



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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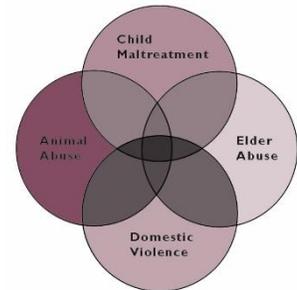
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE...and THE LINK

Ohio Corrects Court Ruling, Outlaws Bestiality Statewide

The State of Ohio has corrected a judicial anomaly and finally made bestiality illegal statewide, cancelling an earlier ruling that had made sex with animals legal in Toledo and eight counties in the surrounding area.



Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals

During the fast-tracked lame-duck session of the Ohio Legislature last December, **HB 350** – which re-enacted existing laws outlawing bestiality and animal fighting – was folded into **HB 24**, which revised provisions of the state’s humane society laws. The bill simply re-affirmed Ohio’s laws pertaining to bestiality and animal fighting that were unenforceable in the Toledo region due to a Sixth District Appellate Court ruling.

Because lawmakers had loaded up the original 2016 bill that contained the bestiality and animal fighting language with completely unrelated items, it was subsequently challenged in court as a single-subject violation, explained Corey Roscoe, Ohio State Director for the Humane Society of the U.S. The lower court ruled such a violation existed and the ruling was upheld by the Sixth District Appeals Court, thereby throwing out the entire law within that jurisdiction. In order to re-affirm that the bestiality and animal fighting provisions applied across the entire state, an identical law needed to be enacted.

The new law:

- Reenacts current law provisions governing animal fighting, bestiality, and humane agent residency requirements, making those provisions now enforceable in that district again;
- Allows dog wardens to use chemical capture on companion animals;
- Codifies humane society procedures for appointment and removal of humane agents, non-prosecution agreements, and public records that were previously only determined by case law;
- Creates a yearly report of humane society activity that is submitted to the county sheriff.

Wyoming Measure Would Finally Outlaw Bestiality



Rep. Clark Stith

A bill introduced by six Republican Representatives and Senators in the heavily Republican-dominated state legislature would finally outlaw bestiality in the Cowboy State. **HB 46** would create a new statute, W.S. 6-4-601, that would make it a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in prison and/or a \$1,000 fine, to engage in a sexual act with an animal, cause or abet another individual to do so, sexually stimulate an animal, or visually record such acts.

Normal animal husbandry and veterinary practices would be exempted. Sexual acts with animals would not require penetration. It would take effect on July 21.

The measure is sponsored by Rep. Clark Stith, a Sweetwater County Republican attorney. Co-sponsors include Reps. Chuck Gray (R – Natrona County) and Mark Jennings (R – Sheridan County), and Sens. John Kolb (R – Sweetwater County), R.J. Kost (R – Big Horn & Park Counties), Tara Nethercott (R – Laramie County), and Cheri Steinmetz (R -- Goshen, Niobrara & Weston Counties).

Sex with animals has been strongly linked with other crimes, including child and adult sexual abuse, child pornography, sex trafficking, and the “dark web” ([See the August 2019 and December 2020 LINK-Letters](#)). It is now banned in 46 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Bills banning sexual assault of an animal, **SB 343/HB1085**, have been introduced in Hawai’i; they would establish the crime of bestiality as a Class C felony, or Class B felony if committed in the presence of a minor. No bills have yet been introduced in West Virginia or New Mexico, the other states where sex with animals is still legal.



Linda Rosenthal

Link Cited in Reform of New York Bestiality Law

Although New York State has laws defining animal sexual abuse as sexual misconduct, there is no state law clarifying that this behavior also constitutes cruelty to animals. Citing Link cases as precedent and that acts of animal abuse, including sexual conduct with animals, are a precursor of violence to humans, **A614** would add sexual conduct with an animal to the state’s animal cruelty laws and would make it a felony-level offense when the conduct results in serious injury or death of the animal.

The legislation, sponsored by Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal (D-Manhattan), would require that the abuser relinquish custody of any animals in their possession and prohibit them from future ownership of animals. If the animal does not belong to the abuser, the abuser would be required to reimburse the owner for any medical expenses related to any injury or death caused by such act. Offenders would also be required to undergo psychological evaluation and be prohibited from owning an animal.

DOMESTIC ABUSE... and THE LINK

California Commission Calls for More Pet-Friendly Housing Options

An independent, bipartisan oversight agency charged with reviewing California's state government organization and economy has issued a report citing The Link between animal abuse and intimate partner violence in a call for stronger efforts and a statewide strategy focused on prevention and early intervention.

The Little Hoover Commission report, [*Beyond the Crisis: A Long-Term Approach to Reduce, Prevent, and Recover from Intimate Partner Violence*](#), was published in January. It is the Commission's second report studying California's response to intimate partner violence. Its first report on the topic urged the state to provide grant funding to service providers in up-front payments rather than reimbursements.

"Far too many Californians struggle to receive the help they need to escape their abuser," said Chairman Pedro Nava. "This is unacceptable, and our recommendations can help transform the state's response to this horrible violence."

The report called California's response to intimate partner violence "underfunded, fragmented and incomplete" and described "agency silos" that lead to "overlaps and critical gaps in service provision." It recommended creating holistic prevention- and early-intervention approaches, including encouraging "an expansion of shelters statewide that house pets on-site with their owners and require all shelters receiving state funding to adopt plans specifying protections for pets and efforts to house them on-site with their owners."

Citing research demonstrating how perpetrators use animal abuse as a mechanism of coercion, the report observed that in California "a dearth of shelters accepting victims of abuse and their furry companions leaves survivors with few options to safely escape with their pets." California, with a population of over 39 million, is believed to have 19 pet-friendly domestic violence shelters. Other housing options for survivors, such as apartments or hotels, often charged additional fees for pets which can be prohibitively expensive for survivors suffering from financial abuse. "Faced with dismal options, many survivors remain with their pets in extremely dangerous, abusive situations," the report said.

California enacted a law, [**AB 415**](#), in 2019 that allows domestic violence victims to receive up to \$2,000 from the state's Victim's Compensation Board to reimburse pet care costs incurred during relocation, such as pet boarding or rental deposits ([See the November 2019 LINK-Letter](#)). Calling the new law a step in the right direction, the report noted that 99% of survivors experience financial abuse and cannot pay the pet fees up-front and wait for the reimbursements.

The report notes that one-third of women and one-quarter of men in California will experience IPV in their lifetime, and rates are even higher for people of color and those who are transgender. Abused women are more likely to drop out of school, earn less in the workplace, and experience higher rates of physical and mental health disorders than their non-abused peers.



British Webinar Describes Pet Victimology and Coercive Control



Two noted British criminologists conducted an hour-long webinar in December on “Pet Victimology and Coercive Control,” reminding 133 participants that domestic abuse hurts the whole family and that pets are often the forgotten victims. Professors Di Turgoose and Ruth McKie from the Criminology Department at De Montfort University conducted the webinar to

help survivors better understand their situation and seek social justice.

The webinar, which has been [archived on YouTube](#), cited studies from the U.S. and Australia about how animal abuse is a form of “emotional blackmail” and coercive control over survivors. They noted how both humans and pets can experience physical and emotional victimization. Human survivors also experience secondary victimization in coercive control, such as the emotional trauma of being separated from the animal, and financial abuse with lack of access to money for veterinary fees to treat abused animals’ injuries, or because pet insurance may not cover veterinary expenses to treat injuries caused by an abuser.

They noted that although animal abuse is recognized as a risk factor for domestic abuse, barriers still exist because animals are considered property and thus not considered as victims by human services. Meanwhile, veterinarians are reluctant to violate confidentiality constraints and fear clients will not bring pets in for treatment if there is a risk they will be reported.

They described many fostering programs for pets but knew of only one domestic abuse refuge in the U.K. that accepts pets.

“We are a nation of animal lovers,” emphasized Turgoose in calling for a less anthropocentric approach in the criminal justice system that she called “inclusive victimology.” She said The Link “needs to be integrated and coordinated” into social work training and human services.

Awards Offered for Best Domestic Violence Pet Program

Theresa’s Fund, DomesticShelters.org, and national experts are combining their efforts to launch a new major awards program to honor the heroes of the domestic violence movement. Awards are being offered in more than 30 categories, including Outstanding Pet Program.



[Nominations are being accepted](#) through March 31. There will be three competitions in each category based on organization size. Winners will earn Purple Ribbon medallions, be featured on DomesticShelters.org, and have a chance at receiving up to \$30,000 in grants.

Virginia Shelter Creates Link Video

The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, located in Radford, Va., published a [series of informative videos](#) for October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month that includes "[Animal Abuse & Domestic Violence](#)." The 3-1/2-minute video begins with Mayor Shannon Collins of Pulaski, Va., observing that "Animal abuse and family violence are usually perceived and treated as separate issues that up until recently have been handled independently by animal control or human service agencies." But, Collins notes, "Animal abuse is often just the tip of the iceberg and the first warning sign of an individual or family in trouble."

"The Link between animal abuse and family violence cannot be ignored," adds Stephanie Bryson, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Center. She describes animal abuse as a form of power and control used to intimidate, manipulate and retaliate against others. Harming a family pet also removes a source of comfort to women and children experiencing family violence and abuse.

Veterinarian Jared Morgan notes that practitioners and other animal care professionals must watch for signs of abuse and neglect in animals. They can partner with local domestic violence programs to provide emergency care and support services for the animals of domestic violence victims, he advises.

Presiding Judge H. Lee Chitwood describes the role of the courts in supporting the bond between domestic violence survivors and their companion animals. He notes that many states, including Virginia, allow judges to include pets in domestic violence protection orders, and that children exposed to domestic violence are much more likely to commit animal cruelty.

The Women's Resource Center has a pet safe haven program to help domestic violence victims place their pets out of harm's way and to facilitate their seeking safety themselves. Other topics in the series include "Keeping Youth Safe" and "Men as Allies."



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Please tell us what organization(s) you're with
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Canadian Directory Includes Pet-Friendly Shelters

Women’s Shelters Canada, formerly known as the Canadian Network of Women’s Shelters and Transitional Houses, has created an interactive clickable map identifying an unexpectedly large number of domestic violence shelters in the country – over one-half -- that offer either on-site co-sheltering or off-site foster care arrangements for the pet survivors of domestic violence.



**WOMEN'S
SHELTERS
CANADA**

Shelters and
Transition Houses
United to End Violence
Against Women

The website, sheltersafe.ca, indicates that some 15% of Canadian shelters are pet-friendly with on-site housing. An additional 37% offer off-site care for these pets. If accurate, these rates would be higher than in the U.S. All provinces and territories, with the exception of remote Northwest Territories and Nunavut, offer pet sheltering options, although Quebec’s reported numbers seem unusually low. On-site facilities are more prevalent in the major population centers of British Columbia and Ontario. A number appear to be located on First Nations tribal lands or serve First Nations populations.

Of approximately 450 shelters across the country, pet facilities are available as follows:

Province or Territory	On-site	Off-site
Alberta	4	32
British Columbia	34	33
Manitoba	0	7
New Brunswick	1	12
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	4
Nova Scotia	1	7
Ontario	22	47
Prince Edward Island	1	1
Quebec	1	10
Saskatchewan	2	9
Yukon	0	4
TOTAL – ALL CANADA	66	166

The organization is a network of 14 provincial and territorial shelter associations representing 450 shelters across Canada. It works as a unified voice to collaborate, educate and innovate for systemic change that ends violence against women.

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For Additional Information

Just click on the blue underlined hyperlinks in these articles and it will take you to other websites with additional information about that topic.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE... and THE LINK

Link Increases Need for Animal Cruelty Crime Scene Investigations

Emphasizing that “animal cruelty is both a gateway crime and an indicator that other crimes may be co-occurring,” a prominent forensics expert has written that “animal cruelty is considered a window into the home and a significant part of the pattern of family violence.”

Virginia Maxwell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Forensic Science and Assistant Dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven, wrote an extensive article to help forensics personnel investigate challenging animal cruelty scenes. She noted that dogfighting in particular is Linked to drugs, gun violence, gambling, and human trafficking. “Identifying the perpetrators of acts of cruelty against animals can bring early intervention,” she wrote.



Virginia Maxwell

Maxwell noted that animal cruelty investigations face numerous challenges, including: catch-all laws that cover a range of behaviors and motivations; differing jurisdictional definitions; and the historical and legal belief that animals are property. Nevertheless, applying the same CSI techniques as are used in investigation of crime scenes involving human victims can make or break most cases.

The article details techniques for photo and video documentation and collecting physical evidence and addresses the particular challenges of animal fighting and animal hoarding cases. But “through increased awareness of animal crime scene processing and collection of physical evidence – coupled with a coordinated response from first responders, forensic scientists and forensic veterinarians – we can ensure early intervention in criminal behavior and suitable punishment for those who commit criminal acts against animals.”

-- Maxwell, V. (2020, March-April). Documenting & Processing Animal Cruelty Scenes. Evidence Technology Magazine.

Link Cited in Call to Reform N.Y. Animal Cruelty Laws



Linda Rosenthal

Noting that academic studies have found a clear Link between animal cruelty during youth and violence against humans as an adult and direct Links between acts of cruelty to animals and violence toward others, including child abuse, spousal abuse, elder abuse and other violent behavior, a bill in the New York State Assembly would tackle a major overhaul of the state’s animal cruelty laws.

New York State is, inexplicably, one of 13 states in which animal cruelty laws are not contained in the Penal Code but rather are contained in the Agriculture and Markets Law. Proponents of **A173 (“Bella’s Law”)** argue that the current placement of these laws suggests that cruelty to animals is not a “real” crime since it is not in the penal law and diminishes the seriousness of such crimes.

The bill’s advocates also emphasize that the move from the Agriculture and Markets law to the Penal Law would also better equip law enforcement officers to investigate animal crimes. Not only are patrol officers unlikely to have a copy of the Agriculture and Markets Law in their vehicles, but the precinct desk officer is also unlikely to have a copy at headquarters, they argue.

The bill, sponsored by Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal (D-Manhattan), would create a new section of the Penal Code entitled “Offenses Against Animals” and would transplant various provisions previously set forth in Agriculture and Markets Law that addressed these crimes into the Penal Code with each animal cruelty crime becoming a classified crime. It would also increase felony penalties for animal fighting and aggravated animal cruelty.

“By making these amendments to these two crimes, the law would show that New York is finally taking animal cruelty seriously, particularly deliberate violent acts of cruelty,” reads the legislative memo accompanying the bill. The bill, which had been defeated in two previous legislative sessions, is named in honor of “Bella,” a German shepherd who was savagely beaten by her owner, sustaining injuries so extensive, that she had to be euthanized. Bella’s abuser received a sentence of 4 months in county jail for his crime. “This bill would ensure that violent crimes against animals are taken seriously, and that the state has the opportunity to seek punishment that fits the crime,” the summary concludes.

BUILDING LINK AWARENESS



Link Seminar Series Offered in Japan

Our colleagues in Japan have started an online seminar series that comprehensively covers the LINK. Sakiko Yamazaki, Ph.D., Director of the Animal Literacy Research Institute tells *The LINK-Letter* that the online Seminar Series Exploring the LINK between Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence (Japanese: 【動物虐待と対人暴力の連動性を探るオンライン講座シリーズ】) will cover six key aspects of The Link:

- **February 21, 2021** - What is the "LINK"? The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence.
- **April 2021** - The Association Between Crime and Animal Abuse: Is Animal Abuse a Precursor to Crime?
- **June 2021** - The Association Between Child Abuse and Animal Abuse: A Need for Comprehensive Protection of Beings in Weaker Positions in Households.
- **August 2021** - The Association Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: Protecting the Human-Animal Bond from Violence.
- **October 2021** - The Association Between Elder Abuse and Animal Abuse/Why Do People Abuse Animals? A Social Problem in Need of Interdisciplinary Perspectives.
- **December 2021** - The Effects of Witnessing Animal Abuse: The Damage Done without Proactive Involvement.

The series is being co-hosted by the [Japanese Association for the Promotion of Canine Good Citizens](#). Details and registration information are available on the Institute’s [website](#) and [Facebook](#) event page.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

...to protect ALL vulnerable members of the family

VETERINARY MEDICINE...and THE LINK

Webinar Courses Introduce Veterinarians and Staffs to The Link

SafePet Ontario has created a [series of online webinars](#) to introduce veterinarians and their staffs to The Link and the implications of recognizing and reporting animal abuse and other forms of family violence.



In one key webinar, Dr. Margaret Doyle, a forensic veterinarian based in Calgary, discusses The Link and how veterinarians, veterinary technicians and clinic staff can identify signs of abuse. The webinar is designed to equip participants with the tools to help survivors and pets find safety and live a life free from violence.



Margaret Doyle

The hour-long course features six segments: an introduction to The Link and how it affects veterinarians; The Link as an indicator of human violence; the veterinarian's role; history and types of injuries; socio-economic cues such as behavior and unexplained deaths; and accusations.

Other courses in the series address SafePet for referral agents in such venues as human shelters, transitional homes, victim services, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, and caseworkers.

[SafePet Ontario](#) coordinates foster care for individuals fleeing domestic or intimate partner violence. The program provides long- or short-term fostering options for the duration of a survivor's transition to safety. Once the individual is re-established, owners are reunited with their pets so they can move into a better future together. SafePet Ontario is administered by the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association.

Veterinary Cost-of-Care Issues Linked with Animal Neglect

Addressing how cost-of-care issues can increase the risk of cruelty and neglect affecting pets belonging to low-income and minority pet owners, a team of Oregon Humane Society and Animal Legal Defense Fund representatives told a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar audience that community practice veterinarians are the front line of preserving the bond between people and pets, preventing animal cruelty and neglect, and building networks proactively to prevent abuse.

But an ongoing issue is how to reconcile the ethical desire of the profession to preserve the human-animal bond with the legal obligations in 38 states which mandate or permit veterinarians to report suspected animal maltreatment. Providing greater access of care to minority and low-income communities is a proactive way to prevent animal abuse and neglect. In discussing "Ethics and Options: Preempting Animal Cruelty and Preserving the Bond," panelists said that veterinarians' ethical and legal obligations do not have to be mutually exclusive.



Kris Otteman

Kris Otteman, a veterinarian with the humane society, noted how the Veterinarian's Oath was modified to include two new provisions: the *prevention* as well as relief of animal suffering; and the protection of animal *welfare* as well as health. Veterinarians must consider the impact on both the client and the patient when a bond between them is broken. Unfortunately, dramatic increases in the costs of veterinary education and maintaining veterinary hospitals have resulted in increased costs of care for pet owners that are often prohibitive.

Although the average lifespan of pets has doubled since the 1980s with pets having "moved from the backyard to the bedroom" and now widely considered to be members of the family, much animal neglect springs from poverty, she said.

Some 19 million pets – three times the number that enter animal shelters each year – live with families who fall below the poverty line. People living paycheck-to-paycheck, "service deserts" in low-income neighborhoods and a lack of low-cost services create a chronic lack of medical and preventive care that conspire to create animal neglect.

"One abnormal event can send a family into a cascade of unaffordable financial disasters. Suddenly a pet that was affordable last month becomes more of a burden. Families can find themselves in a dire situation and can commit neglect because there's no safety net available for them," she said.

Consequently, the basic responsibilities of owning a pet – preventive vaccinations, grooming, nail trimmings, dental care, spaying and neutering – are financially out of reach and can result in criminal charges of neglect in all 50 states. These conditions are compounded in animal hoarding cases where there are mental health issues and funds that might pay for one animal's care cannot support dozens of pets. More severe issues of critical care and medical emergencies can result in what Otteman called "financial euthanasia": animals that could otherwise be treated having to be put to sleep.

Otteman said that delivering more care to animals in these communities can prevent many cases of neglect, particularly through cooperative programs. A "new frontier" is emerging with veterinarians collaborating in partnerships with animal welfare organizations, humane law enforcement, social work, and social services to help animals and people by developing an interdisciplinary response.



Emily Lewis

Emily Lewis, Senior Staff Attorney with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, described how poverty cases often put veterinarians into a seemingly impossible dilemma. They are trying to balance their desire to care for animals with preserving their livelihood, while working with vulnerable animals living with vulnerable human populations. "It's not an easy place for veterinarians to be," she said.

However, "Access to care and creative partnerships can have a huge impact on animal care and the prevention of violence," Lewis said.

While reporting a case of suspected abuse or neglect to humane law enforcement can compound the situation, if there are collaborative resources and partnerships in place these cases can have more positive outcomes than punitive ones. While veterinarians would like to see human-animal bonds preserved without necessarily punishing the owners, there are some cases where prosecution is unavoidable, she said. "There are hoarding cases where no amount of flea medication will resolve the issue."

COVID-19... AND THE LINK

Lockdowns Change Patterns of Dog and Owner Interactions

Initial COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in the United Kingdom prompted many Britons to change their lifestyle. This study by Dogs Trust personnel explored the impact of this lockdown phase on pet dog welfare by surveying 6,004 dog owners who compared pre- and post-lockdown conditions. Most owners believed that their dog's routine had changed due to lockdown restrictions. Many dogs were left alone less frequently and for less time during lockdown and were spending more time with household adults and children. During lockdown, dogs were typically walked less often and for less time daily, with factors related to the dog, owner, household, and location of the home associated with the extent to which dog walking had been reduced. Dogs were more likely to be walked on a lead and had fewer opportunities to interact with other dogs. However, many dogs had more play/training sessions with their owners and were given toys more frequently during lockdown. The authors said these changes to dog management have the potential for longer-term welfare problems such as increased likelihood of dogs displaying separation-related behavior as lockdown measures relax.

-- Christley, R.M., Murray, J.K., Anderson, K.L., Buckland, E.L., & Casey, R.A., et al. (2021). Impact of the first COVID-19 lockdown on management of pet dogs in the UK. *Animals*, 11(1), 5; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11010005>

SOCIAL WORK... AND THE LINK

Two-Part Law School/Social Work Webinar to Address Assessment and Treatment of Animal Abusers

The University of Connecticut School of Social Work, in collaboration with the UConn Law School and the Animals and Society Institute, will present a [two-part webinar](#) on the Assessment and Treatment of Animal Abuse. The webinars are scheduled for March 4 and March 11.

Ken Shapiro, ASI Co-founder and President, will present the webinars for human service professionals, forensic psychologists and criminal justice personnel. The webinars will explore the identification, assessment and treatment of animal cruelty offenders.



Ken Shapiro

Shapiro will emphasize that developing policies and practices for early intervention with animal abuse is important both for animal welfare and because of the empirically established co-occurrence between animal abuse and human violence. CECs and an electronic version of the AniCare Handbook are offered.

The first 90-minute webinar will focus on understanding The Link between animal abuse and other antisocial and criminal behavior, including family violence, and the identification, assessment and interventions for adults who have abused animals.

The second webinar will introduce interventions to address animal abuse, including a group-based psychoeducational diversion program (BARK: Behavior, Accountability, Responsibility, and Knowledge) and an individual-based psychotherapy (AniCare). The webinar will help participants develop and implement treatment plans for working with adults who have abused animals and include assessment and intervention in establishing accountability, clarifying values regarding animals, dealing with attachment issues, developing empathy, and enhancing self-management skills.

NEWS FROM LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Canadian Violence Link Coalition Announces Major Progress, Promotes Veterinarians' Role in Responding to Domestic Violence

Our compatriots at Canada's National Violence Link Coalition have just published their first monthly newsletter. The inaugural issue announces several exciting developments:



Hannah Brown

Hannah Brown has been named the new Manager for the Humane Canada Criminal Justice System Reform Program. This program integrates the Canadian Violence Link Coalition, the National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty and legislative and policy changes which support this work. Brown is originally from the UK and practiced as a litigation lawyer before moving into animal welfare law.

Two regional online Violence Link workshops were held in November focusing on British Columbia and Atlantic Canada. Some 250 multi-disciplinary participants learned how they could work together to address preventable violence in communities across Canada.

Community Veterinary Outreach, a Canadian charity (which also has an American component) that aims to improve the health of homeless individuals and their pets through a "one health" model of care, has published [Animal Care Guidelines for Emergency Co-Sheltering](#). The comprehensive guidelines, written for shelter management and staff, provide recommendations for the co-sheltering of pets, with a focus on safeguarding the health and well-being of the pets, shelter residents, and shelter staff.

["Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse during COVID-19: The Role of the Veterinarian"](#) was published in the *West Coast Veterinarian* magazine last June. The article, written by Emilia Gordon and Louise Lathey, describes veterinarians as "the other family doctor" who "may be the first person to pick up on signs of violence in the home." It cites rising caseloads of domestic violence in British Columbia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

B.C. veterinarians are mandated to report distress, and the authors caution that the veterinarian does not have to provide forensic evidence or irrefutable proof. "It means simply that, if a veterinarian on reasonable grounds believes that an animal is being caused distress, they must report it and the case may be investigated by trained investigators" at the BC SPCA who have received training on The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence.

"Domestic violence in Canada accounts for approximately one-third of police-reported violent crimes, and 6 out of 10 domestic homicides were preceded by a known history of violence," they conclude. "It is important now, more than ever, to be vigilant and aware. A veterinarian's instincts and experience can identify red flags for violence in the home; reporting these can save both human and animal lives."

The article laid the groundwork for two subsequent *West Coast Veterinarian* articles by Lathey, a member of the Canadian Violence Link Coalition steering committee and a BC SPCA enforcement officer. "Recognizing Domestic Violence in Clients and their Pets" was published in the [September 2020](#) issue, and "Helping People with Animals Who Are Fleeing Domestic Violence" appeared in the [December 2020](#) issue.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Link Bills We're Watching

As the 2021 legislative sessions get under way, we're anticipating another record year for the number of bills to be introduced addressing animal abuse and its Links to other forms of family and community violence. Here are the bills that we know to have been introduced so far: we expect there will be more to come. [Please let us know](#) if you're aware of any others that we may have missed.

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



Arizona HB2451 would allow petitioners to request a "severe threat order of protection" to prohibit respondents who have made a credible threat of death or serious physical injury to self, others, or cruel mistreatment of an animal, or from possessing a firearm.



California AB 258 would require emergency shelter and transitional housing programs for the homeless to allow residents to keep one dog or cat, provided the animal does not present a nuisance or threat to other occupants and is not in violation of humane or health laws. (It is not clear whether this would extend to domestic violence shelters as well.)



District of Columbia B23-0181, the Intrafamilial Offenses and Anti-Stalking Orders Amendment Act of 2020, was signed into law on Jan. 13, 2021 as **D.C. Act 23-571**. It clarifies procedures by which certain victims of intrafamily offense, sexual assault, sex trafficking of children, or individuals whose animals are victims of an intrafamily offense, to petition for a civil protection order. "Intrafamily offense" is defined as a criminal offense against an intimate partner or family or household member, or cruelty to animals owned by an intimate partner, or family or household member. Courts may also issue an anti-stalking order if the petitioner fears a household animal is endangered by the respondent.



Kentucky HB 26 would include violence against a domestic animal used as coercive conduct within the definitions of "domestic violence and abuse" and "dating violence and abuse" and would allow judges to award possession of a domestic animal to the petitioner in a protection-from-abuse procedure. **HB 215** would define animal abuse when part of an incident of domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse as first-degree aggravated animal abuse, a Class C felony. It is in the Committee on Committees.



Mississippi SB 2091 would allow municipal and justice courts to include companion animals in awarding protection orders. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



Missouri S71 would allow adult protection orders and child protection orders, full or ex parte, to restrain or enjoin an individual from committing or threatening to commit abuse against a pet. A protection order may include an order of custody of the pet where appropriate, as well as any funds needed to cover the medical costs resulting from abuse of the pet. The bill is in the Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee.



New Jersey A 4880 and S 3168 would expand the statutory definition of domestic violence to include acts of animal cruelty against animals owned or possessed by the persons affected by these types of abuse. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and Senate Environment and Energy Committees.



New Jersey S 930 would allow courts to designate ownership or protective custody for a pet in an animal cruelty violation, domestic violence, matrimonial action, action for dissolution of a civil union, or judgment of divorce or dissolution or maintenance giving primary consideration to the well-being of the animal. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



New York A1353 would make it a crime to unjustifiably injure or kill a companion animal to threaten, intimidate or harass another family member. The penalty would be increased if the act occurs in the presence of a child. The bill is in the Codes Committee.



New York A510 would expand existing domestic violence pet protection orders to allow courts to grant petitioners exclusive care, custody and control of animals and to order respondents to stay away from the animals or take, transfer, harm, or conceal the animals. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



Texas HB 674 would require the public to be informed about the availability of provisions to include pets and other companion animals in protective orders.



Washington HB 1293, the “Survivors’ Justice Act,” would allow courts to reduce what may be considered unduly harsh sentences for offenses committed by domestic violence survivors where the domestic violence was a significant contributing factor to the criminal conduct. However, judges could impose sentences above the standard range in a number of aggravating circumstances including “intent to obstruct or impair human or animal health care or agricultural or forestry research or commercial production.” The bill is in the Committee on Public Safety.

Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment



Kentucky HB 215 would define animal abuse when committed in the presence of a minor child as first-degree aggravated animal abuse, a Class C felony.



New Jersey A 4880 and S 3168 would expand the definition of child abuse to include acts of animal cruelty against their animals. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and Senate Environment and Energy Committees.



New York A474 would increase prison terms for aggravated animal cruelty committed in the presence of a child in order to minimize psychological damage to a still-developing minor’s sense of judgment and ethical conduct. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



New York A1353 would make it a crime to unjustifiably injure or kill a companion animal to threaten, intimidate or harass another family member. The penalty would be increased if the act occurs in the presence of a child. The bill is in the Codes Committee.



New York A748 would define the releasing or failure to control an animal so as to prohibit an agent of a residential facility operated by children and family services as second-degree assault. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



New York A1816, recognizing the adverse impact animal fighting can have on a child’s emotional development and potential for antisocial behavior, would make it a misdemeanor to knowingly cause a minor child to attend an animal fight. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



Texas HB 1071 would allow courts to permit qualified facility dogs and therapy animals and their trained handlers to accompany witnesses if the dogs would assist the witness in testifying.



Washington HB 1292 would create a new crime of “providing harmful material to a minor” that would include “patently offensive representations or descriptions” of bestiality and animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape, or torture. The bill is in the Committee on Public Safety.

Animal Sexual Abuse



Connecticut HB 5193 would increase the penalties for engaging in sexual contact with an animal. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



Hawai'i SB 343/HB1085 would establish the crime of bestiality, or sexual assault of an animal as a Class C felony, or Class B felony if committed in the presence of a minor. The bill was approved unanimously by the Judiciary Committee.



New York A614 would add sexual contact with animals to the state’s animal cruelty law, make it a felony if serious injury or death of the animal occurs, require convicted offenders to relinquish all animals and bar them from future possession of animals, and undergo psychological evaluation. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



Ohio HB 350 would re-enact the law outlawing bestiality and animal fighting, modify its language to conform to newer statutes, and make these prohibitions uniform statewide. The bill is in the Criminal Justice Committee.



Wyoming HB46 would define and create the misdemeanor crime of bestiality; 46 other states have already created similar laws.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



New Jersey A 1572/S 746 would bar animal abusers from possessing a firearm. The bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Law & Public Safety Committees.



New York S197/A1633 (“Kirby and Quigley’s Law”) would expand aggravated animal cruelty to include harm to a pet during the commission of a felony. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.



New York A99 would make the release of or failure to restrain an animal so as to prevent a police officer or peace officer from performing his or her duties an assault in the second degree on a police officer. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee,



New York A558 would prohibit individuals convicted of serious felony offenses against animals from possessing firearms. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



Oregon HB 2271 would appropriate moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Justice to enable local district attorneys and law enforcement agencies to add resource prosecutor positions dedicated to assisting the prosecution of animal cruelty offenses. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

 **Washington HB 1038** would prohibit individuals convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of animal cruelty, whether in Washington or elsewhere, from possessing a firearm. The firearm provision already exists for persons convicted of or found not guilty by reason of insanity of domestic violence. The bill is in the Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

Cross-Reporting

 **Florida HB 47 and SB 216** (“Allie’s Law”) would require veterinarians, technicians and other animal treatment provider employees to report suspected animal cruelty (at locations other than commercial food-producing animal operations) to authorities with immunity from civil and criminal liability, professional disciplinary action and employer retaliation. Failure to report would be grounds for disciplinary action. It would be a misdemeanor to destroy or alter medical records to conceal animal cruelty. Reporting at commercial food operations would be permissive. **HB 49 and SB 218** would allow veterinary records to remain confidential if animal cruelty is reported as a means to protect veterinarians and to encourage such reports by making them feel safe to do so.

 **Hawai’i HB1086/SB609** would require veterinarians to report animal injury, death or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse. The measures give veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

 **Missouri HB 643** would give immunity from civil liability to anyone who reports suspected animal cruelty in good faith; intentional filing of a false report would be a misdemeanor and civilly liable.

 **New Jersey A 2734** would require employees of the Department of Children & Families to report suspected abuse of a companion animal to the Chief County Humane Law Enforcement Officer or State Police, and of a livestock animal to the Chief County Humane Law Enforcement Officer and the Department of Agriculture. The bill is in the Assembly Women and Children Committee.

 **New Jersey A 2426/S 1980** would allow certified animal control officers to enforce municipal animal control ordinances and require them to report suspected animal cruelty to notify the municipal humane law enforcement officer. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and Senate Environment & Energy Committees.

 **New Jersey A 4880 and S 3168** would require veterinarians, veterinary technicians, investigators of domestic violence and abuse, employees of the Department of Children and Families and Divisions of Aging and Developmental Disabilities, police officers, and caregivers at residential health care facilities, police officers, or any person who has reasonable cause to believe an animal has been subjected to an act of animal cruelty to report the suspected violation to the appropriate law enforcement officer, with immunity from civil and criminal liability. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and Senate Environment and Energy Committees.

“CASA for Animals”

 **New Jersey A 4533/S 2868** would allow courts to appoint a pro bono attorney or law student special advocate to represent the interests of animals in cruelty or dogfighting cases. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees.

Animal Abuse and Elder Abuse



New Jersey A 4880 and **S 3168** would expand the statutory definition of elder abuse and abuse of the developmentally disabled to include acts of animal cruelty against animals owned or possessed by the persons affected by these types of abuse. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and Senate Environment and Energy Committees.

Animal Hoarding



New Hampshire HB 366 defines animal hoarding and sets forth a provision for a person charged with animal hoarding to be given a psychiatric evaluation. The bill is in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.



New Jersey S 1760 establishes the crime of animal hoarding and requires mental health counseling for all adult and juvenile animal cruelty and hoarding offenders. The bill is in the Senate Energy & Environment Committee.



New York A1229 would create a violation of companion animal hoarding and allow courts to order mental health evaluations and prohibit possession of animals as penalties to give law enforcement needed tools for early intervention before a situation becomes a full-blown cruelty case. The bill is in the Agriculture Committee.

Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



Missouri HB 643 would allow courts to impose psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment for adult and juvenile animal cruelty offenders. Evaluation and treatment would be mandatory for animal torture or motivation or upon second and subsequent convictions.



New Jersey S 1760 establishes the animal cruelty crime of animal hoarding and requires mental health counseling for all adult and juvenile animal cruelty offenders, including animal hoarders. The bill is in the Senate Energy & Environment Committee. **S 2179 (“Shyanne’s Law”)** would require mental health evaluation for all animal cruelty offenders; that bill is in the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.



New York S230 would require courts to order psychiatric analysis and evaluation of animal abusers and to unseal the records of juvenile animal abuse offenders. **S229** would require courts to impose psychiatric evaluations for defendants convicted of aggravated animal cruelty. The bills are in the Agriculture Committee.



New York A524, S1257 and S1259 would prohibit persons convicted of “Buster’s Law” (aggravated cruelty to animals) from owning pets unless authorized by a court order after appropriate psychiatric or psychological testing determined the person showed clear and convincing evidence of capable and sound mental capacity and ability to properly care for the animal. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committees.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Hunters Charged with Attempted Murders

In two unrelated cases, authorities in Nebraska and Florida are investigating individuals who were allegedly hunting illegally tried to murder the law enforcement officers trying to stop them.

Feds Investigate Illegal Hunter in Plot to Murder Nebraska Game Warden



Cody Cape

In a [criminal complaint](#) filed in the U.S. District Court for Nebraska, Cody A. Cape, of Omaha, Neb., was being investigated by the FBI for allegedly hunting deer illegally on a federal wildlife refuge and planning to murder the game warden who was looking into his activities. [The Daily Beast](#) reported that Cape and a friend reportedly drove by the warden's house on Christmas Eve and detailed ways to kill him and his family, including wiring C4 explosives to the ignition system of the warden's patrol vehicle or throwing dynamite or a hand grenade through the windows of his home. Cape then reportedly expected to die via "suicide by cop" rather than going back to jail again.

Florida Men Charged with Attempted Murder of Officer



Lazaro Milian (left), Michel Amalfi, & Rodrigo LaRosa

Three men from the Miami area were charged with attempting to run over a law enforcement officer with their ATV after an encounter at a hunting camp in Polk County, Fla. The [Miami Herald](#) reported that Lazaro Milian, 50, of Miami, Michel Amalfi, 45, of North Miami-Dade, and Rodrigo LaRosa, 27, of Hialeah were in custody. According to charging documents, the three were night hunting at an 88,000-acre River Ranch Hunt Camp. A Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission officer followed them, took their shotguns and began talking with them. A fight ensued, and Amalfi and LaRosa reportedly ran over the officer with their ATV, beat him, and left him deep in the woods. A manhunt involving some 100 officers and an Osceola County Sheriff's Department helicopter eventually apprehended the trio. The unnamed officer was reportedly recuperating. Milian is in the middle of a 10-year probation term after having been convicted of grand theft.

79-Year-Old Man Shot and Jailed on Child and Animal Pornography Charges



James Millet

pornography probe.

A 79-year-old man who was charged with 36 counts of animal sexual abuse, nine counts of child pornography, and aggravated assault on a police officer was released from a hospital after he was shot in the shoulder by a Jefferson Parish, La. sheriff's deputy who was trying to serve a search warrant on his home. James Millet, of Metairie, La., was booked into jail following the incident. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) reported that the animal abuse charges stem from allegations that Millet had pornography involving sexual contact with animals. The sheriff's office was assisting agents from the Louisiana Bureau of Investigations as part of a child

What Happens in Vegas...

Man Charged with Killing Girlfriend's Dog After Losing \$500 in Casinos



Walter Stevenson

Walter Stevenson, 48, of Las Vegas, Nev., was charged with a felony count of willful and malicious animal cruelty for allegedly killing his girlfriend's dog after losing \$500 in a pair of casinos. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) reported that police said that Stevenson's mood had soured after winning \$500 at the Suncoast casino but then losing the money at the Plaza later that day. Stevenson reportedly returned home, where his girlfriend and her grandson had left her dog, a Chihuahua named "Star," alone while they went to a store. Stevenson reportedly called his girlfriend to say they needed to come home because Star was "sick."

Shooter of Dog in Domestic Dispute Gets Probation



Russell Kelly

Russell Kelly, 42, also of Las Vegas, who was charged with domestic assault and felony killing of an animal for shooting the family dog during a domestic dispute ([See the September 2020 LINK-Letter](#)), was sentenced to two years' probation on the animal cruelty charge. [KTNV-TV](#) reported that Kelly was able to negotiate a plea deal and will not be able to own any guns or have any pets during the probation period. Kelly's wife told police that her husband had shot the dog, a pug named "Pooka," during an argument about money and a pyramid scheme. Pooka reportedly bit or nipped Kelly earlier in the evening but was lying in her dog bed at the time she was shot.

Eleven Charged in Alleged Dogfighting and Cocaine Ring

Eleven individuals from Alabama and Georgia who had allegedly arranged a dogfighting ring and a conspiracy to distribute mass amounts of cocaine were arrested by federal authorities and are facing 136 criminal counts including alleged conspiracy, possession, distribution and the intent to distribute drugs, and violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. [Newsweek](#) reported that the federal indictment alleges that between May 2019 and February 2020, 10 of the accused conspired to obtain and distribute about 11 pounds of cocaine, while five conspired to sponsor, exhibit, possess, train, transport, deliver, and receive dogs for future fights.

Facing narcotics and/or dogfighting charges are: Shaquille Bentley, 26, of Roberta, Ga.; Jason Carter, 38, of Phoenix City, Ala.; Lekey Davis, 45, and Christopher Raines, 50, of Talbotton, Ga.; Bryanna Holmes, 24, and Armard Davis, 41, of Fort Valley, Ga.; Vernon Vegas, 49, of Suwanee, Ga.; Kathy Ann Whitfield, 61, of Columbus, Ga.; Jarvis Lockett, 40, of Warner Robins, Ga.; Derrick Owens, 37, of Woodland, Ga.; and Rodrick Walton, 40, of Shiloh, Ga.

"Dogfighting is brutal and illegal; it is particularly troubling when combined with drug trafficking," said Peter D. Leary, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia. "We will investigate and prosecute individuals who engage in these criminal acts and seek justice for all of their victims."

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NOTE: The pandemic has caused most meetings to be canceled, rescheduled or converted into virtual formats. Click on the underlined hyperlinks for more detailed information.

Feb. 10 – Ithaca, N.Y. (online): Phil Arkow will speak on “The Cruelty Connection: Practical Guidance for the Effective Recognition and Response by Veterinarians to Suspected Animal Cruelty and Other Family Violence” to the Class of 2024 at [Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#).

Feb. 16 – Columbus, Ohio (online): Jeffrey Holland will present “Preparing an Animal Cruelty Case for Prosecutor’s Review” and “Preparing and Executing Search Warrants in an Animal Cruelty Case” at the [Midwest Veterinary Conference](#).

Feb. 11 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada (online): Sgt. Teena Stoddart of the Ottawa Police Service will present Violence Link training on behalf of the [Ontario Veterinary Medical Association](#).

Feb. 17 – Pittsfield, Mass. (online): [HAVEN](#) – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network – will hold a webinar featuring stories from the COVID field.

Feb. 18-19 & Feb. 24-25 – Seattle, Wash. (online). Greater Good Charities will conduct trainings to apply for [Don’t Forget the Pets grant funding](#) for pet-friendly domestic violence shelters.

Feb. 21 – Tokyo, Japan (online): The Animal Literacy Research Institute and Japanese Association for the Promotion of Canine Good Citizens will conduct the first in a [six-part seminar series](#) on The Link, “What is the “LINK”? The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence.”

March 2 – (online): Nina Stively of Loudoun County, Va., Animal Services will present “When the Animal Wags its Tail” to help law enforcement officers document animal welfare conditions during domestic violence investigations for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

March 3 (online): Allie Phillips will present on Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T): Housing People and Pets of Domestic Violence Together at the [My Dog is My Home Co-Sheltering Conference](#).

March 3 – Phoenix, Ariz. (online): Phil Arkow will present on “Connecting the Dots in Criminal Justice: Preventing Crimes Against People by Focusing on Animal Abuse” for the [Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys Advisory Council](#).

March 3-4 – Ridgewood, N.Y. (online): Allie Phillips, Leslie Irvine, and representatives from the Urban Resource Institute, WisCARES and the National Alliance to End Homelessness will join others in the [My Dog Is My Home Co-Sheltering Conference](#).

March 4 & March 11 (2-parts): Washington Grove, Md. (online): Ken Shapiro will present a [two-part webinar](#) on “The Assessment and Treatment of Animal Abuse”, including the policy and practice implications of The Link, for the Animals & Society Institute and the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and Law School.

March 10 – Tallahassee, Fla. (online): Phil Arkow will present on “The Link between Interpersonal Violence and Violence Against Animals” to the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association’s Virtual Veterinary Forensics Rounds.

March 11 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada (online): Sgt. Teena Stoddart of the Ottawa Police Service will present Violence Link training on behalf of the [Ontario Veterinary Medical Association](#).

March 22 – Washington, D.C. (online): Phil Arkow, Randy Lockwood, Blair Decker, and Allison Jackson will join a panel discussing “The Abuse Interface: Animal Abuse, Child Abuse, and Domestic Violence” for the [D.C. Bar Association](#)’s Animal Law Committee.

April 8 – Indianapolis, Ind. (online): Andrew Campbell will present a [Justice Clearinghouse webinar](#) on “Disaster Without, Disaster Within: Natural Disasters and Family Violence” to describe similarities between victimization risks for animals, children and vulnerable adults during natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 13 – Novato, Calif. (online): Phil Arkow will present “Connecting the Dots: Addressing The Link between Animal, Domestic, Child, and Elder Abuse to Create a Safer Community” for the [Marin Humane Society](#) and the Center for Domestic Peace.

April 15 – Rockville, Md. (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a webinar on “The Link between Elder Abuse and Animal Abuse and Opportunities for Eldercare Agencies” for the [ElderSAFE Center](#).

April 28 – Pullman, Wash. & Ft. Collins, Colo. (online): Phil Arkow will lecture on animal abuse’s Link to human violence for the [Human Animal Interaction Research course](#) co-taught by Washington State and Colorado State Universities.

April 30 – Pulaski, Va. (online): Phil Arkow will present a webinar on “The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence and its Implications for the Criminal Justice System” for the [Pulaski Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court](#).

May 11 – Sacramento, Calif. (online): Katie Campbell of RedRover will present “Pet-Friendly Domestic Violence Shelters” in a webinar for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

May 19 – Springfield, Mo.: Phil Arkow will present “The Link Between Human and Animal Abuse: Connecting the Dots” and “How to Implement the Animal Abuse Link Concepts Into Your Work” at the [Missouri Office of Prosecution Services](#)’ 15th Annual Conference on Family and Sexual Violence.

July 15 (online): Emily Lewis of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present a [webinar](#) on “Preserving the Bond and Preventing Cruelty: The Veterinarian’s Role” for the Justice Clearinghouse.

Nov. 6-7 – Maple Ridge, B.C., Canada (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a webinar on “Veterinarians’ Response to Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence” for the [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association/Society of BC Veterinarians Chapter](#).

Nov. 18 – Alexandria, Va. (online): Phil Arkow will discuss “How Pet-Inclusive Social Work and Cross-Reporting Can Improve Delivery of Domestic Violence Victim Services” for the National Organization for Victim Assistance’s [National Advocacy Learning Center](#).



ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multidisciplinary 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.

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