



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 11, No. 11 November 2018**

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



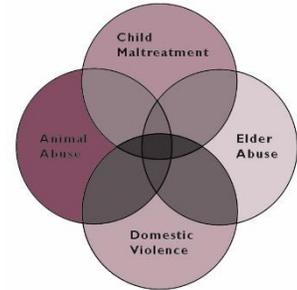
**ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE**



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

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

SUBSCRIBE – It's Free!!



## ***ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE***

### **Study Examines Animal Abuse Histories of Mass and Active Shooters**

Although research on the tendency of serial killers to hurt or torture animals assumes that animal abuse often predates or predicts future acts of mass murder, it is unclear as to whether this assumption extends to “mass” shooters (who kill four or more victims) and “active” shooters (those lacking a minimum threshold. Arnold Arluke, Adam Lankford and Eric Madfis have compiled their most recent and comprehensive study to date of this phenomenon.



**Arnold Arluke, Adam Lankford, and Eric Madfis**

They identified common characteristics among serial and active/mass shooters: tendencies to kill strangers in a premeditated rather than impulsive fashion; and personality traits of entitlement, callousness and instinctual aggressiveness. The study examined the prevalence of animal abuse in the histories of adolescent and adult offenders; features distinguishing shooters with and without animal abuse histories; and the nature of animal abuse when it was reported.

In 88 cases of public mass shootings in the U.S. from 1982 – 2018, nine offenders (10.2%) had histories of animal abuse. However, the incidence of animal abuse increased to 16.7% of white mass shooters and 25% of mass shooters under age 25. Shooters with histories of animal abuse appear to be young, white, less likely to die at the crime scene, and more likely to kill and wound a large number of victims.

Common features were found in the animal abuse committed by these individuals: 75% of cases occurred during the offender’s childhood, 75% occurred up close and at close range, 65% involved dogs and cats as the victims, and 35% involved mutilating the animal’s body.

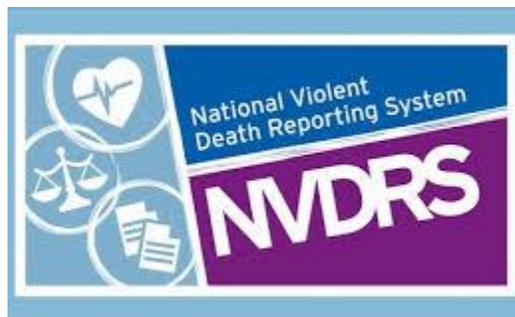
They cautioned that the low percentage of animal abusers should not be considered a robust signal of future shooters in general. They added that shooters who brag about their animal abuse exploits may be part of a “toxic masculinity and attention-seeking desires.”

**-- Arluke, A., Lankford, A., & Madfis, E. (2018). Harming animals and massacring humans: Characteristics of public mass and active shooters who abused animals. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 1-13.**

## Animal Abuse Links with Violent Deaths May Be Tracked by the CDC

People seeking data on the incidence of animal abuse and its correlation with other crimes and family violence have long been frustrated by the absence of a national database. In 2016, the FBI began to correct this information gap by adding four types of animal cruelty into its National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) (*See the [March 2016 LINK-Letter](#)*). When implementation is rolled out, police, sheriffs and other law enforcement officials in thousands of jurisdictions will be able to easily log cases of simple and gross neglect, intentional animal abuse, organized animal abuse, and animal sexual abuse for data collection and evaluation.

It turns out there is a second national database system that had similarly long ignored the impact of animal abuse on human health and safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention manages the [National Violent Death Reporting System \(NVDRS\)](#) to provide states and communities with clearer understanding of violent deaths to guide local decisions about preventing violence and tracking progress over time. The NVDRS, established in 2002, gathers information about homicides, particularly cases perpetrated during intimate partner violence and child abuse, plus suicides, unintentional firearms injuries, individuals killed by law enforcement in the line of duty, and deaths of undetermined intent.



The data on violent deaths include other co-occurring crimes. Through the efforts of John Thompson, Deputy Executive Director of the National Sheriffs Association and a member of the National Link Coalition's steering committee, the NVDRS may soon include cases of animal cruelty as correlated crimes linked with violent deaths.

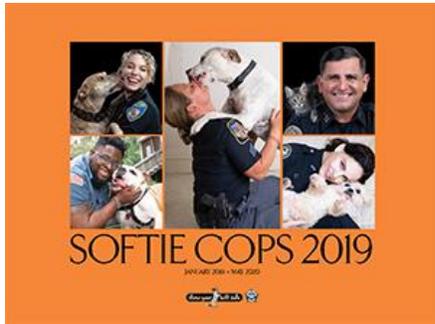


Thompson met with CDC officials in October. "As we thought, they had never recognized animal abuse as an important data element for the NVDRS data. After our discussion, they not only got it but they were energized to make sure animal abuse data gets included," he says.

"They are going to look into how it can best be collected. We all agreed that just adding one data element of animal abuse, even though it wouldn't be specific, would allow people who search the database to find out if that was a link with the violent death report."

In addition, the CDC's IT director will conduct a word search in the current database for anything to do with animals. "This will tell them if they've already been collecting information on animal abuse through the narrative part of the reporting system. Very exciting!" exclaims Thompson.

Like NIBRS, the NVDRS information is generated at the state level. The NSA presented to the Nebraska NVDRS recently. "They were receptive to the idea and now understand the value of including animal abuse data."



## Calendar Depicts the “Soft Side” of Cops

The widely acclaimed “[Show Your Soft Side](#)” campaign in Baltimore, Md., which depicts tough-guy athletes and celebrities cuddling their pets to demonstrate that it’s not cool to be unkind to animals (*See the [October 2016 LINK-Letter](#)*) has expanded its focus with a fundraising calendar showing law enforcement officers from around the US snuggling with their animals.

The 2019 calendar features uniformed and non-uniformed police and sheriffs from Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, Alabama, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, North Dakota, California, and Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) to order the calendars.

The calendar was produced in collaboration with the National Sheriffs Association and its National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse and National Coalition on Violence Against Animals. “We salute these officers and hope this calendar inspires others to follow their lead,” says Show Your Soft Side founder Caroline A. Griffin. “We are proud to partner with NSA in honoring some of the nation’s top Softie cops who go above and beyond in helping animals and holding abusers accountable.”

## Dialogue Increases Over Barring Animal Abusers from Owning Guns



The National Link Coalition was one of several groups quoted in a blog describing federal and state measures that would bar convicted animal abusers from owning firearms. Triggered by the introduction of **H.R. 6278, the AVERT (Animal Abuse Exposes Real Threat) Future Gun**

**Violence Act** in Congress (*See the [September 2018 LINK-Letter](#)*), and increasing evidence of The Link between animal abuse and human violence, the [Fair Warning](#) news service posted the article on Oct. 24.

Author Lynne Peeples noted that under federal law, a person convicted of felony or misdemeanor domestic violence loses a legal right to own a gun, given domestic violence’s red-flag potential for future violence. Scientific and anecdotal evidence about animal abuse is prompting similar responses.

“As we look at some of the recent mass shootings from Columbine to Parkland to Sutherland Springs, these perpetrators had a history of animal abuse. Addressing this pattern of behavior is a part of the solution for preventing gun violence and hopefully saving lives,” said U.S. Rep. Katherine M. Clark (D-Mass.), sponsor of the AVERT bill. Two similar measures – **A 3693** and **S 2239** – have been introduced in **New Jersey** and the Illinois State Crime Commission is recommending similar legislation.

Gun rights and farm industry groups are already gearing up opposition, much as the NRA did to oppose state bans against domestic violence offenders before the federal legislation was passed. Countered Illinois Crime Commission Executive Director Jerry Elsner: “I’m not anti-gun. I’m anti-animal abuse.”

“Investigating animal cruelty cases aggressively can also stop other violence,” said National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow. “Law enforcement just doesn’t get it, but that is changing,” said National Sheriffs Association Deputy Executive Director John Thompson. “I wish I’d had the knowledge about The Link back when I was a detective,” said Joye Estes of a Kentucky Link group. “Based on what we know about those who perpetrate animal cruelty, there are good reasons to keep guns out of their hands,” said researcher Clifton Flynn.

## Police Chiefs Learn about Animal Abuse and NIBRS



April Doherty, of the Baltimore County, Md. District Attorney's Office, and Sheriff Bill Bohnyak of Orange County, Vt., presented on the recent addition of four types of animal cruelty offenses to the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Orlando, Fla. Their program was presented at IACP's 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition.

## *ANIMAL ABUSE &... CHILD MALTREATMENT*

### Public Defender's Office Gets First Facility Dog for Abused Children



What is believed to be the nation's first facility dog in a public defender's office to comfort sexually abused children has arrived in Lake County, Ill. "Simba," a 2-year-old Labrador retriever, is assigned to the Lake County Public Defender's guardian ad litem office and will bring comfort to children at the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex.

"We are just so excited to have him here," division chief Keith Grant told the [Daily Herald](#). "The ground on how to use dogs in court settings has already been walked on. This is just a new path we are following."

**Simba is ready to go to work**

Simba is actually the fourth dog in the Lake County judicial system. "Mitch" and "Hitch" work with the state's attorney's office and "Browser" is an electronic detection canine in the cybercrimes lab. Public defenders were inspired to bring Simba into their program after seeing how children responded to Mitch and Hitch by calming down and becoming more willing to open up and answer delicate questions.

"As public defenders, we always strive to connect with all of our clients so that we can help them make the best decisions regarding their cases. Simba helps us to forge that connection," said Public Defender Joy Gossman. "Sometimes something as simple as petting a friendly dog can make a big difference."

## CPS Alerts SPCA; Child Endangerment and Cruelty Charges Filed

Last June, a Child Protective Services agency investigating a child welfare situation in Van Zandt County, Texas alerted the Dallas-based SPCA of Texas to a residence with an excessive number of animals. At the time, the SPCA was denied access to the home and was unable to obtain enough evidence to establish probable cause for a search and seizure warrant.



**SPCA investigators donned breathing apparatus to counter the high ammonia levels**

On Oct. 19, however, the Van Zandt County Sheriff's office notified the SPCA of additional evidence indicating unhealthy living conditions and potential animal abuse. A search warrant was obtained, and on Oct. 26 the SPCA seized 110 animals from the feces- and urine-filled home: 39 puppies, 35 dogs, 24 cats, 11 kittens, and one horse. The [SPCA reported](#) that ammonia levels in the home were reported to be 279 parts per million, far above the 12 ppm level deemed to cause human health problems over long-term exposure.

Thelma Jayne Morrison-Duff, 61, and Darrell Duff, 58, were arrested and each charged with three counts of child endangerment and one count of animal cruelty, The [Dallas Morning News](#) reported.

## ANIMAL-ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS FOR CRIME VICTIMS

### Animal-Assisted Therapy Coming to Victims in Nashville



**Bethanie Poe**

[H.A.B.I.T.](#) – the Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee program that since 1986 has been providing community-based animal-assisted interventions in eastern Tennessee, has received a three-year, \$380,000 VOCA grant from the Tennessee Victims of Crime/Office of Criminal Justice Programs to expand its work to assist victims of crime in middle Tennessee. Program director

Bethanie Poe, whose background includes work with Tennessee's Coalition Against Domestic Violence, tells *The LINK-Letter* that the program will initiate its work in Nashville and Davidson County, serving domestic violence shelters, juvenile justice facilities, rape crisis centers, children's advocacy centers, and family justice centers. H.A.B.I.T. is recruiting and screening animal-assisted therapy teams and developing protocols to work within these specifically-targeted victim centers.



## ANIMAL ABUSE &... ELDER ABUSE

### Federal Grant Funds Available for Training and Services

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) is making grants available for enhanced training and services to end abuse in later life. Eligible applicants are limited to: states; units of local government; tribal governments or organizations; population-specific organizations with demonstrated experience in assisting individuals over 50 years of age; victim service providers with demonstrated experience in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and state, tribal, or territorial domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions. The deadline for applying is Jan. 8, 2019. [Full details](#) about the program, eligibility and procedures are available online.

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



### **Bill to Pay for Survivors' Pet Boarding Costs Vetoed**

A landmark bill in California to provide emergency assistance for the pet survivors of domestic violence was defeated on Sept. 30 when Gov. Jerry Brown unexpectedly vetoed **AB 1939**. The measure would have expanded provisions of the California Victim Compensation program to allow the costs of temporary housing for the pets of domestic violence victims, up to \$40 per day for up to three days, to be reimbursable as part of relocation expenses.

**Gov. Jerry Brown**

In a message to the California State Assembly explaining his reasoning for vetoing the measure, Brown said, "While this bill is well intended, a victim staying in a domestic violence shelter or other temporary housing situation will likely need much more assistance than this bill provides. It would be more appropriate to seek a different funding source which can provide a more comprehensive benefit that would truly complement the services that are now available."

### **Pet-Friendly Shelter Helps Survivors in Rochester, N.Y.**



After two years of planning and communicating with other pet-friendly shelters, the [Willow Domestic Violence Center](#) in Rochester, N.Y. opened its pet kennels on Valentine's Day 2018. The two dog runs and cat cages have already housed 14 pets for 52 safe people/safe pets nights at the 49-bed emergency shelter. The center's hotline receives an average of 15 calls per day. The kennel area was part of an \$8.5 million capital campaign and expanded the "Mary Ellen" pet foster care program with Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Greater Rochester. "We know pets help people heal and pets want to be with their

people," said Willow President & CEO Meaghan de Chateauvieux. "This is a true collaboration that removes an unnecessary barrier to leaving."



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

## Survivors' Tales from the Front Lines of The Link

Diana Webster, President/CEO of the Native America Humane Society, commemorated Domestic Violence Awareness Month by sharing her first-person experience with The Link. We applaud Diana for her ongoing work to make Native Americans more aware of The Link on tribal lands.



### He Was Going to Kill My Puppy if I Didn't Go with Him: A Memory for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2018

Most of the work we do at the Native America Humane Society (NAHS) is very personal to me. And so many times, it's very painful. But I was always taught that we don't talk about ourselves or our problems. It just wasn't our way. However, we are raising awareness on how abusers can use animals to control and manipulate their victims so I am writing this now to tell you my own experience.

#### "He Had a Bad Temper"

When I was in my late teens, I became involved with a young man who "had a bad temper." That's how his mother described it and that's how he saw himself. Someone with a bad temper. This bad temper manifested often. Sometimes we'd be out having fun and it would be like someone would turn a switch and all of a sudden the windshield of the car would be cracked and his fist would be bloody or there'd be a hole in the wall. He seemed to glory in the power over me and the fear he generated.

One day we were together at my family's house. I still lived at home and my mother had just gotten two new puppies that were so adorable. Baba and Minnow. It wasn't too long before something set off this man with the bad temper and he took Minnow in his hand and marched out of the house, his face crazy, to the front yard, shouting to me "I'm going to kill him, Dee. I'm going to kill him if you don't come with me." I was hysterical and screaming as he held that little puppy up in the air by the neck. I didn't know what to do. Well, my mother was many things but that day she ran out of the house and pulled her 5'2" Anishinaabe-self up in his face and said, "You put that puppy down. You put that puppy down NOW." I'm shaking and crying as I write this because it's so deeply painful and scary *still* after 40-plus years. That's how long trauma stays buried inside of us. Somehow, my mother with her tone of voice and huge inner strength backed this bully down and he gave her the puppy. But things could have been so much worse for *all of us* in this situation.

#### We Start to Believe That We Are To Blame

I wish I could say that I ended things with him right then and there but I didn't. Somehow he had convinced me it was all my fault that he was always so angry. It took another year and many more dangerous episodes but I finally broke free. I was the lucky one. My cousin Rhoda did not escape and died at the hands of her abuser.

Writing this was very, very hard for me but the point of sharing my own story is to tell everyone that using animals to control and manipulate victims of violence is common and pervasive. When you have pets, it also gets more complicated to leave and find safety for both yourself and your animals. If my situation had been one where we were living together, I know I wouldn't have left that puppy in danger with this man. I would have stayed and endured the abuse.

#### Find Help

If this is happening to you in any way, shape, or form, please find a way to leave as soon as you can. It's not okay to be hit, threatened, intimidated, belittled, or subjected to any of the behaviors that can make it seem like you're the one making another person mad and it's not okay that pets are used to manipulate and control you.

Please know that it's not your fault and there are people who can help. You are not alone.

With love in my heart for all,  
Diana

## Police Agencies Recognize Animal Abuse as Domestic Violence Threat

Police agencies on both sides of the Atlantic are coming to recognize the sentinel significance of threat or harm to animals as a warning sign of intimate partner violence.

The London Police Service in the United Kingdom has taken notice of The Link and includes the threat to family pets as one of the four key warning signs of emotional abuse in domestic violence. The Police Service's [website](#) lists "causing harm or threatening to harm other family members or pets" as emotional abuse.



Other signs include threats of physical harm; threats to damage personal property and possessions; and damage to possessions to create fear or gain control. The Police Service also lists signs of physical abuse, sexual abuse, criminal harassment, and other issues of power and control.

"The London Police Service has been a leader in helping victims of domestic violence," advises the website. "We are here to help you when you're most in need. We understand calling us is hard and we know that it is one of the bravest moves a person can make. If someone you care about has hurt you or you do not feel safe, call us. We are here to help. We want to meet you in person and help you in any way we can."



In Madison, Wis., the Police Department uses a Domestic Violence Danger Assessment form with a checklist of 15 issues in the suspect's history that indicate a high risk for escalated domestic violence. Item 15 asks the survivor, "Has s/he ever threatened or killed pets?"

Other checklist questions include threats of suicide, stalking behaviors, unemployment, access to firearms, substance abuse, forced sex, acts of physical violence, and the survivor's fear of being killed.

## Literature Review Compiles Statistics, Identifies Gaps in Services



**The FREDa Centre**  
for Research on Violence  
Against Women and Children

An [extensive review of the literature](#) on animal abuse's links with domestic violence has been published by the FREDa Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. The 14-page study was commissioned by the Paws for Hope Animal Foundation which cares for pets in need, educates the community and supports the animal welfare sector in the Canadian province.



The report documents "a significant gap in support for individuals in abusive situations who have pets. This gap frequently results in individuals remaining with their abuser often to their and their pets' peril."

The review was compiled by Vanja Zdjelar, a graduate student in criminology at Simon Fraser. It includes extensive citations on: family bonds between people and their companion animals; statistics on co-occurring violence against people and animals; the lack of adequate resources to assist human and animal abuse victims; and implications for shelters and veterinarians

## ***ANIMAL ABUSE &... VETERINARY MEDICINE*** **Link Featured at Veterinary Social Work Summit**



The Link between animal and human abuse is one of the four pillars of [Veterinary Social Work](#). Combined with grief and bereavement services, animal-assisted interventions and compassion fatigue/conflict management, veterinary social workers help practitioners address the human side of veterinary medicine. The Link was featured at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Veterinary Social Work Summit in October at the University of Tennessee. At left, Jim Thompson and

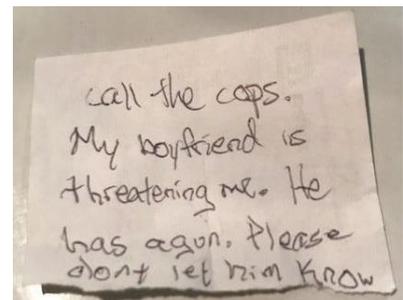


David Dupper, Deans of the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Social Work, respectively, celebrate their unique collaboration linking the two disciplines. At right, VSW founder Elizabeth Strand addresses the audience of some 100 multidisciplinary participants who came from across the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Brazil. The Summit's overall theme was "Animals and Poverty."



## **Video Captures Veterinary Staff Aiding Domestic Violence Survivor**

In the [June 2018 LINK-Letter](#), we described an incident at a veterinary clinic in Deland, Fla., in which a woman was being held at gunpoint by her abusive boyfriend. She was able to slip a handwritten note to staff asking them to quietly call the police. Officers arrived on the scene within five minutes and the man was arrested. The entire incident was captured on video surveillance cameras and a [dramatic video](#) is available online. We salute the dedicated staff of the hospital who recognized the severity of the situation and responded promptly, professionally, and compassionately.



## Veterinary Forensics Master's Program Being Developed in Italy



The application of veterinary forensics to better inform the investigation and prosecution of animal abuse cases is being expanded to Italy, where a course on the “Zooanthropology of Deviance” has been included in the second-level master’s program in veterinary forensic sciences at the Federico II University of Naples. This is believed to be the first program of its kind in Europe.

“I am proud that this Master’s in Veterinary Forensic Science has been created in our department,” Gaetano Oliva, director of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, told a TV interviewer. The current situation requires veterinarians to become protagonists, in cooperation with police, in the identification of crimes against animals which have largely been under-investigated until now, he said.

The curriculum includes theoretical and practical information for the investigation of animal abuse crimes and aims to develop a checklist of injuries to animals that should alert practitioners to the identification of a possible crime. “This is the standardization of a procedure that will favor both the work of the veterinarians and that of psychologists, psychiatrists and judicial police,” he added.

The program will train 25 veterinarians each year to become qualified consultants to police and judges by providing the evidence to identify an animal abuse offender. Instructors will include judges and lawyers.

The program was created to meet the growing exigencies of a society that considers animals as sentient beings protected by Italy’s Criminal Code, but not adequately supported by a professional competence that can guarantee justice for the perpetrators of criminal acts against animals. The multidisciplinary curriculum will include training in biology, toxicology, veterinary pathology, the psychological sciences, and studies of the criminal profiles of animal abusers and killers.

## Maryland Seeks Comments on Mandatory Reporting Provisions



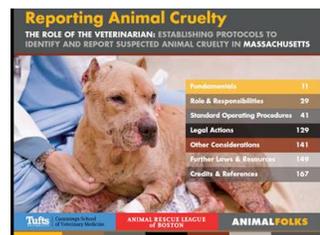
The Maryland Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is accepting until Nov. 15 public comments regarding [proposed regulations](#) that would clarify the state’s new law that requires veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty or fighting that they encounter in their practice (*See the [July 2017 LINK-Letter](#)*). The law requires practitioners to provide details about the identities of the animals and their owners or custodians, the nature of the suspected abuse or fighting, and any other information that would inform an investigation. Veterinarians who report in good faith are exempt from civil and criminal liability; failure to report can result in disciplinary action from the Board.

The proposed regulations clarify the reporting provisions in greater detail, including: definitions; reporting requirements; confidentiality requirements; and potential disciplinary action.

The Board has a [page on its website](#) with extensive background information and resources for veterinarians on veterinary reporting responsibilities, including Maryland’s criminal code statutes on animal cruelty, a listing of agencies where reports should be made, and information from the ASPCA, AVMA and other sources.

## Massachusetts Veterinary Reporting Manual Being Distributed Widely

The [manual](#) to help Massachusetts veterinarians recognize and respond to suspected animal abuse (*See the August 2018 LINK-Letter*) is being widely distributed in the Commonwealth. An executive summary with online links to *Reporting Animal Cruelty: The Role of the Veterinarian: Establishing Protocols to Identify and Report Suspected Animal Cruelty in Massachusetts* will be distributed by the Board of Registration of Veterinary Medicine to all practitioners at the time of their mandated license renewal for 2019.



“Veterinarians must use their position to be a voice for the voiceless and we are glad to collaborate with the Animal Rescue League of Boston in ensuring those in the profession are equipped with the resources they need to protect animals from harm,” said John Chapman, Undersecretary of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

The manual is now also part of the curriculum for students at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. The school collaborated with the Animal Rescue League and Animal Folks of Minnesota to adapt the Minnesota version for use in Massachusetts.

The manual emerged after the 2014 PAWS (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety) Act mandated veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to law enforcement officials. It guides veterinarians to develop protocols for their clinic or practice to inform their reporting of cases of animal neglect, abuse and cruelty. It also includes overviews of The Link and sections on immunity, confidentiality and liability.

## THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE

### Killing Animals Seen as Vehicle to Manage Mortality Terror

Terror management theory posits that human awareness of the inevitability of death exerts a profound influence on human thought, emotion, motivation, and behavior. People manage the potential for anxiety that results from this awareness by maintaining faith in the absolute validity of their cultural worldviews and self-esteem by living up to those standards of value. This research tested whether support for killing animals serves a terror management function. In five studies, death primes caused participants to support the killing of animals more than control primes unless the participants’ self-esteem had been elevated. This effect was not moderated by gender, preexisting attitudes toward killing animals or animal rights, perceived human–animal similarity, religiosity, political orientation, or by the degree to which the killing was justified. Support for killing animals after subliminal death primes was also associated with an increased sense of power and invulnerability.

-- Lifshin, U., Greenberg, J., Zestcott, C.A. (2017). *The evil animal: A terror management theory perspective on the human tendency to kill animals. Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 43(6), 743-757*



### What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

## ***BUILDING LINK AWARENESS***

### **Animal Ethics Program to Consider Humane Education and The Link**

*The Ferrater Mora*  
Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics



The question of whether humane education helps expose the Link between animal abuse and human violence is one of a dozen provocative subjects that will be raised at the 6<sup>th</sup> Oxford Summer School on Animal Ethics, July 21-24, 2019 at the University of Oxford in the U.K. A [call for papers](#) is inviting educators, ethicists, historians, lawyers, criminologists, philosophers, theologians, psychologists, social scientists, humane society representatives, and others from around the globe to participate and present. Summer School director Clair Linzey says the program will also publish a pioneering book on humane education.

Other topics to be addressed include: whether empathy can be taught; whether education makes people more humane; the role of humane education in protecting people and animals; the effectiveness of current humane education efforts; and whether humans are naturally violent.

Abstracts of proposed presentations should be sent by Feb. 1 to [Linzey](#).



### **Saskatchewan SPCA is Getting the Word Out**

Program Director Sandra Anderson and Animal Safekeeping Coordinator Leanne Sillers of the Saskatchewan

SPCA in Canada were recently interviewed on “Talk to the Experts,” on radio station CKOM. A podcast of the interview is on [YouTube](#). The SSPCA has also published [three downloadable flyers](#) addressing The Link and, specifically, how human services agencies and animal welfare organizations can provide safety planning for the animal survivors of domestic violence. The flyers, while specific to the province, can readily serve as templates for other agencies to adapt for use in their own communities.



### **Link Awareness on Display at US Air Base in Okinawa**



Baltimore’s “Show Your Soft Side” campaign ([See the June 2017 LINK-Letter](#)), with posters of tough-guy athletes, celebrities and law enforcement officers cuddling pets, came to Okinawa with awareness of The Link and a message that it’s not cool to be cruel. The Paws Against Family Violence [event](#), hosted by the U.S. Army, Air Force and Marine Corps family advocacy agencies at Kadena Air Base, attracted over 100 people. A walk for the animals and a display where children could write what they like about their families augmented the “Softies” posters.

## Link Conference Builds Awareness in Rochester, N.Y.

The Link between animal abuse and human violence was the theme of the Humane Society of Greater Rochester, N.Y.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> Animal Crimes Conference. Phil Arkow of the National Link Coalition delivered a keynote address for the event which featured many local and national speakers. A multidisciplinary audience of 98 people from western New York took home strategies for implementing Link activities.



**Monroe County Sheriff Todd Baxter** said, "As we look at crimes and put the pieces together, we find animal abuse is a pre-indicator of domestic violence and school shootings. The more we learn about The Link, the better we will be at preventing those crimes and protecting people."



**Meaghan de Chateauvieux of the Willow Domestic Violence Center** said, "Pets are often used as pawns in power and control in domestic violence households."



**Lisa Lunghofer of the Animals & Society Institute** said, "For those of us working with children, we need to think of exposure to animal cruelty as an Adverse Childhood Experience leading to adverse outcomes in adulthood."



**Humane Society cruelty investigator Reno Di Domenico** described how his prior career in law enforcement did not address The Link. "We weren't given any training on animals. We ignored the signs that if there was something with animals there might be something else going on."



**Nicole Heath of the Central New York Animal Cruelty Task Force** said, "We've had three assistant district attorneys come through the process of handling animal cruelty cases, and each time a new one has come in it's gotten stronger. I feel like we're making a difference in our community."



**Retired N.Y. State Supreme Court Judge Joe Valentino** said, "Judges have been very slow to respond to animal abuse cases. Today, with cases linked to other violence, law enforcement, district attorneys and judges are slowly becoming attuned to the Links between animal abuse and human violence."

### *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](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)

## Virginia Event Draws Attention to The Link

About 400 people and 200 dogs turned up on Oct. 13 at the Fairfax County, Va. Government Center for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual [K-9 Krawl](#) 5K walk. The 2018 theme was to bring awareness to domestic violence and its Link to animal cruelty.

“Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, we needed to bring some attention to domestic violence and this was a unique way to bring animal lovers and people together and educate them about domestic violence itself and that Link to animal cruelty,” said organizer Kacey Kirkland, Victim Services Specialist with Fairfax County.



**The October event was also an opportunity to celebrate Halloween**

Participating agencies included the county Office for Women; the Domestic Violence Action Center; the INOVA SANE Program — the forensic program that does forensic exams for sexual assault and domestic violence victims; the Humane Society; Fairfax County Animal Shelter; and Caring Hands.

“What we have found statistically is that women who are in domestic violence situations usually have a family pet and that family pet is pitted against them by their abuser — either that they will harm them or kill them or do something to them if they leave the partnership or marriage,” said Kirkland. “So, it’s used as a tool to control their victim. This is a way for us to talk about that so people understand that connection.”

## Australian State Government Website Alerts Public to The Link

Agriculture Victoria in Australia has added a page on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence to its [website](#). The page is located in an extensive section on pet issues which includes many topics on animal care and welfare, stray and unwanted animals, pets in emergencies, guidelines for choosing a pet, and animals that assist people.



The page provides resources and guidelines for victims of domestic violence to speak up about the animal abuse and to include animals in safety planning. It also includes guidelines for persons responding to domestic, child or elder abuse to cross-report and to include animals in domestic violence accommodation arrangements. “Fear for animals’ safety and lack of suitable housing can be significant reasons for people’s unwillingness to leave abusive situations,” notes the website. As many as one-third of Australian women are said to have experienced domestic violence.

It is not clear when the Link page was added to the department’s website. Agriculture Victoria came under criticism earlier this year for issuing a groundbreaking Animal Welfare Action Plan that omitted Link issues from an original draft after being pressured by agricultural interests (*See the [February 2018 LINK-Letter](#)*).

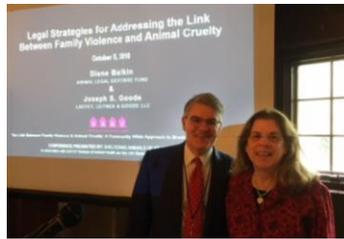
## NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

### S.A.A.V. Conference Attracts National & Local Participants



**Our Link coalition in Madison, Wis., Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims (S.A.A.V.) conducted a highly successful one-day conference on “The Link Between Family Violence & Animal Cruelty” on Oct. 5. Some 55 multidisciplinary local, state and national participants convened to learn about The Link and its particular implications for veterinary medicine, law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates. The conference was co-sponsored by the Wisconsin DATCP Division of Animal health and the University of Wisconsin Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.**

**Joe Goode and Diane Balkin offered strategies for prosecuting cases**



### Resource Guide for Pet Sheltering Available

S.A.A.V. has published a 33-page [Resource Guide](#) to help other community collaborations establish a sheltering program for the pets of domestic violence survivors. S.A.A.V. has sheltered more than 300 animals through a collaboration between the Dane County Humane Society and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services. The Resource Guide offers background on The Link; a survivor’s story; tips for starting a Safe Havens program; key considerations; the S.A.A.V. program model; and sample legal forms. The manual is available free of charge to aid start-up programs in other communities.



### New Link Coalition Forming in Indianapolis

A new Link coalition is being organized in Indianapolis, where the Beacon of Hope Crisis Center’s [Foster Pet Program](#) is launching the Central Indiana Pet Abuse Link Task Force. Tiffany Wilson, Director of Victim Advocacy for Beacon of Hope, tells The LINK-Letter that PALTF will bring together key professionals focused on combating animal abuse and addressing the need to deal with The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence.



**FOSTER  
PET PROGRAM**

Established in 2007, Beacon of Hope serves 75 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault every month. PALTF’s point of contact is [Sandy Ziebold](#), Beacon of Hope’s CEO/Executive Director.



### Spanish Police Learn About The Link

Nuria Querol, founder of our Spanish Link affiliate Observatorio de Violencia Hacia los Animales, presented a training on The Link, animal cruelty investigations, animal encounters, and community policing involving animals, to the Police Department in Sant Cugat del Valles. Her theme included the concept that “Blue Lives Matter.”



## Kentucky Link Coalition Working to Improve a State Called “A Disaster Area for Animals”

With Kentucky ranked 54<sup>th</sup> (below three U.S. territories) on the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s [rating of animal protection laws](#), and as the only state where veterinarians are prohibited from reporting suspected animal abuse, we are excited to learn about the formation of a Kentucky Link Coalition.



The coalition was organized by [Joye Estes](#), a retired Louisville Metro Police Department lieutenant and now a Jefferson County Public Schools Police captain. She was a detective investigating child abuse, domestic violence and sex crimes and trained law enforcement officers in Homeland Security issues.

“Since I have a degree in Emergency Management, I use this analogy to describe our state,” Estes says. “Kentucky is a disaster area for animals. We struggle every day to save as many animals as we can but Kentucky will stay a disaster area until we organize and work on overarching mitigation strategies.”

### Joye Estes

To that end, the Kentucky Link Coalition’s multi-disciplinary volunteers are working to:

- Provide education regarding The Link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence
- Facilitate community multidisciplinary collaboration in assisting families and their pets
- Promote public policy that protects vulnerable members within a family, including animals

While the coalition is still developing a website, Facebook page, cards and handouts, much has already been accomplished:

### *Helping Families and Pets*

- Wrote an Emergency Response Plan (Continuity of Operations Plan and an Evacuation Plan) for Louisville Metro Animal Services and a community emergency animal shelter. Estes will share this with other shelters who can use it.

### Education

- Developed an Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence training class for the LMPD, other law enforcement agencies, Real Time Crime Center, Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association, and the Louisville Metrosafe dispatch center. Future plans call for approaching the Kentucky State Police, social services, veterinarians, and utility companies.
- Writing a regular column about The Link for the [National Great Pyr Rescue website](#) and newsletter.

### Public Policy

- Worked with Louisville and state legislators to draft animal abuse registry bills.
- Asked the Kentucky Veterinarian Medical Association to help amend KRS 321.185 so practitioners can report animal abuse.
- Lobbied for a bestiality bill with a felony penalty.

### Unified Record Keeping

- Is working to get animal control agencies throughout the state to send their data to the Kentucky State Police so it can be included in the Crime Annual Report.
- Notified Kentucky State Police that their data on animal cruelty was not being sent to the FBI. Due to a computer glitch and challenges with cases originating in animal control agencies, the FBI is only getting perhaps 4% of the abuse data.

### Accountability

- Working on starting a Court Watch for Animal Abuse cases, similar to a program that monitors Domestic Violence cases.
- Conducted surveys and created photos listing state legislature candidates' legislative histories regarding animal protection.

## Domestic Violence Shelter Joins North Texas Link Coalition



The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) is welcoming [Genesis Women's Shelter](#) as its newest member. Genesis was created to give women in abusive situations a way out. Their mission is to provide safety, shelter and support for women who have experienced domestic violence, and to raise awareness regarding its cause, prevalence and impact. Genesis provides emergency shelter, long-term housing and counseling for abused women in the Dallas area. The North Texas Link Coalition has 18 other member organizations representing prosecutors, animal welfare, rape crisis, family advocacy, adult protective services, domestic violence, child welfare, and recovery programs.

### Wanted: Intern

The [South Florida Link Coalition](#) is looking for a volunteer or student who can serve as an unpaid intern for approximately one to five hours a week. Founder/Director Amber Ahern says the internship will provide valuable hands-on experience for building a resume in community services, public health, nonprofit work, social sciences, law, criminal justice, or animal welfare.



## ***THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES***

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

Only a handful of state legislatures are still in session, and with campaign season hard upon us many legislators are out in their districts rather than in their respective capitols, but there are still many Link-related bills that we're following. We're shortening our list to focus on just those bills still awaiting action while celebrating the victories we've already seen in 2018. We are encouraged by this progress and hope to see even more LINK legislation passed in legislatures that are still in session!

## *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



After languishing in both the 114<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> 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 as Subtitle E, Section 12503 of **H.R. 2 – the Farm Bill**. 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. **H.R. 2** has passed the House and Senate and is in a conference committee attempting to resolve differences between the two versions.



**California AB 2274** allows 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 and Senate and **was signed into law on Sept. 27**.



**California Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed AB 1939** which would have expanded 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.



Existing **California** law provides for the compensation of victims of specified crimes, including sexual assault, by the California Victim Compensation Board for losses incurred in relocating as a result of those crimes, if such expenses are deemed necessary by law enforcement for the victim’s personal safety or by a mental health treatment provider for the victim’s emotional well-being. **SB1005** would add the costs of pet deposits and additional rent fees if the victim has a pet to the list of expenses which may be reimbursable. The Governor vetoed the bill but it was sent back to the Senate to attempt to override the veto.



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 took 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 BR 66**, prefiled for the 2019 legislative session, would: prohibit pretrial diversion for a person charged with torture of a dog or cat; make torture of a dog or cat a Class D felony; and prohibit early release for those who torture a dog or cat as a way to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family member or member of a dating relationship.



**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>-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 passed the House 90-15, was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the full Senate.



**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.



**Pennsylvania SB 480** would increase the penalties for a person committing cruelty to an animal belonging to a spouse or partner who is under either a protection from abuse, sexual violence or intimidation order. Current penalties range from \$1,000 to \$10,000; the bill would increase these to \$2,000 and \$15,000. The bill was laid on the table in the Senate.

### *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 signed into law and took 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.



**Michigan HB 5645** 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 **took effect immediately on Aug. 15.**



**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.

### *Elder/Disabled Adult Abuse*



**California AB 1865** would have allowed a person to be charged with a misdemeanor for injuring or killing a guide, service or signal dog even if the dog. Convicted offenders would have been required to pay the dog's owner for any medical or medical-related expenses or for loss of wages or income. **The bill was vetoed by the Governor on Sept. 27.**

## *Animal Sexual Abuse*



**H.R. 1494/S.654 -- the PACT (Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture) Act** – would amend 18 U.S. Code § 48 to expand the definition of “animal crushing” (“crush videos”) to include acts 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 and headed to the House Judiciary Committee where it has 281 co-sponsors.



**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.



**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.



**Massachusetts S.2646** updates the archaic terminology of “the abominable and detestable crime against nature” to now prohibit “sexual contact with animals,” the promotion or facilitation of sexual contact with an animal, and forcing a child to engage in sexual contact with an animal. Conviction will result in forfeiture of the animal and prohibition against working or volunteering with, owning or living with animals for at least five years. Accepted veterinary, animal husbandry and conformation judging practices are exempted. The law also establishes *Cross-Reporting* among child, elder and animal abuse personnel. **The bill was signed into law on Aug. 9 by Gov. Charlie Baker.**

## *Cross-Reporting*



**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 law became effective July 1.**



**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.2646** permits 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 law mandates animal control officers to report suspected child abuse, elder abuse and abuse against disabled persons. Individuals who report in good faith are immune from civil and criminal liability; confidentiality provisions will not prohibit an individual from making a report. A special commission will be appointed to study the feasibility of mandating these cross-reports. The law also affects *Animal Sexual Abuse*. **The bill was signed into law on Aug. 9 by Gov. Charlie Baker.**



**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.



**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** extends veterinarians’ existing immunity from civil and criminal liability for good-faith reporting of suspected animal abuse, neglect or abandonment to veterinary technicians and animal shelter and kennel employees. Failure to report is punishable by a fine of up to \$500. The reporter is not obligated to further investigate the alleged abuse. **The bill was signed into law by Gov. Gina Raimondo on July 2.**

### *Animal Hoarding*



**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 4<sup>th</sup>-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.

### *“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.

## *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.



**New Jersey** currently requires juveniles (but not adults) convicted of animal cruelty to undergo mental health counseling. Five bills would expand that to include adults as well. **A3049** and **S1636 ("Shyanne's Law")** 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. **S2749** would likewise require mental health counseling for all persons convicted of animal cruelty; it is in the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

## *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*



**H.R. 6278, the AVERT (Animal Abuse Exposes Real Threat) Future Gun Violence Act**, would bar individuals convicted of misdemeanor animal cruelty from owning firearms, similar to existing prohibitions for persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. The bill has seven co-sponsors and is in the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.



**New Jersey A3693** and **S2239** would add individuals convicted of animal cruelty to the list of offenders 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.



**Pennsylvania HB 1197** would make animal fighting an indictable offense under existing racketeering provisions addressing offenses committed by corrupt organizations. The crime would specifically pertain to individuals who are directly involved in the animal fighting rather than spectators or individuals wagering on the outcome. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## ***THE LINK... IN THE NEWS***

### **Nebraska Man Gets 40-50 Years for Sexual Assault, Animal Cruelty**

A man who sexually assaulted his girlfriend after marrying her earlier that evening, and who two years previously had tied a Rottweiler to a tree so tightly that the dog's eyes bulged out and the dog couldn't swallow, was sentenced in Sarpy County, Neb. District Court to 40-to-50 years in prison. Jeremy Franks, 46, of Omaha was convicted of sexual assault and domestic assault and pleaded no-contest to felony animal abuse. Under Nebraska sentencing laws, Franks will be eligible for parole after 21 years, the [Omaha World-Herald](#) reported. In the 2015 cruelty case the dog died on the kitchen floor three weeks after Franks refused to let a veterinarian see it. The assault convictions stemmed from a July 2017 incident; after the woman reported the assault she refused to sign the marriage license.



**Jeremy Franks**

### **N. Mex. Couple Get 10 Years in Prison on Child and Animal Abuse Charges**



**Allan and Sandra Quick**

Allan and Sandra Quick, of Otero County, N. Mex., were each sentenced on Oct. 2 to 10 years in prison plus five years of supervised probation after being found guilty of multiple child abuse and animal cruelty charges. A child welfare worker performing a welfare check in 2015 found the Quicks living in an RV with their six children, four dogs and several cats; an animal control officer later found 22 dogs that were severely emaciated, nine dead dogs and several cats in need of veterinary care. A former sheriff's deputy said the living conditions were among the worst he had ever seen; the children were filthy and had upper-respiratory infections, he told [KOB-TV](#). Officials said the animals had been acquired from shelters and were being sold for money, but the dogs were locked in cages without food or water and some had been poisoned or shot.

### **Man Gets 15 Years for Shooting Dog, Mugging Two Women, as Colorado Springs Cold Case is Cracked**

A Colorado Springs, Colo. police officer who doggedly pursued a cold case stemming from a fatal 2015 shooting of a dog that was playing fetch with its owner was rewarded in October when the shooter was sentenced to 15 years in prison for that incident and two armed robberies. Gary Lynell Williams, 26, accepted a plea agreement in admitting guilt to the shooting and mugging two women, the



[Colorado Springs Gazette](#) reported. The dog, a Australian shepherd named "Sydney," was playing catch with its owner in a park when it ran toward Williams with a ball in its mouth. Williams pulled a handgun and fired a shot, then continued firing as the dog turned around and ran back to its owner. Although ballistics evidence pointed at Williams, police lacked enough evidence to file charges. But Detective Cristen O'Connor asked to interrogate Williams after he was arrested in the robberies and extracted a confession shortly before the statute of limitations ran out.

**Gary Lynell Williams**

## Man with Violent Past Charged with Killing Roommate's Kitten

A man accused of killing his roommate's cat was being held on \$250,000 bail after it was learned that he was also wanted for violating probation on a separate strangulation and assault case. Johnathan Ely, 27, of Bristol, Conn., was charged with allegedly killing "Gus," a cat that had been raised since birth by a co-worker who let Ely have a room in his house because he had nowhere else to go, [Fox61 news](#) reported. The arrest warrant said the two had had an argument about carpooling to work; the owner came home from work to find the cat dead. A necropsy revealed Gus died of multiple blunt force trauma; police said Ely said he may have hit the cat with his steel-toed boots. "If someone can do this to an 8-month-old kitten, what can they do to a child or the elderly?" asked Robin Zilla Cannamela, President of Desmond's Army, the Connecticut advocacy group formed in the wake of Desmond's Law which allows victims of cruelty cases to have legal representation in court.

## Youth Charged with Armed Carjacking, Kidnapping and Killing K-9 Dog

A 17-year-old youth was charged with allegedly killing a police K-9 dog during a chase that stemmed from an armed carjacking and two counts of kidnapping. The Jacksonville, Fla. Sheriff's Office told [WJXT-TV](#) that Jhamel Paskel had admitted to the carjacking and killing "Fang," a 3-year-old K-9 who had worked with the department for two years. Police said Paskel was wearing a camo mask and carrying a black handgun when he approached two



Jhamel Paskel and "Fang"

women sitting in a car at a gas station and made one of them drive as he held her at gunpoint. A short distance later he ordered the women out of the car and kept driving, but the car's OnStar system allowed police to track the car. When they caught up with him 18 miles away, Paskel fled from the car as one of the officers released Fang, who was fatally shot with a 9-mm handgun. A second K-9 and an officer eventually captured Paskel in nearby woods. Killing a law enforcement K-9 in Florida is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison.



Juan Gonzalez

## Man Charged with Drowning Pregnant Ex-Wife's Disabled Dog

Juan Gonzalez, 40, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., was charged with animal cruelty and domestic violence for allegedly drowning his pregnant ex-wife's disabled Chihuahua by tossing the dog into a backyard swimming pool. Police told [the South Florida SunSentinel](#) that Gonzalez had said, "You can't swim but you're going to learn tonight" just before throwing the dog into the pool. Police said that he had grabbed the woman by the face and cut her lip and allegedly told police the fight occurred because she had "disrespected" him and he "was so mad that he wanted to fight someone."



Jordan Hunt

## Indiana Man Charged with Shooting Ex's Two Dogs

Indiana State Police arrested Jordan Hunt, 27, of Hazelton, Ind., on charges of animal cruelty, domestic-violence animal cruelty, intimidation, and killing a domestic animal for allegedly breaking into his ex-girlfriend's home and shooting and later burning her two dogs. Indiana is one of nine states where an act of animal abuse intended to intimidate someone can be charged as both animal cruelty and domestic violence. The [Evansville Courier & Press](#) reported that Hunt was being held in the Pike County Jail under a \$350,000 bond.



**Kahlil Ivey**

### **Ex Charged with Brutally Killing Girlfriend's Four Kittens**

Kahlil Ivey, 21, of Waterbury, Conn., was charged with animal cruelty, burglary, assault, and breach of peace for allegedly breaking into an ex-girlfriend's home and killing her four kittens. The [Waterbury Republican-American](#) reported that she had been trying to break up with Ivey because of his violent tendencies. He allegedly walked into her home when the door was open due to a repairman fixing a window he had broken during a previous argument. After he slammed her up against the wall and threw a bowl of spaghetti at her, she asked the repairman to call the police. Ivey reportedly fled but later came back; she ran to a store to seek shelter. When the police returned they found the four dead kittens, one of which had been beheaded.

## ***LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES***

**Nov. 13 – (online):** The National Criminal Justice Training Center will conduct a [webinar](#) on the use of facility dogs in tribal courts and community policing programs.

**Nov. 13 – Mineola, N.Y.:** The [Pioneers for Animal Welfare Society](#) will present "Domestic Violence and the Family Pet" with representatives from the Nassau County SPCA and District Attorney's Office.

**Nov. 15 – Anchorage, Alaska:** Allie Phillips will speak at the [2018 Alaska Conference on Child Maltreatment](#) on "The Co-occurrence of Animal Abuse and Violence to Humans," "Detecting and Reporting Animal Abuse," "Incorporating Therapy Animals with Crime Victims," and a session on natural self-care for child protection workers

**Nov. 16-17 – Atlanta, Ga.:** Nuria Querol will present on "Innovative Uses of Police Data: First Year's NIBRS Data of Animal cruelty Crimes" and on "Violent Crime and Animal Abuse: Scientific Framework and Practical Approaches" at the [American Society of Criminology](#) conference.

**Nov. 19-20 – Banff, Alberta, Canada:** The National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> annual [Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#).

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

**Nov. 27 – Harrisburg, Pa.:** Phil Arkow will conduct a training on domestic violence and animal abuse for the [PCADV's](#) Domestic Violence Attorneys Network.

**Nov. 28 (online):** Michelle Welch will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on "Combating Cock Fighting: What Investigators and Prosecutors Need to Know" about its Links to narcotics, gambling and other crimes.

**Nov. 29 – Westminster, Colo.:** [Animal Control Training Services](#) will conduct an all-day training on "Understanding the 'Link' in Animal Abuse hosted by Westminster Animal Management.

**Nov. 29-30 – Tallahassee, Fla.:** The [Academy on Violence and Abuse Global Health Summit](#) will feature three Link programs. Melissa Bright will speak on “Youth Who Are Cruel to Animals: The Tip of the Trauma History Iceberg.” Jennifer Applebaum will speak on “Pet Attachment in the Context of Family Violence and Conflict.” Barbara Boat will present on “Pediatric Dog Bite Victims: The Need for a Continuum of Care.”

**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. 5 – Pittsfield, Mass.:** [HAVEN](#) – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network – will hold its regular meeting.

**Dec. 5-7 – Palm Springs, Calif.:** Diana Webster, Liz Murphy and Katie Campbell will present on “Tools and Resources for Helping More Victims through Awareness on the Link Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse” at the [Tribal Law and Policy Institute](#)’s 16<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference on Justice for Victims of Crime.

**Dec. 12 – 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.

**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. 11, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will offer a 3-hour CE & CEU training event.

**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. 8, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting. The program will feature the Texas Dept. of Family Services Adult Protective Services, DFW region.

**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.”

**March 8, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting.

**March 18-19 – Hartford, Conn.:** Phil Arkow and Aubrey Fine will discuss cross-reporting between child and animal protection agencies and therapeutic interventions for child abuse victims at the [Paws for Kids](#) conference.

**March 26, 2019: Cleveland, Ohio:** Phil Arkow will headline a [Link seminar](#) at Fairhill Partners.

**March 27, 2019: Toledo, Ohio:** Phil Arkow will headline a [Link seminar](#) at the University of Toledo.

**March 29, 2019: Columbus, Ohio:** Phil Arkow will headliner a [Link seminar](#) at COAAA.

**May 10, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting.

**May 23-24, 2019 – João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil:** John Thompson will be the featured speaker on The Link at the [9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Collective Veterinary Medicine](#) sponsored by the Education and Animal Control Technical Institute and Veterinary Council of Paraíba State.

**Apr. 12, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will offer a 3-hour CE & CEU training event.

**June 14 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting.

**July 12, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will offer a 3-hour CE & CEU training event.

**Aug. 9, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting.

**Sept. 9, 2019 – Edinburgh, Scotland:** Phil Arkow will be the keynote speaker at the [Scottish SPCA](#) and University of Edinburgh conference on “Animal Guardians – Promoting Positive Child and Animal Relationships and The Link with ACEs.”

**Sept. 13, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting.

**Oct. 11, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will offer a 3-hour CE & CEU training event.

**Nov. 8, 2019 – Dallas, Texas:** The [North Texas Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular business meeting.

**Nov. 21-22, 2019 – Toronto, Ont., Canada:** The [Canadian Violence Link Conference](#) will examine the Link between violence to humans and animals, look at the vulnerabilities among both populations, and explore how various sectors can learn from each other and gather the necessary tools to stop the cycle of violence.



## 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

#### Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

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

#### Helen Holmquist-Johnson, MSW, Ph.D.

Director, Human-Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC)  
Colorado State University School of Social Work  
Ft. Collins, Colo.

#### 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.