



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 14, No. 6 June 2021

A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



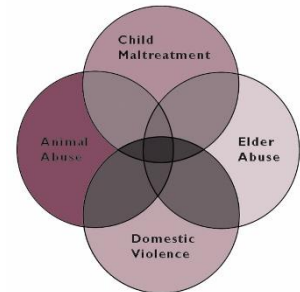
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



www.NationalLinkCoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

SUBSCRIBE – It's Free!!



DOMESTIC ABUSE... and THE LINK

National Domestic Violence Survey and Summit Demonstrate How Co-Living with Pets Breaks Barriers to Safety and Healing

The largest [national survey](#) of its kind ever conducted – and the first to capture the voices of women in crisis reaching out for help as opposed to those who are already in shelters – has confirmed and expanded upon earlier statewide studies describing how pets and fears for their welfare pose significant barriers to domestic violence survivors escaping their abusers.



The [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) and the [Urban Resource Institute](#) survey also revealed that despite a growing number of domestic violence shelters that either accept pets or that have a foster care program with community agencies for pets, survivors' awareness of these programs remains low, creating additional risk to both human and animal victims of domestic violence. The survey also demonstrated conclusively how important pets are to survivors' emotional support, psychological health and recovery, and that once in a safe location separation from pets creates an additional trauma.

The Hotline and URI announced the results of the extensive and comprehensive study at a virtual summit on May 26th ([See the May 2021 LINK-Letter](#)). The summit, which attracted 796 viewers in 41 states and seven foreign countries, also showcased a [60-page report](#) tracing the 8-year history of URI's groundbreaking People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program, the largest co-living program of its kind in the world. PALS offers 172 pet-friendly co-living apartments in seven of URI's 12 emergency and transitional domestic violence shelters in New York City. Since 2013, PALS has sheltered 293 adults, 438 children, and 400 pets with numbers that continue to grow each year.

The summit, sponsored by PetSmart Charities, was moderated by Steve Dale and featured seven panelists, with guest appearances by U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and others working to promote public-private partnerships that raise funds and awareness of the animal abuse/domestic violence Link.

URI partnered with the Hotline to conduct a 13-question survey of 2,480 individuals who called, texted or chatted with the Hotline to gather the most extensive, current and comprehensive national data available to date on the scope of how the presence of pets affects many domestic violence victims' options and decision-making. The survey focused on how survivors felt about pets in relation to their experiences of abuse, their considerations when seeking safety for themselves and their pets, and their awareness of resources for survivors with pets needing to leave an abusive situation. Key findings include:



Summit panelists (from top left): Animal behaviorist and radio personality Steve Dale; Domestic violence survivor Hope Dawson; Animal Welfare Institute Director of Government Affairs Nancy Blaney; PetSmart Charities President Aimee Gilbreath; Banfield Foundation Executive Director Kim Van Syoc; N.Y. State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Executive Director Kelli Owens; Fields; and Ray-Jones.

- **97%** of respondents said that keeping their pets with them is an important factor in deciding whether or not to seek shelter.
- **50%** of respondents would not consider shelter for themselves if they could not take their pets with them.
- **48%** were worried that the abuser would harm or kill the pets; **37%** reported that the abuser had already threatened and **29%** said the abuser had actually harmed or killed pets.
- **30%** said their children had witnessed or been aware of abuse or threats to a pet.
- **76%** reported noticeable changes in their pets' behavior as a result of abuse.
- **72%** were not aware that some domestic violence shelters accept pets. (Currently, some 250 shelters in the U.S. are [pet-friendly](#) and many others have foster care arrangements for pets.)
- **91%** indicated that their pets' emotional support and physical protection are significant in their ability to survive and heal.

The results indicate and reinforce that pets are a crucial component of a survivor's family unit that should be kept safe and together, and failing to provide pet accommodations and services inhibits many survivors from seeking shelter.

Nathaniel Fields, CEO of URI, and Katie Ray-Jones, CEO of the Hotline, emphasized key takeaways from the survey:

- There is a need to raise awareness among domestic violence victims about the impact of pets on domestic violence and the availability of resources that can remove a major barrier to safety.
- There is a critical need for more shelter options that accommodate pets.
- There is a need for more research and evaluation of programs addressing the intersection of domestic violence and pets.
- This is the first study of its kind to interview survivors in their moment of outreach and decision-making, rather than already being in safety, and the results confirmed and expanded upon numerous earlier studies of women in shelter who similarly reported harm and threats to their pets which had kept them from leaving their abusers.

These new findings provide additional and newer data that will make it easier for community domestic violence and animal welfare agencies, governments and corporate and private funders to create partnerships. They provide additional insight into the scope of the Link between animal abuse and domestic violence, including the need for more public policy, program and financial support for domestic violence shelters to establish pet kenneling facilities and collaborative pet foster care programs.

Panel participants emphasized that financial support is needed not only for initial capital construction of pet housing areas, but also for ongoing operational needs such as hiring trauma-informed staffing, maintaining prevention and intervention services, and obtaining pet supplies and veterinary care when clients' pets are also involved.

The study reinforces the need for state and national domestic violence crisis hotlines' personnel to systematically inquire about the welfare, status and housing needs of survivors' pets. Such information removes a key barrier to victims escaping. It also enables hotline staffs to refer survivors to appropriate shelters that are either pet-friendly or have collaborative off-site pet fostering programs with community animal organizations, rather than having victims show up unannounced on the doorstep of a shelter that is not equipped to receive them.

Such a preventive and data-informed approach helps train crisis line staffs on the highly significant bond between survivors, their children and their pets, especially in moments of crisis, and how keeping the entire family together can enhance healing and recovery and protect all vulnerable members of the family from unsafe environments.

URI announced a response to the need for more pet-friendly housing by preparing to launch a nationwide outreach: a Community Response Model of pet housing facilities and foster-care programs for shelters that are scalable and adaptable to communities' varying sizes, resources and needs.

The report outlined five steps to continue and expand the momentum brought about by growing awareness of the Link between animal abuse and domestic violence and survivors' needs:

1. Enhance a **national, centralized database** that provides up-to-date information on domestic violence shelters that have services for pets, and the types of services offered.
2. **Increase awareness**, particularly within the community at large, regarding the availability of services for domestic violence victims with pets.
3. Expand funding resources to allow service providers to provide **training and technical assistance**, such as the PALS Community Response Model, in communities across the country.
4. Expand funding resources to provide **trauma-informed services** for the entire family.
5. Address gaps in our knowledge through **additional research**.

[Numerous earlier studies](#) of women who were already in shelter have reported that the threat or actual harm of pets is a form of emotional extortion that holds domestic violence survivors hostage and keeps them from leaving their abusers. The emotional attachment that survivors and their children have for their pets makes animals soft targets and collateral damage. Exploitive abusers will use any tool at their disposal, such as victims' emotional attachments to pets, to find a point of vulnerability that can coerce and control family members and exert power over them.

Saskatchewan Collaboration Offers Business Template for Pet-Friendly Sheltering

In an example of how cross-sectoral collaboration can help address The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence, the [Saskatchewan SPCA](#) in Canada is partnering with two domestic violence agencies to create a template business plan which women's shelters can use to advocate for funding to transform their facilities to accommodate pets.

The SPCA is partnering with STOPS (Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence) and PATHS (the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan) to provide practical solutions for victims with pets who are fleeing domestic violence. The collaboration is creating practical solutions and a structure which would not otherwise have been achievable and which can be replicated in multiple shelters. The collaboration is an outgrowth of a province-wide pet safekeeping program launched in 2017 ([See the September 2017 LINK-Letter](#)).



Purina Nears \$1,000,000 in Donations for Pet-Friendly Shelters

Purina pet foods celebrated National Pet Month in May by offering specially-marked purple packages for several of its products in support of the [Purple Leash Project](#), a national initiative founded by Purina and the RedRover to provide more resources and support for domestic violence survivors with pets ([See the March 2019 LINK-Letter](#)).



Purina is close to reaching its goal of donating more than \$1 million to help create more pet-friendly domestic violence shelters across the U.S., so survivors and their pets can escape abuse and heal together, [Pet Age](#) reported.

“Two years after Purina and RedRover launched the Purple Leash Project, we’re starting to see incredible progress and momentum toward our vision of creating more pet-inclusive domestic abuse services nationally,” said Nina Leigh Krueger, CEO and president of Purina. “With hundreds of survivors and their pets supported through this initiative, we’re committed to protecting the unique bond we share with our pets so that survivors of abuse and their pets can start the healing process together.”

Since 2019, Purina and RedRover have increased awareness of how animal abuse is a barrier to domestic violence survivors escaping and have helped change the landscape of domestic violence services for survivors with pets. Purple Leash Project grants are being augmented by volunteer efforts and advocacy for federal resources and funding to help human and animal survivors of domestic violence. ([See article elsewhere in this LINK-Letter for details about Purina’s research grants.](#))

Webinar Describes Pet Program Strategies and New Website Resource

Almost 400 professionals in law enforcement and social services learned about specific steps they can take to make domestic violence shelters pet-friendly and got a sneak peek at a new website that offers extensive resources on the animal abuse/domestic violence Link.

Katie Campbell, Director of Collaboration and Outreach for [RedRover](#), described “Pet-Friendly Domestic Violence Shelters: Creating a Pet-Friendly Program that Works for Your Community” in a Justice Clearinghouse [webinar](#) on May 11. She reviewed RedRover’s programs, which include: the [SafePlaceforPets.org](#) directory of programs for survivors and pets; **Safe Escape** grants to cover survivors’ pet boarding costs while they are in shelter; **Safe Housing** grants of up to \$20,000 to help create on- or off-site pet housing; and **financial and technical support** for organizations seeking to create pet housing programs in their community.

Campbell emphasized that abusers’ targeting pets is a form of emotional manipulation and power and control that also eliminates a source of comfort for family members and reinforces the idea that there is no safe place to go. “Abusers target pets because they’re an easy target and they can get away with it, because they know they won’t get into as much trouble if they abuse a pet,” she said.

She cited case studies and statistics that 48% of survivors delay leaving an abuser for fear of what might happen to their pets; some shelters report that figure being as high as 65%. Some survivors live in their cars for months with pets rather than leave them behind. 25% of survivors report returning to their abusers to care for their pet, she said.

Coming from her background in program development, Campbell admitted that there are challenges to starting a pet program in domestic violence shelters. Common concerns include staff and residents’ allergies, the potential for pet bites, legal constraints, and pets being abandoned. But she encouraged participants to realize that they have solved many operational problems already, and pet program issues can similarly be resolved through a five-step process:

1. Collaboration with community agencies. Three sectors are key: **Animal organizations** should get training from domestic violence agencies about how to ask clients who are surrendering pets whether domestic violence is a concern; **Domestic violence organizations** need to include pets in their crisis lines and safety planning; **Veterinarians** need to know the signs of abuse and how to respond. Cross-training, building community awareness about The Link, and creating interagency partnership agreements result in agencies being able to rely on community resources and not needing to be experts on everything.

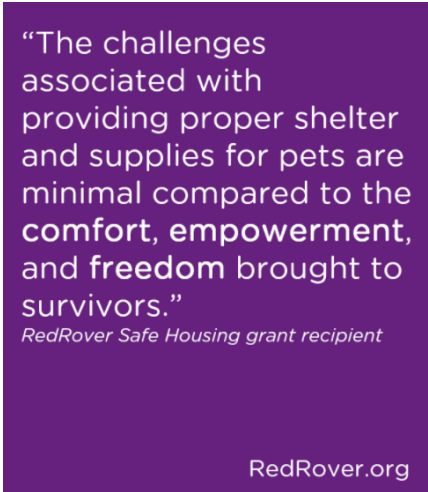


2. Designing pet spaces, whether in residents’ rooms, modifying existing spaces, or creating new spaces for pets. Common design elements include considering traffic flow, adapting for resident and staff allergies, and providing environmental enrichment areas for pets. “Quick fixes” for potential problems include removing carpeting, having a separate washer and dryer for pet supplies, and adding pet enrichment areas.

3. Structure and Operations. Campbell emphasized that there is no single way to include a pet program and that flexibility is crucial. But having staff gain buy-in by participating in planning and evaluation help ensure program success. Shelter administrators should outline the pet intake process, create resident agreements and pet guidelines, determine who provides what kind of daily pet care and how staff interact with pets, identify where pets are allowed, establish backup plans, and create a process if pets are abandoned by their owners.

4. Fundraising for pet programs opens up a new donor demographic of pet lovers. Americans spend \$103 billion annually on pets, Campbell said, and the “cute factor” of also saving residents’ pets can enhance fundraising efforts. Thinking outside the box with special events, social media strategies and grants specifically for pet-friendly facilities can make for a well-rounded funding strategy.

5. Ongoing evaluation to determine what works and what doesn’t, compiling data and residents’ stories, identifying successes and challenges, and sharing it with supporters helps the pet program grow.



“It meant everything to me because I couldn’t give her up. I would not have come into shelter if she didn’t have a safe place to stay.”
– Survivor, Family Crisis Center

Campbell also introduced a new website, DontForgetThePets.org, organized by RedRover, Greater Good Charities’ Rescue Rebuild program and PetSmart Charities, dedicated to sharing knowledge and resources about fundraising, human services, animal welfare, and capital construction so no families should have to choose between their safety and their pet. The website features: a Training Handbook to walk shelters through the process of establishing a pet program; a Discussion Forum with other agencies; Training Workshops; and a Coaching Program.

Don’t Forget the Pets originated as a workshop for domestic violence, homeless, and animal shelters to come together to learn how to create dedicated space or programs that welcome the pets of people in crisis. Since its inception in October 2019, nine workshops have trained 238 people.

“Something amazing happens when people come together around a common cause,” said Campbell. “It’s all about providing a space for connection and to share the knowledge we’ve learned from experts. These experts are the ones creating and engaging in pet programs around the country for our most vulnerable populations, and they have the day-to-day insights that are invaluable.”





Unique Arkansas Law Cites COVID-19 Restrictions in Expanding Pet Protection Order Provisions

Citing what may be the first example of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown pressures resulting in a law to address an increase in rates of family violence, Arkansas on April 30 expanded its provisions that explicitly allow courts to include pets in domestic violence orders of protection.

HB 1724 became **Act 1068**. The measure defines a “course of control” as a pattern of behavior that unreasonably interferes with another person’s free will and personal liberty, such as isolation from friends and relatives, deprivation of basic necessities, intimidation and unreasonable control of movements, daily behavior, finances, and access to resources. The premise for the measure states that the COVID-19 crisis has been “a worst-case scenario for victims experiencing domestic violence,” with shelter-in-place and other restrictions being used “as a scare tactic to keep victims isolated from their children or support systems.

“The increased isolation of victims has created an environment in which abuse, including course of control, is more likely to go undetected and, by extension, unreported.”

The new law expands provisions enacted in 2011 which allow courts to offer relief by directing the care, control or custody of any pet in the household. The new law allows courts to issue an ex parte order that may grant a petitioner the exclusive care, possession or control of an animal owned or kept by the petitioner, respondent, or a minor residing in either household. The court can order the respondent against coming into contact with the animal, or taking, molesting, attacking, harming, threatening, or disposing of it.

“In times of natural disasters and crises, the rates of interpersonal violence historically rise, especially among households experiencing significant financial strain,” reads the bill’s preamble. “The COVID-19 pandemic has proven this historical trend to be the reality for survivors of domestic violence as police chiefs nationwide reported increases of 10% to 30% in domestic violence assaults in the first two weeks after a national emergency was declared in March 2020.”

Ohio Closes Gap in Pet Protection Orders

The Ohio Supreme Court on April 15 closed a significant gap in its inclusion of pets in domestic violence and dating prevention orders by finally including a prohibition against respondents removing, damaging, hiding, or disposing of companion animals in the standard protection order forms. Although these provisions were first enacted for domestic violence in 2014, and were extended to cases of dating violence in 2018, they were not specifically included in the standardized form until this year. Without specific inclusion in the checklist, neither petitioners, their advocates nor the courts were made aware that pets could be protected from abusers’ harm. The changes also allow a petitioner to remove companion animals from the respondent. The [new forms](#) took effect on April 15.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE... and THE LINK

Police Break up Drug Trafficking and Cockfighting Ring Run from a Federal Penitentiary

Five suspects and an inmate in a federal prison have been charged in a multi-state investigation involving 16 different agencies that uncovered an alleged international narcotics ring and cockfighting enterprise with links to the Juarez Mexican drug cartel. The investigation also resulted in the seizure of 20 firearms, five vehicles, 1,500 pounds of methamphetamine, 24 pounds of THC edibles, 2.4 pounds of marijuana, and 2,500 Xanax pills, with a combined street value of \$53.8 million.



The [Polk County, Fla., Sheriff's Office](#)

announced that "Operation Dirty Water" began in early 2021 when a parcel shipped from Quebec containing 2,500 Xanax pills was intercepted in Winter Haven, Fla. Other narcotics were seized at the residence and investigators learned that the drug trafficking was allegedly controlled by Brian Stanton, 37, currently incarcerated in the U.S. Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta.

Isidoro Palacios and some of the evidence seized in his raid

Undercover agents reportedly arranged for two shipments of 35 pounds and 26 pounds of meth from a woman who said she was being paid \$500 for every kilo of meth she delivered.



Her arrest led to the location of three illegal meth labs in Georgia. During one of eight search warrants executed, agents discovered and dismantled an illegal cockfighting ring allegedly belonging to Isidoro Palacios, 59, of College Park, Ga. Homeland Security investigators linked the activity to the Juarez cartel, a brutally violent cartel known for its targeted executions and violence.

Investigators reportedly found 77 pounds of meth, a stolen vehicle and a stolen shotgun and charged Palacios with drug trafficking, theft by receiving stolen property, and animal cruelty. His criminal history includes 14 arrests in Georgia and Florida on motor vehicle and narcotics charges.

Others arrested in the operation, and their felony and misdemeanor criminal history records, were: Stanton (26 prior arrests); Jennifer Meers, 43, of Stone Mountain, Ga. (22 arrests); Amber Cayson, 37, of Winter Haven, Fla. (47 prior charges); Crescencio Ornelas-Loza, 30, of Fairburn, Ga. (4 arrests plus being an illegal alien); and Luis Ornelas-Martinez, 50, of Stockbridge, Ga. (2 arrests plus being an illegal alien).

Connecticut Court-Appointed Animal Advocates Program Reviewed

Responding to statistics indicating that “the justice system simply does not – or cannot – give cases of animal cruelty and time and attention they deserve,” and recognizing that “animal cruelty is also a warning sign of cruelty against human beings,” Jessica Rubin has written a review of Connecticut’s pioneering Desmond’s Law (*See the [June 2016 LINK-Letter](#)*). The law was enacted in 2016 to allow court-appointed attorneys and law students in Connecticut to assist courts in representing the interests of justice in dog and cat cruelty cases. The law was designed to help correct deficiencies in prosecutions: “because animals lack voices to communicate their suffering to us, crimes against them often fall through the cracks in the justice system.”



Jessica Rubin

Rubin, Professor of Law and Director of the Animal Law Clinic at the University of Connecticut, describes five ways in which Desmond’s Law has changed the landscape of animal cruelty cases in Connecticut:

- Helps ensure that victims are protected and their interests are presented to courts;
- Advances justice by ensuring that well-grounded cases are not dropped, that offenders are held accountable, and that future cruelty is prevented;
- Equips courts with factual and legal information to treat cases thoroughly;
- Provides meaningful work and training for lawyers and law students;
- Presses courts to distinguish between sentient crime victims and non-sentient property.

In reviewing the first four years of Desmond’s law working within the complexities of animal cruelty cases, Rubin notes that 15 law students, one teaching fellow and several volunteer attorneys have worked with her as court advocates in more than 40 cases. These advocates gather and present information, serve as a resource unaffiliated with either the prosecution or the defense, and help develop creative remedies for the protection of animals and the interests of justice.

She describes Desmond’s Law as moving courts away from a binary system of incarceration-or-release into a focus on the welfare of animal victims, restitution for service providers and prevention of future harm.

-- Rubin, J. (2021, March 20). Desmond’s Law: Early impressions of Connecticut’s court advocate program for animal cruelty cases. *Harvard Law Review* 134, 263-275.

Permission to Reprint

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

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.

Arkansas, Maryland Expand Use of Courthouse Facility Dogs



Rep. Jimmy Gazaway and Sen. Bart Hester

A new law in Arkansas expands the permitted use of certified facility dogs for child witnesses to also include **vulnerable witnesses (e.g., individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities)**. The new measure also expands the areas where these dogs may assist witnesses from courthouses to now also include law enforcement investigations, children’s advocacy centers, prosecutors’ offices, and offices of court-appointed special advocates and guardians ad litem. **HB 1497**, co-sponsored by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) and Sen. Bart Hester (R – Cave Springs), was signed into law on April 21.

Meanwhile, Maryland expanded its existing Court Dog and Child Witness program to now allow facility dogs and therapy dogs, as specifically defined, to accompany individuals in **Veterans Treatment Court** proceedings and related legal processes. These include status reviews with judges or magistrates, meetings with attorneys, and meetings with probation, pretrial and court case managers. The Administrative Office of the Courts will establish applicable procedures for the dogs and their handlers.

HB 186/SB 7 was signed into law on May 18 by Gov. Larry Hogan. Veterans Treatment Courts are court-supervised, comprehensive and voluntary treatment-based programs for veterans. Seven jurisdictions in Maryland are served by operational Veterans Treatment Courts: Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Prince George’s, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties and Baltimore City. In 2020, 133 individuals participated in these programs.



Sen. Bryan Simonaire & Del. Michael Malone

The bills were introduced by Delegate Michael E. Malone (R – Anne Arundel) and Sen. Bryan W. Simonaire (R – Anne Arundel) with six co-sponsors expansion. It required a renaming of the program which will now be simply called the Court Dog Program. It takes effect Oct. 1.

Canadian Judges to Receive CLE Training on The Link



The Canadian government took a major step forward in Link awareness on May 6 when Parliament **Bill C-3** was enacted by Royal Assent. The new law, **2021 Annual Statute c.8**, will require judges’ continuing legal education seminars to include courses related to sexual assault law, social context, and training on The Link between animal abuse and human violence. Parliament’s Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs accepted [Humane Canada](#)’s proposal to include training on the violence link for the judiciary, said Humane Canada CEO Barbara Cartwright ([See the May 2021 LINK-Letter](#)).

The measure amends the Judges Act and is designed to affirm the need for survivors of sexual violence to have faith in the criminal justice system, and to help judges recognize the effect that sexual assault proceedings can have on victims and the potential for proceedings to revictimize survivors. It also aims to educate judges through continuing legal education on sexual offenses including bestiality and bestiality in the presence of a child.

New York Bill Would Mandate Animal Crime Prosecutors



A growing number of municipal and county prosecutors, recognizing the highly complex and specialized nature of prosecuting animal cruelty crimes, have created animal cruelty units or task forces within their departments to handle the increasing number of such cases coming to their attention. New York State is proposing to take this progressive process one step further by mandating such positions in each of the Empire State's 62 counties.

A7267 would require the prosecutor in each county to appoint an assistant district attorney to oversee the prosecution of crimes against animals. The bill, sponsored **Assemblywoman Rosenthal** by Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal (D – Manhattan), is in the Local Governments Committee. This is believed to be the first such legislation introduced in any state in the U.S.

In previous issues of *The LINK-Letter* we have noted the formation of animal cruelty prosecution units in district attorneys' offices in such jurisdictions as Colorado Springs, Colo.; Berkshire County, Mass.; Dallas and Travis Counties, Texas; Baltimore County, Md.; Cobb County, Ga.; Manatee County, Fla.; And Alameda, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Fresno Counties, Calif. Albany and Nassau Counties, and the Manhattan, Staten Island and Queens Boroughs of New York City, are similarly also believed to have specialized animal cruelty prosecutors on staff.

VETERINARY MEDICINE... and THE LINK

Forensic Imaging Enhances Link Awareness and Prosecutions

A new article in the forensic imaging literature describes societal changes and knowledge that animal crimes may occur in conjunction with child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence over the past 35 years. This knowledge has increased awareness and interest in prosecuting crimes against animals, and caused numerous states and Canadian provinces to require veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal and child abuse. The authors suggest that those outside the veterinary community have an interest in the current state of veterinary forensic medicine: given the increased availability of cross-sectional imaging, the use of imaging in cruelty investigations involving live and deceased animals is increasing and provides a more readily accepted recording of physical abuse for the courts. Forensic imaging and the objective written opinion of the veterinary professional on the manner of death serve to document an animal's condition at the time of intake, assist in determining a cause and manner of death, and enrich databases that track animal abuse and neglect such as the FBI's NIBRS. The use of imaging in veterinary forensic science is expected to progress given the increased use of imaging in the medical forensic sciences and due to increased societal interest in prosecuting animal crimes.



Elizabeth Watson & Kristina Baucom

-- Watson, E., & Baucom, K.J. (2020). Two case studies in veterinary forensic imaging and a brief literature review. *Forensic Imaging*, 21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fri.2020.200382>

CHILD MALTREATMENT... and THE LINK

National Children's Alliance Calls for Greater Link Collaboration

The National Children's Alliance – the national network of over 900 Children's Advocacy Centers -- commemorated the end of National Child Abuse Month by posting a [blog on April 26](#) about The Link. Executive Director Teresa Huizar cited several research studies documenting how understanding the occurrence and effect of animal abuse can lead to earlier and more effective identification of children and families at risk and improve the interventions they receive. Many studies support the general findings that children's witnessing animal cruelty, either through domestic violence or otherwise, correlates significantly with engaging in animal cruelty. She added that some studies have found that the earlier the child witnesses animal cruelty, the earlier is the onset of the child's animal maltreatment.



Teresa Huizar

In promoting cross-agency collaboration to address the role that animal abuse plays in the dynamic of family violence, she emphasized the importance of animal services professionals – including veterinarians and animal control officers – in participating in anti-violence efforts.

Despite this increased awareness and cross-reporting laws, however, Huizar lamented that cross-reporting between child and animal protection officials remains infrequent. She referenced a recent study of child welfare workers in Canada: although 45% of workers directly observed children harming animals, 44% had observed visible injuries on an animal, 28% had observed adult caregivers physically harming animals, and 94% observed evidence of animal neglect, only 23% indicated that they usually reported animal cruelty to appropriate authorities.

She encouraged professionals, particularly social work and mental health associations, to take more active steps to address issues related to animal brutality. Likewise, animal care and control professionals need training about domestic violence, preferably from domestic violence professionals. Similarly, judicial officials need to be educated on the effect on a child's development of witnessing or being forced to participate in animal cruelty.

She encouraged Children's Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams to reach out to animal control organizations and humane law enforcement to help educate them about The Link and how to respond and assist in investigations when they see suspected child abuse.



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

ELDER ABUSE... and THE LINK

Maryland Law Requires Animal Control and Humane Officer Training On Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence



Sen. Waldstreicher & Del. Chang

A new law in Maryland requires animal control officers and humane society personnel to receive pre-professional and continuing education training on The Link between animal abuse and abuse of the elderly and domestic violence. **HB 281** was introduced by Del. Mark Chang (D – Anne Arundel County), and **SB 159** was sponsored by Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher (D – Montgomery County) with 10 co-sponsors. The companion measures were signed into law on May 18 by Gov. Larry Hogan.

Maryland state law currently did not establish training requirements or other qualifications for humane society or animal control officers. The measure now requires new officers to receive 80 hours of training within the first 12 months of employment, and all officers to receive six hours of continuing education annually. The training curricula, which must be approved by the appropriate unit of counties and municipalities, must include:

- The association between animal abuse and the abuse of the elderly or domestic violence.
- Animal cruelty investigations.
- The use of legal resources.
- Lawful searches and seizures.
- Professionalism and ethical standards.
- Evidence collection and the chain of custody.
- Preparation for civil and criminal proceedings.
- Conflict resolution and officer safety.
- Animal diseases and zoonoses.

This is believed to be the first such state law in the U.S. to include awareness of the Link between animal abuse and elder abuse in training requirements for animal care and control professionals.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT... AND THE LINK

New App Helping Law Enforcement Plan Crime Investigations Includes The Link



A new application developed for law enforcement called C.S.I.

Checklist provides a simple check list tool that covers all the recognized standards and procedures necessary to conduct a successful investigation of a wide variety of crimes, including animal abuse and neglect. It is intended to aid professionals in a variety of disciplines, including uniformed officers, evidence technicians, arson investigators, prosecutors, and medical examiners.

The app was developed by Thomas Mauriello, Manager of the University of Maryland Department of Criminology and the Criminal Justice Crime Lab. It was developed with input from National Link Coalition co-founder Randy Lockwood. It includes checklists focusing on animal behavior, physical condition, environmental issues, dogfighting evidence, and more. The National Link Coalition is listed as a good resource for crime scene investigators. It also contains a link to the special issue of *Sheriff and Deputy* magazine devoted to animal cruelty (*See the [March 2014 LINK-Letter](#)*).

The section of C.S.I. Checklist addressing animal abuse and neglect is particularly useful for humane law enforcement officers and animal cruelty investigators. A brief video introducing the Animal Abuse and Neglect segment of C.S.I. Checklist is available at <https://csichecklist.com/episode-3-animal-abuse-and-neglect-cases/>.

C.S.I. Checklist is available for IOS and Android devices. Complete details and download links are provided at <https://csichecklist.com>. New users qualify for a free 30-day trial to evaluate the app.

THE LINK... in the LITERATURE

Article Suggests Expanding “Domestic Violence” to Include Pets



Sheena Swemmer

A recent journal article is proposing that the concept of domestic violence, as applied in international law, should be expanded to include animals in the home. Sheena Swemmer, head of the Gender Justice program in the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, acknowledges the void in international law around the general protection of nonhuman animals and suggests that the framework currently set out in international law requires development. She argues that the idea of protecting certain vulnerable animals within international law be adopted and the definition of “vulnerability” be viewed in a less anthropocentric way to include groups of animals who experience vulnerability in different ways, such as companion animals who are victims of violence in the home. She suggests that due to the nature of domestic violence and its effects on numerous victims (women, children, and companion animals), international domestic violence law must be developed to include all possible victims of domestic violence in the home who include both children and companion animals.

-- Swemmer, S. (2019). *International law, domestic violence, and the intersection with nonhuman animal abuse. Society & Animals, 29(2), 203-222.*

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

\$30,000 Grants Offered for Research on Pets in Abusive Relationships

The Purina 2022 Sponsorship for Human-Animal Bond Studies is accepting applications for research funding of up to \$30,000 for studies examining 10 distinct topics, including pets in abusive relationships and the impact of allowing pets at domestic violence shelters.



Funding is available to applicants affiliated with, but not limited to, universities, foundations, charities, and NGOs. Proposals are limited to studies about cats and/or dogs, must not be double-funded, and must be completed within two years. Applications must provide a timeline with specific deliverables and awardees will be required to submit a midway and final report. The deadline for applying is July 15, with winners announced in the Fall.

Other research proposals that are invited include pets and post-traumatic stress disorders, phobias and anxiety; pets in counseling and therapy sessions; pets helping the hospitalized and the homeless; and six other animal-assisted intervention topics. More [details are available from Purina](#).

\$10,000 Grants to Aid Animal Programs Benefiting Veterans and Families



The Latham Foundation's 2021 Grants Program will again focus on promoting humane education through animal-assisted activities where both animals and people benefit. This grant cycle's focus, however, will focus specifically on programs that improve the lives of veterans and their families, while addressing Latham's four steps in humane education: kindness to animals; to each other; to other people; and to our country.

Unlike earlier grant cycles, the 2021 grants will be available only to U.S. organizations. Awards will be up to \$10,000 for a one-year grant. Applications must be submitted only during July 1-10, 2021. Additional information, grant guidelines, and an application form are [available from the Latham Foundation](#).

Researcher Sought for Spanish Study of The Link and Elder Abuse

CoPPA (Coordinadora de Profesionales por la Prevención de Abusos), a multi-disciplinary collective of professionals and experts who promote the defense and protection of vulnerable communities, groups and individuals in Latin America and Spain, is seeking an expert in qualitative research for a study regarding elders and the human-animal bond. The project is being conducted in South America and involves interviews with elders. It is financed by an international NGO dedicated to the protection of vulnerable groups and has official backing by local authorities as well as approval by an ethics committee.



The researcher will join a small multidisciplinary team and lead the data analysis and the collaborative work for publication of results. Contractual compensation is offered. The researcher must be fluent in Spanish, have familiarity with the human-animal bond, and established experience with qualitative research methodologies including publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Active collaboration would begin before the end of June 2021. Travel is not required. More details are [available from CoPPA](#).

RAISING LINK AWARENESS

Link Featured in New One Welfare Video

The One Health and [One Welfare](#) paradigms, linking human and animal health beyond the more traditional connections of zoonotic diseases and comparative medicine, operate in parallel with the Link concept of human and animal abuse being interconnected. One Welfare, a more global perspective on these issues, recognizes that animal welfare, biodiversity and the environment are connected to human well-being.

One Welfare has just produced an explanatory [video](#) describing global implications of the different facets of One Welfare: the interconnection between animal and human abuse; the social implications of improved animal welfare; and the interconnection between biodiversity, the environment, animal welfare, and human well-being. The video features dramatic footage of people and animals interacting with their environments in a variety of nations around the world.



The One Welfare umbrella includes several Link components, such as the Reduction in Animal/Human Abuse, Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Hoarding, and the need for Cross-Agency Collaborations. The One Welfare framework includes addressing animal and human abuse and neglect through an enhanced understanding of their relationship.

A [Spanish-language version](#) of the video is also available

News from LOCAL LINK COALITIONS

Link Training Continues Across Canada

Our colleagues at Canada's [Violence Link Coalition](#) tell us that training is spreading throughout our northern neighbor's provinces. In addition to providing Link training for judges nationwide and a collaborative animal abuse/domestic violence program in Saskatchewan (*see articles elsewhere in this LINK-Letter*), Alberta Crown Prosecutor Christian Lim and Vancouver animal law attorney Victoria Shroff presented a Continuing Law Education program at a BC Courthouse Library. The 90-minute webinar, "Animal Bites Part II: Accessing Justice for Animals (& Their Humans), The Link Between Animals and Humans," is [available online](#).

COVID-19... and THE LINK

Pandemic Called the “Best and Worst of Times for Animals”



Kendra Coulter

Kendra Coulter, the Brock University researcher in labor studies whose earlier work has included several Link publications, has written a new article about the impact of the pandemic on animals. Writing in the Canadian edition of [The Conversation](#), Coulter described “adoptions but also abuse: The COVID-19 pandemic is the best and worst of times for animals.”

Coulter noted that over the past year, pet adoptions and birdwatching have increased, and people who have been struggling with the damaging effects of isolation and social distancing are finding solace in the animal members of their families. But reports of animal abuse have also increased. “This may be, in part, because more people are at home and can watch and listen for the overt and subtle signs of animals being harmed nearby. It might be because people are more attuned to animals’ well-being. It’s also possible that there has in fact been an increase in abuse,” she writes.

Coulter notes that “animal abuse can also be the window that exposes child and elder abuse and violence against women that is also taking place. Animal cruelty does not occur in a vacuum. Animals are victims, but they are often not the only victims.”

Coulter’s earlier work describes the additional risks faced by female animal cruelty investigators ([See the April 2018 LINK-Letter](#)), the benefits of cross-reporting ([See the January 2020 LINK-Letter](#)), and how Link cases exacerbate the stressors on animal cruelty investigators but basing cruelty investigations on the Link makes for good public policy ([See the March 2019 LINK-Letter](#)).

The article follows [earlier reports from British Columbia](#) citing how the isolation which was the key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 also had debilitating consequences for abused animals and people; British Columbia’s Battered Women’s Support Services’ crisis line saw a staggering 300% increase in calls during the early stages of the pandemic from victims whose abusers withheld insurance cards, threatened to cancel insurance, and prevented them from seeking medical attention.

Meanwhile, the [ASPCA is reporting results of a poll](#) of the general public that estimates that close to one in five households, or some 23 million residences, acquired a cat or dog since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, and that 90% of dogs and 84% of cats are still in those homes. Despite some concerns as COVID restrictions are lifted, such as pet behavioral issues arising from adopters returning to work, 87% of respondents said they are not considering rehoming their pets in the near future.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Link Bills We're Watching

As the 2021 legislative sessions roll along, 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 **121 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



Canada Bill C-3 requires Canadian judges to receive training on the Violence Link between animal abuse and sexual and domestic violence as part of their continuing legal education. The bill passed Parliament's Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and **was enacted by Royal Assent** on May 6 as 2021 Annual Statute c.8.



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. The bill is in the House Judiciary and Rules Committees.



Arkansas HB 1724 cites the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic as "a worst-case scenario for victims experiencing domestic violence" as the rationale to expand provisions that allow courts to include pets in domestic violence orders of protection. The measure now allows courts to issue protection orders based on a respondent's "course of control" or "disturbing the peace." The premise for the measure states that the COVID-19 shelter-in-place and other restrictions are being used "as a scare tactic to keep victims isolated from their children or support systems. **It became law on April 30 as Act 1068.**



California AB 258 would require emergency shelter and transitional housing programs for the homeless to allow residents to keep pets. The Assembly Judiciary Committee approved it and sent it to the Appropriations Committee. **SB 344** would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop and administer a program to award grants to shelters for the homeless to provide shelter, food and basic veterinary services for residents' pets. It is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. (It is not clear whether these bills would cover homeless persons who are fleeing domestic violence.)



Connecticut SB 6 would have added "a pattern of coercive controlling behavior" that includes cruelty or the threat of cruelty to animals to the provisions by which a family member may apply to the Superior Court for restraining order relief. **The bill died** in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



District of Columbia B23-0181, the Intrafamilial Offenses and Anti-Stalking Orders Amendment Act of 2020, was signed into law on Jan. 13 as **D.C. Act 23-571**. It clarifies procedures by which victims of intrafamily offense, sexual assault, child sex trafficking, 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/household member, or cruelty to animals owned by an intimate partner, or family/household member. Courts may also issue an anti-stalking order if the petitioner fears a household animal is endangered by the respondent. **It took effect April 27.**





Illinois HB 1907 would require the Department of Human Services to establish a grant program, incorporating third-party funding and services, for counties with populations greater than 200,000 to support domestic violence shelters and service programs that assist domestic violence survivors’ pets. The bill is in the House Rules Committee.



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. The bills were in the Committee on Committees **when the Legislature adjourned.**



Maine LD 535 would allow courts adjudicating the dissolution of marriages to consider the well-being of companion animals in the disposition of property. The bill **was carried over to a future legislative session.**



Maryland SB 159/HB 281 requires new humane society and animal control officers to undergo 80 hours of training, and existing personnel to receive six hours of continuing education annually, on topics including the association between animal abuse and abuse of the elderly or domestic violence. The bills passed both houses and **were signed into law on May 18.**



Massachusetts S.939/H.1820 would expand existing provisions that prevent respondents in a domestic violence protection order from harming, taking or disposing of household animals to also include protective orders issued in sexual assault harassment cases. The bills are in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



Mississippi SB 2091 would have allowed municipal and justice courts to include companion animals in awarding protection orders. **The bill died 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. “Victims of domestic violence should not have to live in constant fear of their abuser's retaliation, their beloved pet being harmed or having to re-appear in court multiple times to renew the same order of protection,” Republican Sen. Elaine Gannon, who sponsored the bill, said in a statement. The bill passed the Senate and the House. If signed into law by Gov. Mike Parson, it would take effect on Aug. 28.



Nevada AB 350 would increase the penalty for harming or killing a companion animal from a Category C felony to a Category B felony if the act is committed to threaten, intimidate or terrorize a person. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



New Jersey A 4880 and S 3168 would expand the statutory definition of domestic violence to include acts of cruelty against animals owned or possessed by the domestic violence victims. 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/S3039 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 bills are in the Assembly Judiciary and Senate Children & Families Committees.



New York A5775/S4248 would require courts to consider the best interest of a companion animal when awarding possession in a divorce or separation proceeding. The bills passed the Senate and are in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



New York A3985 (“Bella’s Law”) would require the Office of Children & Family Services to investigate possible domestic violence or abuse for persons who have been accused of animal abuse. The bill is in the Committee on Children & Families.



The Ohio Supreme Court on April 15 closed a gap in its inclusion of pets in domestic violence prevention orders by finally including a prohibition against respondents removing, damaging, hiding, or disposing of companion animals in the standard protection order form. Although these provisions were first enacted in 2014, they were not specifically included in the standardize form until this year.



Pennsylvania HB1031 would amend the Protection from Abuse Act to allow courts to grant temporary ownership rights over pets in protection orders and direct defendants from possessing, contacting, transferring, or relocating pets or entering the property of anyone sheltering the animal. Final agreements would allow courts to direct defendants to not abuse, harass, stalk, threaten or use physical force against the animal. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



Rhode Island H 5569 would permit family courts to award custody of household pets to the plaintiff in a domestic abuse complaint. The bill was held for further study.



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. The bill is in the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.



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 Elder Abuse



Maryland SB 159/HB 281 requires new humane society and animal control officers to undergo 80 hours of training, and existing personnel to receive six hours of continuing education annually, on a variety of topics including the association between animal abuse and abuse of the elderly or domestic violence. The bills were **signed into law on May 18.**



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 Abuse and Child Maltreatment



U.S. H.R. 763, the Child and Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act, would amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to require that data collected by the federal government from state child protection agencies include information about animal abuse as a risk factor for child abuse. The bill is in the House Education and Labor Committee.



Arkansas HB 1497 expands the permitted use of certified facility dogs for child witnesses to also include vulnerable witnesses (e.g., with intellectual or developmental disabilities), and expands the areas where these dogs may assist witnesses from courthouses to also include law enforcement investigations, children's advocacy centers, prosecutors' offices, and offices of court-appointed special advocates and guardians ad litem. **The bill was signed into law on April 21.**



Florida SB 96 / HB 7039 would establish a legislative intent to require reporting and cross-reporting protocols between child protective and animal services personnel based on The Link between the welfare of family animals and child safety and protection. It would require child protective investigators to report known or suspected animal cruelty and grant them criminal, civil and administrative immunity for such reports. It similarly would require animal control officers to report suspected child abuse to the state hotline. The Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Animal Control Association would jointly develop a one-hour training module on The Link and on timely cross-reporting procedures. It would also redefine bestiality as "sexual contact with an animal" and bans animal pornography. **SB 96** passed the Senate 40-0 and the House 116-0 and would take effect on July 1.



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. The bill was in the Committee on Committees **when the Legislature adjourned.**



Maryland HB 186/SB7 expands the existing "Court Dog and Child Witness Program," which allows facility dogs or therapy dogs to accompany child witnesses in court proceedings and other court processes, to now include such dogs in Veterans Treatment Courts. The program is also renamed as the "Court Dog Program." The measure was **signed into law on May 18.**





Massachusetts H.1716/S. 943 would expand the power of Department of Children & Families employees and contractors to report suspected animal abuse over a longer period of time. Current law allows such cross-reporting only during their specific 10-15 day investigation or evaluation timeframe. The bills are in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



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 and A3726 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. **A474** is in the Agriculture Committee and **A3726** is in the Codes 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.



North Carolina HB 544 would make it a felony to permit a person under age 18 to attend or participate in and dog-, cock- or other animal fighting. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.



Pennsylvania SB 78 (Kayden's Law – Preventing Abuse in Child Custody Proceedings), in noting that domestic abuse against a partner, spouse, child or pet can be part of a pattern of emotional and psychological abuse, would allow courts to include a person's prior conviction for animal cruelty or animal fighting to be considered in determining custody of the child and whether the person posed a threat of harm to the child. **The bill was removed from the table.**



Rhode Island S 308 would increase penalties for animal cruelty committed in the presence of a child. The Senate Judiciary Committee recommended the bill be held for further study.



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. It is in the Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.



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



Colorado Ballot Initiative 16, proposed for 2022, “Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation” (PAUSE), would amend the state’s bestiality statutes to criminalize safe and common artificial insemination of dogs, horses and livestock as a “sexual act with an animal.” Colorado veterinarians and animal welfare groups are opposed to the proposal.



Connecticut HB 5193 would have increased the penalties for engaging in sexual contact with an animal. **The bill died** in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



Florida SB 96/HB 7039 would redefine bestiality as “sexual contact with an animal” and bans animal pornography. It would also establish a legislative intent to require reporting and cross-reporting protocols between child protective and animal services personnel based on The Link between the welfare of family animals and child safety and protection. It would raise bestiality from a 1st-degree misdemeanor to a 3rd-degree felony. **SB 96** passed the Senate and House unanimously and would take effect on July 1.



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. **SB 343** passed the Senate and House and was sent to the Governor.



Missouri HB 373 would require mental health evaluations for offenders of bestiality and animal hoarding; it is in the Rules 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.



Oregon Ballot Initiative 13, proposed for 2022, would add breeding domestic, livestock and equine animals to the definition of sexual assault of an animal.



Washington HB 1292 would create a new crime of providing harmful material to a minor, including bestiality and animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape, or torture, as a gross misdemeanor or Class C felony. The bill is in the Public Safety Committee.



West Virginia HB 2827 would have created a new felony offense of sexual crimes against animals. The bill was in the Judiciary Committee **when the Legislature adjourned.**



Wyoming HB46 defines and creates the misdemeanor crime of bestiality; The bill passed the House 60-0 and the Senate 30-0. On March 30 it **was signed into law** and takes effect on July 1.



Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



U.S. H.R. 1016, the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act, introduced because of cited Links between animal cruelty and violence against humans, would enhance enforcement of federal anti-cruelty laws, such as interstate trafficking of fighting animals, by creating an Animal Cruelty Crimes Section at the U.S. Department of Justice's Environmental and Natural Resources Division. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law.



Kentucky HB 486 would require law enforcement officers to receive training on The Link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. The bill is in the Committee on Committees. The bill was in the Committee on Committees **when the Legislature adjourned**.



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 bills are in the Senate Agriculture and Assembly Codes Committees.



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.



New York A2661 would define animal fighting as a criminal act when referring to enterprise corruption. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



New York A7267 would require the prosecutor in each county to appoint an assistant district attorney to oversee the prosecution of crimes against animals. The bill is in the Local Governments 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.

Animal Hoarding



Missouri HB 373 would add animal hoarding to the definition of animal neglect and require mental health evaluations for offenders. It is in the Rules Committee.



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 has been retained** in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee for action in the 2nd year of the session.



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.

Cross-Reporting



Florida HB 47 and SB 216 (“Allie’s Law”) would have required 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 have allowed 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. **HB 47 and HB 49 died** in the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee; **SB 216 and SB 218 died** in the Senate Agriculture Committee.



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. **HB1086** passed the House and the Senate and was sent to the Governor.



Iowa HF 623 would amend the Iowa Veterinary Practice Act to grant veterinarians immunity from administrative, civil or criminal liability for actions undertaken in assisting in the investigation or prosecution of animal abuse and neglect cases, including reporting such abuse. The bill is in the Senate Agriculture Committee.



Massachusetts H.1716/S.943 would remove the 10-day time limit within which social services workers may report suspected animal abuse and allow them to report at any time. The bills are in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



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. The bill is in the House Committee on Crime Prevention.



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.



New York A 5823/S 5023 would require veterinarians who reasonably and in good faith suspect that a companion animal's injury, illness or condition is the result of animal cruelty to report the incident and disclose records concerning the animal's condition and treatment. (Existing law allows voluntary reporting.) The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Higher Education Committees.



New York A 5780 would permit mandated reporters of child abuse to report suspected animal cruelty, with immunity from civil and criminal liability. The bill is in the Committee on Children and Families.



Oregon HB 3071 would add all elected officials of the state, state agencies, boards, commissions or departments, and all elected city and county elected officials, to those mandated to report suspected child and elder abuse. The bill is in the House Committee on Human Services.





Texas HB 4330 would require veterinarians to report suspected cruelty of non-livestock animals to the county sheriff or municipal police agency; reports made in good faith would be immune from civil and criminal liability and administrative discipline. Texas veterinarians currently have immunity for reporting all animal abuse but are not mandated to do so. The bill is in the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.


Psychological Evaluation of Offenders





Connecticut H 6251 would have required police, prosecutors and judges to receive training or education on The Link between animal abuse and commission of crimes so that cases are prosecuted and adjudicated with an understanding and consideration of such information, and require any and all resolutions to animal cruelty cases to include mandatory psychological evaluation sessions to identify the potential for more serious criminal behavior. **The bill died** in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

 **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. **HB 373** would require mental health evaluations for offenders of bestiality and animal hoarding; it is in the Rules Committee.


 **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.

 **Texas SB 48** would allow courts to require defendants convicted of certain animal cruelty and animal fighting crimes to undergo psychological counseling or other appropriate treatment programs. The measure was sent to the Governor on May 26.

“CASA for Animals”

 **Florida S 1316/H 1003** would have provided for the appointment of lawyer and legal intern advocates for the interests of an animal in civil and criminal proceedings regarding the welfare, care or custody of animals. **The bills died** in the Senate Governmental & Accountability and House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittees.

 **Illinois SB 153** would allow courts to appoint attorneys or law students as special advocates to assist the court in prosecution of cases involving the injury, health or safety of a cat or dog and represent the interests of justice. Advocates could monitor the case and attend hearings; consult with persons and review records relevant to the conditions of the cat or dog or the defendant’s actions; and present information and recommendations to the court. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary-Criminal Committee.

 **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 cases. **S 2868** passed the Senate 34-0 and joined **A 4533** in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

 **New York S 3525/A 5315** would create court-appointed volunteer lawyer and law student advocates for animals in animal welfare proceedings. The bills are in the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees.



Rhode Island H 5577/S 534 would permit civil and criminal courts to appoint pro bono attorneys and supervised law students to act as animal advocates in animal cruelty and abuse cases addressing the animals' welfare or custody, in the interests of justice. The House and Senate Judiciary Committees recommended they be held for further study.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Alleged Capitol Rioter Charged with Illegally Shooting Mountain Lion and Killing Bobcat

A Colorado man who is facing 15 criminal counts for his alleged part in the Jan. 6 insurrection against the U.S. Capitol stands also accused of illegally shooting a mountain lion and killing a bobcat while he was freed from prison on a pre-trial release. [CBS4](#) in Denver said Patrick Montgomery, 48, of Littleton, is accused of killing the 170-pound mountain lion on March 31 with a .357 magnum, possession of which would be a violation of his conditional release and his status as a convicted felon. After the mountain lion died, the hunter proudly posed for a photo with his arms wrapped around the dead animal.



A prosecutors' motion seeking to place him under house arrest and GPS monitoring added that on Jan. 25, Montgomery had admitted to Colorado Parks & Wildlife Officers that he and his four dogs pursued a bobcat for 11 miles and that his dogs killed it, in apparent violation of state law. Officers later said that the dogs killed the cat after Montgomery had apparently knocked it out of a tree with a slingshot, which is similarly illegal.

Patrick Montgomery Prosecutors also noted Montgomery had been convicted in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, in 1996 on three felony robbery counts. Montgomery claimed he had an unsubstantiated agreement with prosecutors in that case allowing him to keep weapons for his hunting and guide business. While Montgomery told [The Washington Post](#) that "I didn't storm the castle violently; my group was let in peacefully by the police we were talking to with respect," prosecutors said Montgomery tried to grab a Metropolitan Police Officer's baton, wrestled him to the ground for it, kicked the officer in the chest while wearing a boot, and then held up his two middle fingers to the officer.

Golfer Charged with Shooting Dog Who Took His Ball

A Puerto Rico businessman was arrested on charges of animal cruelty and firearms offenses for allegedly shooting a dog who stole his golf ball at a luxury resort. [People Magazine](#) reported that police said Salil A. Zaveri, of San Juan, shot the mixed-breed dog who took his ball before it went into the cup at hole number 11 at the Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Resort. The dog was reportedly shot three times. Police said Zaveri then continued his golf game; witnesses called police. He was charged and released on \$60,000 bond.



Salil A. Zaveri

Gunman Charged with Murdering Two Deputies, Wounding Animal Control Officer in Complaint About a Dog



Jeffrey Nichols

Jeffrey Nichols, 28, was booked into the Tom Green County Jail in San Angelo, Texas and charged with capital murder of a peace officer for allegedly killing two Concho County sheriff's deputies and critically wounding an animal control officer who were responding to a complaint about a dog. The [Associated Press](#) reported that while making contact with people at the residence in Eden, Texas, an altercation apparently occurred and quickly escalated into gunfire, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Bestiality Charges Severed in Child Homicide Case



Lisa Snyder

Jurors hearing the case of a Berks County, Penna. woman who was charged with homicide, endangering the welfare of children and bestiality for allegedly hanging her two children and sending photos of her having sex with a dog ([See the June 2020 LINK-Letter](#)) will not initially hear about the animal sexual abuse because the judge agreed to sever the animal abuse from the homicide counts because he could not envision a reason for a jury to hear about the salacious allegations that wasn't prejudicial. The [Allentown, Pa. Morning Call](#) reported that Judge Paul Yatron will rule later on whether to address the bestiality charges in a separate trial. Lisa Rachele Snyder, of Albany Township, was charged with murder in the deaths of Conner and Brinley Snyder, ages 8 and 4, respectively, and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. Her attorneys indicated they will pursue an insanity or mental infirmity defense, saying Snyder has a chronic history of depression, anxiety disorders, affective disorder, and postpartum depression dating to when she was 16.

"Bonnie and Clyde" Youth Runaways Recaptured After Arson, Puppy Theft and Gunfight with Sheriffs

A 14-year-old girl, who had been placed in a halfway house for stealing several puppies and burning down a house, and a 12-year-old boy were captured by Volusia County, Fla. sheriff's deputies in a violent shootout after they escaped from a juvenile group home. The [Daytona Beach News-Journal](#) reported that the unnamed girl was shot by deputies after she pointed a pump-action shotgun at them from a home they had broken into. No deputies were injured and the girl was reportedly fighting for her life. Deputies started looking for the pair after they escaped from the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise in concern for the boy, who is a severe diabetic and needs insulin every four hours. The youths fired on the deputies multiple times from various parts of the house with a stolen AK-47 and other firearms. "Every time the deputies encountered these two little desperadoes, they ran from us," said Sheriff Mike Chitwood. "This is like Bonnie and Clyde at 12 years old and 14 years of age."



Sheriff Mike Chitwood at media briefing



Mom Charged with Shooting Son and Dog

Authorities in Houston, Texas arrested a woman who reportedly tried to shoot a loose puppy that had run down the street but instead struck her 5-year-old son in the abdomen. [KTRK-TV](#) reported that Angelia Mia Vargas used a small caliber pistol to fire three shots at the pup, a 6-month-old boxer named “Bruno,” one of which ricocheted and struck her son. A Ring doorbell camera caught footage of Bruno running out of his house with his owner trailing immediately behind yelling for it to come back

Angelia Mia Vargas when the shooting occurred. The boy’s wounds were considered non-life-threatening. Vargas was charged with one count of deadly conduct; Bruno’s owner was cited for a leash law misdemeanor violation.

Police Seek Gas Station Gunfight Suspects Who Shot Five Dogs

Police in Salem, Ore. were looking for suspects in a shooting incident at a gas station that resulted in five dogs being wounded, two of whom died. A Salem Police Department [press release](#) announced that officers responded to multiple calls of shots being fired around midnight and pursued suspects who drove away into a field and later fled on foot. Several vehicles in the gas station parking lot were struck by bullets but one adult dog and four puppies in the back of one vehicle were hit by gunfire. Officers transported the dogs to an emergency veterinary clinic, but two dogs died.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

June 15 – Portland, Ore. (online): David Rosengard of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will conduct a webinar on “Courtroom Animal Advocate Programs at the Crossroads of Crime Victim Law and Animal Law” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

June 16 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

June 17-19 – Madrid, Spain (online): Randy Lockwood, Melinda Merck, Adam Stern, Jason Byrd, Sérgio Reis, and John Cooper will join two dozen other speakers addressing global Link and veterinary forensics topics at the [1st International Virtual Meeting of Forensic Animal Sciences](#).

June 18 – Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada (online): Phil Arkow will present an overview of Link activities in the U.S., for the [Violence Link PEI](#) group.

June 23 – Pittsfield, Mass. (online): [HAVEN](#) – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network -- will hold a Zoom meeting.

June 23 (online): Melinda Merck will [conduct a webinar](#) on “Pets and Domestic Violence – Is Your Team Prepared?” for the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.

June 24 – Cranston, R.I. (online): Lenore Montanaro, Chair of the Rhode Island Animal Law Committee will moderate a panel with Paul T. Jones, Jr. and Jeanne L. Shepard of the Family Court on “View from

the Bench: Link between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence” at the Rhode Island Bar Association’s [Virtual Annual Meeting](#)

July 14-15 – (online): RedRover and Greater Good Charities will present a free [2 half-day training](#) on “Don’t Forget the Pets: Housing People and Pets” to explore ways to create and sustain pet-friendly programs at domestic violence shelters.

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.

July 21 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

July 29 – Minneapolis, Minn. (online): Phil Arkow will present “One Health and the ‘Dark Side’ of the Human-Animal Bond: Preparing a Protocol Response to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse and Neglect” at the [AVMA Convention](#).

Aug. 18 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

Sept. 9 – Las Vegas, Nev.: Phil Arkow will present “The ‘Dark Side’ of the Human-Animal Bond: Preparing a Protocol Response to Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse & Neglect,” and Nicole Forsyth will present “Exploring the Role of the Veterinary Community in Helping Break Cycles of Abuse in Domestic Violence,” at the [WVC Annual Conference](#).

Sept. 11-14 – Orlando, Fla.: Katie Campbell of RedRover will present “Domestic Violence and Pets: Creating Pet-Friendly Programs that Work” at the National Organization for Victim Assistance’s 47th [Annual Training Event](#).

Sept. 15-16 – Burgos, Spain (online): Phil Arkow will present a keynote address on “The Interconnection Between Animal and Human Abuse and Neglect” at the [One Welfare World Conference](#).

Sept. 15 – Harrisburg, Pa.. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

Oct. 20 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

Nov. 4-5 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada (online): The Canadian Violence Link Coalition will hold its [National Violence Link Conference](#).

Nov. 6 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada (online): The Canadian Violence Link Coalition will hold its annual one-day [Prosecution of Animal Abuse Conference](#).

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. 11 (online): Massachusetts Assistant District Attorney Erin Aiello and Janette Reeve with Humane Society International will present a webinar on “Preparing for Court: Tips for Effective Testimony about

Animal Crimes,” including special considerations for cases related to intimate partner violence, for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

Nov. 11 (online): Phil Arkow will present on The Link for [One Health Partners](#).

Nov. 12 – Ottawa, Ont., Canada: The Canadian Violence Link Coalition will host a special half-day [Violence Link Workshop](#) specifically for multi-disciplinary criminal justice professionals working in the Ottawa community whose work intersects with The Violence Link.

Nov. 17 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

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](#).

Dec. 1-3 – Baton Rouge, La.: The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Animal Legal Defense Fund will conduct the 10th [National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#).

Dec. 15 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.



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.

Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

Phil Arkow, Coordinator

Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project,
The Latham Foundation
Etowah, N. Car.

Lesley Ashworth

Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
Columbus City Attorney's Office/Prosecution Division
Blowing Rock, N. Car.

Diane Balkin, J.D.

Retired Chief Deputy District Attorney, Denver, Colo.
Retired Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund
Denver, Colo.

Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.

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

Steve Dale

Nationally Syndicated Radio Host and Author
Chicago, Ill.

The Hon. Rosa C. Figarola

Circuit Probate Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit
Miami, Fla.

Maya Gupta, Ph.D.

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

Joey Orduna Hastings

CEO, National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges
Reno, Nev.

Helen Holmquist-Johnson, MSW, Ph.D.

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

Kendall Houlihan

Assistant Director, Animal Welfare Division
American Veterinary Medical Association
Schaumburg, Ill.

Mark Kumpf, CAWA

Director, Detroit Animal Care & Control
Detroit, Mich.

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Consultant, ASPCA
Falls Church, Va.

Paul Needham

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

Emily Patterson-Kane, Ph.D. (ALTERNATE)

Director, Research
ASPCA Department of Strategy & Research
Chicago, Ill.

Allie Phillips, J.D.

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

Gale Rasin, J.D.

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

Chelsea Rider, J.D.

Director,
National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse
Dallas, Texas

The Hon. John J. Romero, Jr.

Retired District Judge, Children's Court Division
2nd Judicial District, Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM

President, Forensic Veterinary Investigations, LLC
Veterinary Services Director, Div. of Animal Care & Control
Boston, Mass.

Hugh Tebault III

President, The Latham Foundation
Alameda, Calif.

John Thompson

Executive Vice President
Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association
Alexandria, Va.

Kathleen Wood

Staff Attorney, Criminal Justice Program
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Portland, Ore.