



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

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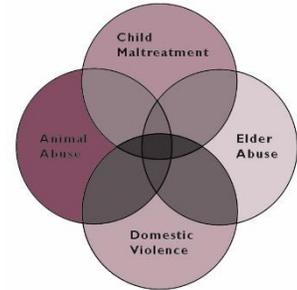
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



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Phil Arkow, Coordinator and Editor



CRIMINAL JUSTICE... and THE LINK



Virginia Bench Guide for Addressing the Link between Animal Abuse and Human Abuse

"When animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk."
—Phil Arkow, International expert on the link between animal cruelty and other crimes

THE LINK. Animal abuse is linked to domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse; human abuse may exist where animal abuse exists and vice versa. A study found that 70% of those who committed violent crimes against animals also had records for other crimes and were five times more likely to commit violent crimes against people.¹ Animal cruelty can precede, follow, or co-occur with human violence.²

ANIMAL ABUSE & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE. Multiple studies indicate that animal abuse is more prevalent in homes that experience intimate partner violence. Batterers use victims' bonds with animals to intimidate or control the victim. In one national study 85% of domestic violence shelter directors encountered women who disclosed animal abuse.³

ANIMALS USED TO CONTROL VICTIMS. Abusers may threaten to harm or kill a pet if the victim does not return home or if the victim files charges or seeks a protective order. One study found that 59% of abused women delayed leaving the home out of fear of leaving their pets behind.⁴ Abusers who also harm animals are more dangerous and use more hands-on violence; 80% of their victims fear they will be killed and often wait longer before contacting police.⁵

ANIMAL ABUSE & CHILD ABUSE. One study found that 88% of homes with physically abused children also had abuse or neglect of family pets.⁶ Another study found that 67% of children residing in family violence shelters witnessed abuse of a family pet, which can traumatize a child.⁴ Children may also be harmed when they intercede to protect the animal from the abuser.

JUVENILE ANIMAL CRUELTY AS A WARNING SIGN. Cruelty to animals is one of the earliest symptoms of conduct disorder appearing, on average, at the child's age of 6-12 years.⁷ Studies have shown that children who are cruel to animals are more than twice as likely to have suffered abuse themselves.⁸

ANIMAL ABUSE AND ELDER ABUSE. Seniors and adults with disabilities, and their pets or service animals, are vulnerable to abuse or neglect from caregivers who manipulate their bond with the animals to exert power and control or to exploit them financially. Thirty-five percent of Adult Protective Services caseworkers reported that their clients said pets were threatened, injured, killed, or denied care. Seventy-five percent noted that clients' concerns for pets' welfare affected decisions about interventions or services. Ninety-two percent saw animal neglect co-existing with clients' inability to care for themselves.⁹

1. Arkow, A. et al. (2008). "The relationship of animal abuse to violence and other forms of anti-social behavior." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14, 981.
2. Harkin, C. et al. (2010). "The relationship between family violence and animal cruelty." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 25(17), 3763-3774.
3. Arkow, P. A. (2015). "Emerging research on animal abuse as a risk factor for intimate partner violence." In K. Kendall-Tackett & S. Cicchetti (Eds.), *Intimate Partner Violence and the Family* (pp. 101-115). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Virginia Courts Produce Handy Bench Card for Judges on The Link

The Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence Issues in Virginia's Courts has published a handy two-page guide for the Commonwealth's jurists explaining the significance of how animal abuse can be Linked with domestic, child and elder abuse and how these concepts can be applicable in family law and animal cruelty cases. The [Bench Guide](#) includes summary statistics of animal abuse's Links with other forms of family violence and how juvenile animal cruelty can be a warning sign of other violence.

The Bench Guide includes factors for judges to consider when faced with potential animal abuse, including:

- Knowing the relevant sections of Virginia's Code addressing animals, animal cruelty, and protection-from-abuse orders.
- Becoming familiar with the common signs of animal neglect and resources for pets in homes experiencing domestic violence.
- Questions to ask in any family law case about the presence and welfare of animals in the home.
- Screening animal cruelty cases for possible abuse to humans in the home, and screening family violence cases for possible animal abuse.
- Pet-responsive measures when determining children's living arrangement and trauma-informed services.

The Bench Guide was created by Michelle Welch, of the Virginia Attorney General's Office; Hon. Constance Frogale, of Alexandria District Court; and Hon. H. Lee Chitwood, of Pulaski County District Court. The National Link Coalition's Phil Arkow provided technical assistance on the project.

Michigan Attorney General Cites Link in Dog Torturing Case

Noting that animal abuse is “often associated with other serious criminal activity, including domestic violence and abuse,” Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel issued a statement following the charging of a man accused of filming himself torturing his ex-girlfriend’s Yorkshire terrier as part of an alleged campaign of abuse and harassment against the woman. Julius Holley, 55, of Detroit was charged with multiple counts including killing/torturing animals and home invasion which carry potential prison sentences of 10 and 15 years, respectively. The Detroit [Free Press](#) reported that Holley allegedly abducted “Lil Baby,” stole other things, and then sent his ex photos and videos of him beating the little dog with a fireplace poker. The dog was later rescued by the Michigan Humane Society where it is recovering. Michigan court records show Holley pleaded guilty to domestic violence in 2012. In 1992, he was sentenced to prison after being convicted of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.



Atty. Gen. Dana Nessel

Nessel added, “Law enforcement and Michigan Humane know that victims of domestic violence are often reluctant to leave a dangerous situation for fear of having to leave their pets behind.” In October, the Attorney General announced a partnership with Michigan Humane to investigate and prosecute cases of animal abuse, including a crackdown on dog fighting rings. The pro-animal welfare position apparently helped Nessel, a Democrat, convincingly win re-election in November.

ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE... and THE LINK

First Study of Animal Sexual Abuse of Chickens Published

What is believed to be the first research addressing the species-specific issue of sexual abuse of chickens describes the findings from a British farm where local police discovered 12 dead chickens in a barn and a human male suspect was observed on closed-circuit television having entered the barn during the previous night and exiting sometime later. The carcasses of the deceased chickens were retained for post-mortem examination, which revealed that the cloacal injuries occurred from unnatural causes and before the birds died as a shock response secondary to the trauma and inflammation.



The question concerning whether a sex offence had been committed was answered after the police received the report from their forensic laboratory, confirming the presence of human DNA matching a known sex offender who was subsequently arrested, pled guilty and was given a 30-month custodial sentence.

The authors noted that in a veterinary context, these are significant incidents of animal suffering. There is also a demonstrable Link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence, including child and intimate partner violence. Additionally, the sexual abuse of animals and the practice of bestiality are associated with other forms of interpersonal sexual abuse, they added. “Awareness of ASA is important for veterinary clinicians and pathologists presented with cases in which there is traumatic injury to the anogenital region. The importance pertains to both the animal welfare aspects and the wider societal implications of abusers of animals being potential abusers of children, intimate partners and other victims,” they concluded.

-- Blundell, R.J., & Richards-Rios, P. (2022). The forensic pathology of the sexual abuse of a group of chickens. *Journal of Comparative Pathology*, 199, 75-80.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... and THE LINK



RedRover Grants to Shelters Top \$3,000,000

The RedRover funding program to help domestic violence shelters build facilities to house pets reached another milestone in November with the announcement that more than \$3 million has been awarded since the program's inception in 2012. The grants enable domestic violence shelters to create on- and off-site space to house survivors' pets. Five of the grants are RedRover/[Purina Purple Leash Project](#) grants, an extension of RedRover's [Safe Housing grants](#), funded by Purina.

Since 2019, Purina has partnered with RedRover to increase awareness of how animal abuse is a barrier to domestic violence survivors escaping and to help change the landscape of domestic violence services for survivors with pets.

In its current grant cycle, RedRover awarded \$421,675 to nine domestic violence shelters nationwide, five of which can welcome pets for the first time:

Purple Leash Project Grantees (funded by Purina):

- Doorways, Arlington County, Va. – \$60,000
- YWCA Missoula, Missoula County, Mont. – \$20,000
- YWCA NorthEastern New York, Schenectady County, N.Y. – \$60,000
- Battered Women's Shelter, Summit County, Ohio – \$60,000
- Newhouse, Jackson County, Mo. – \$58,275

Safe Housing Grantees:

- Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA), Peoria County, Ill. – \$53,400
- S.H.A.R.E. House, Inc., Douglas County, Ga. – \$30,000
- Haven, Gallatin County, Mont. – \$60,000
- Safe Voices, Franklin County, Maine – \$20,000

Safe Housing grants are available up to \$60,000 and can be used to build or renovate spaces dedicated to housing survivors' pets, to create a foster program, to pay for temporary boarding, or for a combination of services such as routine or emergency veterinary care or pet deposits. Grant application deadlines are March 1, June 1 and September 1.



Nina Leigh Krueger

"Providing Purple Leash Project grants to shelters is key to reaching our goal of helping to ensure that at least 25% of DV shelters are pet-friendly by the end of 2025. And we are well on our way," said Nina Leigh Krueger, CEO and president of Purina.



Nicole Forsyth

"Pets are family and a source of great comfort at a time of crisis. Providing funding so shelters can build pet-friendly spaces allows survivors and their beloved pets a safe space to escape together and begin their healing process," said RedRover president and CEO Nicole Forsyth.

“There’s More to the Story”: Report Calls for Greater Link Awareness and Training



Education Centre
AGAINST VIOLENCE

A Roundtable convened by a major health education center in Australia acknowledged international awareness that “there’s more to the story” when animal abuse occurs, encapsulating a collective feeling that there is an important relationship between the abuse of animals and humans that has been widely neglected in Australian domestic and family violence (DFV) policy and practice.



Health

The New South Wales Health Education Center Against Violence Roundtable, which convened 61 multi-disciplinary experts in 2018, identified the intersection between animal abuse and DFV as a specific knowledge and practice gap in services and recommended greater interagency collaboration. “These gaps present a significant barrier to the safety and wellbeing of victim/survivors. There is an urgent need to raise awareness of this issue and to appropriately resource response and primary prevention initiatives,” they reported.

“In the context of DFV, animal abuse can be understood as a tactic of coercive control. Animal abuse is deliberately used by perpetrators to increase the compliance of victims/survivors and to minimize their capacity to resist violence and abuse. The intersection between animal abuse and DFV has been taken up by a burgeoning international movement and the dedicated advocacy of a small number of Australian-based services. However, the significance of animal abuse and DFV has not been widely recognized in Australian policies, nor in health, DFV, legal and judicial systems.”

Roundtable participants reported several key needs:

- To identify The Link between animal abuse and domestic and family violence;
- Collaborative responses, including cross-sector training and reporting and interagency memorandums of understanding;
- To re-think the animal/human relationship for successful safety-planning strategies, particularly to overcome specific barriers affecting older people, people with disabilities and LGBTQ pet owners;
- Gain additional knowledge and attention to animal abuse in the context of DFV and child protection concerns.

Specific recommendations included:

- Support organizations that drive a coordinated, collaborative, information-sharing and consistent approach nationally to address this intersection between animal abuse and DFV;
- Raise awareness of animal abuse and DFV by developing training packages to health and NGOs on identification, response, prevention, and reporting requirements regarding animal abuse in the context of DFV;
- Increase and standardize data collection on animal abuse in the context of DFV;
- Resource the animal welfare and DFV sectors to increase awareness of animal abuse in DFV and implement reporting processes to improve under-reporting of animal abuse cases;
- Build the capacity of animal welfare and DFV services to respond to animal abuse and DFV;
- Consult, develop and distribute an accessible and evidence-based tool-kit to help veterinarians respond to animal abuse and DFV with appropriate response pathways and disclosure protocols.

- Veterinary care could be covered by Victim Services payments as part of “immediacy payments” so victims can get the animals assessed as victims of domestic violence;
- Involve veterinarians and animal welfare organizations in establishing a history of cruelty by perpetrators of DFV to report a pattern of non-accidental injuries over time;
 - Amend the terminology around animals as “property” to recognize animals as sentient beings that have meaningful, caring and emotionally-bonded relationships with humans and are often regarded as family members;
 - Adopt an intersectional approach to response and the primary prevention of animal abuse and DFV.

Moo Baulch, Chief Executive Officer of Domestic Violence New South Wales, suggested, “There needs to be a police campaign to see animal abuse as part of DFV and an indicator of serious threat. Once police understand animal abuse is the same thing as DFV, people may be more willing to report animal abuse.”

The report concluded, “Animal abuse during DFV is a key indicator of sexual assault and potential lethality. Early identification and response to animal abuse is critical to the prevention of injury, disabilities, sexual assault, trauma, and deaths for both humans and animals.”

-- Funston, L., Farrugia, C., Coorey, L., Verco, J., & Campbell, J. (2020). *There’s More to the Story: Report on the NSW Health Education Centre Against Violence Roundtable on Animal Abuse and Domestic and Family Violence*. Parramatta: NSW Health Education Centre Against Violence.

Research Will Examine Healing Influence of Pets on Survivors

The [Human Animal Bond Research Institute \(HABRI\)](#) has announced funding for a new research project at Thompson Rivers University in Canada that will explore the role of companion animals within incidents of intimate partner violence, including how pets can contribute to the wellbeing of IPV survivors.



Rochelle Stevenson

“Despite a well-established link between IPV and animal abuse, little research has examined the specific impact of pets on IPV,” explained Rochelle Stevenson, lead investigator for the study. “Our research will document that pets are victims in their own right as well as important partners in the healing journey of human survivors.” Co-investigators in the study are Allison Gray (Western University) and Patti Timmons Fritz (University of Windsor).

This multi-method study will use data from a Canadian national survey to understand how the experience of animal abuse, which often co-occurs with IPV, relates to survivors’ health and wellbeing. The analysis of these data will be paired with interviews with survivors to explore how companion animals influence help-seeking and healing from violence.

“Our goal is to use these findings to encourage more domestic violence shelters and services to embrace pet-friendly measures that will allow survivors of IPV and their pets to heal together,” added Stevenson.

Anna Marie's Alliance Reviews Benefits of Co-Sheltering Pets

When [Anna Marie's Alliance](#) in St. Cloud, Minn., became one of the first domestic violence shelters to accept pets (*See the [April 2014 LINK-Letter](#)*), it received \$20,000 in grants and City Council approval to build facilities to house five dogs, five cats and small caged pets. Today, the shelter's [Pet Safe Home program](#) is continuing to successfully house survivors' pets. "We're happy to do it; it makes a big difference," said Executive Director Charles Hempeck.



Charles Hempeck

Hempeck and Pet Safe Home Coordinator Caylee Gabel told a webinar audience, organized by [Safe Passage for Children of Minnesota](#), that having the family's pets available on-site provides significant emotional support for the residents. The animals help decrease their blood pressure, stress, pain, and cholesterol levels – all of which can be exacerbated by domestic violence. For many residents, their pets may be their only family members. Knowing their pets are safe enables residents to focus on their financial and housing goals and find a job, said Hempeck.

The pets are particularly important for the children, he added. "Think about the trauma that children go through in a house where domestic violence is going on. They know there's tension and yelling. To have a pet with unconditional love that they're attached to and can talk to can help them cope."

Gabel said that from 2017-2022, over 100 animals have been housed in the stand-alone shelter, which features "cat condos" and "doggie suites" with tiled walls, lots of natural light, and pet doors that allow the dogs access to outdoor kennels and a fenced back yard. Residents are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. There's a separate sitting area where residents can play with their pets and even watch TV with them to try to recreate their normal life.



Caylee Gabel

A majority of residents strongly agree that being allowed to bring their pets was highly influential in their decision to leave. "A lot of people in the shelter have said that when he started abusing my pet that was the last straw," she said. She shared residents' comments on how important it is:

- "Being able to visit my dog whenever I want."
- "I was sleeping in my van with my dog because no shelter in my area accepted pets."
- "Knowing my pet was comfortable made it easier to focus on my well-being."

Hempeck reviewed the planning process to get city council and zoning approvals, architectural plans, and designs that maximize health and safety for all concerned. Anna Marie's Alliance is willing to share those plans with other shelters considering similar programs.

He described the process of screening residents at intake about pet issues and the procedures for caring for them. A local veterinarian provides free basic vaccinations and medical care, which most of the pets entering the shelter have never had. The Tri-County Humane Society donates pet food and supplies.



"It's a big undertaking to build a separate shelter, even with in-kind donations," said Hempeck, noting that the facility cost \$75,000. "It takes a bit of resources. Community support is essential to make that happen."

BestyBnB Announces Statistics from First Year of Operation



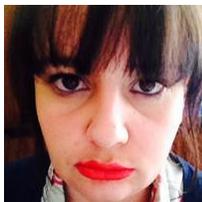
[BestyBnB](#), the Kansas City-based service that links domestic violence shelters with foster pet caregivers to facilitate survivors being able to leave abusive situations (*See the [February 2022 LINK-Letter](#)*), has released statistics from its first year of operation demonstrating rapid and dramatic growth.

Between October 2021 – October 2022, BestyBnB:

- Secured 12 agency clients consisting of eight domestic violence agencies, three mental health institutions, and one animal services organization located across Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.
- Enabled partners to provide over 495 safe nights for clients' pets.
- Met with 45 agencies reaching 18 states, 11 national agencies, and 10 state and national coalitions all working toward the same shared goal – to end the barrier pets create when seeking services.
- Provided 14 free webinars to expand experts' knowledge on the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence, the human-animal bond, and how to provide lifesaving services for pet owners, reaching 265 attendees.

“The pipeline is growing daily. Interest and momentum to build or enhance pet programs through BestyBnB comes not only from various agencies across the country but also from state coalitions to end domestic violence in hopes that ALL member agencies will soon begin offering pet advocacy programming,” the organization announced in a press release.

Call for Including Pets Under South African Domestic Violence Laws



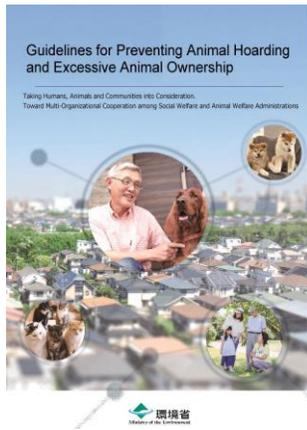
Sheena Swemmer

A second article has been published in South Africa arguing that by developing domestic violence laws to include and protect individual companion animals in the home, it might be possible to prevent violence against other victims in the home. Sheena Swemmer, whose Ph.D. thesis addressed a similar topic (*See the [November 2022 LINK-Letter](#)*), writes that protecting a companion animal from persistent violence by having properly integrated reporting systems between government departments could protect various vulnerable members of the family.

She sketches the status of intimate partner violence in South Africa and explores the current implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. Swemmer shows that an intersection of violence exists in the home between women, children and companion animal and that protecting companion animals can potentially act as a mechanism that can protect all victims from future or persisting violence. This can only arguably be achieved through the inclusion of such animals under section 1 of the Act, which includes damage of property as an act of domestic violence. Adding “animal” to the definition of “complainant” would allow someone to apply for a protection order on behalf of a companion animal, such as is done in 38 U.S. states; a similar application is allowed in South Africa for humans who are minors, psycho-socially unable to apply, unconscious, or unable to provide a required consent. She further argues that South African veterinarians should have a legal obligation for to report violence and/or neglect of companion animals.

-- Swemmer, S. (2022). *Protecting Fido, protecting the family: Developing domestic violence law to include companion animals. South African Crime Quarterly, 71, 2-75–2-86.*

ANIMAL HOARDING... and THE LINK



Japanese Study Outlines Guidelines for Prevention and Response to Animal Hoarding

The Japanese Ministry of the Environment, which has jurisdiction over animal welfare issues, has published a comprehensive guideline for addressing animal hoarding. The guideline, available in both a full Japanese edition and an [abridged English-language version](#), emphasizes the need for taking humans, animals and communities into consideration and calls for more multi-organizational cooperation among social welfare and animal welfare agencies.

“With the increase in the number of elderly people and nuclear families (and the decrease in the number of children), an increasing number of families have and consider companion animals as family members,” the Guideline notes. “However, the problem of ‘animal hoarding’ or ‘excessive animal ownership’ is having a severe impact. This problem has been hindering the efforts of local governments to reduce the numbers of abandoned animals that are euthanized.”

The Guideline describes animal hoarding as both a social welfare and animal welfare concern necessitating interdisciplinary cooperation that includes police and public health agencies. Deterioration of owners’ living conditions, of animals’ welfare and of the surrounding environment result from excessive numbers of pets and there is a resulting need to improve the animals’ care conditions, their owners’ support systems, and the surrounding living environment.

The Ministry estimated that in 2018 there were complaints about 2,149 families in 125 local governments where excessive numbers of animals were involved. Cats and dogs were overwhelmingly the animals involved and unsanitary conditions were widely cited as community problems. As in American studies, the owners were predominantly elderly women.

“It is difficult to find an ultimate solution for the problem of excessive animal ownership, and the problem often recurs,” the Guideline acknowledges. Surveys identified several “intricately intertwined” challenges confronting agencies trying to confront the problem, including:

- Owner unable to pay for administrative custody of seized animals or for spay/neuter programs.
- Owner unwilling to relinquish ownership rights to the animals.
- Difficulty communicating with the animal owner.
- Lack of administrative resources for support.
- Lack of information sharing and/or cooperation mechanisms among different organizations.

Meanwhile, the animals’ owners frequently exhibited one or more of the following characteristics:

- Residing in unsanitary conditions.
- Difficulty in being self-supporting.
- Poverty.
- History of violent or abusive behavior against neighbors or government visitors.
- Excessive attachment to the animals.
- Rejection of health, medical, and/or social welfare services.
- Dependence, either on the animals or alcohol.

The Guidelines listed numerous community actors and stakeholders beyond the public and private sectors that should cooperate in a well-functioning mechanism in animal hoarding cases. These include neighbors, veterinarians, animal welfare volunteers, mental health centers, and local social welfare councils. Practical actions to deal with the problem of excessive animal ownership are broadly divided into four parts: Prevention, Discovery, Intervention or Support after Discovery, and Prevention of Recurrence.

“Therefore, it is important to provide continued support for removing the underlying causes as well as short-term supportive care. It is recommended that we should consider this problem to be a community problem,” the study concluded, noting that in the absence of an overarching solution it is necessary to work on problems on a case-by-case basis.

-- Japan Ministry of the Environment (2021). *Guidelines for Preventing Animal Hoarding and Excessive Animal Ownership*. Tokyo: Author.

Review of Animal Hoarding Cases Calls for Interdisciplinary Approach to “Noah’s Syndrome”

A systematic review of the literature describing 26 empirical investigations into Animal Hoarding Disorder (AHD) is giving a fuller description of a psychopathological condition called Noah’s Syndrome (See the [September 2015 LINK-Letter](#)). The literature review estimates the mean values of such variables as age (55.6 years old), gender (74.9% women), households (51.8% single-person), unemployment (53.6%), number of animals per case (64.1), presence of dead animals (32.9%) and co-morbidity with object hoarding (59.5%). The authors describe the need for an integrated view of Animal Hoarding Disorder around the One Welfare concept and the need for an interdisciplinary approach to a problem that is so complex they believe it warrants a separate category as a specific disease.

The authors, based in the Department of Psychology at the Universidad de Flores in Argentina, note that animal hoarding is an under-reported problem and few studies are available in the scientific literature, particularly outside the U.S. Many cases go undetected due to the reserved nature of animal hoarders and the resources available to intervening organizations. The high rate of recidivism reported in the studies indicates that current interventions turn out to be inefficient.

They describe animal hoarding as a Link issue. Numerous studies describe not only animal welfare, behavioral and health issues for the animals, but also that because neighbors frequently report complaints about animal hoarders’ sanitation and cruelty issues the accumulation of animals can work as a detector for a wide range of hoarders’ medical, social, and economic problems as well as cases of abuse to people. Because animals, unlike objects, trigger enduring emotional bonds and are perceived as members of the family, animal hoarders tend to make considerable efforts to keep them, even if they jeopardize their own safety to avoid separation.

“The great complexity of AHD in terms of symptoms, intervention and risks justifies being considered as a psychiatric disorder separate from hoarding disorder. Furthermore, it should mobilize scientists and researchers to work on treatment strategies specifically designed for AHD,” they conclude.

-- Nadal, Z., Ferrari, M., Lora, J., Revollo, A., Nicolas, F., Astegiano, S., & Díaz Videla, M. (2022). Noah’s Syndrome: Systematic review of animal hoarding disorder. *Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin*, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1079/hai.2022.0003>

VETERINARY MEDICINE... and THE LINK

Ohio HB 33 Cross-Reporting Law Continues to Make Progress

When the State of Ohio enacted its groundbreaking legislation **HB 33** (See the [January 2021 LINK-Letter](#)) requiring veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse, it was unknown how the profession would respond to the new mandate. Response was initially positive with early results in Lorain and Lake Counties reporting an increase in referrals and the Animal Legal Defense Fund boosting the state's reputation for animal welfare from #30 to #24 (See the [April 2022 LINK-Letter](#)). The Ohio Veterinary Medical Association published an excellent manual to help practitioners recognize and report suspicious animal abuse (See the [March 2021 LINK-Letter](#)).



Now from Lucas County comes more encouraging news. Janet Hoy-Gerlach, in the **Janet Hoy-Gerlach** University of Toledo School of Social Work and Founder of OneHealth People-Animal-Wellness Services, tells *The LINK-Letter* that the Toledo Humane Society is reporting that, "Since **HB 33** passed, the collaboration with veterinarians (often needed to get evidence for cruelty cases) on cruelty and neglect cases is MUCH better."

Humane society cruelty investigators are finding that the law has significantly improved their ability to collaborate with the local veterinary community. Prior to passage, the vast majority of local veterinarians would say they were unable to share information about their clients. Since **HB 33**'s passage, they now have pictures, case notes and other evidence prepared. Veterinarians are eager to pass these along to humane investigators in hopes of being helpful to the animal and advancing the cruelty investigation process. MedVet, a local emergency clinic, now refers directly to Toledo Humane Society when an animal is untreated for severe or suspicious injuries.

Hoy-Gerlach wonders if the mandate is also decreasing the moral injury stress faced by veterinarians in Ohio. "Moral injury and compassion fatigue are ongoing issues in veterinary services. Being able (and in the case of **HB 33**, actually required) to take action when faced with cruelty and neglect may be a positive and empowering experience for veterinarians. Could be an interesting research project!" she suggested.

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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.

INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK



California Animal Control Officers Learn About The Link

[CalAnimals](#) – the California Animal Welfare Association -- has launched a new web-based, on-demand 60-hour training program for the state’s animal control officers that includes several courses addressing The Link between animal abuse and human violence. The [CalAnimals Officer Academy](#) curriculum, designed to meet state requirements for professional training, are videos conducted by state and national experts designed to ensure that all animal control officers have access to quality training and best practices and to support each officer’s eligibility to become certified. Included among the 43 classes are:

- “Connecting the Dots in Animal Care & Control and Law Enforcement,” by National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow
- “Mandated reporting of Child and Elder Abuse for ACOs and Humane Officers,” by Lt. Joseph Avalos of El Dorado County Animal Services
- “The Whats, Whys & Hows of Animal Cruelty Cases,” by forensic veterinarian Jennifer Woolf
- “Animal Cruelty Forensic Photography,” by Belinda Lewis

Other classes address animal behavior, care, capture, sheltering, vaccination, first aid, nutrition, blood sports, courtroom testimony, criminal justice procedures, officer safety and wellness, among others.



National Animal Cruelty Hotline Would Prevent Violence to Animals and People

Canadians wanting to report animal abuse, like in the U.S. – particularly in an era with widespread understanding that intervening early in animal cruelty cases can prevent future violence against humans – “are forced to navigate a reporting labyrinth when they want to get professional help for vulnerable animals.”

Kendra Coulter

That was the warning in an op-ed in Toronto’s [Globe & Mail](#) by Ontario Link researcher Kendra Coulter in recommending that Canada institute a single national animal cruelty reporting hotline which “would add bite to our bark.”

In Canada, like the U.S., front-line enforcement of animal protection laws falls under the aegis of dozens of different police, animal specialist and animal welfare nonprofits. Not only doesn’t the public know who to call, but the appropriate organization often varies depending on the location, the day of the week, the type of animal, and even the time of day.

“Cruelty to animals can be both a red flag and a window that exposes a larger web of abuse. People’s safety is another reason to take animals’ well-being seriously and to investigate suspected cruelty promptly,” Coulter wrote. She called the concept of a national animal cruelty reporting hotline “one obvious, logical and practical strategy to help protect animals and people.”

In the absence of a national hotline in the U.S., the National Link Coalition created the [National Directory of Abuse Investigation Agencies](#). Our website’s 51 Directory pages list phone numbers to call in over 6,500 counties and cities. In each state, there is generally one number to report child abuse, one or two numbers to report elder abuse or domestic violence, and as many as 600 different numbers to report suspected animal abuse or neglect.

THE LINK in the LITERATURE



ASPCA Extends Deadline for Research Grants

The ASPCA has extended its deadline for applications for four types of multi-disciplinary research grants. The grants will be awarded to universities and institutions working in such fields as criminal justice, law, public policy, public health veterinary medicine, psychology, sociology, social work, and animal behavior.

Funding is available for: Access to Veterinary Care Research, and seed grants for Applied Behavior Research, Cruelty Research, and Psychological Trauma Research. Details about eligibility, organizational standards, evaluation criteria, and timeframes are [available from the ASPCA](#).

Coroners' Reports of Suicides Fail to Mention "Pesticide"

Increased interest in "peticide" – the intersections of human and animal lives regarding human suicide -- is just beginning to be explored (*See the September 2022 LINK-Letter*). A recent study of Australian coroners' reports of suicide victims discovered an overarching theme in these reports: the *insignificance of pets* within coroners' reports of suicide. Four subthemes were identified: *pets as beloved*; *potential aggressors*; *incidental to reporting*; and *enmeshed in human domestic violence*. Despite the increasing inclusion of pets within definitions of kin, nonhuman family members are virtually invisible in Australian coroners' discourses investigating possible suicides. Even when pets were noted by informants as being extremely important in the life of the deceased, there was no evidence of this relationship being seen as part of the legitimate enquiry in terms of causation or future preventative strategies. While current data are limited, given emerging research on the role of pets in human suicidality it is possible that this human-centric bias may be overlooking potentially protective and preventive approaches to suicide. The authors conclude that the lack of including pets is certainly overlooking animal victims of these tragedies.

-- Mattock, K., Young, J., & Bould, E. (2022). Discourses and silences: Pets in publicly accessible coroners' reports of Australian suicides. *Anthrozoös*, 35(5), 633-646.



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

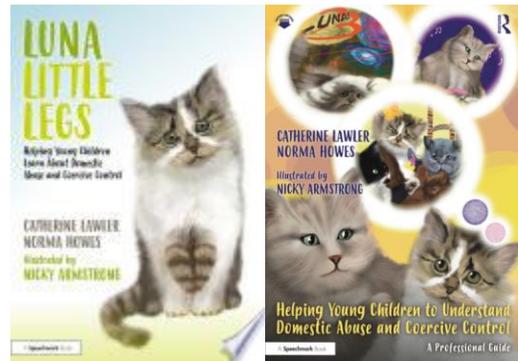
Knowledge...

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

CHILD ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... and THE LINK

Children’s Book Uses Cats as Models for Coercive Control and Domestic Violence

An unusual book to help children who have experienced the traumas of domestic violence and coercive control – with an accompanying professionals’ guide to assist professionals use the book to get children to share their experiences – takes the unique approach of using cats as representations of children in abusive homes. The feline models encourage children to share their traumatic experiences because young children are less likely to be able to articulate their own discomfort or distress.



Luna Little Legs, which is meant to be read aloud to children, is also unusual in that it has three different endings, so the book can be tailored to children’s particular life experiences. Luna is a cat who represents a child whose home environment is one of domestic abuse and coercive control. Her story portrays the typical thoughts, feelings, reactions, and behaviors of a young child who is stressed, confused and scared. The story illustrates in rhyming couplets her possible journeys with three different endings: remaining at home, going to a refuge and on to a new home, or back to the family home with Dad.

All of the book’s characters are cats. Luna’s Mum represents a parent who is a victim of domestic abuse and coercive control. The story focuses on her attempts to reassure and comfort Little Luna during the different stages of their journey. Other cats represent the abusive father, a shelter worker, and Luna’s best friends.

The introduction to the professional guide includes a section on domestic abuse and animals. “Research has documented the correlation between domestic abuse, coercive control and the abuse of animals. Our pets often form part of our family unit offering companionship and unconditional love. For children experiencing domestic abuse and coercive control, their pets can take on even more significance. Pets may offer and/or have offered children emotional support and comfort, be soothing, therapeutic and provide a focal point to the day,” the authors write.

The guide notes that it will be useful before reading the book to a child to know if they have pets and if these pets have been mistreated or been left behind. Such knowledge can help the professional to prepare for, and to think about, any triggers and how to deal with them. The reference section includes a guide to UK pet fostering services for families fleeing domestic abuse.

- Lawler, C., & Howes, N. (2022). *Luna Little Legs: Helping Young Children Learn About Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control*. Taylor & Francis.
- Lawler, C., & Howes, N. (2023). *Helping Young Children Learn About Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control: A Professional Guide*. Taylor & Francis.

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES

Although most state legislatures have adjourned for the year, growing awareness of The Link between animal abuse and human violence has already resulted in **156 bills** introduced in state legislatures and the U.S. Congress – **18 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 was signed into law on Oct. 11. A person victim of non-consensual sexual conduct or sexual penetration, including with an animal, can 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 is available only for victims lacking a family or dating relationship with the perpetrator, as they can already request a protection from abuse order.



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 Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety recommended it be approved.



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 was in the Codes Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have made 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.



New York A3724 was in the Judiciary Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have amended 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.



New York A510/S3039 were in Committee when the Assembly adjourned. They would have expanded 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.



New York A3985 and A10013 (“Bella’s Law”) were in Committee when the Assembly adjourned. They would have required the Office of Children & Family Services to investigate possible domestic violence or abuse for persons who have been accused of animal abuse.



New York A8865 was in the Social Services Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have expanded provisions in residential programs for domestic violence provisions which allow them to have service animals and therapy dogs to also include companion animals.



Oklahoma SB 1446 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have expanded the definition of “domestic abuse” to include “coercive control,” defined as 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 was tabled. It would have allowed 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 could have been used to determine the individual’s risk included a history of domestic violence or animal cruelty.



Rhode Island H7087 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have created 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 in the Senate Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned.



Rhode Island HB 7573 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have allowed 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 determining 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.



Rhode Island H7088 died when the Legislature adjourned. It would have expanded 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.



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 was signed into law on Sept. 27. The new law changes provisions regarding mandated reporters, which include animal control and humane society officers and veterinarians. Prior law had made the intentional failure to report suspected child abuse or severe neglect a misdemeanor and prosecution of that charge would have had to commence within one year. The new law allows 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 was signed by the Governor on Aug. 30.



California AB 2085 was signed into law on Sept. 29. Previous law required professionals, including animal control and humane society officers, to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Existing law defined “general neglect” as the negligent failure of a person having the care or custody of a child to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision where no physical injury to the child has occurred. The new law limits the definition of general neglect to only include circumstances where the child is at substantial risk of suffering serious physical harm or illness, and provides that general neglect does not include a parent’s economic disadvantage.





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/S.104 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 in the Assembly Agriculture & Food Security and Senate Environment & Energy Committees.



New York A474 and A3726 were in Committee when the Assembly adjourned. They would have increased 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.



New York A1353 was in the Codes Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have made 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.



New York A748 and S 4130 were in Committee when the Assembly adjourned. They would have defined 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.



New York A1816 died when the Assembly adjourned. Recognizing the adverse impact animal fighting can have on a child’s emotional development and potential for antisocial behavior, the bill would have made it a misdemeanor to knowingly cause a minor child to attend an animal fight.

 **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 “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 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 “evinced 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 Sexual Abuse



Colorado Ballot Initiative #16 was denied inclusion in the election because it addressed multiple subjects. “Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation” (PAUSE) would have amended criminal statutes to define “sexual act with an animal” as including penetration, and exempt persons dispensing care to an animal in the interest of improving that animal’s health.



District of Columbia B24-0560 would close a loophole 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 Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety recommended that it be approved.



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 “infamous crime against nature committed with mankind or with any animal” with a contemporary “sexual abuse of an animal,” punishable by up to 5 years in prison and registry as a sexual offender. Offenders can be paroled only with a psychiatric or psychological examination and risk assessment and 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 was in the Agriculture Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have made 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.



New York A8647-A/S8027-B were in the Codes Committees when the Assembly adjourned.

They would have increased 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.



Oregon Ballot Initiative 13, proposed for 2022 was withdrawn. 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.



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-A/S 3525-A were in the Judiciary Committees when the Assembly adjourned. They would have allowed 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.



Rhode Island S 2227/HB 7678 died when the Legislature adjourned. They would have authorized 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.

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, S229, A1558, and A8443 were in Committee when the Assembly adjourned. They would have required courts to order psychiatric analysis and mental health evaluation of animal abusers and persons convicted of animal fighting.



New York A524, S1257 and S1259 were in the Agriculture Committees when the Assembly adjourned. They would have prohibited 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.

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 was in the Agriculture Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have created 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.



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.

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/S.943 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. Newly-mandated 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 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 were in the Children & Families Committees when the Assembly adjourned. They would have allowed mandated reporters of child abuse to report suspected animal cruelty, with immunity from civil and criminal liability for good-faith reports.



New York A 5642 was in the Governmental Operations Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have required 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.

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”) were in the Codes Committees when the Assembly adjourned. They would have expanded aggravated animal cruelty to include harm to a pet during the commission of a felony.



New York A558 was in Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have prevented individuals convicted of serious felony offenses against animals from possessing firearms.



New York A999/S7876 were in the Codes Committees when the Assembly adjourned. They would have prohibited 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.



New York A2661/S6112 were in the Codes Committees when the Assembly adjourned. They would have defined animal fighting as a criminal act when referring to enterprise corruption.



New York A7267 was in the Local Governments Committee when the Assembly adjourned. It would have required the prosecutor in each county to appoint an assistant district attorney to oversee the prosecution of crimes against animals.



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 was tabled. It would have allowed 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 were among the factors the court could consider in determining whether to issue an ERPO.



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.



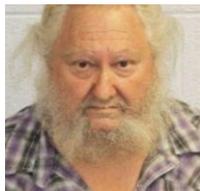
Utah HB 112 died when the legislature adjourned. It would have changed “dog” to “animal” in statutes prohibiting the training or exhibition of animals for fighting other animals, and repeal the cock fighting statute.



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.

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Man Gets 23-30 Years in Prison for Attempted Murder over Roaming Pigs



Kenneth McCall

A Tuckasegee, N. C. man who shot a family member in a dispute over free-roaming pigs was sentenced to 23-to-30 years in prison after being convicted of attempted murder. Kenneth McCall, 68, shot William McCall, 39, after William, who claimed the pigs were rooting up and damaging the family-owned campground, shot one of the pigs. In response, Kenneth shot into William’s car, hitting him twice in the torso. The relationship between the two McCalls was not clear. [Fox Carolina](#) reported that it was a miracle that William survived his wounds.

Father Gets 70 Years in Prison in Death of Son and Animal Cruelty



Mary Yoder and Alan Morgan

The father of a 4-year-old boy in Kingsford Heights, Ind., who had been charged with murder, five counts of child neglect, and animal cruelty in the death of his son for not being toilet trained was sentenced to 70 years in prison in a plea agreement. Alan Morgan, 29, and his wife Mary Yoder had been charged with beating Judah Morgan to death. Investigators found three other children, who were taken to a hospital, and a malnourished dog in a cage. Court documents said Judah would be tied up in the basement for days at a time without food. Alan Morgan took the plea deal to avoid a life sentence without the possibility of parole; charges of child neglect and animal cruelty were dropped. Laporte County sheriff’s deputies testified that surveillance camera footage from Alan’s phone captured extensive physical abuse and strangulation during the last five days of Judah’s life. [WNDU-TV](#) reported that Mary Yoder will be tried on Jan. 9.

Man Charged with Killing Girlfriend’s Kitten That Was Keeping Him Awake



Quinten Castro

Quinten Castro, 22, of Seymour, Wis., was charged with felony animal mistreatment for allegedly killing his girlfriend’s kitten, named “Muffin,” because it wouldn’t let him sleep. [WLUK-TV](#) reported that Castro told authorities that the kitten was making a lot of noise in a kennel in the closet and he supposedly “blacked out” when squeezing the kitten in anger.

Teen Charged with Killing Dog During Armed Robbery Attempt

A Florida teenager linked to a string of robberies in Hillsborough County, and who the Tampa police chief called “a cold-hearted criminal,” was charged with allegedly killing a man’s dog during an attempted robbery. [CBS-12 TV](#) reported that police said that Jayden Makell Harris, 17, came up behind a man who was walking his two dachshunds, pulled a gun, demanded money, and fired several shots striking both dogs, one of which died. Three hours later, police arrested Harris on a warrant for aggravated assault and robbery with a firearm stemming from another case; he bonded out of jail on that charge, but was subsequently re-arrested and charged with felony aggravated assault and battery, armed robbery, and aggravated animal cruelty, plus misdemeanors of being a minor in possession of a firearm, in connection with the case involving the dogs.



Jayden Harris



Robert Nolette

Boxer Accused in Brutal Beating of Girlfriend’s Beagle

A professional boxer named Robert Henri Nolette, Jr., nicknamed “TNT,” of Scituate, R.I., was charged with four counts of animal cruelty for allegedly severely injuring his girlfriend’s dog. Rhode Island SPCA investigators told [WPRI-TV](#) that the multiple injuries sustained by “Coco,” an 8-year-old beagle, which were consistent with physical abuse, burns covering half of the dog’s body and multiple rib fractures, were not the first such injuries. RISPCA officials said Coco had also been treated last August for multiple rib fractures which the couple said were caused by “falling down the stairs.” Coco was said to be recovering.



David Walther

Texas Pastor Charged with Bestiality-Themed Child Pornography

A Texas pastor who was caught with alleged bestiality-themed child pornography is facing federal charges for distribution, receipt, transportation, and possession of child pornography. [Law & Crime](#) reported that David Lloyd Walther, 56, of Georgetown, Texas, had several folders containing images of nude young boys and girls being restrained, a bestiality video involving a dog and a female toddler, and young girls being sexually abused by adult men. Walther reportedly told federal agents that he had a pornography addiction. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted on all charges, which are being prosecuted in the Western District of Texas.



Judge Diane Albert

“Pesticide” Claims New Mexico Judge, Her Husband and Pets

In another apparent case of “pesticide,” a municipal court judge in the Village of Los Ranchos, N. Mex., was reportedly killed by her husband who also shot several dogs and cats before turning the gun on himself. The [Albuquerque Journal](#) reported that Bernalillo County Sheriff’s deputies found the bodies of Judge Diane Albert, 65, her husband Eric Pinkerton, 63, and several dogs and one cat at their residence. Deputies were able to remove several ducks, chickens and other animals that were not killed in the shootings. The newspaper reported it was the third domestic incident in the Albuquerque area to turn fatal over the first 48 hours of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend when police responded to 207 domestic violence calls, a 46% increase over the same period last year.

LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Dec. 18 – Tokyo, Japan (online): Sakiko Yamazaki will present “The Association Between Animal Abuse and Child Abuse: Protecting Children and Animals Comprehensively” in a webinar for the [Animal Literacy Research Institute](#).

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

Jan. 18, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Jan. 19, 2023 (online): Kathleen Wood of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present “Bodies of Evidence: Issues Arising from Search and Seizure of Animal Bodies in Cruelty Investigations” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) Webinar Series.

Jan. 24, 2023 – Kansas City, Mo. (online): [BestyBnB](#) will host a free webinar on “Safety Planning with Survivors of Domestic Violence and Their Pets.”

Feb. 5, 2023 – Washington, D.C.: Betsy Biffel of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present on “Investigating Animal Cruelty: The Role of Law Enforcement and the Resources Available,” with an emphasis on how animal cruelty crimes often co-occur with domestic violence, child abuse and illegal gang activity,” at the [National Sheriffs’ Association Winter Conference](#).

Feb. 15, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Feb. 22, 2023 (online): David Rosengard and Jessica Chapman of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present “Towards a More Humane Society: A One-Health Approach to Addressing Criminal Cruelty for Everyone Involved” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) Webinar Series.

Feb. 25, 2023 – Orlando, Fla.: Phil Arkow will present “We’re All In This Together: Pooling Limited Shelter Resources to Help People and Animals” at the [Florida Animal Control Association](#)’s Annual Training Conference.

March 8, 2023 – Ithaca, N.Y.: Phil Arkow will speak to students in the [Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#) about practitioners’ ethical responsibilities regarding The Link.

March 15, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

April 19, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

May 9-13, 2023 – Phoenix, Ariz.: The [International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association](#) will hold its 16th Annual Conference.

May 10, 2023 – Alexandria, Va. (online): Phil Arkow will present “Connecting the Dots: Animal Abuse’s Links to Other Family Violence in Military and Civilian Families” for the National Organization for Victim Assistance’s [National Victim Assistance Academy](#).

May 17, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

June 21, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

June 22, 2023 (online): Emily Lewis of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present “Stand Up for the Animals with a Case You Can Stand Behind” to explain how to give prosecutors what they need in a program for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) Webinar Series.

July 19, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Aug. 16, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Aug. 24, 2023 (online): Linda Fielder of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present “Lessons from the Field: How One Community Transformed Its Response to Animal Cruelty through Collaboration” for the [Justice Clearinghouse](#) Webinar Series.

Sept. 20, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Oct. 18, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Nov. 15, 2023 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.



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.

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