



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 6, No. 12 December 2013**

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



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



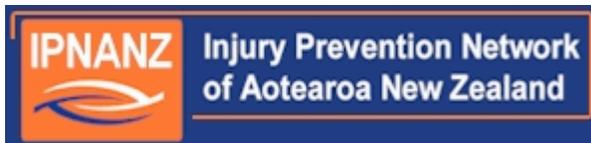
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[Phil Arkow](#), Editor

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## Link Cited in Proposed Ban Against Working with Children



Summarizing the results from New Zealand's landmark "Pets as Pawns" study ([see LINK-Letter April, 2012](#)) on the impact of animal abuse on families experiencing domestic violence, an injury-prevention agency in New Zealand is proposing that

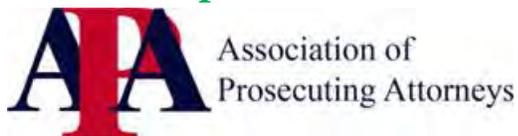
individuals convicted of animal cruelty be prohibited from working in key roles with children or young people.

The [Injury Prevention Network of Aotearoa New Zealand](#), the nation's leading advocate for reducing the incidence and severity of unintentional and intentional injury, submitted comments to Parliament regarding the Vulnerable Children Bill. [Chris Stewart](#), IPNANZ Cultural Strategies Manager, reports the group gave oral testimony to the Social Services Select Committee on Nov. 29.

The bill aims to ensure that frontline staff from government agencies are accountable and responsible for keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. It would introduce measures to protect children from adults who may harm them. IPNANZ proposed extending the list of specified criminal offenders who could not work with children to include criminal acts that are indicators of predatory or abusive behaviors which could result in harm or injury to children, such as animal cruelty.

The study, commissioned by the Royal New Zealand SPCA in partnership with the National Collective of Women's Refuge, found that violence or threats of violence against animals is often a way for abusive partners to maintain control over their families in New Zealand, similar to studies in other nations. 24.5% of children in the study had seen the abuser kill or injure a pet, and 32.7% had seen the abuser threaten animals. The study reported animal cruelty occurred both during and following an abusive relationship and affected not only the family's pets but those of relatives and friends who helped the family escape the violence.

## Link Prompts Prosecutors to Prioritize Animal Cruelty Cases



Citing “a direct link between the criminal acts of animal abuse and interpersonal violence including murder, child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse,” the [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#) (APA) has adopted a new position statement encouraging prosecutors to give higher priority to animal cruelty cases.

The Statement of Principles notes that “under-enforcement of animal cruelty laws is directly correlated to a host of corrosive societal ills – such as animal fighting in gangs and the harming or killing of companion animals in domestic violence situations.”

APA, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a national association dedicated to supporting and enhancing the effectiveness of local prosecutors to create safer communities, ensure justice and uphold public safety. The new policy statement recognizes that all states prohibit animal cruelty and 49 states have felony provisions for certain animal abuse crimes.

“Animal cruelty, both active and passive, is a crime of violence,” states the new document, “and as such requires a prosecutor’s full attention, with the accompanying allocation of resources to hold the offenders accountable and achieve just results.”

## New York Prosecutor to Emphasize Animal Cruelty Cases

The most recent prosecutors who is recognizing the serious nature of animal cruelty cases is Kathleen Rice, District Attorney for Nassau County, just east of New York City on Long Island. [Rice announced on Nov. 8](#) the creation of a countywide Council on Animal Protection and Safety as a forum for more coordinated animal health and safety efforts among law enforcement, animal protection and social service agencies.



**Kathleen Rice**

The Council is an offshoot of the D.A.’s Animal Crimes Unit, established in 2010. Participants include delegates from several towns in the county and outreach will be directed to veterinarians, police, animal shelters and social service providers.

“Part of my job as District Attorney is to be a victim’s advocate and give a voice to the voiceless,” Rice said. “I’m proud to work with our partners all over Nassau County to help ensure that animals and people coexist in a safe manner and that some of the most voiceless among us – abused and mistreated animals – have champions and advocates in government.”

## Link Documentary Nearing Completion



The Deadly Link, a proposed documentary about the animal abuse/human violence connections, is seeking funding to complete the project which has been in the works for almost two years. (See [LINK-Letter November 2012](#)). The planned documentary features extensive interviews with several Link authorities and footage shot at domestic violence shelters with pet support services. An appeal for funding has been posted on [YouTube](#) and details about the project are found on the [Deadly Link website](#).

## Connecticut Implements Child Abuse/Animal Cruelty Cross Training



**Ray Connors (left), Supervisor of the State Animal Control Division, meets with Rep. Diana Urban and Anne McIntyre-Lahner, DCF Training Director, at the cross-training program in the state Legislative Office Building.**

join state DCF and animal control officials for two intensive days of cross-training more than 200 agents in the two departments. Barbara Godejohn, a State Animal Control Officer, offered training to DCF personnel on the details of Connecticut's animal cruelty laws and how to recognize animal abuse and neglect. Tim Monahan, a trainer in the DCF Academy, provided mandated reporter training to the animal control officers. While ACOs are not yet considered mandated reporters in Connecticut, a bill to add them to the list of mandated reporters may be introduced in the next legislative session.

In 2011, the State of Connecticut enacted HB 6226, a historic measure authored by Rep. Diana Urban. The law requires all animal control officers in the state to report suspected animal cruelty to the Department of Agriculture, which forwards addresses to the Department of Children and Families; if any addresses match locations where a child abuse investigation is under way, the details are shared with DCF investigators. Meanwhile, all DCF employees are mandated to report suspected animal cruelty to the Department of Agriculture.

The law left it up to the two departments to implement the program and provide training for DCF and animal control employees. National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow journeyed to Hartford in November to

## Briefing Helps Veterinarians Recognize and Respond to Animal Abuse

With increasing awareness that veterinary professionals may encounter animal abuse in their practices and that they could be the first line of defense against animal abuse and other forms of family violence, materials are being developed to alert veterinary team members about how to recognize abuse, establish rapport with the client so they feel comfortable discussing it, and develop action steps when abuse is suspected.



A recent addition to these materials is an online [Veterinary Team Briefing](#). Veterinarians Lisa Bourazak, Kate Creevy and Karen Cornell wrote the web-based report which includes definitions of animal cruelty, abuse and neglect; steps to identify and report potential animal maltreatment; a case study; and resources and references to assist the practitioner.

When veterinarians and their staffs recognize and act regarding animal abuse cases, the authors wrote, "They are likely helping other members of the family in addition to the animal."

## Domestic Violence Pet Foster Program Goes Viral



The [Dogs Trust Freedom Project](#), a free fostering service in the U.K. for pets belonging to families fleeing domestic violence, launched an innovative social media campaign in November to commemorate Freedom Project Week. The week-long series of [Facebook postings](#), blogs and tweets was designed to give people a better understanding of the project, to meet team members, and to get the public more engaged. The series included vivid first-person accounts.

Clare Kivlehan, Outreach Projects Manager, tells The LINK-Letter that since the project was established in 2004, over 1,150 pets have been fostered. 57% of clients seeking help in 2012 reported that their abuser threatened or actually harmed pets. Nearly 1,100 pets have been successfully reunited with their families.

Dogs are referred by women's shelters, police, social service and support agencies. At any given time, 80 volunteer foster homes are caring for 50 – 65 pets, usually for 3 – 9 months. The Freedom project operates in greater London, Hertfordshire and Yorkshire. The project has assisted 737 families fleeing domestic violence.

## Mississippi Pet Foster Care Program Growing

The unique collaboration between the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University and the Care Lodge Domestic Violence Shelter in Meridian, Miss. (see [LINK-Letter, January 2013](#)) reports increasing interest in the program that provides foster care for pet survivors of domestic violence. Sharon Fooshee Grace, DVM, a clinical professor at the college and program leader for student affairs, tells *The LINK-Letter* that 18 animals have been taken in in 2013 – including the program's first "pocket pet" – a hamster. All together, 27 animals have been fostered since the program was launched.



**Sharon Grace, DVM**

## Ohio Counties to Partner in Anti-Cruelty Task Force

The challenges of enforcing animal cruelty laws in rural communities, particularly when farm and livestock issues are involved, has prompted a consortium of humane societies in Ohio to form a collaborative Animal Cruelty Task Force to handle calls from humane agents who need assistance. Steffen Baldwin, who told [The Toledo Blade](#) that he is resigning his directorship of the Union County Humane Society to head the new task force, said agents in rural counties are overburdened to respond to cruelty and neglect complaints and lack resources to care for seized animals.

Finding qualified agents is also difficult and consequently some counties have lacked humane enforcement for years. Ohio law allows, but does not require, each county to have a humane agent certified through the state peace officer training academy and appointed by a judge or mayor. Law enforcement officers can also investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases, but crimes against humans usually take precedence, said Baldwin.

## Link Cited in Push for Animal Abuser Registry

Citing the likelihood that animal abusers often go on to commit interpersonal violence, the high recidivism rate of animal hoarders, and a Massachusetts torture case that made national news, a bipartisan group of Connecticut lawmakers are proposing to re-introduce legislation in 2014 that would create a statewide registry of convicted animal abuse offenders.

The [Hartford Courant](#) reported that criminal justice officials have been paying more attention to animal cruelty cases in recent years due to research on the Links between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Animal abuser registries, which are modeled after sex offender registries and are in effect in a few counties in New York State, have not been enacted on a statewide level anywhere.

Officials in Michigan warned that a registry would cost \$140,000 to create a database of convicted animal abusers, but activists estimate the costs as closer to \$10,000. Registry bills were introduced in Connecticut in 2011 and 2013 and failed to get as far as a public hearing.

A study by state legislative researchers found that only 594 people were convicted of animal abuse in Connecticut between 2002-2012. The figure represents only 16% of those charged with cruelty, and more than half of all investigations did not result in formal charges.

A similar proposal has been introduced in Massachusetts in the wake of the “Puppy Doe” case which generated more than 60,000 “likes” on a “Justice for Puppy Doe” Facebook page.

## NEWS FROM LINK COALITIONS

### *HAV Coalition Launches Website*

The [Human Animal Vulnerability \(HAV\) Coalition](#) of the Waterloo region in Ontario has launched its [first website](#) to bring awareness of The Link to central

Ontario in Canada. The HAV Coalition is providing educational programming and research on The Link, pro bono preventive veterinary clinics for animals of the homeless and the vulnerable, community pet foster homes, and community relations. Through “Healing Hearts with Mac,” an innovative animal-assisted therapy collaboration with the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society, a black Labrador will accompany women through the intake process at Women’s Crisis Services and sit with children during interviews.



**Mac the therapy dog**

The Coalition aims to create an integrated, effective service delivery system for individuals, families and their pets at risk of violence, abuse and neglect. It seeks to realign resources for more effective future outcomes. Members include Family & Children’s Services, the Humane Society, Region of Waterloo Ontario Works, Community Veterinary Outreach, Public Health, Supportive Housing of Waterloo, Victim Services, Waterloo Regional Police Service, the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University, and Women’s Crisis Services.

## Maine Link Group Reaches Out

The [York County, Maine, Linkage Coalition](#) tells *The LINK-Letter* that the group is doing good work despite slow going.

[Gail Crowell](#), Chair of the coalition and Program Manager for the Animal Welfare Society, reports that a mailing is going out to more than 600 physicians, veterinarians, dentists, churches, hair dressers, food pantries, public assistance offices, social service agencies, counseling offices, fire departments, police, postmasters, animal control officers, pet sitters, groomers and kennels, offering them training on The Link.



**Above: The York County Linkage Coalition is sending a postcard to 600 local agencies alerting them to Link programs. At right: Gail Crowell counsels a mother and two children through the Animal Welfare Society's Pets and Women to Safety program, a pet foster care program conducted in partnership with the Caring Unlimited domestic violence program.**



## THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE

### *Animal Maltreatment as a Public Health Concern*

Worldwide, public health officials' interests in animal issues have traditionally been limited to emerging infectious diseases, animal farming practices and wildlife trade. Two other connections between human health and animal treatment warrant further exploration: medical research, which is tied to the safety and efficacy of medical therapeutics and public health applications; and interpersonal violence, with abuse of animals occurring frequently in conjunction with human abuse. Merging human and animal anti-abuse strategies can improve detection for all forms of violence. However, neither the World Health Organization nor the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasize the animal abuse/human violence link and give it sufficient weight in public health policy. Strategic policies should be amended to address animal treatment, which will result in direct benefits to human health. Greater coordination between public health, veterinary medicine and social services might increase detection of all forms of violence and thwart future acts of violence.

**-- Akhtar, A. (2013). The need to include animal protection in public health policies. *Journal of Public Health Policies*, 34, 549-559.**

### *Animal Abuse as an Adverse Impact on Social Capital and Community Health*

The term “social capital” has been used to describe the networks and social forces that build social cohesion, personal investment in one’s community, civic engagement and interpersonal trust. Research into the impact of the presence of companion animals and of animal cruelty has been limited to several studies demonstrating an increased sense of neighborly reciprocity, community involvement and sense of security from people walking their dogs. Data on how animal abuse may adversely affect social capital have been lacking. This article presents an agenda for research, public policy and programs to address these gaps in our knowledge to help determine whether the resilience and protective factors which pets can offer individuals extend to community populations as well.

-- Arkow, P. (2013). *The impact of companion animals on social capital and community violence: Setting research, policy and program agendas. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 40(4), 33-56.*

### *Cross-Reporting Program in Charlotte, N. Car.*

While the overlapping nature of interpersonal violence and animal abuse is well-established, historically each issue has been addressed by distinct and separate protective systems. A community-based project in Charlotte, N. Car., used cross-training to foster collaborations between human services and animal control agencies. The findings are useful to help other communities to address cross-reporting protocols.

-- Long, D.D., & Kulkarni, S.J. (2013). *Cross-reporting of interpersonal violence and animal cruelty: The Charlotte project. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 40(4), 131-148.*

### *Expanding Child Welfare Practice to Include Animals in Children’s Lives*

While child welfare agencies are slowly acknowledging some human-animal relationships, especially in the context of family violence, professional acceptance of the significance of animals in the lives of children is often piecemeal. Effective family-centered practice should dictate recognizing pets as meaningful parts of family systems and direct questions and observations about the past and current presence of animals, their care, their abuse, and their meaning for family members. This article discusses how a more ecological approach that consciously integrates animal-human relationships into child welfare practice can help caseworkers make more accurate and useful assessments of child safety and well-being.

-- Risley-Curtiss, C. (2013). *Expanding the ecological lens in child welfare practice to include other animals. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 40(4), 107-130.*

**Congratulations to the National Link Coalition’s Chris Risley-Curtiss,  
who edited this special issue on animals and inter-species connections for the  
*Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare!***

## THE LINK IN THE NEWS

### *Child Laughs While Woman Attacks Geese*

Crestview, Fla. police arrested Alyssa L. Pack and charged her with animal cruelty for allegedly confronting three geese, kicking them, and bragging about it afterwards on a widely circulated Facebook video in which a child is seen laughing. In the video, Peck, 20, tells the geese, "I'll beat you so hard you won't even know it," while jumping back and forth in front of the birds before apparently kicking one of them on the head. The geese, which had been bought by a local resident and were released in a park, were reclaimed by the owner.



The [Crestview News-Bulletin](#) reported that Dee Thompson, Director of Panhandle Animal Welfare Services, questioned why the Department of Children and Families had not been brought into the investigation because a child was involved. Several states have enacted or are considering legislation that would increase penalties for animal abuse committed in the presence of a child. "Disturbing as it was to see what she did, it was more disturbing to hear the child laughing in the background because that child has seen something that causes it to think that harming an animal is funny," said Thompson.

### *Couple Charged with Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty for Cuffing Foster Child*



**Wanda Sue Larson and Dorian Lee Harper**

A Union County, N. Car. couple were charged with intentional child abuse inflicting serious injury, false imprisonment and animal cruelty after their 11-year-old foster child was found handcuffed to his front porch with a dead chicken hanging from his neck. Wanda Sue Larson, a child protective services supervisor with the county Department of Social Services, and Dorian Lee Harper were arrested. Sheriff's deputies told the [Charlotte Observer](#) that the boy was routinely handcuffed in the home and that feces on the floor "would take your breath." The couple also have four adopted children, who were removed and placed in social services care. Larson was suspended and charged with willful failure to discharge her duties as a public official.

### *Man Charged in Violent Acts Against Woman and Rabbit*

A man in Northern Ireland was held without bail due to his perceived risk of re-offending after police arrested him in conjunction with two separate attacks on a woman, one of which included throwing her pet rabbit against a wall and threatening to strangle it. Jonathan Dalzell, 28, was charged with false imprisonment, attempted murder, criminal damage and causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

[The Belfast Telegraph](#) reported that Dalzell on Oct. 30 tried to suffocate the woman, dragged her by her hair as she tried to escape, and slammed her head against a wall. Two weeks later, police called to the scene found the woman bleeding from her nose and a mirror and TV smashed. She claimed Dalzell had kicked her in the face and called her "boring" after she stopped drinking. He also picked up a pet rabbit and threw it against a wall, a prosecutor said, and wrapped a hairdryer cord around his hands and said he would show her how to kill the animal. Dalzell also allegedly told another man in the house to leave as he was planning to strangle the woman and the man would be "an accessory to murder."

## THE LINK IN THE LEGISLATURES

### *Reporting and cross-reporting*



**District of Columbia B20-0153** would amend the DC Official Code to incorporate veterinary medicine as a health profession. Under this new classification, veterinarians and veterinary technicians would become mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.



**Massachusetts SB767** would allow any person to file a nuisance suit against another person or entity that subjects an animal to conduct which poses a risk to its life, health or safety.



**New York A3766** would require anyone who enforces animal cruelty laws to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment, and any person mandated to report child abuse or maltreatment to file a report of suspected animal abuse or maltreatment. The bill is in the Social Services Committee.



**New York A3283** would require any employee of a veterinary hospital or clinic, boarding kennel, shelter or rescue center, or facility that provides services for animals to report an animal's injury, illness, or condition to the police if animal cruelty or abuse is suspected. Employees who reasonably and in good faith file such reports would be immune from civil or criminal liability. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



**Wisconsin SB 199** would require veterinarians to report all suspected animal abuse, with immunity from civil liability for good-faith reporting. Currently they are mandated to report only suspected animal fighting and lack immunity. The bill is in the Judiciary and Labor Committee.

### *Advocates for Animals*



**Connecticut HB 5677, HB 6690 and HB 6310** would appoint a State Department of Agriculture veterinarian to act as an animal advocate in family relations matters, civil cases, and criminal proceedings (including cruelty cases) that involve the care, custody and well-being of animals. **HB 6690** passed the House and was in the Senate Judiciary Committee when the legislature adjourned.

### *Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child*



**Massachusetts SB1914**, the PAWS Act (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety), would define animal abuse committed in the presence of a child as "extreme atrocity and cruelty" with enhanced penalties. It would mandate veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty with immunity from civil and criminal liability for good-faith reporting. The bill would create a statewide animal abuse hotline and registry of animal abuse offenders. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary on Nov. 6.



**New York A706** would include animal cruelty in the presence of a child as an element in endangering a child's welfare, and within the definition of a neglected or maltreated child. It has been referred to the Codes Committee.



**Oregon SB6** was signed into law on July 15. The act increases the punishment for animal neglect in the first degree to a maximum of 5 years imprisonment and/or a \$125,000 fine for repeat offenders, offenses involving 10 or more animals, or neglect that occurs in the presence of a minor child.

### *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



**Ohio HB 243** and **SB 177** would allow courts to include companion animals in domestic violence, anti-stalking and temporary protection orders. **HB 243** would also require children adjudicated as delinquent for committing animal cruelty to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling, and adult offenders to be sentenced to probation supervision. The bills have been referred to the House Judiciary and Senate Criminal Justice Committees.



**Michigan SB 285** would make it illegal to kill, torture, maim, disfigure, or poison an animal with the intent to cause mental suffering or distress to another person or to exert control over another person. The bill passed the Senate on Nov. 13 and was referred to the House Committee on Criminal Justice.



**New Jersey A 916** would authorize courts to include animals in domestic violence restraining orders. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

### *Animal Hoarding*



**Pennsylvania HB 860** would establish a new crime of animal hoarding, a third-degree misdemeanor, and require a psychological evaluation prior to sentencing. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*



**Florida HB 851** was signed into law on June 28. It adds illegal animal fighting to crimes that can be prosecuted as “racketeering activities” under Florida’s RICO Act. Racketeering includes committing, attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, or to solicit, coerce or intimidate another person to commit a crime under the RICO classification.



Testimony that animal cruelty frequently leads to other crimes was presented in support of **Hawaii SB 9**, which was signed into law July 2. The law prohibits a person convicted of animal cruelty in the first degree from owning any pet or horse for a period of five years.



**Massachusetts HB1594** would replace the archaic definition of bestiality as “the abominable and detestable crime against nature, either with mankind or with a beast,” with more contemporary terminology making it illegal to “commit a sexual act upon an animal, use an object to sexually abuse an animal, or knowingly permit a sexual act with an animal.” A companion measure, **SB654**, would also repeal other sections of Massachusetts’ “Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency and Good Order”) that make fornication, adultery, providing contraceptives, abortion, blasphemy, and tramps riding freight trains illegal.

### *Permission to Reprint*

The news items and training opportunities contained in *The LINK-Letter* are intended to disseminate as widely and as freely as possible information about the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Permission is hereby granted to re-post these articles in other newsletters, websites, magazines, and electronic publications provided that appropriate credit is given to the National Link Coalition and with links to [www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org).

## LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

To subscribe to The Link-Letter (*it's free!*) – Just send an e-mail to Coordinator Phil Arkow ([arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)) and tell us what organization(s) you're with and where you're located.

**Dec. 17 – Franklin County, Mass.:** The [Franklin County Link Coalition](#) will meet to set goals and schedule meeting dates for 2014.

**Dec. 18 – (online):** Dr. Pamela Reid will present a free webinar on “Behavioral Assessment and Rehabilitation of Animal Cruelty Victims,” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

**Jan. 12, 2014 – (online):** Phil Arkow will conduct a free webinar on The Link for the [Veterinary Support Personnel Network \(VSPN\)](#).

**Jan. 14, 2014 – (online):** Jenny Edwards will present a free webinar on “Understanding and Prosecuting Bestiality,” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

**Jan. 21, 2014 – (online):** Randall Lockwood will present a webinar on “Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence: Addressing ‘The Link’ for Safer Communities,” for the [National Crime Prevention Council](#).

**Jan. 28, 2014 – (online):** [Allie Phillips](#) will conduct a webinar on the Link for the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention Programs.

**Feb. 13, 2014 – (online):** Diane Balkin will present a free webinar on “Pretrial Motions: The Framework for Evidence at Trial,” in a [webinar series](#) presented by the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, in partnership with the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

**Mar. 22, 2014 – Austin, Texas:** Phil Arkow will present on how The Link can be used to “Learn What the Monster Likes and Feed it” at the [Texas Unites for Animals](#) conference.

**April 22, 2014 – Seattle, Wash.:** Allie Phillips will present on The Link and sheltering pets of domestic violence survivors at the [International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence & Trafficking](#).

**April 25, 2014 – Stratford, Ontario, Canada:** Phil Arkow will present on Domestic Violence and The Link for [Optimism Place Women’s Shelter](#).

**April 30-May 2, 2014 – New Orleans, La.:** Phil Arkow will present on “Species-Spanning Connections at the Intersections of Child Maltreatment, Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse” at the [19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

**May 20-21, 2014 – South Bend, Ind.:** Phil Arkow will train the [St. Joseph County Prosecutors Office](#) on The Link between Violence to People and Violence to Animals.



## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multi-disciplinary collaborative network of individuals and organizations in human services and animal welfare who address the intersections between animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse through research, public policy, programming and community awareness. We believe that human and animal well-being are inextricably intertwined and that the prevention of family and community violence can best be achieved through partnerships representing multi-species perspectives.

### Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

#### Phil Arkow, Coordinator

Consultant, ASPCA and Animals & Society Institute  
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,  
The Latham Foundation  
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Chair, Education Committee,  
National Adult Protective Services Association  
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#### Lesley Ashworth

Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund  
Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,  
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