Watching Our Planted Seeds Grow:
Two Years of Remarkable LINK Progress

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Biennial Summit – June 28, 2016 – Minneapolis, MN
Thank You to Our Sponsors!

- National Sheriffs’ Association
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- The Latham Foundation
- Day One: The Call to Safety
- Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline
- Animal Humane Society
What is the National LINK Coalition?

- National Resource Center.
- 3,000+ members, 50 states, 50 countries.
- Informal collaboration addressing linkages, prevention and response to animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse.
- Policy, programs, awareness, & research (1,200+ citations).
- LINK-Letter, local coalitions, trainings.
- By recognizing how human and animal violence are LINKed, violence prevention is enhanced and families and communities are safer.
Goals of the National Town Meeting –
June 8-9, 2008, Portland, Maine

1. Strengthen community responses to human violence.

2. Determine how research, public policy, and coalition-building will impact Link programming.

3. Advance Link public policy by prioritizing legislative and program initiatives.

4. Develop models for successful coalition program development, implementation of activities, and sustainability.

5. Create a multidisciplinary, national network.
The Experts’ Summit: June 10, 2008

5 Strategic Goal Areas


2. Overcome the fragmentation of systems through network-building.

3. Education & training for professionals.


5. Engaging academics for research and data collection.
The National Link Coalition: Main Strategies

- Integrate four key components to legitimize and implement innovative species-spanning approaches that improve human & animal welfare
Advances 2014-2016 – The LINK-Letter
PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS

Circulation June 2016: 3,020
Increase since last Summit (Oct. 2014): 37%
Increase since start of self-publication: 272%

LINK-Letter Readership 2011-2016
PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS

The LINK-Letter: North America

LINK-Letter Readers

US & Canada 2016

US: 2,414
Canada: 148
The LINK-Letter – International Readership

Countries added 2014-16:
Argentina
Costa Rica
Crete
Finland
Guernsey Is.
Liberia
Poland
Singapore
Turkey

LINK-Letter Readers - June 2016
Total: 2,975
US: 2414 (81.2%)  Canada: 148 (4.9%)
50 other nations: 372 (12.5%)
Unknown: 41 (1.4%)
Advances 2014-2016 – The LINK-Letter

**LINK-Letter Readers by Interest Area - 2016**

- Animal Care & Control: 861
- Domestic Violence: 349
- Child Protection: 284
- Adult Protection: 70
- Law Enforcement: 142
- Prosecutors/Criminal Justice: 331
- Veterinary Medicine: 324
- Human-Animal Bond: 317
- Human/Behavioral Health: 74
- Media: 210
- Unknown: 0
Advances 2014-2016 – The LINK-Letter

LINK-Letter Readers by Interest Areas – Changes 2012-2016

Most notable increases
Public & Professional Awareness – Link Trainings 2014-2016 By Location

TOTAL: 220

Number of Trainings

- USA: 168
- Int'l: 25
- Webinar: 27

Total: 220
Link Trainings 2014-2016 - Disciplines

# of Trainings: 220

Most notable increases

- Animal Care & Control: 34
- Domestic Violence: 27
- Child Abuse: 27
- Elder Abuse: 6
- Veterinary Medicine: 17
- Law Enforcement: 25
- Prosecutors: 40
- Coalitions: 20
- Social Work: 8
- Human-Animal Studies: 11
- Other: 5
Link Trainings - US

Link Trainings - US
2014-2016
Link Trainings - Global - 2014-2016
Public & Professional Awareness –
Website Usage (June 17, 2014 – April 5, 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>DAILY AVERAGE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of sessions</td>
<td>43,426</td>
<td>66 sessions/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of users</td>
<td>35,370</td>
<td>53 users per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of page views</td>
<td>70,401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average pages per visit</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bounce rate (viewers went to only one page)</td>
<td>76.59%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average time on site</td>
<td>1 min. 24 sec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Visitors (first time)</td>
<td>81.42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How They Reach the Site

- Search Engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.) 58%
- Directly entered our URL 19%
- Referred link from another site 19%
- Social Media 4%
How They View the Site

- Desktop: 69.7%
- Mobile: 23.8%
- Tablet: 6.5%
Where They Come From: Website Usage (June 17, 2014 – April 5, 2016)

USA, 28,046
United Kingdom, 2,280
Canada, 1,854
Australia, 1,099
Brazil, 550
Spain, 430
Sweden, 259
New Zealand, 306
Netherlands, 178
South Africa, 172
Japan, 174
151 others, 8,078
A Growing Global Website Reach

Website Usage - 2014-16

163 nations, including Iran, Iraq & Syria
A Growing Global Reach – Multilingual Website Resources

- Spanish
- Dutch
- French
- Portuguese
- Swedish
- Bulgarian
- Turkish
Facebook & LinkedIn Pages

6/23/15 to 6/22/16:
• 4,700 likes
• 18,922 reached (spikes on Link-Letter publication dates)

• 131 members
Public/Professional Awareness – COALITIONS

**DOMESTIC**
- **NEW COALITIONS:** Oklahoma, South Florida
- NM Positive Links: 501c3; Outreach to Native Americans; Sept. Link Awareness Month

**INTERNATIONAL**
- European Link Coalition came... and went
- New coalition: Victoria (Melbourne), Australia
- Link Toolkit translated into Spanish, Turkish
- Netherlands: PDs get “animal cops”
- Alberta AASAP celebrates 1st year with FTE
- Brazil: Lar em Paz publishing materials
Outreach to Military: NOVA NVAA; U.S. Navy
Outreach to Native Americans: NAHS – Tribal Link monograph (Allie); Nat’l Inst. of Justice study
Published list of topics needing research
Produced visuals for local groups
Public/Professional Awareness

Highlights: 2014-2016

- New books published/contributed
Mainstream Media Awareness LINK Cases followed: June 2014-2016

No. of cases followed: 173
No. of other crimes* represented: 192

* Other crimes include:
• Homicide
• Mass shootings
• Kidnapping
• Arson
• Robbery
• Narcotics
• Sex assault
• Car theft

Female perpetrators: 23
Juvenile perpetrators: 10
Mainstream Media Awareness Highlights -- June 2014-2016

- Huffington Post: 3 LINK articles
- Bloomberg: 4-part series on bestiality
- WSJ, NY Times: Features on URI PALS
- Steve Dale: feature on SAF-T shelters
- Local Link program features: San Bernardino, Milwaukee, White Plains, Okla. City, Scotland
- Japan: NLC-authored 3-part series on Link
- Media interviews: Keokuk, Worcester, California Health Report
FBI adds 4 types of animal abuse to NIBRS system

National Coalition on Violence Against Animals

National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“I can say that every animal fighting prosecution that I have personally handled has begun as an investigation into a crime against a child.”

- Julie A. Canter
  Asst. District Attorney
  Sullivan County, TN
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Special Prosecutors assigned to animal cruelty cases
- Statewide AG prosecution unit: Virginia
- Albany NY DA: ~ spotabuse.org Campaign
- San Bern. Co. DA: NaCO Award

Cities/Counties with Prosecutors Specializing in Animal Abuse Cases

= programs added 2014-2016
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CHIEFS OF POLICE
Serving the Leaders of Today,
Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

Randy writes Link training monograph for IACP

University of Florida
Veterinary Forensics Program:
Largest master’s-level animal program in the world
AAHA supports DVMs’ mandatory reporting of suspected animal abuse and laws requiring such reporting with immunity from civil and criminal liability when made in good faith.

**IMMEDIATE RESULT:** 7 reporting bills introduced in GA, KY, MD, NY, PA, TN, WI
Scotland invests £1,000,000 to train 100,000 front-line professionals to recognize & respond to domestic violence
New Zealand Veterinary Association signs on to national domestic violence prevention initiative.

NZVA describes veterinary medicine as a “three-dimensional profession” – the only profession with a voice in issues that transcend animal life, human life and the environment.
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

• Growth of SAF-T™
Advances 2014-2016: Programs
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **RedRover**
  - Increased grants to > $6,000 (28 in 2014-2016)

- **Banfield Charitable Trust**
  - 14 grants to pet-friendly DV & homeless shelters

- **Animal Welfare Institute**
  - Wrote TA guideline for National Resource Center on DV
  - Wrote manuals for attorneys aiding survivors in 3 states
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Maryland Network against DV: developed pet response and service animal protocols
- Mississippi State Univ. CVM: Got AKC grant for Safe Haven
- Albany Co. NY D.A.: Replicated spotabuse.org with PSAs
- KY Supreme Court affirms animal abuse an acceptable lethality risk in issuing PFA order
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- INTERNATIONAL
  - **Wales:** National Assembly passes law defining animal abuse as domestic violence

- Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center
  www.866uswomen.org
Advances 2014-2016: Programs
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Ongoing challenges with competing, inaccurate Safe Havens portals

RedRover
SafePlaceForPets.org

domesticshelters.org
NCADV (suspended affiliation)
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

- **ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL**
  - NACA endorses ACOs cross-reporting abuse of children, elders and the disabled

- **CHILD PROTECTION**
  - Virginia Child Protection Network devotes issue to The Link

- **ADULT PROTECTION**
  - Banfield Charitable Trust pilots $30K grant to help TX APS clients keep pets
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

SOCIAL WORK

- 4th Veterinary (Wellness and) Social Work Summit

- NYC Mayor’s Alliance publishes toolkit for social work response to pet crises
Advances 2014-2016: Programs
SOCIAL WORK

Schools of Social Work with H-Al courses or faculty interested in H-Al
Advances 2014-2016: Programs

ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS

- Courtroom dogs OK’d in Alberta, Michigan, Connecticut
  - Featured in Police Chiefs magazine
  - Added to Orange Co., CA D.A.’s team
- Latham film spotlights BARC – Kent Co. Juvenile Detention Center
- OK prison gets $100K grant to train dogs
- Therapy dogs at Virginia Tech Women’s Center
- AniCare/AniCare Child updated
Advances 2014-2016: Policy
FELONY-LEVEL ANIMAL CRUELTY

Renewed interest in The LINK →
Advances 2014-2016: Policy
LINK-BASED RATIONALE FOR BILLS – MUNICIPAL

- **Baltimore**
  - Ban on dogfighting paraphernalia

- **Tallahassee**
  - Train municipal workers to screen for animal abuse
Advances 2014-2016: Policy LINK-BASED RATIONALE FOR BILLS – STATE

- TENNESSEE:
  - Animal abusers’ registry
  - Bringing child to animal fight

- OHIO
  - Bestiality

- CALIFORNIA
  - Encouraged humane education
Advances 2014-2016: Policy
LINK-BASED RATIONALE FOR BILLS – INTERNATIONAL

- **ARGENTINA**
  - Mandatory humane education in schools

- **AUSTRALIA**
  - Queensland Parliament bill would create new category of “serious” animal cruelty in conjunction with child sexual abuse and sex trafficking

- **DENMARK, SPAIN**
  - Bestiality bans

- **INDIA**
  - Attempts to update anti-cruelty law
Advances 2014-2016: Policy
PET PROTECTION ORDERS
Advances 2014-2016: Policy
PET PROTECTION ORDERS

The PAWS (Pet And Women Safety) Act

Sept. 2014: ("bi-petisan") H.R. 1258
• Extend anti-stalking and PPO protections beyond 30 states to federal level

• Federal funds for pet-friendly shelters

• 140 co-sponsors

Rep. Katherine Clark (D – Mass.)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R – Fla.)
Advances 2014-2016: Policy
ANIMAL FIGHTING

Feb. 2014: Federal felony to bring a child to an animal fight (Farm Bill)
Legislation 2014-1016: Types of Bills Introduced

Types of Bills Followed - TOTAL: 101

- Pet Protection Order: 17
- Cross-Reporting: 20
- AA & Other Crimes: 26
- Bestiality: 7
- Animal Hoarding: 5
- CASA for Animals: 5
- AA by Children: 4
- AA in Child Presence: 9
- Therapy Interventions: 8
States introducing Link bills: 28
No. of bills followed: 101
LAWS ENACTED: 15
Advances 2014-2016: Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Number of Link References in Bibliography

References have QUADRUPLED since 2008
Bibliography: Types of References – 2016

- Journals, university & academic publishers, theses, scholarly conferences
- Professional organizational publications
- Mainstream media
Looking Ahead...

Areas we may wish to consider:

- Attempt to get pets counted in US Census?
- Quantify PPOs issued?
- Include pet stats in NNEDV/NCADV tallies and state court administrators’ DV dashboards?
- Focused training for DVMs in states with mandatory/permited/universal reporting?
- Compile county-by-county lists of who DVMs can report cruelty to?
- Improve cross-reporting systems & evaluation?
- Encourage humane education based on Link & bullying?
- Expand topics needing more research?
- Other ideas?
Animals Enhance Community... 
and The LINK Creates a Ripple Effect...

“The lives of families, children and animals have been entwined together from the beginning of civilization. By joining together to strengthen those bonds, we forge a chain of compassion that will ensure a better future for all.”

-- Mark Kumpf, Past President, NACA National Link Coalition, 2008
“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”

-- Robert Louis Stevenson