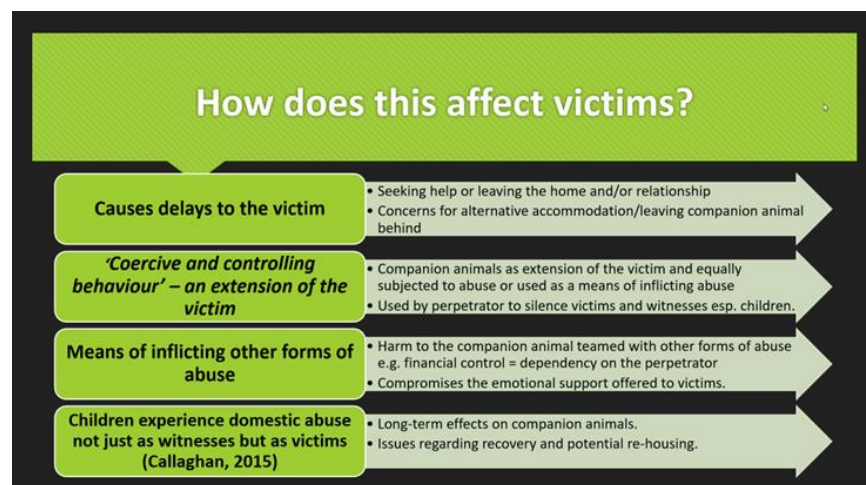
U.K. Shifting to Domestic “Abuse” to Emphasize Impact on Children and Pets

The fourth of New Mexico’s [Positive Links webinars](#) on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family violence brought London-based barrister Christina Warner back for an encore presentation ([See the June 2020 LINK -Letter](#)) in which she emphasized that domestic “abuse” is a more accurate term than domestic “violence” because these acts also impact vulnerable children and pets.



Christina Warner

People working in the U.K. family courts and social services sectors are increasingly recognizing that domestic abuse is multi-faceted and encompasses parents, siblings, pets, multi-generational family members, and non-heterosexual couples. Domestic abuse includes many forms of coercive and controlling behaviors, including financial, verbal and emotional abuse, rather than just physical violence. And these behaviors often affect pets and children as collateral damage.



Some 49% of domestic abuse workers are aware of cases where family pets have been killed. Service providers are noting in their risk assessments that perpetrators’ abuse of pets increases the risk factor for the human victims. Warner’s experience with clients repeatedly shows that pets have experienced deliberate harm or acts of omission to coerce, control and

A schematic of how animal abuse impacts domestic abuse victims

intimidate women into remaining in the home or keeping silent about the abuse.

The widening of the understanding of domestic abuse in family courts has allowed companion animals to be considered as part of a greater picture of victims’ suffering and the impact on mental health, addiction, debt, and homelessness. Because domestic, child and animal abuse frequently occur simultaneously and children’s welfare is considered paramount, family courts can use The Link to address the safety of children’s pets that are also caught up in the violence.

“Domestic abuse is a multi-faceted issue and not confined to the immediate case in hand,” she said. “It impacts child development and what children will take with them into adulthood.” The judiciary in the family courts is recognizing the impact of animals on the emotional health of adults as well as children. “It’s not a simple linear issue, but we are moving in the right direction,” she added.

Co-sheltering programs for pets in women’s refuges are not as developed in the U.K. as in the U.S. and family courts do not yet widely work with the animal cruelty investigators of the RSPCA, but progress is being made. “The hope is there, but we still have a fair ways to go,” Warner concluded.

VETERINARY MEDICINE... and THE LINK

Policies & Procedures for Reporting Suspected Abuse Compiled

While several guidances have been developed to help practitioners diagnose suspected animal abuse and develop policies and protocols to report such suspicions to the appropriate authorities, very few actual policies and procedures have come to our attention. The National Link Coalition has compiled a collection of the ones we know about. *Veterinary Hospital Policies and Procedures for Reporting Suspected Animal Abuse* includes policies from:

- The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (2015; revised 2018)
- North Carolina State University Veterinary Health Complex (2007; revised 2013)
- Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine (1987; revised 2014)
- Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (1997)
- Animalia Health & Wellness, Franklin, Tenn. (undated)

[This compilation](#) is in the “Tools for Veterinarians” section of our website Resources page. It is necessarily incomplete and we will expand it as more policies become known to us. We encourage other veterinary hospitals and clinics – both teaching hospitals and in private practice – who have policies and procedures for reporting suspected abuse to share them with us at the National Link Coalition so we may, in turn, share them with veterinary facilities nationally and worldwide.

CHILD ABUSE... and THE LINK

Pediatrics Journal Calls for Link Partnerships and Collaborations

The essential premise of The Link is that agencies working in the four fields of family violence – child maltreatment, domestic violence, elder abuse, and especially animal cruelty and neglect – typically operate in isolation from each other and do not appreciate the advantages to a more comprehensive, cross-disciplinary approach. In a new paper, seven colleagues from the medical and child protection fields argue that current fragmented systems fail to adequately address the family as an integrated unit by focusing on the framework of the victim rather than the broader perspective of the family.



Gunjan Tiyyagura

They propose a five-part family-centered approach to a more holistic research paradigm that addresses response, recognition and prevention of family violence: establishing common definitions and data elements; measuring the efficacy and cost of the current medical-social-legal system in addressing violence; developing screening recommendations for at-risk families; developing and testing family-centered interventions; and targeting support and prevention strategies for families at the highest risk.

They cite statistics Linking animal abuse in homes marked by domestic and child abuse. They include animal control among the “Intersecting surveillance systems,” including legal and social services, health care and schools, that can identify families at highest risk. They call for forging Links through increased collaboration and partnerships among researchers and service providers.

“Rather than addressing different diseases of child, older adult, animal, and IPV, we believe that different professionals are all treating a single disease – family violence – using the different lenses, perspectives and frames of their own experience,” they conclude.

– Tiyyagura, G., Bloemen, E.M., Berger, R., Rosen, T., & Harris, T., et al. (2020). Seeing the forest in family violence research: Moving to a family-centered approach. *Academic Pediatrics* 20(6), 746-752.

BUILDING LINK AWARENESS

Link Topics Addressed at ISAZ Conference

The 29th annual conference of the International Society for Anthrozoology featured at least five presentations which focused on aspects of The Link between animal abuse and human violence. The Sept. 3-5 conference, held virtually for the first time in the organization's history, was largely dedicated to the theme of One Health/One Welfare, which closely parallels The Link. The sessions were recorded and are [available online](#).



Presentations included:

- Evelyn Segredo, a family medicine resident and organizer of Uruguay's anthrozoology research group: *"A comprehensive approach for human and animal violence, using the One Health, One Welfare framework."*
- Clare Jensen, Kerri Rodrigues, Jessica Bibbo, and Marguerite O'Haire, of Purdue University: *"Role of the human-animal bond between facility dogs and pediatric healthcare professionals."*
- Roxanne Hawkins of the University of West Scotland, Shelby McDonald, Kelly O'Connor and Angela Matijczak of Virginia Commonwealth University, and Frank Ascione of the University of Denver, and James Herbert Williams of Arizona State University: *"Exposure to intimate partner violence and internalizing symptoms: The moderating effects of positive relationships with pets and animal cruelty exposure."*
- Carmen Glanville and Grahame Coleman of the University of Melbourne, and Jennifer Ford and Rebecca Cook of the RASPCA: *"Animal cruelty and neglect in Victoria, Australia: Prevalence, reporting, and community attitudes."*
- Corrina Lewis of the University of Liverpool: *"From Collector to captor: The theoretical crime of animal hoarding."*

ISAZ is an international network of academicians building research and greater understanding of the human-animal bond and its therapeutic implications and applications. ISAZ publishes the academic journal *Anthrozoös*.

National Link Coalition Featured in Online Publication

The National Link Coalition was included in a [Sept. 2 article on Self.com](#), an online women's magazine covering popular culture, food, fitness, and health, that offered 10 ideas to help advocate for victims and survivors of domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Writer Lauren Krouse noted that domestic violence cases have increased as a result of stay-at-home orders and are disproportionately affecting minority women. Her suggested ways to help included:

- Fostering temporarily displaced pets.
- Advocating for legislation that supports victims and survivors.
- Volunteering to help survivors take better control of their finances.
- Providing used cell phones to survivors.
- Connecting with other advocates in your area.
- Donate useful products and gift cards to local women's shelters.

THE LINK... in the LITERATURE

Book Addresses The Link against Wildlife

In one of the few studies Linking the risk of interpersonal violence to abuse against wild animals, a [new book](#) is describing how violence to non-human animals can Link to violence against animals outside the home, such as stray or feral companion animals and smaller wildlife. The book notes that such abuse can be either active or passive. In addition to chapters describing wildlife as property, food and sport, two chapters address wildlife as reflectors of violence and the Link between wildlife and interpersonal violence.



Angus Nurse and Tanya Wyatt

Angus Nurse, a criminologist at Great Britain's Middlesex University, and Tanya Wyatt of Northumbria University, note, "While not all wildlife crime involves violence or violent abuse, where it does occur it indicates that offenders may develop a tendency towards violence that manifests itself first in non-human animal abuse, but which sometimes escalates into interpersonal human violence frequently committed by adults against a range of victims."

The authors are conducting a wildlife criminology project which is addressing the extent to which violence inflicted on animals is not only a problem in and of itself but also Links to notions of violence in the wider society. They cite examples including violent tactics employed in African wildlife poaching, fatalities among U.S. game wardens, armed illegal wildlife traffickers, and activities such as cockfighting, hare coursing and badger digging that are often Linked to gambling and other crimes. They note that empirical evidence linking hunting activities with rates of human violence is "sparse." The book is part of Bristol University Press' New Horizons in Criminology series

-- Nurse, A., & Wyatt, T. (2020). *Wildlife criminology*. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Link Bills We're Watching

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many state legislatures to abruptly cancel or temporarily suspend their legislative sessions. Nevertheless, we're keeping an eye on 93 bills that have already been introduced. Please let us know if you hear of other measures not included here:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



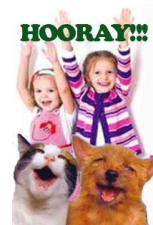
Arizona HB 2321 would have allowed courts to issue "severe threat orders of protection", which would prohibit respondents from possessing firearms based upon a credible threat of death or serious injury, against individuals who committed or attempted to commit acts of violence including cruelty to animals involving torture, serious injury or protracted suffering within the previous six months. **The bill was in the Rules Committee when the legislature adjourned.**



Connecticut Raised Bill 107 would have established 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 was in the Joint Committee on Housing when the General Assembly adjourned.**



Florida HB 705 requires every county in the state that maintains shelters for evacuation during an emergency to designate at least one emergency shelter that can accommodate persons with pets. Such shelters will have to comply with FEMA Disaster Assistance Policies and Procedures and with local and state emergency management plans' safety procedures regarding the sheltering of pets. **HB 705** was approved by the House and Senate 39-0 and was signed by the Governor on June 29. **It took effect July 1.**



Florida SB 1082 allows 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 signed into law on June 18 by Gov. Ron DeSantis.**



Georgia HB 582 would have allowed 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 had 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. **The bill was in the House of Representatives when the Legislature adjourned.**



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



Kentucky HB 216 would have included violence against a domestic animal used as coercive conduct within the definitions of "domestic violence and abuse" and "dating violence and abuse" and would have allowed judges to award possession of a domestic animal to the petitioner in a protection-from-abuse procedure. The bill passed the House 81-3 and **was in the Senate Judiciary Committee when the General Assembly adjourned.**



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 respondents served with 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, which would have authorized courts to include pets in orders of protection from domestic abuse, **died 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 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, A10333 and **S 6222** would require courts to consider the best interest of companion animals in awarding their possession in a divorce or separation proceeding. **S 6222** passed the Senate. All three bills are all in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



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, creating the crime of companion animal hoarding, and **A4569**, creating a crime of aggravated neglect of a companion animal, are in the Agriculture Committee.

Animal Sexual Abuse



Hawai'i HB 1618/SB 2718 would have prohibited 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 have been a Class C felony or a Class B felony if a minor were exposed to the crime. Convicted offenders would have been 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. **SB 2718** had passed the Senate unanimously and both bills were in the House Judiciary and Agriculture Committees **when the Legislature adjourned**.



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 was referred in a Study Order to the Senate Judiciary Committee to review numerous bills relative to judicial issues and was discharged to the Senate Rules 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 have made 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 Elder Abuse




Maryland HB 33, which would have added "the destruction of or harm to an animal" belonging to a vulnerable adult to the definition of severe emotional distress prohibited against a vulnerable adult, became law on May 8 **but the key provision about animal abuse was deleted**. The new law merely makes it illegal to intentionally and maliciously inflict severe emotional distress on a vulnerable adult without defining the term.




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 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 25 co-sponsors and is in the House Education and Labor Committee.


 **Maryland SB 101** and **HB 311** establish the Court Dog and Child Witness Program in the state's circuit courts allowing "facility dogs" and "therapy dogs" to provide emotional support to child witnesses in courtrooms, meetings, interviews, and other court processes. **The bills became law** and will take effect on Oct. 1.





 **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 was referred in a Study Order to the Senate Judiciary Committee to review numerous bills relative to judicial issues and was discharged to the Senate Rules 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-A** and **S 3415-A** 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-A** is in the Children and Families Committee. **S 3415-A** passed the Senate and was referred to the Assembly Children and Families 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 held for further study by 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 being held for further study by the House Judiciary Committee.



South Carolina S 908 would have allowed 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 was in the Senate Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned.**

"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. It has not been referred to a committee.



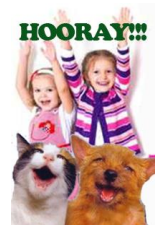
Florida SB 1048 would have provided for the appointing of an advocate for the interests of an animal in certain court proceedings, at the court's discretion, and require the Florida Bar Association's Animal Law section to maintain a list of attorneys and certified legal interns who meet specified requirements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



Illinois HB 3995 and **HB 5530** would have permitted 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 had to create a database of legal professionals and paraprofessionals willing to provide such representation. The bills were in the House Rules and Judiciary - Criminal Committees **when the General Assembly adjourned.**



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 can monitor the proceedings, consult with individuals and records relevant to the case, and present appropriate information and recommendations. **The bill 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 have created a special advocate for cats and dogs that are neglected or otherwise treated cruelly. **The bill was considered "inexpedient to legislate."**



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 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. The bill is in the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land, and Justice.



Mississippi HB 272 would have required 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 died 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 pet during the commission of a felony. **A 1834** is in the Assembly Agriculture and **S 186** is in 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.

Cross-Reporting



Alabama SB 196 would have made it a Class C misdemeanor to submit a "frivolous" complaint alleging that an "animal enterprise" has engaged in animal cruelty. The bill died in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee **when the Legislature adjourned.**



Florida S 7000 would have declared 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 have required child protective investigators to report suspected animal abuse to a local animal control agency. Reporters would have been presumed to have acted in good faith and be immune from civil and criminal liability and administrative penalties. Animal control officers would have had to report suspect child abuse to the central hotline. Failure to cross-report would have been 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 have had to develop a one-hour training curriculum for both fields. **The bill was approved by the Senate 38-0 but died in the House.**



Florida HB 621/SB 1044 (“Allie’s Law”) would have required veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty to a dog or cat with immunity from civil and criminal liability and specify that failure to report is grounds for disciplinary action. **The bills died in the House Business & Professions Subcommittee and the Senate Rules Committee.**



Hawai’i SB 2985/HB 2528, HB 2130 and HB 2453 would have required 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. **SB 2985** passed the Senate and the House Agriculture Committee and was sent to the House Judiciary Committee. **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. **All the bills died when the Legislature adjourned.**



Iowa SF 2029 and HF 2374 would have granted 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. **SF 3** would have required veterinarians who conclude that an animal is being subjected to cruelty to report the incident to the local law enforcement agency, with immunity from civil and criminal liability and administrative disciplinary action for reporting in good faith; the law enforcement agency would have had to report to the Department of Human Services if the investigation of suspected animal abuse indicated a minor child witnessed the incident. **All of the bills died when the Legislature adjourned on June 14.**



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 and to delete the provision granting immunity from liability. The amended bill passed the Senate 35-0 and was sent to the House, where it was approved 78-7, and **was signed into law on April 24.**



Kentucky HB 60 would have required veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to an animal control officer. **HB 108** would have provided 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 bills were in committees when the General Assembly adjourned.**



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**, which grant veterinarians immunity from civil and criminal liability for reporting suspected animal cruelty in good faith and in the normal course of business, were subsumed into the Joint House and Senate Agriculture Omnibus Policy bill that passed both houses and **was signed into law by the Governor on May 17.**



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



New York A 1170 and **S 7815** would require veterinarians who reasonably and in good faith suspect that a pet 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 bills are in their respective Committees on Higher Education.



New York A 9948 (“Bella’s Law”) would require law enforcement authorities statewide who investigate suspected cases of animal abuse to inform the state Office of Children and Family Services to further investigate and determine if the accused individual has any history of family or domestic violence. The bill is in the Committee on Children and Families.



New York A 9734 would require the Attorney General to establish a 24-hour hotline for the public to report animal abuse and to make reasonable efforts to inform the public of its availability. The bill is in the Governmental Operations Committee.



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 passed the House by a vote of 89-2 and was sent to the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



California SB 580 would amend procedures requiring animal abuse offenders on probation to undergo a mental health evaluation by a court-named evaluator and to complete mandatory counseling if the mental health professional deems it necessary, at the defendant’s expense. The bill passed the Senate 38-0 and is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.



Iowa HF 737, which redefined animal cruelty, neglect and torture and their penalties, added a provision allowing courts to order a psychological or psychiatric examination and treatment for adults convicted of animal mistreatment. Such provisions are mandatory if the offender is a juvenile or committed aggravated or felony animal mistreatment or torture. **The bill was signed into law** on June 29.





Missouri HB 1320 would have allowed courts to impose psychological or psychiatric evaluation or treatment upon animal cruelty offenders as a condition of probation; evaluation or treatment would have been mandatory upon second or subsequent offenses or if the crime involved animal torture or mutilation. *The bill also addressed cross-reporting. It died 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 was approved by the full House and laid on the table by the Senate.



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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS



Russell Kelly

Dog Shot Following Domestic Argument

Russell Kelly, 42, of Las Vegas, Nev., was charged with domestic assault, firing a weapon inside a building, and torturing or killing an animal for allegedly shooting the family dog during an argument. [KVVU-TV](#) reported that his wife told police that “Pooka the Pug” was shot with a 9mm handgun after it apparently nipped Kelly. Police said Kelly put the dead dog in a plastic bag and dumped it in a park.

Man Arrested on Shooting Charge Accused of Animal Cruelty

An El Paso, Texas man with a history of firing a gun outside a car was charged with animal cruelty for allegedly leaving a dog without food and water on a balcony in 103-degree weather. The El Paso [Times](#) reported that the Police Department’s Animal Cruelty Unit (*See the [January 2018 LINK-Letter](#)*) conducted a three-week-long investigation and arrested Jonathan Jay Oneal, 26, after a husky named “Leo” was found in a “state of decomposition in deplorable conditions” on an apartment balcony that was covered in feces. Oneal allegedly denied being Leo’s owner, but the dog’s microchip was registered in his name.



Jonathan Oneal

Recovered Stolen Phone Leads to Child and Animal Pornography Charges



Joshua Jobe

A man whose stolen cell phone was recovered following a robbery was charged with multiple counts of child pornography, animal cruelty and bestiality after detectives allegedly found 1,400 files of child pornography and video of him abusing the family dog. The [Volusia County, Fla. Sheriff's Office](#) reported that Joshua Jobe, 20, of Deltona, also had a history of abusing a different family dog when he lived in DeLand, Fla., in 2016. The University of Florida's Veterinary Forensic Sciences Program and Volusia County Animal Services assisted in the investigation. The analysis of Jobe's phone also revealed texts claiming access to and sexual contact with children, including claims of raping children and babies; the Sheriff's Office said there were no indications substantiating any of these had happened but they asked anyone with potential information to come forward. The dog, "Brownie," was removed from the home.

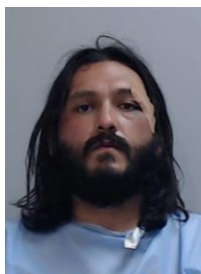
Drug Search Reveals Puppy Trapped Inside Airtight Storage Bin

Police in Monroe, La., executing a search warrant for suspected narcotics found a small puppy shut inside an airtight container without food or water and arrested Mark Newbill, 31, on animal cruelty and drug charges. The [Monroe News Star](#) reported that police said the puppy was very timid, could not stop shaking after being released from the storage bin that did not have any breathing holes, and would have died if it had been left in the bin. The search also allegedly found marijuana seeds and residue and an Ecstasy pill.



Mark Newbill

Texas Man Accused of Biting Police Officer and Abusing Newborn Puppies



Nedio Alaniz, Jr.

A man suspected of throwing three newborn puppies over a 6-foot fence was subsequently also charged with felony counts of assaulting and harassing a public servant for allegedly biting the finger of a police officer trying to arrest him. Nedio Alaniz, Jr., 33, of Mission, Texas, was also accused of hitting the officer in the head with a beer can and spitting in his face and resisting arrest. The bite wound required three stitches. The [McAllen Monitor](#) reported that Alaniz's father called McAllen police because his son was drinking beer, smoking synthetic marijuana and causing a disturbance. Court affidavits said that Alaniz, who has a lengthy history of arrests including several convictions for resisting arrest, was belligerent and uncooperative when police confronted him. A warrant had been issued for his arrest last May in response to the incident with the puppies, two of which survived and were taken to the Palm Valley Animal Shelter.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NOTE: The pandemic has caused many meetings to be canceled, rescheduled or converted into virtual formats. Click on the underlined hyperlinks for more detailed information.

Sept. 12 (online): Kendra Coulter will cite the human-animal violence Link and the increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic in considering “Animal Cruelty Investigations Work and Policy; Mapping the Canadian Terrain” at the [Canadian Animal Law Conference](#).

Sept. 15 (online): Andrew Campbell will discuss extending 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](#).

Sept. 15 (online): Allie Phillips will present on “Animal Abuse & Family Violence: Investigation and Prosecution Strategies to Keep families Safe” for the [2020 Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

Sept. 18 (online): Janet Hoy and Vicki Deisner will present on The Link in a [webinar](#) for the Public Children’s Association of Ohio.

Sept. 21 (online): Maya Gupta and Phil Arkow will present a program on The Link and veterinary forensics for the [Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)’s Shelter Medicine Club.

Sept. 29 (online): Diane Balkin will present on “What Judges Need to Know about the Link between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence” for the Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator.

Oct. 6 – Fort Benning, Ga.: Phil Arkow will present “Connecting the Dots: Animal Abuse’s Links to Other Family Violence in Military and Civilian Families” for the Family Advocacy Program.

Oct. 8 (online): Phil Arkow will present on “Human-Animal Relationships and Social Work: Opportunities Beyond the Veterinary Environment” at the virtual version of the [6th International Veterinary Social Work Summit](#), which will focus on Animals and Poverty: How Poverty Impacts the Human-Animal Relationship.

Oct. 13 – Tifton, Ga.: The Animal Protection Society/Animal Law Source will present a [day-long training](#) for law enforcement officers about animal cruelty, animal fighting, dangerous dogs, and The Link.

Oct. 14 (online): Phil Arkow will present on “Connecting the Dots: Animal Abuse’s Links to Other Family Violence in Military and Civilian Families” for the [National Victim Assistance Academy](#).

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. 16 (online): Aviva Vincent and Vicki Deisner will conduct a webinar on “Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Understanding The Link and Local Resources” for social workers at the [Greater Cleveland Elder Abuse/Domestic Violence Roundtable](#).

Oct. 25 (online): National Link Coalition steering committee members Gale Rasin and Kathleen Wood will participate in a webinar on “Judicial Decision-making: Reaching Key Stakeholders in Animal Cruelty Cases” at the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s virtual [Animal Law Conference](#).

Oct. 25-28 – St. Louis, Mo. and/or virtual: Allie Phillips will present on “Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T): A Life Saving Initiative” at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s [19th National Conference on Domestic Violence](#).

Oct. 29 (online): Phil Arkow will present “Improving Public Safety by Stopping Animal Cruelty: The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence in a Post-COVID World,” and Kathleen Wood will present on cross-reporting at Animal Law Source’s 22nd Annual [Animal Protection and Wellness Expo](#).

Oct. 30 (online): Jenny Edwards will present “Connections between Animals and Human Trafficking: What the Dark Web Has to Do with Animals,” and Lila Milot and Shana Knight will discuss “Community Interventions to Reduce Neglect and Abuse” at Animal Law Source’s 22nd Annual [Animal Protection and Wellness Expo](#).

Oct. 30 – Columbus, Ohio: Vicki Deisner will present on The Link at the [All Ohio Counselors Conference](#), cosponsored by the Ohio School Counselor Association and the Ohio Counseling Association.

Nov. 6 – Toledo, Ohio: Vicki Deisner, Janet Hoy-Gerlach, and Steven Heaven will present on The Link and how to form local collaboratives at the [Toledo Community Partnership Against Child Abuse](#).

Feb. 11-12, 2021 – Columbus, Ohio: Phil Arkow will present on “Responding to Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence” at the [Midwest Veterinary Conference](#).

July 15, 2021 (online): Emily Lewis of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present a [webinar](#) on “Preserving the Bond and Preventing Cruelty: The Veterinarian’s Role” for the Justice Clearinghouse.



To subscribe to The Link-Letter (*it's free!*)
– 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.*



ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multidisciplinary 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

Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,
The Latham Foundation
Etowah, N. Car.

Lesley Ashworth

Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
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Mark Kumpf, CAWA

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