



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



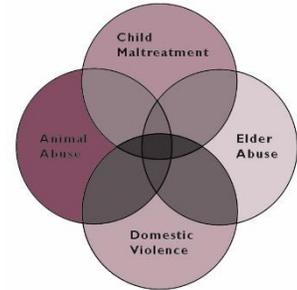
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE... and THE LINK

Long-Awaited AVERT Act Introduced in U.S. House and Senate

After a long delay in order to seek bipartisan support in today's highly polarized Congress, the long-awaited **AVERT Act of 2022 (Animal Violence Exposes Real Threat of Future Violence)** (See the [December 2021 LINK-Letter](#)) was finally introduced in early August. **S 4743**, co-sponsored by Sens. Gary Peters (D-Mich.) and Thom Tillis (R-N. C.) was introduced on Aug. 2 and sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee.



The original companion measure, **H.R. 8659**, authored by Rep. Kathy Clark (D-Mass.), already has seven co-sponsors – three fellow Democrats and four Republicans. Aides to Rep. Clark have told *The LINK-Letter* that Clark was waiting for a greater show of bipartisan support before introducing the bill. H.R. 8659 was introduced on Aug. 5 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.



Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA-5)

The game-changing bill represents the most widespread federal recognition of how animal abuse is Linked with human violence. It would direct the U.S. Attorney General to order the National Institute of Justice to conduct a **\$2,000,000 study** on the underlying factors that contribute to people committing acts of animal cruelty and an analysis of animal cruelty as a predictor of future violence against humans. It would also authorize **\$10,000,000 for the Stop Future Violence Grant Program** to assist local governments and tribes, courts, and organizations “to develop and strengthen effective detection strategies, and early intervention or diversion resources, to stop acts of animal cruelty and rehabilitate offenders.”

Study Based on Evidence-Informed Risk Factors

The \$2,000,000 study would examine evidence-informed risk factors associated with individuals who commit animal cruelty and whether such acts demonstrate a tendency or likelihood to commit future acts of violence against humans, including domestic violence and assault.

The study would result in a report recommending areas in which future research on animal cruelty is needed and would develop best practices for early interventions that prevent acts of animal cruelty and prevent individuals who have offended against animals from committing future acts of violence.

The study would also generate a report to Congress with specific policy recommendations for legislative and regulatory action at the federal, state and local levels addressing the evidence-informed risk factors that may contribute to acts of animal cruelty and recommend effective interventions and diversion strategies for both adult and juvenile animal cruelty offenders to reduce the risk of future violence against both animals and humans.

Stop Future Violence Grants Would Be Offered 2023-2027

\$2,000,000 in Stop Future Violence Grants would be awarded annually from 2023-2027 to provide personnel, training, technical assistance, data collection, and other resources for the apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, and mental and behavioral health treatment of persons committing acts of animal cruelty, for the rehabilitation of perpetrators, and for the prevention of future acts of animal cruelty or violence against humans. Grants would be used specifically for:

- training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, prosecutors, and mental health professionals to more effectively identify and respond to acts of animal cruelty;
- developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, prosecutors, and mental health professionals specifically addressing acts of animal cruelty;
- developing and implementing more effective police, court, prosecution, mental health, and early intervention policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to acts of animal cruelty; and
- developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts, or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for acts of animal cruelty.

Eligible entities that could qualify for the grants would include: state, local and tribal courts or government units; and any other organization that has a documented history of effective work identifying, intervening in, preventing, reducing, or otherwise responding to animal cruelty or animal cruelty as related to interpersonal violence. The latter group would include: animal welfare organizations; mental health services for perpetrators and survivors of crimes; training programs for law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, veterinarians or mental health professionals; domestic violence and sexual assault service providers and coalitions; child abuse or elder abuse service providers; family services departments; community-based and culturally-specific organizations; and other nonprofit organizations.

Queens, N.Y. D.A. Calls for Stronger Link-based Anti-Cruelty Enforcement



Citing how “addressing animal cruelty not only protects vulnerable animal victims, but also helps to prevent potential harm to humans as animal abusers are more likely to engage in interpersonal violence,” the District Attorney for Queens County, N.Y. has called for greater enforcement and strengthening of New York State’s animal cruelty laws. This would correct an ironic imbalance in which the state’s criminal statutes “treat those who damage property more harshly than those who commit brutal acts of violence against these sentient beings who feel pain and suffer distress much in the same way as humans do.”

Melinda Katz’s [office](#) was one of the first in the country to establish a dedicated Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty cases ([See the November 2015 LINK-Letter](#)). Prosecutors in the unit possess unique expertise to analyze a full spectrum of animal cruelty crimes. The unit also collaborates extensively with law enforcement, veterinarians and pathologists, animal welfare organizations, psychologists, and social workers as a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to combating animal abuse.

“In Queens County, we have seen too many cases of animal abuse in domestic violence situations as an effective weapon of retaliation, power and control, which may also extend to child and elder abuse,” Katz wrote in a July 25 article in the [New York Law Journal](#). “Many survivors of domestic violence report that their abusers had threatened or carried out harmful acts against a beloved companion animal; and survivors delay leaving the abuser for fear that harm would come to their animal. Many survivors also reported that the abuser had committed acts of cruelty against animals in the presence of a child, which serves to perpetuate the cycle of violence and desensitize our youth.”

Katz emphasized the challenges in the state’s Aggravated Cruelty to Animals statute, enacted in 1999, which was intended to provide a felony for particularly egregious animal cruelty. This law, dubbed “Buster’s Law” for a cat who was doused with kerosene and set on fire, only applies to a dog or a cat, and carries a maximum jail sentence of only two years. By contrast, the crimes of second- and third-degree criminal mischief for damaging inanimate property carry maximum prison terms of four and seven years, respectively, two and three times greater than that for torturing a living being.

Consecutive sentences are also unavailable for offenses under this law, which means that an abuser can kill or seriously injure many companion animals and receive the same sentence as for harming one. In addition, there is no independent penalty for threatening to kill a domestic partner’s animal as a means of forcing compliance with an abuser’s demands, she wrote.

What weakens these laws even more is that the animal cruelty statute is housed in New York’s Agriculture and Markets Law, rather than the Penal Code.

Katz noted that New York was the first state to enact animal cruelty legislation (in 1828). Nevertheless, “Our laws fail to protect one of the most vulnerable segments of our community, and these failures further demonstrate our indifference to violence toward animals, who desperately need our protection, just like any other facet of society.

“The time has come to recognize the seriousness of animal cruelty crimes by allocating appropriate penalties for these violent acts and enact new stronger laws to protect these defenseless and voiceless

victims. Doing so will not only protect our animals but will combat the oftentimes impending violence against humans as well. Violence should not be accepted in any form,” Katz concluded.

“Animal cruelty is simply not an isolated issue and investigating and prosecuting animal abuse is in the interest of protecting not only animals against future violent crimes, but people as well.”

Specialized Animal Protection Unit Gets Indictment in Link Case After Other County Can’t Bring Charges

A grand jury receiving details from the specialized Animal Protection Unit in the Will County, Ill. State’s Attorney’s Office brought felony indictments of aggravated animal cruelty and torture against a man who allegedly brutally killed his ex-girlfriend’s dogs after prosecutors in neighboring Cook County said they didn’t have enough evidence to file charges.



[CBS2](#) in Chicago reported that Sarah Manos wasn’t satisfied when Cook County officials failed to charge her ex-boyfriend, Matthew Berry, so she took her case to another county. Manos said Berry tortured and killed “Kirby” and “Daisy,” two Bichon frisé mixes, while the family was quarantining during COVID-19 stay-at-home orders in 2020. One dog was killed in Cook County and the other in Will County, thereby giving Will County prosecutors jurisdiction. Police confirmed abuse was the cause of both deaths.



[Matthew Berry](#)

The Will County State’s Attorney’s Office is one of at least 45 county and state prosecutorial offices nationwide believed to have a dedicated animal cruelty enforcement unit.

Manos had been able to secure a protection order against Berry and was [awarded \\$162,338 in damages](#) in a Cook County civil case last winter. In discussing the cruelty charges, Will County State’s Attorney James W. Glasgow, who wrote the Illinois Animal Torture Law in 1999, said, “Anyone who abused an animal has a propensity to abuse others.”

Grant Funds Available to Investigate and Prosecute Dog Cruelty Cases



ASSOCIATION OF
PROSECUTING
ATTORNEYS

The [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys \(APA\)](#) is once again partnering with the Stanton Foundation to promote the welfare of dogs and strengthen the human/dog bond by holding animal abusers fully accountable for their actions. Because cruelty against dogs is a crime of violence which requires a prosecutor’s full attention, the foundation is awarding grants to hold offenders accountable. The grants will provide prosecutors with resources to ensure that canine cruelty and dogfighting cases are thoroughly investigated and properly adjudicated by addressing some of the financial barriers that exist for law enforcement and prosecutors.

APA is now accepting requests for funding to cover appropriate costs related to dog abuse cases that can include, but are not limited to: costs of care; necropsies and forensic evidence analysis; and expert witness fees. APA and the Stanton Foundation will not have access, influence, or control over how a case is investigated, prosecuted, or sentenced. For more information, [contact Nikki Parisi at APA](#).

DOMESTIC ABUSE... and THE LINK

Bill Would Create HUD Grants for Pet-Friendly Shelters for the Homeless, Including Domestic Violence Survivors



A bill in Congress would authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants to modify and upgrade structures to serve as interim and permanent housing to accommodate unhoused individuals with pets, including domestic violence survivors. **H.R. 8074, the PUPP Act** (“Providing for Unhoused People with Pets”), was introduced on June 15 by Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO-6) and is in the House Committee on Financial Services.

U.S. Rep. Jason Crow

Under the terms of the bill, HUD could carry out a program to make grants to eligible entities for providing interim and permanent housing that accommodates homeless persons and families who have pets. Grant funds could be used for acquiring, renovating, rehabilitating, re-purposing, retrofitting, or constructing a property, and for pet-related operational costs. Facilities would be required to provide basic veterinary care and behavioral support for pets, including spay and neuter, basic wellness examinations, vaccinations, dental care, heartworm treatment and prevention, flea and tick treatment and prevention, and basic medical procedures. Appropriate supportive services, including mental health, employment, substance use disorder, and wellness services, would also have to be made available to occupants. Animal housing could include crates and kennels.

Grants would be awarded on a competitive basis based on criteria that HUD would establish. Entities eligible for the program are limited to units of local government, nonprofit organizations, and organizations providing housing or shelters for homeless persons. Animal shelters could partner with eligible entities to provide interim or permanent housing for pets with grant funds.

Under U.S. Code 42 USC §11302, the definition of a homeless individual includes any individual or family who is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in their current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized; has no other safe residence; and lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

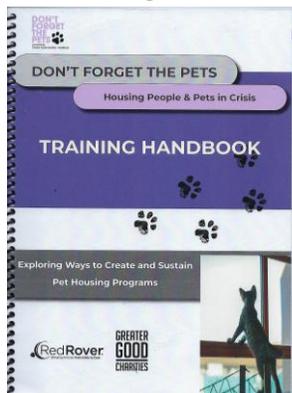
Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

Training Handbook Guides Shelters' Pet Housing Programs



A Training Handbook to assist domestic violence agencies in creating or supporting pet housing options for pets of people in crisis has been published by RedRover and Greater Good Charities. The 70-page manual, which includes much information about The Link between animal abuse and domestic violence from the National Link Coalition, is part of the two organizations' collaborative Don't Forget the Pets initiative.

Housing People and Pets in Crisis: Exploring Ways to Create and Sustain Pet Housing Programs is a spiral-bound, colorfully-illustrated guide to help organizations understand: the impact of the human-animal bond on survivors; why starting a pet housing program is important; PTSD in human and animal survivors; and how to coordinate a local collaboration to overcome the common hurdles to pet co-sheltering. A 12-point checklist guides readers to help identify potential community partner organizations and five potential models for on- or off-site pet care.

It walks readers through discussions over such issues as intake, quarantine spaces, allergies, traffic flow, environmental enrichment for pets, room and kennel designs, and adequate storage space. Sections address legal, insurance and construction issues, intake forms, resident agreements, program protocols, and educating staff and residents about the new program. One section explores fundraising opportunities and how human and animal services organizations' partnerships create "a new donor demographic."

The Handbook, as well as other resource materials, are available on the Don'tForgetThePets.org website

SAF-T Program Visits Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Clarifies Terms for Inclusion as "Pet-Friendly"

Allie Phillips, who created the [SAF-T® program](#) of Sheltering Animals and Families Together, spent a day in Marquette, Mich. speaking with representatives from Sasawin Safe Haven, the Harbor House domestic violence shelter and the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter. The meeting was a follow-up to a group call in February 2021. The participants discussed a more thorough response to pets of domestic violence beyond the foster care system in place now. Phillips spent the day addressing questions, concerns and strategizing onsite pet housing at Harbor House, including a tour of the animal shelter and domestic violence shelter.



Allie Phillips

"Touring shelters is one of my favorite aspects of a site visit because I can objectively see pet housing opportunities that otherwise may be overlooked in day-to-day work by the staff," said Phillips. "With 70% of American homes having a least one pet, situations will invariably arise where a survivor refuses to be separated from a beloved pet. That is where reducing the barriers to onsite pet housing is life-saving."

Phillips also tells *The LINK-Letter* that after extensive work she has determined that many shelters mistakenly consider themselves pet-friendly when they house assistance animals (which is required by the ADA and does not make them pet-friendly) or when they house emotional support animals (which

requires a letter from a doctor/provider which can be a barrier for a survivor and similarly does not qualify for being on the SAF-T list). “It is taking a LOT of effort to clarify what types of animals shelters take because somewhere they are being educated that an emotional support animal is the same as a family pet, which is not true,” she says. After careful evaluation, Phillips currently has [292 shelters](#) confirmed as pet-friendly in 46 states and five countries.

Urban Resource Institute Opens 9th Pet-Friendly Shelter in NYC

New York City’s Urban Resource Institute [People and Animals Living Safely \(URIPALS\)](#) program – the largest co-living program in the U.S. for survivors of domestic violence – has announced the opening of its newest pet-friendly shelter and the first to serve the borough of Queens. The seven-story Brighter Days facility debuted on May 19 and can serve 167 adults and children at any given time.



URI staff and community members celebrate Brighter Days’ grand opening.

The shelter features 62 pet-friendly apartments fully furnished with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, a dishwasher, and hardwood floors, and come stocked with supplies needed for families and pets. Lower floors include shared spaces for meetings, group therapy, educational workshops, computers, childcare playrooms, and indoor recreation. The facility, which is supported by a \$65,000 grant from the Banfield Foundation, plans to add an outdoor pet park at the site later this year.

Brighter Days also offers extensive programs and services for humans and their animal companions including case management, crisis counseling, safety planning, support groups, child care, permanent housing placement, referrals, legal support, and economic empowerment services to lead residents to “brighter days.”

The Queens facility is the 9th within the URI program to remove barriers facing New York City families and their pets needing to escape dangerous living conditions.

“The need to break barriers to safety and address the risk factors of domestic violence is critical, and it takes a multi-stakeholder approach to drive meaningful change and save lives,” said URI CEO Nathaniel M. Fields.

Purdue University PetSafe Program Seeks Help in Updating Policies

The PetSafe program at Purdue University’s College of Veterinary Medicine (*See the [January 2022 LINK-Letter](#)*) is under new leadership, and Veterinary Social Worker [Jennifer Dehn](#) is asking for assistance from other programs that shelter pet survivors of domestic violence. The PetSafe program, initiated in 1995, is seeking to update its policies and procedures. If you can share your procedures with Dehn, she would be very appreciative.

Australian RSPCA Supporting Pet Survivors of Domestic Violence

Modeling innovations in the U.S. and elsewhere to enable domestic violence survivors to bring their pets with them when seeking shelter, the [RSPCA in Australia](#) recently received government funding to provide shelter to animals made homeless due to family violence.



The program was described in the July 29 issue of *Forty South*, a magazine for people living in Australia's island state of Tasmania. Deborah Thomson described her personal odyssey of moving to Tasmania to escape domestic violence. She later wrote a book, *Whose Life Is It Anyway? Recognising and Surviving Domestic Violence*, to help others recognize abuse and coercive control in the home and to increase their motivation to leave earlier. She recently completed a second book detailing how she lived with domestic violence by her then husband from 1985 to 2003.

Funding for animal shelters for pets made homeless due to family violence is invaluable because refuge, even brief, increases a victim's motivation to leave an abuser when they know that their pets are safe, Thomson wrote. "I would have left the abusive relationship sooner if I'd known our pets were safe in a shelter or a refuge that is pet-friendly. The pet's safety removes the worry that leaving a pet may open it up to more abuse and eases the guilt associated with leaving the pet behind. Knowing there is even a short-term solution to housing pets, especially in a crisis situation, gives those fleeing abusers peace of mind and allows space to secure their own safety and decide for the future," she added.

The RSPCA program is available across the country, with each state eligible for some form of support, with services including emergency pet boarding, temporary foster accommodation, and financial assistance for veterinary treatment, impound fees and transportation costs. The Tasmanian program, [Safe Beds](#), hosted 72 animals for 62 people between in 2021-2022, with an average stay of 68 nights, while the much larger New South Wales community domestic violence program hosted 866 animals for 566 people in the 2020/21 financial year.



Deborah Thomson

While acknowledging the significant impact of the RSPCA program, Thomson listed more that can be done. She asked Australian governments to also consider: including animals in protective orders; increased funding and training for refuges and shelters to accommodate animal victims of domestic violence; and reforming tenancy laws to make it easier for victims-survivors and their animals to move into safe and affordable pet-friendly housing in both crisis accommodations and longer-term housing.

Thomson cited growing Australian recognition that animal abuse is a form of domestic and family violence. She described Australian and international studies suggesting that animal abuse occurs in up to 70% of domestic and family violence cases. Because companion animals provide emotional support, unconditional love and stability for many victims-survivors, this bond can be exploited by perpetrators who may inflict or threaten harm to animals as a strategy to intimidate, coerce or control human victims-survivors. "Many victims-survivors describe the distress and grief of witnessing the perpetrator torment their beloved animal," she wrote.

She cited information from [Community Legal Centres NSW](#) showing that between 18-48% of victims-survivors are so concerned for their animal's safety that they delay or avoid leaving abusive relationships. "An even higher figure of 68% delayed leaving where the animal had already been abused. This ultimately leaves both human and animal victims-survivors vulnerable to long periods of abuse.

"Pets, like children, are vulnerable and don't understand why they are subjected to abuse and for me, this makes the abuse against them even more abhorrent and detestable," she wrote, describing her own experiences. "Seeing my pets abused made me despair and I felt like I had no control over my life and no autonomy over what happened within my home. It hurt terribly and added to the mental trauma his abuse had already inflicted. Leaving those pets behind and opening them to further abuse was distressing and yet another loss in the already substantial list of things we were losing."

She quoted Alina Thomas, the chief executive of [Engender Equality](#), a Tasmanian family violence agency, who described in a newspaper interview how animals are often used as a tool for abuse and control. "Harm to pets might be used as a threat, like 'if you leave me, I'm going to hurt the pet, kill the pet', or it might also be that the animal is getting abused as a as a form of violence against the victim-survivor, so they're having to witness their animal getting hurt," she said.

She said it was important to understand the grief and trauma associated with pet violence and integrate it into services. "We love our pets as family members, and to have them killed or harmed in front of you ... I think because you're responsible for them, there's a whole other layer of grief and trauma that can come along with that."

"I cannot overstate how incredibly important pets are to people who have survived traumatic events and circumstances," Thomson concluded. "To women who have been consistently told that they're worthless and not worthy of love, having their pet with them, giving them unconditional love, is tremendously powerful in helping them get over what's happened."

Shelter Makes Pet Safe Keeping Program Permanent



Faced with estimates that half of the women seeking refuge in Atlantic Canada's largest domestic violence shelter would rather return home if they can't take their pets with them, coupled with an affordable housing crisis that is forcing the domestic violence shelter to turn people away, the Greater Moncton SPCA in New Brunswick has rebranded itself as an animal-centered community service hub, including making its Pet Safe Keeping program permanent.

The organization, now known as [People for Animal Wellbeing \(PAW\)](#), had sheltered pets of domestic violence survivors on a temporary basis since 2011 to aid transition houses and domestic violence outreach offices across the Eastern Canadian province. [Pet Safe Keeping](#) will now become a permanent program, with pets kept in conditions designed to guarantee strict confidentiality to protect them from abusers. The program assists those who may be delaying their decision to leave an abuser because they cannot take their pets with them.

"Over the years we have evolved to be more than just a shelter. With some of our new community programs, we felt that a new brand was really going to allow us to sort of have that broader net of services that we can offer the community," PAW President Christian Moger said in an [interview](#) with the Global News Service.

Pet Custody Disputes Examined in Italian Divorce Courts



Paola Fossati

Among the contentious issues impacting pets in families marked by domestic violence is the matter of who gains custody of the animals should the marriage dissolve through a divorce. Six U.S. states (Alaska, California, Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire, New York) have now enacted laws allowing divorce courts to award custody to the party deemed to be in the animals' best interests.

In what may be the first example of this issue being raised in Europe, an article in *Society & Animals* discusses the Italian legal system and case law on this topic. Paola Fossati, in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of the Studies in Milan, writes that people in many cases see their pets as family members. Yet, in the eyes of the law in Italy, as elsewhere, pets are still considered personal property.

This is relevant to pet custody matters that may arise at the time of divorce or separation; pets fall within divorce financial proceedings. However, they have the unique nature of living and sentient property, which has interests. In this perspective, the best interest of the nonhuman animal should always be taken into account, she argues.

Nonetheless, Italian law lacks definitive standards, and the ways in which courts construe contractual disputes involving nonhuman animals that relate to custody disputes in marital or other relationships do not always take into consideration the unique nature of this living and sentient property.

-- Fossati, P. (2020). *Protecting interests of animals in custody disputes: Italian caselaw outpaces Italian and European Union legislation*, *Society & Animals*, 30(4), 461-478. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685306-00001731>

MASS SHOOTINGS... and THE LINK



Nuria Querol

American Mass Shooting Links Reviewed in Spain

Recent research on the history of animal abuse among some American mass shooters is being shared with readers in Spain, courtesy of a [blog](#) by Spanish Link coordinator Nuria Querol. Posting a blog on June 10, "Asesinos en Serie, Tiradores de Masas y Maltrato a Animales: Una Revisión" ("Serial Killers, Mass Shooters and Animal Abuse: A Review,") Querol cites the recent tragedies in Buffalo, N.Y. and Uvalde, Texas (*See the June 2022 LINK-Letter*) and reviews earlier research

indicating that while 10% of mass shooters had prior histories of animal abuse, and that those with such histories are more likely to exhibit psychopathic traits, in some 18% of cases the shooters had great empathy towards animals and showed great discomfort with their suffering.

Querol also reviews data that the Graduation Hypothesis, in which animal abuse precedes violence against humans, occurs less frequently than the pattern of deviant behavior, in which the animal abuse co-occurs with or follows crimes against humans.



Universidad
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Cátedra
Animales y
Sociedad

The blog is published by the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos' Cátedra Animales y Sociedad (Chair in Animals and Society). The chair provides a framework for action and research on the study of animal welfare, animal-assisted interventions and The Link between humans and other animals.

COVID-19... and THE LINK

Report Describes Exacerbated Challenges for Women and Animals in Isolated, Remote Canadian Communities

A [new research paper](#) has reiterated earlier findings that the COVID-19 lockdowns exacerbated the risks of domestic violence and the strains on the social services sector with a unique focus on the pandemic's impact in isolated Northern Canadian communities where livestock welfare issues, combined with other social factors, increased the barriers for women needing to escape.



Northern Canada region (blue)

Noting that pre-pandemic rates of intimate partner violence and femicide were already higher in these regions, especially among the dominant Indigenous populations, than in metropolitan areas, the authors identified additional challenges facing survivors in the Yukon, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and northern areas of other provinces. Multiple intersecting risk factors in these remote and rural communities – all of which were complicated further by pandemic quarantines and restrictions -- included:

- A history of disease outbreaks and epidemics affecting Indigenous peoples following contact with Europeans.
- Challenges of reporting abuse, accessing services and maintaining anonymity and confidentiality in small communities.
- Cultural realities, such as social inequities and oppression, colonization and power imbalances, poverty, inadequate housing, minimal educational opportunities, and gender and racial biases.
- Increased alcohol consumption, particularly while staying home during COVID-19.
- Geographic barriers complicated by: distance to shelter services and transition housing; delayed police response time; areas accessible only by air, boat or snowmobile or without year-round access by road; and rugged winter weather making travel impossible.
- Limited access to safe and affordable housing in remote communities.
- Limited reliable telephone and internet service which further enhances social isolation and hinders survivors' ability to get help when needed.
- Heightened challenges facing social services providers with their own staffing shortages, burnout and high turnover rates trying to support women dealing with poverty, unemployment, lack of resources, isolation, Indigenous concerns, and challenges with the legal system in the midst of a global pandemic.
- Separation from pets or livestock, which adds to the trauma and challenges of leaving and the potential of giving up a survivor's livelihood – in addition to threats to the animals' well-being.

The article offered recommendations to enhance safety planning, alternate housing for victims fleeing violence, and suggestions for service providers in remote, rural regions post-COVID and in preparation for future emergencies. Such support systems “should consider unique ways to keep victims of violence safe while managing social isolation and physical distancing,” they wrote. “The risks a woman faces may become even more dynamic during a pandemic, and the assessment of risk should be completed regularly to monitor these potential changes.”

-- [Moffitt, P., Aujla, W., Giesbrecht, C.J., Grant, I., & Straatman, A.-L. \(2020\). Intimate partner violence and COVID-19 in rural, remote, and Northern Canada: Relationship, vulnerability and risk. *Journal of Family Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-020-00212-x>](#)

THE LINK in the LITERATURE

Contributors Sought for Special Issue on Positive Animal Welfare

Ten contributors are being sought for a Special Issue of the online *Animals* journal that will focus on “Animals’ Good Life – Positive Animal Welfare.” Guest Editors Randy Lockwood and Maya Gupta of the ASPCA (and who both serve on the National Link Coalition’s steering committee) explain that at a time of increasing concern regarding many factors potentially having a negative impact on animals and people, it is important to look at changes that are actually helping to create a better life for many animals.



Randy Lockwood and Maya Gupta

“This volume will focus on advances in our understanding and treatment of animals that have led to significant, or at least incremental improvements in the quality of life for animals,” they said. “We are most interested in submissions that provide objective, quantitative documentation to define and evaluate policies, procedures, and/or activities that have demonstrably improved animal welfare.” The issue is open to submissions concerning any species of non-human animal.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Measures of the state of animal welfare;
- Social, economic, and political drivers of positive change in animal welfare;
- Improvements in the legislative landscape for animal welfare;
- How barriers to responsible pet-keeping are being overcome;
- How negative attitudes to certain species or types of animals are overcome;
- How needs of animals at risk are being addressed;
- Improvements in animal sheltering and animal care and control.

The deadline for manuscript submissions is Feb. 1. For details, visit the [Special Issue information page](#).

Adolescents’ Exposure to Animal Abuse Included in Updated Book



The 2nd edition of the award-winning book *Regarding Animals* contains considerable new updated information since it was first published in 1996, including a new chapter, “Animal Abuse and Adolescents.” The chapter examines how adolescents who engage in or witness animal abuse understand their acts. Other new content includes: how relationships with pets help homeless people to construct positive personal identities; how veterinary technicians experience both satisfaction and contamination in their jobs; and how animals are represented in traditional mass media and social media platforms. The authors illustrate how modern society makes it possible for people to shower animals with affection and yet also abuse or kill them and how people find ways to live with such inconsistent behavior.

-- Arluke, A., Sanders, C.R., & Irving, L. (2022). *Regarding Animals* (2nd Ed.). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Clarification: Animal Abuse & Neglect Correlating with Other Crimes



Julie Palais

In our [July-August LINK-Letter](#), we reviewed a recent analysis of crime reports in the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System by Lynn Addington and Mary Lou Randour which reported, among other findings, that 20% of intentional animal cruelty cases and 3% of passive animal neglect cases co-occurred with other crimes. We noted that this may have been the first study to uncover such correlations.

We were subsequently reminded of several studies by Julie Palais which reported similar findings. Her article in the December 2020 issue of *Police Chief Magazine* (See the [December 2020 LINK-Letter](#)), in fact, reached the same conclusion.

Palais has published extensive analyses of the NIBRS data which are continuing to shed additional light on The Link between animal abuse and other crimes.

- 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>.
- Palais, J. (2020, December). Animal cruelty hurts people too: How animal cruelty crime data can help police make their communities safer for all. *Police Chief*, 87(12), 42-48.
- Palais, J. (2020, September/October). Crunching the numbers on cruelty: The National Incident-Based Reporting System delivers preliminary data on animal cruelty investigations. *Sheriff & Deputy*, 72(5), 70-73.
- Palais, J. (2020, Summer). Animal cruelty in the U.S.: What you should know and how you can help. *Animal Care & Control Today*, 19-23.
- Palais, J.M. (2020, August). The link between animal cruelty and public safety: Defining the role of the animal control officer. *PM [Public Management] Magazine*.

“Pesticide” Describes Animals Killed as Part of Human Suicides

Our “The Link in the News” section includes media reports of family pets that were killed as part of a murder-suicide event to eliminate an entire family, and our trainings to veterinarians recommend that if clients request to have all their animals euthanized the practitioner should call the 988 National Suicide Prevention Hotline as this is a telltale warning sign. A new research study, believed to be the first of its kind, examines what the authors call “pesticide” – human suicides that also involve animals.

The authors write that while pets may be protective for some people at risk of suicide, they may also become a risk factor or even co-victims when humans end their own lives. They reviewed 61 media articles from six countries from 2010 – 2020. 90% of the articles reported the deaths of multiple humans and 23% reported the deaths of multiple animals. Of the 116 animals identified, the majority were dogs but eight cats, two rabbits, and two non-specified pets were also included; only nine animals survived.

Five key scenarios were identified: extended suicides; mercy killings; suicide pacts; unique; and family annihilators, which represented the greatest number of incidents (44/61 articles).

The authors note the higher vulnerability of dogs compared with other species and recommend that the terms “extended suicide” and “pesticide” be used to align these cases linguistically with other killings. The research adds to arguments for data on animal presence in scenarios of human violence to be collected so that responses to protect vulnerable animals, and humans, can be developed.

- Young, J., Oxley, J.A., Montrose, V.T., & Herzog, H. (2022, Aug. 26). Pesticide: An analysis of online news media articles of human suicide involving pet animals. *Anthrozoös*, DOI: [10.1080/08927936.2022.2109292](https://doi.org/10.1080/08927936.2022.2109292)

ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE and THE LINK

Community Impact Statement Accepted on Behalf of Bestiality Victims

In what is believed to be a first under Canadian jurisprudence, a court in Manitoba accepted a community impact statement submitted on behalf of the animal victims in a child and animal sexual abuse case on the grounds that the animals could not speak for themselves.



The case was a result of a report from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection that an unidentified husband and wife had been producing child sexual abuse materials over a period of 10 years. During the course of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation, digital recordings depicting the sexual abuse of seven dogs were also discovered. The couple pled guilty to all charges.

Under Canada's Criminal Code, when courts are considering sentencing they may consider statements made by an individual or on behalf of a community describing the harm or loss suffered and the impact experienced as a result of the offense. Humane Canada, which serves as the Canadian federation of humane organizations, filed a community impact statement on behalf of all animals in Canada that have been subjected to animal sexual abuse. The proxy, in lieu of individual victim impact statements, said that the materials produced in this specific case placed other animals at risk of sexual abuse and that the individual animals were unable to express the physical and psychological impact of the crime.

The court on April 29 sentenced the couple each to four years imprisonment, with one year concurrent for the bestiality charge; a five-year total prohibition order against possessing any dogs; and a 10-year ban on accessing any social media.

International Network Combatting Child and Animal Sexual Abuse Traffickers

An international network based in Australia has been sharing intelligence and working with its counterparts worldwide to track and identify child sex offenders, many of whom are also involved in bestiality, and to rescue children from further abuse.



[Operation Arkstone](#) was launched in February 2020 by the Australian Federal Police, following a report to the AFP's Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation from the U.S. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children about an online user allegedly distributing and receiving child abuse material online. AFP investigators began sharing intelligence and working with their counterparts in the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Europe, and Asia. U.S. Homeland Security Investigations have resulted in at least three arrests.

According to a [March 18, 2021 news release](#), Operation Arkstone investigations in Australia have resulted in 20 men being arrested on a total of 1,026 charges of child and animal sexual abuse; 53 children have been removed from further harm in Australia and 146 international referrals have been made to law enforcement agencies around the world. One man in Sydney is facing 196 charges relating to child sexual abuse and bestiality offenses. Earlier, 14 men were arrested on 828 charges of child exploitation and bestiality charges involving four animals. The release indicated that the prevalence of child exploitation has gotten worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEWS from LINK COALITIONS

LINK Italia Active in Link Legislative, Academic and Training Efforts



Our affiliate in Italy, [LINK Italia](#), has been extremely active in recent years and has achieved several major legislative accomplishments, including inserting Link provisions into a draft bill for the protection of minors. LINK Italia Coordinator Francesca Sorcinelli testified before the [Italian Justice Commission](#) and offered technical counselling for the integration of the LINK into draft bill C.1524 Dori. The provisions modify the penal code law (29 maggio 2017 n.71, regio decreto legge 20 luglio 1934 n.1404) with the subject of “preventative measures and contrast for bullying and rehab measures for minors.”

LINK Italia representatives also provided technical counselling for the first draft bill (law 3574) about the LINK phenomenon in Italy, presented on April 22nd and accepted and published in August 2022. The draft bill is entitled “Modifiche al Codice Penale e Altre Disposizioni in Materia di Prevenzione dei Processi di Correlazione fra gli Abusi sugli Animali e la Violenza Contro le Persone” (“Amendments to the penal code regarding intervention measures on the correlation between animal abuse and violence against people.”)

Other activities include:

- Presenting a technical speech to the animal rights group of the Italian Parliament about social dangerousness of animal abuse and its integration into guidelines for the determination of sentences, suspended sentences and probation in criminal trials for the abuse and/or killing of animals and/or other crimes against animals.
- Offering 167 training courses on the LINK phenomenon to experts in diverse fields and for private citizens.
- Mentoring and supervising 28 master’s theses on the topic of anthrozoology related to deviant behavior; University Faculties involved were Psychology, Pedagogy, Social Work, Law, Criminal Sciences, and Forensic Veterinary Medicine.
- Conducting 18 technical consults for the assessment of the risk of social dangerousness in criminal proceedings where animal abuse was present, including cases of stalking and murder. Some of these cases have made judicial precedent.
- Establishing Memorandums of Understanding concerning animal maltreatment, interpersonal violence and other deviant, antisocial and criminal conduct with the Italian Society of Veterinary Forensic Sciences, ENPA (Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali), and the Municipalities of Livorno, Vieste and Cento. As a result of the Cento agreement, the DO.MI.NA (Donne, MInorenni, ANimali: Women, Minors, Animals) project was created, the first in Italy dealing with violence from the Link point-of-view and methodology.
- Publishing the 3rd edition of LINK: Cruelty to Animals and Social Dangerousness.
- Writing educational articles for several magazines about animals and dogs.
- Disseminating Link information to animal rights organizations and dog shelters.



Ann Laatsch to Represent NCALL on Our Steering Committee



Ann Laatsch

The National Link Coalition is pleased to announce that Ann Laatsch, J.D., will serve on our steering committee representing the [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life](#). Laatsch, who is NCALL's Justice System Coordinator, will replace NCALL Director Kristin Burki whose workload has prevented her from devoting as much time as she would like to the Coalition.

Laatsch is responsible for nationwide leadership within the criminal justice system on enhancing safety and the quality of life for older victims and survivors of abuse. She provides and creates training, curricula and technical assistance on justice system responses on a wide range of topics including domestic violence, housing law, public benefits, elder rights, and disability issues. A graduate of Carroll University, Laatsch received her law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School. She is a resident of Milwaukee.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Although many state legislatures have adjourned for the year, growing awareness of The Link between animal abuse and human violence has already resulted in **155 bills** introduced in state legislatures and the U.S. Congress – **15 of which** have already been signed into law! Here are the ones that we know of so far; please [let us know](#) of any legislation not included in this list:

Current Link Bills We're Watching:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



U.S. H.R. 2377, the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2022, would allow family members, domestic partners and law enforcement officers to petition for a "red flag" federal Extreme Risk Protection Order prohibiting a respondent to acquire firearms or ammunition when there is cause to believe the respondent poses a risk of imminent personal injury to self or another individual. In determining whether to issue an ERPO, courts shall consider factors including a recent act of animal cruelty by the respondent. The bill has passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



U.S. H.R. 8074, the PUPP Act ("Providing for Unhoused People with Pets"), would authorize HUD to award grants to modify and upgrade structures to serve as interim and permanent housing to accommodate unhoused individuals with pets, including domestic violence survivors. Grants could be used for acquiring, renovating, rehabilitating, re-purposing, retrofitting, or constructing a property, and for pet-related operational costs. Facilities would have to provide basic veterinary care and behavioral support for pets, plus supportive mental health, employment, substance use disorder, and wellness services for human residents. Animal shelters could partner with eligible entities to provide interim or permanent housing. The bill is in the House Committee on Financial Services.



Arizona HB 2365 died in committee when the Legislature adjourned. It would have allowed victims to petition a court to issue a severe threat order of protection against an individual who committed cruel mistreatment of an animal; such an order would have prohibited the respondent from possessing a firearm.



California SB 344 and SB 513 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. Both bills are the Assembly Appropriations Committee. (It is not clear whether these bills would cover homeless persons who are fleeing domestic violence.)



Colorado HB 22-1041 was signed into law on March 24. It adds animal control officers and State Bureau of Animal Protection employees to the “protected persons” who, if they are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, can petition to have their personal information removed from official records to reduce an imminent and serious threat to the safety of the person or the immediate family.



Colorado SB 22-183 was signed into law on May 19. The law creates a \$35 million Crime Victim Services Fund and a \$6 million Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Fund to award grants to non-governmental or Indian tribe domestic violence and sexual assault programs and coalitions that provide services to crime victims, including “attending to the needs of animal companions.”



Delaware HS1 for HB 264 would allow a person over age 18 who has been the victim of non-consensual sexual conduct or sexual penetration, including with an animal, to apply for a sexual violence protective order if the person has a reasonable fear that the perpetrator will harm the petitioner in the future. A sexual violence protection order would be available only for victims lacking a family or dating relationship with the perpetrator, as they can already request a protection from abuse order. The bill was sent to the Governor on June 23.



District of Columbia B24-0560 would modify the pure property disposition of a pet in a divorce so that the court could assign sole or joint ownership of a pet based upon the care and best interest of the animal. The measure is in the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.



Florida HB 121 died in committee. It would have defined the felony crime of aggravated animal cruelty to include causing great bodily harm, permanent disability or death to an animal while perpetrating sexual battery, domestic violence, aggravated stalking, aggravated child abuse, or aggravated abuse of an elderly or disabled person. It would also pertain to the unlawful killing an animal belonging to another family or household member and “evincing a depraved mind.”



Hawai’i SB 2396 and HB 2209 died when the legislature adjourned. The bills recognized that children residing in homes marked by domestic violence are also psychologically harmed and more likely to externalize antisocial behaviors. They would have granted children standing to file a petition for an order of protection or temporary restraining order (which could have included pets).



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.



Illinois HB 4368 would expand the definition of domestic violence abuse to include “coercive control behavior,” a pattern of behavior that unreasonably interferes with a household member’s free will and personal liberty, including committing or threatening to commit intimidating cruelty to animals. The bill is in the House Rules Committee.



Indiana HB 1137 was signed into law on March 18. It provides that orders for protection (which include protecting pets from the respondent) will be enforced indefinitely if the respondent is required to register as a lifetime sex or violent offender.



Indiana HB 1370 died when the legislature adjourned. It would have required the state Office of Judicial Administration to establish a domestic violence registry for individuals convicted of domestic violence or who is subject to an order of protection; Indiana already includes acts of cruelty to a family member’s animals as a “crime of domestic violence.”



Iowa HF 825 became law on May 2. The new law amends domestic violence protection orders (which can include pets) and consent agreements to allow courts to approve a consent agreement without a finding that the defendant has engaged in sexual abuse.



Kentucky HB 319 was signed into law on April 8. It includes violence against an animal when used as coercive conduct within the definition of “domestic violence and abuse” and “dating violence and abuse” and allows judges in both types of cases to award possession of a shared domestic animal to the petitioner.



Kentucky HB 709 died in committee. It would have denied offenders convicted of first-degree abuse of a dog or cat from being released on probation until they had served at least 50% of their sentence if the animal abuse was committed as part of domestic violence or in the presence of a minor child; such acts of animal cruelty would have been classified as Class D felonies.



Maine LD 1696 was signed into law on April 20. It expands Maine’s statutes (the oldest in the U.S.) allowing courts to direct the care, control and custody of pets in protection-from-abuse orders to further prohibit defendants from possessing any dangerous weapons if the defendant’s abuse includes killing or threatening to kill any animal in the household. The recodified statute is based upon the recognition of domestic abuse as a serious crime against the individual and society that produces an unhealthy and dangerous family environment that is not conducive to healthy childhood development.



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 a study order requested by the Senate Rules Committee.



Mississippi SB 2022 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It would have allowed courts in issuing protection orders to order respondents to not harm, abuse, transfer, or dispose of any companion animal, and to grant possession of companion animals to the petitioner.



New Jersey A4229/S 1789 would expand the statutory definitions of domestic violence, child and elder abuse, and abuse of persons with a disability to include acts of animal cruelty against those persons' animals. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Food Security and Senate Environment & Energy Committees.



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 A3724 would amend existing provisions which allow courts, during a divorce proceeding, to award custody of pets in the animals' best interests to also allow courts to require the parties to properly care for animals prior to the court's determination of ownership of the animals. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary 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 A3985 and A10013 ("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 are in the Assembly Children & Families Committee.



New York A8865 would expand provisions in residential programs for domestic violence provisions which allow them to have service animals and therapy dogs to also include companion animals. The bill is in the Assembly Social Services Committee.



Oklahoma SB 1446 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have expanded the definition of "domestic abuse" to include "coercive control" -- unreasonably engaging in numerous acts including committing or threatening to commit cruelty to an animal that intimidates a family or household member.



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.



Pennsylvania HB 1903 would allow courts to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order barring an individual from possessing a firearm upon a finding that the person presents a substantial risk of suicide or death or serious bodily injury to another person; factors which may be used to determine the individual's risk include a history of domestic violence or animal cruelty. The bill is in the House Local Government Committee.



Rhode Island H7087 would create a custody procedure for domestic companion animals in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal. The bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.



Rhode Island HB 7573 would allow a person who possessed a pet while cohabiting with another person to seek equitable relief relating to contested ownership of the pet; district courts could consider the well-being of the pet in making a determination of ownership. The court could not award joint ownership, visitation privileges or financial support and could award ownership to an animal welfare organization if the court found that neither of the previously cohabiting parties could provide a safe and appropriate living environment for the pet. The bill House Judiciary Committee requested it be held for further study.



Rhode Island H7088 would expand the existing law, which allows family courts to include household pets in domestic violence protection orders, to allow courts to award custody of the pets to the plaintiff and to order an enforcement remedy of a restraining order or other injunctive relief if necessary. The House Judiciary Committee requested it be held for further study.



Rhode Island H 7360 was withdrawn at the sponsor’s request. It would have modified the definition of domestic abuse to include “coercive control” of another person, a pattern of behavior that unreasonably interferes with a person’s free will and personal liberty, including committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates.



Utah HB 175 was signed into law on March 22. The measure modifies the definition of “emotional distress” related to the offense of stalking to include mental or psychological suffering resulting from harming an animal, and includes pets in dating violence and cohabitant abuse protection orders.



Virginia HB 713 was deferred until 2023 when the General Assembly adjourned. It would have defined “coercive control” for the purpose of issuing family abuse protective orders as a pattern of behavior that unreasonably interferes with a person’s free will and personal liberty, including committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the other party.



Washington HB 1901 was signed into law on March 31. The new law adds “coercive control,” including harm to someone’s pets, including by physical violence, to the definition of domestic violence. It takes effect July 1, 2022.



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 Committee on Education and Labor.



H.R. 4159/S.2121, the Courtroom Dogs Act, would develop best practice guidelines for the use of dogs in federal courts and grand jury rooms to provide support for defendants, complainants and witnesses. The bills are in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.



Arizona HB 2324 was signed into law on April 14. It makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to allow a minor to attend an animal fight or cockfight or any facility where preparations are being made for an animal fight or cockfight.



California AB 2274 would change provisions regarding mandated reporters, which include animal control and humane society officers and veterinarians. Current law makes the intentional failure to report suspected child abuse or severe neglect a misdemeanor. The bill would allow a case involving the failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect to be filed within one year, and not later than four years, after the offense. The bill passed the Assembly and was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee.



California AB 2085 would change existing law, which requires professionals, including animal control and humane society officers, who re mandated to report suspected child abuse and neglect, to report only suspected child abuse and “severe” neglect. “Severe neglect” would be defined as willfully causing or permitting harm or injury to a child or putting the child in imminent danger. The bill passed the Assembly and is in the Senate Committee on Public Safety.



Florida HB 121 died in the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. It would have defined the 3rd-degree felony crime of aggravated animal cruelty to include causing great bodily harm, permanent disability or death to an animal while perpetrating aggravated child abuse, sexual battery, domestic violence, aggravated stalking, or aggravated abuse of an elderly or disabled person. Aggravated animal cruelty would also pertain to the unlawful killing an animal belonging to another family or household member and “evincing a depraved mind.”



Florida HB 435 died in the House. It would have made it a 3rd-degree felony to cause or allow a minor under age 18 to attend an animal fight.



Kentucky HB 709 died in committee. It would have denied offenders convicted of first-degree abuse of a dog or cat from being released on probation until they had served at least 50% of their sentence if the animal abuse was committed as part of domestic violence or in the presence of a minor child; such acts of animal cruelty would have been classified as Class D felonies.



Massachusetts H.1716/S. 2672 would expand the ability of Department of Children & Families employees and contractors to report suspected animal abuse. Current law allows them to report “during any investigation or evaluation.” These bills would allow them to cross-report at any time. The bills are in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.



Massachusetts S.2846 would expand the list of individuals mandated to report suspected child abuse and neglect to include all adult employees, volunteers and contractors in animal control. Currently, only animal control officers are mandated to report. The bill is in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.



New Jersey A 4229/S 1789 would expand the statutory definitions of child and elder abuse, domestic violence and abuse of persons with a disability to include acts of animal cruelty against those persons' animals. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Food Security and Senate Environment & 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 died in committee when the legislature adjourned. It would have made it a felony to permit a person under age 18 to attend or participate in any dog- or cock-fighting.



Oklahoma SB 1713 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have expanded domestic violence protection orders to include petitions filed by or on behalf of victims of child abuse.



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 was laid on the table in the House Judiciary Committee.



Washington HB 1292 died in committee when the legislature adjourned. It would have created a new crime of "providing harmful material to a minor" which would include bestiality, excretory functions, or sexual acts that are violent or destructive, including but not limited to human or animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape, or torture.

Animal Sexual Abuse

 **Colorado Ballot Initiative 16, proposed for 2022**, “Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation” (PAUSE), would amend the state’s criminal bestiality statutes to define “sexual act with an animal” as including penetration, and exempt acts done by persons dispensing care to an animal in the interest of improving that animal’s health.

 **District of Columbia B24-0560** would close a loophole in the law and would prohibit sexual contact between a person and an animal, including the advertisement, offer of sale, or dissemination of photographs or video footage of bestiality. The bill is in the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

 **Florida SB 692 and SB 1798 were signed into law. SB 692** amends the definition of “sexual bestiality” to replace “vagina” with “female genitals” when describing illegal “sexual bestiality” with an animal. The more extensive **SB 1798** incorporates provisions that were in **SB 878, SB 420 and HB 435** which had died earlier in the legislative session.



 **Idaho SB 1325 became law on March 22.** It replaces the archaic law against “the infamous crime against nature committed with mankind or with any animal” with a more contemporary crime of “sexual abuse of an animal,” punishable by up to 5 years in prison and registry as a sexual offender. No convicted offenders can be released on parole without a psychiatric or psychological examination and risk assessment. Offenders can be barred from operating a child day care facility.



 **Kansas HB 2009 and HB 2223 died in committee.** The bills would have continued to define sex with animals as “sodomy,” but remove homosexual sex from the definition of sodomy.

 **Kentucky HB 709 and SB 125 died in committee.** They would have allowed peace officers and animal control officers to seize victims of animal sexual abuse.

 **Louisiana HB 142 was signed into law on June 15 and becomes effective Jan. 1, 2023.** The new law allows individuals to sue for damages commercial entities that publish or distribute pornographic materials harmful to minors, including depictions of bestiality. The preamble notes that internet-based pornography “is creating a public health crisis and having a corroding influence on minors.”



 **Maryland SB 22 died in committee.** It would have repealed duplicative Criminal Law statute §3-322, a prohibition against having sex with animals, as similar prohibitions exist in §10-606 as Aggravated Cruelty to Animals.

 **Missouri SB 980/HB 2446 died when the legislature adjourned.** They would have added causing injury or suffering to a female dog, causing injury to the sexual organs of a female dog, and needlessly causing pain during artificial insemination of a female dog to the definition of animal abuse.

 **New York A614** would make sexual contact with animals a felony if serious injury or death to 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.



New York A8647-A/S8027 would increase the penalty for “sexual misconduct,” which includes sexual conduct with an animal, from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony, if the victim is a corrections officer. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Codes Committees.



Oregon Ballot Initiative 13, proposed for 2022 was withdrawn by the petitioner, It would have added breeding domestic, livestock and equine animals to the definition of sexual assault of an animal.



Pennsylvania SB 354 would add “sexual intercourse with animals” to the definition of “sexual violence” awareness programs that institutions of higher education and private licensed schools must teach. The bill is in the Senate Education Committee.



Virginia SB 249 was signed into law on April 11. The new law modernizes the prohibition against a person who “carnally knows any brute animal” into a more contemporary prohibition of “sexual abuse of animals,” a Class 6 felony, and prohibits convicted offenders from owning any animals for up to five years. Offenders could be ordered to obtain psychiatric or psychological counseling and treatment.



Animal Abuse and Elder/Disabled Abuse



Florida HB 121 died in the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. It would have defined the 3rd-degree felony crime of aggravated animal cruelty to include causing great bodily harm, permanent disability or death to an animal while perpetrating aggravated abuse of an elderly or disabled person, sexual battery, domestic violence, aggravated stalking, or aggravated child abuse. Aggravated animal cruelty would also pertain to the unlawful killing an animal belonging to another family or household member and “evincing a depraved mind.”



Illinois HB 4368 would expand the definition of abuse of a disabled adult to include “coercive control behavior,” a pattern of behavior that unreasonably interferes with a household member’s free will and personal liberty, including committing or threatening to commit intimidating cruelty to animals. The bill is in the House Rules Committee.



New Jersey A 4229/S 1789 would expand the statutory definitions of elder abuse, abuse of persons with a disability, domestic violence, and child abuse to include acts of animal cruelty against those persons’ animals. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Food Security and Senate Environment & 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 Hoarding



New Hampshire HB 366 defines animal hoarding and sets forth a provision for a person charged with animal hoarding to be given a psychiatric evaluation. The bill has been referred for interim study.



New Jersey S 1144 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.



West Virginia HB 2095 died in committee when the legislature adjourned. It would have defined animal hoarding as the possession of a large number of companion animals, the failure to provide adequate food, water, shelter, veterinary care and humane care, and the inability to understand the conditions of the animals and the deleterious impact on the animals and the owner's health and well-being. Animals found living under these conditions would be confiscated and turned over to an animal shelter for proper care and relocation.

Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



Mississippi SB 2261 died in the Judiciary Committee. "Buddy's Law") would have required youths who have been adjudicated as delinquent for committing cruelty against a domesticated dog or cat to receive psychiatric evaluation and counseling or treatment.



New Jersey S 1144 would establish the crime of animal hoarding and require mental health counseling for all adult and juvenile animal cruelty and hoarder offenders. It is in the Senate Energy & Environment Committee. **S 1153 ("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** and **A 1558** would require courts to impose psychiatric evaluations for defendants convicted of aggravated animal cruelty. **A 8443** would require courts to order a mental health evaluation for persons convicted of animal fighting or aggravated cruelty to animals. The bills are in the respective Agriculture Committees.



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.

Cross-Reporting



Connecticut SB 235 was tabled in the Senate when the Legislature adjourned. The bill would have required veterinarians to report to local law enforcement agencies when they treat dogs that they believe have been used in animal fighting.



Iowa SF 2135, HF 2429 and HF 623 died in committee when the legislature adjourned. The bills would have granted veterinarians immunity from administrative, civil and criminal liability, and remove the normal confidentiality requirements, for making good-faith reports or assisting in the investigation of suspected animal maltreatment or rescuing a threatened animal.



Louisiana HB 842 was signed into law and becomes effective Aug. 1. The new law grants veterinarians and veterinary technicians immunity from civil and criminal liability for reporting, in good faith and with reasonable cause, suspected animal cruelty or neglect and for releasing confidential information pursuant to a subpoena, court-ordered disclosure, or with written consent of the animal's owner or legal representative.



Massachusetts S.2672 would permit child protection workers and personnel protecting elders and the disabled to report suspected animal abuse at any time, rather than just during the course of their investigations and evaluations. The bill is in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.



Missouri SB 1182 died when the legislature adjourned. It would have mandated veterinarians, animal control officers and animal humane investigators to report abuse and neglect of children, the elderly and other vulnerable persons. Certain mental health, educational, protective services, and law enforcement personnel would have been mandated to report companion animal abuse or neglect to a hotline established by the Missouri Animal Control Association. Reporters would have received one hour of training within the first 60 days of employment to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect.



New Jersey A 2709, citing Link research, would require DCF child abuse and neglect investigators to report suspected neglect or cruelty of livestock and non-livestock animals, with good-faith immunity from civil and criminal liability and administrative sanctions. The bill is in the Assembly Human Services Committee.



New Jersey A 4229/S 1789 would require veterinarians, veterinary technicians, domestic violence investigators, employees of the Department of Children & Families, employees of the Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, police officers, and caregivers at residential health care facilities to report suspected animal cruelty to an appropriate law enforcement officer with civil and criminal immunity for reporting in good faith. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture & Food Security and Senate Environment & Energy Committees.



New York A 5780 and S 7401 would permit mandated reporters of child abuse to report suspected animal cruelty, with immunity from civil and criminal liability for good-faith reports. The bills are in the respective Children and Families Committees.



New York A 5642 would require the Attorney General to establish a 24-hour toll-free animal abuse hotline and make reasonable efforts to inform the public about the hotline, which would then refer reportable incidents to the appropriate state or local law enforcement or SPCA agency. The bill is in the Assembly Governmental Operations Committee.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



U.S. S. 4743/H.R. 8659, the AVERT Act of 2022 (Animal Violence Exposes Real Threat of Future Violence), would direct the U.S. Attorney General to order the National Institute of Justice to conduct a \$2,000,000 study on the underlying factors that contribute to people committing acts of animal cruelty and an analysis of animal cruelty as a predictor of future violence against humans. It would also authorize \$10,000,000 for the Stop Future Violence Grant Program to assist local governments and tribes, courts, and organizations “to develop and strengthen effective detection strategies, and early intervention or diversion resources, to stop acts of animal cruelty and rehabilitate offenders.” The bills are in their respective Senate and House Judiciary Committees.



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.



Alaska HB 51 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have allowed criminal courts to impose a sentence above the presumptive range if various aggravating factors are present. Existing law includes a history of repeated instances of cruelty to animals as an aggravating factor; the bill would have added the defendant’s targeting the victim due to that person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or citizenship.



Georgia SB 512 died when the legislative session ended. It would have added cockfighting to provisions of the law outlawing gambling on dog fights and create a “misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature” to allow a minor child to attend an animal fight.



Illinois HB 3531 would expand 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 450 died in committee. It would have required peace officers to receive law enforcement training on the identification, investigation, response, and reporting of animal abuse violations and on The Link between animal abuse and offenses against people, including: abuse, neglect and sex crimes against a minor; child pornography; abuse, neglect and exploitation of a vulnerable adult; and domestic and dating violence and abuse.



Louisiana SB 327 died when the legislature adjourned. The bill would have allowed a district attorney to obtain a court warrant to search for and seize any firearms belonging to a person who recently committed acts of animal cruelty where there is probable cause to believe that the person poses a risk of imminent personal injury to himself or to another person.



Minnesota HF 208 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have established a Minnesota Companion Animal Board to protect and promote the welfare, social well-being, and physical and mental health of companion animals; one member would “represent public human health and welfare issues and the relationship between companion animal and human health and welfare.”



New Jersey A3841 would prohibit offenders convicted of animal cruelty from possessing a firearm or being issued a permit to purchase a handgun. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



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



New York A999/S7876 would prohibit the release of or failure to control an animal with the intent of preventing a police officer or peace officer from performing his or her lawful duties, as assault on a police officer in the second degree, a Class C felony. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Codes Committees.



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.



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 2328 would expand the state’s annual grants to local law enforcement agencies to enforce illegal gambling to include investigations of animal fighting and possession of animal fighting paraphernalia. The bill is in the Committee on Gaming Oversight.



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.



Pennsylvania SB628 would make it a Second-Degree felony to seriously injure or kill a police animal while perpetrating or being an accomplice to a felony crime. The bill is in the senate Judiciary Committee.



Pennsylvania SB 814 became law on July 18 without the Governor’s signature. It is now a 3rd-degree felony to kill or seriously injure a police animal while evading arrest or attempting to escape detention for an underlying felony or misdemeanor, or a 2nd-degree misdemeanor if the police animal suffers bodily injury. Convicted offenders will have to make restitution to the officer or the agency for veterinary bills, replacement costs for the animal, and the salary for the time the handler’s services are lost to the agency.





South Carolina S378 died when the legislature adjourned. It would have required offenders who harm or injure a police dog or horse in the performance of its duties to make full-cost restitution to the law enforcement agency for the replacement of the animal and be subject to increased fine and imprisonment penalties and/or 500 hours of community service with an animal-related organization.



Utah HB 112 died when the legislature adjourned. It would have changed “dog” to “animal” in statutes prohibiting the training or exhibition of animals for fighting other animals, and repeal the cock fighting statute.



Wisconsin SB 536/AB 540 died. The bills would have prohibited offenders convicted of homicide, felony battery, sexual assault, and controlled substance felonies from possessing, controlling or residing with a dangerous dog.

Court-Appointed Advocates for Animals



Florida S 172 died in the Judiciary Committee. It would have allowed the appointment of an advocate, upon the court’s initiative or request, from a list of attorneys and certified legal interns provided by the Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar Association, for “the interests of an animal” in civil and criminal court proceedings regarding welfare, care or custody.



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 passed the Senate and is in the House Rules Committee.



New Jersey A 1965/S 2211 would create a two-year pilot program to allow courts to appoint a pro bono attorney or law student special advocate to represent the best interests of, and justice for, animals in cruelty cases. It was reported out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is in the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.



New York A 5315/S 3525-A would allow courts to appoint volunteer lawyers and law students to advocate for living animals’ interests and to help ensure their well-being in civil and criminal animal welfare proceedings. The bills are in the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees.



Rhode Island S 2227/HB 7678 would authorize the potential appointment of pro bono attorneys and supervised law students to act as animal advocates in cruelty and abuse cases, at the court’s discretion, to serve the interests of justice. The respective Judiciary Committees each recommended the bills be held for further study.

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.

Sept. 18 – Lincoln, U.K. (online): Allie Phillips will present on Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) at the [Society for Companion Animal Studies](#)' annual conference.

Sept. 20 – Kansas City, Mo. (online): Zoë Agnew-Svoboda will present “Navigating Barriers to Safety and Security: Survivors and Pet Placement Advocacy” in a [free webinar](#) for BestyBnB.

Sept. 21 – Louisville, Ky.: Joye Keeley will speak at the [Kentucky Animal Care & Control](#) Training Conference.

Sept. 25 – Tokyo, Japan (online): Keiko Yamazaki of the Animal Literacy Research Institute will discuss The Link and animal hoarding in a [webinar](#), “The LINK: Is There an Association between Animal Abuse and Interpersonal violence.”

Sept. 27 – Oklahoma City, Okla.: Phil Arkow will present on animal abuse and domestic violence for the [Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault](#).

Sept. 28 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Sept. 29 – Lexington, Ky.: Joye Keeley will be presenting on The Link at the Kentucky Department for Public Health’s Division of Maternal and Child Health’s [HANDS Academy](#).

Sept. 29 – Tulsa, Okla.: Phil Arkow will present on animal abuse and the elderly and disabled for the [Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault](#).

Sept. 30 – Kansas City, Mo.: The Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation will conduct an all-day [Safer Together workshop](#) on The Link, approved for 6.5 CEUs by MO NASW. Speakers will include Andrew Campbell discussing The Link, and Vicki Deisner on the strategy of getting a cross-reporting law passed.

Oct. 4 – Indianapolis, Ind.: Andrew Campbell and Vicki Deisner will Present “Understanding The Link between Animal & Human Violence: How Cross-Reporting Can Save Lives” at the Fall Conference of the [Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#).

Oct. 6 – Columbus, Ohio: Vicki Deisner, Todd Curtis, and Janet Hoy-Gerlach will present “Ohio HB 33: Required Reporting of Child/Elder Abuse and The Link between Animal and Human Violence” at the [Ohio Peace Officers’ Training Academy Law Enforcement Conference](#).

Oct. 7 – Lexington, Ky.: Joye Keeley will present on The Link at the [Kentucky Bar Association](#)’s legal update training.

Oct. 14 – Knoxville, Tenn. (online): Phil Arkow will present “Nine Career Opportunities where Pet-Inclusive Social Work Can Improve Delivery of Family Violence Victim Services” for the 7th International [Veterinary Social Work Summit](#).

Oct. 14 – St. Paul, Minn. (online): Andrew Campbell, Ann Olson, Phil Arkow, Victor Vieth and others will present on The Link at Minnesota’s Inaugural Conference on Family Violence, organized by [Safe Passage for Children of Minnesota](#).

Oct. 18 – New Britain, Conn. (online): Phil Arkow will present “Connecting the Dots in Civil and Criminal Justice: Protecting People by Focusing on Animal Abuse” in a webinar for the [Animal Law Section](#) of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Oct. 21-22 – Alpharetta, Ga.: Phil Arkow and Michelle Welch will be among the speakers at the Animal Protection Society’s [23rd Annual APAW Expo](#).

Oct. 26 – Indianapolis, Ind. (online): Phil Arkow, Vicki Deisner and Andrew Campbell will present at a [training](#) for the Indiana Chapter of the NASW, sponsored by the Animal Welfare Institute.

Oct. 26 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Oct. 27 – Bowling Green, Ky.: Joye Keeley will present on The Link at the [Kentucky Bar Association](#)’s legal update training.

Nov. 2 – Louisville, Ky.: Joye Keeley will teach a class on The Link at the University of Louisville for the department of Urban and Public Affairs. <mailto:joye@kylinkcoalition.org>

Nov. 4 – Virginia Beach, Va.: Phil Arkow will present at a statewide [conference on domestic violence](#) for Virginia judges.

Nov. 10 (online): David Rosengard of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present “Courtroom Animal Advocate Programs: Approaching Animals as Quasi-Party Crime Victims” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar series.

Nov. 15 – Frankfort, Ky.: Joye Keeley will speak on The Link between domestic violence and animal abuse at the [Kentucky Court of Justice’s Administrative Office of the Courts’](#) Judicial and Clerk Symposium.

Nov. 17 -- Paducah, Ky.: Joye Keeley will present on The Link at the [Kentucky Bar Association](#)’s legal update training.

Nov. 23 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Nov. 24-25 – Quebec City, Que., Canada: The Link will be featured prominently at Humane Canada’s 2022 [Prosecution of Animal Abuse Conference](#).

Dec. 13-15 – Nashville, Tenn.: The [11th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference](#), sponsored by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in partnership with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, will feature workshops on “Coercive Control,” “Animal Sexual Violence/Crush Cases,” and “In the Shadows: Elder Abuse and Animal Abuse.”

Dec. 28 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Parents & Brother of Disabled Girl Charged with Murder, Child Abuse, Animal Torture

The parents and brother of a “medically fragile” 14-year-old girl with severe cerebral palsy disabilities have been charged with her murder, plus child abuse and animal cruelty involving the deaths of three dogs that were also living in a Gaffney, S.C. house marked by deplorable conditions. Heather Baynard’s father, David Baynard, 53, and mother, Bobbie Jo Baynard, 42 were charged with murder, child abuse and unlawful neglect of a child or helpless person; her brother, Edward Vincent Baynard, 20, a registered respite nurse and certified personal care assistant assigned to look after his sister, was also charged with murder, child abuse, neglect, and three counts of animal torture.



From left: David, Bobbie Jo and Edward Baynard

[News media reported](#) that more than 40 animals were rescued from the Baynard residence following an investigation into the girl’s death. Relatives said the girl was kept in deplorable conditions in the home which was filled with garbage, infested with roaches, and covered in animal feces and urine, including the crib in which she lived. One dog was dead, and all the other animals were said to be severely malnourished, dehydrated and infested with fleas and worms. The deaths of two dogs that had to be euthanized were attributed to the alleged neglect.

The Cherokee County sheriff and coroner said it was the worst case of neglect ever seen in the county. A spokeswoman for the Cherokee County Humane Society said “it was a pretty bad situation.”



Donovan Daniels

Man Charged with Domestic Abuse and Animal Torture

A 23-year-old man from Webster Groves, Mo. was charged with domestic abuse and animal torture. [KMOX-TV](#) reported that, according to police, Donovan Daniels struck his girlfriend in the face, knocked her to the floor and attempted to strangle her. The victim captured on video Daniels allegedly abusing their puppy, by strangling, punching and slamming the dog on the ground. The puppy has been placed in the care of St. Louis County Animal Care and Control.

Permission to Reprint

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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.



Christie Jones

Woman Seeking Revenge on Her Ex Burns the Wrong House and Steals a Dog

A woman who apparently was trying to burn down the house of her ex-boyfriend in an act of revenge set fire to the wrong house. Christie Louise Jones, 49, of Richfield, N. C. was charged with arson, assault with a deadly weapon and larceny of a canine. The [Salisbury Post](#) reported that Rowan County Sheriff’s deputies responded to an early-morning complaint that a woman was trying to set a house on fire. The homeowner tried to extinguish two fires on the porch and at a propane tank but discovered the hose had been sabotaged with a water sealant. After calling 911, the homeowner reported that the woman, who had one of his dogs on a leash, looked at him like she didn’t know who he was and used her car to push him out of her way as she fled from the scene. Deputies tracked her license plate and made the arrest. Officials said Jones’ ex-boyfriend owns property in the area but not at the address where the fire caused \$20,000 in damages.

Kentucky Police Charge Man with Child and Animal Sexual Abuses



Jeremiah James

After a girl reported to the Kentucky State Police that she had been given alcohol before being sexually abused, raped and sodomized, and that she had allegedly witnessed the abuser commit a sex crime with an animal, Jeremiah James, 19, of Olive Hill, Ky., was arrested. [James was charged](#) with rape, sodomy, sexual abuse, unlawful transaction with a minor, and sexual crimes against animals. Kentucky State Police said they have located evidence to support the victim’s statements.

Two Charged in Assault that Sent Man and Dog to Hospitals

San Diego County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Johnnie Kousol, 44, and Deon Palmer, 32, of San Marcos, Calif. on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and cruelty to animals for allegedly throwing a glass bottle at a dog and stabbing the dog’s owner multiple times. The [Sheriff’s Department](#) said that two men were walking a dog on a bike trail at 2:20 a.m. when the suspects confronted them. The suspects allegedly threw a glass bottle at the dog, injuring its face. A fight ensued between the unnamed victim and the suspects, resulting in multiple stab wounds. Both the human and animal victims were treated for non-life-threatening lacerations.



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



ABOUT THE NATIONAL LINK COALITION



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

Members of the National Link Coalition Steering Committee

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The Latham Foundation
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Former Director, Domestic Violence/Stalking Program,
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