



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence against people and animals*

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 10, No. 4 April 2017**

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



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



[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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***April is Child Abuse Prevention Month  
April 9-15 is Animal Care & Control Appreciation Week***

## ***ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

### **Resource Guide Informs Veterinarians about Domestic Violence**



A resource guide to help veterinarians understand the Link between animal abuse and domestic violence has been published by a Wisconsin organization that shelters the animal survivors of domestic violence.

S.A.A.V. – Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims – produced the handy brochure as part of an outreach campaign to educate veterinarians about The Link. The brochure contains background information about The Link with Wisconsin and national statistics, warning signs, details of Wisconsin’s mandatory reporting law, and suggestions as to how veterinarians can stop the cycle of violence. Veterinarians are a critical resource for people and animals affected by violence in their homes, and the National Link Coalition applauds S.A.A.V. for this outreach campaign. The brochure is available as a free download on the [S.A.A.V website](#) and in the [Tools for Veterinarians](#) section of Resource Materials on the National Link Coalition’s website.

Based in Madison, the S.A.A.V. program is provided through a collaboration between Domestic Abuse Intervention Services and the Dane County Humane Society. Since its founding in 2001, S.A.A.V. has sheltered more than 200 animals affected by domestic abuse in Dane County and raises awareness about The Link between domestic violence, animal abuse and other forms of family violence ([See the November 2012 LINK-Letter](#)).

## Link Flyer Aims to End Animal and Domestic Violence

The [Ending Violence Association of British Columbia](#) has published a two-page flyer advising residents of the Canadian province about steps they can take to address The Link. "[Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence](#)" incorporates materials from the National Link Coalition. It describes:

- how animal abuse is a red flag for the existence of, or potential for, serious domestic violence;
- three questions to ask women who are fleeing abuse about their pets;
- how to ensure the safety of pets and farm animals in safety plans;
- the impact upon children of witnessing animal abuse; and
- the need for anti-violence groups, law enforcement and animal welfare organizations to work together to increase public awareness and address this important issue.



"Professionals in social services, animal protection, health care, law enforcement, and the courts should recognize animal abuse as a common dynamic intersecting all of their work, and routinely

screen for concurrent animal abuse and domestic violence," the flyer advises. "Cross-training and cross-reporting protocols could both build and enhance working relationships across sectors, enabling earlier and more effective interventions and supports for both those experiencing domestic violence and their abused pets."

The Ending Violence Association works to coordinate and support the work of victim-serving and other anti-violence programs in British Columbia through consultation, analysis, resource development, training, research, and education.

## Canadian Study Confirms Animal Abuse Barriers in Domestic Violence

A new Canadian research study is confirming earlier findings that concern for animal care and safekeeping creates significant barriers regarding the decision to leave situations of intimate partner violence and abuse. Published in the online edition of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Melissa Wuerch and her colleagues in Saskatchewan conducted nine qualitative interviews to examine the knowledge and experiences of animal welfare and human services providers in urban and rural communities across the province. The authors noted that further research is warranted to better inform support services and resources within a Canadian context.

-- Wuerch, M.A., Giesbrecht, C.J., Price, J.A.B., Knutson, T., & Wach, F. (2017, March 28). Examining the relationship between intimate partner violence and concern for animal care and safekeeping. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. doi:[10.1177/0886260517700618](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517700618)

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## *THE LINK AND VETERINARY MEDICINE*



**Lori Kogan, Ph.D.**

### **Study Examines Perceptions and Behaviors of Veterinarians Encountering Animal Abuse**

A new study that surveyed 1,209 veterinarians, representing all 50 states, is reporting a need for veterinary organizations and humane law enforcement agencies to increase communication and education efforts regarding the recognition and reporting of suspected animal abuse. The survey reported that 87% of practicing veterinarians had encountered at least one case of animal abuse, and that 55.8% had reported at least one case, but that knowledge of state-mandated reporting laws and immunity from civil and criminal liability was mixed.

The more common reasons cited for reporting abuse were:

- to protect the animal
- ethical beliefs
- to protect other animals in the household
- professional codes of conduct
- legal mandates
- organizational or corporate policies

The most common reasons for not reporting were:

- uncertainty as to whether the case represented abuse
- belief that client education would be a better response
- belief that the patient's condition was accidental rather than intentional

Surprisingly, few veterinarians reported reluctance to report due to fears of retaliation from the abuser, damaging the relationship with the client or the clinic's reputation, or that the animal would suffer as a result of reporting. None feared financial costs that might be incurred should the case go to court. Most respondents were unaware of the current status of laws in their state regarding the reporting of animal abuse. In some cases, practitioners' perceptions of mandated reporting and immunity laws were more important determinants than whether such mandating and immunity laws actually exist.

The most commonly-reported abuses were unexplained injuries (74.3%) and fractures in the same animal at different ages (74.4%). A presenting history that was inconsistent with the injury was reported by 29.3% of respondents. 59% of practitioners reported having encountered a previous history of unexplained injury or death to another animal owned by the client.

Female veterinarians were more likely than men to report a case of suspected animal abuse to protect other persons in the household. The researchers suggested this might be attributable to women being more likely to be victims of, or at least more sensitive to, domestic violence.

Only 22.1% of the veterinarians said that their clinics had a policy in place regarding animal abuse, a situation the authors said has "room for improvement." When asked to whom they would report suspected animal abuse, respondents included a wide range of agencies including animal control, police, sheriff, humane society, SPCA, and their direct supervisor or hospital director.

65.5% of respondents supported or strongly supported mandatory reporting laws. Most respondents reported feeling only minimally trained to collect forensic evidence. Significant majorities of respondents indicated they were certain that a link exists between animal abuse and child abuse (82%) and animal abuse and domestic violence (80.9%).

Because knowledge of a state’s reporting and immunity laws was associated with respondents’ willingness to report a case of suspected animal abuse, the researchers suggested that there should be more concerted efforts by state veterinary bodies to educate the profession about these responsibilities and protections. Perception that their state had an immunity law increased the likelihood of reporting, but perception of a mandatory reporting law did not.

**“Veterinarians could be considered scientists at heart, who likely feel most comfortable with concrete scientific knowledge. Gray areas, such as what constitutes abuse, are likely harder to deal with. Yet, the veterinarian’s role is not to determine beyond all doubt whether an animal has been abused; that is the responsibility of authorities trained for this purpose.”**

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“As key players in the One Health initiative, veterinarians share a responsibility for protecting and promoting public health by working to reduce all forms of violence,” the authors concluded. “Veterinarians have a desire to do just this; however, better tools, resources and information are needed to help them succeed.”

– Kogan, L.R., Schoenfield-Tacher, R.M., Hellyer, P.W., Rishniw, M., & Ruch-Gallie, R.A. (2017). Survey of attitudes toward and experiences with animal abuse encounters in a convenience sample of U.S. veterinarians. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 250(6), 688-696.*

## Veterinary Social Workers Learn About The Link



The [Veterinary Social Work Certificate Program](#) at the University of Tennessee hosted the first annual Veterinary Social Work Intensive in March to integrate knowledge about the Link between human and animal violence, compassion fatigue, and animal-related grief and bereavement. The next VSW Intensive is scheduled for March 12-16, 2018.

## Brazilian DVMs Get Link Training, Research

A certificate course for veterinarians and veterinary students on the recognition of, and response to, The Link between human violence and animal maltreatment will be offered on May 6 at the College of Veterinary Medicine of the Federal University of Paraná. Two undergraduate students, Leticia Kienen Languer Rolim and Poliana Vicente, are organizing the 10-hour program under the guidance of Dr. Rita de Cassia Maria Garcia. Registration and additional information are available [online](#).

Meanwhile, two recent journal articles address animal abuse in Brazil:



## Exploring the Nature of Animal Abuse in Brazil

As in other nations, Brazil's dogs and cats are considered family members in many households and participate actively in their families' lives, but accounts of maltreatment are frequent. This study described 583 cases of animal abuse in Pinhais, in the state of Paraná. 85% of the cases involved dogs; the most frequent reports involved abandonment, lack of space and inadequate nutrition. The authors concluded that the community has become more sensitive to animal welfare issues, thereby revealing the importance of collaborations between animal protection agencies and public awareness programs.

-- Marconcin, S.A., Rossa, K.A., Scaloo, I.S.C.L., & Garcia, R.deC.M. (2017). Análise retrospectiva de denúncias de maus-tratos contra animais em Pinhain, Parana, Brasil. *Clinica Veterinária*, 22(127), 86-92.

## The Veterinarian as an Agent of Social Transformation

The second article describes the veterinarian as a valuable agent of social transformation by working actively in cases of violence. The article reviews various types of violence against oneself, interpersonal and community violence, sexual assault, psychological abuse, neglect and abandonment, and how they are relevant to animal well-being. It describes The Link based on the premises that pets are members of the family and that veterinarians have a social responsibility as the interface between people, animals and the environment. Denouncing acts of cruelty against animals not only protects animals, but also safeguards public health and safety and prevents domestic violence.

-- D'Aprile, L., Hammerschmidt, J., Marconcin, S., & Garcia, R.deC.M. (2017). O médico veterinário como agente de transformação social: atuação em casos de violência. *Clinica Veterinária*, 22(127), 94-98.

## Veterinary CSI Comes to Colombia

In addition to Brazil, another Latin American nation is getting an introduction to veterinary forensics. The first such conference ever to be staged in Colombia will be held on June 1-3 in Medellín. The [1<sup>st</sup> International Veterinary Forensics and Criminology conference](#) will feature Link authorities Melinda Merck from the U.S.A., Nuría Querol from Spain, and Leopoldo Estol from Argentina.

## *THE LINK AND... CHILD MALTREATMENT*

### **Grant Funding Opportunity Announced for Child-Pet Research Projects**

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for grants for research projects that examine the impact of human-animal interactions and interventions on typical and atypical development and health, including the impact of pets on maltreated children, and the effects of children's separation from pets when seeking shelter from abusive situations.

Three opportunities are available for research projects ([PAR-17-231](#)), small grants ([PAR-17-230](#)) and exploratory or developmental grants ([PAR-17-229](#)). There are three deadlines for applications, one per year for the next three years. The first deadline is June 27, 2017.

The objective is to encourage interdisciplinary studies to determine the impact of human-animal interactions in and outside the home environment on child and



*Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute  
of Child Health and Human Development*  
*Health research throughout the lifespan*

adolescent health and development, as well as therapeutically across the lifespan. Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per year, up to two or five years. The number of grants to be awarded will be contingent upon appropriations to the National Institutes of Health and the number of meritorious applications. Projects researching community-level and social benefits of pets, beyond the benefits of the individual pet owner, will also be considered.

The call for research is based on data that nearly 75% of U.S. households with children have pets. The decreasing size of families, plus a reduction in the number of younger siblings, babies, and elderly from family homes, means that many children may be more likely to grow up with an animal than with a younger sibling or grandparent in the home. It has been documented in the literature that pets offer a source of emotional support to children, and studies suggest they may be helpful to prevent allergies, ease anxiety and encourage exercise.

However, most relevant studies stop short of answering key developmental questions and establishing causal relationships. Likewise, most studies to date have not included diverse samples that examine possible cultural, racial or ethnic differences in human-animal interactions.

The projects hope to develop a solid research base about how children perceive, relate to and think about animals and how pets in the home impact children's social-emotional and cognitive development, safety and health-related behaviors. The projects will also support research on how animal-assisted interventions may be applied for therapeutic and rehabilitative purposes with children.

Eligibility information, review criteria, reporting requirements and application and submission details are available at the sites for [PAR-17-231](#), [PAR-17-230](#), and [PAR-17-229](#).

## Pediatricians and Veterinarians to Discuss Babies and Pets



What is believed to be the first International Conference linking pediatricians with veterinarians will be held in Turin, Italy, on April 21- 22. [“Babies and Animals: Pediatrician Meet Vets”](#) will bring together world-class speakers who believe that a species-spanning, multidisciplinary approach is an important strategy to increase and enhance collaboration and communication about all aspects of health care for children and animals. The synergy and exchange of scientific knowledge between pediatricians and veterinarians will improve medical education.

Companion and farm animals play a crucial role in infancy since they are often part of a family and may expose babies to health and safety concerns. The conference will use a One Health format to address such issues as food safety, animal welfare, baby health, and the most recent scientific data about the importance of pets in a family.

Besides the emotional imprinting related to early childhood memories regarding interaction with pets, the contact with animals in early infancy may contribute to a child’s emotional and psychological development and physical health. Conference organizers note that the family is a place where both babies and pets are learning how to live together.

### *THE LINK... IN THE LITERATURE*

#### **Perpetrating and Witnessing Animal Abuse Linked with Bullying**

Youths’ experience of deliberate animal harm has been found to be a risk factor for school-based violence and later criminality. However, much of the research has been based on retrospective or caregiver reports with few studies surveying youth directly. This new study addressed this gap by surveying 63 Australian youths about their experience of engaging in and/or witnessing animal abuse and engaging in or being a victim of bullying. Witnessing and/or directly engaging in animal abuse significantly correlated with bullying, while engaging in animal abuse (not merely witnessing it), lower affective empathy and a high need for power were found to predict males’ perpetration of bullying. The authors conclude that including humane education content within anti-bullying interventions may prove efficacious in attending to multiple risk factors including empathy deficits.

-- Parkes, D., & Signal, T. (2017). *Revisiting a link: Animal abuse, bullying, and empathy in Australian youth. Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin, 5(1), 26-40.*

## ***THE LINK AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM***

### **Forensics Magazine Covers Animals as Evidence**



Collaborative community investigations of animal cruelty, abuse and neglect cases that bring together animal welfare organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, and veterinary forensic teams enhance the ability to secure convictions and offer the best outcomes for animals that have been victimized. That’s the conclusion of an extensive article in the March 15 issue of [Forensic Magazine](#) spotlighting the ASPCA’s pioneering veterinary forensics program.

“Unlike most forms of evidence, which can be tucked away into a box or envelope, animals who have been abused, neglected or connected with a crime require special resources and care to ensure their well-being while in police custody,” wrote Associate Editor Laura French in “When Animals Become Evidence, ASPCA Provides Examination and Care.” The article summarized some of the ASPCA’s procedures to house and care for abused animals, re-home them if necessary, and collect evidence from them for use in prosecutions. ASPCA staff members Jennifer Chin and Marny Nofi, who will present on “Animals as Evidence” at the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association conference in New York on May 16, were interviewed for the article.

### **D.A. Cites Link in Cockfighting Investigation**

San Mateo County, Calif. District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe is waiting for the results of an investigation to come in to determine what level of charges to file against an alleged cockfighting operation that was raided by East Palo Alto police and the Peninsula Humane Society. Aldenni de Jesus Trujillo Santiago called police on that day to report that his neighbor’s aggressive dog was loose. But when officers arrived they reportedly discovered dozens of chickens that had been “dubbed” and trained for illegal cockfighting, according to a report in the [San Mateo Daily Journal](#).



**D.A. Stephen Wagstaffe**

Humane society officials said 56 birds had to be humanely euthanized and others were suffering from untreated wounds. “Dubbing” is a painful process of removing a rooster’s combs, earlobes and wattles, often with scissors or razors, to prepare the bird for fighting: the act constitutes a felony level of animal abuse under California law. Trujillo Santiago could face up to three years and eight months in prison if convicted on felony cruelty charges.

“We always care about people who take advantage of vulnerable victims, in this case animals. They’re very vulnerable to abuse because they can’t fight back,” said Wagstaffe. “What we know about people who abuse animals, very often it demonstrates a mean streak that can lead – and has many times led – to more serious crimes against human beings.”

## NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS



### Maya Gupta Named to Research Position

Maya Gupta, Ph.D., who serves on the National Link Coalition’s steering committee, has just been hired as Senior Director of Applied Research in the ASPCA’s Research and Development Department. She will be working with epidemiologists, statisticians and others to review original research being published by the ASPCA. Maya has previously served as Executive Director for the Animals and Society Institute and for Atlanta’s Ahimsa House, a statewide program addressing domestic violence and animal abuse in Georgia. Congratulations, Maya!

## New Link Developments in Spain



Dr. Núria Querol, founder of our Link affiliate in Spain, the Observatorio de Violencia Hacia los Animales, has shared with *The LINK-Letter* news about several exciting developments in her country.

[Viopet](#), the Spanish partner project with SAF-T (Sheltering Animals and Families Together) for making domestic violence shelters pet-friendly, has been introduced through municipal bills in the Spanish communities of Arrecife, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Zaragoza, and Ripollet.

**Viopet was introduced in Arrecife, where it will be run by the local police department**

on diversity, hate crime, gender violence and animal abuse organized by UNIJEPOL (the Spanish Association of Chiefs of Police). UNIJEPOL and the Observatorio organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Law Enforcement Awards for Animal Protection to acknowledge the work that police officers in Spain are doing to protect animals. Observatorio Vice President Shaila Villar, President of the Spanish Society of Criminology, conducted a training on The Link at the Alicante Bar Association on April 4.

Querol trained police officers attending the meeting of the Spanish branch of the International Police Association about The Link and spoke at a roundtable

The Observatorio is partnering with Ambulorca, the company that operates the ambulances in the Murcia area, to conduct a program called [AMAR](#) (Ayuda a Mascotas en Riesgo) to provide a safe haven for animals whose guardians have suffered a traffic accident or are undergoing domestic violence.



Querol has authored the introductory chapter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Criminología y Justicia*, the first book in Spanish on Green Criminology. Her chapter discusses how crimes against animals and nature are underreported and not investigated thoroughly. She was also invited to the official presentation of the campaign “Adopta un Jubilado” by [Héroes de 4 Patas](#), an organization formed by police officers to find a forever home when police K-9s are retired.

**An Ambulorca animal ambulance**

## ***BUILDING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK***

### **Link Awareness Helps Propel Michigan Task Force**

Faced with severe budget cutbacks, Jackson County, Mich. eliminated its animal control program in 2014 and turned over responsibility for animal cases to local law enforcement. Not surprisingly, there was an outcry by law enforcement due to additional and unwanted burdens. There was also an outcry from the Jackson County Animal Shelter due to the huge missteps made by police officers who are not trained in animal welfare issues.



**Cathy Anderson and “Charlie”**

Shelter veterinarian Cathy Anderson has spent the past six years trying to get the attention of prosecutors to help them see the importance of animal cruelty cases. More recently, she arranged two workshops for law enforcement personnel. The first, held a year-and-a-half ago, covered animal protection laws and animal handling. The second, in December 2016, was presented by staff from the Michigan Humane Society and covered “Animals in the Field.”

“This was a great introduction to the Link and also discussed animal handling, prosecuting cases and blood sports,” Anderson tells *The LINK-Letter*.

Anderson is enrolled in the distance-learning shelter medicine master’s program at the University of Florida. “At the end of the December workshop I talked with law enforcement about my forensic training and how I processed cases. I also asked them what they needed. They responded that they that needed support from the prosecutor’s office.”

Anderson contacted an assistant district attorney that she has worked on cruelty cases with. She sent her the presentation from Michigan Humane and then met with her to talk about establishing an animal cruelty task force. The A.D.A. had recently developed a Vulnerable Adults Task Force and said she would be interested in doing a similar thing for animals. Her boss, the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney, gave his blessing and the group held its first meeting on March 6.

The task force is co-chaired by Anderson and the A.D.A. As part of her master’s program, Anderson is taking the University of Florida course on “Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence,” whose resources and connections have given her considerable inspiration and resources for the Task Force. The program is already starting to see results with social workers who work with vulnerable seniors in their homes and with child protective services caseworkers working on a case that also involved a cat hoarder.



“What is important is that we are working across agencies to at least explore options,” says Anderson. “Spending this semester participating in this course has been perfect timing for the initiatives that have been put forth at my shelter.”



Frank R. Ascione

## Don't Dismiss Cat Torturing as Trivial, Ascione Warns

A horrendous case of a cat being tortured in Clearfield, Utah brought forth a community vigil, a crowd-funded reward of nearly \$50,000 to arrest the abuser, and a warning by Link pioneer Frank R. Ascione that the abuser is potentially very dangerous.

“Sage,” a 6-year-old cat belonging to China Rose Cassel and Alex Gomez, disappeared on March 6 and returned home a few days later severely injured. Sage had been beaten and suffered broken ribs. A glue gun had been used on his anus and genitals and to seal his eyes shut. His whiskers had been cut, his hair shaved, and all his paws had been broken. Sage subsequently died at a veterinarian’s clinic.

Utah made torture of a pet a felony in 2008 but no one has served a full sentence due to prevailing ideas that it is “just” an animal. Ascione, a psychologist based in Logan, Utah, told [The Deseret News](#) that such an attitude is unwise. “Given the severe nature of [Sage’s] injuries while the animal was still alive suggests the person was extremely calloused and lacks empathy,” he said. “The individual needs to be apprehended, evaluated and needs some serious intervention.”

## THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

### Bills We’re Watching... and Laws We’re Celebrating

The National Link Coalition is encouraged by the increase in the number of violence-prevention bills being introduced that are based on Link principles. Join us as we follow these measures and salute our victories that will do a better job of protecting people and animals – and please let us know of new measures that are introduced in your state.

#### *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



**H.R. 909 and S.322 – the Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act** – was re-introduced with 196 bi-partisan co-sponsors. The PAWS Act would prohibit threats or acts of violence against a victim’s pet in interstate stalking and interstate violation of protection orders. It would allocate \$3 million annually through 2021 in grants for shelter and housing assistance for victims with pets, support services to help victims secure safe housing that allows pets, and for pet-related services. Grants could also be used for training on The Link and for identifying best practices. Abusers would be required to make restitution to the victim for costs incurred for veterinary services. **H.R. 909** is in the House Judiciary and Agriculture Committees. **S.322** is in the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.



**Hawai’i HB 155** would allow either party to order the other to restrain from transferring, encumbering or disposing of pets during divorce, separation or annulment, particularly if one party poses a threat of physical harm to the animal. Courts could order a party to pay for pet support, and consider the animals’ well-being and whether future ownership should be individual or joint. The measure was approved by the House Agriculture Committee and has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.



**Indiana SB 323** would allow a court to grant an order of protection to: (1) award possession and care of an animal to a petitioner; (2) prohibit a respondent from taking action against the animal; and (3) direct a law enforcement officer to accompany the petitioner to retrieve the animal. The bill has passed the Senate and the House and has been sent to Gov. Holcomb.



**Michigan HB 4026** would define “causing or attempting to cause physical harm” to a family member’s animal as an act of domestic violence in addition to any animal cruelty charges that might pertain. It would allow domestic violence shelters that accept animals to receive state funding and to include veterinary care among the emergency health care services that they provide among the criteria for needing funding. The bill is in the Committee on Law and Justice.



**Nevada** law defines harming an animal to harass a spouse or partner as domestic violence. **SB62** would increase the penalty for this act to a Category B felony if the abuser is convicted of a similar act in Nevada or a similar felony in any other state. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**Texas SB 339** and **HB 142** would create a new offense of illegal sexual contact called “indecent assault” and allow victims to obtain protective orders. Violations of these protective orders would include harming, threatening, or interfering with the care, custody or control of a pet, companion animal or assistance animal belonging to the protected party. **SB 339** is in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. **HB 142** was reported out favorably by the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and has been sent to Calendars.



**Rhode Island H5556** would require courts to consider the best interest of the animal in awarding possession of a domestic animal in a divorce or separation proceeding. The House Judiciary Committee recommended that the bill be held for further study.

### *Animal Sexual Assault*



**Kentucky HB 143** would have made the sexual assault of a dog or cat a first-offense Class D felony, and a Class C felony if committed in the presence of a minor. Currently, bestiality is illegal in Kentucky only if it occurs in conjunction with prostitution. Offenders would have been barred from owning dogs or cats for 5 years for a first offense, and lifetime for subsequent convictions. **The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.**



**Kentucky HB 480** would have created a new offense of sexual assault against an animal and allowed a peace officer to seize an animal. Accepted animal husbandry and veterinary medical practices would have been exempted. **The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.**



**Massachusetts S.805** would amend Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. Ch. 272, § 34, which currently uses the archaic language prohibiting “the abominable and detestable crime against nature either with mankind or with any animal,” to prohibit “a sexual act on an animal, uses an object to sexually abuse an animal, or knowingly permits a sexual act with an animal on any premises under such person’s control.” The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



**Missouri HB 431** would allow persons convicted of having sex with an animal to petition to have their names removed from the state sex offenders registry. The bill has passed the House Judiciary Committee and the Rules & Legislative Oversight Committee.

 **Texas HB 1087** would prohibit various sexual acts with animals as bestiality, punishable as a felony. Currently, bestiality in Texas is illegal only if it occurs in conjunction with child pornography or the distribution of obscene material. The bill was reported out favorably by the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and has been sent to Calendars.

 **Vermont H.325** would prohibit sexual contact or fondling between a person and an animal, possessing, advertising or selling an animal for sexual purposes, abetting, observing or participating, and forcing a child under 16 to engage in sexual contact with an animal. It would exempt bona fide veterinary and animal husbandry purposes. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

 **West Virginia HB 2664** would add bestiality to the code of crimes against chastity, morality and decency. Individuals who engage in, abet, observe, permit, advertise, or promote bestiality, or induce a child to commit bestiality, would be guilty of a misdemeanor, or a felony upon previous convictions or serious bodily injury or death to the animal. Courts would order offenders to surrender all their animals, prohibit ownership of animals for five or 15 years, and undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation or counseling. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

### *“CASA for Animals”*

 **New Jersey A 2041** and its companion **S 433** would allow courts to issue “animal protection orders” forbidding persons convicted of animal cruelty from having contact with the abused animal or other animals, either permanently or for a specified period of time. **A 2041** passed the Assembly. Both bills are in the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

 **Rhode Island H5061** would require courts to order the appointment of an animal care advocate wherever the custody or well-being of an animal is at issue. The House Judiciary Committee has recommended that the bill be held for further study.

### *Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment*

 **Michigan HB 4025** would increase the penalties for animal abuse committed in the presence of a child to a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year’s imprisonment, \$2,000 fine, and 300 hours of community service. The bill is in the Committee on Law and Justice.

 **New York S1432** and **A5048** criminalize knowingly causing a minor to attend a place where exhibition of animal fighting is being conducted. The bills are in the respective Agriculture Committees.

 **New York S2470** and companion bill **A2140**, and **S728** and companion bill **A3845**, would increase penalties for aggravated animal cruelty in the presence of a child. **S2470**, **S728** and **A3845** are in their respective Agriculture Committees and **A2140** is in the Assembly Codes Committee.

 **Texas HB 289** would make it a violation to harm or threaten a pet, companion animal or assistance animal belonging to a child under a protection-from-abuse order. The bill is in the House Human Services Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Elder Abuse*

 **Washington HB 1153** and companion bill **SB 5099** would address financial exploitation and physical neglect of seniors and people with disabilities by increasing penalties, reducing barriers to prosecution, and expanding the scope of protection for vulnerable persons. 1<sup>st</sup>-degree animal cruelty, including sexual contact with an animal, is listed among many crimes which prosecutors may cite as reasons for filing charges. **HB 1153** was passed by the House on Feb. 27 and sent to the Senate Law & Justice Committee, where it was passed and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **SB 5099** was approved by the Senate on March 1 and sent to the House Public Safety Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*

 **California AB 197** would add animal abuse, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, and other crimes to the list of “violent” felonies that could be prosecuted as a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike with additional years of imprisonment under the Three Strikes Law. The bill is in the Committee on Public Safety.

 **Indiana SB 306** would increase the penalty from attending an animal fighting contest from a Class A misdemeanor to a Level 6 felony. The bill is in the Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law but is considered inactive at this time.

 **Kentucky HB 135** would have redefined animal torture to include deliberate neglect or physical abuse that results in death or serious physical injury to a dog or cat. Offenders would have been barred from owning dogs or cats for 5 years for a first offense, and lifetime for subsequent convictions. **The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.**

 **Massachusetts S.1159** would add the crimes of animal cruelty and fighting as specifically enumerated offenses which would allow the prosecution to ask for pre-trial detention on the grounds of the defendant’s dangerousness. The bill would also mandate *Cross-Training*. The bill is in the Committee on Municipal and Regional Government.

 **New Jersey A 2738** would expand the criminal and civil acts of animal cruelty to include the theft or release of an animal during the commission of a burglary. The bill is in the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

 **New Mexico HJM 6**, a Joint Memorial, requests that the state Departments of Public Safety and Children, Youth & Families consider training on The Link between animal abuse and family violence in their training curricula for field workers and other appropriate staff. The measure passed the House by a vote of 67-0 and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

 **New York S1680** and companion bill **A3038** would expand the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to animals during the commission of a felony. **S1680** passed the Senate on Jan. 30 and was referred to the Assembly Agriculture Committee; **A3038** is in the Agriculture Committee.

 **New York S251** would expand animal fighting prohibitions to criminalize promoting, attending, facilitating, training, breeding or selling fighting animals, or selling, manufacturing or owning animal fighting paraphernalia. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

 **Oregon HB 2026** would appropriate money from the General Fund to the Department of Justice to fund a position dedicated exclusively to assisting local district attorneys and law enforcement with the prosecution of cases involving the “detriment or risk of detriment” to animals. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee with subsequent referral to the Ways and Means Committee.

 **Rhode Island H5728** would impose further penalties for deliberate or unintentional harming of animals during the commission of any crime. Any sentence imposed would run consecutively to any sentence imposed for the underlying offense. The House Judiciary Committee has recommended the bill be held for further study.

 **Texas HB 1357** would define as “family violence” coercive, controlling or punishing acts or threats of abuse directed against an animal owned by a member of the household or someone with whom the abuser has had a dating relationship. The bill also makes technical corrections to assist prosecutors in animal cruelty cases. The bill is in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

### *Cross-Reporting*

 **Iowa S.F. 129** would require veterinarians who suspect animal abuse, neglect or torture to report the incident to law enforcement agencies with good-faith immunity from civil and criminal liability. Law enforcement officials would be required to file a child endangerment alert report with the Department of Human Services if a minor child witnesses suspected animal abuse, neglect or torture. Courts could, and in some cases would be required to, order psychological or psychiatric evaluation or treatment. The bill creates seven new criminal offenses describing animal abuse, neglect, torture, abandonment, and endangerment. The bill is in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

 **Maine LD 157** would require veterinarians who suspect an animal to be the subject of cruelty or neglect to report the case to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Currently, Maine veterinarians are permitted to report cruelty or neglect, and are required to report only “aggravated” animal cruelty. **The bill passed the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee but died in the Senate.**

 **Massachusetts S.295** would add domestic violence workers, animal control officers, and humane officers to the list of mandated reporters of suspected child sexual abuse. The bill is in the Education Committee.

 **Massachusetts S.1159** would require employees or contractors of the Department of Children & Families, Department of Elder Affairs investigators, and Disabled Persons Protection Commission investigators to report suspected animal abuse. The bill would add animal control officers as mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse and abuse against disabled persons. The bill would also affect *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*. The bill is in the Committee on Municipal and Regional Government.

 **New York S621** and companion bill **A4904** would require veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty to police, SPCAs, peace officers, district attorney's offices, animal control officers, the department of agriculture and markets, or other appropriate government agencies and to turn over necessary records. New York veterinarians are currently permitted to report but are not required to do so. The bills, sponsored by Sen. Phil Boyle and Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, are in the respective Higher Education Committees.



**Rhode Island H5392** would require all child protection and domestic violence caseworkers report suspected animal abuse to animal control and humane agencies, and that animal control and humane officers be mandated to report suspected child abuse and domestic violence to child protection and domestic violence agencies. The House Judiciary Committee has recommended the bill be held for further study.

### *Psychological Evaluation of Offenders*



**Mississippi HB 575** would have defined malicious intent to torture, maim, disfigure, mutilate, burn, suffocate, drown, or starve to death a domesticated dog or cat as felony-level aggravated cruelty and allow up to 10 acts to be considered separate offenses. The bill would have mandated psychological evaluations for offenders. The measure would have mandated police and sheriffs to utilize a form to be devised by the Attorney General, in collaboration with the Mississippi Sheriffs’ Association and the Mississippi Association of Police Chiefs, for reporting all investigations of simple or aggravated cruelty to a dog or cat into the FBI’s National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). **The bill died in committee on Jan. 31.**



**New Jersey A2367** and **S529**, known as “Shyanne’s Law,” would require mental health evaluation for all animal cruelty offenders, and mental health counseling if warranted by the evaluation. Currently, mental health counseling is mandated only for juvenile offenders. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Natural Resources and Senate Economic Growth Committees.



**New Mexico HB 210** would create a new category of “extreme cruelty to animals” and would require persons convicted of this offense to undergo psychological counseling. The bill is in the House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee.

### *Animal Hoarding*



**New Jersey A3638** would establish animal hoarding as an animal cruelty offense and require mental health evaluation for all animal cruelty offenders. The bill was reported favorably out of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.



**New York A44** would create the crime of companion animal hoarding, defined as ownership, possession or custody of more than 25 companion animals living in conditions likely to jeopardize the health and well-being of the animals and/or people. Offenders would be required to undergo mental health evaluation and may be required to undergo counseling and be prohibited from owning animals. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



**Rhode Island S390** would define animal hoarding and add it to the list of conduct that is considered cruelty to animals. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

### Abused Juvenile Animal Abuser Convicted of Rapes, Asks for Reduced Sentence – and Gets Life Instead

A Florida man who was abused as a child, then tortured birds as a juvenile, and went on to commit two violent rapes appealed to a court to have his 65-year sentence reduced – and instead the judge imposed a life sentence.

In 2004, Hillsborough County sheriff's deputies arrested Kendrick Morris, who was then a 13-year-old high school freshman, on a felony charge of animal abuse for beating an egret and a Muscovy duck. A witness told deputies she saw the teenager raise a tree limb over his head and beat the egret "with serious intent," according to what was then the [Tampa Tribune](#). "Even though this act was serious, it's my hope this young man gets some help and isn't lost in the system," the witness wrote in a sworn statement. "He just needs someone there for him after school."

He apparently did not get any help. In 2007 he was charged with armed sexual battery, armed burglary, and attempted armed robbery for breaking into a children's day care center and raping a 62-year-old worker who was alone in the building.

Then in 2008, Morris was charged with savagely raping and beating an 18-year-old woman named Queena as she was returning library books, and leaving her for dead. [Fox 13](#) reported that the attack was so severe he robbed Queena of her ability to see, talk, eat or walk on her own. DNA evidence linked him to the two rapes.

Morris originally received a 65-year sentence, but appeared in court this past February to request a lighter sentence in the wake of a Supreme Court decision that juvenile offenders who receive lengthy sentences should be eligible for parole. Judge Chet Tharpe got so choked up as he read the details of Queena's case that he instead imposed a life sentence as being the "only appropriate" resolution to crimes that were "particularly atrocious and cruel."

The *Tribune* news coverage also noted that Morris had been a victim of child abuse by his mother, Lisa Stevens. In April, 2007, Morris' former stepfather, Steve White, a former player for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, reported her to a child abuse hotline. Detectives said Morris had been repeatedly whipped with a cable TV wire when he failed to do his chores or homework and that his body had some 40 scars and bruises. Stevens, charged with felony child abuse, pled guilty to a reduced misdemeanor charge.

Morris will not be eligible for a sentence review until 2031.



Kendrick Morris

## Felon Gets 5 Years in Cruelty Case Called “Hell on Earth”

Calling the dog’s ordeal “hell on Earth,” Charleston, South Carolina Circuit Court Judge Markley Dennis sentenced William Leonard Dodson, a convicted felon, to the maximum five years in prison for animal cruelty a day after Dodson received a 15-year federal sentence on unrelated weapons charges. “I’m not trying to be mean,” Markley told Dodson, “but I wish I could give you more.” The case of “Caitlyn,” a pit bull, garnered global outrage and publicity. Her previous owner, a drug dealer, sold her to Dodson who got frustrated



William Dodson and “Caitlyn”

by her barking and taped her mouth shut with electrical tape and chained her outside for 36 hours. Veterinarians at the Charleston Animal Society were able to remove the tape, which left permanent scars; she lost part of her tongue and needed several surgeries before she was adopted to a new home. The [Post and Courier](#) reported that the two sentences will be served concurrently. Animal Society officials said money donated from around the world will be used for future rescues and to train judges and law enforcement officials on The Link between animal abuse and human violence.



Jeffrey Peacock

## Suspect Indicted on Homicide, Arson and Animal Cruelty Charges

A Colquitt County, Ga. grand jury has handed down an indictment against a man suspected of shooting five persons and setting their house on fire to cover up the crime. Three animals left in the house died in the blaze. Jeffrey Peacock was scheduled to be arraigned on April 3 on five counts of malicious murder, five counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, arson in the first degree, and three counts aggravated cruelty to animals. [WALB-TV](#) reported that the murder and arson investigations, initiated last May, were conducted by local authorities and

the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. One of the investigators called the case one of the worst mass killings in South Georgia in recent history.

## Police Charge Man With Suffocating Girlfriend’s Dogs -- Because He Was Jealous of Them

Police in Bensalem Township, Penna., arrested Joel Davis, 23, on animal cruelty charges, alleging that he suffocated two of his now ex-girlfriend’s dogs because she loved them more than him. Jennifer Sherman told [CBS3](#) television that she asked Davis to babysit her pug, named “Sebastian,” while she was on vacation in February. Davis reportedly called her to tell her that the dog had stopped breathing. Believing the dog’s death had been the result of an unforeseen medical condition, she rescued a 4-month-old terrier mix. Four days later, she asked him to sit for the new puppy and he reportedly told her the same story. Police said that Davis admitted to crushing and then suffocating both dogs and even positioned them with their heads tilted up and their paws together. Sherman and police said Davis told them he killed the dogs because he was jealous of them. Sherman said she plans to get a restraining order against Davis.

## Man With Criminal History Charged with Killing His Mother's Dog in Trash Compactor

A man with a lengthy criminal history including attempted murder was charged with aggravated animal cruelty by police in Nashville, Tenn. after surveillance cameras allegedly captured him placing his mother's dog in a trash compactor and activating the machine multiple times. [The Tennessean](#) reported that Terrence Clark, 27, was charged after a resident in the apartment complex called the Fire Department after she heard the Shih Tzu whimpering and barking inside the compactor. The dog was rushed to a veterinarian but died four days later.



Terrence Clark

## Domestic Violence Survivor Recalls Bestiality and Drug Torture

A Massachusetts woman who says she survived "a week of hell" is telling the public about her horrific experiences which included being raped, injected with heroin and being forced to perform oral sex on her boyfriend's pit bull. Gabbe Rowland, from Cape Cod, told the British [Sun](#) tabloid that Justin Mustafa was convinced that Rowland had cheated on him while he was in prison when she told him she thought she was pregnant with their child. Upon his release he reportedly began a week of torture by injecting her with heroin, beating her with a belt, and forcing her into performing degrading sexual acts. She eventually escaped and Mustafa was given a six-year prison sentence for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, malicious destruction of property and witness intimidation. Rowland says she is now speaking out about her abuse in an effort to help other women in terrifying domestic violence situations.



Jose Arroyo

## Man Gets 7-Year Sentence for Biting Off the Head of Girlfriend's Chihuahua

Jose Arroyo, 40, of Lares, Puerto Rico, received a seven-year prison sentence after he pled guilty to animal cruelty and domestic violence charges for biting off the head of a Chihuahua. Prosecutors said he punched his girlfriend and attacked the tiny dog during a domestic dispute last Feb. 4. Judge Carlos Lopez Jimenez also fined Arroyo \$3,000. [Telemundo](#) reported that Arroyo, who was unemployed, had been living with his girlfriend, 38, for six months.

## Man Charged with Strangling Girlfriend's Two Cats

Dale A. Johnson, 22, of Keene, N.H., was charged with two felony counts of animal cruelty for allegedly strangling the two cats belonging to his then-girlfriend. The [Keene Sentinel](#) reported that Johnson and Shannon Fitzpatrick, 22, who were living together at the time, had a fight on Jan. 5, at which time she realized her two cats, "Bo" and "Honey," were missing. Police reports said that Johnson had admitted that he strangled the cats the day before and dumped them in the woods. Fitzpatrick's father called Keene police to report the incident. [NH-1.com](#)'s coverage of the case noted the link between domestic violence and animal abuse and cited two New Hampshire laws that allow pets to be included in domestic violence protection orders and that injury to a person's pet can be cited as evidence to establish a protection order in a stalking case.

## ***LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES***

**April 9-11 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada:** Barbara Cartwright will present on “Beyond the Violence Link: Connecting Our Collective Vulnerability to Build a Humane Canada,” and Ayala Sher and Dayna Desmarais will present on “Companion Animal Fostering for Those Fleeing Domestic Violence: When a Community Comes Together,” at the [Canadian Federation of Humane Societies](#) conference.

**April 9 – Yorkton, Sask., Canada:** Dennis Will, Anne Allen, and Kaley Pugh will discuss animal abuse as a reliable indicator of domestic violence in humans, the parallel evolution of child and animal protection laws, and challenges for veterinary professionals in reporting suspected cruelty and neglect as part of the Saskatchewan VMA’s [Conversation About Animal Welfare in Saskatchewan](#).

**April 12 – Pittsfield, Mass.:** [HAVEN](#) (Human/Animal Violence Education Network) will meet.

**April 18 – Bowling Green, Ky.:** Allie Phillips will give a keynote address on “The Co-Occurrence of Animal Abuse and Family Violence,” and a workshop on “Therapy Animals Supporting Maltreated Children in the Criminal Justice System,” at the [Spring Conference](#) for the Community Collaborations for Children Regional Network.

**April 19 – Ann Arbor, Mich.:** Lisa Lunghofer will present on animal abuse, interpersonal violence and antisocial behavior, and on children and animal abuse, at a day-long training at the [Humane Society of Huron Valley](#).

**April 20 – Golden, Colo.:** “Reporting Child and Elder Abuse: The Responsibility of the ACO” will be presented in the Advanced training curriculum for the [Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers](#).

**April 20 – Las Vegas, N.M.:** [Positive Links](#) will present two workshops. Law enforcement officers are invited to “The Animal-Human Bond: Investigating Crimes Against Animals.” Mental health practitioners are invited to “The Animal-Human Bond: Therapy Options for Intervening and Preventing Animal Abuse.” Law enforcement and social work CEUs will be available.

**April 22 – Austin, Texas:** Phil Arkow will speak on The Link at the [Texas Unites for Animals](#) conference.

**April 22 – Tarragona, Spain:** Nuría Querol will present a workshop on VioPet, the program for building housing for pets in Spanish domestic violence shelters, as part of the Jornada Felina Tarragona.

**April 24-25 – Grand Junction, Colo.:** “Changing Societal Attitudes about Animal Abuse and Human Violence” and “The Human-Animal Bond in Domestic Violence Cases” will be presented at the Mesa County Domestic Violence Task Force’s [Domestic Violence Prevention Academy](#).

**May 6 – Curitiba, Parana, Brazil:** A [certificate course](#) for veterinarians on recognition of and response to The Link between human violence and animal maltreatment will be offered at the Federal University of Paraná’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

**May 11 – Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.:** Dan DeSousa and Nelson Ferry will present on “The critical role of animal control officers in the FBI’s National Incident-Based Reporting System at the Humane Society of the U.S.’ [Animal Care Expo](#).”

**May 16-18 – New York City, N.Y.:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual [International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association](#) conference, sponsored by ASPCA, will feature 21 sessions addressing such topics as: domestic violence and animal cruelty; law enforcement and intervention alternatives; multidisciplinary approaches to investigating animal crimes; cruelty offender assessment; human medicine’s experiences in recognizing and reporting non-accidental injury; and the role of veterinary nurses in animal abuse situations.

**May 18-19 – Alicante, Spain:** Nuría Querol and criminologist Sara Cervelló will present a workshop on VioPet at the [2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Animal Protection](#) organized by the Spanish Society for Criminology.

**May 22 – Dallas, Texas:** Maya Gupta and Kelsey McKay will present on “Animals and Domestic Violence: Another Tool of Manipulation” at the [Conference on Crimes Against Women](#).

**June 1 – Tedford, Shropshire, UK:** [Paula Boyden](#), Freda Scott-Park, and Phil Wilson will discuss The Link in an all-day training for veterinarians.

**June 1-3 – Medellin, Colombia:** The [1<sup>st</sup> International Veterinary Forensics and Criminology conference](#) to be held in Colombia will feature Melinda Merck, Nuría Querol, and Leopoldo Estol.

**June 2 – Dallas, Texas:** Animal hoarding will be discussed at the [Hoarding Conference](#) sponsored by Mental Health America of Greater Dallas.

**June 8-9 – Flagstaff, Ariz.:** Diana Webster and Christina Schwamberger will discuss The Link at the [Navajo Nation Bar Association](#) Annual Conference.

**June 24 – Reno, Nev.:** The [National Coalition on Violence Against Animals](#) will meet in conjunction with the National Sheriffs’ Association Annual Conference.

**June 27 – Oakland, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will conduct a Link training at the [East Bay SPCA](#) as part of the Alameda County District Attorney’s Animal Abuse Task Force outreach and training.

**June 28 – Santa Rosa, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the [Sonoma Humane Society/Forget-Me-Not Farm](#).

**June 29 – San Mateo, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the [Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA](#).

**July 28-30 – Ithaca, N.Y.:** Randy Lockwood, Stacy Wolf and Robert Reisman will present multiple workshops and a mock trial at ASPCA/Cornell Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program [Conference](#). Lockwood’s keynote address will be “Investigating Animal Cruelty – The Past , Present and Future.”

**Aug. 3 – Blairsville, Ga.:** Phil Arkow will train on “The Cruelty Connection: Animal Abuse’s Links with Domestic Violence,” for [Support in Abusive Family Emergencies](#) (S.A.F.E.)

**Sept. 8 – Regina, Sask., Canada:** Phil Arkow will discuss “A Practical Guide for an Effective response by Veterinary Professionals to Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect” at the [Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association’s](#) 2017 Conference.

**Sept. 9 – Bellevue, Wash.:** Phil Arkow will discuss “The Dark Side of the Human-Animal Bond” at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of [Pet Partners](#).

**Sept. 17-21 – Cairns, Qld., Australia:** Ingrid Reilly will present on The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence at the [International Women & Law Enforcement Conference](#).

**Sept. 18-19: Albuquerque, N. Mex.:** “Positive Links,” [The New Mexico Conference on The Link](#), will hold its biennial conference featuring many national and regional speakers on a variety of Link-related topics. For the first time since the conference started in 2003 it will be a two-day event to allow more time for training and networking.

**Sept. 21-22 – Regina, Sask., Canada:** Randy Lockwood will be the keynote speaker at the Saskatchewan SPCA’s [2017 Link Conference](#).

**Oct. 14 – Redmond, Ore.:** Phil Arkow will present on The Link at the [Pet Evacuation Team](#)’s Animal Welfare Conference.

**Oct. 26 – Bartlett, N.H.:** Phil Arkow and Jerilee Zezula will present on “The Cruelty Connection” at the [New Hampshire Attorney General’s Annual Conference](#).

**Nov. 6-10 – Sanford, Fla.:** “The Cycle of Violence” will be included in the week-long Module C classes offered in the National Animal Care & Control Association’s National Animal Control and Humane Officers (NACHO) [Training Academy](#).

**Dec. 4-6 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada:** The inaugural Canadian Link Conference will be held, under the auspices of the [Canadian Federation of Humane Societies](#).

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)) *Please tell us what organization(s) you’re with and where you’re located.*



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

#### Lesley Ashworth

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Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
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