



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 11, No. 7 July 2018

A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



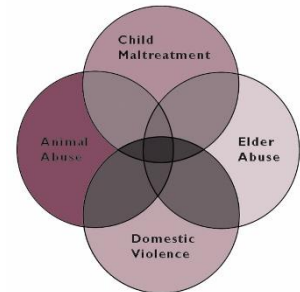
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



www.NationalLinkCoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

SUBSCRIBE – It's Free!!



ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CHILD ABUSE/CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Bestiality Offender Charged with Child Sexual Abuse -- Again



Scott Turner

The first person convicted under Ohio's new law criminalizing sex with animals (*See the [October 2017 LINK-Letter](#)*) has now been accused of attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, trying to lure a child into having sex with him, disseminating material harmful to juveniles, and possessing criminal tools.

Scott Turner, 48, of Cleveland, pleaded not guilty on June 14 to allegations that he chatted with someone he believed was a 14-year-old boy who turned out to be an undercover police officer. Turner is a convicted sex offender following three sex crimes convictions against children and his March 14 conviction for bestiality.

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) reported that in the most recent case, Turner sent several messages back and forth to who he thought was a 14-year-old boy. The two agreed to meet up for sex on May 31 and rode his bike to the meeting location, where he was arrested.

Turner was sentenced to five years' probation on March 14 for planning to have sexual contact with a dog, carrying out that plan, and making plans to do it again with his romantic partner once his partner was released from prison. Prosecutors were especially concerned because he also made plans to recruit a teenage boy to film the act, a particularly disturbing prospect because Turner has previous convictions involving children. Link advocates have long linked bestiality to child sexual abuse. He is appealing his March conviction.

Turner's three sex crime convictions, all involving children, landed him in prison for 12 years and eight months. In 2003 he was babysitting five boys between the ages of 6 and 12 when he paid a 9-year-old boy \$1 to fondle another boy while he watched. He also performed a sex act on a 9-year-old boy while they watched a pornographic video in 2002, and repeatedly sexually assaulted a 12-year-old girl and attacked her as many as 10 times.

ACES Resource Website Spotlights The Link

In previous issues of The LINK-Letter ([March 2018](#), [January 2016](#), [January 2015](#), [November-December 2014](#), [October 2013](#)) we lamented the fact that the pioneering ACES Study, which identified Adverse Childhood Experiences that can lead to lifelong emotional and physical health problems and greater risks of mortality, failed to include the commission or witnessing of animal cruelty by children and youth as one of the many toxic stressors. However, we have recently learned about one ACES resource – ACES Too High -- that has recognized the significance of animal abuse.



[ACES Too High](#) is a news site that reports on research about adverse childhood experiences, including developments in epidemiology, neurobiology, and the biomedical and epigenetic consequences of toxic stress. The website covers how people, organizations, agencies and communities are implementing practices based on the research. This includes developments in education, juvenile justice, criminal justice, public health, medicine, mental health, social services, and cities, counties and states.

In 2013, ACES Too High posted a blog on [“The \(inextricable\) Link: Animal abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse”](#) that featured the National Link Coalition prominently. The blog featured extensive quotes from the Coalition, Randy Lockwood, Frank Ascione, Clifton Flynn, and others, with hyperlinks to sources of additional information.

ACEs are adverse childhood experiences that harm children’s developing brains and lead to changing how they respond to stress and damaging their immune systems so profoundly that the effects show up decades later. ACEs cause much of the burden of chronic disease and mental illness, and are at the root of much violence.

“ACEs” comes from the [CDC-Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study](#), a groundbreaking 14-year-long public health study of 17,000 individuals that discovered that childhood trauma leads to the adult onset of chronic diseases, depression and other mental illness, violence and being a victim of violence, as well as financial and social problems. The ACE Study has published about 70 research papers since 1998. Hundreds of additional research papers based on the ACE Study have also been published.

Subsequent to the ACE Study, other ACE surveys have expanded the types of ACEs to include witnessing a sibling being abused, witnessing violence outside the home, witnessing a father being abused by a mother, being bullied by a peer or adult, involvement with the foster care system, living in a war zone, living in an unsafe neighborhood, and losing a family member to deportation. Unfortunately, violence against animals has yet to be formally recognized.

Permission to Reprint

The news items and training opportunities contained in *The LINK-Letter* are intended to disseminate as widely and as freely as possible information about the connections between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. Permission is hereby granted to re-post these articles in other newsletters, websites, magazines, and electronic publications provided that appropriate credit is given to the National Link Coalition and with links to www.nationallinkcoalition.org

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

Interpersonal Violence May Be Triggered by Disputes Over Animals

While The Link generally focuses on how cases of animal abuse often are warning signs of current or future violence against people, another aspect of The Link are situations where animals unwittingly trigger acts of interpersonal violence committed by people who are not necessarily pet-friendly.

Such was the case in October, 2013 in Phoenix, Ariz., when Michael Guzzo, 56, who had become increasingly unhinged for months by the constant barking of dogs living in homes all around him, went on a rampage with a shotgun and methodically killed four of his next-door neighbors and their two dogs, before walking across a courtyard and tried to kill more neighbors with dogs before returning home and killing himself.



Guzzo's vengeance apparently did not occur unannounced: [CBS News](#) reported that he had posted fliers on doors throughout his townhouse complex advising his neighbors of local pet ordinances and fines.

Michael Guzzo

He had lashed out at one neighbor, reportedly saying, "Your dogs are barking. I'm here to live in peace."

Guzzo's ex-wife told [news media](#) that he had cut ties with his family 25 years earlier after years of mental and physical abuse from his father, and had mental health issues. Instead of getting help he apparently drank frequently and became more isolated, depressed and sullen. She said she believed that anything could have set off his anger issues; on that day it happened to be his neighbors' dogs.

A blog by [Animals 24-7](#) described the Guzzo case as emblematic of a much larger and common trend of animals being targeted for abuse by residents who are angry at their neighbors for behaviors committed either by the animals or by their owners. *Animals 24-7* describes several typical scenarios, familiar to most animal control agencies nationwide, where neighborhood disputes regarding pets evolve into acts of violence against neighbors and their pets. Given that nearly half the American public does not own dogs or cats, complaints about animal damage, animals at large, feces on lawns and sidewalks, dangerous dog behaviors, and barking dogs can trigger a number of escalating responses. These include:

- Neighbors with a grievance **shooting or killing the animal**. In some cases, the animal victim is a surrogate for an interpersonal dispute with the owner originating from a different issue.
- Neighbors capturing and **dumping the animals elsewhere**, causing a disappearance that could be explained by its wandering off or being attacked by wild predators.
- Neighbors capturing the animals and **surrendering them to shelters**, claiming them as their own.
- **Pet poisonings**, often committed by neighbors with an extreme sense of territoriality who are offended by animals defecating in their yards, getting into their trash, attacking their own animals, or barking. The impersonal and distant nature of the retaliation represents a way to dominate a situation without risking close involvement.
- **Pet-related homicides**, in which both the animal and its owner are targeted.

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **Study Examines Pets' Roles in LGBT Domestic Violence**

While there is a growing body of literature exploring the impact of animal abuse as coercive control in violent heterosexual relationships, there is relatively little information available about how animal abuse plays out among lesbians and gay men. A new study based on surveys in Australia and the U.K. offers unique insights for practitioners into the help-seeking needs of LGBT individuals who live with pets in the context of domestic violence.

The study identified three major themes that parallel findings from heterosexual couples: animals are an important source of support; humans actively protect their pets; and witnessing animal abuse can trigger leaving violent relationships.

Many respondents indicated that their animals were considered friends, family members and confidants and that their relationships with their animals were crucial to their own well-being and to their capacity to rebuild their lives after experiencing violence. Pets' unconditional support and non-judgmental acceptance was highly valued by many participants, specifically with regard to sexuality and gender: respondents said that with their pets they did not have to deny their identities. Some reported that their pets offered a sense of protection, assuaged feelings of loneliness, and constituted a lifeline when they felt suicidal.

Some respondents prioritized the safety and well-being of their pets over their own and found it easier to stand up to their abusers for the sake of the animals. As with the experiences in the heterosexual population, many respondents expressed practical concerns about where and how the animals might live should they leave the abuser, and that if they had known that their pets had been abused they would have left sooner. Similarly, there were also fears of violent partners seeking revenge that caused respondents to stay in order to secure the safety of their pets.

For some respondents, negative behaviors committed against pets spelled the end of any hope that the relationship might improve, thereby signaling a need to leave.

Several participants said their animals suffered emotional trauma as a result of the abuse directed at them or their human caretaker, or because of the changes in living arrangements necessitated by the abuse. Respondents also reported that family and friends got caught up in the abuse as a result of their helping the animals, and that there is an increased need for pet support services specifically tailored to people of diverse genders and sexualities.

"In populations where identity abuse is a significant, but often overlooked, predictor of poor mental health and reduced social support, animals offer a counter to this in the form of an affirming view of an individual's sexuality and/or gender," they write. Service providers need to have "an informed understanding of what animal companions mean to people of diverse genders and/or sexualities in the context of violent relationships."

-- Taylor, N., Riggs, D.W., Donovan, C., Signal, T., & Fraser, H. (2018, May). People of diverse genders and/or sexualities caring for and protecting animal companions in the context of domestic violence. *Violence Against Women*.



Nik Taylor



Damien Riggs



Catherine Donovan



Tania Signal



Heather Fraser

Cases Demonstrate Animal Abuse's Role in Coercive Control

In the Link in the News section of each *LINK-Letter*, we include cases that illustrate The Link in real life. We thought we'd spotlight two cases this month that demonstrate how animals are abused in domestic violence situations to terrorize and intimidate women – and children:



Patrick Lungley

In Baton Rouge, La., Patrick Lungley, 36, was arrested for allegedly stealing and shooting his ex-girlfriend's dog – and then sending her a photo of the dog after he shot it. Lungley reportedly was angry with the woman and wanted her to break up with her current boyfriend. Police said he allegedly made numerous phone calls to her also threatening to hurt her if she did not break up with the man. [WBRZ News](#) reported that officers heard

Lungley admit to killing the dog to “warn” the woman. He was charged with aggravated animal cruelty, theft, stalking and telephone communications, and improper language.



Marshall Ramos

In Speepleville, Texas, Marshall Ramos, 42, was in custody for allegedly pointing a gun at his estranged wife and choking a puppy while her 3-year-old daughter watched. The [Waco Tribune-Herald](#) reported that the woman was retrieving some furniture in the midst of a divorce. She told deputies that Ramos pulled out a handgun while asking about her new boyfriend, then picked up a puppy by the neck, choking it. Ramos reportedly said, “You

better call the cops because I'm either going to kill you or myself.” He fired the gun at a neighbor's house and pointed the gun at her before she and her daughter drove away. Ramos was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, endangering a child, unlawful restraint, and cruelty to animals. He also faces a child-support warrant.

IAHAIO Issues Position Statement on Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

IAHAIO

Calling abuse against humans and animals “unacceptable,” and acknowledging “the link between domestic violence and animal abuse, the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) has issued a [position statement](#) on The Link calling for greater public education, professional training, academic research, and interdisciplinary partnerships.

The statement calls for continued development of practical initiatives to reduce the legal, ethical, safety, training, and economic barriers that often deter professionals from detecting, reporting and reducing human and animal abuse. It emphasizes that the complex societal challenges involved in interpersonal and interspecies violence require integrated solutions by multiple stakeholders.

The statement was drafted by Ian Robertson, a veterinarian and attorney in New Zealand, and edited by National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow. The National Link Coalition is named as a resource.

Following several international gatherings of scholars and practitioners of animal-assisted therapy beginning in 1977, [IAHAIO](#) was incorporated in 1992 to turn long-standing working relationships into a formal association. IAHAIO convenes triennially, with the 2019 conference scheduled at Green Chimneys in Brewster, N.Y.

This is believed to be the first position statement offered by the group, although IAHAIO has periodically published white papers and declarations addressing the welfare of animals in therapy programs, guidelines for therapy and school interventions, and the One Health movement.

IAHAIO's position statement regarding domestic violence and related animal abuse

IAHAIO acknowledges the link between domestic violence and animal abuse.

IAHAIO supports the provision of public education, training for professionals, academic research and the

promotion of effective and compassionate interdisciplinary partnerships that collaborate with a view to minimising the incidence of domestic violence and animal abuse in all its forms.

Caring for the human-animal connection

IAHAIO maintains that there is an inseparable connection between people and animals. IAHAIO upholds the humane treatment and responsible care of animals throughout society, and recognises that responsible care of animals is a source of well-being and enrichment for people and animals alike.

Since the 1980's, researchers and professionals in a variety of human services and animal welfare disciplines have identified that there are significant correlations between abuse of animals and abuse of children, the elderly, and intimate partner of domestic violence. Studies have also shown that in addition to the deaths, injuries and emotional traumas experienced by animals that are targeted by abusers exercising coercive control over their human victims, the actual or threat of harm to the animals are significant barriers preventing these victims from leaving the abusive environment.

In instances where animals are subjected to neglect, ill-treatment and cruelty, then IAHAIO maintains that the needs of the individual (animals and people), the community, and wider society benefit from the assistance of professionals, organisations and support systems that are able to respond knowledgeably, compassionately and effectively.

IAHAIO maintains that abuse against human and non-human animals is unacceptable. IAHAIO acknowledges that the causes of abuse and violence are many and varied. IAHAIO maintains that it is critical to understand and recognise individual and societal factors that create risks associated with violence and abuse, in order to prevent, mitigate and resolve the detrimental costs of abuse to people and animals. Seeking to understand factors that shape and create risk for the development of violence and abuse is not intended to excuse or mitigate personal responsibility for anti-social or criminal behaviours.

Many professionals and organisations recognize their important roles and responsibilities to detect, report and assist in cases of domestic violence and animal abuse. However, those same professionals and organisations also face considerable barriers which complicate their ability to fulfil their professional role in responding to such cases.

In recognition of the legal, ethical, safety, training and economic barriers to effective detection, reporting, and reduction of human and animal abuse, IAHAIO supports in principle, the continued development of practical initiatives to reduce those barriers.

Solving issues of domestic violence and animal abuse

IAHAIO recognises that complex societal challenges, like the prevention of abuse involving people and animals, require integrated solutions to be developed amongst multiple stakeholders functioning at local, national and international levels.

IAHAIO supports the following objectives as warranting continued attention with a view to further developing integrative solutions and collaborative initiatives:

1. Increased understanding, identification and capacity building developed through the provision of education, cross training and provision of practical resources; and
2. Implementation of informed, practical and compassionate intervention systems in terms of (a) human services and animal welfare standards, (b) support systems that contain, educate and rehabilitate the abuser, and (c) provide practical protections for victims including, for example, shelters for people and

- animals who are either at-risk or victims of abuse; and
3. Development of public policy and law that implement initiatives which include (a) development of professional ethical obligations mandating reporting of suspected abuse, with (b) legislative protections providing immunity from civil and criminal liability for those who report suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities, and (c) the inclusion of pets on legal instruments providing protections to victims of abuse; and

4. Further research with the objective of identifying factors that prevent, mitigate, and compassionately assist all those involved in the circle of violence. Areas for research include, for example, child welfare, human-animal studies, sociology, criminology, psychology, social work, and human and veterinary medicine.

Pet Foster Care Programs Developing in the UK

The RSPCA's pioneering Pet Retreat program ([See the March 2015 LINK-Letter](#)), which had fostered more than 1,200 animals from 800 families experiencing domestic violence, has closed as the RSPCA re-evaluates its services. Meanwhile, a network of other pet foster care programs are emerging to assist survivors and remove one barrier to their finding safety. These include:



[Dogs Trust Freedom Project](#), for survivors in Greater London, Hertfordshire, Essex, Yorkshire, the North East, and the Central Belt of Scotland. Dogs are placed with foster homes for up to six months; Dogs Trust covers all the dogs' expenses, including food and veterinary costs.

[Paws Protect](#) is Cats Protection's foster service for families in Greater London, Hertfordshire, Essex, Sussex, Surrey, and Kent fleeing domestic abuse. Cat fosterers provide a retreat for families going into refuges until they have a safe place to live.



[Endeavour](#) fosters pets for women entering refuges in Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Derbyshire, and North and East Midlands.

The Mayhew Animal Home's [Pet Refuge](#) assists pet owners in Greater London, Hertfordshire and Essex facing domestic violence, hospitalization, or prison.



Womens Aid Integrated Services' [Pets Project](#) helps women, children and teens affected by domestic abuse in Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Nottingham City, and Rushcliffe.

In Wales, [Animal Safe Haven](#) provides temporary care, veterinary treatment, and a foster family for pets while their people access a refuge and begin to rebuild their lives.



Help4Wales
Foundation



"Pets are often the silent, forgotten victims of domestic violence and abuse, used as part of the pattern of coercion and control, threatened, yelled at, beaten, kicked and in some cases killed," notes [Refuge4Pets](#) which fosters animals in Cornwall and Devon.

[Pet Fostering Service Scotland](#) provides a unique service, supporting pet owners who are experiencing such emergency situations as domestic abuse, ill health, or temporary homelessness.



Pet Co-Sheltering Spotlights by The Washington Post

For K. in St. Petersburg, Fla., the pet-friendly facilities at the Community Action Stops Abuse shelter opened just in time to enable her and her golden retriever, “Cody,” to escape from her abusive boyfriend. The incident was described in the June 15 [Washington Post](#) about how the kennels and grassy play area for four dogs and four cats are part of a growing awareness that pets are often used as pawns by abusers to maintain control over victims.



“Cody” relaxes with his owner in the shelter

CASA’s kennel was inspired by a former resident whose abuser killed her pet after she fled and left the animal in his care, what CEO Lariana Forsythe called “unfortunately, a very common occurrence.”

The article also described the bipartisan Pet And Women Safety bills, H.R. 909 and S. 322, that have been languishing in Congress for several years. They would allocate \$3 million to help shelters build pet facilities and extend pet protection orders across state lines. Co-sponsor Rep. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.) told the *Post* that the bill, which is stalled in the Senate Agriculture Committee, should be an easy win. “Pets don’t care about our politics. This is a good way to really reach across party lines and ideologies and do a bill that is indisputably good for animals but is really about helping people in dire situations.”

The experience of K. was especially meaningful, as she had rescued Cody from an abusive man she saw beating him by the side of the road. She vowed then that the dog would never leave her side.

“Going through a situation like this is traumatic enough,” said K. “It’s the same way for [pets]. Separating them from their owners, I don’t think that does any good for them, either. Once we’re gone, who’s left to abuse but the animals? The animals can’t pick up the phone and call the police.”



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

...to protect **ALL** vulnerable members of the family

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Michigan Legalizes Courtroom Support Dogs in Cases of Child and Elder Abuse

The **Michigan** Legislature has approved **HB 5645** that will now allow witnesses of child abuse, child sexual abuse and abuse of elders and vulnerable adults to be accompanied by a trained and evaluated “courtroom support dog.” The bill passed the House by a vote of 107-1 and the Senate 36-0 and is scheduled to take effect in 90 days.



The measure:

- Requires a court to allow an individual who meets certain criteria and **Rep. Tom Barrett** who is called upon to testify, to have a courtroom support dog and handler sit with, or be in close proximity to, the witness during his or her testimony.
- Requires a notice of intent to use a courtroom support dog if the dog is used during trial.
- Provides that an agency supplying a courtroom support dog conveys all responsibility for the dog to the participating prosecutor's office or government entity in charge of the local court.

“The criminal justice system is intimidating and scary for young victims, especially when they have to take the stand against someone who has hurt them,” said sponsoring Rep. Tom Barrett (R-71). “Courtroom support dogs help keep kids calm and give them the emotional strength to relive the traumatic details.”

Canine advocates are currently utilized in 28 prosecutor’s offices throughout Michigan. “Reagan,” a canine advocate in Eaton County, Barrett’s home district, has already helped more than 270 victims.

The measure establishes regulations that allow support dogs to be present in court without jeopardizing the rights of the accused. For example, it provides a clear definition for what qualifies as a courtroom support dog.

“We’re not talking about amateur dogs taken off the street,” Barrett said. “It will be dogs that are well-trained for the type of work they’re expected to perform who won’t cause a disturbance in the courtroom.”

Grants Available for Animal Law and Policy Reform

The UCLA School of Law Animal Law and Policy Small Grants Program has announced that it is seeking small grant proposals for its 2018-2019 funding cycle. The application deadline is December 1, 2018. Grants will support legal and non-legal empirical scholarship to advance animal law and policy reform, with a particular interest in fields such as psychology, sociology, philosophy, economics, and other social sciences.

The program does not fund research on live animals, nor can it provide funding to scholars based at institutions outside the United States. (Collaborative projects with non-U.S.-based scholars are accepted if the principal investigator is based at a U.S. institution of higher education throughout the funding period.) Additional details and a list of previous grants are available on the [UCLA Law School website](#).

Virtual Reality Training Aims to Stop Lethal Police-Dog Encounters



Jim Crosby

Law enforcement officers responding to domestic violence and other potentially lethal incidents often find themselves facing another, unexpected threat: dogs whose behaviors they perceive as being dangerous. Dogs living in the highly-charged environments of domestic violence may themselves exhibit aggressive behaviors, explains canine aggression consultant Jim Crosby, and many police officers have over-reacted by shooting the dogs, often with tragic consequences. Such incidents not only result in injury or death to the dogs and bystanders but have also resulted in six- and seven-figure insurance settlement claims paid by the municipalities.

To combat this problem, new training tools are helping law enforcement to better understand canine behavior. One such program, a virtual reality-type simulator, is being piloted by the Harford County, Md. Sheriff's Office and, later, in Orange County, Fla. and Oakland County, Mich.

[WJZ-TV](#) noted that the goal of the simulator, which immerses officers in real-life situations using videos, is to reduce the likelihood of police hastily applying lethal force against the family pet. In the video scenarios, deputies are trained to react to threatening dogs with non-lethal force, such as voice commands, pepper spray, taser, or mace. The simulator is based on existing training scenarios that prepare deputies for potentially dangerous encounters with people.

"In the old days, I was taught that dogs are property," said John Thompson, deputy director of the National Sheriffs Association (and a member of the National Link Coalition's steering committee) who rose through the ranks of law enforcement, "If it was a threat, you had to neutralize that threat. Well, things have changed. Society's changed, and dogs are now part of the family."

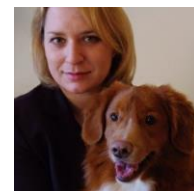


John Thompson

"It's a scary thing. Some dogs just look mean, [but] they're the most docile animals ever, so it can put men and women in a scary situation," Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler told [WMAR-TV](#).

New Video Describes Zoophilia

A video primer on zoophilia, often known as bestiality or animal sexual abuse, which has been linked with child sexual abuse and child pornography, has been published by the Animals & Society Institute as part of its Defining Human Animal Studies Video Series. German researcher Andrea Beetz, a world-renowned scholar and author in this subject, narrates "Defining Zoophilia," a [four-minute video](#). Beetz describes how zoophilia is now included among the paraphilias in the *Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* and has been criminalized in many countries and states under sex offender and animal cruelty laws. She notes that zoophiles have strong emotional and sexual attachments to certain species or individual animals and that their sexual interactions with animals may be benign or violent.



Andrea Beetz

The Animals & Society Institute created the video project because human-animal studies scholars come from many diverse fields and often have difficulty in understanding the language and key theories of scholars in other disciplines. The project invites scholars to define, in short videos, terms that are used within their realm of human-animal studies that may be unfamiliar to those in other disciplines. Thirteen videos have been produced to date with five other releases planned for the near future.

BUILDING LINK AWARENESS

Partnership Brings Awareness to Baltimore Children

Seven years ago, an innovative anti-cruelty campaign was developed in Baltimore, Md. ([See the October 2016 and June 2017 LINK-Letters](#)) Called “Show Your Soft Side,” the campaign features normally macho Baltimore athletes and celebrities with their pets, showing juveniles that it’s kind cool to be kind to animals. Today, the campaign boasts a roster of 175 “softies” but was looking for a way to expand its message to reach even more children.



Caroline Griffin & Phil Tedeschi

As a result of a fortuitous meeting of the National Link Coalition, Soft Side founder Caroline Griffin was able to connect with Philip Tedeschi at the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, who also organized the Colorado Link Project. IHAC personnel are now developing three different lesson plans that Baltimore’s “softies” can use when speaking to primary, middle and high school students.

“Our collaboration with a world-renowned academic research center on the human-animal connection will help us fulfill our mission of preventing animal abuse and promoting kindness toward animals,” notes Griffin in a [blog](#). “Our collaboration with IHAC is a match made in heaven.”

Idaho Newspaper Cites Link in Search for Dog’s Killer

“There are cases where people who do this kind of thing escalate it, from animals to people. We need to find out who did this before something worse happens. All the warning signs are there and we need not to ignore them.”

With those words Debra Robinson told the [Idaho Falls Post Register](#) about the details of the brutal stabbing and skinning of her daughter-in-law’s beloved 8-year-old toy Pomeranian, “Gizmo,” in Salmon, Idaho. The incident has raised fears in the rural community of 3,000 about the safety of children and pets.



“Gizmo”

The killing occurred on June 13 after the daughter-in-law put the family’s three dogs in their yard before driving her two children to daycare and preschool and then heading to work. The second dog is now being confined indoors and the third was surrendered to the animal shelter because she didn’t want its life endangered. The family is offering a reward for information leading to the conviction of the dog’s killer and has started a GoFundMe campaign called “Justice for Gizmo.”

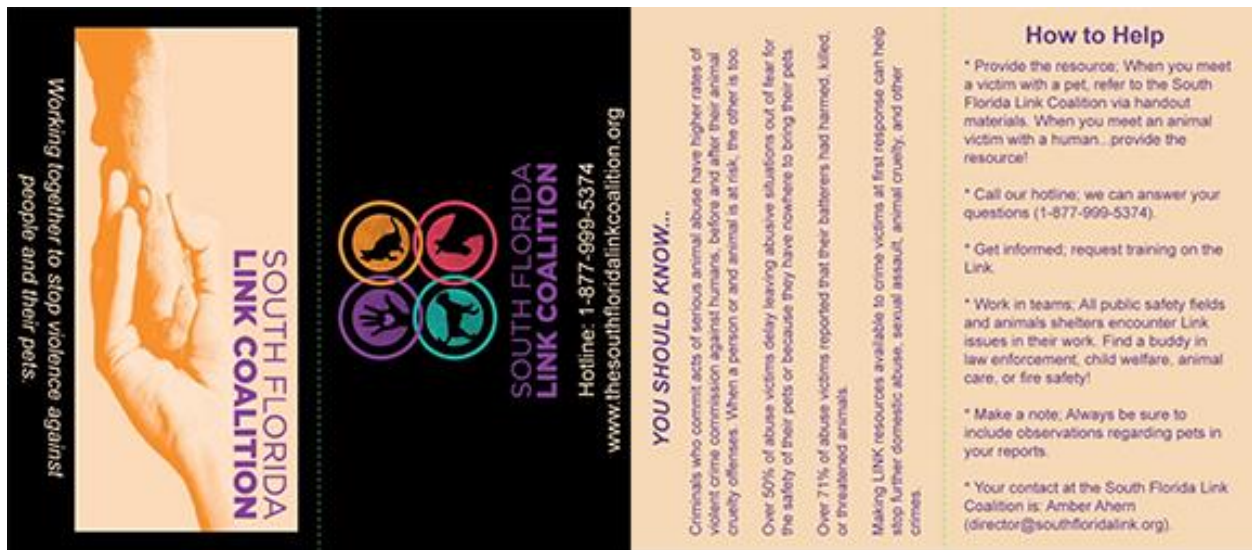
Salmon experienced two rashes of dog poisonings that killed 16 dogs in 2010 and 2011. Gizmo’s death has traumatized the family.

“She’s afraid to let the kids out in the yard,” Robinson said. “The kids don’t know what is going on. They only know they miss Gizmo, they wonder what happened to [the dog] surrendered to the shelter and why their parents are so upset.”

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

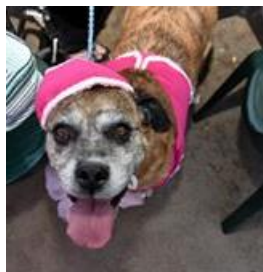
South Florida Link Coalition Distributes Wallet Cards

The [South Florida Link Coalition](#) has created a handy wallet-sized card that first responders can carry with them which summarizes the Coalition's work and what participants can do to coordinate efforts to prevent all forms of family violence. The cards contain simple, basic statistics about The Link between animal abuse and human violence. It recommends that workers in the various fields provide handout materials when they meet a victim with a pet – or an animal victim with a human. It suggests officials in law enforcement, victim advocacy, child welfare, animal control and fire safety “find a buddy” and work in inter-disciplinary teams, and to always include observations about pets in reports. It provides the coalition's hotline number. The wallet card is available in the [Resources](#) section on the National Link Coalition's website.



Positive Links Provides Trainings, Holds Fundraisers

Our New Mexico Link coalition, [Positive Links](#), presented two Link trainings in Gallup, N. Mex. on June 5, thanks to the sponsorship of Gallup-McKinley County Animal Control. Over 40 law enforcement professionals attended “The Human-Animal Bond: Investigating Crimes Against Animals.” Mental health professionals attended “The Human-Animal Bond: Therapy Options for Intervening and Preventing Animal Abuse.” Both trainings included an

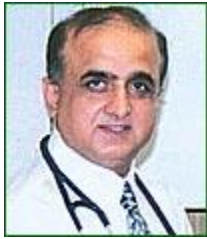


overview of The Link and delved deeper into profession-specific information and skills needed to recognize and stop abuse to animals and the human members of their families.

On May 12, the Mutt Strut FUNraiser brought the most fashionable dogs in New Mexico to work the See Spot Runway and show off their canine couture. The coalition also announces the availability of Positive Links bandannas, on sale for \$5 to help support the cause.



THE LINK AND... VETERINARY MEDICINE



Inayatullah Kathio

Veterinarian Offers \$1,000 Reward in Cat Shooting

A series of cat shootings in Luzerne County, Penna. prompted an area veterinarian – who has already treated six victims this year – to offer a \$1,000 reward hoping it will lead to the shooter. [WNEP-TV](#) reported that Dr. Inayatullah Kathio treated a pregnant shorthaired cat named “Pandora” over the Memorial Day weekend. The cat had already lost a lot of blood before someone rushed her to the clinic, where the veterinary team saved her life. “Do you realize the pain when the bullet hits bone and tendon?” Kathio said. “The animal can feel the pain like we can feel the pain.”

THE LINK ... IN THE LITERATURE

Hogarth's Art and The Link

The four extraordinary engravings comprising the 1751 series entitled “The Four Stages of Cruelty” by the English artist and satirist William Hogarth have achieved canonical status in moral philosophy and the Link movement for their graphic depictions of young Tom Nero’s descent into depravity and murder, beginning with his wanton torture of animals. In this lengthy analysis of the social theory of childhood animal abuse and its link to human violence, criminologist Piers Beirne explores Hogarth’s extensive art which “veritably oozes with insight on those situations where power and misplaced authority intersect social inequality and countercultural resistance in 18th Century London.” Hogarth expressed not only his detesting of animal cruelty but also the social disorder, crime, danger, pestilence, and filth he associated with lower-class neighborhoods in a rapidly urbanizing environment. Beirne argues that Hogarth’s legacy was not so much in espousing a link between animal cruelty and subsequent violence between humans, but in “the art of listening to what animals have to say and believing that we can do so.”

-- Beirne, P. (2015). *Hogarth's Art of Animal Cruelty: Satire, Suffering and Pictorial Propaganda*. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.



THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Victories We're Celebrating... and Bills We're Watching

Although the 2018 legislative season has concluded in many states, we are still following many bills, many of which are predicated upon how animal abuse and interpersonal violence are LINKed. We are encouraged by this progress and hope to see even more LINK legislation passed this year!

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



After languishing in both the 114th and 115th Congresses despite having over 280 co-sponsors in the House and Senate, **H.R. 909 and S.322 – the Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act** – was tacked on to **H.R. 2 – the Farm Bill** – and was passed by the Senate on

June 28 by a 86-11 vote and was transmitted to the House. The measure 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 2023 in grants for shelter and housing assistance for victims with pets, support services to help victims secure safe housing that allows pets, for pet-related services, and for training on The Link between domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and pet abuse.



California AB 2274 would allow courts to assign sole or joint ownership of a community property pet in divorce and separation agreements by taking into consideration the well-being of the pet. The bill was approved by the House 57-4 and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



California AB 1939 would expand provisions of the California Victim Compensation program to allow the costs of temporary housing for the pets of domestic violence victims to be reimbursable as part of relocation expenses. The bill was approved by the Assembly and was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee.



Colorado law included animals among the property that can be included in a protective order. **Colorado SB 18-060** now will specifically allow courts to issue a protective order prohibiting the taking, transferring, concealing, harming, disposing of, or threatening to harm an animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the alleged victim or witness. **The bill was signed into law** by Gov. John Hickenlooper on March 22 and will take effect Nov. 1.



Illinois HB5668 would amend the Domestic Violence Shelters Act and require the Department of Human Services to prioritize funding to domestic violence shelters and service programs that provide shelter assistance to victims' pets. The bill is in the Rules Committee.



Kentucky HB 447 would prohibit courts from offering probation, early release or a suspended sentence to offenders convicted of torturing a dog or cat with the intent of threatening, intimidating, coercing, harassing, or terrorizing a family member or person in a dating relationship. Kentucky law defines "family members" as current and former spouses, child or stepchild, grandchild, parent or grandparent. **The bill was in the Judiciary Committee when the legislature adjourned.**



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.



Michigan HB 4332 would make it a 1st, 2nd or 3rd-degree offense, depending on severity, to knowingly torture or kill an animal with the intent to cause mental distress or exert control over a person. The bill was passed the House 90-15, approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate.



Mississippi SB 2232 would have authorized courts to include the protection of pets in the order and require that the respondent not remove, damage, hide, harm or dispose of any companion animal owned by the person protected by the order. **The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.**



Missouri HB 2374 would have added “intimidation,” the coercive, vengeful or punitive injuring, killing or threatening of an animal, as grounds for which a court could issue an order of protection. **The bill was in the Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned.**



New Mexico HJM 3 would have requested that the Department of Children, Youth and Families and the Department of Public Safety consider providing training on the Link between animal abuse and family violence in training delivered to appropriate personnel. The measure was approved by the House and two Senate committees but **further action was postponed indefinitely.**



New York A8663 would have amended §23 of the state’s Domestic Relations Law to require the court to consider the best interest of a companion animal when awarding possession in a divorce or separation proceeding. **The bill was in the Assembly Judiciary Committee when the State Assembly adjourned.**



Ohio HB1 expands the ability of courts to issue protection-from-abuse orders that include animals to individuals seeking protection orders in cases of dating violence. It would allow a court order to require that a respondent not remove, damage, hide, harm, or dispose of any companion animal owned or possessed by the petitioner alleging dating violence. It also would allow a court order to authorize the petitioner to remove a companion animal owned by that petitioner from the possession of the respondent. **The bill was signed into law by Gov. John Kasich on April 5.**



Pennsylvania HB1652 would allow divorcing parties to enter into a custody agreement for the possession and/or care of a companion animal. Such agreements may specify the time during which each party will possess the pet and each party’s financial responsibility regarding its care. The bill defines relevant factors which the court may consider. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.




Rhode Island H7032 and **S2459** would permit the family court to award custody of household pets to the plaintiff in a domestic abuse complaint. The House and Senate Judiciary Committees recommended the bills be held for further study.




Rhode Island HB 7167 would expand family court jurisdiction to enter protective orders to provide for the safety and welfare of household pets in domestic abuse situations. The House Judiciary Committee recommended the bill be held for further study.





Rhode Island HB 7585 would create a custody procedure for pets in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee where it was held for further study.


 **West Virginia HB 2855** would have allowed courts to make provisions within a divorce order for the temporary custody and care of pets, including joint custody, allocation of costs and visitation rights for the noncustodial party, taking into consideration the well-being of the animal. **The bill was in the House Judiciary Committee when the legislature adjourned.**

Animal Sexual Abuse

 **H.R. 1494/S.654 -- the PACT (Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture) Act** – would amend and update 18 U.S. Code § 48 to expand the definition of “animal crushing,” as pertains to “crush videos,” to include any act in which animals are subjected to serious bodily injury or conduct that, if committed against a person, would be defined as sexual abuse or aggravated sexual abuse. The Senate version passed unanimously on Dec. 14 and headed to the Judiciary Committee in the House, where it has 281 co-sponsors.


 Existing **Alabama** law prohibits the dissemination, display and possession of obscene material including child pornography and bestiality. **SB 35** would clarify the definition of dissemination by removing the requirement of monetary consideration and would add sharing or trading such visual depictions. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.


 **California AB 3040** would address the state’s bestiality law. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to sexually assault certain animals to gratify a person’s sexual desires. The bill would prohibit sexual contact with any animal punishable as a misdemeanor; such animals could be seized. Veterinarians would be mandated to report suspected animal sexual abuse with immunity from civil liability, as they currently are for reporting animal abuse. The bill was approved 73-0 by the Assembly and is in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.


 **Hawai’i SB 2289** would have created a new crime of sexual assault of an animal as a Class C felony, or a Class B felony if committed in the presence of a minor, and order forfeiture of all animals; prohibit living, working or volunteering with animals for five years; and require psychological or psychiatric counseling or treatment. **The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.**


 **Kentucky SB 239** would establish the crime of sexual activity with animals as a Class A misdemeanor. **It was in the Senate Agriculture Committee when the legislature adjourned.**





 **Louisiana SB 236** updates the current statute, replacing what was called a “crime against nature” with the new crime of “sexual abuse of an animal” with enhanced penalties and provisions for removal of the animal, psychological evaluation for sex offenders, and prohibitions against living, working or volunteering with animals for five years or more. **The bill was signed into law** on May 25 by Gov. John Bel Edwards and became effective immediately.


 **Maryland HB 1134** and **SB 800** would replace the more archaic terms “sodomy,” “bestiality” and “unnatural or perverted sexual practices” with the more contemporary “sexual activity with an animal” and prohibit a wide range of activities designed to promote, coerce, observe, or abet such practices. Convicted offenders would be barred from owning, residing with, or coming into contact with an animal for 30 years. The law would take effect Oct. 1, 2018. Although **HB 1134** passed the House it joined **SB 800** in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where both bills received an unfavorable report.

 **Massachusetts S.2347** would prohibit “sexual contact with animals.” Existing statutes prohibit the more archaic terminology of the “abominable and detestable crime against nature.” The bill also would establish *Cross-Reporting* among child, elder and animal abuse personnel and affect *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*. The bill passed the Senate 36-0 and the House 147-0.


 **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 was included in a Study Order by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.


 **Washington SB 6076** would change the definition of illegal animal sexual contact to include sexual penetration or touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of an animal by force, intimidation, coercion, or where motivated by sexual arousal, sexual gratification or financial gain. The bill is in the Law & Justice Committee.

 **West Virginia HB 4455** passed the House 96-0 and was sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, but **failed to make it out of committee when the legislature adjourned**. The bill would have prohibited sexual abuse of an animal, either by engaging in, aiding or abetting, organizing or promoting, making animals available, or permitting it to be conducted on one’s premises. Violations would have been misdemeanors; however, committing animal sexual abuse in the presence of a child, having prior convictions for sex crimes, or causing serious bodily injury or death to the animal would have made offenses a felony. Courts would have been able to order offenders to surrender all animals and pay for their care and maintenance, prohibit ownership or residence with animals for either 5 or 15 years, and order offenders to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation to be eligible for probation.

 **Wisconsin AB 666** and companion measure **SB 802** would have updated the state’s archaic bestiality law and made it a felony to have sexual contact with an animal, to coerce another to have sexual contact with an animal, or to promote, advertise, harbor, transport, or obtain an animal for the purpose of sexual contact. Current law only makes sexual gratification with an animal a misdemeanor and does not include the other provisions. The bill would have also created escalating degrees of felony if the other person is a child. **AB 666** and **SB 802** were approved by the Assembly and a Senate Committee but **were not allowed to come to a vote in the full Senate**.

“CASA for Animals”

 **Michigan HB 6029** would allow courts to appoint an advocate to represent the interests of an animal in criminal proceedings. The bill is in the House Agriculture Committee.

 **New York A9701** would have allowed a court to order a separate advocate be appointed to represent the interests of justice in animal welfare proceedings. **The bill was in the Judiciary Committee when the Assembly adjourned.**

Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment



Louisiana HB 292 will require courts to allow witnesses who are either under age 18 or developmentally disabled to be accompanied by a facility dog while testifying. Courts will be permitted to allow such facility dogs for any other witnesses. The bill establishes procedures defining facility dogs and their presence in the courtroom. The bill was approved 91-0 by the House and 31-0 by the Senate and **was signed into law** on May 23, taking effect Aug. 1.



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.



The **Michigan** Legislature has approved **HB 5645** that will now allow witnesses of child abuse, child sexual abuse and elder abuse to be accompanied by a trained and evaluated "courtroom support dog." The bill passed the House by a vote of 107-1 and the Senate 36-0 and is scheduled to take effect immediately.



New Jersey A3729 would allow assistance dogs to be used to help facilitate the taking of testimony of victims or witnesses in open court in criminal prosecutions. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



New York S1432 and **A5048** would have criminalized knowingly causing a minor to attend a place where exhibition of animal fighting is being conducted. **S1432** passed the Senate and both bills were in the Assembly Agriculture Committee **when the Legislature adjourned**.



New York S2470 and companion bill **A2140**, and **S728** and companion bill **A3845**, would have increased penalties for aggravated animal cruelty committed in the presence of a child. **S2470** was in the Senate Agriculture and Rules Committees; **A2140** was in the Assembly Codes Committee. **S728** passed the Senate and joined **A3845** in the Assembly Agriculture Committee. **The 4 bills all expired when the State Assembly adjourned**.

Cross-Reporting



Indiana SB 332 and companion bill **HB 1261** ("Protecting pets in distressed homes") would have required Adult Protective Services employees conducting assessments or investigations who have reason to believe an animal is a victim of cruelty, abandonment or neglect to make a report to a law enforcement or animal control agency, with immunity from civil and criminal liability. **The bills died in their respective committees**.





Indiana SB 431 gives APS and CPS workers who observe suspected animal cruelty, abandonment or abuse while conducting an assessment or investigation immunity from civil and criminal liability if they report it to law enforcement or animal control. **The bill was signed into law** on March 15 and became effective July 1, 2018.





Iowa HF 2065 and **SF 129** would require veterinarians to report any conclusion of animal cruelty to the local law enforcement agency, with immunity from civil and criminal liability. It would also require law enforcement agencies investigating animal cruelty complaints to file a child endangerment report with the Department of Human Services if a minor child witnessed the abuse. The bill also


increases penalties for various animal abuse offenses including committing animal torture in the presence of a child, and would allow courts to ban offenders' ownership of animals. The measure would also allow courts to impose psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment upon convicted offenders; such orders would be mandatory for juvenile offenders. The bills are in their respective Agriculture Committees.


 **Kansas HB2530** would have added animal control officers to professionals who are mandated to report suspected abuse or neglect of children and vulnerable adults. The bill was approved by the Committee on Children and Seniors and **the provision was deleted by the House.**


 **Massachusetts S.295** in the Education Committee would make domestic violence workers, animal control officers and humane officers mandated reporters of child sexual abuse. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee where it accompanied a Study Order.

 **Massachusetts S.2347** 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 to a police officer or special state police officer. The bill would add animal control officers as mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse and abuse against disabled persons. Individuals who report in good faith would be immune from civil and criminal liability; confidentiality requirements would not prohibit an individual from making a report. The bill would also affect *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes* and *Animal Sexual Abuse*. The bill passed the Senate 36-0 and the House 147-0.

 **Michigan HB 4441** would amend the Child Protection Law to add animal control officers as mandated reporters of 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, 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 intentional false reporting of animal abuse a felony. The bills are in the Judiciary Committee.

 **Minnesota** veterinarians are mandated to report suspected animal cruelty, abuse and neglect to peace officers, humane agents or animal control officers. **HF 787** and **SF1167** would give them immunity from civil liability. **HF 787** is in the Agriculture Policy Committee and **SF1167** is in the Agriculture, Rural Development & Housing Policy Committee.

 **Mississippi SB 2172** would have required law enforcement officers investigating animal abuse cases to utilize a uniform form to conform with the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System. The bill would also have enhanced penalties for animal cruelty and require youths convicted of aggravated cruelty to a dog or cat to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation. **The bill died in committee.**

 **Missouri HB 2359** would have granted veterinarians, teachers and school personnel immunity from civil liability for reporting suspected animal abuse in good faith to law enforcement agencies. **The bill was in the Crime Prevention & Public Safety Committee when the Legislature adjourned.**



New York S621 and **A4904** would have required 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 agencies and to turn over necessary records. New York veterinarians are currently permitted but are not required to report. **The bills were in the respective Higher Education Committees when the legislature adjourned.**



Ohio HB147 would add agents of the Ohio Humane Society to professionals mandated to report child abuse. It also would repeal a provision of the Humane Society Law that specifically requires humane society agents to remove a child from his or her parents when the agent deems it to be in the child's best interest. Current law designates agents of county humane societies as mandated reporters, but not agents of the Ohio Humane Society. Current law also requires public children's services agencies to prepare a memorandum of understanding to be signed by specified law enforcement and judicial officers in their jurisdiction, including the county humane society; the bill would allow the Ohio Humane Society to be a signatory as well. The bill is in the Civil Justice Committee.



Ohio HB 523 would mandate veterinarians, child protective services, and counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists to report suspected animal abuse, with immunity from liability for good-faith reporting, if a child or older adult resides with the alleged violator. Dog wardens and animal control officers would be required to report suspected child abuse. Military family advocacy programs would have to be notified when military personnel are investigated for child maltreatment or domestic violence. Fines collected from civil penalties for violating pet protective orders would be used to fund shelter and support programs for the animals belonging to victims of domestic violence. The bill was approved by the Community & Family Advancement Committee.



Pennsylvania SB 176 would add animal control and humane society police officers as mandated reporters of child abuse, and social services employees to report animal cruelty. The bill was laid on the table in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



Rhode Island H 7986 would grant immunity from civil and criminal liability to "any person entrusted with the care and custody of an animal," including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal shelter and kennel employees, who reports suspected animal abuse, neglect or abandonment to the police or humane agency in good faith. Failure to report would be punishable by a fine of up to \$500. The reporter would not be obliged to investigate the alleged abuse. The bill passed the House on June 19 and the Senate on June 23.



West Virginia HB 4014 would have required adult protective services workers to report reasonable suspicions of animal abuse or cruelty to the county humane officer within 24 hours, and humane officers to immediately report suspected abuse, neglect or emergencies affecting an incapacitated adult or facility resident. The provisions were part of a larger reorganization of the Department of Health & Human Resources and **did not survive the committee amendment process.**

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



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



Hawai'i SB 2014 would have created a registry of animal cruelty offenders based upon the premise that because “acts of cruelty to one animal has been linked to cruelty to other animals and violence against humans, it is necessary to ensure that persons convicted of cruelty to animals are restricted from interacting with animals.” **The bill was in the Senate Judiciary and Ways & Means Committees when the Legislature adjourned.**



Massachusetts S.2347 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-Reporting* among child, elder and animal abuse personnel and affect *Animal Sexual Abuse*. The bill passed the Senate 36-0 and is in the House Ways & Means Committee.



New Jersey A3693 and **S2239** would add individuals convicted of animal cruelty to the list of offenders of other crimes who are prohibited from possessing a firearm and obtaining a permit to purchase a handgun. The bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Law & Public Safety Committees.



New York S1680 and companion bill **A3038** would have expanded the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to animals during the commission of a felony. **S1680** passed the Senate and was sent to the Assembly Codes Committee; **A3038** was also in in the Codes Committee. **The bills expired when the State Assembly adjourned.**



New York S251 would have expanded animal fighting prohibitions to criminalize promoting, attending, facilitating, training, breeding or selling fighting animals, or selling, manufacturing or owning animal fighting paraphernalia. **The bill was in the Agriculture Committee when the State Assembly adjourned.**

Animal Hoarding



Florida SB 86 would have defined animal hoarding as keeping a large number of companion animals in overcrowded conditions; failing to provide them with minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and medical care; and failure to acknowledge these conditions and the impact on the well-being of the animals or persons. **The bill died in the Criminal Justice Committee.**



New Jersey S 2242 and **A3762** would define animal hoarding as possessing too many animals with inadequate care which leads to death, bodily injury or other serious adverse health consequences, a 4th-degree crime. Courts would be required to order psychological evaluation and counseling for convicted offenders. The bills are in the Senate Environment & Energy Committee and the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.



New York A44 would have created 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 animals and/or people. Offenders would have been required to undergo mental health evaluation and may be required to undergo counseling and be prohibited from owning animals. **The bill was in the Agriculture Committee when the legislature adjourned.**



Rhode Island S2778 would allow the Rhode Island state veterinarian, the R.I. SPCA, or any law enforcement officer to seize animals that are “hazardously accumulated” or otherwise abandoned or neglected. The bill is in the senate Environment & Agriculture Committee.

Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



California SB 1024 would require individuals convicted of any of several animal cruelty offenses to complete and pass a 5-hour course on responsible animal owner education and would allow courts to consider ordering mandatory mental health evaluations for such offenders. The bill’s authors noted that current sentencing options for animal abuse crimes are limited and are not particularly well suited to “addressing the underlying causes behind animal abuse as observed by law enforcement, mental health and animal welfare experts. The link between animal abuse and violence towards humans is well documented,” they wrote. Citing the Parkland, Fla. school shootings and cases of child abuse and domestic violence, they added that “mental health intervention early is the key to stopping this progression and escalation of violent behavior.” The bill was approved by the Senate and was sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.



Iowa SF 2181/HF 2468 would allow courts to require adult animal cruelty offenders to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation and treatment and would mandate such provisions for juveniles and individuals convicted of animal torture, abandonment, endangerment, or aggravated cruelty. The bills are in the Senate Judiciary and House Agriculture Committees.



Maryland HB 1629 would allow a court to order psychological counseling for a defendant convicted of an animal abuse crime. The bill received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.



Mississippi SB 2172 would have allowed courts to order persons convicted of aggravated cruelty to receive a psychiatric or psychological examination and counseling or treatment. **The bill died in the Senate Agriculture and Judiciary Committees.**



Missouri HB 2359 would have allowed allow courts to impose psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment upon convicted animal cruelty offenders. **The bill was in the Crime Prevention & Public Safety Committee when the Legislature adjourned.**

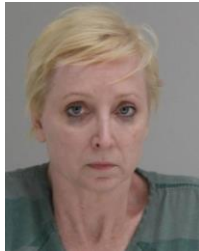


New Jersey law currently requires juveniles (but not adults) convicted of animal cruelty to undergo mental health counseling. **A3049** and **S 1636** would require a mental health evaluation for juvenile and adult animal cruelty offenders, to be followed by mental health counseling if warranted by the evaluation. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Health, Human Services & Senior Citizens Committee. **A3856** and **S2165** would require both juveniles and adults to undergo mental health counseling; those bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Economic Growth Committee.



Existing **Virginia** law permits courts to impose anger management or other appropriate treatment programs, or obtain psychiatric or psychological counseling, upon animal cruelty offenders. **HB 425** would have made such provisions mandatory unless the court finds that the person presents no current or future likelihood of repeating the violation or causing harm to himself or others. **The bill was tabled indefinitely in the Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake & Natural Resources.**

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS



Wife, Fearing Her Own Safety, Charged with Killing Husband While He Beat Their Cat

A Dallas, Texas woman has been arrested and jailed on homicide charges for allegedly shooting her husband for beating the family cat. [NBC-DFW Channel 5](#) reported that Mary Harrison, 47, told Dallas police she shot and killed her husband, Dexter Harrison, during an argument as he was beating their cat. The [Dallas Morning News](#) reported that an affidavit for her arrest stated that she was afraid that he would hurt

her. The affidavit said Dexter Harrison had abused several animals in the home, including a cat and a dog. The SPCA of Texas has custody of those animals as well as the cat, named “Smokey,” who suffered broken ribs and a broken jaw. Dexter Harrison was shot several times and later died at a hospital.

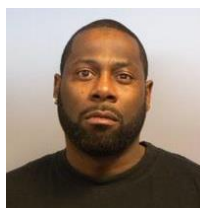
Mary Harrison

Alleged Leader of Dogfighting Ring Said to Have Ties to Gang

Genesee County, Mich. sheriff’s deputies responding to an anonymous tip about four pit bulls chained outside a vacant house wound up seizing 11 dogs and arresting Bruce Cayton, 32, of Flint, on 17 felony charges relating to animal fighting and abuse. [WJRT-TV](#) reported that Cayton has a lengthy criminal history dating back more than a decade with ties to gang activities. Officers also seized illegal narcotics and drug paraphernalia.



Bruce Cayton



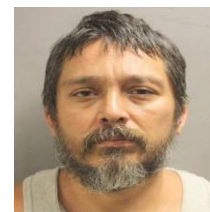
Child Sex Offender Charged with Beatings that Disfigured Puppy

A registered sex offender has been charged with animal abuse for allegedly beating a 10-month-old puppy on 10 different occasions. The [Racine, Wis. Journal Times](#) reported that Terrence Lamont Howard, 43, of Racine told investigators he beat the dog because it would “tear up the trash.” Witnesses, including children, apparently saw the beatings which included his using a pipe, belt, and his fists. The beatings have left the dog permanently disfigured. Howard was convicted in 2005 of felony charges stemming from a 1993 sexual assault of a child and has a lifetime registration as a sex offender.

Terrence Howard

Man Accused of Breaking Dog’s Legs After Arguing with his Wife

Eric Lopez, 46, of Spring, Texas, was charged with animal cruelty and assault of a family member for allegedly breaking the legs of a small dog in the course of an argument with his wife. [KPRC-TV](#) reported that officials said that Lopez and his wife were having an argument when he allegedly hit her with a hockey stick and choked her and picked up the family’s pet Chihuahua and split its legs apart



Eric Lopez

Ex-Boyfriend Charged with Assaulting Woman and Beating Her Protective Dog



Joshua Stachelek

A Southington, Conn. man is facing multiple charges after authorities said he broke the nose and eye socket of his ex-girlfriend and punched and kicked the German shepherd that was trying to protect her. The [Meriden Record-Journal](#) reported that Joshua Stachelek, 24, was charged with assault, sexual assault, threatening, unlawful restraint, interfering with police, and disorderly conduct. The woman eventually broke free from the assault and drove to a friend's house. Stachelek has previous convictions for assault and unlawful restraint. Prosecutors said a charge of cruelty to animals would be added at Stachelek's next court date. A judge set bond at \$125,000 and entered a protective order barring him from any contact with the woman and the dog. Connecticut has allowed pets to be included in protection-from-abuse orders since 2007.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

July 13 – Irving, Texas: The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its monthly meeting.

July 23 – Oxford, U.K.: Randy Lockwood will discuss “Bringing Animal Cruelty Investigation into Mainstream Law Enforcement” at the 5th Annual [Oxford Animal Ethics Summer School](#). Kathy Hessler will discuss the new laws in Alaska and Illinois allowing courts to grant custody of pets in the animals' best interests in divorce settlements. Hessler and David Rosengard will discuss “Desmond's Law,” the Connecticut provision for “CASA for animals,” pro bono representation of animals in court in cruelty cases.

July 23-27 – Loudoun County, Va.: “The Relationship of Animal Abuse and Family Violence” will be included in the [National Animal Cruelty Investigations School](#)'s Level III training for Expert investigators.

Aug. 6 -9 – Aurora, Colo.: Phil Arkow will speak to the [Metro Denver Animal Welfare Alliance](#) , [Aurora Animal Services](#), and the [Aurora City Attorney's Office](#) about The Link.

Aug. 10 -- Dallas, Texas: The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its monthly meeting.

Aug. 15 – Philadelphia, Pa.: Phil Arkow will conduct a Link training for the [Pennsylvania Bar Institute](#) Animal Law Conference.

Sept. 6 – Buffalo, N.Y.: Phil Arkow will lecture at the [Buffalo Academy of Veterinary Medicine](#).

Sept. 9-14 – Aurora, Ill.: “The Relationship of Animal Abuse and Family Violence” will be included in the [National Animal Cruelty Investigations School](#)'s Level III training for Expert investigators.

Sept. 11 (online): John Thompson will conduct a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar on “The Dynamics of Officer Involved Shootings of Dogs” on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association.

Sept. 12 – Norman, Okla.: Phil Arkow will speak about “The Cruelty Connection: Breaking the Chain of Domestic Violence by Preventing Animal Abuse” at the [Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault](#) Partners for Change conference.

Sept. 17 – Camden, N.J.: Phil Arkow will provide professional development training on The Link for providers and advocates in the [New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy](#).

Sept. 18 – Saskatoon, Sask., Canada: Leanne Sillers will discuss “Lifting Barriers: How Animal Safekeeping Programs Can Help the Victims of Violence,” and Jessi Rassmussen will present “Supporting the Victims of Domestic Violence in the Workplace,” at the [Saskatchewan SPCA’s](#) 2018 conference.

Oct. 5 – Madison, Wis.: Phil Arkow will speak at [Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims](#) (S.A.A.V.)’s conference on “The Link between Family Violence and Animal cruelty: A Community-Wide Approach to Breaking the Cycle of Abuse.”

Oct. 10 (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a webinar on “Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence” for the [National Organization for Victim Assistance Academy](#).

Oct. 11 – Windsor, Ont., Canada: The University of Windsor Animal and Interpersonal Abuse Research Group, the Windsor-Essex County Humane Society, and Hiatus House will hold an all-day pre-conference [Institute](#) on research, theory and practice specific to the intersection of violence against animals and women within the context of domestic violence.

Oct. 12 – Rochester, N.Y.: Phil Arkow will conduct a multi-disciplinary Link training on behalf of the [Humane Society of Greater Rochester](#).

Oct. 12 – Denver, Colo.: Chris Schindler will present “Breaking the Sickest Link: Conducting Effective Bestiality Investigations” at the National Animal Care & Control Association’s [Training Conference](#).

Oct. 17-19 – Plano, Texas: The [Collin County Council on Family Violence](#) will hold its 16th Annual North Texas Families Facing Violence conference.

Oct. 18 – Guelph, Ont., Canada: Phil Arkow will present on “Making the Cruelty Connection: A Species-Spanning Approach to Safer Families and Communities” to the [Association of Animal Shelter Administrators of Ontario](#).

Oct. 22-23 – Oklahoma City, Okla.: The Kirkpatrick Foundation will sponsor the [Oklahoma Animal Conference](#) as part of its Safe & Humane initiative.

Nov. 2 – Newton, N.J.: Phil Arkow will speak on The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence at the [Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services](#) conference and help launch the Sussex County Coalition to Stop Violence Against People and Animals.

Nov. 7-9 – Louisville, Ky.: Randy Lockwood, Maya Gupta, Martha Smith-Blackmore, Gale Rasin, and Mary Lou Randour will present at the 8th [National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#), hosted by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in partnership with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Nov. 14-17 – Atlanta, Ga.: Nuria Querol will present “Violent Crime and Animal Abuse: Scientific Framework and Practical Approaches” at the [American Society of Criminology](#) conference.

Nov. 15 – Anchorage, Alaska: Allie Phillips will speak at the [Alaska Children’s Alliance](#) conference on “The Co-occurrence of Animal Abuse and Violence to Humans: Investigation and Prosecution Strategies,” “Detecting and Reporting Animal Abuse for Human Welfare Professionals and Communities,” and “Incorporating Therapy Animals with Crime Victims.”

Nov. 17-18 – Melbourne, Australia: [Lucy's Project](#) will hold its national conference addressing practical perspectives of the domestic violence/animal abuse Link.

Nov. 23 – Calgary, Alberta, Canada: Phil Arkow will speak at the [Alberta Veterinary Medical Association](#)'s Veterinary Forensics Workshop.

Nov. 28 (online): Michelle Welch will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on "Combating Cock Fighting: What Investigators and Prosecutors Need to Know."

Dec. 3-7 – San Antonio, Texas: "The Relationship of Animal Abuse and Family Violence" will be included in the [National Animal Cruelty Investigations School](#)'s Level III training for Expert investigators.

Dec. 13 (online): Jessica Rock will conduct a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar on "Animal Cruelty Investigations and Prosecutions" on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association.

Jan. 15, 2019 (online): Michelle Welch will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on "The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Abuse: Understanding the Link to Help Investigate and Prosecute Your Cases."

Feb. 21, 2019 (online): Jessica Rock will conduct a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar on "Dog Fighting Investigations and Prosecutions" on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association.

March 5, 2019 (online): Michelle Welch will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on "Creating an Animal Abuse & Cruelty Unit for Your Agency."

Sept. 9, 2019 – Edinburgh, Scotland: Phil Arkow will be the keynote speaker at the [Scottish SPCA](#) and University of Edinburgh conference on Animal Welfare Education and The Link.



**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.

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

Founder/President, American Veterinary Charitable Fund
Consultant, Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
Columbus City Attorney's Office/Prosecution Division
Blowing Rock, N. Car.

Diane Balkin, J.D.

Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund
Past President, Int'l. Veterinary Forensic Sciences Assn.
Denver, Colo.

Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Exec. Director, Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio

Robin Brock

Advocacy Programs Manager
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Denver, Colo..

Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Research,
ASPCA Strategy & Research Division
Woodstock, Ga.

Jane A. Hunt

Community Volunteer
Loveland, Colo.

Mark Kumpf, CAWA

Past President, National Animal Control Association
Director, Montgomery County Animal Resource Center
Dayton, Ohio

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President, Anti-Cruelty Special Projects
ASPCA
Falls Church, Va.

Paul Needham

Chair, Education Committee,
National Adult Protective Services Association
Shawnee, Okla.

Maria Luisa O'Neill

Account Representative, Wages & Investments
U.S. Department of the Treasury,
Internal Revenue Service
Denver, Colo.

Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D.

Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Welfare Division
American Veterinary Medical Association
Schaumburg, Ill.

Allie Phillips, J.D.

Director, Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T)
Lansing, Mich.

Gale Rasin, J.D.

Retired Associate Judge, Baltimore City Circuit Court,
Chestertown, Md.

Chris Risley-Curtiss, MSSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor *Emerita*,
Arizona State University School of Social Work
Gaston, S. Car.

Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM

President, Forensic Veterinary Investigations, LLC
Boston, Mass.

Hugh Tebault III

President,
The Latham Foundation
Alameda, Calif.

John Thompson

Deputy Executive Director/Chief of Staff
National Sheriffs Association
Director, National Coalition on Violence Against Animals
Alexandria, Va.