



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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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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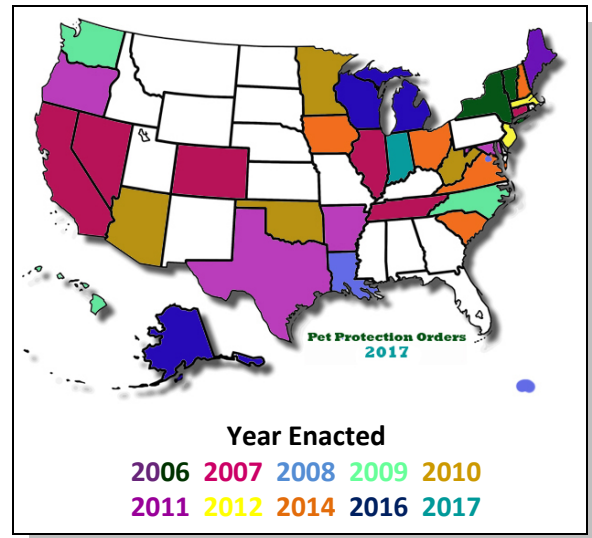
May 7-13 is National Pet Week!

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Indiana Enacts Pet Protection Orders

The Hoosier State has become the 34th jurisdiction in the U.S. to allow survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to include animals in protection-from-abuse orders. On April 21, Gov. Eric Holcomb signed into law **SB 323**. With the addition of Indiana, 32 states, plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, now have enacted Pet Protection Order provisions.

The new law amends IC 34-26-5-9, Sec. 9. It allows a court to grant relief, without notice and hearing, in an ex parte order for protection or in an ex parte order for protection modification. The new law adds to these provisions the following:



(5) Order that a petitioner has the exclusive possession, care, custody, or control of any animal owned, possessed, kept, or cared for by the petitioner, respondent, minor child of either the petitioner or respondent, or any other family or household member.

(6) Prohibit a respondent from removing, transferring, injuring, concealing, harming, attacking, mistreating, threatening to harm, or otherwise disposing of an animal described in subd. (5).

The law becomes effective July 1. The National Link Coalition thanks all our Hoosier members who helped make this new law possible.

In the states where Pet Protection Orders have been enacted, demand is significant once the word is spread that such protections are available. Minnesota issued 1,022 Pet Protection Orders in 2012, and 1,067 in 2013, the most recent years for which such figures were available.

Shelter Adds Forensic Nurse Examiners

A domestic violence shelter in Ludington, Mich., that works with animal shelters to provide foster care for the pets of survivors got a special shout-out in news media with the announcement of a program to bring forensic nurses to the shelter to assist victims of rape and sexual assault. COVE (Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters) unveiled its [S.A.N.E.](#) (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) Unit on Jan. 16, with five nurses on call 24/7 to service victims. The examiners are RNs who conduct detailed physical and emotional assessments; create written, electronic and photographic documentation; manage forensic samples; provide emotional and social support; and testify in legal proceedings. Having the examiners on-site avoids forcing victims to drive to Muskegon for adults or Grand Rapids for children. The program was spotlighted by [WPBN/WGTU-TV](#).



Building Relationships with Animal Control Can Save Lives



Maya Gupta

Because animal abuse frequently occurs outdoors in plain view, and because concerned individuals may report animal abuse long before they report violence directed at themselves, animal control officers should be considered first responders who can help keep domestic violence from being undetected. This premise underlies a report by Maya Gupta, who argues that if domestic violence professionals can reach out to animal control officers (ACOs) and help them widen their lens to include potential human victims of abuse, they may be able to provide resources and referrals to victims at an earlier stage.

Writing for the e-newsletter of the [Battered Women's Justice Project](#) in Minneapolis, Gupta suggests that ACOs could be provided with wallet cards containing their state's domestic violence crisis line number and information about local resources. Providing ACOs with training on how the domestic violence dynamic affects behavior can help them to better respond to cases. Meanwhile, ACOs can counsel victims about what to do if the animal becomes entangled in a cruelty case or if the batterer attempts to gain custody of the pets through the courts. They can also collaborate to provide emergency safe housing for threatened animals.

Gupta recommends that ACOs should be included on Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams or family violence task forces. In her home state of Georgia the Commission on Family Violence recommends that a veterinarian participate on such task forces, but it is not known how many task forces include animal control.

"Recognizing the connections between animal cruelty and domestic violence – and forming effective partnerships among professionals on each side of the equation – can promote both safety and justice for all victims of domestic violence," Gupta concludes.

-- Gupta, M. (2017). [Creating Relationships Between Domestic Violence Service Providers and Animal Control/Humane Law Enforcement](#). Minneapolis, Minn.: Battered Women's Justice Project.

THE LINK AND... CHILD MALTREATMENT

American Academy of Pediatrics Promotes Reporting Animal Abuse

“Pet abuse should raise concerns for physical, emotional safety of children,” wrote Dr. Tara L. Harris in a [March 30 blog](#) for the American Academy of Pediatrics, joining the American Veterinary Medical Association in an inter-species recognition of how The Link affects people and animals. “When a pediatrician is told of threatened harm or abuse of a pet, it may not be obvious immediately that this is a concern to prioritize. However, a growing body of research is revealing the worrisome implications for children in homes where a pet has been abused.”

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

The Pediatrics blog was cited in an extensive article in the [Salt Lake City Deseret News](#) summarizing several Link cases and legislative activities going on across the U.S. , including [Rhode Island H5392](#) which would require child protection and domestic violence caseworkers to report suspected animal abuse to animal control and humane agencies, and animal control and humane officers to report suspected child abuse and domestic violence in return.

The article cited AVMA findings regarding cross-reporting between child and animal abuse, and Utah’s Henry’s Law, which makes the torture of dogs and cats a felony. That law was inspired by a case in which a pet was tortured by a man who was jealous of his wife’s pet.

Because animal abuse is often a harbinger of violence against humans, having physicians and veterinarians serve as sentinels for animal abuse can protect people, the newspaper wrote.



Harris, a member of the AAP’s Section on Child Abuse and Neglect, wrote that abusers’ unrealistic expectations of pets may lead to abusive incidents such as beating a young puppy for urinating on the floor. “This is especially worrisome since unrealistic developmental expectations also are a common trigger for child abuse (e.g., shaking injuries in crying infants and abuse of toddlers associated with toilet-training accidents).”

Tara L. Harris, M.D. Even when pet abuse is not directed at children, they may sustain injuries if caught in the cross-fire. She noted that in many homes where a pet is being abused, the children report intervening to protect their pet.

Furthermore, the length of time that children remain in dangerous, and often deadly, environments may be prolonged by the presence of pets, since concerns about the pets’ safety leads many domestic violence survivors to delay leaving their abusive homes.

Harris concluded the blog with a list of steps that pediatricians can take to help protect their patients:

- Develop a protocol for how and when to make a report if abuse of a pet is disclosed.
- Advocate for local domestic violence shelters to allow pets or develop foster programs to remove this barrier to leaving dangerous homes.

- Encourage local child protective service and humane organizations to work collaboratively to ensure that when a home is known to be affected by violence that the safety of all dependents is addressed.
- Offer trainings for animal control officers on recognizing red flags for child abuse, and participate in developing guidelines for when they should involve child protective services.
- Advocate for legislation to add penalties if animal cruelty is inflicted in the presence of a child and/or for child maltreatment that includes actual or threatened harm to a child's pet, to acknowledge that such animal abuse is emotionally abusive to the child.

“Pediatricians have long understood that to advocate for their patients’ health and safety, they must advocate for the health and safety of the entire family,” she wrote. “For many families, that includes their pets.”

The Deep Bond between Companion Animals And Children

Social scientists and human-animal bond researchers have long known that deep relationships formed with pets when we are young can reverberate and resonate across the lifespan. But are such cross-species relationships comparable to human relationships and are they important in the social development of children?



Researchers at the University of Cambridge interviewed 77 12-year-olds and found that it is possible to view child-pet relationships in the same way as human relationships. The children expressed their experiences with pets and siblings in similar terms regarding four aspects of relationship: companionship, intimate disclosure, satisfaction, and conflict. Significantly, participants derived more satisfaction and engaged in less conflict with their pets than with their siblings

They reported that although gender does not necessarily influence how strong child-pet relationships are, boys and girls may relate differently. Results showed that girls reported more disclosure, companionship, and conflict with their pet than did boys. The species of the pet was also significant: dog owners reported greater satisfaction and companionship with their pet than did owners of other pets.

Previous studies have claimed that the companionship felt with animals plays a major role in the social development during early adolescence. Youths who have pets were shown to be more likely to sign up to social clubs and engage more often in group activities. The researchers noted that close child-pet relationships can be therapeutic and valuable, particularly by protecting young people from otherwise problematic inter-personal relationships. The low conflict associated with child-pet relationships indicates that such relationships are non-conflictual and positive in nature.

The findings of this study highlight the importance of young persons’ relationships with their companion animals, regardless of gender or pet type, and that pet and sibling relationships are comparable.

-- Cassels, M.T., White, N., Gee, N., & Hughes, C. (2017). *One of the family? Measuring young adolescents’ relationships with pets and siblings. Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 49, 12-20.*

Michigan Bills Would Mandate Child/Animal Abuse Cross-Reporting

Five bipartisan Michigan State Representatives have introduced three bills that would mandate cross-reporting between Child



Robert Kosowski, Terry Sabo, Peter Lucido, Eric Leutheuser, and Bronna Kahle

Protective Services employees and local animal control and law enforcement officers. Democrats Robert Kosowski and Terry Sabo, and Republicans Peter Lucido, Eric Leutheuser and Bronna Kahle, sponsored:

- **Michigan HB 4441** would amend the Child Protection Law to add animal control officers to the list of professions mandated to report suspected child abuse or child neglect.
- **HB 4442** would amend the Michigan Penal Code to require Child Protective Services employees to report suspected animal abuse or neglect to an animal control or law enforcement officer: an initial oral report would be followed up with a written report within 72 hours. The CPS reporter would have anonymity, the presumption of having acted in good faith, and immunity from civil or criminal liability. Failure to report, or making a false report, would be punishable offenses.
- **HB 4443** would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to make the intentional false reporting of animal abuse a felony.

All three bills are in the House Judiciary Committee.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... ELDER ABUSE

Article Brings Link Awareness to Gerontology

The Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Aging is making the adult protective services community more aware of the Links between animal abuse and family violence, and in particular how senior citizens are affected. Director Edward F. Ansello describes changes over the past 30 years that include recognition that what was previously considered “family member under stress” is actually elder abuse, and that consensus findings and anecdotal histories Linking animal abuse with interpersonal violence are now supported by empirical research.



Edward F. Ansello, Ph.D.

“Causality is difficult if not impossible to prove with human behaviors but associations and correlations now abound,” Ansello writes in the Winter 2016 issue of *Age in Action*. He cites recognition of the Link by the American Psychological Association, the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, and the National District Attorneys Association. Meanwhile, new felony-level provisions for animal cruelty and extensive research by behavioral scientists are encouraging signs.

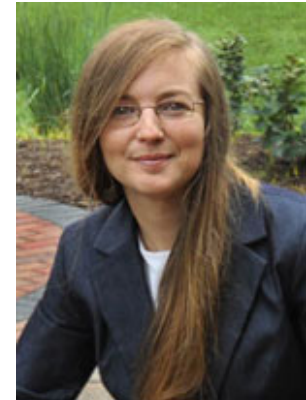
“Some level of awareness of the continuum of violence is there, but there needs to be greater public awareness that protecting the vulnerable may begin with pets and domestic animals,” he writes. “And certainly encouraging our children to interact with kindness towards animals can’t help but pay dividends over the life course.”

-- Ansello, E.F. (2016, Winter). Animal cruelty and elder abuse. *Age in Action*, 31(1).

THE LINK AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Veterinarian

There is increased awareness about what are called ACES – Adverse Childhood Experiences – that can lead not only to lifelong emotional distress but also to the adoption of risky behaviors, increased hypersensitivity to perceived threats, greater risk of illness, and higher rates of mortality. (Notably, childhood exposure to traumatic abuse of animals was not included in the ACES criteria.) A new study investigates whether ACES may be a factor in youths’ determination to pursue veterinary medicine as a career.



Elizabeth Strand

Social workers and student counselors from the Tennessee, Ohio State, Colorado State, Texas A&M, Wisconsin, and Ontario colleges of veterinary medicine explored the relationships between ACES and 1,118 students’ experiences of depression, stress, and desire to become a veterinarian. 61% of respondents reported having at least one ACE, the most prevalent being living with a household member with a mental illness (31%). Students who had experienced four or more ACEs had a threefold increase in signs of clinical depression and higher-than-average stress compared to students who had experienced no ACEs. The number of ACEs showed an overall graded relationship to signs of clinical depression and higher than average stress.

There was no statistically significant relationship between the age at which a student wanted to become a veterinarian and her or his exposure to ACEs. Veterinary students report being exposed to ACEs before age 18 at a rate similar to that of other population-based studies.

The authors caution that these findings do not suggest that veterinary students enter the veterinary medical education system more at risk for poor mental health due to ACEs than the general population.

-- Strand, E.B., Brandt, J., Rogers, K., Fonken, L., Chun, R., Conlon, P., & Lord, L. (2017). Adverse Childhood Experiences among veterinary medical students: A multi-site study. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3138/jvme.0816-123R>

THE LINK... IN THE LITERATURE

Did Jack the Ripper Work in a Slaughterhouse?

Even after a century-and-a-quarter, the unprecedented brutality with which Jack the Ripper dispatched and dissected his victims in the 1880s, combined with the inability of the police to catch him, plunged East London into a climate of fear and created a media and public fascination that remains strong to this day. British researchers Andrew Knight and Katherine Watson suggest that the surgical techniques he employed in stealing organs from his victims were not indicative of a surgeon’s skills, as was widely believed, but rather were more representative of the techniques employed at the time in slaughterhouses. Conditions in these facilities were harsh for animals and workers alike; the authors propose that the brutalizing effects of such work only add to concerns highlighted by modern research that those who commit violence on animals are more likely to target people. The nature of the incisions also cause them to speculate that he may have even been a *shochet* – the Jewish ritual slaughterman in kosher killings. Referencing sociological research that indicates that communities with slaughterhouses are more likely to experience the most violent of crimes, the authors explore implications for modern animal slaughtering.

-- Knight, A., & Watson, K.D. (2017). Was Jack the Ripper a slaughterman? Human-animal violence and the world’s most infamous serial killer. *Animals*, 7(4), 30.

Five Key Issues Identified in Domestic Violence/Animal Abuse Link

Building upon earlier research documenting the impact of domestic violence and animal abuse upon children (*See the July-August, 2016 LINK-Letter*), a new study has identified five dominant themes in the intersection of intimate partner violence and animal cruelty. Interviews with an ethnically diverse sample of 103 pet-owning survivors of intimate partner violence recruited from community-based domestic violence programs identified the five issues as:

- (a) Animal maltreatment by the partner as a tactic of coercive power and control
- (b) Animal maltreatment by the partner as discipline or punishment of a pet
- (c) Animal maltreatment by children
- (d) The emotional and psychological impact of exposure to animal abuse, and
- (e) Pets as an obstacle to effective safety planning

The results demonstrate the potential impact of exposure to animal abuse on women and child IPV survivors' health and safety.

-- Collins, E.A., Cody, A.M., McDonald, S.E., Nicotera, N., Ascione, F.R., & Williams, J.H. (2017, April 2). A template analysis of intimate partner violence survivors' experiences of animal maltreatment: Implications for safety planning and intervention. *Violence Against Women*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801217697266>

THE LINK AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Nevada Bill Would Outlaw Bestiality

A measure in the Legislature would make Nevada the 43rd state to ban animal sexual abuse by creating the crime of bestiality and setting forth penalties for the crime. **AB 391** would define bestiality as a gross misdemeanor or be upgraded to a Category D felony if the animal dies or suffers serious bodily injury as a result, or if the offender has a prior conviction for animal cruelty.



The Nevada Legislative Building in Carson City

Courts would be required to order offenders to not harbor, own or possess any animals, or to work with or volunteer for any organization where animals are present, for a period as determined by the court. Courts could also authorize offenders to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling and to pay all reasonable costs incurred for the care and medical expenses of the animals involved in the crime.

The measure would cover not only persons engaging in sexual conduct with an animal, but also anyone who causes or aids another person to do so, allows it to occur on their premises, promotes or photographs it, or observes it. Accepted practices of animal husbandry, veterinary medicine and conformation judging would be excluded.

Currently, animal sexual abuse is illegal in Nevada only when it is depicted in pornography involving minors. Bestiality is still legal in Hawai'i, Kentucky, New Mexico, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia.

The measure was introduced by Assemblymen Carrillo, Swank, Ohrenschall, Ellison, Monroe-Moreno, and Sprinkle. The bill cleared the Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining and passed the Assembly unanimously on April 25 and has been sent to the Senate.

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS FOR CRUELTY OFFENDERS **Lifetime Bonds Offer Youthful Offenders a Lesson in Compassion**

[Tails Pet Magazine](#), a Chicago-based publication, devoted an extensive portion of its April/May issue to the [Safe Humane](#) Lifetime Bonds program for juvenile offenders in the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's Youth Center system. Calling the intervention "an education in compassion," the article describes how young men learn lifelong skills such as empathy, compassion and patience by working with dogs.



Inmates read to dogs in the program

"Violence against humans and violence against animals are inextricably linked," wrote Laura Drucker, citing studies in Chicago that reported "a startling propensity for offenders charged with crimes against animals to commit other violent offenses toward human victims." 65% of individuals arrested for animal crimes had prior histories of interpersonal violence. Drucker also cited statistics of adult offenders who had committed animal abuse in their youth.

"In neighborhoods where violence is the norm, so too is neglect and violence toward animals. Though a lot of children who grow up in these neighborhoods have dogs and cats of their own, animals, like people, are just one more group enfolded into the violent fray. Often, desensitization toward animal cruelty occurs at a young age," she wrote.

Safe Humane ([See the January 2015 LINK-Letter](#)) was founded in 2000 by Cynthia Bathurst. Lifetime Bonds was added in 2009 to change these youths' early interpretations of human-animal relationships by teaching animal compassion – an emotion once learned that changes an individual forever. A few youths have gone on to become interns at animal organizations upon their release.

Four three-month sessions are held each year. For the first three weeks, the youths work with trained ambassador dogs to learn the basics of animal training and handling and key concepts in animal welfare. They then meet Court Case dogs – rescued and rehabilitated dogs that have either been voluntarily relinquished by their neglectful owners or transferred by court orders. The dogs provide non-judgmental affection, reality checks, and touching – which is otherwise prohibited in the facility.

"Chicago's on this hamster wheel of violence more so than ever," said Lynda Stein, co-founder of Lifetime Bonds. "If we save one kid from getting involved in dog fighting or thinking that animal cruelty is okay, then we will have done our job."

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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

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Oklahoma Link Coalition Hires Coordinator

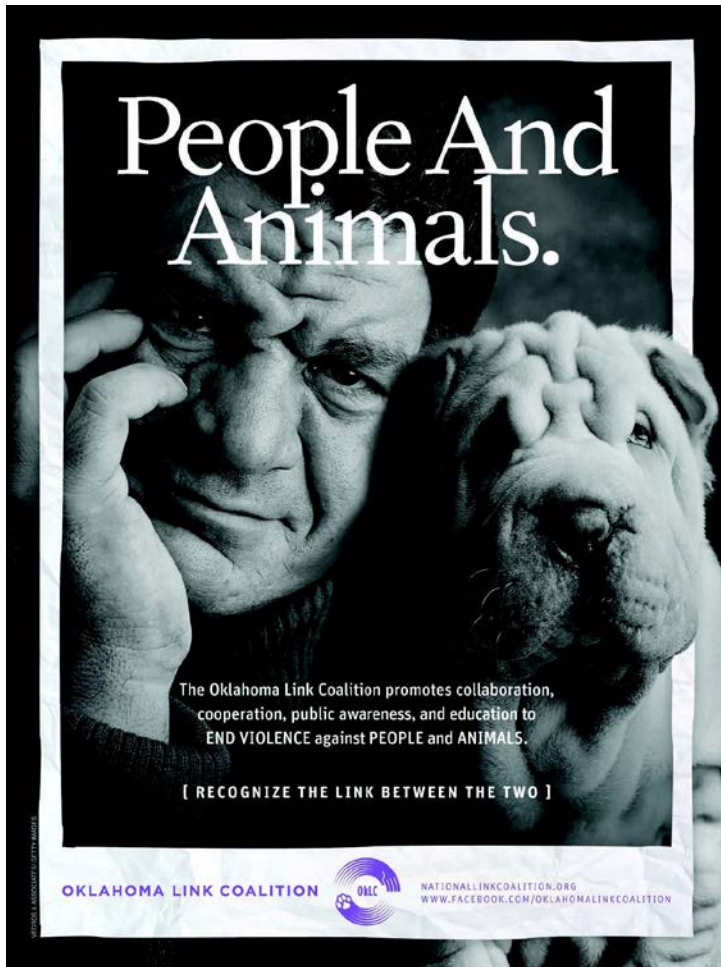
The Oklahoma Link Coalition has taken a major step forward with the hiring of its first coordinator. Kathleen Romero comes to the coalition with a strong background from years of experience in the social services field. She has worked in domestic violence, health and safety, social science research, child welfare, and child advocacy. She has an undergraduate degree from The Colorado College and a M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma.

“I have always wanted to combine my love of animals with my social work experience. Supporting and protecting animals is one of the strongest values I hold and having the opportunity to do so on a statewide level is a dream come true,” says Romero.

The coalition is planning a one-day conference, enhanced awareness of The Link through social media, recruitment of new members to bring as many disciplines to the table as possible, a website, and statewide outreach to establish satellite coalitions in communities outside the Oklahoma City metro area.



Kathleen Romero



The coalition includes representatives from many disciplines, including child welfare, adult protective services, law enforcement, veterinary sciences, and animal welfare, and is supported by the Kirkpatrick Foundation. “I am excited to bring together all of these different representatives to work around this common goal that we all share – to build stronger families and communities by preventing violence against people and animals in Oklahoma.”

Promotional materials being created by the Oklahoma Link Coalition include this catchy advertisement showing a more positive and humorous link between people and animals.



New Canadian Link Coalition Formed in Toronto

A new Link coalition is being formed in Toronto, Canada's largest city, a multi-disciplinary effort addressing animal abuse's Links with other forms of community and family violence.

[Link Toronto](#) was founded by Hayley Glaholt, Ph.D., and Yvonne Tang. The group is currently focused on creating a foster system for the pets of domestic violence victims. From there, they hope to develop cross-training initiatives throughout the city.

Glaholt, a conflict mediator, tells *The LINK-Letter* that Link Toronto is part of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association's SafePet network. The SafePet program is arranging foster care for the pets of domestic violence survivors' pets for the duration of their stay in a shelter.



Hayley Glaholt

The group's mission is to end the abuse of humans and animals in Ontario by educating community health workers, law enforcement officials, animal care professionals, and the public about the interconnectedness of all types of violence, and by establishing programs that provide direct assistance to those who experience abuse. Its work is guided by the principles of respect, solidarity, inclusivity, and humility.

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 allows 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 was signed into law** on April 21 by Gov. Eric Holcomb and becomes effective on July 1.



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 currently defines harming an animal to harass a spouse or partner as domestic violence. **SB62** would have increased 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 was in the Judiciary Committee but **no action was taken before the time limit for legislative action expired.**



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 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 Sexual Abuse


 **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.

 **Nevada AB 391** would define bestiality as a gross misdemeanor or be upgraded to a Category D felony if the animal dies or suffers serious bodily injury as a result, or if the offender has a prior conviction for animal cruelty. Offenders would be required to permanently forfeit any animals in the home and could not work with or volunteer where animals are present. Courts could authorize offenders to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling and to pay costs for the care and medical expenses of the animals. The measure would also cover anyone who causes, aids, promotes or observes bestiality. Accepted animal husbandry, veterinary and conformation judging practices would be excluded. The bill passed the Assembly unanimously and has been sent to the Senate.

 **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.

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 3rd 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 was approved unanimously by the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on April 21 and has been sent to Calendars.

“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 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. 1st-degree animal cruelty, including sexual contact with an animal, is listed among many crimes which prosecutors may cite as reasons for filing charges. The measures were approved by both the House and Senate and were sent to Gov. Jay Inslee on April 18 for his signature.

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 Senate Judiciary Committee recommended the bill be held for further study.

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.



Michigan HB 4441 would amend the Child Protection Law to add animal control officers to the list of professions mandated to report suspected child abuse or child neglect. **HB 4442** would amend the Michigan Penal Code to require Child Protective Services employees to report suspected animal abuse or neglect to an animal control or law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction where the animal was found, with anonymity, the presumption of having acted in good faith, and immunity from civil or criminal liability. Failure to report, or making a false report, would be punishable offenses. **HB 4443** would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to make the intentional false reporting of animal abuse a felony. The bills are in the House Judiciary Committee.



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**, "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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Cleveland Facebook Shooting Suspect Had History of Animal Abuse



Steve Stephens

As a manhunt stretched across several states seeking Steve Stephens in the Easter Sunday random execution of an elderly man in Cleveland that was broadcast live on Facebook, a report emerged alleging that Stephens had a history of animal abuse including pummeling a parakeet to death. Tony Henderson, who lived across the street from Stephens for many years, told [The Daily Beast](#) that Stephens had moved into the neighborhood in his early teens and that "that kid was not normal. I could see something wasn't right." Henderson's opinion was confirmed, he said, after he watched him pummel his parakeet without remorse one day.

"He asked me to come in and see his pet bird, so I went in their house," Henderson recalled. "He had a parakeet and he had that bird crawl from the cage and on to his finger. Then he slapped the bird as hard as he could with his other hand, and the bird was lying on the floor. The bird looked dead to me. I looked at him and his was smiling and laughing as he looked at me and that bird." Henderson said he had also heard that Stephens used to torture other pets.

Stephens, who took his own life on April 18 as police closed in on him in Erie, Penna., had posted on his Facebook page following the killing of 74-year-old Robert Godwin, "All my life I've been a monster."

Domestic Abuse Investigation Results in Animal Cruelty Charges

Police in Wellington, Kansas arrested Eric Haskin-Ybarra on two charges of domestic battery, two counts of animal cruelty, and robbery after they responded to a domestic abuse call and found a pit bull named “Blu” with chemical burns and a dislocated leg. Sumner County Attorney Kerwin Spencer told [KWCH-TV](#) that authorities believe Haskin-Ybarra shot the dog with a BB gun or pellet gun in order to teach it to be aggressive towards police, kicked the dog angrily, and failed to feed and care for the dog adequately. Spencer said he also allowed Blu to jump out of a moving vehicle while on a chain, causing serious injuries which were not treated by a veterinarian.



Eric Haskin-Ybarra

Woman Charged with Cruelty, Battery in Dog’s Death

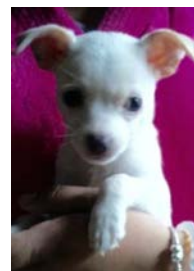
A woman who allegedly punched an elderly dog owner and threw his dog off a fifth-floor balcony has been charged with animal cruelty and battery. Annie O’Neal, 20, of North Little Rock, Ark., was said to be a caretaker for the dog, who belonged to a 65-year-old man. [KTHV](#) reported that police responded to a call about the dog having been thrown off the balcony and found the dog’s owner bleeding from his nose with several blood stains on his shirt. The victim said O’Neal also threw a TV tray and broke several items. O’Neal claimed she did not mean to kill the dog, but that she was wearing high heels and tripped.



Annie O’Neal

Husband Convicted of Cruelty and Intimidating a Witness – His Wife

A man who threw “Bambi,” his wife’s two-pound puppy against a wall so violently that it endured multiple skull fractures and had to be euthanized, was convicted of aggravated animal cruelty, intimidating a witness and criminal contempt. Jerry Moore, 39, of Staten Island, N.Y. sat stoically as State Supreme Court Judge William E. Garnett handed down the sentence on April 12. [StatenIslandLive.com](#) reported that Moore had physically abused the dog over several weeks in 2016 and intimidated his wife, Wendy Talavera, who had reported the incident to police. “Don’t think I got charged for intimidating a witness for nothing, so watch what you’re telling police,” a criminal complaint quoted him as telling her. The complaint also said he warned his wife he wouldn’t be responsible for her pet if she left it with him. Prosecutors said Moore also violated a protection order. District Attorney Michael E. McMahon said, “Animal cruelty is a disgraceful and cowardly crime that must be punished as it often leads to acts of domestic violence.” Moore faces imprisonment of up to four years and was due to be sentenced on April 26.



Bambi had to be euthanized

Boyfriend Charged with Cutting His Girlfriend’s Fish in Half

While most cases of vengeance taken out against a woman’s pets in a domestic violence scenario involve dogs and cats, a New Britain, Conn. man has been charged with cruelty to animals for allegedly cutting his girlfriend’s fish in half during an argument. Police arrested Juan Vega, 33, on April 27 and charged him with breach of peace. The [New Britain Herald](#) reported that officers responded to the home of the unnamed woman, where Vega had reportedly pushed her and kicked a TV. When an officer spoke to the victim’s child, he said he noticed the family’s betta fish had been cut in half. Vega was being held on \$15,000 bond.

Serial Arsonist Convicted of Animal Cruelty

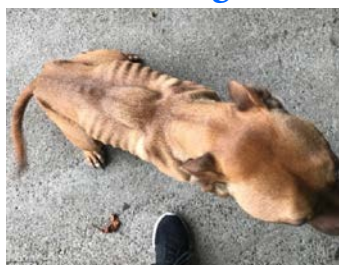
A serial arsonist whose string of fires killed four dogs in a campaign targeting his ex-girlfriend and her family was convicted on 28 charges of animal cruelty and arson. A Rockingham County, N.H., Superior Court convicted Gregory Bruno (*See the [June 2016 LINK-Letter](#)*) on April 12 for the crimes of January 2015 that aimed to harass his ex-girlfriend in Raymond, N.H. He was acquitted of animal cruelty charges stemming from the deaths of the three dogs who died in a fire at the ex-girlfriend's home, but was convicted of animal cruelty for a dog that died in a fire at a Planet Fitness and for another incident in which he fed his own dog a razor blade. Bruno will be sentenced in June, and Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Haggard told the [Manchester Union-Leader](#) that Bruno will face decades in prison and that the guilty verdict "sends a message" to the community.



Dog Survives 30-Foot Fall After Argument Turns Ugly

Melvin Coleman, 37, of Chicago, who allegedly hurled his girlfriend's dog off a third-floor apartment balcony during an argument, was charged with animal cruelty, while the dog's recovery generated a campaign to pay for \$10,000 in surgeries. The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that police found "Callie," an eight-pound terrier mix, lying helpless in an alley, bleeding and foaming from the mouth and rushed her to Chicago Animal Care & Control. Veterinarians repaired her fractured pelvis, cracked ribs and broken neck. Chicago's American Hockey League team donated \$6,000 for Callie's care and the veterinary clinic donated the balance. Callie is currently being cared for by the Fetching Tails Foundation.

Children, Dogs and Wallaby Rescued from Australian "House of Horrors"



One of the two underweight dogs seized in the investigation

When Link cases surface Down Under, they can involve species not often seen in North America and a case in Cairns, Queensland is no exception. Cairns Child Protection, Far North RSPCA and police inspectors responding to a tip converged on a property filled with rotten food, rubbish, filth and starving animals that detectives called a "house of horrors." [The Daily Mail](#) reported that three malnourished children, two emaciated dogs and a wallaby were taken into protective custody following a month-long investigation. An unnamed man, 35, is facing seven charges of cruelty to children, animal neglect, keeping a protected animal, and failure to dispose of a syringe.



Preston Conger

Convicted Felon Charged in Dog Shootings

A convicted felon is facing charges of animal cruelty and illegal possession of a firearm for the unprovoked, apparently random shooting of two dogs, one of which died. [KWTX-TV](#) reported that sheriff's deputies in Navarro County, Texas arrested Preston Conger, 23, claiming he shot two dogs while driving down a rural road while the dogs' owner was nearby repairing a fence. Conger had been charged last October with assault, criminal mischief and public intoxication following an altercation in a bar where police said he punched a bartender and broke two glass panes, according to [KBTX-TV](#). It was not clear if Conger's status as a felon emanated from the bar incident.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

May 11 – Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.: Dan DeSousa and Mary Lou Randour 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 10th 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 [2nd 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](#).

May 24 – Pittsfield, Mass.: [HAVEN](#) (Human/Animal Violence Education Network) will meet.

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 [1st 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 present “The Link Between Human Violence and Animal Abuse: Creating Safer Communities through Species-Spanning Partnerships,” 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 “The Link Between Human Violence and Animal Abuse: Creating Safer Communities through Species-Spanning Partnerships,” at the [Sonoma Humane Society/Forget-Me-Not Farm](#).

June 29 – San Mateo, Calif.: Phil Arkow will present “The Link Between Human Violence and Animal Abuse: Creating Safer Communities through Species-Spanning Partnerships,” 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 40th 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. 19 – Virginia Beach, Va.: Nancy Blaney, Michelle Welch and Glenna Tinney will discuss "Increasing Collaboration Among Animal Welfare and Domestic Violence Agencies" at the National Animal Care & Control Association/Virginia Animal Control Association [Training Conference](#). Also on the agenda: "NIBRS: The Critical Role of Animal Control and Humane Law Enforcement in Reporting Animal Cruelty to the FBI," presented by Dan DeSousa and Mary Lou Randour.

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](#).

Nov. 14-16 – Portland, Ore.: The [7th National Animal Cruelty Conference](#), sponsored by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, will be held.

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

July 3-8, 2018 – Vancouver, B.C., Canada: Phil Arkow will present on The Link, Clinical and Diagnostic Indicators of Animal Abuse, and Addressing Practice Management Concerns in Responding to Suspected Abuse at the [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#) Convention.

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.*



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.

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Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,
The Latham Foundation
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Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network
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Columbus City Attorney's Office/Prosecution Division
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