



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



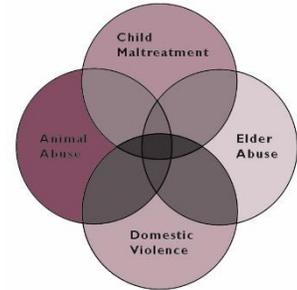
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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ANIMAL ABUSE AND... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **Congress Passes Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act to Fund Pet Care and Pet Protection Orders for Survivors**

After languishing for years in the 113th, 114th and 115th Congresses, the Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act – a remarkably bipartisan measure – was finally signed into law on Dec. 20 by President Trump.



Above: Reps. Clark & Ros-Lehtinen;

Below: Sens. Heller & Peters

The measure extends the provisions now in place in 32 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia that allow courts to include pets in protection-from-abuse orders in domestic violence cases. Under the PAWS Act, these provisions can now be extended across state lines to address interstate stalking violations where, for example, a domestic violence survivor moves from one state that has pet protection order provisions into another state that does not.

The measure appropriates \$3 million in grants for each fiscal year 2019 through 2023 to assist agencies in caring for survivors' pets. Entities eligible to apply for grants include: state, local and tribal governments; domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, service providers and coalitions; community-based and culturally specific organizations; nonprofits; and organizations that work with pets and collaborate with domestic violence agencies.

The law allows agencies that provide support services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to apply for federal funds. Such funds may be used for:

- Emergency and transitional shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with pets, including construction or operating expenses of new or existing emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing, whether co-located at a victim service provider or within the community;
- Short-term shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with pets, including housing, boarding, or fostering of the pets and other expenses that secure the safety of such pets;

- Support services that enable a victim who is fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to locate and secure safe housing for pets and pet-related transportation, care and other services, including veterinary care;
- Training relevant stakeholders on The Link between domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the abuse and neglect of pets, and best practices for providing support services and referrals to such victims.

Agencies receiving grant funding will have to report annually on the number of domestic violence victims with pets who received assistance and the purpose, amount and duration of such aid.

The law defines a pet as “a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, fish, turtle, horse, or other animal that is kept for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes.” The National Link Coalition joined numerous other organizations in endorsing the bills.

The concept for the PAWS Act began in 2014 when Reps. Katherine Clark (D – Mass.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R – Fla.) introduced [H.R. 5267](#) to prohibit crossing state lines to harm a domestic partner’s pet and establish a federal grant program to provide assistance and housing to victims’ pets in need of emergency shelter. They reintroduced the bill in 2015 as [H.R. 1258](#) and a companion bill, [S. 1559](#), was introduced by Sens. Kelly Ayotte (R – N.H.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.). Following the legendary gridlock that marked Congress in those sessions, it was introduced a third time in 2017 as [H.R. 909](#) and [S. 322](#), with Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) joining Peters as the Senate introducers. The bills amassed 250 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House and 41 in the Senate. In late 2018, the language of these bills was added as one of several hundred amendments to the [Farm Bill, H.R. 2](#), under Subtitle E, Section 12502.

The measure concludes that “it is the sense of Congress that States should encourage the inclusion of protections against violent or threatening acts against the pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse of a person in domestic violence protection orders.”

PAWS Act Prompts Coverage of Alabama Program

The passage of the PAWS Act prompted [WBMA-TV](#), in Birmingham, Ala., to spotlight the statewide network of veterinarians and volunteers who provide free medical care, food, shelter and money for rental pet deposits for the pets of domestic violence survivors. The pets are kept in safekeeping until the families are able to be reunited with their pets and full confidentiality is maintained for safety purposes.



The program, called [Shelby SafePet](#), is coordinated by Shelby Humane. The newscast described how the PAWS Act could be used to provide funds to help the program expand even further and remove a significant barrier that keeps many abused survivors from escaping toxic relationships. “Our goal is to remove that barrier and give survivors the confidence and the opportunity to seek help,” said David Arias, Shelby Humane Executive Director.

Shelby SafePet was launched in May 2018 and has partnered with the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, and foster volunteers to provide pet care services for 16 domestic violence shelters across the state to reach all of Alabama’s 67 counties.

“We will pay veterinary bills for those animals when they come in and from that point on it depends on what the situation is with the survivor and the family,” said Arias.

Pet-Friendly Shelter Opens in Florida



The Fort Lauderdale, Fla., region welcomed its first co-sheltering program for the pets and human survivors of domestic violence in October when [Women In Distress](#) opened its doors to dogs and cats. Through a partnership with the Humane Society of Broward County, the Women In Distress Pet Center is providing shelter, proper nutrition, physical exams, and vaccines for survivors' pets.

"Thanks to our founding donors, survivors fleeing abusive situations can now be alleviated from the worry of leaving their dogs and cats behind," said the organization in a statement. "Survivors can now bring along their dogs and cats and be confident that their pets will be received with care, just as they are."

Women In Distress operates a 132-bed emergency shelter, ongoing counseling and support groups, and multilingual services in English, Spanish, Creole, and Portuguese.

Coordinator Sought for NYC Pet Co-Sheltering Program



Position Available: PALS Program Coordinator
New York City, N.Y.

The Urban Resource Institute's People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program ([See the June 2018 LINK-Letter](#)) is seeking a Program Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible for day-to-day operations and growth of PALS and will conduct comprehensive assessments for families seeking shelter and participation in PALS, the only pet co-shelter in New York City and believed to be the largest provider of domestic violence services and shelters in the U.S.

The position will work closely with community partners to coordinate timely access for pets' veterinary care and treatment related to animal abuse. The work will include: identifying, securing and monitoring pet supplies and products; assisting clients with accessing pet friendly practices including pets' orders of protection; exploring suitable housing options; addressing pet ownership issues; and coordinating animal welfare safety training for staff. Details and application procedures are [available online](#).

Kentucky Shelter Appeals for Help to Expand Co-Sheltering

A domestic violence shelter in Paducah, Ky., was featured on [WPSD-TV](#) for its efforts to try to expand its sheltering for the pets of domestic violence survivors. Currently, the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center can accept only service and emotional support animals, but Executive Director Mary Foley is trying to change that.



“The ultimate goal is to have a facility that accommodates pets in a long-term way and transition the animal along with the survivor to a place of permanent safety,” said Foley. “A lot of times domestic violence and animal cruelty go hand-in-hand, and the pet will be abused sometimes before the victim themselves.”

The shelter appealed to contractors, volunteers, veterinarians and donors to make greater pet-friendly co-sheltering possible.

New Michigan Laws Penalize Coercive-Control Animal Abuse

A key dimension of The Link is how abusers, particularly in domestic violence situations and, less often, in cases of child sexual abuse, threaten, kill or harm pets and livestock to intimidate human victims and secure their compliance. Such insidious means of coercive control are now illegal in Michigan, where Link advocates are celebrating the passage of two new laws.

HB 4332, signed into law on Dec. 28 by then-Gov. Rick Snyder and taking effect immediately, amends Sec. 750.50b of the Michigan Penal Code. It adds a new provision making it illegal to knowingly kill, torture, maim, disfigure, or poison an animal, or threaten to do so, “with the intent to cause mental suffering or distress to a person or to exert control over a person.”



Tommy Brann

The new law makes such acts a 1st, 2nd or 3rd-degree felony, depending on severity and circumstances. Penalties range from four to seven years’ imprisonment, fines up to \$5,000, and up to 500 hours of community service. Courts may require offenders to pay the costs of prosecution and for the care, housing and veterinary treatment of animal victims. Courts may also require offenders to undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling, at the defendant’s expense, as a condition of probation, and may order a ban on possession of any animals.

Meanwhile, a related companion measure, **HB 4333**, was also signed into law by Snyder. Under the Michigan Code of Criminal Procedure, courts’ sentencing guidelines include instructions for calculating sentences based upon a formula that considers offense variables (OVs) and prior criminal records. OV 10 is “exploitation of a vulnerable victim” and included offenders who exploited a victim’s physical or mental disability, youth or agedness, or a domestic relationship. The new law adds killing or torturing animals for the purpose of manipulating a victim for selfish or unethical purposes to the conditions applicable under OV 10.

The bills were sponsored by then-Rep. Tommy Brann.

Utah Bill Addresses Coercive-Control Animal Abuse

A bill pre-filed for introduction into legislature would add Utah to the nine states in which an act of animal abuse intended to coerce, control or intimidate a spouse or partner can be prosecuted as an act of domestic violence as well as animal cruelty.

SB 45, sponsored by Sen. Allen Christensen (R – Ogden), adds aggravated animal cruelty to the list of offenses that qualify as domestic violence. The bill was pre-filed on Jan. 7 in advance of the legislature’s session which begins at the end of January.



Sen. Allen Christensen

Utah defines aggravated animal cruelty as torturing, poisoning, or killing an animal without a legal privilege to do so. Christensen, a pediatric dentist who has served in the legislature since 2005, introduced a similar bill, SB 99, in the 2018 session which passed the Senate but failed in the House.

Similar laws are already in effect in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Tennessee. ([See the February 2017 LINK-Letter](#))



Staci Alonso and “Zeus”

Noah’s House Gets Great Publicity

One of the oldest and largest domestic violence/pet co-sheltering programs in the world got a pleasant New Year’s surprise when the [Las Vegas Sun](#) published an extensive feature on Jan. 1 about [Noah’s Animal House](#). Located on the Shade Tree women’s shelter campus in Southern Nevada, Noah’s Animal House has provided refuge for more than 1,400 pets of domestic violence survivors to help keep their families together during this time of crisis.

“Women won’t leave if they can’t bring their pets,” said Staci Alonso, founder of Noah’s Animal House. Alonso added that Nevada has been progressive in its protections for survivors of domestic violence and their pets, but the PAWS Act will ensure that other states can provide better care to pet owners escaping violent and abusive situations so more women’s shelters can become pet-friendly. Noah’s Animal House was part of the PAWS Act Coalition, an organization that worked to get the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act passed on a federal level.

Noah's Animal House averages housing 130 to 150 pets and nearly 10,000 free boarding nights a year. “Women are staying at Shade Tree longer now because the affordable housing market is so tight,” she said. On average, a woman stays at Shade Tree for two months. The program ensures their furry loved ones also have a place to stay.

The Las Vegas program differs from many co-sheltering operations in that the kennels are housed in a separate, free-standing building near the main domestic violence shelter. The kennels have indoor and outdoor dog runs, cat condos and “cuddle rooms” where animals can play and spend quality time with their people. A second location in Reno opened in 2018.

“We wanted to provide a home setting so that they can feel normal for a while,” Alonso said. “The magic is in the unconditional love that a pet provides a woman and a child in these conditions.”

ANIMAL ABUSE &... CHILD MALTREATMENT



Family Law Journal Article Explores How The Link Can Prevent Child Abuse

“There is an undeniable link between animal cruelty and violence against people,” writes Amber R. Macias-Mayo, an attorney in Santa Fe, N. Mex. in a current family law journal. “When animals are at risk of abuse and/or neglect in a household, so are the people in that household.”

Amber R. Macias-Mayo

Macias-Mayo, who was instrumental in helping to create an animal welfare court in Bernalillo County, emphasizes that animal abuse is not just the result of an individual’s personality flaw but rather is a symptom of a deeply disturbed family. Recognizing The Link between animal cruelty and child abuse, she argues, can help to identify and prevent child maltreatment.

Her article begins with a vivid description of a classic Link case from Kentucky in 1989 in which the parents of five children were convicted on 61 counts, including child abuse, child sexual abuse and animal cruelty. Floyd and Barbara Schambon were each sentenced to 85 years in prison for the unspeakable abuse their children and pets experienced in a case that came to light only because a neighbor complained about animal neglect to animal control officers. She examines New Mexico’s child protection statutes and how the Schambon case law can be applied in Link prosecutions.

“The children of our communities depend on us to recognize when they are in need because, often, they cannot just tell us. Knowledge of The Link is a tool that can help identify or even prevent child abuse, just as it did in the Schambon case,” she concludes.

-- Macias-Mayo, A.R. (2018). *The link between animal abuse and child abuse. American Journal of Family Law, 32(3), 130-136.*



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

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

ANIMAL-ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS FOR CRIME VICTIMS

Psychologist Asks How Mental Health Professionals Can Ignore 50 Years of Link Research

“It is sad to see time and time again how information on the seriousness and dangerousness of animal cruelty goes unnoticed or is minimized when intervention and prosecution occur.”

With this lament, Minnesota psychologist and forensic consultant Scott A. Johnson introduced an [extensive literature review](#) on The Link in a forensic criminology journal that cited 50 years of research supporting the premise that “animal cruelty is one of the earliest markers for future acts of both violent and nonviolent criminal behaviors.” Such acts include rape, child molestation, domestic abuse, school shootings, and other forms of violence.



Scott A. Johnson

Johnson noted, as have other researchers, that the directionality of The Link is not clear-cut: animal abuse may precede, co-occur with or follow other crimes. Similarly, it may be part of the violence graduation hypothesis (in which animal cruelty escalates to interpersonal violence) or the deviance generalization hypothesis (animal abuse is part of a larger constellation of antisocial behaviors).

He reiterated methodological challenges of defining animal cruelty and parents under- or over-reporting children’s violent behavior. “The prevalence of abuse or violence within the home of children who engage in animal cruelty would likely be higher if there were better means to assess it other than simply self-report.” He described situations where domestic and child abusers engage in animal cruelty because they lack empathy and conscience and to control and further intimidate their victims.

He cited 201 publications and examined major themes in The Link: children who harm animals; domestic violence; the impact of witnessing parental violence; corporal punishment; animal abuse as an indicator of child abuse; risky families; bullying; and rapists, pedophiles and violent offenders. He identified several diagnostic categories in the DSM-5 which correlate with animal cruelty.

“The Dark Triad of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy often result in violence towards animals and humans. Callousness is perhaps the most supported factor involving the development of aggression towards animals and humans,” he wrote.

Johnson also encouraged more cross-reporting among Link stakeholders. “When a perpetrator chooses to abuse others, they have little reason not to harm the family animals as well. It would be fruitful for child protection services to refer cases to the police or other mental health professionals to assess for animal cruelty,” he recommended. “Conversely, for animal control and law enforcement to refer families and individuals who are engaging in animal cruelty for further mental health assessment.”

Johnson wrote the article out of “frustration” with how mental health professionals regularly fail to see the dangerous connection between animal and human abuse. “The literature and research has clearly demonstrated that the risk factors for animal cruelty are no different than those for aggression, violence, and antisocial behaviors. Pet abuse is often one of the first indicators noticed of a violent home situation, one that if ignored may develop into a pattern of violence against both animals and people.”

-- Johnson, S. A. (2018). [Animal cruelty, pet abuse & violence: the missed dangerous connection](#). *Forensic Research & Criminology International Journal*, 6(6), 403-415.

Greater Understanding of Animal-Assisted Interventions Called For

A prominent psychologist has suggested that animal-assisted interventions be considered psychological treatments and that additional research be undertaken to explore how such therapies might be more effective. Writing in a [blog for WellBeing International](#), Alan Kazdin, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Child Psychiatry at Yale University and Past President of the American Psychological Association, recommends research be conducted to identify several key issues:

- For which mental and physical problems, and which individuals, can human-animal interactions be effective
- How animal-assisted interventions can be improved for greater effectiveness
- Specific treatment goals that should be addressed.



Alan Kazdin

“The systematic use of human-animal interaction can provide a viable option and for some individuals may be an acceptable or even more acceptable form of care and support,” he writes.



Intensive Training Helps Veterinary Social Workers

A week-long program at the University of Tennessee’s College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Social Work will help social workers to “put it all together” and practice the skills required for veterinary social work. The [Veterinary Social Work Intensive](#) will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily March 19-23 and will integrate these practices for mental health students and professionals who have already completed modules in animal-related bereavement, compassion fatigue management, and the Link between violence to humans and animals.

Presenters will include social workers, psychologists and veterinarians including Elizabeth Strand, Maya Gupta, Sarina Manifold, Sandra Brackenridge, and Katherine Goldberg. NASW CE credits are pending.

BUILDING LINK AWARENESS



Link Awareness Continues to Grow in Indian Country

The Link was featured prominently at the 16th National Indian Nations Conference at Agua Caliente Reservation in California in December. Diana Webster, Liz Murphy, Laurel Meleski, and Rachel Stevens presented on “Tools and Resources for Helping More Victims through Awareness on the Link between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse.”

ANIMAL ABUSE AND... CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Australian Study Cites Link in Examining Impact of Harsher Penalties for Animal Abuse



Citing a growing body of literature accepting a Link between juvenile violence against animals and later adult violence against humans, a [new Australian study](#) argues that although “the weight of this link between animal abuse and human violence should be a driver for the criminal justice system to improve sentencing outcomes in order to break this cycle at the animal stage, before it progresses further,” increasing penalties for animal cruelty offenses is not the most effective punishment.

Rochelle Morton, Michelle L. Hebert and Alexandra L. Whittaker of the University of Adelaide School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences conducted the first study of the impact of changes since the 2008 Australian Animal Welfare Act, which more than doubled fines and incarceration penalties for offenders. They also identified trends regarding the demographics of offenders and the species of animals affected.

They reported that the amendments have caused average penalties to increase, but it is debatable whether such increases effectively punish animal abusers. The study revealed:

- Although penalties have increased, in less than 10% of cases are maximum penalties imposed.
- The proportion of cases resulting in fines – generally considered less severe than incarceration – has decreased, while cases resulting in a prison sentence have increased, suggesting the courts are now imposing harsher penalties, although the reasons for such actions remain unclear.
- Although emotional responses cause the public to perceive companion animals as superior to farm animals, harsher penalties are imposed for cruelty to farm animals, perhaps due to judges holding those abusers to a higher standard due to the utilitarian nature of the farming industry.
- The belief that men are more commonly involved in animal abuse was contradicted as the proportion of men and women charged with cruelty were equivalent; however, men were more frequently charged with aggravated offenses and were notably younger than women.
- A clear relationship between animal cruelty and the location of the offense was established, with incidents being more prevalent in economically disadvantaged areas.

“Increasing maximum penalties is not the most efficient way to make punishments for animal welfare offences more effective; it may be a too simplistic approach,” they write. “There is a need to establish penalties that ‘better fit the crime,’” they write. While imprisonment satisfies the public, it often fails to achieve other goals of deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, retribution, and restitution.

“The desired outcome should not be to increase the duration or dollar value of a sentence; it should be to reduce animal cruelty through the most efficient type of penalty. Instead of wanting an animal abuser to rot away in a jail cell for a couple of years or to financially cripple them, maybe if the courts enforced mandated counseling more frequently it may actually help the offender and reduce their likelihood to reoffend,” they conclude.

“Given the evidence of the link between animal and human abuse, and the ability to be more creative in sentencing under the auspices of the sentencing legislation, perhaps different approaches to penalties are now required, with a renewed focus on rehabilitation of the offender.”

-- Morton, R., Hebert, M.L., & Whittaker, A.L. (2018). Increasing maximum penalties for animal welfare offences in South Australia — Has it caused penal change? *Animals*, 8(12), 236.

Alameda County, Calif. Task Force Helps Convict Animal Abuser



The Alameda County, Calif. Animal Cruelty Task Force, created by District Attorney Nancy O'Malley to focus on the link between animal abuse and human violence, was instrumental in working on a case that saw a Hayward, Calif. man get 30 days in county jail and three years of felony probation for brutally beating a dog.

"By applying multidisciplinary solutions to the overarching problems of family, animal and community violence, we achieve improved prevention, intervention and response outcomes for all, even innocent animals like Aaliyah," O'Malley said in a statement.

DA Nancy O'Malley Joshua Tadduc, 24, plead guilty to felony animal cruelty for the Sept. 11, 2017, attack on his pit bull puppy, "Aaliyah," the [East Bay Times](#) reported. Tadduc had beaten the dog and left her bloody and injured in his garage; it wasn't until his roommates discovered her that she was rescued and taken to the veterinarian.

Aaliyah suffered a compound fracture to her upper left jaw, other facial injuries, and bruises throughout her body. She underwent six hours of reconstructive surgery to her jaw and survived her ordeal.

Tadduc also was ordered to not own any animals for at least three years, and attend 26 anger management classes, plus counseling. He will also have to make a \$5,000 donation to the Alameda County Animal Shelter.

O'Malley said her office takes animal cruelty very seriously and that animal abusers are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against people.

Sex Offender Convicted in Dogfighting Bust

Noting that "illegal animal fighting is closely tied to illegal gambling, drug and alcohol crimes, and violence against animals has been shown to be linked to violence towards other people," the Virginia Attorney General's Office announced the conviction of a registered sex offender on 37 counts of dogfighting and animal cruelty filed by the nation's first statewide Animal Law Unit.



Eldridge Freeman, Jr., 44, of Dinwiddie County, was convicted in the prosecution.

Eldridge Freeman, Jr.

Attorney General Mark R. Herring said 26 dogs, many of whom were heavily scarred and had wound dressings, were found on the property housed in uninsulated plastic barrels, water tanks and plywood whelping boxes that lacked bedding materials. Freeman will be sentenced in February.

The cases were prosecuted by Animal Law Unit Assistant Attorneys General Michelle Welch and Kelci Block with assistance from county and state officials. The Animal Law Unit was created in 2015 ([See the February 2015 LINK-Letter](#)) and to date has handled 901 prosecutions, trainings and consultations.

The Virginia State Police's Sex Offender Registry lists an Eldridge Freeman, Jr., 44, of Dinwiddie County, as having been added to the registry in 2009 and renewed last Feb. 20 after four convictions in 2000 and 2008 for indecent exposure, three of which involved minors.

Prosecutors Honor Two Coalition Leaders



Randy Lockwood (center) and Diane Balkin of the National Link Coalition's steering committee, were surprised recipients of the prestigious Lionheart Award at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Animal Cruelty Conference in Louisville. The award is given annually by the prosecutor and law enforcement community to recognize outstanding work in the field of criminal animal law. Lockwood, of the ASPCA, and Balkin, of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, were cited for their championing the fight for justice for animals. Presenting the awards is David LaBahn, President/CEO of APA.

Connecticut Link Legislator Honored on Her Retirement



Connecticut State Rep. Diana Urban (center, in pink jacket), a long-time and tireless advocate for animal and child welfare and an ardent proponent of The Link between animal abuse and human violence, was honored by colleagues in December upon her retirement from the Connecticut General Assembly. Among her many legislative achievements was "Desmond's Law," which allows courts to appoint pro bono attorneys and law school students as CASA-type advocates for animals in cruelty and custody cases ([See the October 2016 LINK-Letter](#)). The Democrat from Stonington had served in the State House of Representatives since 2001 and was Chair of the Committee on Children. She was named Public Official of the Year in 2010 by Governing Magazine for her work in accountability in government. The Humane Society of the U.S. named her Legislator of the Year four times and she was a six-time recipient of the Children's Champion Award. We will miss you, Diana!

THE LINK IN THE LITERATURE

Special Journal Issue to look at Human-Animal Interactions

A special issue of the *Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* will focus on “The Psycho-Social Impact of Human-Animal Interactions.” Guest-edited by noted human-animal bond authority Aubrey Fine, the special issue will take an interdisciplinary look at numerous topics, including the role of human-animal interactions with victims of trauma, animal welfare concerns, cross-cultural differences, animal-assisted interactions with persons with disabilities, and numerous other Link-related topics. [Details about the submission process](#) may be found online; the deadline for manuscript submission is Sept. 30, 2019.



Aubrey Fine

Harvard Law School Invites Visiting Animal Law & Policy Fellows



ANIMAL LAW &
POLICY PROGRAM
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

The Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School is inviting applications for [Visiting Fellowships](#) for the 2019-20 academic year. The fellowships provide opportunities for outstanding scholars from a range of disciplines and legal practitioners to spend from three months to one year undertaking research, writing, and scholarly engagement on academic projects in the field of animal law and policy.

Applicants with a J.D., LL.M., S.J.D., Ph.D. or other comparable degree, from all disciplinary backgrounds, including the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, are invited to apply provided that the research agenda relates to animal law and policy. Applicants will be evaluated by the quality and significance of their research proposals, and by their record of academic and professional achievement.

Fellows will receive a stipend of up to \$5,000 per month and free office space, among other benefits. The deadline to submit applications is Feb. 15.



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(arkowpets@snip.net)
Please tell us what organization(s) you're with
and where you're located.**

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Changes on the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee



Chelsea Rider

Chelsea Rider has joined the National Link Coalition's steering committee. A long-time advocate for animal welfare and law enforcement, she serves as Director of the National Sheriffs Association's [National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse](#). She also co-chairs the NSA's National Coalition on Violence Against Animals.

Chelsea is a former Army MP who was stationed in Hawai'i. A native of Midland, Mich., she earned her J.D. from Michigan State University College of Law, and currently lives in Houston. She has been with the National Sheriffs Association since 2015 and her passion has been focusing on animal cruelty and its prosecution and helping law enforcement to understand the Link.

Her former supervisor at the National Sheriffs Association, John Thompson, remains on the steering committee in his new position as Executive Director of the [National Animal Care & Control Association](#).

Coalition Creates Directory of Pet-Friendly Hotels

Here's a great idea for a project that Link coalition volunteers can do: a directory of pet-friendly hotels and motels where domestic violence survivors can go!



The idea comes to us from the [South Florida Link Coalition](#), where a volunteer named Ashley compiled a list of 11 pet-friendly hotels in Palm Beach County. The list includes the hotel name, address, phone number, and pet policy. Some hotels allow pets to stay for free; some charge a fee or a deposit, while others will waive those fees for survivors. The list also includes any limits on the number, species and size of animals that may be accommodated.

Coalition Director Amber Ahern tells The LINK-Letter that the directors will be especially useful for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors who do not qualify for, or do not wish to enter, an emergency shelter. Thanks, Amber, for sharing this great idea and let's see if any other Link coalitions can do the same!



HAVEN Adds Two New Members

Two new organizations have joined our Link coalition in western Massachusetts, [HAVEN](#) – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network. Berkshire Children and Families and KidsPlace are the two newest members of the coalition. “Our coalition is one of the only places in the state where human service and animal service professionals meet in a regular basis,” says HAVEN Coordinator Lorna Grande. “The exchange of experience and ideas is invaluable.”

Recent exchanges have included a presentation from Berkshire County DART and the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts, which is participating on a statewide commission to evaluate the impact of mandating human service professionals to report suspected animal abuse.

Link-themed Video Calls for Legislative Action in Kentucky

Dee Robinson, Administrator of Kentucky Citizens Against Domestic Violence and Pet Abuse, has posted a [video](#) of her compelling testimony about The Link when she spoke out “for people” to the Interim Joint Health and Welfare Committee of the Kentucky Legislature in 2015. Her presentation included graphic images and disturbing headlines of abused and neglected children, elders animals, and women “who cannot speak out or defend themselves against animal abusers” in arguing that animal abuse is also a serious human safety concern.



Dee Robinson

“The powerful connection between interpersonal violence and domestic pet cruelty is well-researched and documented,” she continued. She emphasized that Link legislation is not about denying hunters their rights or farmers their livelihood, and that such laws are not partisan issues. “We are all simply Kentuckians when it comes to protecting each other,” she said.

She emphasized that previous animal protection bills – which only promoted the animals’ welfare – had failed because they did not make a strong enough case about linking the welfare of pets to the welfare of people. “Animal abusers put us all, and those we know and love, at risk,” she concluded.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Victories We’re Celebrating...

As the 2018 legislative season concluded, we look back on a number of key victories -- bills that passed that recognized how animal abuse is Linked with interpersonal violence. We are encouraged by this progress and hope to see even more LINK legislation introduced and passed in legislatures in 2019!

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



After languishing in the 113rd, 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 as Subtitle E, Section 12502 of **H.R. 2 – the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, a/k/a the Farm Bill**. The

measure prohibits threats or acts of violence against a victim’s pet in interstate stalking and interstate violation of protection orders. It allocates \$3,000,000 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 and veterinary services, and for training on The Link between domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and pet abuse. **H.R. 2 was signed into law on Dec. 20, 2018.**



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.**



 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.



 **Michigan HB 4332** makes it a 1st, 2nd or 3rd-degree felony, 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 signed into law on Dec. 28** by then-Gov. Rick Snyder and took effect immediately.



 A linked companion measure, **Michigan HB 4333**, was also signed into law. Under the Michigan Code of Criminal Procedure, courts' sentencing guidelines calculate sentences based upon a formula that considers offense variables (OVs). OV 10 is "exploitation of a vulnerable victim" and included offenders who exploited a victim's physical or mental disability, youth or agedness, or a domestic relationship. The new law adds killing or torturing animals for the purpose of manipulating a victim for selfish or unethical purposes to the conditions applicable under OV 10.



 **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.**



Animal Sexual Abuse

 **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.**



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 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.**



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.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.**



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 Abuse and Other Crimes



Regulation 109:2-1-13 of the Ohio Administrative Code, initiated by the Attorney General’s Office, requires the basic peace officer training to include at least one hour on companion animal encounters and behavior, six hours on child abuse, one hour on crisis intervention, six hours on domestic violence, and six hours on human trafficking.



... and Bills We're Watching:

The following bills are still pending in legislative sessions that carried over into 2019, or are new bills pre-filed or recently introduced:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



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.



Utah SB45, prefiled for the 2019 legislative session would define an act of animal abuse intended to coerce, control or intimidate a spouse or partner as an act of domestic violence as well as animal cruelty.

Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment



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.

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 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.

Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



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



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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Trans Teen Who “Snapped” Gets 40 Years for Killing Parents and Family Pet



Andrea Balcer

A teenager who pled guilty to killing her parents and the family’s pet Chihuahua while struggling with gender identity and acceptance as she transitioned from male to female was sentenced to 40 years in prison. [WGME-TV](#) reported that Andrea Balcer, of Winthrop, Maine, who was 17 at the time of the 2016 slayings, told the court she “snapped” and brutally stabbed her parents. She also killed the dog because it kept barking. Balcer said her parents were not supportive of her gender transition and that she had been abused by her mother. The judge agreed with family members who argued that although transgendered individuals struggle with societal and family acceptance this could not be used as an excuse for her actions.

Kangaroo Torturer Gets Two Years in Jail

An Australian man who pled guilty to numerous animal cruelty, assault, firearms, and narcotics charges for punching an injured kangaroo 11 times and laughing as he filmed his friends torturing animals was handed a 2-year jail sentence for what a magistrate called “extremely disturbing behavior” that would adversely affect his 6-year-old son. The [Perth Sunday Times](#) said Luke Kevin Dempster, 26, filmed multiple videos of kangaroos and chickens being tortured. Dempster was also said to have driven around with another man who shot at people with a gel-blaster gun, and committed the crimes because he wanted to be accepted by a gang he was associating with.



Luke Kevin Dempster

Ex Gets 6 Months for Shooting Girlfriend’s Two Cats

A man who killed his girlfriend’s two cats because she broke up with him was sentenced to six months in jail, six months in community correction, and one year of probation. Noah Sizemore, 21, of Mishawaka, Ind., had pled guilty to domestic violence and animal cruelty, according to the [Lafayette, ind., Journal & Courier](#). Police found the dead cats and a note from Sizemore in which he admitted to shooting the cats in retaliation and to hurt his girlfriend. Sizemore must also make restitution to the West Lafayette Police Department for the costs of a necropsy and to his ex-girlfriend who had to have her apartment professionally cleaned after the killings.



Noah Sizemore



Brendan Gaughan

Arsonist-Cat Killer Gets Three+ Years in Jail

A British man who authorities said had gotten bored with harming animals after three months of killing cats progressed to setting fire to people’s sheds. Brendan Gaughan, 32, of Northampton, UK, was sentenced to three years and nine months in jail after pleading guilty to arson, animal cruelty and property damage charges. Gaughan had prowled the streets near his home hunting for cats, which he then strangled, decapitated and left their remains on their owners’ doorsteps. [The Metro](#) reported that

Gaughan torched seven sheds including one blaze which spread to a house. Gaughan told police he killed the first two cats out of spite for their owners but the attacks left him so “satisfied” he went on to kill four more in just 10 days. Prosecutors said Gaughan had told his psychiatrist that he also had had fantasies of entering women’s houses and raping and killing them, but had never acted upon those impulses.

Ohio Woman Faces Jail in Dog Shooting; Other Charges Dropped

A Shalersville, Ohio woman pled guilty to a felony charge of shooting a dog after other charges were dropped and her boyfriend was cleared of the shooting. Annette L. Musser, 38, faces a possible prison term of 12 months and a \$2,500 fine, according to the [Kent Record-Courier](#). “Gemma,” a 16-month-old bulldog, was shot in September and is under veterinary care at an animal shelter awaiting adoption. Prosecutors dropped charges including using weapons while intoxicated, passing bad checks and obstruction of official business. The bad checks charge stemmed from an earlier, unrelated incident. Musser’s boyfriend was originally charged with animal cruelty in the shooting, but those charges were dropped when Musser turned herself in to authorities.



Annette Musser



Christopher McCabe

Police Seek Estranged Husband in Dog Stabbing Incident

Authorities in Renton, Wash. issued a \$100,000 bench warrant for the arrest of Christopher McCabe, 37, who failed to show up for a court date in conjunction with charges against him of domestic violence and stabbing his dog more than a dozen times, According to [KCPQ-TV](#), McCabe had been arrested in November 2017 after his estranged wife reported seeing Instagram photos of the dog in a bathtub covered in blood. King County sheriff’s deputies also found the body of a rabbit burned in a backyard fire pit. When questioned, McCabe reportedly cited Biblical scripture to deputies and told them that God had given him insight that dogs contained evil spirits. The dog, a 5-year-old black Lab mix named “Lola,” who had been stabbed with a pitchfork and a long knife attached to a flagpole, is reportedly recovered from her injuries and living in a new home.

Man Faces Cruelty and Narcotics Charges in “Vet Shopping” Scam

Police in Guilford, Conn., arrested James Cunningham, 33, on four counts of animal cruelty and six counts of illegally obtaining drugs for allegedly visiting five different veterinarians with two dogs over a period of 10 days as a pretext to obtain narcotics for himself. Court documents said Cunningham even went so far as to use a fake name and claim his dogs had been injured when evacuating from a storm in South Carolina. Once he’d gotten the drugs, he would call the clinics later that day, saying his car had been broken into and the drugs stolen. The dogs are in good condition and have been treated for their injuries. “It isn’t new to use those kinds of drugs,” Guilford Deputy Chief Butch Hyatt told the [Tribune Media Wire](#). “Many times we would see veterinary offices getting burglarized and those drugs stolen, but to go to the extent of using a dog that is either injured or that you’re injuring, and to try to get drugs for yourself, is very disturbing.”



Jose J. Galvez-Garcia

Vengeful Nephew Charged with Killing Aunt and Uncle’s Dog

A Springs, N.Y. man who was reportedly angry at the way his aunt and uncle were treating him allegedly retaliated by choking and stabbing their 4-year-old cockapoo to death. [Newsday](#) reported that Jose J. Galvez-Garcia, 21, was arrested by East Hampton police after the mutilated body of “Simba” was found in nearby woods. He was charged with aggravated cruelty to animals and ordered to stay away from his mother, stepfather, aunt and uncle.

Boyfriend Charged with Assault and Animal Cruelty in Stabbing Protective Dog

Jesus Hernandez Garcia, 24, of Annapolis, Md., was charged with assault, reckless endangerment and animal cruelty for allegedly attacking his girlfriend and then stabbing the family dog to death when it got between them. The [Capital Gazette](#) reported that Garcia allegedly grabbed the woman's hair and punched her, then hit her over the head with a bottle of Corona, when the couple's pit bull intervened. The dog, who was stabbed several times in the neck, was cared for by Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control but died from its injuries.



Brently Ray Vaught

Kentucky Man Charged with Killing Cat, Threatening Family

Brently Ray Vaught, 35, of Russell Springs, Ky., was charged with animal torture, wanton endangerment and domestic violence after police said he beat a cat to death with a baseball bat, punched a woman and held a loaded rifle to the heads of the woman and a four-year-old son. WKYT-TV reported that family members had reported violent actions toward them and their pets over a four-month-long span.

Kentucky Man Charged with Punching Child, Stabbing Dog

A Louisville, Ky. Man was arrested on charges of punching his three-year-old son in the face four months after he allegedly stabbed a dog in the head with a butcher knife. [WDRB-TV](#) reported that a witness saw Arnaz Gill, 30, get angry at the boy and punch him. The child was taken to a children's hospital with a swollen nose and forehead. Police had also been looking for Gill since a July 4 incident when he allegedly stabbed the dog that was running loose in an apartment complex. Gill was charged with felony child abuse and misdemeanor animal cruelty.

Cat Rescuers Charged with Child Endangerment, Animal Cruelty

A couple in Buda, Texas who were running a cat rescue were charged with multiple counts of child endangerment and animal cruelty after Hays County Sheriff's deputies took 161 cats and 15 dogs from their home. [KXAN-TV](#) reported that Thomas Caffey, 49, and Melissa Caffey, 47, were the subjects of a week-long investigation. The Hays County Sheriff's Facebook post called the living conditions in the home "brutal." News media accounts indicated that the prosecutor may file additional charges as well. Four cats reportedly died: the remaining animals were being evaluated and treated at the Hays County Animal Shelter. There was no immediate word on the status of the children who were involved.



Melissa and Thomas Caffey



Jerald Jeske

Attorney Charged with Slapping Wife and Killing Dog

A suburban Chicago attorney who allegedly slapped his wife twice and yelled at her during an argument, "You love those dogs more than you love me... I'm going to kill those dogs" was charged with felony aggravated cruelty. The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that police said that Jerald Jeske, 51, of Park Ridge, Ill., threw the two small dogs off a second-floor balcony, killing the 17-year-old Chihuahua and causing the other dog to run away.



Jealous Boyfriend Charged with Trying to Shoot Dog – and Shooting Girlfriend Instead

An Eldon, Mo. man who was upset at his girlfriend's misdirected affection for her dog is facing felony charges for allegedly trying to shoot the dog on New Year's Eve – but missed and accidentally shot her in the leg instead. The [Kansas City Star](#) reported that Thomas J. Stogsdill, Jr., 42, told sheriff's deputies that the woman loved her dog more than him. Authorities said his blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit for driving.

Thomas Stogsdill, Jr.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Jan. 15 (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.”

Jan. 19 – Genoa, Italy: [Link Italia](#) will hold a training course on “The Zooanthropology of Deviance: Maltreatment and Killing of Animals, Interpersonal Violence, and Other Antisocial and Criminal Behavior.”

Jan. 23 – Pittsfield, Mass: [HAVEN](#) – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network – will meet.

Jan. 23 – Philadelphia, Pa.: Phil Arkow will present on “The Dark Side of the Human-Animal Bond” at the [University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine](#).

Jan. 31 (online): Leigh Anne Garrard of the ASPCA will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on “Investigating Animal Crimes: What Law Enforcement and Other Justice Professionals Need to Know.”

Feb. 5 and ongoing (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a webinar on how educating students about The Link helps make humane education more relevant in the 21st Century for the Humane Education Coalition's [Humane Summit](#).

Feb. 6 (online): The Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses and Link Toronto will host a [webinar](#) on “Pet Fostering Services Supporting Women Leaving Violence.”

Feb. 8 – 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. 12 (online): Martha Smith-Blackmore will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on “Working with your Veterinarian to Better Document Animal Maltreatment.”

Feb. 20 (online): Jaki MacKinnon of Bethesda House and Kia Rainbow of Interval House of Ottawa will discuss issues and solutions in “Women's Shelters Housing Pets” in a [webinar](#) for the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses.

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

Feb. 28 (online): Adam Ricci will conduct a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar on “Advanced Components of Animal Cruelty Investigations” on behalf of the National Animal Care & Control Association.

March 4 – Sewell, N.J.: Phil Arkow will train on the Link for the [Center for Family Services](#).

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

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

March 19-23 – Knoxville, Tenn.: The [Veterinary Social Work Intensive](#) at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine will integrate animal-related bereavement, compassion fatigue management, and the Link between violence to humans and animals into veterinary social work practice.

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

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

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

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

May 17 – Denver, Colo.: The Link between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence will be a plenary at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ 3rd National [Domestic Violence Prosecution Conference](#).

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

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

April 12 – Vancouver, B.C., Canada: Maya Gupta and Mary Lou Randour will present on “What Every Psychologist Should Know about The Link between Animal Abuse and Family Violence” for the [British Columbia Psychological Association](#).

Apr. 14 – Montreal, Que., Canada: Sarah May Lindsay will present “Co-Sheltering Companion Animals in Emergency Women’s Shelters: From Model to Practice & Solutions,” and Margaret Doyle and Brad Nichols will present “CSI Animal: Veterinary Forensics in Practice” at Humane Canada’s [National Animal Welfare Conference](#).

Apr. 23-26 – Honolulu, Hawai’i: Katie Campbell of RedRover will present on the Link between domestic violence and animal abuse and strategies for co-sheltering pets and people at the [Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma](#) 16th International Summit.

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

June 25-26 – 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.

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

July 18-19 – Toronto, Ont., Canada: Jyothi Robertson will present four sessions on animal welfare, animal hoarding and forensics, and Rebecca Ledger will present four sessions on forensic behavioral analysis, at the [joint conference](#) of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

Aug. 2-6 – Washington, D.C.: Phil Arkow will present on “Preparing the Practice to respond to Suspected Animal Abuse” at the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)’s Convention 2019.

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

Aug. 27 (online): Terry Mills of the ASPCA will conduct a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on “What Dog Fighters Don’t Want You to Know: Considerations for the Justice Professional.”

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

Sept. 18-19 – Albuquerque, N. Mex.: Positive Links’ biennial [New Mexico Conference on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence](#) will be held.

Oct. 1 (online): Jessica Rock will conduct a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar on “Creating an Animal Abuse Task Force: How Law Enforcement Can Work with Local resources to Investigate and Prosecute Crimes” on behalf of the National Sheriffs’ Association and the National Animal Care & Control Association.

Oct. 11 – Dallas, Texas: Chelsea Rider will present at a 3-hour CE & CEU training event hosted by the [North Texas Link Coalition](#).

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

Nov. 21-22 – 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

Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
Columbus City Attorney's Office/Prosecution Division
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Diane Balkin, J.D.

Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund
Past President, Int'l. Veterinary Forensic Sciences Assn.
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Director, Montgomery County Animal Resource Center
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