



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



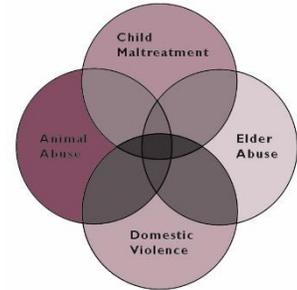
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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DOMESTIC ABUSE... and THE LINK **Could Family Violence Prevention Bill Help Link Programs Aid Survivors with Pets”?**

As of this writing, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 has been approved by the House and heads to the Senate. Several provisions in the Act, if passed in to law, would appear to possibly offer opportunities for federal funding for collaborative community programs that assist domestic violence survivors with pets.



U.S. Rep. Lucy McBath

H.R. 2119 is a successor to VAWA, the landmark legislation initiated by then-Sen. Joe Biden in 1990 in recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Congress enacted VAWA in 1994; its provisions were subsequently expanded in 2000 and 2005. It was reauthorized in 2013, expired in 2018 following the government shutdown, temporarily reinstated but expired again in February 2019. Funds support an extensive range of programs from the National Domestic Violence Hotline to state, territorial and tribal domestic violence coalitions to local domestic violence shelters.

H.R. 2119 is designed to improve primary and secondary prevention, services and interventions for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and family violence and to remove barriers confronting them. It would support effective policy, practice, research, and cross-systems collaboration, effective coordinated community and systems responses, and promote ongoing public education and community engagement, with an emphasis on reaching underserved and minority populations.

Through grants targeting capacity-building, prevention enhancement and leadership, expanded community-based prevention programs, and program implementation, funding could address any number of collaborative programs with community partners and advance evidence-based practices, programs and policies. Capacity-building grants, in particular, could be used to “expand the collaboration with community partners” and “establish community working groups” to “support the capacity building, planning, and development of programs for underserved communities that utilize community-driven intervention and prevention strategies that address the barriers to domestic violence services, raise awareness of domestic violence, dating violence, and family violence and promote

community engagement in the prevention of domestic violence, dating violence, and family violence in targeted underserved populations.”

Such grants could also be used to: conduct needs assessments of underserved populations to determine the barriers to their gaining access to domestic violence services and the factors contributing to such barriers; identify promising intervention and prevention strategies; and implement “intervention and prevention strategies that have the greatest potential for addressing the barriers to accessing services, raising awareness of domestic violence, and promoting community engagement in the prevention of domestic violence, dating violence, and family violence within targeted underserved populations.”

Though not specifically described in the bill, it is conceivable that such funds could be used to help domestic violence agencies and coalitions research and establish pet-care programs and facilities to remove the barrier faced by many women escaping domestic violence, particularly in underserved and minority communities.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Lucy McBath (D-Ga.) with 83 co-sponsors, passed the House by a vote of 228-200, with all voting Democrats and nine Republicans supporting it. The measure now goes to the Senate, where it would need 60 votes for passage and its fate is unclear.

Purple Leash Project Calls on Congress to Fully Fund PAWS Act

When Congress finally passed the Pet And Women Safety (PAWS) Act in 2018 – after languishing for six years in three legislative sessions ([See the January 2019 LINK-Letter](#)) – the new law authorized \$3,000,000 in federal grants each year through 2023 to help domestic violence shelters build facilities that would make them pet-friendly. Since then, for reasons that are unclear, PAWS grants have been awarded but only \$2,000,000 in 2020 and \$2,500,000 in 2021.



Tamron Hall

As part of the series of [Pet Week on Capitol Hill](#) events, bringing awareness of the power of the human-animal bond to Members of Congress ([See second article elsewhere in this LINK-Letter](#)), talk show host Tamron Hall issued a call to Congress to fully fund the PAWS Act. Hall is the official spokesperson for the [Purple Leash Project](#), a national initiative founded by Purina and RedRover to provide more resources and support for domestic violence survivors with pets.

Hall, whose sister was taken from the family after enduring years of domestic abuse, noted how many survivors are reluctant to leave without their pets but only about 15% of shelters allow pets. The Purple Leash Project aims to make 25% of shelters pet-friendly by 2025.

“This gap in resources results in far too many survivors staying in dangerous situations. This is no decision that any survivor should have to make,” she said. “Together we can help survivors of domestic violence and their pets to heal together.”

New York Now 6th State to Award Pet Custody in Divorces



Assemblymember Glick & Senator Skoufis

New York has become the latest state to allow divorce courts to award custody of pets to the party determined by the court to be in the animals' best interests. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed **A5775** and its companion **S4248** into law on Oct. 25, making the Empire State the 6th state to enact such legislation since the concept was introduced by Alaska in 2016. The act took effect immediately.

While it is not known how many domestic abuse cases result in divorces or annulments, it is widely known that pets are harmed to threaten domestic violence survivors and to prevent their escaping, and there have been cases where one party in a divorce surrenders pets to an animal shelter to ensure that the other party does not get to keep the animal in the eventual settlement.

The measure amends Section 236(B)(5) of New York's domestic relations law regarding equitable distribution of property. It allows the court to consider whether either party has committed an act or acts of domestic violence and the nature, extent, duration, and impact of such acts, and "in awarding the possession of a companion animal, the court shall consider the best interest of such animal."

The bills were sponsored by Assemblymember Deborah Glick (D - Manhattan) and Sen. James Skoufis (D – Rockland County). A memo justifying the need for the legislation noted that although the nationwide divorce rate is at its lowest in 40 years, divorces still occur and can become contentious. While courts typically deal with pets in divorce proceedings as they do with any other personal property, "for many families pets are the equivalent of children and must be granted more consideration by courts to ensure that they will be properly cared for after a divorce."

In announcing the bill's passage, Glick said, "When a marriage comes to an end, it is important that our beloved pets remain loved and cared for. Unfortunately, pets have been seen as yet another asset to equitably divide during divorce proceedings. In contentious splits, companion animal custody may be contested by an abusive or manipulative partner to exert leverage or exact revenge on their former partner. With this law now in effect, dogs, cats and other companion animals will be considered by divorce courts as they should; as cherished members of the family that must reside in a safe and stable environment. I thank Governor Hochul for signing this bill into law."

New York joins Alaska, California, Illinois, Maine, and New Hampshire with similar legislation.

RedRover Expands Safe Housing Grants to \$60,000

RedRover has announced a major expansion in their Safe Housing grant program which offers funds for capital construction to enable domestic violence shelters and animal organizations to accommodate survivors' pets.

Beginning in October, the amount available for such grants increased to \$60,000.



Previously, the grant limit was \$20,000. When the Safe Housing program was started in 2012, grants were limited to \$2,000. As interest in and need for the program expanded exponentially, and with increased donor support, RedRover has been able to continually increase the funding available.

Initially, grants were limited to domestic violence shelters to construct on-site pet housing facilities. Since not every shelter is able to build such facilities, and the demand for pet co-sheltering continues to increase, RedRover diversified the grant program. Funds are now also available to animal shelters that want to create pet housing for domestic violence survivors and to domestic violence shelters that want to create a pet boarding program or partner with an animal organization to house pets offsite.

"The increase in grant size will enable us to not only support some larger construction projects, but also expand the services domestic violence shelters can offer clients and their pets," said Nicole Forsyth, RedRover President & CEO. "This expansion will include items such as pet deposits, veterinary care, play yards, and other quality of life items, as well as behavior needs and/or training."

Grant information and application forms are [available online](#). Canadian applications will also be considered. RedRover especially encourages domestic violence organizations in Hawai'i and Rhode Island to apply, as there are no pet-friendly shelters yet in those states.



Urgent Care Manual Guides Shelters on Foster Care for Domestic Violence Survivors' Pets

The Toronto Humane Society in Canada has published an extensive [Urgent Care Manual](#) that can serve as a blueprint for other organizations that are interested in starting a temporary foster program for pet owners experiencing a short-term crisis that impacts their ability to care for their pets, such as displacement due to domestic violence, homelessness or health issues.

The 45-page Manual describes Canadian issues impacting intimate partner violence and homelessness and their connection to animal welfare. It describes effective communications and engagement strategies when meeting clients, how to resolve challenging scenarios and unsafe situations, and animal health, welfare and behavior considerations. It discusses issues involved in returning animals to precarious housing or potentially violent households and reporting of suspected animal cruelty.

Screening questions, application forms, procedures for foster care, and data-tracking and evaluating mechanisms are described. The Manual offers ideas regarding program advertising and funding, and guidance for program staff's self-care.

CHILD MALTREATMENT... and THE LINK

Pennsylvania Bill Would Define Harm to Child's Pet as Torture

The Keystone Link Coalition in Pennsylvania was featured in an [ABC-27 newscast](#) in Harrisburg describing The Link between child and animal abuse in conjunction with a bill in the state legislature that would define terrorizing or threatening death or harm to a child's pet as an act of child torture.



Cathleen Palm (left), & Kristen Tullo

Keystone Link co-founders Cathleen Palm and Kristen Tullo were interviewed. "There have been cases here in Central Pennsylvania, we've seen cases all across the Commonwealth, where you would see what was a horrible act of violence against a child. Then, as you dug deeper, you would also see that preceding that or co-occurring with that was active harm against an animal," said Palm, Founder of the Center for Children's Justice.

HB 1836, sponsored by Rep. Francis Ryan (R – Lebanon County), attempts to correct a gap in Pennsylvania's child protection laws. Although Pennsylvania law prohibits physically harming a child, gaps exist in situations where a child experiences only mental trauma or the torture does not result in serious bodily injury to the child. Torture would be a felony-level crime and defined as a course of conduct that includes at least one of a detailed list of common acts present in torture cases, including harm or threat to pets. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY for LINK VICTIMS

Michigan School District Incorporates Animal-Assisted Interventions



Shakesha Alexander

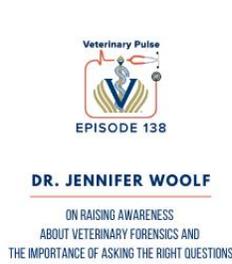
The [River Rouge School District](#) in the suburbs of Detroit, Mich., has created what may be the first position in the U.S. for a Veterinary Social Worker to serve as the Director of Animal-Assisted Intervention in an urban school setting. Shakesha Alexander, a graduate of the MSW and Veterinary Social Work programs at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville, was recently hired by the district.

Certified therapy dogs will be used in each of the district's four schools, teachers will have pocket pets in the classroom, there are plans to incorporate a R.A.D. (Reading Assistance Dogs) program, and to utilize equine facilitated therapy with Detroit Horse Power. Students participating in these programs will be evaluated periodically to monitor success or if any changes should be made.

Alexander plans to introduce the district's social work and psychology staff to the Childhood Trust Survey on Animal-Related Experiences ([CTSARE](#)), a screening tool developed by Barbara Boat at the University of Cincinnati to assess children's experiences of ownership, attachment, loss, cruelty, and fears related to pets and other animals.

VETERINARY MEDICINE... and THE LINK

VIN Podcast Explores How to Ask Questions to Identify Animal Abuse



When a client brings an injured animal into a veterinary clinic and says it was “hit by a car,” how is the practitioner supposed to evaluate the truthfulness of the explanation and consider whether animal abuse might be involved? These dilemmas were explored in depth in a VIN (Veterinary Information Network) Foundation [Veterinary Pulse podcast](#) on Oct. 21 by forensic

veterinarian Jennifer Woolf about “Raising Awareness about Veterinary Forensics and the Importance of Asking the Right Questions”

Woolf, who started her career as a small-animal practitioner, used her own experiences to articulate the trepidation that many practitioners express about trying to recognize, let alone report, suspected animal abuse. Looking back on her 15-year career, she realized, “I probably missed abuse. I probably didn’t see the signs. I didn’t recognize what I was looking at. I remember those moments where you have a feeling on the back of your neck that something isn’t quite right but you’re not sure how to handle it. It was easier to believe the story provided than to come up with a new one that makes more sense.”

She emphasized that abused animals will show up in private practice and veterinarians need knowledge about what to do with these cases, otherwise the case may be misdiagnosed. But many practitioners are fearful of pursuing such cases because they don’t know who to call, or the person in the room might be violent to clients or staff, or if they’re not sure if it’s abuse, or if it’s after hours and the shelter is closed, or it’s a stray or a species not considered a companion animal. It’s easier to believe that it was hit by a car, she said. “In school we’re taught how to handle that kind of case. If you think this doesn’t look like a hit-by-car, and this animal was abused, no one taught us what to do next.”

She reviewed the types of questions the veterinarian can ask to make sure that the client’s explanation makes sense if the story doesn’t match the clinical signs. But there is still a need for more progress.

Woolf provided a link to the National Link Coalition and described research about the Link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. She noted that only 7% of the Link literature is in veterinary journals, which is one reason why veterinarians may not be as up-to-date on this as they could be.

“We’re getting better than we used to be. But many students graduating from veterinary schools still do not know about the animal cruelty laws in their state. They may not be aware of any mandatory reporting law that may affect them,” she said.

“I think students want to know more than they’re being taught in the schools. Animal abuse is following in the footsteps of where domestic violence was; it was one of those things that was considered taboo, we don’t talk about it, we don’t acknowledge its existence. It’s becoming something that people are much more aware of and are willing to investigate and become involved in. I think the veterinary community needs to catch up a little bit with that.”

Michigan DVMs Provide Help for Pet Victims of Domestic Violence



Domestic violence survivors on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula can find free foster care for their pets thanks to a collaboration involving veterinarians, the Women’s Shelter of Marquette, the Upper Peninsula Animal Shelter, and Northern Michigan University. Local veterinarian Lauren Connolly described the program in a [three-minute video](#) on the university’s WNMU-TV program, “What’s U.P.” Connolly presented statistics demonstrating the need for pet-friendly safety and described how the [Sasawin Safe Haven](#) program offers a refuge for pets of domestic violence survivors who have left violent situations. Because the shelter cannot accommodate pets, Sasawin Safe Haven provides foster homes or boarding facilities, plus free veterinary care including spays and neuters, thanks to the volunteer services of area veterinarians and donations from sponsors. The program currently has an urgent need for families willing to foster cats for up to 90 days.

COVID-19 and The LINK

Several recent articles continue to highlight how the coronavirus pandemic have altered human-animal bonds, animals’ behaviors, and The Link between animal abuse and human violence.



Dawn Carr

Walking Dogs Eases Loneliness of Lockdowns

A multidisciplinary team explores growing evidence that pets are particularly beneficial to the health and wellbeing of older adults navigating stressful situations and those with a strong attachment to their pet. They evaluate whether dog walking – which is known to reduce feelings of loneliness -- helps older adults facing significant social consequences related to the COVID-19 pandemic avoid increased feelings of loneliness. They report that those who reported that COVID-19 had a significant impact on their social lives reported higher levels of loneliness, but if they walked their dog at least once a day, they did not become lonelier despite the social consequences of the pandemic. They conclude that dog walking could be a beneficial therapy in relation to loneliness for individuals who experience significant social setbacks.

-- Carr, D., Friedmann, E., Gee, N.R., Gilchrist, C., & Ericsson, N.S., et al. (2021). Dog walking and the social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on loneliness in older adults. *Animals*, 11(7), 1852. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11071852>

“Anthroponosis” Risks of Transmitting COVID to Animals – And Back Again



Piers Beirne

In two articles, criminologist Piers Beirne explores “anthroponosis,” the relatively unexplored area of the spillover of the SARS virus from COVID-19-positive persons to animals. Beirne argues that animals infected with COVID from humans will develop mutant strains of the virus that will be re-transmitted back to humans and immune to current or future vaccines. “When we harm animals, we harm ourselves,” he writes. “Never has the need for a nonspeciesist approach to public health and safety been more urgent.”

-- Beirne, P. (2021). COVID-19 as an anthroponosis: Toward a nonspeciesist criminology of human-to-animal pathogen transmission. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*. <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcjsd.2093>

-- Beirne, P. (2021). Wildlife trade and COVID-19: Towards a criminology of anthropogenic pathogen spillover. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 61(3), 607–626. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azaa084>

What is the Pandemic's Impact on Animal Shelters?

The COVID-19 pandemic has put pets front-and-center in many persons' lives and has complicated the already challenging conditions involved with operating animal shelters. That was the message presented by Suzanne Kogut, President of [Petco Love](#) (formerly the Petco Foundation) as part of a series of [Pet Week on Capitol Hill](#) events, bringing awareness of the power of the human-animal bond to Members of Congress.



Suzanne Kogut

Citing admittedly incomplete data on shelter intakes and outcomes from the voluntary reporting systems of [ShelterAnimalsCount.org](#) and [PetPoint.com](#), Kogut presented “Data on Pet Sheltering Before, During and After the Pandemic” that suggest that shelters saw dramatic decreases in dog and cat surrenders in 2020 due to people being encouraged to keep their pets at home, to foster other pets at home, and to re-home unwanted pets independently outside the compromised shelter systems. Even so, there were typical cyclical spikes in intakes of cats during the Summer of 2020 coinciding with typical “kitten season” dynamics of cat breeding.

In 2021, shelter operations appear to be normalizing, she said. There is a decrease in shelter intakes in 2021 compared with 2019, caused by less demand for pets now due to the market saturation when so many people adopted pets at the start of the pandemic in 2020. This situation suggests that animals are now staying in shelters for longer periods of time. However, shifting patterns of homeless animals being transported in from other parts of the country, plus labor shortages among shelter staff, result in shelters' staffs being overly burdened and the state of animal welfare operations differing substantially based on geography.

Other factors compounding the challenge of understanding shelters' dynamics during the pandemic include: recognition that shelters represent only a subset of where people acquire pets; and the great disparity between shelters that even pre-pandemic were terribly under-resourced and others that had adequate resources and were noted for reaching out to serve the entire community.

Kogut's key take-aways were:

- Animal shelter operations are normalizing in 2021 but animal welfare organizations are still challenged;
- There is a need for mandatory statewide reporting of animal shelter data so the industry can get a better picture of conditions as they are occurring;
- There is a need for more national programs addressing community sheltering needs;
- Progressive animal welfare organizations are focusing on new initiatives that are transforming themselves into community centers that work to keep pets and their people together.
- Pets are not being brought to shelters in large numbers as people return to the workplace.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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



Zenithson Ng

Preparing the Human-Animal Bond for Post-Pandemic Times

The human–animal bond is a powerful agent for reducing feelings of loneliness and social isolation; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our typical avenues for accessing human–animal interaction have been drastically impacted. Because the way we interact with animals has shifted during these times of collective struggle, we have ultimately grown in our appreciation of the human–animal bond. This paper outlines the impact of the pandemic on our relationships with animals, while also discussing the ways in which organizations that facilitate human-animal interactions have responded to the pandemic. Preparations for post-pandemic re-entry into the community with our animals are outlined, and suggestions for future research and best practices on this topic are provided.

-- Ng, Z., Griffin, T.C., & Braun, L. (2021). *The new status quo: Enhancing access to human-animal interactions to alleviate social isolation & loneliness in the time of COVID-19.* *Animals*, 11(10), 2769. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11102769>

Human-Animal Bond Community Tackled COVID-Related Challenges



Angela Hughes

Social isolation and loneliness exact a heavy toll on human physical and mental health, a burden that is worsened by the social distancing and quarantine measures of COVID-19. Interaction between humans and animals, whether in the home or through animal-assisted therapy, eases loneliness and lessens social isolation. This article describes how an innovative multidisciplinary partnership of leaders in human–animal interactions — from veterinary science to nonprofit organizations and the pet care community — came together to advance research and practice, as well as tackle barriers in this promising area. It describes the

results already achieved by the initiative and offers a roadmap for others seeking to bring together diverse stakeholders to address issues and unmet needs through a similar collaborative consortium.

-- Hughes, A.M., Braun, L., Putnam, A., Martinez, D., & Fine, A. (2021). *Advancing human-animal interaction to counter social isolation and loneliness in the time of COVID-19: A model for an interdisciplinary public health consortium.* *Animals*, 11(8), 2325. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11082325>

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For Additional Information

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT... and THE LINK

Four-Year History of Link Incidents in NIBRS System Analyzed

Building on earlier articles which appeared in law enforcement and municipal management magazines (*See the [December 2020 LINK-Letter](#)*), researcher Julie Palais has written an extensive academic journal article tracing the history of how four types of animal abuse and neglect came to be included in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System and analyzing four years' worth of data from the reports.



Julie Palais

Prior to 2016, such crimes either went unreported or were lumped into an “all other offenses” category, making it difficult to understand who was committing these crimes and whether there were any connections between crimes perpetrated against animals and crimes in which there was a human victim. Animal cruelty has been linked to certain types of human violence and, therefore, it is important for authorities to know more about the people committing these crimes, writes Palais.

Despite limitations in the system (not all law enforcement agencies have been in the network, and non-sworn humane law officers do not have access to enter data), the number of reported animal cruelty incidents have consistently increased from 1,126 in 2016 to 9,956 in 2019. While the number of agencies participating in the system have also increased, they represent only a fraction of the total number of law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and only 20% of the participating departments reported animal cruelty incidents.

Delaware, which is unique among all states in that all animal cruelty reports are funneled through one state Office of Animal Welfare, and Virginia and Texas, are by far the leading reporters of animal cruelty incidents, with 1,294, 1,372 and 1,394 reports, respectively.

Emphasizing that the relationship between animal cruelty and human violence is multi-disciplinary and that early identification of co-occurring crimes can give law enforcement another tool to try to prevent both animal cruelty and human violence, Palais reviews the types of animal cruelty involved and details of the other crimes that co-occur. While only 6% - 8% of animal cruelty incidents were Linked with other crimes in 2019, Palais argues that this an underestimate since humane societies and animal control agencies' cases may not be directly connected to a law enforcement agency. Also, some states had much greater co-occurring crimes, such as Kentucky (22%), Wisconsin (13%), and Colorado (10%).

Palais expands on earlier findings describing the age and gender of animal cruelty offenders, and the time of day and location of most crimes. She correlates incidents of animal cruelty with child sexual assault and child maltreatment. She recommends other types of data that could be collected and additional analyses of these data to help law enforcement officials better understand the phenomena of animal cruelty from a criminal justice and public safety perspective, particularly to prevent child abuse. She cautions that 2020 data, when they are released, may show significant variations based on the unique effects caused by COVID-19 lockdowns. “Cross-training and cross-reporting for those who deal with animals (both animal control officers and veterinarians) and human family members (e.g., child protective services, social workers, etc.) should be the norm in every state,” she concludes.

-- Palais, J.M. (2021, Oct. 11). *Using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to study animal cruelty: Preliminary results (2016-2019)*. *Social Sciences*, 10, 378. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10100378>

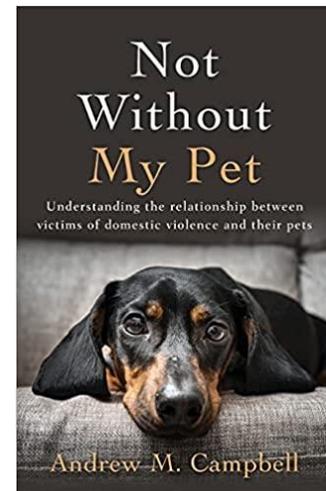
THE LINK in the LITERATURE

“Not Without My Pet”: Two Countries’ Views on the Human-Animal Bond and The Link

By sheer coincidence, two excellent books with similar titles have just been published – on two different continents in two different languages – exploring the impact of animal abuse within the context of other family violence:

Indianapolis-based researcher Andrew Campbell has synthesized his various presentations on The Link into an informative and comprehensive book exploring the many facets of animal abuse and other family violence. *Not Without My Pet* begins with Campbell relating his own experiences as a childhood survivor of abuse, how child abuse’s toxic stress harms the developing brain’s architecture, and how his dog “Shelby” helped him cope. Campbell emphasizes that he is not a “survivor,” but rather he sees himself as still “surviving.”

He describes how emotional and physical abusers wear a “mask of kindness” to better ensure that those they harm won’t be believed if they come forward and report the abuse. These “Jekyll & Hyde” abusers may be monsters at home, but they are respectable church-going community leaders in public.



He laments the “glaring mistake” of how pets are too frequently left out of family violence prevention, detection and intervention initiatives in domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse.

The book – the first Link book aimed at the general public rather than professional audiences -- is also filled with powerful, but difficult, first-person experiences of others who are surviving abuse. These accounts embellish Campbell’s own experiences and emphasize the importance of pets as emotional supports – often even greater than the support offered by spouses or parents -- in abusive homes. Our attachments to pets and emotional bonds become even more pronounced during natural disasters and in today’s current pandemic environment of “new normals” in the face of societal upheavals.

He introduces some new findings:

- 20% of domestic violence homicide victims are not a spouse or partner but rather a friend, relative, neighbor, or first responder, emphasizing the need for early detection and intervention;
- 80% of pet abuse is reported by neighbors or passers-by, compared to 8% and 12% of domestic violence and child abuse reports, respectively. The absence of animal control officers in many areas empowered to enforce anti-cruelty laws increases risk to entire communities as well as to the specific families and contravenes the reality that neighbors are more likely to report suspected animal abuse;
- The family violence field tends to draw in individuals who have had personal experiences which often color their focus. He argues that people in these fields must be open to other perspectives.

Campbell concludes with a call to action that includes recognizing animal abuse as a critical component of other family violence, and employing the human-animal bond therapeutically in interventions and

prevention programs, such as abused youths volunteering in animal shelters, co-sheltering pets with domestic violence victims, and including pets in child protective services visits and children’s advocacy center interviews.

To end family violence, he offers a discipline-by-discipline breakdown of how his “Opportunity to Abuse” theory (See the [March 2021 LINK-Letter](#)) can create much-needed improvements in such fields as education systems, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, the courts, child protective services, and community engagement.

“Victims deserve better,” he concludes. “It is time to lay down destructive egos, bring in fresh perspective, and learn to better work together. Victims deserve that and much more.”

-- Campbell, A.M. (2021). *Not Without My Pet: Understanding the Relationship between Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Pets*. Warrenton, Va.: Freiling Publishing.

Meanwhile, Sweden’s [Se Sambandet](#) Link Coalition is advancing The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence with a new book. Se Sambandet Coordinator Carin Holmberg is the co-author of *Inte Utan Min Hund (Not Without My Dog)*. The book is a handbook for women’s shelters and for young girls’ crisis lines advising them how to incorporate information about pets or other family animals into their work.

Co-authors Therese Lilliesköld and Holmberg provide examples of how animals are used as part of men’s and boys’ violence against women and girls. The book is especially aimed at women’s shelters that are considering receiving family animals in emergency accommodations, but also at girls’ shelters which work with young women who have been subjected to threats, ill treatment or sexual abuse or who, for some other reason, need to talk to another girl. The manual expands Sweden’s awareness about the connection between men’s violence against women, girls and children and the impact of animals in survivors’ lives.

The book is published by [Roks](#) (Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige), the National Organization for Women’s Shelters and Young Women’s Shelters in Sweden. It is the largest nonprofit member organization for shelters in Sweden and aims to safeguard the common interests of 100 Swedish shelters in their work against male violence towards women. Roks provides psychological and social support for victims of violence, accommodation, and advocacy. The [book is available](#) from Roks.

-- Holmberg, C., & Lilliesköld, T. (2021). *Inte Utan Min Hund (Not Without My Dog)*. Stockholm, Sweden: ROKS.



News from LINK COALITIONS

NCALL Director Kristin Burki Named to National Link Coalition Steering Committee

The National Link Coalition is pleased to announce the appointment of Kristin Burki, M.S., A.P.S.W., Director of the [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life \(NCALL\)](#), to serve on our Steering Committee. NCALL is a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and focuses on abuse in later life and elder abuse, particularly their Links with domestic violence and sexual assault.



Kristin Burki

NCALL's Abuse in Later Life National Resource Center offers technical assistance, training and consultation, plus an extensive resource list. Since 2002, NCALL has provided technical assistance and training to the Office on Violence Against Women's Abuse in Later Life grantees to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, including domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, involving victims who are 50 years of age or older. NCALL promotes victim-defined advocacy and services for older survivors, fosters coordinated community response teams, advocates for elder justice, engages in policy development, and partners with other organizations to promote respect and dignity across the lifespan.

Burki has 20 years of experience in the gender-based violence movement, including as a member of an AmeriCorps team of advocates and community educators in Oregon; director of Services at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services in Madison, Wis.; and as Prevention and Early Intervention Section Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Since 2018, Burki has also been faculty at the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she teaches a graduate course focused on integrating social work theory with practice.



Hugh Tebault III

Burki replaces Hugh Tebault III, President of the [Latham Foundation](#), who had served tirelessly on the Steering Committee since our inception in 2008. The National Link Coalition earnestly thanks Tebault and the Latham Foundation for their many years of instrumental support and collaboration in addressing the Link between animal abuse and human violence. Latham's work to advance awareness among the public and professional audiences has included publishing videos, innumerable *Latham Letter* articles, the *Latham and The Link* history, and three editions of the landmark manual *Breaking the Cycles of Violence*.

RAISING LINK AWARENESS

Latham Foundation Announces Retirement of Judy Johns



Judy Johns, an ardent advocate of promoting The Link between animal abuse and human violence, has retired as Director of Marketing for the [Latham Foundation](#) and as Managing Editor of *The Latham Letter*. Johns has also served as past president of the Association of Professional Humane Educators and as an on-set representative of the American Humane Association to ensure that no animals are harmed on motion picture and TV productions.

Judy Johns

Johns served with the Latham Foundation for 30 years, where she helped promote and encourage humane education issues, animal-assisted interventions, and The Link. As Managing Editor of *The Latham Letter*, she inspired and guided the development of materials to assist others in the humane field to help both people and animals.

We all thank Judy for her tireless and important work and wish her the best!

***USA TODAY* Spotlights the Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Link**

The nationally-distributed newspaper *USA Today* published an [opinion column](#) on Oct. 23 by domestic violence researcher Andrew Campbell describing how important pets are to women and children in domestic violence crises, and how depriving families of their companion animals diminishes everyone’s ability to heal and rebuild.



Noting how pets can be a comfort during life’s hardest moments, Campbell said that when communities fail to include pets in their domestic violence intervention planning, perpetrators are more likely to target them in acts of abuse. “When children reside in the home, perpetrators will go out of their way to make sure the children directly witness the animal abuse – often to inflict as much emotional anguish and harm on the household as possible,” he wrote.

Citing his research findings that pets are more prevalent in homes marked by domestic violence and that harming the animals causes human survivors to endure 20 to 50 violent incidents before they call 911 for help, Campbell said that pet-friendly services continue to lag. While many communities offer off-site pet fostering for domestic violence victims, such programs “still result in separation at the very time these human-pet pairs need each other the most. Younger children are unlikely to understand that a pet is ‘safe’ in a home they cannot see.”

He said that barriers to co-sheltering pets are not insurmountable. “Animals are critical to the domestic violence recovery, healing and rebuilding process – when they are permitted to take part,” he concluded.

All-Day Symposium Educates Texas Professionals on The Link

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, [Texas Unites for Animals](#) and the [Texas Humane Legislation Network](#) held a free, all-day online symposium on The Link. The four webinars in the [Laws for Paws LINK Symposium](#) offered 5 total hours of CE. The presentations were targeted at professionals who face The Link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence in their everyday jobs. All sessions were submitted for continuing education credit through The Texas Department of State Health Services, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement, and The State Bar of Texas.



As animal welfare advocates are well aware, trying to get animal protection laws enacted is always a challenge – especially in a deeply conservative, “red” state like Texas. But an appeal to The Link and how animal abuse hurts people is an effective strategy to help reluctant legislators see the significance of these bills.



Robyn Katz

That was a message presented by Robyn Katz and Jaime Olin in their program, “Legislative Updates on “The Link”—The Nexus Between Human Violence and Animal Cruelty Laws in Texas and the U.S.” Katz emphasized that what might work in liberal states like California and Oregon might not work in a state like Texas.

“Texas doesn’t have many laws related to The Link,” said Katz, noting that it takes “some creativity” to see how the state’s anti-cruelty laws can be related to family violence laws. She described the challenges of enacting the controversial pet protection order law in 2013 and how getting reluctant legislators to see how it impacted family violence, rather than focusing on animals, turned the tide.

“Consider how you’re pitching bills to legislators – they may not feel the same as you. Figure out what their priorities are and phrase it in way that appeals to that representative, and it works,” she advised. Katz added the realism that legislators don’t like mandates, nor laws that infringe on individuals’ property rights, nor do they believe that humans should be held at the same level as animals – “and neither do the majority of Texans.”

She added that legislation addressing animals can have unintended consequences. As an example, **HB 1480**, an “ag-gag” law that was passed to restrict animal rights activists from unauthorized access to livestock production facilities, could result in fewer outside observers reporting the presence of undocumented immigrants or underage children working at the plants as well as animal welfare issues.

With several Link legislative successes this session, despite several bills that failed to pass. Katz is optimistic that the future holds promise for more Link-based laws. By including animal welfare under the more acceptable family violence umbrella, she said, “I hope this is something we can work together on with folks who are so passionate about human violence.”

Olin reviewed trends in national Link-related laws, focusing on specific areas where a number of bills were enacted this year, or are still pending, in state legislatures: cross-reporting, pet protection orders, “comfort dogs” in courtrooms, pet co-sheltering for domestic violence victims, guardians ad litem for pets, and other miscellaneous laws including enhanced penalties for animal abuse committed in the



Jaime Olin

presence of a child and defining coercive animal abuse as an act of domestic violence or child abuse. “The general trends are moving in the right direction,” she said. “They may not be moving as quickly as we like but they are in the right direction.”

She cited the statements of legislative intent underlying several laws that were recently enacted as clarifying how animal abuse is a human safety issue. She called cross-reporting by veterinarians, animal control officers and human services caseworkers “really important in fighting family violence by making sure agencies are communicating with each other.” Mandating cross-reporting works but only if adequate training in identifying abuse is also required.

Link legislation only works if there is widespread awareness of animal abuse’s impact on people and if the laws enacted are good ones. Pet sheltering for domestic violence victims is a critical need: “If you have greater Link awareness and better laws, but victims can’t escape because they can’t bring their pets with them, then they’re back to square one,” she said.

Other programs in the symposium featured:

“Introduction to the Symposium and the Importance of The Link.” Shelby Bobosky, Executive Director of the Texas Humane Legislation Network and Stacy Sutton Kerby, Director of Government Relations for the Texas Humane Legislation Network, gave a brief introduction to The Link, the importance of recognizing The Link, and why passing legislation at the federal and state levels can help detect violence towards children, domestic partners and elderly populations.

“Introduction to The Link through Texas Animal Cruelty Cases.” Lara Tomlin, Denton County Assistant District Attorney, Jessica Milligan, of Milligan Law, PLLC, and Felicia Kerney, Dallas County Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Community Prosecution & Animal Cruelty Unit, discussed recent trending challenges they’ve faced when they’ve prosecuted animal cruelty cases in their jurisdictions and how a collaborative approach can strengthen the identification and reduction of Link crimes.

“Ask An Animal Cruelty Investigator: The Nuts and Bolts of LINK-Related Investigations.”

A group discussion featured Art Munoz of Garland Animal Services; Randy Farmer, of the Houston Humane Society; Manuel Flores, of San Antonio Animal Care Services; and Natalie Lynch, Advisory Board Member for the Texas Humane Legislative Network.



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THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Link Bills We're Watching

Many state legislatures sessions have ended, but we're still anticipating another record year for bills addressing animal abuse and its Links to other forms of family and community violence. Here are the **122 bills** that we know to have been introduced so far. [Please let us know](#) of any others that we may have missed.

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 establishes 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 requires child protective investigators to report known or suspected animal cruelty and grants them criminal, civil and administrative immunity for such reports. It similarly requires 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 will jointly develop a one-hour training module on The Link and on timely cross-reporting procedures. It also redefines bestiality as "sexual contact with an animal" and bans animal pornography. **SB 96** passed the Senate 40-0 and the House 116-0 and **was signed into law** by Gov. Ron DeSantis on June 29. It took 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.

 **Missouri SB 71** allows adult protection orders and child protection orders, full or ex parte, to restrain or enjoin an individual from committing or threatening to commit abuse against a pet. A protection order may include an order of custody of the pet where appropriate, as well as any funds needed to cover the medical costs resulting from abuse of the pet. The bill passed the Senate and the House and **was signed into law** by Gov. Mike Parson on June 29. It takes effect on Aug. 28.



 **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 and S 4130** 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 and Senate Codes Committees.

 **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 H 544** would make it a felony to permit a person under age 18 to attend or participate in any dog- or cock-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 passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.

 **Pennsylvania HB 1836** would add to the Crimes Code a new crime of "child torture," which would include physical or sexual abuse, unreasonable confinement or restraint, starvation, and "terrorizing or threatening death or harm to the child, a loved one of the child or a pet or loved object of the child for the purpose of causing significant emotional distress." It is in the House Judiciary Committee.



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 allows courts to permit qualified facility dogs and therapy animals and their trained handlers to accompany witnesses if the presence of the dogs would assist the witness in testifying. **It was signed into law on June 3 and took effect on Sept. 1.**



Washington HB 1292 would have created a new crime of “providing harmful material to a minor” that would have included “patently offensive representations or descriptions” of bestiality and animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape, or torture. The bill was in the Committee on Public Safety **when the legislative session ended**.

Animal Abuse and Elder/Disabled 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.**



Maryland HB 234/SB 607 prohibits the willful and malicious killing, injuring, or interfering with a service animal. Offenders face up to two years in prison and/or a \$2,500 fine and may have to pay restitution for all damages. **The bill was signed into law and takes effect Oct. 1.**



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.



Pennsylvania HB 1681 would impose a 25-year ban on offenders convicted of sexual intercourse with an animal from employment working with care-dependent adults. Facilities covered by the employment ban would include residential care homes, long-term nursing homes, home health care agencies, hospices, adult daily living centers, personal care homes, assisted living residences, and any other public or private organization that uses public funds to provide care to care-dependent individuals. The bill is in the House Committee on Aging and Older Adult Services.

Animal Sexual Abuse



Colorado Ballot Initiative 16, proposed for 2022, “Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation” (PAUSE), would amend 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 redefines bestiality as “sexual contact with an animal” and bans animal pornography. It also establishes 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. The new law raises bestiality from a 1st-degree misdemeanor to a 3rd-degree felony. **SB 96** passed the Senate and House unanimously and **was signed into law** on June 29 and took effect on July 1.



Hawai’I SB 343/HB1085 establishes the crime of sexual assault of an animal as a Class C felony, or Class B felony if committed in the presence of a minor. Because animal sexual assault is strongly linked to child sexual abuse, interpersonal violence and other animal cruelty, convicted offenders will now be required to surrender all sexually abused animal(s), reimburse animal services agencies for the animals’ care and medical treatment, attend psychiatric or psychological counseling, make restitution to animals’ owners, and be prohibited from owning any animals, residing in any household where animals are present, and working or volunteering with animal establishments for at least five years after release from incarceration. **The measure was signed into law on June 7** and took effect immediately,



Missouri HB 373 would have required mental health evaluations for offenders of bestiality and animal hoarding; it was in the Rules Committee **when the legislative session ended.**



New York A614 would make sexual contact with animals a felony if serious injury or death of the animal occurs, require offenders to relinquish all animals, bar them from future possession of animals, and undergo psychological evaluation. It 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 have made 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 was in the Public Safety Committee **when the legislature adjourned.**



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 took effect on July 1.**



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 was being held in the House Judiciary and Rules Committees.**



Arkansas HB 1724 cites the lockdown pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic as "a worst-case scenario for victims experiencing domestic violence" and the rationale to expand existing provisions that allow courts to include pets in domestic violence orders of protection. The measure also 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 passed the Senate and the Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development and was sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. (It is not clear whether these bills would cover homeless persons who are fleeing domestic violence.)



California SB 320 codifies what had been inconsistent inter-agency communications and enforcement of provisions prohibiting individuals under domestic violence restraining orders (which may include pet protection provisions) to surrender ammunition as well as any firearms. It passed the Senate and the Assembly and **was signed into law** by the Governor on Oct. 8.



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 May 18.**





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 requires courts adjudicating the dissolution of marriages to consider the well-being of companion animals in the disposition of property. The bill became law in June without the Governor's signature and **went into effect in October.**



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 SB 71 allows adult protection orders and child protection orders, full or ex parte, to restrain or enjoin an individual from committing or threatening to commit abuse against a pet. A protection order may include an order of custody of the pet where appropriate, as well as any funds needed to cover the medical costs resulting from abuse of the pet. The bill passed the Senate and the House and **was signed into law** by Gov. Mike Parson on June 29. It took effect on Aug. 28.



Nevada AB 350 would have increased the penalty for harming or killing a companion animal from a Category C felony to a Category B felony if the act was committed to threaten, intimidate or terrorize a person. The bill was in the Judiciary Committee **when the legislature adjourned.**



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



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



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



New York A510/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 requires courts to consider the best interest of a companion animal when awarding possession in a divorce or separation proceeding. The bills passed both the Senate and the Assembly and were signed into law on Oct. 25.



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 bills passed the Senate and Assembly and are back in the Senate.



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 standardized form until this year.



Pennsylvania HB1031 would amend the Protection from Abuse Act to allow courts to grant temporary ownership rights over companion animals in protection orders and direct defendants from possessing, contacting, attempting to contact, transferring, or relocating companion animals 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 House Judiciary Committee recommended it be held for further study.



Texas HB 674 would have required the public to be informed about the availability of provisions to include pets and other companion animals in protective orders. The bill passed the House and was in the Senate Jurisprudence Committee **when the Legislature adjourned.**



Washington HB 1293, the “Survivors’ Justice Act,” would have allowed 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 have imposed 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 was in the Committee on Public Safety **when the legislative session ended.**

Animal Hoarding



Missouri HB 373 would have added animal hoarding to the definition of animal neglect and require mental health evaluations for offenders. It was in the Rules Committee **when the legislative session ended.**



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.

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.



Illinois HB 3531 would expand the state’s criminal code prohibitions of violent video games to include games in which a character kills or causes serious physical or psychological harm to an animal. Psychological harm would be defined as including depictions of child abuse, sexual abuse, animal abuse, domestic violence, and violence against women. The bill is in the House Rules Committee.



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/S6112 would define animal fighting as a criminal act when referring to enterprise corruption. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Codes Committees.



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 have appropriated 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 was in the House Judiciary Committee **when the legislature adjourned.**



Pennsylvania HB 1570 (“Cash’s Law”) would allow courts to add a sentencing enhancement in cases of burglary or criminal trespass where a domestic animal is harmed or killed in the course of that crime. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



Pennsylvania HB 1903 would allow courts to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order prohibiting persons from owning or controlling a firearm upon a finding that the person presents a substantial risk of suicide or death or serious bodily injury to another person. A history of animal cruelty and/or domestic abuse are among the factors the court may consider in determining whether to issue an ERPO. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



Washington HB 1038 would have barred individuals convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of animal cruelty 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 was in the Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary **when the legislative session ended.**

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, and SB 216 and SB 218 died in Committee.**



Hawai’i HB1086/SB609 requires veterinarians to report animal injury, death or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that the animal is a victim of dogfighting or animal abuse. The measures give veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports. **HB1086 was signed into law** on June 28 and took effect immediately.



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 was in the Senate Agriculture Committee **when the Legislature adjourned.**



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 have given immunity from civil liability to anyone who reports suspected animal cruelty in good faith; intentional filing of a false report would have been a misdemeanor and civilly liable. The bill was in committee **when the legislative session ended.**



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-A/S 5023-A requires 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 allows the disclosure of records concerning the animal’s condition and treatment. (Existing law allows voluntary reporting.) The bills were signed into law on Oct. 30.



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 adds 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 was signed into law on June 11.**



Texas HB 4330 would have required veterinarians to report suspected cruelty of non-livestock animals to the county sheriff or municipal police agency; reports made in good faith would have been 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 was in the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence **when the Legislature adjourned.**

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 and sessions to identify the potential for more serious criminal behavior. **The bill died** in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



Missouri HB 643 would have allowed courts to impose psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment for adult and juvenile animal cruelty offenders. Evaluation and treatment would have been mandatory for animal torture or motivation or upon second and subsequent convictions. **HB 373** would have required mental health evaluations for offenders of bestiality and animal hoarding. The bills **died when the legislature adjourned.**



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 allows 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 signed into law on June 14 and takes effect on Sept. 1.**



“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 Rules 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 A 5315/S 3525-A would allow courts to appoint volunteer lawyers and law students to advocate for animals’ interests and to help ensure the well-being of living animal victims in civil and criminal 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

Veterinarian Gets 22 Years in Prison for Child and Animal Sex Abuse



Prentiss Madden

The South Florida veterinarian who pled guilty to possession of child pornography and sexual abuse of a dog (*See the [August 2021 LINK-Letter](#)*) was sentenced in U.S. federal court in Miami to almost 22 years in prison, the stiffest sentence allowed under federal sentencing guidelines. Prentiss K. Madden, 40, of Aventura, produced videos of himself engaged in sexual activity with dogs and shared them with others in chats, according to the [Miami Herald](#). He also stored thousands of images of child pornography and animal “crushing” in a Dropbox account and cellular telephones and shared the photos and videos through social media chats. Prosecutors also cited evidence that Madden had also sexually abused a 15-year-old boy at least twice while he was amassing the trove of child pornography images.

Madden apologized to his family and victims, saying that he had suffered sexual abuse as a youth and had witnessed his mother being severely beaten by his stepfather. Multiple federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, responding to a tip from Dropbox that a user had received over 1,600 files of suspected child pornography, investigated the case, which was part of Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative launched in 2006 to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and the first prosecution in South Florida under the 2019 Preventing Animal Cruelty & Torture (PACT) Act.

Man Who Took 7-Year-Old Son to Watch Dogs Fight to the Death Sent to Prison

A man who took his 7-year-old son to a dog fight to watch his favorite dog named “Cookie Monster” fight two other dogs to the death was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Virginia to 18 months in federal prison for his role in an interstate dogfighting ring that operated from about 2013 to 2018. Odell Anderson, Sr., 52, of Washington, D.C., was confident his son wouldn’t have to see Cookie Monster die because the dog had fought 307 times before and had only lost three times. Anderson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to engage in dogfighting, as well as one count of causing a child under the age of 16 to attend an illegal animal fight.

The [Washington Post](#) reported that the two other dogs in that fight died of their injuries – and one was left in a dumpster. Prosecutors said there had been at least two complaints about animal cruelty at Anderson’s home prior to the fight; he said he was training the four dogs that were kept outside in all weather for weight-pulling competitions and no charges were filed.

Co-defendants Chester A. Moody, 47, of Glenn Dale, Md., who was sentenced to one year and one day in prison, and Emmanuel A. Powe, 47, of Frederick, Md., who was sentenced to 18 months, also each pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiracy to engage in dogfighting activities. The three men possessed “significant dog fighting equipment” including treadmills, medical kits, and “breeding stands used to forcibly immobilize female fighting dogs,” the U.S. Attorney’s Office said. A fourth defendant, Carlos L. Harvey, 47, of King George, Va., also pled guilty and will be sentenced in November.

“Dogfighting is a form of cruelty with no place in our society,” Assistant Attorney General Todd Kim said in a statement. “This cruelty will not be tolerated, nor will exposing a child to such horrific acts.”

Man Charged with Killing Ex-Girlfriend's Ferret and Three Dogs



Matthew Savinovich

Matthew Savinovich, 27, of Norwood, N.J., who has an extensive previous criminal record, was charged with burglary, criminal mischief, and eight counts of felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty for allegedly killing his ex-girlfriend's pet ferret and three Chihuahuas. The [Putnam County, N.Y. SPCA](#) said the attacks occurred between December 2019 and November 2020 in Lake Peekskill, N.Y. Savinovich was also being held on a charge of bail jumping for failure to appear in Putnam Valley Court on other charges. Multiple local law enforcement agencies were involved in the investigation and arrest.

Texas Teen Arrested on School Terrorism Threat Charged with Bestiality



Daniel Dakota Weber

A Texas high school senior who was jailed for allegedly threatening a "Columbine-style" school shooting in September because he wanted school to be canceled for the day was later also charged with bestiality. Police officers with a search warrant to examine the cellphone of Daniel Dakota Weber, 17, of Lorena, Texas, after he was charged with felony terroristic threats, reportedly found several videos showing a medium-size, mixed-breed dog having sex with Weber in a motel room, according to the [Waco Tribune-Herald](#). Lorena police arrested Weber after school officials notified them that Weber posted threats on Instagram of opening fire on people before planting C4 bombs across the school campus and then firing on responding law enforcement officers, court documents said. Bestiality is a felony in Texas, punishable by up to two years in a state jail. In 2018, three federal agencies in the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team – the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center and the Department of Homeland Security – published a report describing animal cruelty as a possible warning behavior for terrorism ([See the August 2018 LINK-Letter](#)).

Woman Charged with Selling Sick Kittens Arrested in Attempted Murder of Baby



Samantha Valentine

A Watervliet, N.Y. woman who had been charged in 2019 with forgery in selling sick kittens was arrested in October 2021 for the attempted murder of her 10-month-old child. Samantha Valentine, 31, was charged with three felony counts of attempted murder and assault and a misdemeanor offense of endangering the welfare of a child. [Law & Crime](#) reported that police said the assaults, which were "horrific" and took place over a four-day period, had been captured on a baby cam in the child's room, and that the house was later condemned for unsanitary and filthy conditions. Responding officers found six ferrets, four cats, a deceased squirrel, and an iguana-style lizard inside the home after receiving a call about a 10-month-old baby who wasn't breathing. Valentine [had been charged in 2019](#) with two felonies after police said they had received multiple reports about a woman who was selling kittens that died shortly after being adopted. Police said she was posing as an employee and using fake documents of the nonprofit Kitten Angels organization in order to start her own adoption business. Police seized 12 kittens and two dogs from her home and she was remanded to probation.

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.

Nov. 10 – Forsyth, Ga.: The [Georgia Public Safety Training Center](#) and Animal Law Source will partner for the Crimes Against Animals Symposium, which will feature “The Link – Animal Cruelty & Human Violence” and “Correlation Between Human Trafficking and Sex Crimes Against Animals & Children.”

Nov. 11 (online): Massachusetts Asst. D.A. Erin Aiello and Janette Reeve with Humane Society International will present “Preparing for Court: Tips for Effective Testimony about Animal Crimes,” including special considerations for intimate partner violence, for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#).

Nov. 11 (online): The [Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association](#) will conduct a Link webinar.

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. 18 – Reno, Nev. (online): Diane Balkin and Melinda Merck will present “Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence: Veterinary Forensics and Evidence” as part of the webinar series, “What Judges Need to Know about Animal Cruelty Issues in Juvenile and Family Law Cases” for the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#).

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](#).

Nov. 18 – Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada (online): Ashley Travis of the PEI Humane Society, and Danya O’Malley at PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, will present “Emergency Housing on PEI for People Fleeing Family Violence Situations” for [Violence Link PEI](#).

Nov. 24 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

December – Reno, Nev. (online): Retired Judge Katherine Tennyson of the Oregon Circuit Court and Stephanie McDonald and Amy Buchanon of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada will present “Animal-Related Relief in Civil Protection Orders for Self-Represented Litigants” as part of the webinar series, “What Judges Need to know about Animal Cruelty Issues in Juvenile and Family Law Cases” for the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#).

Dec. 1-3 – Baton Rouge, La.: The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Animal Legal Defense Fund’s 10th [National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#) will include: Michelle Welch presenting “Unique Victims of Abuse and How to Put Your Case Together”; Maya Gupta and Nicoletta Caferra presenting “Discretion & Diversion”; Mark Kumpf presenting “Hoarding”; and Diane Balkin presenting “Adventures in Trial Tactics.”

Dec. 2 – Cumberland, Ont., Canada (online): Teena Stoddart will lead an all-day [Violence Link Training](#) for police, victim services, municipal services officers, animal welfare professionals, paramedics, and firefighters.

Dec. 3 – Tokyo, Japan (online): Sakiko Yamazaki will present “The Impact of Witnessing Animal Abuse: The Possible Risks of Being Exposed to Animal Abuse” in the [6th online Link seminar](#) conducted by the Animal Literacy Research Institute and the Japanese Association for the Promotion of Canine Good Citizens.

Dec. 7 (online): Andrew Campbell will present “Livin’ on a Prayer: Better Utilizing Places of Worship to Aid Victims of Family Violence” in a [Justice Clearinghouse webinar](#).

Dec. 8 – Pittsfield, Mass. (online): [HAVEN](#) – the Human Animal Violence Education Network – will hold its regular meeting.

Dec. 22 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

Jan. 11, 2022 – Reno, Nev. (online): Maureen MacNamara and Rosa Figarola will present “Child Abuse and Animal Abuse: Child Welfare Professionals as Partners in a LINK-Informed Judicial Response” as part of the webinar series, “What Judges Need to know about Animal Cruelty Issues in Juvenile and Family Law Cases” for the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#).

Jan. 13, 2022 – Sacramento, Calif. (online): Phil Arkow will conduct a Link workshop for the [California Animal Welfare Association](#).

Jan. 20, 2022 (online): Linda Fielder and Emily Lewis will present “Partners in Investigating Animal Crimes” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar series.

Jan. 25, 2022 (online): Phil Arkow will present “Connecting the Dots in Criminal Justice: Preventing Crimes Against People by Focusing on Animal Abuse” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar series.

Jan. 26, 2022 – Harrisburg, Pa. (online): The [Keystone Link](#) will hold its recurring meeting.

Feb. 11, 2022 -- (online): Jennifer Woolf will present on “Introduction to The Link and Identifying Animal Abuse,” Jim Crosby will present on “Dog Bite Injuries and Behavioral Projections,” and Kathie Nurena & Linda Randall will discuss helping people and animals move beyond trauma at the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and the Fenzi Dog Sports Academy’s [Lemonade Conference](#).

Feb. 17-18, 2022 – Columbus, Ohio: Phil Arkow will present “Recognizing, Recording and Reporting Suspected Animal Abuse and Neglect” and “All in This Together: Pooling Limited Shelter Resources to Help People and Animals” for the [Midwest Veterinary Conference](#).

April 21, 2022 – Wilmington, Del.: Phil Arkow, Diane Balkin and Rosa Figarola will join a multidisciplinary team in an all-day, multidisciplinary Link training for the [Delaware Family Courts system](#).

May 3, 2022 (online): Phil Arkow will present “The Forgotten Partner in Responding to Animal Abuse: The Veterinarian” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar series.

July 19, 2022 (online): Emily Lewis will present “The Complexities of Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar series.



ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



The National Link Coalition is an informal, multidisciplinary collaborative network of individuals and organizations in human services and animal welfare who address the intersections between animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse through research, public policy, programming and community awareness. We believe that human and animal well-being are inextricably intertwined and that the prevention of family and community violence can best be achieved through partnerships representing multi-species perspectives.

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