

## Why is it important to understand the LINK?

Over the past 30 years, researchers and professionals in a variety of human services and animal welfare disciplines have established significant correlations between animal abuse, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of violence.

Mistreating animals is no longer seen as an isolated incident that can be ignored: it is often an indicator or predictor crime and a “red flag” warning sign that other family members in the household may not be safe.



# Get Involved



### What can you do to reduce animal abuse and human violence?

Take all forms of family violence including animal cruelty seriously.

*They are all crimes and red flags for other violence, past, present or future.*

Call your local law enforcement agency or 9-1-1 immediately if you have an emergency or life-threatening situation.

To report abuse, neglect or exploitation of children or at risk adults:

**Texas Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400**  
[www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org)

To seek peer counseling to youth and family members:

**Texas Youth Hotline 1-800-989-6884**  
[www.texasyouth.org](http://www.texasyouth.org)

To report animal abuse:

**SPCA of Texas 214-461-1850**  
[www.sPCA.org/abuse](http://www.sPCA.org/abuse)

**NORTH TEXAS  
LINK COALITION**  
[www.northtexaslinkcoalition.com](http://www.northtexaslinkcoalition.com)

**NORTH TEXAS  
LINK COALITION**



**The North Texas LINK Coalition** exists to facilitate the North Texas area's recognition and understanding of the dynamic connection between animal abuse and the cycle of family and societal violence.





# What is the **LINK**?

Animal abuse, cruelty and neglect are often considered isolated incidents wholly separated from other forms of family violence. Today, professionals involved with victims of family violence are not surprised when they learn that these acts are often linked, and that various agencies are working with the same families. They no longer excuse animal cruelty as “boys will be boys” or “it was only a cat.” Instead, they see animal abuse as a sentinel indicator, “the tip of the iceberg” and often the first sign of other family and community violence.

**Intentional abuse in any form should be taken seriously.**

*Knowing that there is a Link between animal cruelty and violence against people, agencies involved in preventing family violence need to work together for a more effective, species-spanning response.*

## Promoting Awareness of the **LINK** between Animal Cruelty and Human Violence

The North Texas **LINK** Coalition is on a mission to facilitate the awareness, recognition and understanding of the **LINK** between animal abuse and human violence in a multi-county area in North Texas.

The coalition includes nonprofit and government animal welfare and human services organizations, criminal justice and law enforcement professionals, advocates and researchers. We seek local collaborations and connect with similar coalitions across the U.S.

To become a member or request more information about the coalition visit [www.northtexaslinkcoalition.com](http://www.northtexaslinkcoalition.com).

### Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Violence towards humans or animals can take the form of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect. While most animal cruelty investigations involve unintentional neglect, many uncover intentional neglect and abuse.

### Animal Abuse and Child Abuse

When animal abuse occurs, other forms of violence are often present, putting all family members and impressionable young minds at increased risk.

### Animal Abuse and At Risk Adults Abuse

At Risk Adults with limited resources, memory loss, frail physical condition or social isolation may neglect themselves to care for their pets, or may be unable to provide adequate food and veterinary care.

### Use The **LINK**

Incorporating The **LINK** into policy and practice enables professionals to intervene earlier to detect and prevent abuse.

**JOIN the North Texas **LINK** Coalition** to help develop communication, cross-training and cross-reporting between animal and human services agencies in North Texas!