



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 9, No. 9 September 2016

A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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THE LINK AND... VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinary Social Work Certificate Course on The Link Offered

The Veterinary Social Work program at the University of Tennessee is offering a [Certificate course](#) in The Link Between Human and Animal Violence. The week-long workshop, scheduled for March 11-18, 2017, will be held at the University's campus in Knoxville.



The program includes an in-depth overview of the Link including historical background, modern research, and suggestions for micro- and macro-level interventions. Topics include: definitions of animal abuse and the Link; domestic violence and animal abuse; children and animal abuse; elder abuse and animal abuse; animal hoarding; and animal fighting.



Bethany Poe

The workshop will be taught by Bethany Poe, LMSW, a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Social Work and a Fellow in the Veterinary Social Work program. She is presently working on her dissertation which focuses on cross-reporting by animal welfare professionals in Tennessee.

Other Certificate workshops in the program are: Animal-Assisted Interactions; Compassion Fatigue and Conflict Management; and Animal-Related Grief and Bereavement. Workshops are open to any interested party. Participants do not need to be enrolled in a certificate program to attend, but they must complete a series of online prerequisites prior to attending the workshop.



Dutch Veterinarians Address Reporting Animal Abuse, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

The Royal Dutch Society for Veterinary Medicine (KNMvD) has updated its earlier policies regarding veterinarians' recognition and response to suspected family violence. In [Meldcode dierenmishandeling voor dierenartsen \(Report Code for animal cruelty veterinarians\)](#), issued in May 2016, KNMvD states that any veterinarian should be alert to risk factors and signs of animal abuse. When there is a suspicion of animal cruelty a veterinarian shall take all necessary steps to obtain clear information as to whether this presumption is correct.

The Meldcode lays out a five-step "roadmap" that practitioners must follow when animal cruelty is identified or suspected:

- 1. Mapping of signals.** Photographs and results of examinations and tests are entered into the patient's file.
- 2. Consult as necessary with peers and animal abuse hotlines.** These may include colleagues in the office or remote specialists.
- 3. An interview with the animal's owner.** As openness is an important attitude in the service of veterinary medicine, practitioners are encouraged to make contact with the owners at the earliest stage possible to discuss the signals. This process may or may not remove the suspicion. The veterinarian should then record in writing his or her interpretation of what was seen and heard. This step may be avoided if the safety of the practitioner or staff is compromised, or can be conducted by a colleague.
- 4. Weigh the information.** This step requires the veterinarian to assess the risk of animal cruelty, as well as its nature and severity.
- 5. Decide whether to organize help or report the incident.** The veterinarian must weigh whether he or she can provide or organize sufficient aid to protect the animal, in which case ongoing monitoring is necessary to ensure the abuse or neglect does not flare up again. If not, a report is made to authorities and the animal's owner is notified accordingly.

The steps need not be taken in order: what matters is that the practitioner goes through them before making a report to authorities. After reporting, veterinarians are expected to do everything in their power to protect the animals from further abuse or neglect in consultation with other agencies that have gotten involved with the case.

Veterinarians are allowed to report either by name or anonymously, and may disclose confidential information without the owner's consent when it is deemed to be in the interests of health and welfare. They may share information with others in the household or assisting authorities or physicians. The latter is deemed to be particularly important when other forms of domestic violence are suspected.

Veterinarians who fail to act upon cruelty incidents may be subjected to disciplinary action.

The Meldcode builds upon a 2011 directive that also declared that veterinarians' overall responsibilities include being aware of the relationship between animal abuse and other forms of domestic violence and acting accordingly. *Dierenmishandeling als signaal van huiselijk geweld en kindermishandeling (Animal abuse as a signal of domestic violence and child abuse)* identifies parallels between animal abuse, child abuse and domestic violence and encourages practitioners to look for these as well.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

New Video Describes Humane Society Safe Haven Program

The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, which has been serving the New York State Capital Region since 1887, has produced a [5-minute YouTube video](#) describing its Safe Haven program of providing shelter for the pets of domestic violence survivors in two upstate counties.



Safe Haven is a collaborative program between the humane society, [Unity House](#) in Rensselaer County and [Equinox](#) in Albany County. "By partnering with a domestic violence organization, we know that we're taking animals and people out of a dangerous situation where their lives are often at risk," says Humane Society Executive Director Brad Shear.

A survivor, Jessica, describes how she used the service twice – first with two cats, then again with four cats and a dog. "It was nice to know that there was a place where my animals could come. A lot of people, myself included, are hesitant to leave because I didn't want to leave my cat behind."



David Warren, Service Director for Unity House, describes the financial and emotional barriers that prevent survivors from leaving. "They believe that leaving their pets behind could result in their pet being killed, tortured or maimed. In many cases pets are one of the only social supports that victims have while they're in an abusive relationship."

Warren also describes how animal abuse is a part of the power and control that abusers exercise over their victims. Threats or actual harm to pets fits into "this complex web of power and control that an abuser demonstrates over a victim of domestic violence."

The video also features David Soares, the Albany County District Attorney whose innovative program to curtail domestic violence has the public calling 911 to report animal abuse (*See the [April 2016 LINK-Letter](#)*). He points out that 25% to 40% of domestic violence victims continue to live in their homes. "One of the primary reasons that they cite for not reporting domestic violence is the fact that they would be leaving their pets behind. That's a real concern. When you can alleviate those concerns for a victim it will make them more likely to come forward and then report the domestic violence, thereby providing protectionality for themselves but also for other members of their family."



David Soares



Gwen Wright

Gwen Wright, Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, echoes these ideas. "Knowing that there is a safe place for their animals to be could be the impetus for them to make that decision." She notes that when someone is making a safety plan and looking at their options, they have to include the entirety of their lives, which often includes their children and their pets. Having a Safe Haven as part of their options "may be the difference between life and death."

The Humane Society has also produced an [8-page brochure](#) describing the Safe Haven program and the risk of animal abuse within domestic violence.

Pet Shelter Programs Called Easy to Operate... and to Fund!

“Don’t overthink it.” That’s the advice that Lizette Olsen, Executive Director of [AWARE](#), Pennsylvania’s first pet-friendly sexual and domestic violence shelter, offers to other leaders who are considering making their facilities accessible to the animal members of survivors’ families. “These programs are really easy to fund and run.”

Olsen, and her counterpart Lindsay Taiani, Supervisor of Community Services for the [Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center](#) near Pittsburgh, presented the ins-and-outs of pet-friendly sheltering on a webinar organized in August by the [Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). Their basic advice: SAF-T ([Sheltering Animals and Families Together](#)) programs may seem intimidating but they are really remarkably easy to finance and operate.



Olsen described how AWARE, serving Mercer County since 1976, began thinking about the need to accommodate pets after Hurricane Katrina vividly demonstrated the emotional dislocations that occur when victims are separated from the comfort of their companion animals.

Discussions with a Mercer County animal control officer identified a local need: 90% of the cruelty cases she investigated involved domestic violence. 20% of women who were eligible for transitioning opportunities reported that they would not come in to the shelter because they feared what would happen to their pets. “This was a shocking revelation to us. At the time our shelter had a no-pet policy.”

Once the decision was made to move forward in 2010, it only took six weeks to raise money and open the PAWS (Pets and Women Shelter) program. The local Rotary Club funded the cattery. A donor church conducts an annual fund drive. A national pet food vendor provides coupons for reduced-cost food. Pet stores collect donations for the program.

Meanwhile, in the absence of a statewide law allowing pets in protection-from-abuse orders, AWARE began reaching out to local judges and asked them to include animals in such measures. The result was that not only pets, but also 4-H animals, prized farm livestock and horses started to be included in protection orders in Mercer County.

Safety planning materials were modified to include issues affecting the family’s animals. Individualized pet care plans were created. Attorneys and insurance carriers addressed risk management and liability concerns. Partnerships were drawn up with humane groups to tap into their extensive networks of veterinarians and donors.

Taiani’s experiences in the Pittsburgh area were similar. The Hope Center’s climate-controlled kennel opened in 2012 and they quickly found that some donors who were reluctant to contribute to the domestic violence cause were more than willing to help the animals. Grant money from RedRover, Verizon and the American Kennel Club helped fund the program. Partnerships with the Animal Rescue League and a local veterinarian keep pet care costs low.



“Your facilities don’t have to be grand,” Taiani said. “They just have to meet the animals’ basic needs and make sure that the animals are safe and the people and their pets can stay together.”

Olsen’s advice to webinar participants was pragmatic and inspirational. “Re-think your no-pet policies,” she advised. Adding animals is an opportunity to expand your mission, your messaging into the community, and your areas of service. It expands community systems in ways you haven’t thought of yet, and vastly increases both financial and in-kind funding opportunities.

“This is absolutely the least expensive program you can run and the fastest to fund. The community will step forward,” Olsen said. “This really taps into new funding opportunities. There’s a whole donor class that really cares about animals, and they’ll cut you a check.”

If there is no safe place to go....

- 88% of homes with physically abused children included abuse or neglect of the family pet.
- 48% of victims delay leaving or return to an abusive partner out of fear for their pets' safety.
- 80% of victims who entered emergency shelters reported that their abusive partner had threatened, injured, or killed the family pet.
- 70% of animal cruelty in the home occurs in front of children who are injured when they intervene to protect their pets from being abused.

...can you tell *him* he has to stay in an abusive home?

HOPE's SAF-T Program
Sheltering Animals and Families Together
724-224-1100
Hopecenter@alkhopecenter.org
CONTACT HOPE FOR DETAILS

Adding the animals reduces families’ anxieties, and helps children to better cope with these issues. Families in the shelter, not the staff, are responsible for the animals’ care and they are encouraged to exercise and play outdoors with the pets. “We want our children to have as relatively normal experience with their pets as possible. Something magical happens between the children we serve and their pets,” Olsen said. “And it doesn’t have to be a dog or a cat. It could be a goldfish. We’ve had hamsters, gerbils and a whole menagerie in here.”

Several challenges have arisen over the years, but they can be overcome. Some staff have adopted vulnerable, at-risk animals – including a horse – necessitating discussions with personnel about establishing boundaries. In areas with multiple animal advocacy agencies, if it becomes difficult to work with one group you can reach out to another one.

“Don’t catastrophize it. You’ll have to tweak it. You’ll have to adjust and make changes as you go,” Olsen advised. “. But you’ll wind up doing more good than not. And the quality of life in your shelter will

Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center's pet flyer encourages survivors to not leave their pets at home with the abuser improve dramatically. I’ve yet to see anyone who sees an animal in the shelter and doesn’t have a smile.”

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

Ohio Network Includes Pets in Systems Advocacy Programs



The Ohio Domestic Violence Network has taken what it admittedly calls “a little groundbreaking” position among statewide domestic violence coalitions by launching a Family Systems Advocacy Team. Of particular interest to The LINK is that the program includes pets.

While calling the team’s name “a little clunky,” the program nevertheless eyes the family holistically and includes the survivor, children, grandparents, pets, and even the perpetrator as they move through community social services systems. The program primarily performs systems advocacy, aiming for institutional change in allied systems as opposed to individual advocacy.

The program is guided by several key concepts, including that domestic violence often co-occurs with other family violence and that all members of these families may be involved with other community systems that can impact their safety and compounding traumas positively or negatively. The program recognizes that workers and management in any one system need additional competencies and policies vis-à-vis the other systems.

“Efforts to support training, technical assistance, policy development and collaboration are all essential to improving safety, healing and well-being for system-involved families impacted by a batterer’s violence,” states an [ODVN report](#). ODVN conducted studies in 2010 and 2012 describing how animal abuse is a serious risk to pets and a barrier to domestic violence survivors fleeing abusive situations (*See the [February 2013 LINK-Letter](#)*).

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... ELDER ABUSE

Animal Hoarders in Germany Mirror American Findings

Ongoing research studies about animal hoarders in the U.S consistently report that middle-aged and elderly women comprise the majority of this population, and that a wide range of mental health and social services issues are frequently involved. A recent study in Germany obtained similar findings.

Sophie Arnold, of the German Animal Welfare Association ([Deutscher Tierschutzbund](#)), and Henriette Mackensen and Brigitte Rusche, presented their findings at the 14th Triennial Conference of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations in Paris. Reviewing 120 cases in Germany between 2012-2015 in which 9,174 animals were hoarded, their findings were comparable to studies in the U.S. and elsewhere:

- 54% of cases involved cats; 40% involved dogs. The average number of animals hoarded per case was 76.
- 68% of animal hoarders were women. 18% were men and 15% involved couples.
- The average age of hoarders was 55. 35% were over 60 years of age.
- In only 10 cases (8%) did the hoarder recognize the issue or ask for help.

Noting a trend that hoarding of small mammals, particularly rabbits, seems to be on the increase, they called for community agencies to provide collaborative interventions. “Responsible institutions like veterinary, legal and health departments need to improve cooperation, providing ongoing help for animals and hoarders. Psychological and practical help for repeat offenders, but also for potential hoarders, could improve the situation sustainably,” they emphasized.



Alerting Elder Law Attorneys to The Link

The State Bar of Wisconsin recognized June 15th – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – with an article in its publication *Inside Track* describing resources and research guides of interest to attorneys practicing elder law. [The article](#), which focused on Wisconsin’s statutes and case law and general research on elder abuse, failed to mention how elder abuse may be Linked to other forms of family violence including animal abuse.

Wisconsin attorney and *LINK-Letter* reader Linda Krueger responded to the oversight and [posted a response](#), alerting 20,000 readers of *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine to the additional resources and research available from the National Link Coalition. Thank you, Linda, for helping to get the word out!

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILD MALTREATMENT

Michigan Considers Cross-Reporting Legislation

Three bipartisan bills were introduced into the Michigan State Legislature on July 13 which, if enacted, would make Michigan only the fourth state to require Child Protective Services personnel to report suspected animal abuse, and animal control officers to report suspected child maltreatment.



Reps. Robert Kosowski (left) and Peter Lucido

Michigan HB5779, introduced on July 13 by Rep. Robert Kosowski, Democratic Caucus Whip, would require animal control officers to report suspected child abuse.

Michigan HB5780, introduced on July 13 by Republican Rep. Peter Lucido, would require Child Protective Services employees who, in the course of their investigations of child abuse or neglect, have reasonable cause to suspect animal abuse or neglect, to make an immediate oral report to an animal control officer or law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction. The oral report would have to be followed up within 72 hours with a written report.

The CPS employee’s identity would remain confidential and be revealed only with her or his consent or by judicial process. CPS employees acting in good faith would be immune from civil or criminal liability.

Failure to make such a report would be a misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine and/or 93 days in jail. Knowingly making a false report would also be punishable, with penalties increasing if the alleged animal abuse were a felony rather than a misdemeanor. A companion measure, **HB 5781**, would create a new crime of making an intentional false report of animal cruelty. The bills are in the House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors.

Several states allow or mandate CPS personnel to report suspected animal cruelty with good-faith immunity from civil and criminal liability and freedom from confidentiality constraints. Several others include animal control officers among those mandated to report suspected child abuse. But only Connecticut, Illinois and West Virginia, plus the District of Columbia, currently have full two-way cross-reporting between the two agencies.

Could Pets Accompany Abused Children into Foster Care?



Research has shown that children develop strong emotional bonds with their companion animals, and that these bonds may be particularly powerful for children living in abusive situations. Abused children often confide their secrets, fears and angers to their pets. A pet may be a child's only comfort in a chaotic home and a buffer against the violence. Many children believe their pets shield them from violence and are reluctant to go into foster care if their pets cannot accompany them. Children's bonds with their animal

companions are not pale imitations of interpersonal relationships but rather unique and important relationships on their own.

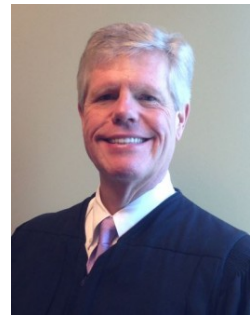
In the face of such findings, a question is often raised as to whether abused children might be allowed to take their pets with them into foster care. What are the logistical and liability issues involved? Are any child protection agencies routinely or occasionally permitting this practice? If so, are there any protocols that could be shared with other agencies thinking along these lines?

We have had an inquiry from a foster family recruiter who would like to develop such a procedure for some children. She is seeking input from colleagues around the country. If you have any ideas you'd like to share, please [contact the National Link Coalition](#) and we'll put you in touch with each other.

THE LINK AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

D.A. Cites the Link in Dog Torture Case; Defendant Gets Four Years in Prison

Citing studies showing that people who abuse animals often go on to harm domestic partners, children and the elderly, Cobb County, Ga. Assistant District Attorney Sherwin Figueroa asked a court to impose a 15-year sentence, with eight years to be served in prison, in sentencing a Smyrna man convicted of torturing a dog by burning the animal. On July 18, after a week-long trial, a Cobb jury convicted Calib Dansel Lanier, 23, of two counts of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals and one count of Criminal Damage to Property in the Second Degree.



Judge Robert E. Flournoy

In May 2015, Lanier repeatedly touched the open flame of a torch to a dog's body while the dog was trapped inside a doghouse in Lanier's back yard. The dog suffered burns on her face and over 60% of her body before managing to escape the doghouse. "Royalti," a 1-1/2-year-old female pit bull, belonged to Lanier's brother, with whom he had been having a simmering dispute.

"This is one of the worst cases of torture and suffering of an innocent animal our animal-abuse unit has seen," Figueroa said. "This defendant has lashed out against his own family in addition to committing this deviant act. Then, when confronted by the evidence, he changed his story."

On Aug. 11, Cobb Superior Court Judge Robert E. Flournoy III sentenced Lanier to 10 years, with four years to serve in custody and the balance on probation.

Diversion Program Created for Animal Abuse Offenders



Extensive research describes The Link connecting animal abuse and interpersonal violence. However, most animal abuse cases are treated as misdemeanors. To address this gap, the Animals &

Society Institute has developed a [three-tiered diversion program](#) for animal abuse offenders. The program recognizes the need for interventions that are tailored to the circumstance of the abuse and aims to provide early interventions, reduce cruelty to animals and humans, and reduce recidivism.

The program's three levels are based upon the severity of the offense:

Level I: C.A.R.E (Companion Animal Responsibility and Education) is a half-day program designed to educate participants on companion animals' basic needs and how to provide adequate care.

Level II: B.A.R.K (Behavior, Accountability, Responsibility, and Knowledge) is a group education and treatment program focused on accountability, empathy, and factors that motivated the abuse or neglect, including attitudes, beliefs, and other risk factors. There is an eight-session version of the program for juveniles and a 16-session version for adults.

Level III: AniCare is a one-on-one psychological intervention focused on animal abuse and co-occurring issues such as substance abuse and domestic violence.

Judges have the discretion to assign offenders to diversion based on severity, background and other relevant factors. Participants who complete the program may have their charges dropped and/or their fines or jail time reduced.

ASI reports it is working with the Court of Common Pleas in Lycoming County, Pa. to offer the program. A presentation was offered this summer to Court of Common Pleas judges and staff from Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, and the Public Defender's office. The program will be offered through the Lycoming County Treatment Court to people charged with summary and misdemeanor-3 animal abuse offenses.

Short-term goals include increasing participants' accountability, improving knowledge of animal care and well-being, changing attitudes and beliefs that support animal abuse, and improving self-management and interpersonal skills. Ultimately, the programs are intended to promote positive human-animal relationships and reduce the likelihood that participants will repeat their abuse or neglect of animals. ASI is also exploring adoption of the program by the newly formed Animal Court in Botetourt County, Virginia.

Humane Education, Animal-Assisted Interactions Seen as Interventions against Juvenile Violence



Heath Grant, Cathryn Lavery and Kimberly Spanjol

with interpersonal violence. An additional remedy to prevent violence is the introduction of humane education and animal-assisted therapy (AAT) programs to help at-risk and incarcerated youth improve their Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

Law enforcement agencies dealing with youth violence are increasingly recognizing animal abuse as a key component of juveniles who are inclined to antisocial behavior. In response, many agencies are developing training programs to acquaint police officers with the prevalence and identification of animal abuse and its links

This is the premise underlying a lengthy article in the current *Latham Letter* by criminologists and mental health counselors Heath Grant, Cathryn Lavery and Kimberly Spanjol. Calling animal cruelty a pathway to violence and a connection to future offending, they argue that SEL deficits could be triggers that lead to various forms of animal cruelty, and/or participating in or observing acts of animal cruelty, and may help to generate the social and emotional deficits that later result in violence or other forms of delinquency.

Although the link between SEL and delinquency has not yet been adequately studied in the research literature, they note, problem behaviors such as bullying, emotional intelligence and empathy have been linked to various forms of delinquency in numerous studies.

Given the link between SEL, animal cruelty and violence, humane education and AAT offer novel and effective ways to build empathy and compassion, empower and increase humane behaviors and reduce violence in youth toward both human and non-human animals, they write.

Noting that evidence is promising but limited in this field, they describe animal-assisted interventions as being effective due to the potential for animals to teach relational skills through the social support they can provide. Benefits of humane education and AAT include learning how to form relationships with healthy boundaries and the ability to identify with the animal's plight, behavior and future.

"Programs that target youth committing anti-social, abusive and violent behavior based on the knowledge of Link violence have the potential to reach children/adolescents who are high risk for both perpetrating and being victims of violence," they conclude. "The combination of humane education and animal-assisted interactions is a potentially powerful intervention to support youth in developing and sustaining pro-social skills in all settings."

-- Grant, H., Lavery, C., & Spanjol, K. (2016). *Understandings about animal cruelty: Why animal abuse is a critical concern for law enforcement practitioners, and promising antidotes to youth violence. The Latham Letter, 37(3), 9-13.*

BUILDING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK



The Link was featured prominently at the 14th Triennial Conference of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations in Paris in July. Frank R. Ascione and Shelby McDonald (left) shared results of the five-year Colorado study describing the impact of animal abuse and domestic violence on youths (See [The February 2016 LINK-Letter](#)).

Phil Arkow conducted a plenary session on the status of research and practice regarding the domestic violence/animal abuse Link and joined with (from left) Paula Boyden, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers and Brinda Jegatheesen for a panel discussion on the Link between child abuse and animal abuse.

Australian Conference to Focus on International Link Responses



[Lucy's Project](#), the organization based in New South Wales in Australia to recognize and raise awareness of the animal victims of domestic violence (See [the October 2015 LINK-Letter](#)), will hold its 2nd conference on Nov. 5-6 in Sydney to bring international Link perspectives Down Under. Founder Anna Ludvik tells *The LINK-Letter* that featured speakers will include Frank Ascione and Allie Phillips from the U.S.A., and Freda Scott-Park from the U.K., in addition to numerous Australian presenters. "Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse – International Perspectives" will be held at the Portside Conference Centre in Sydney.

"Lucy's Project has always strived to unite and strengthen the movement to protect animal victims of domestic violence and the human victims who love them," Ludvik says. "At this year's two-day conference we look abroad to countries that have successfully entrenched the movement into mainstream policy, programs and discourse. We seek to learn from their triumphs and challenges as we also share ours with each other here in Australia."

The conference will discuss companion animal-friendly domestic violence shelters, emergency animal housing, rehabilitation and prevention programs for children, and veterinary and legal responses. "We bring together our problems and solutions and network to advance the movement," she says.

[Registration](#) is available here.

THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE

A Canadian Perspective on Disconnects in Social Work Education and Practice

In this 2013 article which recently came to our attention, Cassandra Hanrahan critiqued disconnects and incongruities affecting social work in Canada. Despite extensive research on human-animal bonds and human health, significant gaps remain in the Canadian literature on how social work responds to practice issues. Such disconnects affect homelessness and service coordination between child welfare and animal protection agencies. “The omission of questions about animals



Cassandra Hanrahan

is even more surprising as it appears that just under half of the respondents have some exposure to and knowledge of the negative links to child abuse, domestic violence, and criminal activity,” she wrote.

In her survey of 148 Nova Scotia social workers, 68.2% had heard about the animal abuse/child abuse Link, 63.7% had heard about the links between animal abuse and domestic violence, but only 20.7% had heard about animal abuse/elder abuse links. Exposure to information about the links between animal abuse and criminal behavior varied widely. But 93% agreed that people who repeatedly and intentionally harm animals are more likely to show violence towards people. 95% had not had training in including animals in practice, and 88% wanted to learn more about the human-companion animal bond.

Social work has largely ignored the reality that companion animals inhabit extraordinary places in the lives of members of special populations, such as, the homeless, child and adult victims of abuse, and the elderly, she wrote. “Equally perplexing is the dearth of research on animal hoarding, a growing public health concern that appears to have fallen through the cracks.

“The integration of HCAB into social work is a postmodern imperative, a focus whose time has come, rather than a special interest,” she wrote. If social work is to be truly anti-oppressive and ecologically grounded the profession can no longer fail to consider the well-being of non-human others.

“Fundamentally, to ignore animal cruelty is to ignore human violence. Ongoing disregard has a deleterious impact not only on the practitioner’s ability to provide the best service to clients, but also for a sustainable healthy future for the planet.”

-- Hanrahan, C. (2013). *Social work and human animal bonds and benefits in health research: A provincial study. Critical Social Work, 14(1), 63-79.*

Slaughterhouse Employment and Rates of Violent Crime

Expanding upon earlier research, Jessica Racine Jacques sought to examine whether the presence of a slaughterhouse in a rural community has an effect on violent crime arrest rates and what impact these facilities have on social disorganization in the community. Findings indicated that the location of a slaughterhouse in a county was associated with increases in the total arrest rate, arrests for rape, and arrests for offenses against the family in comparison to counties without a slaughterhouse. Findings point to a relationship between the violence of killing nonhuman animals and violence towards humans. She argues that more attention should be paid to violence sanctioned by society, such as animal slaughter for industrial food production, as well as individual incidence of animal abuse.

-- Jacques, J.R. (2015). *The slaughterhouse, social disorganization, and violent crime in rural communities. Society & Animals, 23(6), 594-612.*

When the Dog Becomes the Outlet for Interpersonal Aggression

Addressing the need for more research examining the criminogenic factors related to animal abuse perpetrated by adults, Charlotte Parfitt and Emma Alleyne of the University of Kent's Keynes College conducted a correlational study examining the factors related to two types of animal abuse proclivity. They reported that childhood animal abuse, empathetic concern, and a proneness for human-directed aggression were significant correlates of *direct* forms of animal abuse (i.e., the animal was perceived to be the provocateur). They also found that childhood animal abuse, personal distress (i.e., anxiety from interpersonal interactions), and empathetic concern were significant correlates of *indirect* forms of animal abuse (i.e., a person was the perceived provocateur, but the animal an alternative outlet for aggression). The findings highlight targets for prevention and intervention programs and the importance of distinguishing between different forms of and motivations for animal abuse.

-- Parfitt, C., & Alleyne, E. (2016). Taking it out on the dog: Psychological and behavioral correlates of animal abuse proclivity. *Society & Animals, 24*(1), 1-16.

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Dallas-Fort Worth Group Announces Progress

A group of committed community leaders who are organizing a Link coalition in the Dallas-Fort Worth region (See the [June 2016 LINK-Letter](#)) held their second meeting on Aug. 5 at the Texas SPCA. Coordinator [Linda Ross](#) tells *The LINK-Letter* that 11 representatives attended and were joined by a new participant – the Southern Methodist University Center for Family Counseling and the Association for Student Counselors.

Participants include such organizations as Adult Protective Services, Bamboo Grove Creative, Child Protective Services, Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Dallas County Juvenile Dept., Dallas County Probate Court, The Family Place, Humane Education Volunteer Network, Lifeline of Hope Family Services, Mazie's Mission, SafeHaven, SPCA of Texas, Texas Humane Legislation Network

"I think we are making good progress," Ross says. The group's next meeting will be on Sept. 9.

Links Group UK Upgrades its Website and Resources



Our British cousins, The Links Group UK, has dramatically upgraded its [website](#) with a new logo and extensive information about The Link for professionals and victims of domestic violence and child maltreatment. Several key

British Link publications are available on the website, as well as a link to sign up for the organization's newsletter. The Links Group UK has 21 supporting organizations representing national and local child and animal protection agencies, children and family services, veterinary medicine, domestic violence programs, human healthcare, and human-animal bond academicians. The site also features a national directory of pet fostering services for women fleeing domestic violence.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Bills We're Watching... and Laws We're Celebrating:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



H.R. 1258 – the Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act – was re-introduced with a new number and 190 bi-partisan co-sponsors. The bill would expand existing federal domestic violence protections to include pets of domestic violence victims. It would prohibit crossing state lines to harm a domestic partner's pet, and establish a federal grant program to provide assistance and housing to victims' pets in need of emergency shelter. The bill has been assigned to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations. A companion measure in the Senate – **S. 1559** – with 26 co-sponsors has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.



Alaska HB 147 would allow victims to petition the court for a protective order that the abuser may not remove, harm or dispose of any animals in the household, and to grant her exclusive care and custody of them. Peace officers investigating domestic violence cases must inform victims of this provision. The bill would also declare pets to be marital property and give courts authority to decide individual or joint custody when people divorce, with consideration of what would be best for the animal. It would also define an act of animal abuse in this context as domestic violence. The measure has cleared both houses and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor's office.



Michigan SB 28 would make it a crime to knowingly kill, torture, mutilate, maim, disfigure, or poison an animal, or threaten to do so, with the intent of causing mental suffering or distress to a person or to exert control over a person. The bill passed the Judiciary Committee and is in the Committee of the Whole.



Michigan HB 4478 allows courts to issue protection-from-abuse orders preventing respondents from injuring, torturing, neglecting, threatening, or removing the petitioner's animals. It applies to current or former spouses; individuals with whom the petitioner has a child in common or where there has been a dating relationship; or an individual presently or formerly residing in the same household. The bill was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on May 3.



New York S7394/A10661 would extend protections offered to the pets of domestic violence survivors by giving courts discretion to forbid contact between the abuser and any pet that is cared for by the survivor. **S7394** passed the Senate on June 7 and was referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



Pennsylvania SB 594 would increase penalties for killing, torturing, maiming or poisoning an animal belonging to someone who is protected by a protection-from-abuse order to a \$2,000 - \$15,000 fine and/or two years' imprisonment. The bill was approved by the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.



Wisconsin SB 97 was signed into law on March 1 by Gov. Scott Walker. Judges or circuit court commissioners issuing temporary restraining orders or injunctions not only in domestic violence cases but also in child abuse, individual-at-risk and harassment situations may order the respondent not to remove, hide, damage, harm, mistreat, or dispose of a household pet. Petitioners or family members acting on their behalf may retrieve a household pet.

Animal Abuse in the Presence of a Child



Massachusetts H3446 would criminalize animal abuse in the presence of a child under age 14 and would increase penalties for such cruelty to up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



Michigan H5670 would make it a misdemeanor, punishable by a \$500 fine and 100 hours of community service, to inflict cruel treatment on a companion animal in the presence of a child. The bill is in the Criminal Justice committee.



New York A534 defines “aggravated” animal cruelty as causing extreme physical pain or done in an especially depraved or sadistic manner, a Class E felony. It would make the commission of aggravated cruelty in the presence of a child a Class D felony. The bill is in the Codes Committee.



New York A944 and **S1795** would criminalize knowingly causing a minor to attend a place where exhibition of animal fighting is being conducted. **A944** is in the Codes Committee. **S1795** passed the Senate on June 7 and was referred to the Assembly Codes Committee.

Interventions for Animal Abuse Offenders



New York A1445 and **S1174** would increase penalties for animal fighting and aggravated cruelty to animals and would require a psychiatric evaluation for defendants convicted of aggravated cruelty. The bills are being held for consideration in the Agriculture Committees.



New York A1673 and **S814** would require unsealing of court records that juvenile offenders convicted of animal cruelty offenses and require them to undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment where necessary. The bills are being held for consideration in the Agriculture Committees.

“CASA for Animals”



Connecticut HB 5344 will allow courts, effective Oct. 1, 2016, to appoint attorneys or law school students as advocates for any animals involved in prosecutions concerning custody of the animals or their welfare.



Massachusetts SB 851 would authorize actions to recover non-economic damages for the injury or death of companion animals and authorize a guardian ad litem to recover damages. The Joint Committee on the Judiciary approved the bill on April 4 and referred it to the Joint Rules Committee for further study.



New York A3443 would authorize a guardian ad litem to be appointed by a court in tort causes of action for wrongful injury or death of a companion animal. It would also allow restraining orders and other injunctive relief for the wrongful injury or killing of a companion animal. The bill has been referred to the Rules Committee.

Animal Hoarding



New York A1265 would create the crime of companion animal hoarding. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



California HR28 encourages the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure the incorporation of humane education in the core curriculum in order to disrupt the cycle of human and animal abuse by decreasing a child's potential to be abusive or neglectful. The measure resolves that compliance with Education Code provisions should include educating students on the principles of kindness and respect for animals and observance of laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the humane treatment of animals. The Resolution was adopted by the Assembly on May 2.



California SB 1200 initially would have required the standards for the selection and training of law enforcement and probation officers to include a requirement for training on domestic violence and the nexus between animal cruelty and violence against persons. The bill was amended to only require law enforcement agencies to include arrests for animal cruelty in their annual reports to the Governor. The amended bill was signed into law on Aug. 29.



Michigan HB 4353 would allow animal shelters to consider an individual's criminal history when determining whether or not to allow that individual to adopt an animal. Convicted animal abusers could not adopt for at least 5 years following conviction. The bill is passed the Judiciary Committee and is in the Committee of the Whole.



New York A346 and **S6919** would create a statewide task force to study how to improve investigations of animal abuse and enforcement of anti-cruelty laws. The bills are in the Agriculture Committees.



New York A1596 and **S2936** would expand the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to animals during the commission of a felony. **A1596** is being held for consideration in the Codes Committee. **S2936** passed the Senate on March 7 and was sent to the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

Cross Reporting



Massachusetts S863 and **H132** would add domestic violence workers, animal control officers and humane officers to the list of mandated reporters of child abuse. **S863** was approved on April 4 by the Joint Judiciary Committee and was referred to the Joint Rules Committee for further study. **H132** was approved by the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and by the House Steering, Policy and Scheduling Committee and was ordered on June 2 to a third reading.



Michigan HB5779 would require animal control officers to report suspected child abuse. The bill is in the House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors.



Michigan HB5780 would require Child Protective Services employees who have reasonable cause to suspect animal abuse or neglect, to make oral and written reports to an animal control officer or law enforcement officer. The employee's identity would remain confidential and be revealed only with consent or by judicial process. CPS employees acting in good faith would be immune from civil or criminal liability; failure to make such a report or knowingly making a false report would be misdemeanor crimes. The bill is in the House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors.



New York A5082 would require anyone mandated to report suspected child abuse who also encounters suspected animal abuse in the course of their duties to make an immediate report to local police or SPCA agencies. Failure to report would be a Class A misdemeanor and civilly liable. An extensive list of medical, social work, therapy, education, camp, day care, counseling and law enforcement professionals are mandated reporters of child abuse. The bill is in the Social Services Committee.



New York's S6659 and A9346 would change language regarding reporting of suspected animal abuse from "the veterinarian may report" to the appropriate law-enforcement agency to "shall report." The bills are in the Higher Education Committee.



Pennsylvania HB 760 would protect veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians and assistants from civil liability if they report suspected cases of animal abuse in good faith to law enforcement authorities. The bill passed the House on Sept. 29 and is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



Virginia HB802 expands the definition of those who are granted immunity from civil or criminal liability or administrative sanction for reporting, in good faith, suspected animal cruelty from "veterinarian" to "any person regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine," thereby including veterinary technicians. The bill was signed into law on March 1.

Animal Sexual Assault



Michigan SB 219, which amends several sections of the state penal code regarding animal cruelty crimes, adds a provision that anyone convicted of animal sexual abuse (called "the abominable and detestable crime against nature" in the bill) is not only guilty of a felony but shall be prohibited from owning or possessing an animal for five years. The prohibition appears to also apply to persons convicted of anal sex with a human being. The bill cleared the Senate by a 37-1 vote on Jan. 28 and is now in the House Judiciary Committee.



New Hampshire HB 1547 establishes the crime of bestiality as a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class B felony for subsequent offenses. Convicted offenders will be required to submit to psychological assessment and counseling at their own expense. The bill was signed in to law in June.



Ohio SB 195 would prohibit a person from engaging in sexual conduct with an animal, and related acts. It would provide for the seizure of the animals involved and authorize the sentencing court to require offenders to undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. The bill is in the Criminal Justice Committee.




Oklahoma HB2398, the "Justice for J.W. Act," would increase the maximum sentence for a person who forces another person to engage in "the detestable and abominable crime against nature" committed "with mankind or with a beast" from the current 10 years to 20 years. The bill passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law on May 6 by Gov. Mary Fallin.



Canada C-246 would amend the Criminal Code to not require penetration in the definition of bestiality. It would also address offenses regarding gross negligence, animal fighting, and brutal

and vicious killing of animals, and institute a lifetime ban on animal ownership upon a second conviction for animal cruelty. The measure is in the House of Commons.

Animal-Assisted Therapeutic Interventions for Abuse Victims

 **Connecticut Raised Bill No. 5140** would allow volunteer teams of therapy animals and their registered handlers, with whom a child victim of assault, sexual assault or child abuse feels comfortable, to be present during courtroom testimony. The bill was approved by the Joint Committee on Children and the House Committee on Judiciary but was tabled on April 6 by the House.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

D.C. Terrorism Suspect Claimed Childhood History of Torturing Animals

The Washington, D.C. Metro transit officer charged with allegedly selling \$245 worth of gift cards to help ISIS allegedly told FBI informants that he used to torture animals as a child and later kidnapped and tortured a female FBI agent. [The Washington Post](#) reported that Nicholas Young, 36, made the revelations in a 2011 interview with the FBI, which had been monitoring his activities since 2010. Young, the first law enforcement officer charged with violating federal terrorism laws, is said to have purchased the gift cards to help ISIS operatives obtain mobile apps so they could evade authorities while communicating with each other. Young reportedly traveled to Libya and has a long history of publicly praising terrorism attacks in France and a planned suicide bombing of the U.S. Capitol. He described a Halloween costume he wore, dressing up as “Jihadi John,” an ISIS terrorist noted for beheading his captives, to police who came to his house in June in response to a domestic violence complaint.

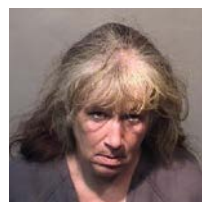
Man Charged with Assault and Animal Cruelty in Domestic Dispute

Police in New Britain, Conn. charged Shaquille McGriff, 24, with cruelty to animals and third-degree assault for allegedly throwing a Chihuahua off a second-floor balcony following an argument. [NBC's Connecticut News](#) reported that McGriff had gotten into a verbal argument with another man with whom he had a domestic relationship, then started choking someone else in the apartment. When the victim freed himself from McGriff's grasp, he allegedly picked up the dog and threw it off the balcony. The injured dog was taken to a veterinarian where its condition was listed as stable.



Shaquille McGriff

Woman Charged with Child Neglect in Filthy Home with 24 Chihuahuas



Tamara Daniels

Sheriff's deputies in Brevard County, Fla. charged Tamara Daniels, 52, of Port St. John, with felony child neglect after neighbors noticed a foul odor emanating from her home. Inside, investigators allegedly found Daniels, her twin 14-year-old sons, and 24 Chihuahuas living in an environment infested with dog feces, cockroaches and trash. [The Orlando Sentinel](#) reported that the boys, whose bare feet were reportedly caked in dog feces, were not enrolled in school. The boys were removed from the home by the Department of Children & Families and placed with relatives; the dogs were placed under the care of the SPCA of Brevard. Media reports suggested she may face additional charges for animal cruelty.

State Issues Advisory Alert about Sex-Offending Animal Torturer and Graveyard-Desecrating Girlfriend



Anthony Stravato and Alyssa LaMountain

Anthony Stravato, 25, of East Providence, was released on Aug. 5 after serving eight months in prison on felony charges of brutally torturing, mutilating and killing his mother's cat and a rat and for sending obscene photos and disturbing messages about mutilating animals to a 15-year-old girl. [MassLive.com](#) reported he allegedly committed those acts to impress a girl.

Stravato is forbidden by court order from having anything to do with animals but authorities fear his girlfriend, Alyssa LaMountain, 20, of Warren, R.I., may try to obtain animals for him and possibly seek to harm larger animals. LaMountain herself was recently arraigned on charges of stealing tombstones from a cemetery. Investigating officers found containers with animal bones in her home. A witness also told Warren police that he found cat paws in a plastic baggie in her refrigerator and that LaMountain had told him about the cruel things she and Stravato did to animals using an ax that she kept in her bedroom.

The [Providence Journal](#) reported that in 2015 Stravato posted on his Facebook page, in which he identified himself as "Anthony Homicidez Stravato":

"as n ill prob be tha next serial killer since i have a serial killer trait. im sure i knew it already. i used to watch my cats die all tha time when i was young so i began to be fasinated with death when i was 6."

MassLive.com reported that he also called himself a sociopath and evil and posted on July 9, 2015, ***"9 animal souls possessed all together i will keep increasing n make art out of it all."*** Another report noted that when asked on Facebook in 2015 why he keeps killing animals, he responded, ***"yes i do like it i enjoyed it."***

"Cases such as this one deserve special attention and consideration, based on the past history of violence, propensity to re-offend and other factors," J.R. Ventura, spokesman for the Department of Corrections, said in a statement to the *Providence Journal*. "We want to make sure the well-being of animals and the public is not at risk. Community awareness and communication, interdepartmental collaboration, and very close supervision are some of the added measures that we utilize in cases like this to ensure safety."

Stravato is a registered Level 3 sex offender, considered most likely to reoffend.

Sex Offender Charged with Child Endangerment and Animal Abuse in Drug Case



A Laurel County, Ky. man is facing multiple charges after sheriff's deputies, responding to a complaint about an argument, allegedly found illegal methamphetamine in the presence of a child and two dogs who may have been poisoned with the drug.

[WKYT-TV](#) reported that Benjamin Burdette, of London, Ky., was charged with wanton endangerment of a child, two counts of animal cruelty, and failure to register as a sex offender. Deputies arrested Burdette on Aug. 23 when they say they discovered him

Benjamin Burdette using meth in the presence of a two-year-old girl, plus medications, chemicals and meth pipes that the girl could have easily accessed. Two dogs who were in distress were also found; one dog died and the other was euthanized by a veterinarian who believed that meth had been fed to them. The girl was removed from the home by Social Services. Burdette was also charged with first-degree persistent felony offender, stemming from a 2001 conviction for sexual abuse; in 2005 he was sentenced to 12 years in prison on charges of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Canadian TV Actor and Wife Charged with Child Pornography and Bestiality



A former star of the Canadian TV series "Degrassi High" and his wife are being charged by authorities in cases involving alleged child pornography, sexual assault and bestiality. The [Toronto Star](#) reported that Jason "Byrd" Dickens, 44, who played a minor character named Scott Smith on 10 episodes of the program, is facing 26 charges of possessing and accepting child pornography.

Jason Byrd and Dylan McEwen

Byrd's wife, Dylan Anne McEwen, 31, was also charged with multiple counts of child pornography and sexual assault following a months-long investigation in which thousands of images and videos were discovered on computers, hard drives and phones. Investigators believe Dickens and another woman engaged in sexual acts with children, between 2000 and 2006, which were posted online. Dickens and Byrd were said to have used such online screen names as "retrodeviant" and "dirty slave doll".

Several other suspects and victims were being sought. Toronto police said they do not believe that any children were involved in the alleged bestiality acts.

The Scott Smith character was portrayed as an abusive ex-boyfriend of one of the show's main characters. Dickens was also acquitted in the 1990s, when he was 18, of charges of sexually assaulting a woman who claimed to be the head of his fan club.

Sex Offender Convicted in Brutal Animal Killing

A convicted sex offender was sentenced to 30 months' probation for slitting his dog's throat and leaving it to die on a Mississippi River levee in a case that prosecutors said met Illinois' standards as aggravated cruelty because it was a cold-blooded act that resulted in harm to others. Madison County Associate Judge Neil Schroeder pronounced the sentence on Aug. 26 against Richard M. Krieb, 32, of Alton, Ill., who had been convicted in 2002 of felony predatory criminal sexual assault. Krieb had pled guilty to the charge. The [Alton Telegraph](#) reported that Krieb, who was said to be an alcoholic, had already been serving time in jail for seven months and would use his probation to work and pay \$1,000 restitution to Partners for Pets, an organization that took the dog in.

Man Shot for Reportedly Beating His Dog

The potential for neighborhood disputes over animal control issues to turn violent was vividly demonstrated in Houston on Aug. 10 when police were called to investigate a report of a man being shot in the neck because a neighbor allegedly saw him beating his dog. The [Houston Chronicle](#) reported the early-morning incident occurred when a man said he was trying to discipline his dog that had been barking all night. After hitting the dog and throwing things at it, another man confronted him, grabbed a shotgun, pointed it at him, and the gun went off. Early reports said the shooting victim was hospitalized and there was no word on whether charges would be filed.

Woman Charged with Cruelty in Case Involving Babysitting and Ex-Boyfriend

West Virginia state troopers arrested a Clarksburg woman on felony charges of animal cruelty for allegedly shooting a dog that may have belonged to her ex-boyfriend and that may have bitten a child she was babysitting. The Clarksburg [Exponent-Telegram](#) reported that Penny Ann LeBlond, 31, told officers she shot the dog in its ear with a 12-gauge about 5 p.m. on July 21; however, the bite, which was not determined to be serious, was said to have occurred at 9:30 that morning. Troopers had begun the investigation as part of a welfare check on the animal initiated by her ex-boyfriend, according to court documents.



Penny Ann LeBlond

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

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Sept. 9 – Dallas, Texas: The [DFW Link coalition](#) will hold its 3rd meeting.

Sept. 13 – (Online): Allie Phillips will present on her program Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) on a webinar for the [Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance](#).

Sept. 14-16 – Austin, Texas: Several Link topics will be featured at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' [6th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#), including family violence, animal fighting, and the role of the veterinarian.

Sept. 15 – Mashantucket, Conn.: Phil Arkow will train on the domestic violence/animal abuse Link at the [Connecticut State Animal Control Officers'](#) conference.

Sept. 23 – Saskatoon, Sask., Canada: Frances Wach, Tracy Knutson, and Crystal Giesbrecht will present on "The Link Between Interpersonal Violence and Animal Abuse," and "Working with Victims of Interpersonal Violence," at the Saskatchewan SPCA's [Animal Welfare Conference](#).

Sept. 25 – Louisville, Ky.: Jennifer Woolf, DVM will speak on "Everything You Never Wanted to Know About Animal Cruelty (But You Know You Should Ask)" at the 105th Annual [Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association](#) Meeting and 43rd Mid-America Veterinary Conference.

Sept. 27 – Winnipeg, Man., Canada: Phil Arkow will speak on Animal and Family Abuse at the inaugural international [One Welfare Conference](#).

Sept. 28 – Norman, Okla.: Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the [Oklahoma Attorney General's](#) annual Domestic, Sexual Violence and Stalking Partnership conference.

Sept. 28 – West Palm Beach, Fla.: The [South Florida Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular meeting at the Emergency Operations Center.

Sept. 29 – Black Hawk, Colo.: Phil Arkow will present on how The Link can shift the paradigm of animal shelters at the [Colorado Animal Welfare Conference](#).

Sept. 30 – West Lafayette, Ind.: Lila Miller will present on the veterinarian's role in recognizing, documenting and handling animal abuse cases at Purdue University's [2016 Veterinary Conference](#).

Oct. 5 – Dayton, Ohio: Lesley Ashworth, Barbara Boat, Juli Burnell, Maya Gupta, and Susan Wagner will present on the human-animal bond's relationship with deviant behavior at the Interpersonal Violence and Community Intervention conference. To register, send \$25 to: [Ellie's Rainy Day Fund](#), c/o J. Adkins, 1254 Cheatham Way, Bellbrook, OH 45305.

Oct. 6 – Seattle, Wash.: Phil Arkow will deliver the keynote presentation on "Advancing Animal Care and Control via Species-Spanning Services and Systems" at the [National Animal Care & Control Association Training Conference 2016](#). Other conference presentations will include Belinda Lewis speaking on "Crime Scene Processing," and a discussion of animal control officer's role in the FBI's NIBRS reporting system by Mary Lou Randour, Dan DeSousa and Martha Smith-Blackmore.

Oct. 17-21 – Keene, Plymouth, Rochester, Manchester, & Concord, N.H.: Phil Arkow will present [Link training](#) to the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth & Families.

Oct. 19 – Spartanburg, S. Car.: Barbara Boat and Clif Flynn will present on "Cruelty to Animals – Cruelty to People" at the Academy on Violence & Abuse's [2016 Global Health Summit on Violence and Abuse](#).

Oct. 26 – Denver, Colo.: Diane Balkin will present on "From Crime Scene to Courtroom" at the [Animal Grantmakers](#) Conference.

Oct. 26 – (online): Phil Arkow will present two webinars on Interpersonal Violence and Animal Cruelty for the National Organization for Victim Assistance's [Victim Assistance Academy](#).

Nov. 2-3 – Saskatoon, Sask., Canada: Phil Arkow will present on The Link as the John Gunion Rutherford Memorial Lecture at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, speak to the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, and lead a [community workshop](#) for social work and animal protection advocates.

Nov. 3 – (various locations): The One Health Commission, One Health Initiative, and One Health Platform will sponsor the 1st Annual [One Health Day](#), a worldwide series of events highlighting transdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to overarching community health and welfare issues.

Nov. 4 -- Phoenix, Md.: Nancy Blaney will present at the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office Animal Abuse Unit [Animal Abuse Leadership Summit](#).

Nov. 5-6 – Sydney, Australia: [Lucy's Project](#) will hold its 2nd annual conference, "Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: International Perspectives." Speakers will include Lydia Tong, Catherine Tiplady, Allie Phillips, Frank Ascione, Freda Scott-Park, and many others.

Nov. 9 – Newark, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train the [New Jersey Department of Child Protection and Permanency](#) on "Animal Abuse and Dangerous Animals as Risk Factors for Child Abuse and Other Family Violence".

Nov. 12 – Colmar, Pa.: Phil Arkow will present on The Link for the [Montgomery County Women's Center](#).

Nov. 15 – Portland, Ore.: Maya Gupta will present at the National Council on Pet Population and Society of Animal Welfare Administrators' [2016 Research Symposium](#) on broken human-animal bonds.

Nov. 16 – Stamford, Conn.: Phil Arkow will train on the Link between domestic violence and animal abuse during Grand Rounds at [Stamford Hospital](#).

Dec. 1 – Ontario, Calif.: Phil Arkow will present on "Overcoming Challenges at the Intersections of Animal Abuse and Other Family Violence" at the San Bernardino County District Attorney's annual [Animal Cruelty Task Force](#) training.

Dec. 6 – Newark, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train the [New Jersey Department of Child Protection and Permanency](#) on "Animal Abuse and Dangerous Animals as Risk Factors for Child Abuse and Other Family Violence".

Mar. 31, 2017 – Nashville, Tenn.: Phil Arkow will present four programs in a Link track at the [American Animal Hospital Association's](#) Yearly Conference.



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

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Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,
The Latham Foundation
Stratford, N.J.

Lesley Ashworth

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