



STRATEGIZING THE LINK[®]

National Town Meeting

Summary Report on the National Town Meeting and Experts'
Summit on The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence

June 8-9, 2008
Portland, Maine

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The Linkage Project

A program of Youth Alternatives Ingham

**KENNETH A. SCOTT
CHARITABLE TRUST**



"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind."

- Henry James

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NOTE ON THE NATIONAL TOWN MEETING AND SUMMIT REPORT

The participants in the National Town Meeting and Summit hope that all readers will find not only food for thought in this report, but also a call to action to implement the concepts and recommendations articulated by these historic meetings. There are many different avenues to be explored, and each profession will find relevant initiatives that should be pursued to reduce violence to humans and animals.



STRATEGIZING THE LINK

National Town Meeting

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Introduction

One hundred and eleven people came, as they say in Maine, “from away.” They came to Portland, Maine, from 22 states, two Canadian provinces and the United Kingdom as a “brain trust” of researchers, practitioners and organizational leaders addressing The Link[®] between animal abuse and human violence. Their goal was to evaluate the current state of affairs and strategize future directions for Link research, public policy and programming. American Humane initiated the concept of national Link summits in 1991 in Denver, Colo.,¹ and in 1992 in Herndon, Va.² Those summits addressed the prevention of violence against humans and violence against animals, which stem from similar roots and which could be addressed through research, education, programs and treatments.

In the intervening years, the Link field has expanded and matured. It was time to reassess, take stock of progress and ongoing challenges and explore strategies and opportunities for future collaborations in hopes of advancing the Link agenda.

A New England-style town meeting encouraged maximum input from all participants, with no breakout sessions, so the entire group could hear as one and grow in the knowledge. The town meeting was followed by an invitational summit of experts who synthesized the input from the field and set forth a pathway for the future to sustain and grow the movement.

Participants represented national organizations, local agencies and community coalitions. All brought a wealth of knowledge, experience and interdisciplinary perspectives to address the challenge posed by the organizers:

We've been working on The Link for 25 years; what have we accomplished? Where do we want to go from here? And how can we collaborate to get there? How can we advance this work, how can we institutionalize it and what are the most effective mechanisms to accomplish that goal?

The goals of the National Town Meeting were to:

1. strengthen community responses to family violence by convening Link experts, community coalition members and other professionals to strategize a nationwide coordinated effort;
2. determine how current and planned research, public-policy initiatives and coalition-building successes will impact Link programming on the national, state and local levels;
3. provide interested parties with an opportunity to advance Link public policy by prioritizing nationwide legislative and program initiatives;
4. use the successes of Link community coalitions and address the barriers, in order to develop models for successful coalition program development, implementation of activities and sustainability; and
5. create a multidisciplinary, national network that will enable local coalitions and researchers to learn from one another in addressing The Link between animal cruelty and human violence.

¹ Moulton, C., Kaufmann, M. E., & Filip, J. (Eds.). (1992). *Report on the summit on violence towards children and animals*. Englewood, CO: American Humane.

² American Humane Association. (1993). *Protecting children and animals: Agenda for a non-violent future. The summary of AHA's conference September 14-15, 1992 in Herndon, Virginia*. Englewood, CO: Author.



Why We Came to Maine

In the world of The Link, it can be said that “as Maine goes, so goes the nation.”

Youth Alternatives Ingraham’s Linkage Project in Portland, Maine, offered to organize and host the National Town Meeting and Experts’ Summit, and convened an enthusiastic group of co-sponsors and planners to make it possible to bring the meetings to light.

Maine is the epicenter of the Link movement. The Linkage Project is perhaps the most developed and sustainable Link coalition, with the widest geographical reach. It may well serve as a national model. Maine has taken a national lead in enacting legislation allowing child protection, adult protection and animal protection agencies to cross-report. Maine was the first state to enact pets-in-protection-order laws.³ In 1996, U.S. Sen. William S. Cohen introduced Congress to The Link. Maine veterinarians are mandated to report suspected aggravated animal cruelty.

As far back as 1982, Maine’s Departments of Human Services and Agriculture institutionalized a child abuse/animal abuse cross-reporting program. And while a few states enacted laws that prohibited harming animals owned by others because these animals were seen as commercially valuable, Maine is believed to have the oldest law in the U.S. (1821) that prohibited cruelly beating any horse or cattle regardless of ownership. This is believed to be the earliest passage of a law addressing concern for the welfare of the animal itself. And Maine was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony that in 1641, enacted the world’s oldest animal cruelty laws.

³ Shortly after the National Town Meeting and Experts’ Summit, the Maine Department of Agriculture’s Animal Welfare Program announced a pioneering partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Maine State Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to establish a shelter and care program for horses that need to be relocated due to domestic violence. The program not only protects animals and removes a barrier to women who need to leave violent homes, but also provides inmates with jobs, skills training and opportunities to give back to society.



Welcoming Remarks



Richard Obermanns, executive director of the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, emphasized the advantages of animal welfare-human services collaborations, which form the basis of Link programs and the theme of these meetings. Foundations appreciate synergies that ensue from partnerships and recognize that systemic change and societal progress may be achieved more effectively through collaborations that protect animals, children and other vulnerable populations. “This is a broadening opportunity for funders,” he said.

Linda Jariz, coordinator of The Linkage Project for Youth Alternatives Ingraham, described the conference as a unique opportunity to learn about our successes, challenges, approaches, strategies, various disciplines and coalitions. “It’s a way to meet our fellow travelers. It’s based on a simple premise: that the only way to address the issue of violence is through a multidisciplinary approach. Most important, it’s a way to foster nonviolent communities,” she said.



Marie Belew Wheatley, president and CEO of American Humane, traced American Humane’s involvement in The Link as far back as 1894. Current programs include a new division for human-animal bond programs to include The Link, animal-assisted therapy and humane education. American Humane has created a National Research Center on The Link as well as an endowed chair in human-animal studies at the University of Denver School of Social Work. “This is not about only cruelty to animals. This meeting is about the cycle of violence and how to break it. Violence of all forms, whether against children, animals, elders or domestic violence, must be addressed,” she said.

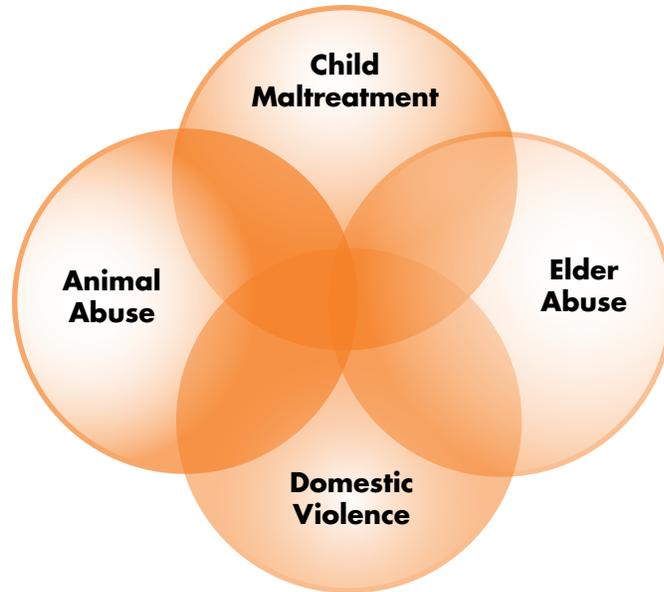


Overview of Issues



Phil Arkow, director of Link programs for American Humane and chair of the Latham Foundation’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, described how 25 years ago, a small group of individuals — many of whom were present — began revisiting the close correlations between acts of cruelty to animals and acts of antisocial behavior by the same individuals. He traced the history of American Humane’s involvement, The Humane Society of the United States’ First Strike campaign, the Latham Foundation’s publications and videos, and new textbooks in the emerging field of veterinary forensics. A new model is emerging in which animal abuse, child maltreatment, domestic violence and elder abuse are often intertwined (see Figure 1).

He reviewed the field’s considerable progress, ongoing challenges and opportunities for future growth, as shown in Table 1.

Figure 1. A Model of Abuse and Violence**Table 1. Link Accomplishments, Challenges and Ideas for Growth**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
Link awareness, public policy, programming and assessment and treatment programs have been implemented.	The impetus continues to come from animal protection, which is marginalized, rather than from empowered human or social services.	A symbiotic mix of academia and practitioners can advance the needs of researchers, programs and victims.
A robust, multidisciplinary field provides a continual fresh infusion of new perspectives.	The human services field is compartmentalized. There are disconnects across professional and academic disciplines and between academia and practitioners.	Those who are drawn into this work are by nature multidisciplinary in outlook, willing to “think outside the box,” and eager for cross-fertilization.
The Link message is maturing and being refined as new specializations emerge. Cruelty to animals is now designated in the DSM-IV as a crime of violence rather than a crime against property.	The Link is still not widely recognized by human services as relevant.	The growth of interest in dogfighting, hoarding, human-animal studies in universities and animal law curricula in 92 law schools can expand Link awareness.
The number of research studies is increasing.	The number of studies is minimal compared to other fields. Empirical support is inconsistent and challenged by methodological issues, equivocal or contradictory findings, and lack of conceptual clarity. There are no accurate incidence rates for animal abuse. Pet data is absent from the U.S. census.	Diverse professional journals and conferences are available to present research. New research demonstrates how pets improve social capital and community health as well as individual mental and physical health.



Overview of Public Policy Concerns



Allie Phillips, J.D., director of public policy for American Humane, reviewed progress over the past 25 years in advocacy, legislation and prosecution, as well as ongoing challenges and opportunities. She advised participants, “Children and animals are emotional issues. We can’t promote them in Washington without research, and without showing The Link as a human welfare and community issue.” Phillips also described the accomplishments, challenges and ideas for growth in Link programs, as shown in Table 2. Phillips also described the accomplishments, challenges and ideas for growth in other Link programs (see Table 3).

Table 2. Legislative Accomplishments, Challenges and Ideas for Growth

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
Research is translated into policy briefs for legislators at all levels.	Animal issues are emotional lose-lose situations for legislators.	Portray The Link as a human welfare and societal issue rather than as an animal welfare or rights issue.
45 states have enacted felony animal cruelty laws. Child protection and domestic violence laws are getting stronger.	Elder protection laws are still weak. There is no evaluation of these laws’ effectiveness.	The Pet-Abuse.com database lists and follows abuse cases. Including pet data in the U.S. census could enhance enforcement and effectiveness.
Pets-in-protection-orders legislation has been passed in multiple states.	There is opposition from gun groups and agriculture. Laws are too new to evaluate enforcement or effectiveness.	The Link is the fastest growing legislative field, with continuing interest, intuitive appeal and support from women’s groups.
Adults and juvenile offenders for animal cruelty, child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence receive counseling.	Mandatory vs. discretionary counseling laws: are they enforced and effective? Determining appropriate treatment modalities is challenging. There is a shortage of trained counselors.	Educate on the need for counseling. AniCare and 5 other assessment scales exist.
Cross-reporting among child protection, animal welfare, domestic violence, adult protective services, veterinarians and medical/psychological professionals is mandated or discretionary.	There is little support from child protection and no systemic funding, training or infrastructure. Practitioners fear loss of clients and liability. Mandatory vs. discretionary reporting laws: are they enforced and effective?	Permissive reporting resolves confidentiality constraint. First responders can cross-report. Statements by American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association, and Canadian, UK and NZ veterinary associations support veterinary involvement.
States are beginning to use animal “abuse” as well as “cruelty,” and modeling language in child protection laws.	Definitions vary in jurisdictions and among courts, researchers, activists and the public. It is difficult to prove intent in criminal prosecution. It is unknown whether prosecution and penalties are deterrent factors.	Standards of what is socially acceptable are changing. Standardize language in animal welfare.
There is congressional recognition of The Link: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); Tracking Animal Cruelty Crimes S. 2439; Bills are pending in Congress to establish a National Link Awareness Month.	There is no systematic collection of cruelty data or reporting to state or federal agencies.	The public is highly concerned about animal cruelty. Capitalize on dogfighting publicity. There is Link language on the horizon for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and possibly the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act.

Table 3. Other Link Accomplishments, Challenges and Ideas for Growth

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
Over 900 "Safe Haven" programs and 5 Pets and Women's Shelters (PAWS) TM programs ^a currently offer housing.	Challenges include funding, and having an open mind to understand the issue and not fear housing pets.	Expand and refine PAWS to help more families — including child abuse victims. Address Link issues for victims in safe houses and shelters. Post a list of PAWS shelters on the Internet.
The domestic violence community understands The Link.	Cross-reporting could push an abuse victim out of his or her home before it is safe to leave.	The reauthorization of VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) may include recognition of The Link and discretionary funding for Link training protocols.
CHILD PROTECTION		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
The child welfare community is receiving Link training.	Cross-reporting could add to heavy workloads.	Add Link language to CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act). Add animal welfare groups to local multidisciplinary teams. Promote animal-assisted therapy in child advocacy centers.
<i>A Common Bond^b</i> and <i>International Handbook on Animal Cruelty^c</i> were published. Books and articles are being updated with Link research to support child protection.	Schools of social work do not see animals as part of children's ecologies. Animals are not on the radar of social scientists.	There is a new human-animal studies chair at the University of Denver School of Social Work and a child abuse studies curriculum at Winona State University, Minn.
ADULT PROTECTION		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
There is little recognition of The Link by adult protective services and virtually no training. There is limited research.	One challenge is sharing information, resources and training with adult protective services.	Frank Ascione is conducting research on Link and elder abuse. Add adult protective services to multidisciplinary teams.
INTERAGENCY CROSS-REPORTING		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
Link and pet welfare questions are being added to intake, referrals, interviews and assessments in limited areas.	Inquiries regarding the presence and welfare of pets are not included systemically. WV, TN and ME have good laws, but their effectiveness is unknown.	Maine's system may be a replicable model. Animal shelters should include questions about child abuse, domestic violence and animal abuse in intake forms and adoption screening questionnaires.
ANIMAL WELFARE AND ANIMAL CONTROL		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
Animal care and control officers are often the first in the home to see The Link.	Inquiries about domestic violence and at-risk elders and children are not systematically included.	Add humane officers and animal control officers to multidisciplinary teams. Provide additional training on human maltreatment.

VETERINARY MEDICINE		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
There are many Link and forensics publications, animal cruelty reporting laws and practice standards for vets and increased training in vet schools.	There are ongoing concerns about practice management and client erosion. Support of vets for passage of laws and cross-reporting policies is needed.	Provide Link training in vet schools. Make policies reporting suspected abuse part of American Animal Hospital Association accreditation for veterinary practices.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
We are beginning to educate prosecutors and judges. 90+ law schools have animal law curriculum; many are starting to recognize The Link. AniCare and other scales aid in sentencing and probation.	The Link is not considered a priority in the grand scheme of crimes. Prosecutors are untrained in handling Link cases.	Promote training and curricula with National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and National District Attorneys Association. Improve sentencing categories involving animals. Increase the number of AniCare and other assessment/treatment providers.
COMMUNITY LINK COALITIONS		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CHALLENGES	IDEAS FOR GROWTH
Numerous community coalitions have been formed.	Numerous community coalitions died – sustainability is an issue. Raising awareness and finding individuals to create coalitions is a challenge.	DVERT (Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team, Colorado Springs, CO) obtained Violence Against Women Act and Community Oriented Policing Services federal funding; why haven't others attempted?

- ^a The Pets and Women's Shelters (PAWS)TM Program was created by Allie Phillips and launched by American Humane in February 2008 to encourage domestic violence shelters to allow on-site housing of pets. Currently there are five shelters housing pets on-site, and two more in planning stages.
- ^b Randour, M. L., & Davidson, H. (2008). *A common bond: Maltreated children and animals in the home: Guidelines for practice and policy*. Englewood, CO: American Humane.
- ^c Ascione, F. R. (Ed.). (2008). *International handbook of animal abuse and cruelty: Theory, research, and application*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press.

"If media awareness of animal violence is a measure of our success, we're doing very well."

– Randall Lockwood,
senior vice president,
Anti-Cruelty Initiatives and Legislative
Services, ASPCA



Overview of Research

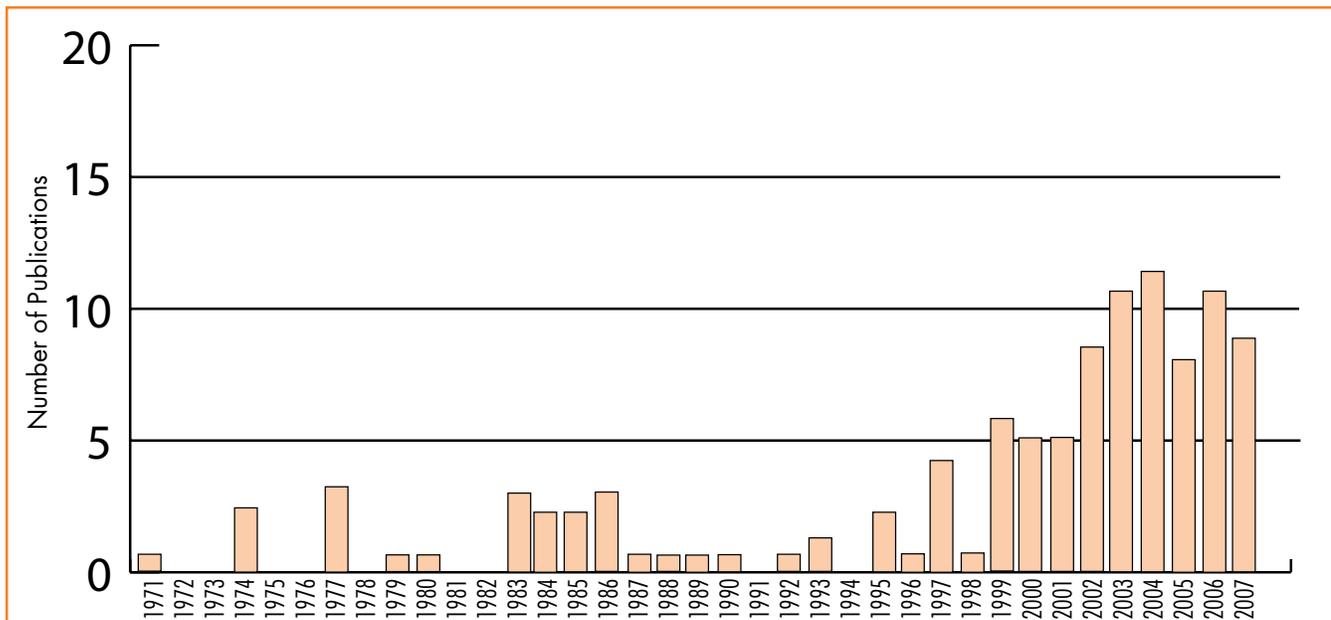


Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Utah State University, said, “It has been an exciting period of time to see the changes that have occurred in this field.” He noted that this progress has been at times exhilarating and at other times awkward. Research is no longer confined solely to animal welfare or human-animal bond publications, but is also being published in more mainstream academic journals. However, despite the proliferation of published papers, only a maximum of about 12 original research studies have been published each year (see Figure 2).

Ascione identified key areas that Link researchers will need to address in the future:

- **A universal definition of cruelty to animals or animal abuse to gain consistency in research findings.** Definitions vary widely across jurisdictional lines and legal definitions may not match operational definitions or public perceptions. Ascione has proposed this definition: “non-accidental, socially unacceptable behavior, that causes pain, suffering or distress to and/or death of an animal.”
- **Expanding assessments to include questions about animal abuse in survey questionnaires.** Several assessment scales evaluate juvenile and adult animal cruelty offenders; however, their reliability and validity have been questioned. Specific scales are needed to conduct risk assessments on individuals who have committed acts of bestiality.
- **The relation of animal abuse to other crimes, psychological disorders and domestic violence.** Researchers need to better understand the role of empathy – or the lack thereof – in children’s development of social or antisocial behaviors. Nine risk factors for animal abuse have been

Figure 2. Annual Number of Studies Published



Note: Adapted from Ascione, F. R. (2008, June 10). *Using research to inform the link*. Presentation at Strategizing The Link: National Town Meeting, Portland, ME. A literature search reveals that the number of academic research studies published addressing “animal abuse,” “cruel to animals” or “cruelty to animals” has increased substantially in recent years, but even so, a maximum of 12 have been published in any one year. It remains a priority for the research community to increase the body of scholarly literature regarding The Link.

established by research evidence: fire setting, bullying, decreased empathy, corporal punishment, exposure to domestic violence, exposure to animal abuse, physical and sexual abuse, other criminal acts and other psychological disorders. Six risk factors may be associated with animal abuse but current data are inconclusive: emotional or psychological abuse, neglect, exposure to community violence, hormonal/neurotransmitter dysfunction, dating or courtship violence and elder abuse, including self-neglect and animal hoarding behaviors.

- **Pet sheltering programs and pet protection orders.** How effective are they? Are they working?
- **The needs of elders in relation to animal abuse.** Adult protective services is the newest frontier for research and programmatic responses.
- **Tracking the incidence of animal abuse.**

The field of child development research, in particular, has identified four needs:

- Epidemiological studies, with better definitions, to better understand the context in which animal abuse occurs.
- Knowledge of how children develop empathy.
- Longitudinal studies to track behaviors of violent children over time.
- Knowledge of the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.



Overview of Maine's Successes

Anne Jordan, Gretchen Ziemer and Norma Worley described the successes of Maine's statewide animal welfare programs and enacting the first of what are now 10 laws in the United States allowing judges to include animals in domestic violence protection orders.

Maine also has a state animal welfare program and a spay/neuter fund supported by a state income tax check-off, cross-reporting, a state animal welfare advisory council and a network of nine safe housing areas for pets located around the state. Gretchen Ziemer, advocate training and legislative coordinator for the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, said, "It's not all perfect, but something is available for anyone in a domestic violence situation in Maine who has a creature. The domestic violence community has embraced this work."

Anne Jordan, commissioner of the Maine Department of Public Safety, described several reasons why these innovative ideas were easy to effect in Maine:

- Maine is a relatively rural state with a small population.
- Maine residents have a positive attitude and are not afraid to try something new. Says Jordan, "Maine is a place where if there's a problem, people figure out a way to solve it. This is a state where people take care of each other."
- Outreach was made to family court judges to obtain their support.
- Passage of the Pet Protection Order Bill was greatly enhanced by research data and dramatic first-person testimony from a victim, Susan Walsh, describing how she and her companion and farm animals had been victimized in a domestic violence situation.

State Domestic-Violence Protection-Order Laws

By June 2008, 10 states had enacted legislation to allow judges to include animals in domestic violence protection orders. Following the success of Maine's historic laws, other states have rapidly added these provisions, which can help a battered woman from having to choose between her safety and that of her pets.

Table 4 summarizes these laws.

Table 4. State Pets-in-Protective-Order Legislation

STATE	STATUTE	SUMMARY	ENACTED LANGUAGE (<u>underline</u> =new language added to existing statutes)
California	§6320, Family Code	Authorizes the court to include animals in protective orders.	On a showing of good cause, the court may include in a protective order a grant to the petitioner of the exclusive care, possession, or control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either the petitioner or the respondent or a minor child residing in the residence or household of either the petitioner or the respondent. The court may order the respondent to stay away from the animal and forbid the respondent from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing, molesting, attacking, striking, threatening, harming, or otherwise disposing of the animal.
Colorado	C.R.S. 18-6-800.3 – 803.5	Clarifies the definition of property to include animals in the context of protective orders.	<p>“Domestic violence” means an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. “Domestic violence” also includes any other crime against a person, or against property, <u>including an animal</u>, or any municipal ordinance violation against a person, or against property, <u>including an animal</u>, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.</p> <p>A person commits the crime of violation of a protection order if, after the person has been personally served with a protection order that identifies the person as a restrained person or otherwise has acquired from the court actual knowledge of the contents of a protection order that identifies the person as a restrained person, such person:</p> <p>(a) Contacts, harasses, injures, intimidates, molests, threatens, or touches the protected person or protected property, <u>including an animal</u>, identified in the protection order or enters or remains on premises or comes within a specified distance of the protected person, <u>protected property, including an animal</u>, or premises or violates any other provision of the protection order to protect the protected person from imminent danger to life or health, and such conduct is prohibited by the protection order.</p>

<p>Connecticut</p>	<p>G.S.C. 46b-15(b) and 46(b)-38(c) and 54-1(k)</p>	<p>Allows the court to issue a protection order that includes animals.</p>	<p>Such order may include temporary child custody or visitation rights and such relief may include but is not limited to an order enjoining the respondent from (1) imposing any restraint upon the person or liberty of the applicant; (2) threatening, harassing, assaulting, molesting, sexually assaulting or attacking the applicant; or (3) entering the family dwelling or the dwelling of the applicant. <u>The court, in its discretion, may make such orders as it deems appropriate for the protection of any animal owned or kept by the applicant including, but not limited to, an order enjoining the respondent from injuring or threatening to injure such animal.</u></p> <p><u>A protective order issued under this section may include provisions necessary to protect any animal owned or kept by the victim including, but not limited to, an order enjoining the defendant from injuring or threatening to injure such animal.</u></p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p>725 ILCS 5/112A-14</p>	<p>Allows the court to include animals in protection orders.</p>	<p>Remedies and standards. The remedies listed in this subsection shall be in addition to other civil or criminal remedies available to petitioner.</p> <p><u>(11.5) Protection of animals. Grant the petitioner the exclusive care, custody, or control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either the petitioner or the respondent or a minor child residing in the residence or household of either the petitioner or the respondent and order the respondent to stay away from the animal and forbid the respondent from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming, or otherwise disposing of the animal.</u></p>
<p>Louisiana</p>	<p>R.S. 46:2135(A) (7) and Children's Code Art. 1569(A)(7)</p>	<p>Amends statutes and Children's Code to allow judges to include petitioner's or children's pets in protective orders, grant petitioner exclusive control of pets and enjoin the defendant from harming them.</p>	<p>Grants to the petitioner the exclusive care, possession, or control of any pets belonging to or under the care of the petitioner or minor children residing in the residence or household of either party, and directs the defendant from harassing, interfering with, abusing or injuring any pet, without legal justification, known to be owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either party or a minor child residing in the residence or household of either party.</p>

<p>Maine</p>	<p>19-A MRSA §4007(1) and §4011 (2)</p>	<p>Authorizes courts to issue orders of protection of animals of either party or minor children. Violation is treated as contempt.</p>	<p>Protection order; consent agreement. The court, after a hearing and upon finding that the defendant has committed the alleged abuse, may grant a protective order or, upon making that finding, approve a consent agreement to bring about a cessation of abuse. This subsection does not preclude the parties from voluntarily requesting a consent agreement without a finding of abuse. The court may enter a finding that the defendant represents a credible threat to the physical safety of the plaintiff or a minor child residing in the plaintiff's household. Relief granted under this section may include: <u>N. Directing the care, custody or control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by either party or a minor child residing in the household</u></p> <p><u>When the only provision that is violated concerns relief authorized under section 4007, subsection 1, paragraphs H to N, the violation must be treated as contempt and punished in accordance with law.</u></p>
<p>Nevada</p>	<p>NRS 33.018 and 33.030</p>	<p>Expands the unlawful acts which constitute domestic violence to include harming an animal with the intent to harass the victim. The penalty is a misdemeanor. The court may issue a temporary or extended protective order to include an animal owned by the victim or a minor child, and may specify arrangements for the care of such animal.</p>	<p>Domestic violence occurs when a person commits one of the following acts against or upon his spouse, former spouse, any other person to whom he is related by blood or marriage, a person with whom he is or was actually residing, a person with whom he has had or is having a dating relationship, a person with whom he has a child in common, the minor child of any of those persons or his minor child: (7) Injuring or killing an animal.</p> <p>The court by a temporary order may: <u>(e) Enjoin the adverse party from physically injuring, threatening to injure or taking possession of any animal that is owned or kept by the applicant or minor child, either directly or through an agent;</u> <u>(f) Enjoin the adverse party from physically injuring or threatening to injure any animal that is owned or kept by the adverse party, either directly or through an agent;</u></p> <p>The court by an extended order may grant any relief enumerated in subsection 1 and: <u>b) Specify arrangements for the possession and care of any animal owned or kept by the adverse party, applicant or minor child.</u></p>

<p>New York</p>	<p>NY FAM CT §842</p>	<p>Allows a court to include companion animals in protective orders.</p>	<p>An order of protection under section 841 of this part shall set forth reasonable conditions of behavior to be observed for a period not in excess of two years by the petitioner or respondent or for a period not in excess of five years upon (i) a finding by the court on the record of the existence of aggravating circumstances as defined in paragraph (vii) of subdivision (a) of section 827 of this article; or (ii) a finding by the court on the record that the conduct alleged in the petition is in violation of a valid order of protection. Any finding of aggravating circumstances pursuant to this section shall be stated on the record and upon the order of protection. Any order of protection issued pursuant to this section shall specify if an order of probation is in effect. Any order of protection issued pursuant to this section may require the petitioner or the respondent: <u>(i) 1. to refrain from intentionally injuring or killing, without justification, any companion animal the respondent knows to be owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by the petitioner or a minor child residing in the household. 2. "Companion animal", as used in this section, shall have the same meaning as in subdivision 5 of section 350 of the agriculture and markets law.</u></p>
<p>Tennessee</p>	<p>TN Code 36-3-601(1) and 36-3-606(a)</p>	<p>Expands the definition of domestic abuse to include physical harm or threatened physical harm to a pet of an adult or minor, and allows security of pets to be provided for in protection orders.</p>	<p>"Abuse" means inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury on an adult or minor by other than accidental means, placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm, physical restraint, or malicious damage to the personal property of the abused party, <u>inflicting, or attempting to inflict, physical injury on any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by an adult or minor, or placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm to any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by such adult or minor.</u></p> <p>A protection order granted under this part to protect the petitioner from domestic abuse, stalking or sexual assault may include, but is not limited to: <u>Directing the care, custody, or control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either party or a minor residing in the household. In no instance shall such animal be placed in the care, custody, or control of the respondent but shall instead be placed in the care, custody, or control of the petitioner or in an appropriate animal foster situation.</u></p>

<p>Vermont</p>	<p>15 V.S.A. §1103</p>	<p>Allows a court to include animals in protective orders.</p>	<p>c) If the court finds that the defendant has abused the plaintiff and that there is a danger of further abuse, the court shall make such orders as it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff, the children, or both, which may include the following: <u>(7) an order concerning the possession, care and control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held as a pet by either party or a minor child residing in the household.</u></p>
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“When people start talking about their animals, they really open up.”

– Gretchen Ziemer, advocate training and legislative coordinator, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence



Overview of Community Coalitions

An overarching objective of the National Town Meeting was to invite representatives from as many community Link coalitions as could be identified to share their successes and challenges in order to identify strategies to improve coordinated community responses and enhance the sustainability of these groups. It was noted that there is no database of communities that have established Link coalitions or the status of coalition-building efforts. Representatives of coalitions from Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Texas provided an initial inventory of organizational issues.



Lesley Ashworth of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network described the Coalition Against Family Violence and an advocacy center in Columbus, Ohio, with interests in animal welfare and child welfare. With this infrastructure, it was relatively easy to identify the key leaders in the community. Although an initial request for grant funding through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to support a community Safe Haven program was initially rejected, eventually the decision was overturned and VAWA funding was obtained. Both the city of Columbus and The Columbus Foundation provided support for the local coalition and the Safe Haven program.

Chris Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D., associate professor in the Arizona State University School of Social Work, described the Arizona Humane LINK coalition, founded in 1999 in Phoenix, whose theme is “People and Animals Living Without Abuse.” The coalition’s goals are to promote awareness and understanding of the relationship between child, family and animal abuse; to seek comprehensive multidisciplinary solutions; and to promote resiliency through positive human-animal connections.

Kara Holmquist, president of Boston’s Link Up Education Network, described the network, which was co-founded by Boston Police Department and Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals officials who often investigate the same families and provide direct care for animals taken from violent homes. They combined their efforts to create more effective interventions. Link Up’s programs include legislative advocacy, “Safe Haven” sheltering for the animal victims of domestic violence, public education, professional training and arranging for psychological counseling for animal cruelty offenders. Link Up was incorporated in 2003, has received foundation funding and is housed at the Family Justice Center.

While most Link coalitions operate on the local level, Maine’s Linkage Project is believed to be the only such program actively functioning with statewide scale.⁴ **Linda Jariz**, Linkage Project coordinator, described the successes, strategies and challenges of this unique coalition.

During the 1990s, there were efforts to raise awareness of the connections between animal cruelty and human violence. These earlier efforts paved the way for the current Linkage Project. Since 2005, the project has spurred community action through training and legislation, and has fostered systems changes that alleviate animal cruelty and human violence through interagency collaborations.

As a result, in several Maine counties, there is no longer a separation of those who focus solely on animal protection and those who focus solely on human services. Among their breakthroughs are cross-disciplinary responses and reporting among animal welfare, law enforcement, and child and adult protection personnel. The Linkage Project has helped change Maine laws and the way that animal welfare and human services agencies do their work. It has spurred the development of foster home programs for the pets of families staying in domestic violence shelters.

⁴ Shortly after the National Town Meeting and Experts’ Summit, the state of Rhode Island passed a legislative resolution (H8412) creating a special statewide House Commission to study the relationship between interpersonal violence and animal cruelty.

A key to the Linkage Project's success is the active engagement of a multidisciplinary statewide advisory board that is not merely inclusive of the most critical agencies, but that is empowered to make decisions and effect policies and program changes. The board is made up of:

- the director of Maine's animal welfare program;
- the director of adult protective services;
- the deputy director of child welfare policy and practice;
- the legislative coordinator of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence;
- the senior vice president of Youth Alternatives Ingraham;
- the Linkage Project coordinator of Youth Alternatives Ingraham;
- a sergeant in the Maine state police;
- the Maine director of the Humane Society of the United States; and
- ad hoc members:
 - the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety; and
 - the legislative director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Maine became the first state to enact a law including pets in domestic violence protection orders, and Maine veterinarians are now required to report aggravated animal cruelty. There is active cross-reporting among animal care and control, child protection and adult protective services agencies. All state agencies conducting these types of services routinely ask three questions at intake:

- Are there pets in the home?
- How does each family member treat the pet?
- Do you worry about something bad happening to the pet?

Training workshops, an electronic newsletter, printed publications and legislative activities are all undertaken collaboratively.

Despite notable successes, the coalition faces several challenges:

- The coalition is funded privately, so there are ongoing searches for support. Although operational costs are not expensive, anxiety about funding remains a chronic issue.
- Funders often have their own agenda or wish to support particular programs, making it difficult to obtain sustained funding for operational expenses.
- The coalition tries to take on too much at once. With limited resources, greater success can be obtained by tackling issues incrementally.

Jariz identified several ongoing issues that coalitions should address:

- How to identify group leaders, involve them in the work and sustain them
- How to start and sustain coalition efforts
- How to learn from one another on an ongoing basis
- How to get access to information inexpensively
- How to use the local experience to inform national efforts and address national policies and practices

Strategies for success that other coalitions should consider in their planning include:

- Focus on program or legislation changes that are lasting.
- Define a set of achievable tasks.
- Establish committees to identify issues that need to be addressed.
- Understand the current legislative and budgetary environments, what is working for you and who the key players are who can make things happen.
- Identify the best people to start the coalition, and add additional members later as awareness and community linkages build.
- Be flexible and respond quickly as new needs and opportunities arise.
- Continue to build upon the initial enthusiasm for the coalition.

National Town Meeting participants identified additional challenges in maintaining and sustaining coalitions. They include:

- a lack of commitment from key community agencies. In some cases, these are animal welfare organizations; in others, opposition comes from human services agencies that do not perceive animal issues as important;
- the inability to attract “power brokers” who can effect change through personal relationships and affiliations;
- a lack of clarity in determining how the coalition will fulfill its mission — in particular, disagreement as to whether advocacy should be an organizational focus;
- opposition to creating a new nonprofit organization, which resulted in the local humane society serving as the coalition’s fiscal agent;
- sustaining the coalition in the absence of a key unifying, motivating leader;
- securing ongoing funding;
- obtaining funding for general operating expenses rather than for direct services;
- changes of personnel at the host agency, resulting in loss of staff, logistical support and financial resources;
- infighting among key members;
- a lack of inclusiveness and an unwillingness to collaborate;
- a relative lack of interest among human services agencies;
- participants pursuing personal agendas rather than representing their organizations;
- overcommitted members who are full-time employees elsewhere with limited time to contribute to coalition matters;
- sustaining the coalition as individuals’ interests and availabilities change; and
- energizing and reinvigorating new members and trainers who may not have the passion and commitment present at the organization’s founding to carry the coalition forward.

Membership in coalitions is multidisciplinary and often dictated by the willingness of individuals and organizations to participate. While there is no uniform core group of professions represented, members may include:

- Animal-assisted therapy services
- Catholic charities
- Children’s hospitals
- Children’s welfare and protection organizations
- Court-appointed special advocates
- Domestic violence agencies
- Family violence prevention agencies
- Humane societies
- Rescue groups
- Schools of social work

Participants identified successes resulting from coalitions, including:

- adding questions regarding the presence and welfare of animals to intake and referral forms at state human services agencies;
- passing legislation permitting social services workers to report suspected animal cruelty to humane agents, and humane agents to report suspected child and elder abuse to social services agencies, without fear of criminal or civil liability;
- training humane officers in evidence collection techniques;
- enacting a city ordinance that enables judges to include pets in protection orders;
- caring for animal victims of domestic violence through a Safe Haven using female inmates in a local prison;
- establishing a LEAP (Law Enforcement and Animal Protection) Task Force;

- staging three successful Creating a Humane Community training conferences;
- organizing community education workshops on the use of animals in classrooms;
- providing scholarships to enable targeted professional groups (e.g., police officers) to attend training conferences; and
- publishing a safety planning pamphlet to assist battered women who want to provide for their pets' protection while leaving abusive homes.



Strategies for Starting and Sustaining Link Coalitions

Funding

- Have adequate financial resources and a willingness to spend money on the coalition.
- Generate revenue from registration fees at training conferences.
- Know your funders. When seeking support, know what their interests are and write your request for funding to meet their needs as well as yours.
- Treat grant and funding requests as a partnership rather than a handout. Ask funders what you can do for them to help them achieve their goals.
- Ask for support of a specific project, direct service or research that is relevant to the funder, rather than for overall infrastructure and organizational needs.
- Inform funders. Funders who support only human welfare issues may not understand how animal welfare impacts human and community well-being. These funders may appreciate knowing that multidisciplinary community collaborations are cost-effective, build organizational capacity, promote interagency relationships and improve the ability of social services agencies to help strengthen families.
- Use research data to legitimize the need for coalitions. Approaching potential funders with evidence-based assertions increases the likelihood of support.
- Investigate local community foundations, which are public charity pools of endowments dedicated to awarding grants locally, as resources for building capacity, preventing violence, improving public health and safety, assisting women's or children's causes and achieving social justice.

Coalition Composition

- Secure members who have an inclusive, holistic mindset.
- Have a philosophy of inclusiveness that welcomes diverse agencies and viewpoints.
- Organizations which have significant philosophical differences and compete for limited resources often do not want to work together. Present The Link as a neutral area about which all groups can agree, and get them to set aside their differences and focus on an area of common agreement.
- Identify who the strongest players are and bring them to the table. Do not worry about those who do not want to get along with each other. Instead, find those representatives who are willing to sacrifice their egos and work together for the greater good.

- Invite the primary person in an organization who is interested in The Link to be the coalition participant.
- Identify each individual's and agency's strengths and how they can best be utilized.
- Approach the medical community and public health epidemiologists systemically to become engaged in Link efforts.

Infrastructure and Organizational Issues

- Get persistent leadership and commitment from a small, core group of individuals from multiple disciplines, with strong personal commitment to the cause and the ability to raise funds to meet ongoing needs.
- Get leadership by individuals who care about animals and who are in positions of authority.
- Hire a part-time coordinator.
- Pay college students to do organizational work; social work students may provide a reservoir of talent.
- Hold strategic planning sessions that gain “buy-in” by members and clarify organizational missions, goals and programs.
- Keep the coalition flexible so the agenda remains alive despite changes in the organizational structure.
- Build an organizational infrastructure with officers and by-laws.
- Rather than create a new coalition, join an existing coalition, such as a state coalition against domestic violence or a county domestic violence task force. In the child protection field, children's justice task forces, citizen review panels, court improvement committees, family resource and family support centers, military family support centers and ethnic organizations concerned with strengthening families may be appropriate vehicles.
- A coalition need not be free-standing, but can operate under the fiscal sponsorship of an existing agency to receive foundation grants, tax-deductible charitable contributions and staff support.

Messaging

- The more formal and robust your coalition is, the more credibility it will gain.
- As there are relatively few supporters for animal welfare issues, more progress may be made by presenting the need for a Link coalition as a domestic violence or child protection strategy.
- Speak the professional jargon of an agency you are trying to invite to participate in a coalition. Find someone with the type of credentials and background found in the agency to be your spokesperson in meeting with the agency.
- Meet with commissioners who supervise child protection agencies to introduce them to the concept that child protection services workers can do their job more effectively — and at less risk of being bitten — if they pay attention to the presence of animals in the homes they visit.
- Participants noted that “food is a great social lubricant.” To introduce your message to other groups, invite their leader out for lunch, offer to present an in-service training for their staff and show up with pizzas. Police departments can bring in outside trainers for “roll call” sessions, and food is always appreciated.
- Provide professional continuing education units for participants attending training conferences.
- Use audiovisual materials for your presentations.

Programs

- Create and maintain an informational website.
- Include animal welfare personnel on community review teams that may be mandated by law to investigate child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence fatalities. Each state must have, for example, a child fatality review team organized by public health and epidemiology officials.



Overview of Engaging Various Professions

Another overarching goal of the National Town Meeting was to identify strategies that can overcome barriers affecting several professional groups whose level of engagement in Link activities has been sporadic. Two panels led audience discussions to address these issues.

Child Welfare



Barbara Boat, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati, reported that raising and sustaining awareness of The Link as an issue of concern to child abuse prevention and child protection personnel appears to be a primary challenge, as child welfare workers are not yet convinced that there is an advantage to asking questions about cruelty to animals.

When child welfare officials question the relevance of obtaining information about a child's experiences with animals, Boat often cites California social worker Lynn Loar, Ph.D., who said, "The behavior that harms the animal is the same behavior that harms the human."

Those who wish to work with children's agencies need to have an inclusive view of the many specializations within the field, and be prepared to provide specific data, evaluations and approaches relevant to these varying interests. The field is not monolithic, and includes:

- Child Protective Services – social services and police
- Child Welfare – foster and residential care⁵
- Child Behavioral Health – community mental health, inpatient psychiatry
- Child Physical Health – pediatric settings
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention – home visitation
- Child Training – daycare, Head Start, schools
- Child Detention and Incarceration – legal and judicial system
- Child Services Training Programs – colleges, graduate schools

Caseworkers whose personal experiences do not include pets may not be aware of the significance of animals in the lives of the children and families they work with. There may also be cultural issues, with caseworkers and clients approaching animals from different perspectives. Children's services personnel should focus on children's needs rather than their own personal biases regarding animals.

Boat emphasized that questions regarding the presence of and attitudes toward animals in the household need to be institutionalized in intake and referral forms, as child welfare personnel cannot be expected to voluntarily follow this line of inquiry on their own. "If we don't ask — or observe — we'll never know about the child's attachment to animals, or the perpetration or witnessing of animal abuse. If the questions are not in a protocol they will not be asked," she said.

It is still unclear what questions or observations are most useful, and what child welfare workers should do with the responses or observations they get. It is also not clear how child welfare personnel will know that they are making a difference by asking about animal welfare. There are also no recognition systems to reward employees who follow interdisciplinary pathways. Positive reinforcement in the form of awards and recognitions may help drive professionals to initiate Link activities and cross-reporting.

⁵ Participants observed that there have been no evaluations of the impact of pets in the lives of children who enter foster care programs. Would foster care placements be stronger if the child's pets were allowed to be placed in the foster home as well? Do child protection workers include the presence of or attachments to pets in case planning?

Another challenge is in obtaining usable data from investigations and interventions to evaluate the outcomes of animal-focused programming. Such efforts require designing projects with evaluations in mind and having sufficient human resources, time and funding to process, evaluate and report the data.

There are many opportunities for adding animal-related components to child welfare. The most fruitful places to start are where relationships already exist between animal protection and child welfare individuals and agencies. Identify someone in senior management who is interested in the issue, introduce The Link using his or her terminology and make the topic relevant. Demonstrate how Link programming improves service delivery.

Family services workers often try to solve pet-related issues themselves rather than cross-reporting to an animal welfare agency. Nevertheless, opening lines of communication with animal shelters offers opportunities for exchanges of information and solutions.

Veterinary Medicine



Lila Miller, DVM, vice president for veterinary outreach for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) acknowledged that veterinarians are uncomfortable confronting domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse. Many veterinarians may inaccurately believe that their responsibility is to define abuse when they encounter it, rather than relying upon existing statutes or provisions in their state's veterinary practice act.

Major veterinary professional associations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the United Kingdom and the New Zealand Veterinary Association, support reporting of animal abuse, but there is still widespread resistance. Reasons for this resistance include:

- Fear of the client's reaction.
- Uncertainty whether such reports are a moral or legal obligation.
- Unwillingness to pursue criminal investigation if the client expresses remorse.
- Lack of awareness of the multidisciplinary nature of investigations and prosecutions. The veterinarian's responsibility should be limited to medical documentation of evidence, assisting in crime scene investigations, reporting and testifying in court. Other professions — law enforcement, prosecutors, animal shelters, social services — act upon this information as appropriate. Many practitioners mistakenly believe that if they file a report the client will automatically be charged and lives will be ruined. Veterinarians do not believe it is within their purview to send people to jail. Moreover, veterinarians are largely unaware of how few cruelty cases actually result in court cases and convictions. Miller tells other veterinarians, "You're not sending clients to jail — you may be giving them the help they need."
- Difficulty in prioritizing multiple ethical and moral obligations to patients, clients, the profession, society, peers and self.
- Absence of medical guidelines or training to identify conditions that are considered abuse.
- No immunity from liability should the veterinarian's report prove wrong.
- Concerns about breaching confidentiality requirements of medical records.
- Fear that nothing positive will come from an investigation or that the situation could get worse.
- A belief that clients who abuse or neglect animals need education and guidance rather than arrest and punishment.
- A belief that other professionals, such as social workers, are more appropriate for dealing with the problem of animal abuse.
- A lack of time given the demands of busy schedules.
- Fear of loss or alienation of clients, with a negative impact on the practice.
- A belief that clients would refuse to seek medical care for fear of being reported.
- Uncertainty of how to proceed if the client cannot afford to remedy the situation.
- Fears for the personal safety of themselves and their staff.



Miller advises veterinarians that if they do not take leadership roles in promoting animal welfare, others who are less qualified will. Strategies were proposed to assist veterinarians to resolve these dilemmas:

- Incorporate education about animal abuse and The Link more widely into training in veterinary colleges, conferences and online opportunities. Key topics for this training include:
 - how to recognize the warning signs of animal abuse and neglect;
 - how to approach clients with these concerns;
 - how to determine whether client education or a report to authorities would be most effective, and protocols for making such reports;
 - how to document the evidence;
 - veterinary forensics; and
 - testifying and courtroom procedures.
- Focus legislative efforts on:
 - stronger anti-cruelty laws;
 - mandated reporting laws which protect veterinarians; and
 - immunity from civil and criminal liability for making a report in good faith.
- Engage veterinarians in the “One Health” concept of medicine so that they:
 - recognize that animal health is linked to human health; and
 - recognize that animal welfare is linked to human welfare.

Miller identified a need for the veterinary profession: a web-based resource site where practitioners could locate information about the new specialty field of veterinary forensics, policies regarding reporting of suspected abuse and practice management issues.

Adult Protective Services/Hoarding

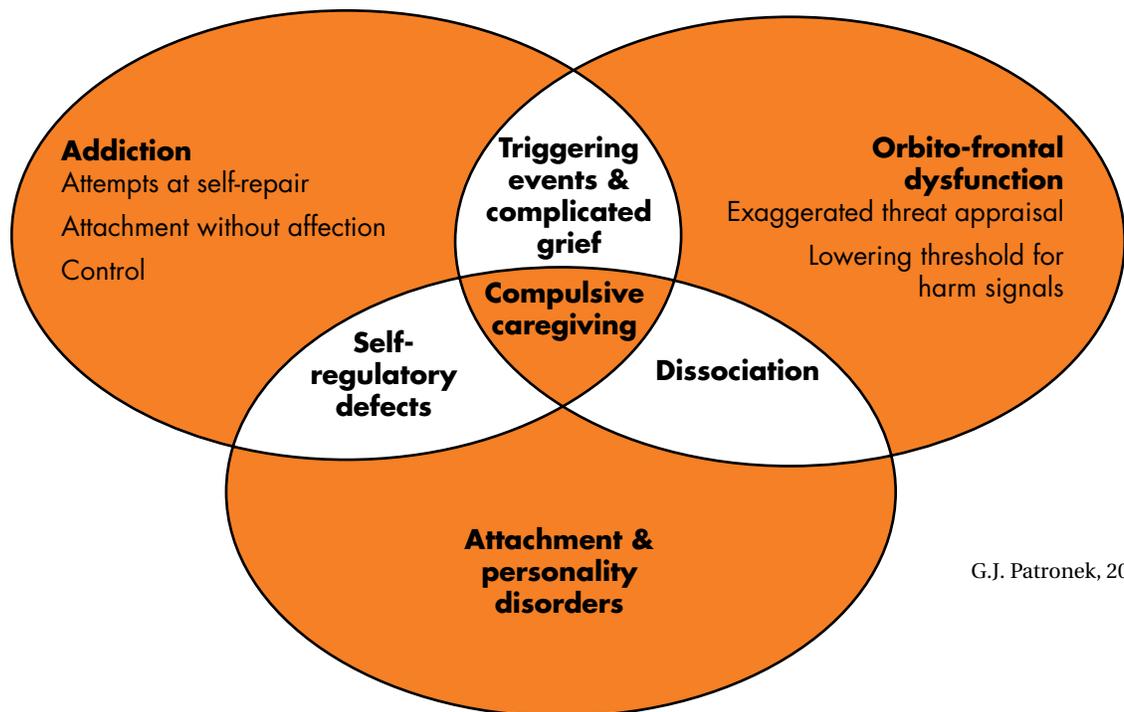


The most common intersection between animal abuse and vulnerable adults occurs in cases of animal hoarders, many of whom are older adults.

Gary Patronek, VMD, Ph.D., vice president for animal welfare and new program development at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, encouraged participants to recognize that hoarding often has an intergenerational component, as children and teens living in these homes may be adversely affected by health risks accompanying the presence of so many animals. He reminded participants that animal neglect is by far the most common type of pet abuse and is underappreciated as a factor in human abuse and neglect.

Many hoarders can be described as compulsive caregivers. A complex dynamic of conditions are interrelated and contribute to the pathology of these situations (see Figure 3). The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium has identified a spectrum of different types of hoarders, and no single intervention or treatment works for all.

Figure 3. Conditions Contributing to Animal Hoarding



These excessively strong and deep attachments to animals may be life-saving for some individuals, but are no substitute for rich relationships with other humans. Animal hoarding, when co-existing with mental illness, can have devastating consequences for all parties, especially the animals. Animal care and animal control agencies are often the only groups willing to assist because social services agencies have not been adequately trained in animal issues.

Patronek encouraged participants to understand the perspectives of adult protective services (APS) officials in order to overcome barriers to working with them collaboratively. APS acts on behalf of elders who, because of physical or mental limitations, are unable to act on their own behalf, seriously limited in the management of their own affairs, neglected or exploited, or living in unsafe or unsanitary conditions.

The goals of APS differ from those of animal welfare organizations. These different priorities can obscure common ground:

- APS' client is a person. In animal welfare, there are two clients — the animal and its owner — whose interests may conflict.
- The APS client is in charge of decisions to accept treatment or intervention. In animal welfare, the owner is empowered to make or reject these decisions.
- APS strives to ensure that the client is fully aware of all alternatives and understands consequences. In animal welfare, the animal is largely unaware of alternatives and consequences.
- APS seeks to achieve or ensure freedom, safety, least disruption of lifestyle and least restrictive alternatives. In animal welfare, a usual solution is the immediate removal of animals from abusive situations.

Despite these differences, mutually agreeable solutions are readily available among animal and adult protection agencies:

- Neither the human client nor the animal is helped by avoiding resolution.
- APS should understand that the animals are a symptom of the problem and not the problem.
- Removal of animals, when indicated, can be staged to minimize trauma.
- Communication about efforts and strategies for placement or adoption can ease concerns.
- Improving the situation has a greater likelihood of keeping the elder in his or her home.

It was suggested that addiction specialists should be trained regarding animal hoarding.

Animal Control



“Cruelty is camouflaged by our communities’ lack of concern,” said **Mark Kumpf**, President of the National Animal Control Association, noting that the public does not realize that animal control officers are frequently part of multidisciplinary responses to violent incidents. An ongoing challenge for animal control is to change public perception of the profession and recognize animal control officers as legitimate law enforcement officers who should work with domestic violence, child protection and animal welfare coalitions. “I’ve been yelled at, barked at and meowed at by many people,” he said. “But now they respect us.”

Animal control officers care deeply about animal issues and often provide direct services for abused animals in shelters, long-term foster care and reunification of families through rehoming. Because neighbors are more willing to call authorities

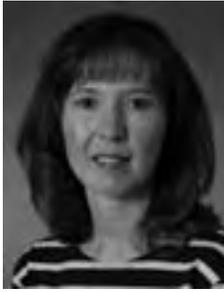
and complain about an animal welfare situation than about child maltreatment and domestic violence, which are still considered “family matters,” animal care and control officers are often the first responders to a family violence case.

The growth of the “no-kill,” no-euthanasia movement enables many individuals to pass themselves off as self-styled animal “shelters,” “sanctuaries,” “rescues” and “hospices,” when they are, in fact, hoarders. Animal control agencies are part of multidisciplinary teams addressing hoarding in New York City, Los Angeles, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Alexandria, Va., and Dane County, Wis. “We need to differentiate between legitimate programs that keep the interests of animals first and those that don’t,” he said.

Among the challenges faced by animal control officers in Link work are:

- reporting suspected domestic violence without compromising the safety of the victim;
- an absence of consistent training and standards for animal control officers in investigation techniques and cruelty cases;
- securing the authority to investigate animal cruelty;
- a lack of cultural competence and diversity among animal control officers;
- a lack of support from veterinarians who do not have the necessary support systems to feel comfortable reporting suspected abuse or feel that making such reports is “the right thing to do”; and
- conducting humane education classes for teachers who may hear about abuse from their students but do not know what to do with this information.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Systems



Although local law enforcement officers⁶, prosecutors and judges are beginning to receive Link training, such efforts are sporadic and have not been widely institutionalized, reported **Allie Phillips, J.D.**, a former Michigan prosecutor and former senior attorney with the National District Attorneys Association, now director of public policy for American Humane. Many prosecutors have yet to see the relevance of animal issues when confronting horrendous caseloads of human crime and violence, and it is often a struggle to get them interested in The Link.

The National District Attorneys Association and the American Bar Association have begun to include Link materials in publications and training curricula. The Link is occasionally addressed at training conferences for state bar associations, several of which have animal law sections. More than 90 law schools have added animal law to their curricula in recent years.

Local prosecutors often appreciate The Link if they are given research findings and practical stories that demonstrate the relevance of The Link to public safety. Link advocates should offer to provide training for district attorneys and their staffs — preferably over lunch — to introduce them to these concepts.

Public policy is assisting prosecutors, with 45 states now defining aggravated forms of animal cruelty as felony offenses. Ten states have enacted statutes allowing judges to include pets in protection-from-abuse orders. Laws that encourage cross-reporting generate evidence that can help substantiate a case that comes to court.

Probation officers and judges should also receive Link training. The presence and welfare of animals, or cases of animal abuse, can inform pre-sentencing investigation reports that guide judges when imposing counseling, probation or incarceration.

Judges need to be informed about the new pet-protection-order laws and that even if their state has not yet enacted such provisions, they have the power to include pets in such orders. “Judges won’t think to do it on their own unless you suggest it,” Phillips said.

Assessment and Treatment Providers



Psychological interventions developed for the assessment and treatment of animal abusers are a catalyst for people to communicate and enable therapists to gain a better understanding of attachment issues and psychopathologies.

Ken Shapiro, Ph.D., president of the Animals and Society Institute, suggested that providing the mental health community with useful assessments and treatments for animal abuse is a way to get this profession engaged in Link activities.

Animal abuse assessment scales can help inform a therapist about a patient’s assets and motivations for change, although questions remain about their reliability and validity. Research to evaluate and validate these assessment scales is needed.

A number of states offer or mandate animal therapy and/or anger management programs for adult and juvenile offenders, but it is not known how many of these cases are treated or the effectiveness of these interventions.

Another challenge is that psychological treatments are complex, and few treatments address animal abuse specifically. Some address a condition (such as borderline personality disorder) of which cruelty to animals is only one possible component. Two treatments that specifically address animal abuse issues are AniCare and AniCare Child.

⁶ Participants recommended that law enforcement officers should receive Link training so they may understand why responding to animal cruelty cases is important. The ASPCA offers a free Police Officer Standardized Training (POST)-accredited course entitled “Investigating Animal Cruelty” in 40 states.

Therapists and counselors are also challenged by a lack of clear understanding of how cruelty and empathy develop. The scope of factors that contributes to abusive acts can be extremely complex. Animal abuse can emerge from the patient's subculture, from family dynamics or through individual personality. New research suggests that empathy may have neurological and physiological bases. There may be an evolutionary advantage to empathy, but many people learn to not empathize, particularly with animals. Hoarders may have different motivations than other animal abusers and need different treatment programs. These issues make it difficult for therapists to treat patients who have committed animal abuse.

Interventions directed at the problem of animal abuse, including animal-assisted therapy, are still considered marginal or alternative approaches. Educating judges, prosecutors, school counselors and pediatricians about these treatment options and getting more animal cruelty cases into court will create a greater demand for therapists skilled in treating animal cruelty offenders.



Challenges for the Future

The National Town Meeting gave participants the opportunity to voice concerns about issues in research, public policy and practice that must be addressed to advance the Link agenda. A spirited discussion considered the following concerns.

Confidentiality

Several professions' legal and professional constraints protecting the identity of clients conflict with efforts to cross-report family violence to other agencies. Potential solutions to this issue include the following:

- Veterinarians have established model practice standards that allow them to make reports in good faith without fear of civil or criminal liability. This practice has been codified into law in several states. Other medical and social services professions could replicate these standards.
- Even in the absence of statutory language or professional practice standards mandating or permitting cross-reporting, 17 states require "everyone" to report suspected child abuse.
- Several professions may break confidentiality and cross-report if "others" are at risk, but it is unclear whether animals — which are legally considered property — can be construed as "others."⁷ In the absence of court rulings or policies guiding them otherwise, professionals can be creative and make such reports because public health risks and a duty to warn are considered more important than confidentiality, especially if a specific potential victim is known.
- Professionals who are unwilling to support legislation mandating cross-reporting may be willing to support bills that permit cross-reporting with waivers of confidentiality restrictions.

Public Education

Participants observed that although news media are becoming more aware of Link issues, they are an underused resource to educate the public about the topic. Strategies to gain greater support from news media include:

- Localize the issue and educate reporters about The Link with human-interest stories in which multiple forms of violence are present.
- Invite reporters to participate in Link conferences by presenting workshops explaining the role of the media in the community. This will help gain their interest and the likelihood of their covering the event.
- Use the animal-behavior concept that positive reinforcement works better than negative and encourage media interest by issuing awards and plaques for significant coverage of cruelty prevention.
- Write articles about The Link for other groups' newsletters and publications.

⁷ Link advocates in Canada have attempted on several occasions to enact a law that would move cruelty to animals out of the "crimes against property" category into the status of "crimes of violence." However, because animals lack legal "standing," many protections that animals enjoy are based upon their status as property. Legal research is needed to explore this issue. One approach suggested by participants may be to reclassify animals as "sentient property."

The Link in Urban Environments

The following Link challenges in large, congested urban environments were discussed.

- Human and animal shelters are chronically overcrowded.
- Human shelters care for large numbers of homeless persons and domestic violence victims.
- Significant numbers of clients in city social services and shelter systems have mental and physical health issues which have never been adequately addressed.
- The time required to keep pets in Safe Haven foster care may be considerably longer than in smaller communities.
- The pit bull population is exceedingly high in inner-city areas and foster care for them may be very difficult.

Strategies to address these concerns include:

- Local Habitat for Humanity chapters may be enlisted to build Safe Haven housing facilities.
- Safe Haven programs can use inmates in women's prisons, similar to programs in which convicts train service dogs.

The Link in Rural Environments

Several studies have identified issues of domestic violence in rural areas where there are no women's shelters, livestock as well as companion animals are at risk, victims lack access to transportation and it is difficult to keep matters quiet in small communities where many residents know and are related to one another. Other concerns noted by participants include:

- It is difficult to hide at-risk pets in a small community.
- Children may not be able to visit sequestered pets in small communities where a goal is to keep the animals' location secret.
- Attachments to livestock may be based on economic and utilitarian concerns rather than emotions.
- The presence of firearms exacerbates the intimidation, fear and risk of lethality for domestic violence victims.



"A Brief Look Back from the Front"



In 1999, **Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.**, senior vice president for anti-cruelty initiatives and legislative services for the ASPCA, wrote, "A Brief Look Back from the Front,"⁸ summarizing progress made to that point. He was invited to reprise the title at the National Town Meeting for a 25-year historical review of the field's impact.

"If media awareness of animal violence is a measure of our success, we're doing very well," he said. A significant number of newspaper and TV stories about animal issues, and the popularity of such television programs as *Animal Precinct* and its Houston, Detroit, Philadelphia and San Francisco *Animal Cops* spinoffs, demonstrate growing market penetration and public interest in animal cruelty—interest confirmed by public opinion surveys commissioned by The Humane Society of the United States.

Media coverage "packages the message" to mainstream audiences, and news stories create a powerful narrative. This message must be backed up with research, because politicians are influenced by both public interest and data that substantiate the need for animal protection legislation.

⁸ Lockwood, R. (1999). Animal Cruelty and Societal Violence: A brief look back from the front. In F. R. Ascione & P. Arkow, (Eds.), *Child abuse, domestic violence and animal abuse: Linking the circles of compassion for prevention and intervention* (pp. 3-8). West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press.

Although researchers are publishing new studies each year, the number of papers and students interested in The Link is miniscule compared to other fields.

Much legislative progress has been made. In 1985, only four states had animal cruelty laws classified as felony offenses, compared with 45 today. Other achievements include the enactment of laws adding pets to protection orders, and mandating or permitting cross-reporting.

Legislative challenges remain. Many states require or permit animal cruelty offenders to undergo counseling or treatment, but it is unknown whether these provisions are being used or if they are effective. It is unknown whether felony-level cruelty laws have a greater impact than misdemeanor-level statutes. More vigorous investigations of dogfighting, hoarding and puppy mill cases have resulted in significant costs for caring for large numbers of animals while cases are adjudicated. Procedures need to be implemented to expedite the resolution of these cases to reduce costs and the behavioral and physical deterioration of animals kept as evidence pending the outcome of court actions.

Overall, the public, police departments, veterinarians, prosecutors, judges, academia and practitioner professions have become more aware of The Link. "We've done a tremendous job in recognizing that cruelty to animals is a crime and that cruelty to animals is family violence," Lockwood said.

The research community must continue to address The Link if data are to be translated into effective policy and practice. Lockwood identified the following needs for additional research:

- Epidemiological studies exploring how widespread animal abuse is, who perpetrates it and at what ages.
- Longitudinal studies exploring the developmental pathways and trajectory of cruelty to animals.
- Clarifications of treatment protocols for juvenile and adult offenders, hoarders and persons committing other forms of animal abuse.
- Evaluations of the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs.
- Organizational development studies to achieve greater sustainability of Link programs so they are no longer dependent solely upon one or two key individuals.
- Greater understanding of the neurophysiological and neurochemical aspects of brain activity that may affect the development of empathy or cruelty.

Lockwood identified several other challenges that the field must address:

- A lack of accurate statistics concerning the incidence of animal abuse. Although reports of animal cruelty appear to be increasing, and the www.pet-abuse.com database has 11,000 cases on file, there is no single, systematic database of cruelty statistics. Such a database could be housed at a government agency, animal welfare organization, university or contract agency. "The popular notion that we have a complete and detailed national picture of the incidence of crime in America is far from true," he said.
- Inconsistent definitions of cruelty to animals that vary widely across public perceptions, organizational standards and prosecutorial jurisdictions. The Asilomar Accords, which achieved consistent terminology regarding animal shelter operations and euthanasia, may serve as a model for this process.
- Inconsistent laws and regulations that vary from state to state.
- A lack of participation by many community agencies that should be involved in coordinated anti-violence coalitions.
- A lack of appreciation of the value of animals and of animal protection.

Given the likelihood that federal involvement in animal cruelty issues will be minimal, Lockwood encouraged Link proponents to collaborate using the collective expertise of individuals and organizations in the field. A growing list of organizations from many disciplines continues to show interest in The Link. Several foundations have recognized The Link as worthy of funding. The Internet has enabled immediate access to information and resources. Sharing best practices among coalitions may help achieve greater program sustainability.

Above all, he concluded, we must all work together: "Leave your ego at the door because we've got a lot of animals and people who need help."



Experts' Summit



"If you bring the appropriate people together in constructive ways with good information, they will create authentic visions and sustainable responses to issues and opportunities within their communities and organizations."

- David Crislip, management consultant

The issues raised at the National Town Meeting seeded a day-long invitational summit of national and local leaders who were charged with the responsibilities of creating a common vision for the field, prioritizing the most critical issues and identifying future directions. Facilitated by Maine organizational consultants Steve Schuit and Marsha Greenberg, the summit's goals were to draft strategies and action plans, and secure individual and organizational commitments to carry them out.

Objectives of the Experts' Summit

1. Develop a common vision to move The Link agenda forward
2. Identify critical issues facing The Link agenda
3. Create strategies and action plans for the coming year
4. Make organizational and individual commitments
5. Establish mechanisms to sustain this effort

Significant Findings

Participants began the process by identifying the most significant information they learned from the National Town Meeting:

- There is a renaissance of interest in The Link.
- Human services systems are complex.
- There is a need to build a new narrative that will interest funders previously unknown to the animal welfare community.
- There is a great disconnect with human services organizations, despite growing recognition of the significance of animals in society.
- Link proponents have a thirst for knowledge, but information is often difficult to access.
- The confidentiality issue as it affects various professions is complex.
- Link programs cannot compromise the safety of victims.
- The effectiveness of Link efforts is unknown.

- It is important to build relationships in bringing groups together.
- There are challenges in institutionalizing Link programs.
- There is an ongoing need for profession-specific training.
- Agencies which may perceive each other as adversaries need to collaborate in an ecological model.
- Delivery systems for human and animal services are fragmented.
- The level of creativity among people working on The Link is high.
- A syndrome of “compulsive caring” marks many animal hoarders.
- New research into neurophysiology and “mirror neurons” may help us understand how empathy and cruelty develop.

A Common Vision

The next step was to create a common vision — a challenging but attainable desired future that could be synthesized into a vision statement. Work groups collaborated and crafted the following ideas for a common vision:

- Permanent funding is obtained to sustain the Link movement across all 50 states.
- Children, animals and nonabusive adults are measurably safer due to a strengthened response.
- Link programs are integrated and institutionalized among all stakeholders.
- There will be replicable models for local coordination of multidisciplinary responses related to The Link.
- All children will grow up with respect for living things and their world.
- Legally and socially, cruelty to animals will be considered violence.
- The Link between animal abuse and human abuse is widely recognized by the public, and services related to it are in place in every community.
- Society no longer tolerates violence.

From these ideas, the following vision statement was synthesized to form the framework for future Link efforts.

Vision Statement

It is understood that there is a link between violence against humans and violence against animals. Through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, people and animals are measurably safer.

Five Strategic Goal Areas

In order to arrive at this desired future, the next step was to assess the current state of affairs and identify the most important issues, challenges and opportunities. Using a collaborative process, participants identified an extensive list of issues which were then organized and ranked to prioritize five key directions for the future. The initial list included:

- Changing cultural attitudes toward animals and family violence in a multicultural society.
- Achieving “buy-in” from the criminal justice system.
- Sustainable funding for Link programs and infrastructure given priority by the government.
- Addressing fragmentation of social services system responses.
- Institutionalizing questions regarding animal cruelty on intake forms.
- Systematic data collection about animal cruelty.
- Addressing work force and workload issues.
- Spreading awareness and understanding of The Link.
- Positive messaging and marketing about The Link for stakeholders and the public.

- Common language and definitions.
- Focusing on prevention rather than prosecution.
- Safe and effective interventions.
- Achieving consensus among stakeholders.
- Identifying and resolving issues surrounding client/patient confidentiality.
- Developing academic research and data collection.
- Achieving broad, multidisciplinary engagement and buy-in.
- Establishing best practices and a national network to disseminate them.
- Reliable performance data and measurement outcomes.

This list was synthesized into five strategic goal areas that participants voted on. It was agreed that these would become the primary focuses for the immediate future.

Strategic Goal Areas

1. **Building public awareness about The Link: Marketing, messaging, communications**
2. **Overcoming the fragmentation of systems through network-building**
3. **Education and training for professionals**
4. **Addressing the root cause: Prevention, intervention and prosecution**
5. **Engaging academics for research and data collection**

Developing Strategies and Implementation: How Will We Get There?

With these five strategic goal areas as a framework, the next step was to articulate potential strategies that might address these issues collaboratively. Participants were asked to volunteer to make personal and organizational commitments to this work. The following strategies were identified.

1. Building Public Awareness About The Link: Marketing, Messaging, Communications

Strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Use the techniques of social marketing (the application of commercial marketing techniques, predicated upon data-driven research and the audience's needs, to address social causes) to promote a consistent language and a branded version of the Link vision.
- Develop an umbrella organizational identity for the national Link coalition.

The initial task force of people who have committed to work on this issue is made up of:

Lesley Ashworth
 Kathi Brock
 Linda Jariz
 Judy Johns
 Sarah Johnson
 Katie Lisnik
 Marie McCabe
 Marie Wheatley
 Norma Worley

2. Overcoming the Fragmentation of Systems Through Network-Building

Strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Create a national coalition or consortium, housed at an existing organization.
- Identify the current landscape: Conduct an inventory and create a directory of existing Link programs, coalitions and organizations.
- Produce a bibliography of research materials.
- Create an online "wiki," whereby proponents can continually update information.
- Establish a central repository of information.
- Compile a database of Link-related news clippings.
- Establish a Link website with cross-links.
- Create a centralized registration of Link coalitions.
- Disseminate Link information to anyone who wants to become involved through communication vehicles.
- Establish a Link listserv and chat room.
- Publish a Link newsletter (print and/or electronic).
- Conduct Link conferences, teleconferences and webinars.
- Produce a tool kit on how to establish a Link coalition.
- Produce a glossary of terminology so each discipline gains a better understanding of each other's professional jargon.
- Produce a description of each system's mission, processes and desired outcomes of cases.
- Produce sample interagency memorandums of understanding that can be used by local groups.
- Produce a sourcebook of sample documents (e.g., intake forms) that can be adapted for use by local agencies.
- Identify professional groups that should be involved in Link work, the barriers to their integrating and institutionalizing The Link, and opportunities to overcome these barriers.

The initial task force of people who have committed to work on this issue is made up of:

Phil Arkow	Marie McCabe
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Tracy Coppola	Kath Schoen
Howard Davidson	Hugh Tebault III
Myles Edwards	Mary Tebault
Linda Jariz	Bernard Unti
Mark Kumpf	Marie Wheatley
Katie Lisnik	Norma Worley
Randall Lockwood	Gretchen Ziemer

3. Providing Education and Training for Professionals

Strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Identify appropriate professions' post-secondary education programs and incorporate Link training into these curricula.
- Identify appropriate professional associations that can incorporate Link training and education into their state and national conferences' curricula.
- Identify professional networks and groups with common interests that can incorporate Link advocates into their networks.
- Vigorously promote models for interdisciplinary programs.
- Research, identify and connect with professional organizations' accreditation bodies that could include Link training and protocols as criteria for credentialization.
- Develop lists of content-based experts and create a speakers' bureau within various professions who can present Link training to their colleagues.
- Develop readily accessible content-based presentation materials geared toward various professional groups.

The initial task force of people who have committed to work on this issue is made up of:

Frank Ascione	Lila Miller
Lesley Ashworth	Allie Phillips
Barbara Boat	Chris Risley-Curtiss
Howard Davidson	Ken Shapiro
Lorna Grande	Hugh Tebault III
Maya Gupta	Mary Tebault
Anne Jordan	Allison Turkel
Mark Kumpf	Bernard Unti
Katie Lisnik	Norma Worley
Randall Lockwood	

4. Addressing the Root Cause: Prevention, Intervention and Prosecution**Strategies to achieve this goal are:**

- Look at prevention and address it at all layers and access points (e.g., prenatal programs, nurses) to emphasize prevention work through positive messages of healthy families and communities.
- Assess existing programs in the fields of public health and violence prevention, and identify gaps regarding The Link.
- Achieve healthier and safer families and communities by integrating The Link into pre-existing initiatives rather than “reinventing the wheel.”
- Create models that local groups can access and implement in their communities: a resource center for technical assistance, best practices, statutes and case law.
- Create a “bench book” for the judiciary to train judges on how to handle animal cruelty cases.
- Create and distribute model statutes.
- Collect best practices on the collection of animal cruelty evidence and cruelty case prosecutions.
- Recognize that once awareness is raised, the public will expect a response, so federal agencies (e.g., NIH, HHS, DOJ, CDC, etc.) will need to become involved.
- Educate current and potential philanthropic funders about The Link.

The initial task force of people who have committed to work on this issue is made up of:

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Randall Lockwood	Norma Worley
Andrea Paul	Gretchen Ziemer
Allie Phillips	

5. Engaging Academics for Research and Data Collection**Strategies to achieve this goal are:**

- Conduct basic research and meta-analysis on existing research.
- Evaluate existing programs.
- Convene focus groups to gather data and assess attitudes toward animals, violence and The Link.
- Assist practitioners to collect useful data and evaluate Link programs in various fields, particularly with protocols that include animal questions in intake forms.
- Develop guest lectures and academic majors and minors on The Link.
- Widely disseminate and publish all findings to all stakeholders and the public.
- Distribute Link bibliographies to conference attendees.

The initial task force of people who have committed to work on this issue is made up of:

Lorna Grande
Maya Gupta
Marie McCabe
Emily Patterson-Kane
Chris Risley-Curtiss

Mechanisms for Sustaining This Agenda

Participants decided to work through a steering committee of 10 who volunteered to serve in this capacity. It was determined that this coalition should be independent rather than a part of an existing organization, with ad hoc coordinators representing both national organizations and local practitioners. Participants working on the five identified priorities could serve as subcommittees within the larger coalition.

Members of the coalition steering committee

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Lesley Ashworth – Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Maya Gupta – Ahimsa House/American Psychological Association
Jane Hunt – Partners for Violence Prevention
Linda Jariz – The Linkage Project
Mark Kumpf – National Animal Control Association
Randall Lockwood – ASPCA
Marie McCabe – American Humane
Monica McLaughlin – National Network to End Domestic Violence
Hugh Tebault III – The Latham Foundation

"Cruelty is camouflaged
by our communities' lack
of concern."

-- Mark Kumpf, president,
National Animal Control
Association

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About The Link®

Over the past 25 years, researchers from many academic disciplines, and professionals working in both humane and human services, have established significant correlations between animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence. Abuse of all vulnerable members of the family is interconnected and part of a cycle of violence. When animals are abused or neglected, it is a warning sign that others in the household may not be safe and a “red flag” marking individuals whose acts of violence may escalate in range and severity. Children who witness animal abuse are at a greater risk of becoming abusers themselves and of perpetuating the cycles of family violence.

Despite 150 years of dedicated work in the prevention of animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse, cruelty persists with disheartening regularity. Our understanding of the causes of family violence has improved, but there is much more to be done to address these causes and to adapt our legislation, prevention and intervention efforts to protect all vulnerable family members from abuse and neglect. As we examine the triggers involved, it becomes increasingly apparent that cruelty to animals cannot be quarantined from the broader issue of violence in our homes and in society generally. A multidisciplinary approach to family violence has the potential to offer more effective strategies than have been implemented heretofore.

About the Sponsors



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877

in Denver, raises awareness about The Link® between animal abuse and other forms of violence, as well as the benefits derived from the human-animal bond. American Humane's regional office in Los Angeles is the authority behind the "No Animals Were Harmed"® end-credit disclaimer on film and TV productions, and American Humane's office in Washington is an advocate for child and animal protection at the federal and state levels. American Humane meets the strong, comprehensive standards of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance and has been awarded the Independent Charities of America "Best in America" Seal of Approval. Visit www.americanhumane.org to learn more.

About American Humane

Founded in 1877, the American Humane Association is the only national organization dedicated to protecting both children and animals. Through a network of child and animal protection agencies and individuals, American Humane develops policies, legislation, curricula and training programs to protect children and animals from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The nonprofit membership organization, headquartered



The Linkage Project

A program of Youth Alternatives Ingraham

led the way in organizing a statewide effort toward this goal. The Linkage Project is working to increase community awareness of the strong link between animal cruelty and human violence. What's more, project leaders are training human and animal welfare workers and law enforcement officers from across the state to work together to stop violence against people and pets.

About The Linkage Project

This unique program, based in Maine at Youth Alternatives Ingraham (YAI), is an innovative way to work toward developing humane communities. Its goal is to raise awareness about the connection between cruelty against animals and violence against people and to take action by bringing together diverse public and private organizations in Maine. Through the efforts of the Linkage Project at YAI, Maine has

About the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust

Based in Cleveland, Ohio, the purpose of the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust is to prevent cruelty to animals and promote the humane treatment of animals, particularly companion animals — dogs, cats and other species commonly kept as household pets. The trust supports Ohio programs that care for neglected animals, train those who care for animals and increase public appreciation for animals. In other Great Lakes states, and occasionally other areas, the trust supports innovative regional or statewide programs designed to accomplish these same ends. The trust also supports programs of national scope or significance in the following areas: research on humane pet population control and animal behavior, humane education, continuing education for shelter staff and volunteers, prevention of human-animal cruelty or violence, shelter medicine and selected other topics.



STRATEGIZING THE LINK

National Town Meeting

Vision Statement

It is understood that there is a link between violence against humans and violence against animals. Through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, people and animals are measurably safer.

