



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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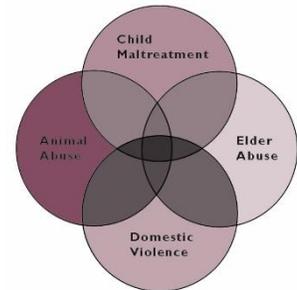
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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**October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

## ANIMAL ABUSE &... CHILD MALTREATMENT

### Scottish SPCA Link Conference Brings It All Back Home With Conference on Animal Abuse and ACES

Much of the early work exploring and publicizing The Link between animal abuse and human violence had its origins in Scotland. Awareness of The Link was accelerated on Sept. 9 when an all-day conference, sponsored by the [Scottish SPCA and the University of Edinburgh](#), brought additional awareness to the region.

Some 159 professionals representing a diverse array of professional interests from the UK, Sweden and Germany attended the conference, whose theme was “The Links Between Animal Cruelty, Adverse Childhood Experiences and Human Violence: Research and Practice.” The Scottish SPCA, celebrating its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has long been a pioneer in Link work in the UK.

#### The Historical Context

Keynote speaker Phil Arkow, Coordinator of the National Link Coalition, described how much current Link awareness had its origins in Scotland. In 1996, veterinary pathologist Helen Munro achieved international recognition through her seminal article in the *Irish Veterinary Journal*, entitled “Battered Pets” – a clear reference to earlier recognition of the “battered child syndrome” in a 1962 article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and Lenore Walker’s 1979 book describing what was then a new terminology for the “battered woman.” Munro and colleague Michael Thrusfield would go on to further bring Link awareness to the British veterinary community through a groundbreaking series of four articles in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice* in 2001 describing various aspects of “battered pets.” She and her husband, Ranald Munro, collaborated in 2008 on a textbook that became a staple of veterinary forensics.



**Veterinary forensics and Link pioneers Helen & Ranald Munro**

In 1997 the SSPCA launched First Strike Scotland to address animal harm by integrating animal abuse into enforcement and social justice. They helped establish the UK’s first cross-reporting system and trained police recruits on The Link.

The SSPCA in 2002 encouraged measures in Parliament to research The Link between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse, study therapeutic programs for children who abuse animals, and create protocols for cross-reporting. They commissioned the groundbreaking 2003 Edinburgh Study on youth crimes and animal cruelty.

More recently, their Animal Guardians program is a pilot project identifying the pivotal role Linking Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) such as victimization, bullying and child abuse and cruelty to animals. Such efforts have resulted in positive developments: in 2016 Scotland included veterinarians among beauticians and dentists as the three professions most likely to encounter abused women in a £1,000,000 campaign to train front-line workers to respond to domestic violence. And just this past March, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons gave veterinarians clearance to report suspected animal, child and domestic abuse without fear of violating confidentiality.

### Animal Abuse's Adverse Impact on Children



**Silke Zeller (left) of the German Link Coalition, and Jo Williams**

Professor Jo Williams of the University of Edinburgh described the psychological and social risk factors and the different developmental pathways for childhood animal cruelty. Her research found that childhood animal cruelty starts as young as 6 years of age and is more common among boys, especially in urban areas. Leading causes for childhood animal cruelty include: a lack of attachment to pets; a lack of knowledge of animals' welfare needs; lack of knowledge about animal sentience; misinterpretation of animals' emotional signals; and a lack of responsibility to pets.

Childhood animal abuse has several complex origins, she said. It may be: a deliberate intention to harm the animal; retaliation for an animal bite; an indirect attempt to harm the animal's owner; modeling the way the child sees the animal being treated by others; or a means of lashing out. Future research needs to explore the development of cruelty behavior, the neuropsychological foundations underpinning animal cruelty, and the social and contextual risk factors affecting it. She argued that interventions and animal welfare education, in order to be successful, should promote attachment, knowledge, attitudes, and animal-directed empathy.



**SSPCA Chief Executive Kirsteen Campbell and George Hosking**

George Hosking, Chief Executive and Research Director for the WAVE Trust, described how early childhood development and eye contact with mothers is extremely critical in shaping children's emotional attachments. A lack of attunement with the mother, especially in a child's first year of life, often means that empathy toward others does not develop and empathy is the single greatest inhibitor to committing violence. He noted that violence directed against any family member ricochets through the entire family.

The WAVE Trust's 70/30 campaign aims to reduce child abuse in the UK by 70% by 2030 by focusing on improving parenting skills. "Trauma-informed approaches are not one-off benefits: they break the intergenerational cycle of violence and abuse and keep it from cascading generation after generation into the future. Preventing harm to children means preventing harm to animals," he said. "If children are not damaged, the risk of harm to animals is significantly reduced."

## Collaborations in Combatting Cruelty

Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn called for increased collaboration to assist the SSPCA as it responds to 90,000 abused and injured animals each year. “Partnerships are key for changing the future for people and animals in Scotland,” he said. “The key challenge is for all the organizations here to work together. We’re not just dealing with puppies and kitties all day: we’re dealing with really serious criminals. We’re dealing with the same people that other organizations are. Organizations have to join up to keep these people at bay. It’s all about catching the bad guys, not about who gets the kudos.”



SSPCA Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn

Paula Boyden described how the landmark Forging the Links conference in 2001 put the concepts of non-accidental injury and animal sexual abuse into veterinarians’ lexicons for the first time. She called for additional efforts to bring veterinary nurses into Link work, as clients may be more willing to share secrets with them than with the veterinarian.

She noted an ongoing challenge in that seeing animal abuse is a “blind spot”: many veterinarians do not expect clients to lie to them or to hurt animals. “But anybody can be a victim, and anybody can be a perpetrator,” she said. But progress is being made, and Link training is being offered today in seven of the eight veterinary colleges in the UK.



Gilly Mendes-Ferreira

SSPCA Head of Education and Policy Gilly Mendes-Ferreira echoed the call for ongoing collaborative efforts. “It’s all about working in partnerships,” she told the participants. “Sharing our knowledge, working together, and being a model for other countries. That’s how we’re going to make a difference.”

## Bill in Congress Would Amend CAPTA to Report Animal Abuse

**H.R. 2808**, introduced by Rep. Ann Kuster (D – N.H.) with 20 co-sponsors, would amend the Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA) to include data on animal abuse within the National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The bill is in the House Education and Labor Committee. It would require NCANDS to maintain and disseminate information relating to the incidence of child abuse and neglect cases in which animal abuse occurred, including any failure to act, which results in undue pain, suffering or death to any animal. NCANDS currently includes a similar provision regarding substance abuse in 700,000 cases of child abuse each year. The [Animal Welfare Institute](#) will present a Legislative Briefing on H.R. 2808 on Oct. 15 in Washington with Shelby McDonald and Beth Merachnik.



Rep. Ann Kuster

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## *ANIMAL ABUSE & ... CROSS-REPORTING*

### **Massachusetts Cross-Reporting Law Increases Reports by 46%**



**Members of the Massachusetts SPCA's animal cruelty law enforcement team**

A question that is frequently raised regarding cross-reporting suspected animal, child and elder abuse is whether making specific professionals mandated reporters results in an increase in the number of cases reported. Such a question has implications not only for greater, more comprehensive responsiveness to family violence but also impacts budgetary and human resources concerns for reporting and responding agencies

The Massachusetts SPCA has conducted what is believed to be the first study of its kind in the U.S., and its findings are quite compelling. In 2014, Massachusetts enacted the PAWS Act (Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety) ([See the September 2014 LINK-Letter](#)) whose provisions include a mandate that veterinarians report known or suspected animal abuse. Veterinarians who make such reports in good faith are not liable for civil or criminal action, but a failure to report is reportable to the state registration board of veterinary medicine.

The MSPCA, which has statewide powers to enforce animal cruelty laws, recently looked at its law enforcement records for two years prior to the mandatory reporting law going into effect, and two years afterwards. The number of reports increased 46%, reports Kara Holmquist, MSPCA Director of Advocacy.

While it's not clear whether the 46% increase is attributable solely to veterinarians reporting suspected abuse, the findings take on additional significance as a special commission is currently exploring the ramifications of a new law passed in 2018. That measure mandates animal control officers to report suspected abuse of children, elders and the disabled and permits adult protective services workers to report suspected animal abuse ([See the September 2018 LINK-Letter](#)). The commission is looking into many issues, including potential increases in caseloads and training costs ([See article below](#)).

The MSPCA, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Attorney General's office and the Animal Rescue League of Boston, has created a training program on animal cruelty investigations for the Municipal Police Training Committee. Starting this Fall, some 15,000 Massachusetts municipal police officers will be trained using this program, Holmquist reports. The training highlights The Link between animal cruelty and human violence, animal cruelty laws and conducting investigations involving animals. "With this training, officers will be more prepared to handle animal cruelty investigations, increasing the capacity to protect animals from abuse and neglect across the Commonwealth," she says.

## Commission Compiles State-by-State Cross-Reporting Laws

A special commission appointed in Massachusetts to research the feasibility, costs and challenges of instituting cross-reporting among child protection, animal cruelty and elder/disabled abuse agencies has published a comprehensive report reviewing 50 states' statutes covering cross-reporting. The review of other states' laws was part of the commission's original mandate.



Lenore Montanaro, Tracey Cusick and Martha Smith-Blackmore

The 19-page report describes state-by-state veterinary reporting of suspected animal abuse and their immunity from civil and criminal liability, animal control officers' reporting of child and elder abuse, and social services and law enforcement personnel's requirements or permission to report suspected animal abuse. The report details each state's laws with appropriate statutory citations.

*Multi-Jurisdiction Laws Concerning Mandated Reporting, Immunity for Reporting, and Cross-Reporting for Animal Cruelty and Abuse* was co-authored by Lenore Montanaro, Tracey Cusick and Martha Smith-Blackmore. The statutes were compiled for the PAWS II Special Commission. The report is available in the [Resources section](#) of the National Link Coalition's website.

Montanaro is an animal law attorney in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where she chairs the Rhode Island Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. Smith-Blackmore is a forensic veterinarian based in Massachusetts and serves on the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee. Cusick is an Assistant District Attorney in Norfolk County, Mass.

## Swedish County Publishes Cross-Reporting Procedures

The Vastmanlands County Administration in Sweden has published a handy two-sided "Action Card" designed to help animal services employees to recognize and report suspected child and adult abuse, and to similarly aid child welfare workers in recognizing and reporting suspected animal abuse.

One side tells social service workers that if they are investigating suspected maltreatment they should also pay attention to any injured or neglected animals. It presents simple warning signs of animal maltreatment, such as a lack of food or water, poor hygiene, animals that are constantly caged, an animal that appears anxious or worried, or an owner's answer for the animal's condition being an unlikely explanation. Phone numbers for animal welfare services and the police are presented.

The other side alerts animal services employees that if they see animals suspected of being mistreated they should pay attention to how the children and adults in the family are doing. It encourages them to look for signs of bruising, burns or fractures, attacks on other family members, evidence of crime, mental illness, or poor care or hygiene. It reminds employees that some of them are mandated reporters of child abuse and presents phone numbers for social services and police.

The card can be downloaded from our [online collection of foreign-language resources](#).



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

### **Banfield Foundation Launches PSA for Pet-Friendly Shelters**

Just in time for the commemoration of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (and the start of the Fall football season), the Banfield Foundation launched a national Public Service Announcement in September featuring Seattle Seahawks star quarterback Russel Wilson promoting the foundation's four-year, \$1,000,000 "Safer Together" campaign to help make more domestic violence shelters pet-friendly.



**Russel Wilson and "Naomi"**

The PSA is published on Banfield's [Safer Together web page](#) and has already been distributed on [People Magazine](#) Online, Yahoo, reddit, and the Bleacher Report. Additional interviews and distribution channels are planned in coming weeks.

The one-minute PSA ([See the July 2019 LINK-Letter](#)) features Wilson with his dog, "Naomi." "The bond we share with our pets is undeniable. It fills us with love, comfort and joy," he says. "Sadly, in homes where domestic violence occurs, pets are often victims, too. Each year millions of domestic violence victims stay in abusive situations because they fear for the safety of their pet."

With less than 10% of domestic violence shelters allowing pets, he notes, "too many lives are at risk. Victims of domestic violence should never have to make a choice between their own safety and the safety of their loved ones, including pets. When we help pets, we help people too."

### **Information Sought on Pet-Friendly Shelters for the Homeless**

While many programs have emerged to provide co-sheltering for pets in domestic violence shelters, an area which has not received as much attention is the concept making shelters for people who are homeless pet-friendly. Given that many people are made homeless as a result of domestic violence, this aspect of The Link has potential to protect a significant number of abused people and animals.



The Animals & Society Institute has received a grant from Maddie's Fund to identify best practices, strategies and effectiveness in such co-sheltering. ASI, in coordination with [My Dog Is My Home](#), has identified some 30 homeless shelters across the U.S. and Canada that offer co-sheltering. ASI is planning to conduct site visits this Fall to three shelters – The People Concern and LA Family Housing in Los Angeles and Fred Victor in Toronto – and is seeking other venues to visit.

Site visits will include interviews with program directors and staff, focus groups with people receiving services. If your organization provides co-sheltering or you would like to nominate another organization, please contact ASI at [info@animalsandsociety.org](mailto:info@animalsandsociety.org)

## Australia Homelessness Network Provides Foster Pet Care

A network of social services agencies addressing the needs of the homeless in the northern part of the Australian state of Victoria has implemented a foster care program for the pets of domestic violence survivors and other homeless individuals to remove a significant barrier to their seeking safety.



The [Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network](#) is a consortium of 17 women’s refuges, domestic violence & sexual assault units, community health and housing services, and aboriginal support agencies in a region covering some 45,000 square kilometers with a population of over 300,000 people. The Network provides resources, information and support to these agencies in addressing the impact on children and adults experiencing homelessness, many of whom are survivors of domestic violence.

Harry McNulty, Project Worker in the Network’s Pets Accommodation and Treatment Service (PATS), tells *The LINK-Letter* that the agency received one-year funding to support accommodation for pets of people experiencing homelessness and family violence. The program provides pet housing for up to one month in order to enable survivors of homelessness and family violence to stay in crisis accommodation or to secure more permanent accommodation without the initial barrier of having pets with them.

Individuals can apply for funding through Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services, which will care for the pets. The agency also links with Pet Medical Crisis which raises funds to assist with the costs of medical interventions for companion animals in Victoria.

## Pet Co-Sheltering – 20 Years and Counting!

Allie Phillips, who launched the [Sheltering Animals and Families Together™ \(SAF-T\)](#) movement with construction guidelines and protocols to help domestic violence shelters accept the pet members of families needing to escape domestic violence, recently visited one of the first shelters that adopted her program. In a Facebook post she described the thrill she experienced of seeing SAF-T still in action in Wayne County, Mich.:



**“Today I visited a domestic violence shelter in Wayne County that built an animal house onsite utilizing the guidelines that I wrote over a decade ago. I presented them with a plaque and met the cat residents who are now safe. I loved hearing how the animal loving community is giving them a lot of support. This makes my ♥♥so happy each time I visit a shelter that took a crazy idea I had 20 years ago and built it.”**

## ANIMAL ABUSE AND... VETERINARY MEDICINE



### Michigan Bill Proposes Mandatory Reporting

A new measure introduced on Aug. 20 in the Michigan Legislature would require licensed veterinarians who have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect of companion animals to immediately report the situation to an animal control shelter or law enforcement agency in that jurisdiction.

**Sen. Lucido** **SB 429**, as introduced, would add a new section, 750.50.d, to the Michigan Penal Code Chapter IX regarding animals. It does not include provisions guaranteeing veterinarians immunity from civil and criminal liability for reporting allegations in good faith, as is currently guaranteed in 12 of the 16 states where veterinarians are mandated reporters of suspected animal abuse and neglect.

Michigan's Public Health Code, Sec. 333.18827, currently grants veterinarians and veterinary technicians immunity from civil and criminal liability if they voluntarily choose to report, in good faith, suspected abandonment, neglect or abuse of animals to officers of the peace, animal control or humane organizations. It is not immediately clear why provisions of immunity were omitted from the bill.

The bill, introduced by Senate Majority Whip Peter Lucido (R – Macomb County), is in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety.

## NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

### Canada to Hold 2<sup>nd</sup> Violence Link Conference

The new Canadian Violence Link Coalition (*See the [October 2018 LINK-Letter](#)*) will hold its [2<sup>nd</sup> Violence Link Conference](#) in Toronto on Nov. 20-22. Hosted by Humane Canada (formerly the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies), the inaugural conference in 2017 brought together over 200 professionals from 10 key Canadian sectors that work to prevent and address violence against people or animals for cross-sector training on how to stop the cycle of violence.



The 2019 conference promises to be even larger with nationally- and internationally-recognized speakers on violence prevention offering ideas for cross-collaboration among social workers, police, prosecutors, politicians, anti-violence workers, animal welfare representatives, veterinarians, and others. Sessions have been pre-approved for CE credits for animal welfare administrators, veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Two pre-conference sessions will address animal cruelty prosecutions and investigations/enforcement. A world-class list of 25 speakers will address topics including: integrating across agencies; The Link between child and animal sexual assaults; social work and The Link; pet safekeeping for survivors of intimate partner violence; best practices in animal crime scene investigations; systemic responses to animal cruelty; and lessons learned from American Link coalitions.

Lead partners include: Women's Shelters Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian government's Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, the Ontario Veterinary College, Link Toronto, and the Ottawa Police Department.

## New Mexico Positive Links Conference Gets Great Publicity



New Mexico's widely acclaimed biennial Link conference not only got off to a rousing start, but ended with a terrific burst of publicity when KRQE-TV in Albuquerque featured the event. The [two-minute feature](#), broadcast live from the conference venue at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, reviewed the two-day program which introduced law enforcement officers, social workers, attorneys, judges, and many other professionals to The Link. This year's conference offered two tracks, one for legal and law enforcement personnel, and one for social worker and domestic violence workers.

"Organizers say that animal abuse is likely a sign that there's more going on," reported KRQE reporter Jami Seymore. "Organizers are teaching animal control officers to be on the lookout for signs of domestic violence and child abuse. The more likely they can see warning signs, the more likely they can stop abuse in the future."

"If an animal is being abused, 76% of the time, someone else in the family is also being abused," said Tammy Fiebelkorn, President of New Mexico's [Positive Links](#) campaign. "We need to be looking at animal abuse because it's a bad thing in and of itself, but it's also an indicator that there's other family violence happening. We all need to be looking at the big picture so we can save everyone in the family," she added.

"When you bring a group like this together and you give them this information, it opens up a whole new world to them and it affects the change that we need for the betterment of animals," said John Thompson, Executive Director of the National Animal Care and Control Association, who spoke at the conference.

Other nationally recognized speakers at the 2019 conference included Andrew Campbell, Jenny Edwards, Melinda Merck, Mary Lou Randour, Adam Ricci, and Michelle Welch.

## Link Training Continues in Kentucky



[Joye Estes](#) of the Kentucky Link Coalition conducted a training for multiple agencies in Grayson County, Ky. Estes tells *The LINK-Letter* that representatives from the county prosecutor, police and deputies, and animal control officers from cities and the county attended to learn about human and animal abuse and neglect.

## *THE LINK... IN THE LITERATURE*

### **Hong Kong Literature Review Explores Child & Adolescent Links**

What may be the first research article on The Link to come out of Hong Kong has synthesized 87 research studies to explore the impact of childhood and adolescent acts of animal abuse on future interpersonal violence. Oliver Chan and Rebecca Wong, of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at City University of Hong Kong, found that beating, hitting, or kicking, shooting, strangling or smothering, stabbing, and sexual abusing are the commonly used methods in abusing animals.



**Oliver Chan and Rebecca Wong**

They reported that:

- Children and adolescents abuse animals for different reasons.
- Those who are exposed to domestic violence are likely to have higher rates of animal cruelty, which in turn increases their subsequent propensity to engage in delinquent behavior.
- Male children and adolescents are more likely than their female counterparts to commit acts of animal cruelty.
- Early onset of animal cruelty acts is suggested to be predictive of subsequent violent or antisocial behavior.
- Bestiality should be considered an act of animal abuse, or specifically as interspecies sexual abuse.

The review notes strong support for the increased risk of children and adolescents who commit animal cruelty to perpetrate interpersonal violence against human victims in later life. It explores five key theoretical models (social learning theory, frustration theory, deviance generalization hypothesis, graduation hypothesis, and sexual polymorphous theory) to explain The Link between childhood and/or adolescent animal cruelty and subsequent violence against human victims in adulthood.

-- Chan, H.C., & Wong, R.W.Y. (2019). **Childhood and adolescent animal cruelty and subsequent interpersonal violence in adulthood: A review of the literature.** *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 48, 83-93*

### **Study of Pets' Importance to Children Exposed to Domestic Violence**

This study evaluated whether and to what extent the associations between exposure to intimate partner violence and several indicators of children's mental health vary as a function of children's positive engagement with pets and exposure to animal cruelty. 204 children, aged 7–12 years, and their maternal caregivers were recruited from domestic violence agencies in a western U.S. state. Findings highlighted the potential protective effects of positive engagement with pets and importance of screening for exposure to animal cruelty when engaging in trauma-informed work with children exposed to intimate partner violence.

-- Hawkins, R.D., McDonald, S.E., O'Connoe, K., Matijczak, A., & Ascione, F.R., et al. (2019). **Exposure to intimate partner violence and internalizing symptoms: The moderating effects of positive relationships with pets and animal cruelty exposure.** *Child Abuse & Neglect, 98.*

## *BUILDING LINK AWARENESS*

### **Additional Link Outreach Slated for Toledo, Ohio**

The series of Link trainings held in Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo, Ohio last March (See the [May 2019 LINK-Letter](#)) has resulted in several additional outreaches that will offer additional training and judicial response to Link issues. Coordinator [Vicki Deisner](#) tells *The LINK-Letter* that she was able to give a presentation in July to the Lucas County domestic violence task force. The outcome was positive as the group invited Stephen Heaven, President & CEO of the Toledo Area Humane Society, to join the task force.



**Participants at the Toledo training learned about The Link.**

Meanwhile, a local prosecutor assigned to handle domestic violence cases is reportedly petitioning a judge to take on animal abuse cases. These new developments will be discussed at the next task force meeting on Oct. 23.

The task force has invited Deisner to conduct a regional training for social workers on Oct. 30 on The Link between animal and human violence and what a successful Link coalition in Toledo might look like. Deisner is reaching out to the Toledo Bar Association to try to get CLEs for the training.

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

### **Link Bills We're Watching**

The majority of the 2019 state legislative sessions have ended, but we're following a record number of bills impacting animal abuse and its Links with other crimes. ***If you know of any such bills not included here, please let us know.***

#### *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



**Arizona HB 2161** would have allowed a petitioner to request an ex parte severe threat protection order based on the respondent's ownership of a firearm; in determining whether ground exist for an order, courts would have considered all relevant evidence including the respondent's cruel mistreatment of an animal. The order would have required the respondent to relinquish all firearms and ammunition. **The bill died when the Legislature adjourned.**



**California AB 415** would expand provisions of the California Victim Compensation program to allow the costs of temporary housing for the pets of domestic violence victims to be reimbursable as part of relocation expenses. The bill passed the Assembly 76-0 and the Senate and was sent to the Governor on Sept. 23.



**California AB-109** and **SB 109**, the Budget Act of 2019 which makes appropriations for the support of state government for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, includes the allocation of \$5,000,000 for providing shelter, food and basic veterinarians' services for the pets of individuals in homeless shelters; significant numbers of individuals came to be homeless due to domestic violence. The bills were enacted into law on Sept. 27.



 **Colorado HB 19-1177** creates “Extreme Risk Protection Orders” that allow courts to prohibit persons from having or obtaining a firearm upon a finding that the person presents a significant risk to self or others. In determining grounds for the issuance of such an order, courts can consider the person having been arrested for domestic violence and/or animal cruelty. **The bill was signed into law on April 12.**



 **Florida HB 379** and **SB 774** would have allowed courts to issue protection orders enjoining the respondent from interfering with the custody, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming, or disposing of any animals owned by the petitioner and/or respondent and minor children in the home. **The bills died when the Legislature session adjourned.**

 **Georgia HB 582** would have allowed courts to create a detailed “pet care plan” of responsibilities and schedules to ensure animals’ best interests in marriage dissolutions. **The bill was in the House Judiciary committee when the Assembly adjourned.**

 **Indiana HB 1615** amends existing provisions in IC 31-9-2-42 which include “beating” an animal without justification within the definition of “domestic or family violence” to read “abusing” an animal. The bill passed both houses overwhelmingly and **was signed into law on April 29.**



 **Kentucky HB 25** would have: prohibited pretrial diversion for a person charged with torture of a dog or cat; made torture of a dog or cat a Class D felony; and prohibited 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. **The bill died in the House Judiciary Committee.**

 **Michigan HB 4498** would enjoin and restrain respondents served with personal protection orders, which include protection of pets, from possessing, using, transporting, selling, purchasing, carrying, shipping, receiving, or distributing a firearm or ammunition. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

 **Mississippi SB 2014** would have prohibited respondents from removing, damaging, hiding, harming, or disposing of any companion animal owned or possessed by a person protected by the order. The court could have also authorized the removal of a companion animal from the respondent. The bill passed the Senate 51-0 but **died in the House Judiciary Committee.**

 **Missouri HB 370** would have added “intimidation” – injuring, killing, or threat to injure or kill an animal if such act is done to coerce, control, punish, or be an act of revenge against a household member – as grounds for a court to issue a protection order. **The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.**

 **New Hampshire HB 361** adds animals to the tangible property whose disposition may be determined by courts during divorce or annulment settlements; this property settlement “shall address the care and ownership of the parties’ animals, taking into consideration the animals’ wellbeing.” **The bill was signed into law by Gov. Chris Sununu.**





**New Jersey A 5549** and **S 3886** would prohibit persons undergoing a divorce from surrendering a dog or cat to an animal shelter without the consent of the other party. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Natural Resources and Senate Environment & Energy Committees, respectively.



**New Mexico HB 52** would have defined an act of animal abuse intended to coerce, control or intimidate a domestic violence victim as an act of domestic violence as well as animal cruelty. The bill passed the House 50-13 but **died in the Senate**.



**New York A 588** would create a felony crime of animal cruelty to companion animals that is intended to threaten, intimidate or harass a family or household member, with additional penalties if committed in the presence of a minor child. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



**New York A 767** and **S 1251** would amend language in pet protection orders to allow the court to grant petitioners exclusive care, custody and control of animals kept by the petitioner, respondent or child, and to order the respondent to stay away from, take, transfer, conceal, harm, or dispose of the animal. The bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Rules Committees.



**New York A 1097** and **S 6222** would require courts to consider the best interest of companion animals in awarding their possession in a divorce or separation proceeding. The bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committees.



**New York A 7395** and **S 6158** would require police officers and prosecutors investigating a domestic violence incident to advise the victim of many options, including the ability to include pets and service animals in an order of protection. The bills were consolidated and have passed both the Assembly and Senate and are back in the Assembly.



**North Dakota HB 1537** would have allowed family members to file a petition for a “public safety petition order” prohibiting the respondent from having or obtaining a firearm if the respondent is believed to pose a risk of injury to self or others; among the criteria to establish such risk is a history of violence or cruelty toward an animal. **The bill died in the House.**



**Pennsylvania SB 90** and **HB 1075** would create “Extreme Risk Protection Orders” that would allow courts to prohibit persons from having or obtaining a firearm upon a finding that the person presents a risk of suicide or of causing death or serious bodily injury to another person. Factors that could help make such a determination include a history of domestic abuse and/or animal cruelty. **HB 1028** would allow household members to file a petition for a “Firearm Restraining Order” prohibiting a respondent from having firearms, weapons or ammunition if the respondent presents an immediate and present danger to physical safety, as represented by acts of domestic violence or killing or threatening to kill pets or other animals. The bills are in their respective Judiciary Committees.



**Rhode Island H 5023** and **SB 225** now allow courts to provide for the safety and welfare of all household animals and pets in protection orders for adult and child victims of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation. **The measure was signed by the Governor on June 28** and took effect immediately.





**Rhode Island H 5483** and **H 5822** would have allowed the district court to determine the ownership of a pet between “formerly cohabiting parties” based on what would be in the pet’s best interests. **Both bills were held by the House Judiciary Committee for further study.**



**Texas SB 194** adds “indecent assault,” which encompasses numerous actions of illegal sexual gratification, to the list of crimes for which victims can obtain a protection order that includes harming or threatening the victim’s animals. Such pet protection orders are already in place for victims of domestic or family violence, sexual assault or abuse, and stalking. **The measure was signed into law on June 14 and took effect Sept. 1.**



**Texas HB 3021** would have directed the Attorney General and the State Bar of Texas to provide information to the public about the availability of provisions that allow pets to be included in protective orders. The bill **died when the legislature adjourned.**



**Texas HB 2516** would have added cruelty to non-livestock animals with the intent to coerce, control, punish or intimidate another family member to the definition of “family violence”. The bill was in the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee **when the legislature adjourned.**



**Utah SB 45** defines an act of aggravated animal cruelty intended to coerce, control or intimidate a spouse or partner as an act of domestic violence as well as animal cruelty. **The bill was signed into law on March 27.**



**Virginia HB 2642** and **SB 1276** would have made any animal cruelty violation a Class 6 felony if carried out to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member. **The bills died in the Senate.**



**Wyoming HB 235** allows courts to issue protection orders granting sole possession of any pets kept by the petitioner, the respondent, or a minor child “for the purpose of protecting the household pet.” The order orders the respondent to not contact, abduct, remove, conceal, or dispose of the household pet. **The new law took effect July 1.**



### *Animal Abuse and Elder Abuse*



**Maryland HB 561** would have added the crime of psychological abuse of a vulnerable adult, defined as the intentional use of verbal or other conduct resulting in a vulnerable adult’s apprehension of fear, confusion, intimidation, depression or emotional distress; such conduct would include the destruction or harm of an animal owned by the vulnerable adult. **The bill was withdrawn from the Judiciary Committee.**



**New York A 1153** would bar landlords from denying residential occupancy or evicting persons over age 62 solely for keeping a common household pet. Property owners could establish reasonable rules for the care and handling of pets. The bill is in the Assembly Housing Committee.



**Pennsylvania SB 819** would extensively revise the Older Adults Protective Services Act and would impose a 25-year ban on individuals convicted of having sexual intercourse with animals from working in long-term care nursing facilities, personal care homes, home health care agencies, and adult daily living centers. The bill is in the Appropriations Committee.

### *Animal-Assisted Interventions for Crime Victims and Witnesses*



**New Hampshire HB 513** would have allowed victims and witnesses of child abuse and sexual abuse, and persons with intellectual disabilities, to have a comforting facility dog or therapy animal accompany them to court. **The bill was retained in the Judiciary Committee.**



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



**New Jersey A3558** would appropriate \$100,000 to establish a pilot program in the Department of Children & Families to provide animal-assisted therapy to victims of childhood violence and trauma. The bill is in the Assembly Human Services Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment*



**H.R. 2808**, the Child & Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act, would amend the Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA) to include data on animal abuse in the National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The bill is in the House Education and Labor Committee.



**Colorado HB 19-1220**, allows any witness, including victims of child sexual abuse, to be accompanied by a court facility dog.



**New York A 831** would increase the penalty for aggravated animal cruelty from two to four years if committed in the presence of a child. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



**New York A 955** would make it a misdemeanor to knowingly cause a minor child under age 16 to attend an animal fight. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



**New York A 1211** and **S 3415** would permit mandated reporters of suspected child abuse to report suspected animal cruelty, notwithstanding confidentiality provisions, if the act were committed by a person also suspected of child abuse or maltreatment. Individuals already permitted to report suspected child abuse (which includes everyone in New York State) could also report suspected animal cruelty. Reports made in good faith would be immune from civil and criminal liability. **S 3415** passed the Senate and both measures are in the Assembly Children & Families Committee.



**New York A 2664** and **S 3327** would amend the definition of child endangerment and other related statutes to include committing acts of animal cruelty in the presence of a child and to strengthen penalties for existing animal cruelty charges when committed in the presence of a child. The bills are in the Assembly Codes and Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committees.



**North Carolina H 507** would make it a felony to bring a minor under the age of 18 to a dog- or cockfight. The bill passed the House 113-0 and is in the Senate Rules & Operations Committee.



**Washington HB 1235** would have created a new crime of “providing a harmful material to a minor” that includes bestiality and animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape, or torture. The bill was in the House Committee on Public Safety **when the legislature adjourned.**

## *Psychological Evaluation of Offenders*



**California SB 580** would amend current procedures requiring animal abuse offenders on probation to complete counseling for behavior or conduct disorders, to instead undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation, treatment, and a responsible animal owner education course as the court deems appropriate. The bill passed the Senate 38-0 and is in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.



**Colorado HB 19-1092** allows courts to order mental health treatment to adult and juvenile offenders convicted of cruelty to animals; current law only allows courts to impose anger management treatment. The bill also requires courts to impose a ban of three to five years upon a felony conviction for adults and permits such a restriction for juvenile offenders. **The bill was signed into law on May 1.**



**Mississippi HB 984** would have required offenders convicted of aggravated cruelty to a dog or cat to undergo psychiatric or psychological evaluation or counseling. **The bill died in the House Judiciary Committee.**



**Missouri HB 111** would have allowed courts to require adults and juveniles convicted of animal abuse to undergo psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment; these would be mandatory if the offense were torture or mutilation, or upon a second conviction for animal abuse. *The bill also addressed Cross-Reporting* . It was approved by the Rules and Crime Prevention & Public Safety Committees but **died when the Legislature adjourned.**



**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.



**New York A 984** and **S 385** would require courts to impose mandatory psychiatric evaluation and treatment for juvenile and adult offenders convicted of aggravated cruelty to animals. **S 384** would require juvenile offenders to undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment where necessary. The Assembly bill is in the Agriculture Committee. The Senate bills are in the Domestic Animal Welfare Committee.



**New York A 987** and **S 2007** would prohibit a person convicted of “Buster’s Law” from having a companion animal unless authorized by court order after they complete appropriate psychiatric or psychological testing. **A 987** is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee; **S 2007** is in the Senate Domestic Animal Welfare Committee.

## *Animal Sexual Abuse*



**California AB 611** closes loopholes to make any sexual act with an animal a crime; current law prohibits sexual assault of animals only for the purpose of sexual gratification. It authorizes the seizure of animals in such cases. It also adds this misdemeanor offense to the list of crimes which would prevent a convicted offender from owning animals for a specified period. **The bill was signed into law** by the Governor on Oct. 8.



**Hawai'i HB 24** would have added a new crime of sexual assault on an animal with eight specific actions considered illegal. It would have been a Class C felony unless a minor were involved, in which case it would be a Class B felony. Offenders would have had to surrender or forfeit all animals to a humane society; pay the organization for the animals' care; obtain psychiatric or psychological treatment; and be prohibited from owning, keeping, residing, working, or volunteering with animals for at least five years. **The House Agriculture Committee recommended it be deferred.**



**Kentucky SB 67** creates a new section of KRS Chapter 525 to establish the felony offense of sexual crimes against an animal and amend KRS 436.605 to add sexual crimes against an animal to the list of crimes for which an animal control officer may utilize peace officer powers. **The bill was signed into law** on March 26.



**Kentucky HB 98** would have created a new section of KRS Chapter 525 to prohibit cruelty to equines including situations involving abuse, neglect and sexual contact. **The bill was in the House Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned.**



**Maryland HB 641** amends §10-606 of the Annotated Code of Maryland defining Aggravated Cruelty to Animals to include "sexual contact with an animal." It further defines aggravated cruelty to animals as a crime of violence. Persons convicted of sexual contact with an animal will be included among Tier III sex offenders. **HB 641 was signed into law by the Governor on April 18.** The new law took effect on Oct. 1, 2019.



**Massachusetts S.891** would replace the archaic "Crime against nature" – the "abominable and detestable crime against nature, either with mankind or with a beast" – with a new crime of a "sexual act on an animal." The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**Pennsylvania HB 1312** would deny offenders convicted of sexual intercourse with animals the right of having their criminal records expunged. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**West Virginia HB 2792** would have prohibited activities connected with sexual abuse of an animal; establish criminal penalties; and provide for forfeiture of animals, payment of associated costs, and restrictions on owning animals upon conviction. The bill was in the House Judiciary Committee **when the regular legislative session ended.**



**Wisconsin AB 152** and **SB 139** would increase penalties for bestiality from current misdemeanor levels to a variety of felony charges for sexual contact with an animal; advertising, harboring, transporting, providing or transporting animals for sexual contact; and creating, distributing or possessing animal pornography. Penalties would be further enhanced if a child is involved. The bills would also require offenders to register as a sex offender; current law only permits courts to order such registration. **SB 139** was passed by the Senate and **AB 152** is in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

## Cross-Reporting

 **Florida HB 7125** allows veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to law enforcement or certified animal control officers without notice to or authorization from the client unless the suspected violation occurs at a commercial food-processing animal operation on agricultural land. **The measure was signed into law.**



 **Illinois SB 1778** recodified language mandating that domestic violence crisis line and program personnel, animal control officers and field investigators of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare immediately report suspected child abuse and neglect. **The bill became law on Aug. 23.**



 **Iowa SF 3** would have mandated veterinarians who "conclude that an animal is being subjected to animal cruelty" to complete an animal cruelty report and submit it to a local law enforcement agency. Individuals who report, cooperate with or assist in such investigations in good faith would have been immune from civil and criminal liability. The bill was in the Senate Judiciary Committee **when the legislature adjourned.**

 **Kentucky Bill Request 205**, prefiled for the 2020 legislative session, would require veterinarians to report suspected abuse and allow veterinarians to release information in order to report abuse.

 **Michigan SB 352** would require Child Protective Services workers to report suspected animal abuse or neglect to an animal control or law enforcement officer, with immunity from civil and criminal liability. Failure to report would be a crime, with escalating penalties based on whether the animal abuse is a misdemeanor or a felony. The bill is in the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee.

 **Michigan SB 429** would require veterinarians to immediately report suspected animal abuse or neglect to an animal control shelter or law enforcement agency. The bill is in the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

 **Minnesota HF 1530/SF 1517** would have granted veterinarians, who are already mandated to report suspected animal cruelty, immunity from civil and criminal liability for making such a report in good faith. **HF 1530** was in the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division; **SF 1517** was in the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee, **when the legislature adjourned.**

 **Missouri HB 111** would have granted immunity from civil liability to all persons, including veterinarians, teachers and school personnel, who report suspected animal abuse to a law enforcement agency in good faith. *The bill also addressed Psychological Evaluations.* It was approved by the Rules and Crime Prevention & Public Safety Committees but **died when the Legislature adjourned.**

 **New Jersey A 5512** would require employees of the Department of Children and Families who investigate child abuse and neglect to report suspected animal abuse to humane law enforcement officials or the state police; suspected abuse of livestock would be reported to the Department of Agriculture. The bill is in the Assembly Women and Children Committee.



**New York A 1170** would require veterinarians who reasonably and in good faith suspect that a companion animal is the victim of cruelty, abuse or neglect to report the incident and disclose necessary records to law enforcement and humane investigators. Currently, N.Y. veterinarians are permitted to make such reports. Both the existing and proposed law accord veterinarians who report in good faith – to protect the health and welfare of the patient or the public – immunity from civil and criminal liability. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education.



**Ohio HB 33** would require veterinarians, children’s services agencies, adult protective services, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists to immediately report suspected animal abuse in situations where a child or older adult resides with the alleged violator. Good-faith reporters would be immune from civil and criminal liability; however, penalties and court costs would be assessed if reports are made maliciously and such penalties would go towards providing funding for domestic violence shelters to assist victims in finding temporary shelter or other support for their companion animals. The bill would also add dog wardens and animal control officers as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse. The measure is in the House Criminal Justice Committee.



**Oregon HB 2227** adds animal control officers to the list of individuals mandated to report child abuse. **The measure was signed into law by the Governor on May 22.**



**Oregon HB 2500** allows veterinarians addressing the effects of animal abuse to sue the person inflicting the abuse. Plaintiffs who prevail will be able to collect compensatory damages for expenses incurred in providing veterinary care, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. **The bill was signed into law and becomes effective Jan. 1, 2020.**



**Rhode Island S 82** would have amended the law which permits veterinarians, technicians, and animal shelter and kennel personnel to report suspected animal abuse, to mandate such reporting with immunity from lawsuits if made in good faith. The measure would also impose a \$500 fine for failing to report. **The Senate Judiciary Committee recommended it be held for further study.**



**Texas SB 1750 and HB 2787** would have allowed veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty to appropriate governmental entities without violating veterinarian/client confidentiality. Both **bills died when the legislature adjourned.**



**Washington HB 1919** expands provisions against animal fighting to include fighting paraphernalia and mutilating or abandoning fighting animals, but a requirement that the Washington State Patrol establish and maintain a statewide toll-free hotline to allow the public to report animal abuse **was deleted in a substitute bill.** The deleted section would have facilitated community reporting and law enforcement response to animal abuse by creating a central repository of incidents of animal abuse, neglect fighting, and sexual abuse for inclusion in the FBI’s National Incident Based Reporting System. The State Patrol would have referred incidents to local law enforcement agencies for investigation as appropriate. The animal fighting provisions were **signed into law by the Governor on April 29 and took effect July 28.**



## “CASA for Animals”



**Illinois HB 1631** would have allowed pro bono attorneys or law student advocates to be court-appointed to represent the health or safety of a cat or dog in judicial proceedings. The bill was in the House Rules Committee **when the legislature adjourned.**



**Maine LD 1442** would allow a court to appoint volunteer advocates for justice in animal cruelty cases, either under its own initiative or upon the request of a party or counsel. Advocates could monitor the proceedings, consult with individuals and records relevant to the case, and present appropriate information and recommendations. The bill passed both the House and Senate and is being held by the Governor for review at the beginning of the next legislative session which began on Sept. 19.



**Michigan HB 4592** would allow courts to appoint pro bono lawyers or law students as advocates to represent the interests of animals in criminal prosecutions. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**New Jersey A 4840** and **S 3322** would authorize courts to appoint advocates in criminal cases that affect the welfare or care of cats or dogs. Advocates would monitor the case, attend hearings, consult with relevant individuals, review records, and present information and recommendations to the court in the animals’ best interests. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees.



**New York A 25, S 3027** and **A 702** would create court-appointed advocates for animals. **A 25** and **S 3027** are in the Judiciary Committees; **A 702** is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



### What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

## THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

### Two Convicted in Altoona Animal Abuse and Child Endangerment Case

An Altoona, Pa. man who stepped on a puppy's head and fought with police officers when they removed children and other animals from a flea-infested residence received an 18-to-36 month prison sentence, while two other residents were charged with animal cruelty and endangering the welfare of children (See the [December 2018 LINK-Letter](#)). The [Altoona Mirror](#) reported that Richard P. Jukes, Jr., 25, pled guilty to multiple charges of cruelty, assault and endangerment in a home described as "a state of complete squalor" surrounded by garbage from the front to the rear. The dog, a Chihuahua named "Popcorn," was injured and three children, aged 4, 6 and 9, were taken by Children, Youth & Families. Two other dogs, a puppy and five cats were taken to the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society. Another resident, Stacy Friday, 28, was sentenced to six months in jail on child abuse and animal cruelty charges and ordered to make restitution of \$5,570 to a veterinary clinic; criminal charges against Stephanie Obsuth are pending.



Clockwise from left: Richard Jukes, Stacy Friday & Stephanie Obsuth

### Cat-Torturing Child Murderer Gets 27-Year Sentence Reduced



Aaron Campbell & Alesha MacPhail

The cat-torturing, video game-addicted teenager who was convicted last March in the brutal abduction, rape and murder of a 6-year-old girl in Scotland (See the [March 2019 LINK – Letter](#)) had his sentence reduced by three years after a Scottish appeals court ruled the initial 27-year sentence was excessive due to his age. Aaron Campbell, 16, who was described by news media in the U.K. as a "sadistic cat-skinning monster" and a "serial killer in the making" will still serve at least 24 years.

Campbell abducted Alesha MacPhail, 6, in July 2018 and inflicted 117 injuries on her in recreating scenes from the Slender Man video game. The original 27-year sentence had been the longest ever handed down to a juvenile in Scotland. The reduction in the sentence was granted despite Campbell's lack of remorse and his declaring that he was "quite satisfied" by how he had mutilated and killed the little girl. Campbell had a history of starting fires and of torturing, killing and skinning cats and burying them in his back yard. A psychiatric report found that he continued to have thoughts of having sex with children and dead bodies and had a particular interest in "behaving sadistically to persons or creatures who are smaller, weaker or vulnerable."

### Kentucky Ex-Con Charged with Murdering Man and His Dog

Antonio Bolling, 40, of Frankfort, Ky., was arrested and charged with murder, animal cruelty and illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon for allegedly shot and killed a man and his dog. The Frankfort State Journal reported that the victim, Coty Lee Brumback, 24, suffered multiple gunshot wounds in the shooting, which occurred shortly after midnight in a parking garage. Brumback's dog was also shot and killed during the incident, according to police. Bolling was sentenced in 2012 to two years' probation after pleading guilty to punching his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend in the face, breaking his jaw. In 2016 he pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine and was sentenced to three years' probation.



**Shane Hall**

### **Man Charged with Assault in Shooting of Woman Who Tried to Stop Him Putting Wet Kitten in Freezer**

Shane Hall, 31, of Woonsocket, R.I., was charged with two counts of animal cruelty, assault with a deadly weapon, obstructing an officer, and domestic bench warrant violations for allegedly soaking a kitten in water and putting it in a freezer, then shooting a woman who tried to intervene. The [Providence Journal](#) reported that the woman was shot 10 to 12 times with a BB gun while visiting Hall, who was upset about the kitten knocking over trash. She told police that Hall put the kitten in a crate in a shower in the bathroom, soaked the kitten and then put it in the freezer. Police found Hall hiding under an oil tank in the basement and cited him for another incident several days previously when he allegedly slammed another kitten’s head against the floor after the kitten scratched him. Four other kittens were removed from the home.

### **Man with Criminal History Charged with Burning Puppy**

An Enterprise, Ala. man with an extensive criminal history was charged with first-degree animal cruelty after police said he allegedly burned his own puppy. The [Dothan Eagle](#) reported that Taurence Yaphet Marshall, 35, was arrested after a woman found a puppy with severe burns to its feet, belly and nose in her yard. The pup was taken to a veterinarian for treatment but died from its injuries. Marshall has previously been convicted for robbery, assault and marijuana possession.



**Taurence Marshall**

### **Sex Offender Re-Arrested on Charges of Raping Dog and Young Girl**



**Joseph Philyaw**

A convicted sex offender who was two days away from being released from prison after serving two years for lewd and lascivious behavior was re-arrested on accusations he raped a child and forced her to watch as he raped the family dog. Joseph Dewayne Philyaw, 38, formerly of Pensacola, Fla., was arrested by Escambia County Sheriff’s deputies on charges of giving the girl drugs, forcing her to perform oral sex, accepting money from men and women who had sex with the girl, and forcing her to watch as he raped her dog, “Smiley.” Those offenses are alleged to have occurred between 2011 and 2017, before Philyaw went to prison. [WKRG-TV](#) reported that the girl, who was under age 12, said Philyaw “repeatedly threatened to hurt her, her mom and brother if she didn’t cooperate with him raping her” and that he would smack Smiley whenever the dog whimpered while he was raping it. Philyaw, who was scheduled to be released from prison on Sept. 25, was arrested on Sept. 23 and was being held in the Escambia County jail without bond.

### **Father Charged with Hanging Children’s Cat and Sending Them Photos**



**Antonio Martin**

A Buffalo, N.Y. father was charged with killing his children’s cat and then sending them pictures of their dead pet. The [Buffalo News](#) reported that police charged Antonio W. Martin, 40, with felony animal cruelty and two counts of child endangerment. Police investigated after a woman called 911 to report her ex-husband had hanged the cat from the children’s bunk bed with a black electrical cord and then sent photos to three of his children. Authorities were said to be looking into a prior domestic history between the former couple as a possible motive.

## Domestic Violence Call Leads to Felony Animal Cruelty Charge

When a San Juan County, N. Mex., sheriff's deputy responded to a possible domestic violence call, Roy Madrid, 27, of Kirtland was charged with felony animal cruelty for allegedly throwing a kitten against a rock, possibly breaking its spine. Madrid was also accused of dumping the injured kitten from a box while the deputy was interviewing him, and of having thrown the kitten across a road during an argument with a woman a week previously. The [Farmington Daily Times](#) reported that the grey-and-white kitten had to be euthanized due to its injuries.



Roy Madrid

## LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Oct. 14-15 – Sydney, Australia:** Numerous presentations will discuss cross-disciplinary collaborations that foster the Links between animal welfare and human well-being at [One Welfare Conference II](#).

**Oct. 16 – Tulsa, Okla.:** The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will hold a lunch-and-learn program at Tulsa Community College and a full-day animal cruelty investigations training for law enforcement at Domestic Violence Intervention Services.

**Oct. 17 – Paris, France:** Nuria Querol will be part of a roundtable discussing the adverse impacts upon children who are exposed to animal abuse, particularly bullfighting, at the [International Colloquium on the Protection of Children Against All Forms of Violence](#).

**Oct. 18-19 – Alpharetta, Ga.:** The [21<sup>st</sup> Annual Animal Protection Conference & Expo](#) will feature several presenters discussing Link topics including “Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, Gangs, and the Link to Animal Abuse,” “Collateral Crimes and Animal Abuse,” and “Animal Cruelty Task Forces.”

**Oct. 23 – Pittsfield, Mass.:** The [Human/Animal Violence Education Network \(HAVEN\)](#) will meet.

**Oct. 24 – Plano, Texas:** Phil Arkow and Felicia Kerney will present at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual [North Texas Facing Family Violence conference](#) on “The Cruelty Connection: Breaking the Cycles of Domestic Violence by Preventing Animal Abuse” The conference’s theme is “All Systems Go: Working Together – Family Violence Across the Lifespan.”

**Oct. 24 (online):** Adam Leath will conduct a [webinar](#) on “Animal Hoarding: What Criminal Justice Professionals Need to Know” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

**Oct. 25 – Norman, Okla.:** Phil Arkow and Kathleen Romero will be among the featured speakers at a Link training for the University of Oklahoma [School of Social Work](#).

**Oct. 27 – Cambridge, U.K.:** [The Links Group UK](#) will conduct a Links CPD Veterinary Training Initiative for the BSAVA to help veterinary teams recognize and act on suspected abuse.

**Oct. 29 – Macon, Ga.:** RedRover and Greater Good will offer a [one-day training](#) for domestic violence, homeless and animal shelters on ways to create, sustain and obtain funding for pet-friendly programs.

**Oct. 29 – Oklahoma City, Okla.:** The [Oklahoma Link Coalition](#) will meet at the OSU-OKC John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center, hosted by the Vet Tech Student Association.

**Oct. 30 – Toledo, Ohio:** Vicki Deisner will conduct a regional training for social workers on The Link between animal and human violence and what a successful Link coalition looks like.

**Nov. 3 – Madison, Wis.:** Melinda Merck will lecture on veterinary forensics and The Link at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory’s [veterinary forensics seminar](#).

**Nov. 7 – Philadelphia, Pa.:** Phil Arkow will conduct a Continuing Legal Education training on The Link for the [Philadelphia District Attorney’s office](#).

**Nov. 8 – Dallas, Texas:** Cody Pinkham will present “The Batterers’ Intervention and Prevention Program” at the [North Texas Link Coalition](#) meeting.

**Nov. 13 – Bowling Green, Ky.:** Joye Estes of the [Kentucky Link Coalition](#) will conduct a training on The Link for social workers.

**Nov. 13-15 – Phoenix, Ariz.:** The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, in partnership with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, will host the [9<sup>th</sup> National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#).

**Nov. 16 – West Palm Beach, Fla.:** The ASPCA will present a [free course](#) for veterinarians and veterinary technicians on “Recognizing and Responding to Animal Cruelty.”

**Nov. 20 – Houston, Texas:** A new analytic tool developed by PetSmart Charities to help animal shelters assess community pet perspectives including domestic violence will be debuted at the Association for Animal Welfare Advancement’s 2019 [Fall Conference and Research Symposium](#).

**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.

**Dec. 12-13 – Novato, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will present on The Link to staff of the [Marin Humane Society](#) and community agencies.



**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.**



## 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  
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#### Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Research,  
ASPCA Strategy & Research Division  
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#### 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

Director, Detroit Animal Care & Control  
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#### Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Consultant,  
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  
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#### Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D.

Animal Welfare Scientist, Animal Welfare Division  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
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#### 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.

#### Chelsea Rider, J.D.

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