



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LinkLetter

May 2011

A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence from the National Link Coalition -- www.nationallinkcoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Editor

National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse Launched



Allie Phillips

Allie Phillips, a member of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee, has returned to the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) where she has launched the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse (NCPAA) and serves as its Director. The Center was created through a grant from the Animal Welfare Trust and in partnership with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

The NCPAA, a program of the NDAA, was created to educate and train prosecutors and allied professionals on the proper handling of animal cruelty and neglect cases, including cases involving the co-occurrence of animal abuse and violence to people. NDAA desires to bring greater awareness to the often misunderstood nature of animal maltreatment and how it can interconnect with family violence and contribute to lethality issues for victims of interpersonal violence. With growing awareness by the public to recognize and report animal abuse, combined with increased attention by the media, prosecuting attorneys are struggling to properly address incidents of animal abuse in their community and properly hold offenders accountable.

The NCPAA mission is to always act in the best interests of animals; to create an environment in the criminal justice community where animal protection laws are fully enforced; to create understanding that when animals are safe from harm, communities are safer; to provide the resources, tools and support to prosecutors and allied professionals in the pursuit of those who harm animals; to collaborate with others so that the most updated and innovative information is available and accessible; to deliver training and technical assistance in a professional and ethical manner; and to remember that voiceless victims deserve an impassioned and knowledgeable prosecutor pursuing justice in their name.

Phillips also serves as a Senior Attorney in the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, a NDAA program that assists district attorneys with the unique challenges of crimes involving child victims.

“We are honored that the Animal Welfare Trust shares our vision and belief that all members in a community should be free from harm, including animals,” said Phillips.

Does Slaughterhouse Employment Lead to Human Violence?

Link research to date has largely focused on whether individual acts of animal cruelty serve as markers or predictors for interpersonal violence. The question is often raised as to whether persons working in environments of massive violence toward animals – such as meatpackers – become desensitized and more violent. A recent groundbreaking study examined the impact of slaughterhouse employment on community crime rates. Slaughterhouse employment was significantly related to higher arrests and crime reports for violent crimes, rape and other sex offenses compared to other industries. This was the first study documenting a link between institutionalized animal abuse and increased crime.

-- Fitzgerald, A., Kalof, L., & Dietz, T. (2009). Slaughterhouses and increased crime rates: An empirical analysis of the spillover from "The Jungle" into the surrounding community. *Organization & Environment*, 22(2), 158-184.

First Pet Protection Order (PPO) Statistics Published

Nineteen states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation empowering judges to issue protection-from-abuse orders that cover pets in domestic violence cases. [Kathryn Ford](#) of the Center for Court Innovation reports that the New York State Unified Court System from Jan. 1, 2006 through Jan. 27, 2011, issued 4,904 temporary and final PPOs in New York City and 816 PPOs in the rest of the state, for a five-year total of 5,720. New York enacted its Pet Protection Order law in 2006.

This is believed to be the first such report from any state of the number of PPOs that have been issued. It is not known how many domestic violence protection orders were issued during this period and what percentage of these included PPOs.

Link Videos Available

Two videos have been produced recently that help explain The Link for professional and general audiences. The [Animals and Society Institute](#) has produced a [47-minute video](#) of Executive Director Ken Shapiro presenting a PowerPoint training in New Mexico. Boston's [Safe People/Safe Pets](#) Link Coalition has produced a [2-minute promotional video](#) highlighting the animal abuse-domestic violence link and the organization's services.



Ken Shapiro

Diane Balkin to Leave Denver DA's Office



Diane Balkin

Diane Balkin, the Chief Deputy District Attorney in Denver, Colo., who pioneered the prosecution of animal abuse cases, is retiring from the DA's office in July after 32 years. Her work with animal cruelty crimes and efforts to change Colorado laws to facilitate the prosecution of animal cruelty cases earned her the ASPCA's recognition as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2008. Diane was the first non-veterinarian to be named vice president and president of the Colorado Board of Veterinary medicine. She serves as President-Elect of the International Veterinary Forensics Association. Diane will continue her passion for animal welfare by serving as a part-time staff attorney with the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Criminal Justice Program, providing training, research and strategy to prosecutors and investigators handling animal cruelty cases.

Animal Cruelty Clinic Organized in Law School



A pet-loving law student at the University of Kansas is establishing a unique animal cruelty prosecution clinic at the law school. Katie Barnett said the clinic is a chance to give abused animals “a voice and a place in the justice system.” The third-year law student said she hasn’t found a similar clinic devoted specifically to animal cruelty cases anywhere in the country. Students will work with local animal control and humane society investigators, police and prosecutors to ensure that cases of animal cruelty are fully prosecuted. The idea for the clinic came from KU law professor William Westerbeke, who said it would save the humane society money in tracking prosecutions and make sure that cases are handled efficiently.

Two Domestic Violence Officials Join National Link Coalition

Representatives from two major national domestic violence prevention organizations have joined the National Link Coalition’s Steering Committee. Their input and insights will be significant in coordinating Link policy, programming and research with this critical constituency.

Maria Luisa O’Neill represents the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). O’Neill serves as Program Services Coordinator for NCADV, in charge of “Face to Face” and “Give Back a Smile,” which provide pro bono cosmetic, dental and reconstructive surgery support services to domestic violence survivors. O’Neill is also involved with the Protective Parent Resource Center and domestic violence programs in Latino and migrant communities. O’Neill has worked for over 20 years in court advocacy programs, crisis lines and women’s shelters in Colorado.

Anna Melbin is Housing Program Director for the [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#). She oversees NNEDV’s housing work and comprehensive assistance to more than 200 transitional housing programs across the country. Melbin provides training and technical assistance widely and has worked with the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness’ Plan to End Homelessness. She has worked with and on behalf of homeless families and domestic violence survivors for 18 years. She chairs the Maine Women’s Lobby.

Advanced Link Screening and Evaluation Workshop Held



On April 27 & 28, the Colorado LINK Project of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver, conducted a training for forensic evaluators, criminal justice personnel and mental health professionals on incorporating animal abuse into the assessment and evaluation of various forms of family violence, including domestic violence. The Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention co-sponsored the training for 100 therapists, evaluators, probation officers, animal welfare, and human service professionals on assessing the complexity of family violence cases. From

left, Kay Dahlinger, Kathleen Schoen, Janet Mickish, Diane Balkin, Joe Stafford, Randall Lockwood, Stephanie Lafarge, Jim Pyle, and Philip Tedeschi were among the state and national experts present.

The Link in the Legislatures: Link Bills We're Watching

OFFENDER REGISTRIES: *Six bills have been introduced that would include individuals convicted of animal cruelty in registries or databases:*



TEXAS – SB 779 would create a central, public database of certain persons who have been convicted of or received a grant of deferred adjudication for certain offenses involving animal cruelty. The database would be established and maintained only if funding is available for it.



PENNSYLVANIA - Two bills address animal abuse offender registries. **HB 354**, introduced Feb. 1, would require felony offenders to register with the county sheriff within 10 days of residence and annually thereafter for 15 years. Failure to register would be a Class 3 felony. The sheriff would be responsible for notifying every residence, business, school and animal shelter within a half-mile radius. The State Police would maintain a central registry. **SB 921**, introduced March 30, is more comprehensive and also addresses illegal use of registry database information; registration would be required for misdemeanor as well as felony offenders, and be required for 10 years. Registrants would pay a \$50 fee.



NEW YORK - Assembly Bill 1766 would create a database of all animal cruelty and fighting crimes to be maintained in “a manner that facilitates analysis.” It would record names of all offenders convicted of cruelty or fighting, who pled guilty to another charge in satisfaction of the animal charge, or whose cruelty or fighting charges were not dismissed on the merits. The database would be available to law enforcement, prosecution, and humane officials. Two other bills – **AB 299** and **SB 2015** – would create an animal abuser registry of adults convicted of felony abuse in New York or other states. Abusers would register with county sheriffs within 10 days of residence and annually for 15 years thereafter. Failure to comply would be a Class E felony. Sheriffs would be responsible for notifying every residence, business, school and animal shelter within a half-mile radius. The state Division of Criminal Justice Services would maintain the central registry.



OREGON - HB 3239, which would require persons convicted of sexual assault of an animal to register as a sex offender, passed the House by a vote of 59-1 and has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

PET PROTECTION ORDERS:



MASSACHUSETTS - SB 682, which would include pets in protection orders, has been referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. State Rep. Cory Atkins has also introduced **Budget Amendment 753** into debate. The measures would enable judges to order an alleged abuser to “refrain from abusing, threatening, taking, interfering with, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming, or otherwise disposing of the animal.”



NEW JERSEY – A1633, which would allow judges to include pets in domestic violence protection orders, passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on May 5 by a 7-0 vote.



OHIO - HB 25, which would include animals in domestic violence and anti-stalking protection orders, is in the Criminal Justice Committee. The bill would also include provisions for psychological assessment and counseling for animal abusers and would also remove pit bulls from the definition of “vicious dog.”



OREGON - SB 616, authorizing courts to include an order providing for the safety and welfare of animals in family abuse prevention restraining orders, passed the Senate by a vote of 28-2.



TEXAS - SB 279, which would include pets in protection orders, passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.

CROSS-REPORTING:



CONNECTICUT - HB 6226 would mandate animal control officers’ cruelty investigations to be forwarded to the Commissioner of Children and Families for inclusion in investigations at that address. DCF employees would be mandated to report suspected animal cruelty or neglect to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The two commissioners would develop and implement cross-training procedures.

OTHER LINK-RELATED BILLS:



NEW MEXICO - HB 319 and **SB 348**, which were based upon the premise that the link between cruelty to animals and violence to humans is well established, have been defeated. The bills would have increased penalties for animal cruelty, required psychological counseling for offenders convicted of “extreme cruelty to animals,” and made bestiality a crime. The defeats came despite statements that the bills would have minimal fiscal impact and opinions from Attorney General that the amendments offered more protection for animals and would have made prosecution of offenders easier.

A Historical Look Back at The Link

While researching the archives at The Latham Foundation, President Hugh Tebault came across an article from a November, 1933 issue of *The Kind Deeds Messenger*, the foundation’s monthly magazine for schools for many years. Tebault thought *LINK-LETTER* readers would appreciate seeing how child welfare and animal abuse were linked during the years of the Great Depression:

“National Child Welfare Association Proclaims that -

Cruelty or indifference to our animal friends is the unfailing mark of a backward nation. It is also, in the individual, the sure sign of an unawakened imagination and an uncultured heart.

“An understanding, sympathetic, protective attitude toward animals should be aroused in every child, not only for the sake of the animals, but equally for the sake of the child himself. Ultimately, also, this attitude will benefit the nation, for the love and protection which the child extends to his dumb playmates will, later, widen into a finer, higher citizenship.”



The Latham Foundation’s “Steps to World Friendship” poster, created in the 1930s, linked kindness to animals to empathy for individuals and society.

Link Training: Coming Soon to a Venue Near You...

Boston, MA – May 18: [Safe People Safe Pets](#) will hold a public meeting for advocates, service providers, volunteers and concerned citizens at the Boston Public Library, 6 – 8 p.m.

Philadelphia, PA – May 31: Phil Arkow will conduct a training on the implications of animal abuse and domestic violence for the [Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services](#).

Virginia Beach, VA – June 2: Allie Phillips will present on the Link at the [Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse](#).

Vandalia, IL - June 7: Randall Lockwood will conduct a workshop on animal cruelty and family violence for the [Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council](#).

Shelbyville, IL - June 8: Randall Lockwood will conduct a workshop on animal cruelty and family violence for the [Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council](#).

New Brunswick, NJ – June 8: Phil Arkow will conduct a training on animal abuse and domestic violence for the [New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence Professionals](#).

Brisbane, Qld., Australia – July 11-12: Two Link workshops are included in the [4th Biennial Australian Animal Studies Group Conference](#). Gemma Golding and Tracy-Lynne Geysen will discuss Offenses of Cruelty and Future Interpersonal Violence. Tania Signal and Nicola Taylor will discuss Attitudes to Animals and Propensity for Aggression among Meatworkers and Farmers.

Shawnee, KS – Aug. 18-19: Ken Shapiro will conduct a [training program](#) for clinicians working with adults and children on the AniCare approach to interrupting the cycle between animal abuse and human violence.

Las Cruces, NM – Sept. 9-11: Ken Shapiro, Tamara Ward, and others present a three-day workshop on AniCare, AniCare Child and AniCare Training for Trainers. Through a grant from the NM Department of Public Safety, these workshops are free to psychologists, therapists, and social workers. For details visit [NM AniCare](#).

Saskatoon, SK, Canada – Sept. 23: Phil Arkow will conduct a workshop on The Link for the Saskatchewan SPCA's annual Animal Welfare Conference. For details contact [Sandra Anderson](#) .

Medina & Summit Counties, OH – Sept. 30: Phil Arkow will present two trainings for the [Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties](#).

Washington, DC – Nov. 16-19: Nuria Querol I Vinas will present a paper, "Implementation of the Multidisciplinary Program for Woman Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Companion Animals at the [American Society of Criminology](#) annual conference.

Calgary, AB, Canada – May 6-9, 2012: Phil Arkow will conduct a workshop on Kids, Critters and Sexual Abuse at the [Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse](#) biennial conference.

About the National Link Coalition

The [National Link Coalition](#) is an informal network of individuals and organizations addressing the intersections between animal abuse and other forms of violence through research, legislation, program implementation, and public awareness. Organized in 2008 at a historic summit in Portland, ME, the National Link Coalition's vision is:

The Link between violence against humans and violence against animals is widely known and understood. We believe that through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, humans and animals will be measurably safer.

Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee:

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Consultant, ASPCA; Animals and Society Institute;
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project, The Latham Foundation
Stratford, N.J.

[Lesley Ashworth](#)

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[Mark Kumpf, CAWA](#)

Past President, National Animal Control Association, Dayton, Ohio

[Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.](#)

Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects, ASPCA, Falls Church, Va.

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