



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

The LINK-Letter Vol. 16, No. 1 January 2023

A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER



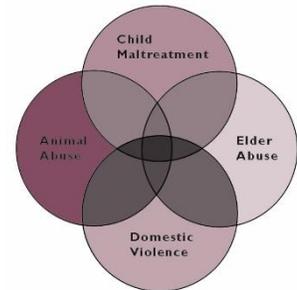
ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE



www.NationalLinkCoalition.org

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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VETERINARY MEDICINE... and THE LINK

Volunteers Wanted to Test One Health Screening Tool for Safety

The National Link Coalition is looking for a few good volunteers to pilot-test a One Health-type program to prevent and respond to violence against animals and people.

The human healthcare field recognizes that addressing the impacts of unmet Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN), such as exposure to violence, homelessness and food insecurity, can help reverse their damaging effects on health. However, screening for HRSN is not yet standard practice, due to a lack of established pathways and clinicians' perceptions of inadequate time to make community referrals.

In response, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is testing a short 10-question screening questionnaire to close the gap between clinical care and social services to reduce healthcare costs and improve health. The screening tool is used in 28 organizations covering 328 urban and rural counties in 21 states. As of June 2022, more than 1.1 million unique patients had been screened using the model.

Of direct interest to The Link, four of the 10 questions specifically address family violence. They are based on the Hurt, Insult, Threaten & Scream (HITS) instrument, developed by Kevin Sherin, M.D., which has been validated in multiple settings around the world to identify intimate partner violence. Sherin has asked the National Link Coalition to explore adapting HITS to address animal abuse as well and to incorporate its usage by veterinarians, veterinary social workers, and other staff.

Just as with clinical assessment tools, veterinarians could use the results from the HRSN Screening Tool to better inform their patients' treatment plans and make referrals to community services in a One Health approach that bridges human and veterinary medicine. A [comprehensive guidebook](#) on how to train staffs to use the Screening Tool is available. The National Link Coalition's [National Directory of Abuse Investigation Agencies](#) lists phone numbers in 6,500 cities and counties where veterinarians, veterinary social workers and staff can make a referral if abuse is suspected.

The HRSN Screening Tool, edited to include references to clients' animals, follows. If you would like more information or permission to use the form, please contact [Phil Arkow](#) at the National Link Coalition. Thank you!

Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening Questions (Edited for Veterinary Use)

Underlined answers in Questions 1-6 indicate a positive response for an associated health-related social need.

HOUSING INSTABILITY

1. What is your housing situation today?
 - I do not have housing.
 - I have housing today, but am worried about losing housing in the future.
 - I have housing.
2. Do you have problems with any of the following where you live? (Check all that apply.)
 - Bug infestation.
 - Mold.
 - Lead paint or pipes.
 - Inadequate heat.
 - Oven or stove not working.
 - No or not working smoke detectors.
 - Water leaks.
 - None of the above.

UTILITY NEEDS

3. In the past 12 months, has the electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services?
 - Yes.
 - No.
 - Already shut off.

INTERPERSONAL SAFETY (A value greater than 10 when the numerical values for answers to questions 7-10 are summed indicates a positive screen for interpersonal safety.)

7. How often does anyone, including family, physically hurt you or your animals?
 - Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Fairly often (4)
 - Frequently (5)
8. How often does anyone, including family, insult or talk down to you or your animals?
 - Never (1)
 - Rarely (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Fairly often (4)
 - Frequently (5)

FOOD INSECURITY

4. Within the past 12 months, have you worried that food for you or your animals would run out before you got money to buy more?
 - Often.
 - Sometimes.
 - Never.
5. Within the past 12 months, has the food for you or your animals just didn't last and you didn't have money to get more?
 - Often.
 - Sometimes.
 - Never.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

6. In the past 12 months, has lack of transportation kept you or your animals from medical appointments, work or other things needed for daily living?
 - Yes it has kept me and/or my animals from medical appointments or getting medications.
 - Yes, it has kept me from non-medical meetings, work, or other things that I need.
 - No.

Ukraine Study Explores Veterinary Forensics

Despite the complications of the ongoing war in Ukraine, researchers are expanding Western knowledge of veterinary forensics into that war-torn country. A new paper describes the criteria for distinguishing between forensic veterinary, forensic biological, and forensic molecular genetic examinations in order to: develop and formulate typical questions; outline the range of data that can be established during the forensic veterinary examination; and determine the nature of the special knowledge of the forensic veterinary expert, in particular animal biology, toxicology, chemistry, ballistics, and history. Such information can supplement Ukraine's Code of Criminal Procedure on the mandatory appointment of a forensic veterinary examination to determine the severity and nature of the damage caused to the health of the animal, as well as to establish the animals' cause of death. The paper includes recommendations on the appointment of a forensic veterinary examination for investigating certain types of offenses against animals and the development of methods of forensic veterinary examination to study the properties of its specific material objects in order to obtain the information contained in them in order to solve typical expert problems. Finally, the paper determines promising directions of research work in the field of forensic expert activity in general and forensic veterinary examination in particular.

-- Yatsenko, I.V. (2022). *The subject of forensic veterinary examination and its importance in the theory and practice of forensic examination. Scientific Bulletin of Uzhhorod National University, Law Series, 2(73)*. <https://doi.org/10.24144/2307-3322.2022.73.55> [Ukrainian]



Dimitrios Doukas (left) & Dimitrios Tontis

Link and Forensic Evidence Cited in Call for Greek DVMs to Report Animal Abuse

The complex issues surrounding recognition and mandatory reporting of pet cruelty in the family cause ethical dilemmas for veterinarians concerning professional confidentiality to the client, obligation to protect the human probable victims and the probability of prosecution when the law has been broken. What may be the first research paper from Greece discussing these issues cites well-established evidence of the co-existence of animal abuse cases and domestic violence to describe the key role of veterinarians in the identification and reporting of pet abuse to appropriate state authorities for animal and human welfare.

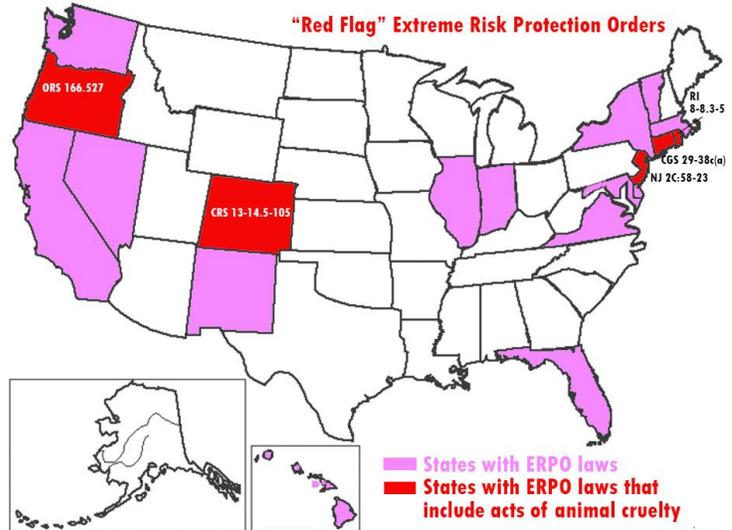
The authors cite many studies worldwide that have identified that pet dogs and cats are commonly harmed or killed by an abuser who may be a member of the family, and that the abuse of pets is an indicator that human members of a family are also at risk for interpersonal abuse. The abusers may show a variety of motivations and mental health disorders, resulting in a variety of abuse forms. The animal victims may be presented alive or dead to a veterinary clinic. The paper describes post-mortem differential diagnosis and forensic evaluation of pet dogs and cats with non-accidental injuries (NAI) caused by the physical violence according to the main type of abuse: a) blunt force trauma; b) sharp-force injuries; c) gunshot injuries; d) asphyxiation and drowning; e) thermal injuries; and f) poisoning. Ethical issues are also highlighted in this paper.

-- Doukas, D., & Tontis, D. (2022). *Non-accidental injuries in dogs and cats: Review of post-mortem forensic evaluations and the social significance of small animal practice. Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society, 73(1), 3543-3552*. <https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.23296>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... and THE LINK

Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Animal Abuse: A Tool To Prevent Domestic Violence and Mass Shootings?

Gun safety advocates, motivated by the increased number of school and mass shootings in recent years and growing awareness of acute risks of death to domestic violence victims, have promoted “red flag” laws creating Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs). 19 states currently allow ERPOs to be issued by a court, stemming from a petition by law enforcement and/or a family member, to bar a respondent from having in his or her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition. Such petitions, which may be ex parte or temporary, generally require petitioners to file an affidavit demonstrating reasonable cause, a preponderance of evidence, or facts describing an immediate risk of the respondent posing an imminent and present danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, an intimate partner, or another.



ERPO petitions present grounds for issuing such an order. Some state statutes are purposefully vague, allowing petitioners to present all relevant evidence. Other states are more specific, stating that courts may consider such evidence as: the unlawful use or brandishing of a firearm; history of alcohol or substance abuse; suicide threats; recent or previous acts or threats of violence or stalking; violation of other protection orders; mental illness; or a pattern of violent acts or threats.

At least 5 states (*See next page*) have expanded ERPOs to include an act of animal cruelty as one of these grounds; bills have been proposed in several other states and in Congress to include such an expansion. In states that do not specify animal cruelty, it is unclear whether a pattern of violent acts or threats against animals could be considered as warranting the issuing of an ERPO.



Proponents of ERPOs, such as [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), the [Alliance for Gun Responsibility](#) and the [Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#), argue that ERPOs can be highly successful in preventing intimate partner shootings, suicides, mass shootings, and other homicides. They argue that ERPOs can: create a safer opportunity for a suicidal respondent to seek treatment and additional resources to address the root causes of their crisis; allow law enforcement, worried parents, guardians, and siblings to take action through extreme risk laws to help prevent school shootings; and supplement more traditional domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders. Opponents cite the Second Amendment and the designation of some 2,000 counties as “Second Amendment Sanctuaries” in opposing laws that infringe on gun rights.

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) emphasizes that ERPO laws are likely to be more effective when their implementation is adequately funded and supported by a broad array of affected stakeholders and training of law enforcement officers. Law enforcement, health care providers, community leaders, victim advocates, and others may not only help shape the scope of a state’s legislation, but also be critical to ensuring that the community is aware of the process for petitioning for an ERPO. Under current federal law 18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(9), a person who has committed a violent act towards others is generally not prohibited from accessing guns under federal law unless they are the subject of a domestic violence restraining order or have been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act gun safety bill enacted in 2022 provides help for states to put “red flag” laws in place and closes the “boyfriend loophole” to make it more difficult for a convicted domestic violence abuser who is not married to, or have a child with, the victim to obtain firearms.

However, it is unclear whether ERPOs are successful or if enough of them have been issued to achieve the intended goals. An [Associated Press analysis](#) reported that many U.S. states barely use ERPO laws, a trend blamed on a lack of awareness of these laws and resistance by some police to enforce them even as the number of shootings and gun homicides soar.

STATES WHERE AN ACT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY IS CITED AS GROUNDS FOR ISSUING AN ERPO

CONNECTICUT

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-38c(a).

“In determining whether grounds for the application exist or whether there is probable cause to believe they exist, the judge shall consider: ... (3) recent acts of cruelty to animals...”

COLORADO

C.R.S. § 13-14.5-105. Hearings on petitions – grounds for order issuance

“(3) In determining whether grounds for an extreme risk protection order exist, the court may consider any relevant evidence, including but not limited to any of the following:
(i) Any prior arrest of the respondent for a crime listed in section section 18-9-202.” [cruelty to animals]

NEW JERSEY

N.J. Code of Criminal Justice §2C:58-23. Filing of temporary extreme risk protection order

(4f). “The county prosecutor shall produce in an expedited manner any available evidence including, but not limited to, available evidence related to the factors set forth in this section, and the court shall consider whether the respondent:
...(6) has any prior arrests, pending charges, or convictions for any offense involving cruelty to animals or any history of acts involving cruelty to animals.”

OREGON

O.R.S. §166.527. Petition for ex parte order; issuance and service of order; request for hearing

(4) “In determining whether to issue an extreme risk protection order, the court shall consider the following:
...(E) An offense involving cruelty or abuse of animals.”

RHODE ISLAND

R.I. Gen. Laws § 8-8.3-5. Hearings on petition – Grounds for issuance – Contents of order

(b) “In determining whether grounds for an extreme risk protection order exist, the court may consider any or all of the following, including, but not limited to:
...(10) The history, use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical violence by the respondent against another person, or the respondent’s history of stalking another person, or evidence of cruelty to animals by the respondent.”

The AP found that “red flag” laws were used to remove firearms from 15,049 people since 2020. Experts said that figure was not nearly enough to make a dent in gun violence, considering the millions of firearms in circulation, countless potential warning signs that law enforcement officers encounter from gun owners every day, and some 45,000 gun deaths in the U.S. annually. Enforcement of ERPOs is spotty and tends to be concentrated in a few counties, with an intense backlash in rural areas. The AP found the overwhelming number of ERPO petitions were initiated by police, presumably because families and other stakeholders are not aware that these laws exist.

BILLS THAT WOULD CONSIDER ANIMAL CRUELTY AS GROUNDS FOR ISSUING AN ERPO

Pending Legislation:
Federal: H.R. 2377, the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. (Passed the House, was in the Senate Judiciary Committee)
New Jersey: A 3841
New York: A 558

Bills That Were Introduced and Defeated:
Arizona: HB 2365
Louisiana: SB 327
Pennsylvania: HB 1903

INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE LINK

ALDF Honors Link Advocates Stephanie Kendrick & Nicoletta Caferri

Two long-time Link advocates were among a group of America’s Top Animal Defenders for 2022, a prestigious group honored annually by the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) to recognize prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers, legislators, and others who have made a significant difference for animal cruelty victims.



Stephanie Kendrick

Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement for the [Hawaiian Humane Society](#), was honored for her extensive work in 2021 to create a statewide legislative campaign that resulted in the passage of three significant laws: a ban on sexual abuse of animals; a requirement for veterinarians to report, with liability protection, suspected animal cruelty to authorities; and restrictions on dog tethering. Kendrick came to the Hawaiian Humane Society with a journalism background as an editor for the *Pacific Business News*, the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, and the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. She was recently promoted to her new position after having served for five years as the shelter’s public policy advocate where she worked closely with the National Link Coalition to secure the 2021 legislation.

Nicoletta J. Caferri is Chief of the Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit in the [Queens, N.Y. District Attorney’s Office](#). The unit is one of the first and one of the largest such units in the U.S. that conducts specialized investigations of animal cruelty, fighting and hoarding cases. An assistant district attorney since 1992, Caferri has spoken at Link trainings and has contributed to implementing New York City’s animal abuser registry. She was put in charge of the new animal cruelty unit in 2015 (See the [November 2015 LINK-Letter](#)). She has worked on more than 1,000 cases involving the full spectrum of crimes and legal issues. She is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School.



Nicoletta Caferri

CROSS-REPORTING... and THE LINK

Cross-Reporting Called Key in a “Patchwork of Patchworks”

“Animal protection is a comprehensive landscape, because animals are victims or co-victims in some cases.” That was an underlying theme of a webinar on Nov. 25 for the [Violence Link PEI](#) group in the province of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Kendra Coulter, Professor of Management and Organizational Studies at Western University’s Huron University College, offered an inspiring look at the significance of interagency collaboration, communication and cross-reporting.



Kendra Coulter

“Collaboration between social services and animal protection organizations is key,” Coulter said. “It’s a shared struggle, it’s people and animals suffering together. There are so many connections here,” she said, describing how both human and animal services investigate the most marginalized and victimized people and animals in society.

She also emphasized that because animal protection organizations are under-resourced, humane officers lacking the training, communication tools and crime data information available to law enforcement agencies often walk into dangerous situations. “Cross-reporting and recognizing the Violence Link in both theory and practice improves communication and can protect both victims and front-line workers,” she said.

Animal cruelty cases are not a “one-size-fits-all model,” she said, describing incidents as ranging across an “animal harm spectrum” from heinous cases of abuse or neglect through treatment of animals that contravenes the law to behavior that is not ideal but which may be excusable for a clear reason.



Similar to the U.S., enforcement of anti-cruelty laws in Canada is a “patchwork of patchworks,” with responsibility partitioned among a confusing range of nonprofit and law enforcement agencies. Prince Edward Island, which offers a streamlined system where only one agency, the [PEI Humane Society](#), investigates, may offer a model which could become a standard for other Canadian provinces, she suggested.

Coulter identified three elements that are key to building cross-agency collaborations and information sharing: an organized task force, the support of professional associations, and Link legislation

Enforcement is a “patchwork of patchworks” which tends to be bipartisan.

Across Canada, all citizens are mandated to report suspected child abuse, and veterinarians are mandated to report suspected animal abuse in all provinces, so the concept of mandatory reporting is not new. Animal protection officers are very aware of the Violence Link and are attentive and attuned to what else might be going on. “The question is whether human services workers are looking at what might be going on with the animals. Is there cross-reporting in Canada?” she asked. “Unfortunately, not really.”

“Folks are doing their best but we have a lot of work to do,” she concluded. “We’re making big strides but there’s still work to be done.”

CHILD MALTREATMENT... and THE LINK

Studies Examine Attachment in Children At Risk of Harming Pets

Because relatively little is known about how attachment influences children's relationships to pets or mediates positive and negative interaction outcomes, researchers conducted in-depth interviews with 27 children, including nine children at high-risk for animal harm and 18 matched controls. They used the Child Attachment Play Assessment (CAPA), a drawing task and self-report measures including the Short Attachment to Pets Scale (SAPS) and Children's Animal Harm Behaviors (CAHB). They also designed a novel measure, the Pets In Children's Attachment Stories (PICAS), to probe children's mentalizing about pets, caregiving-behaviors, comfort from pets, and parental help.

Children at high risk of animal harm were more likely to be classified as insecure. Drawings indicated secure children tended to feel closer to mothers and siblings, while pets' proximity did not vary according to attachment strategy. Although insecure children scored lower on mentalizing, caregiving behavior and parental help, both groups similarly used pets as sources of comfort. There were no differences between attachment patterns on SAPS but there were differences for CAHB scores. Although insecure attachment was an important risk factor for harming animals, secure and insecure children had similar capacity for bonding with their pets. The results have implications both for how we treat cases of childhood animal harm and for how we understand the supportive role pets can play in children's lives.

-- Wauthier, L.M., Farnfield, S., & Williams, J.M. (2022). *The role of attachment in children's relationships with pets: From pet care to animal harm. Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin*. <https://doi.org/10.1079/hai.2022.0024>.

In a related study, the researchers investigated the psychological factors influencing the likelihood of a child harming animals, specifically the roles of attachment, empathy, executive functioning, issues related to externalizing behavior, and Callous Unemotional (CU) traits, among the 27 children. A range of assessment techniques was used over three interview sessions for each child. Externalizing problems were measured using teacher reports; attachment was blind-coded using the Child Attachment Play Assessment; executive functioning was assessed using a Dimensional Change Card Sort (DCCS); and empathy was measured using self-report and picture-based tasks, the Kids Empathy Development Scale.

Children at high risk of animal harm were more likely to be insecurely attached, scored significantly higher on Strengths and Difficulties and CU traits as rated by their teachers, scored lower on cognitive empathy, and performed more poorly on the DCCS test of executive functioning. No significant differences were found between high-risk and low-risk children on self-reported empathy or emotion recognition. Insecure attachment was related to an increased score for many psychological risk factors. The exploratory study demonstrated that childhood animal harm can act as an indicator of a range of psychological issues and highlights the importance of designing appropriate interventions for this vulnerable population.

-- Wauthier, L.M., Farnfield, S., Scottish SPCA and Williams, J.M. (2022, Oct. 4) *A preliminary exploration of the psychological risk factors for childhood animal cruelty: The roles of attachment, self-regulation, and empathy. Anthrozoös*, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08927936.2022.2125197>.

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](#).

Scoping Review Finds Wide Variance in Link Co-Occurrence and Sociodemographic Influencers of Animal Abuse and Family Violence

A recently published scoping review searched the literature to determine the extent of empirical evidence that supports the co-occurrence of family violence and animal cruelty and that provides prevalence rates of the co-occurrence. The authors searched eight electronic databases for peer-reviewed articles published until September 2021 that were written in English and included the empirical study of at least one form of family violence and animal cruelty. Among 61 such articles, the majority (48) focused on co-occurring IPV and animal cruelty. 20 articles examined child maltreatment and animal cruelty. No articles examining elder abuse and animal cruelty were found. Prevalence rates of The Link ranged from less than 1% to 89%. Findings regarding the association between family violence and animal cruelty varied. Some studies found that family violence was significantly associated with animal cruelty (or vice versa), but there was also evidence that the association was not statistically significant.

The authors noted that associations between family violence and animal cruelty were not significant in most studies that adjusted for sociodemographic factors, suggesting that sociodemographic factors (e.g., exposure to multiple forms of violence, and income) may explain the co-occurrence of family violence and animal cruelty. Based on these results, the authors recommend that caution should be taken regarding assertions of The Link without further research to better understand the co-occurrence of family violence and animal cruelty and the factors and mechanisms that influence their co-occurrence.

-- Tomlinson, C.A., Murphy, J.L., Matijczak, A., Califano, A., Santos, J., & McDonald, S.E. (2022). The link between family violence and animal cruelty: A scoping review. *Social Sciences*, 11:514. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11110514>



What is The LINK?

Legislation...

Intervention...

Networking...

Knowledge...

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

LEGISLATION... and THE LINK

D.C. Bans Bestiality, Allows Pet Dispositions in Bitter Divorces

The District of Columbia is the latest jurisdiction to recognize the impact of animal sexual abuse on humans and how the acrimonious disposition of assets in divorce cases, including those stemming from domestic violence, often include pets who become collateral damage in the internal family wars.

The D.C. Council unanimously approved [B24-0560](#), an omnibus bill addressing the District's animal control and animal cruelty laws. It closes a loophole and prohibits sexual contact between a person and an animal, including the advertisement, offer of sale, or dissemination of photographs or video footage of bestiality.

The new law also modifies the pure property disposition of a pet in a divorce so that a court can assign sole or joint ownership of a pet based upon the care and best interest of the animal, similar to awarding child custody in such cases. "In contentious separations, the ownership of a family pet can be used as a tool to hurt the other party," wrote Council member Mary Cheh. Since this issue first surfaced in Alaska in 2016, California, Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire, and New York have enacted similar laws.



Mary Cheh

The measure enhances the District's ability to respond to animal-related emergencies and cases of extreme cruelty. It also: allows animal control vehicles to use lights and sirens when responding to an emergency; allows the Humane Rescue Alliance to recover costs for care and boarding of seized animals; bans implements used in dogfighting; prohibits cat declawing; and prohibits pet stores from selling live dogs, cats or turtles unless they were obtained from a shelter or rescue group.

New Mexico Plans Pet Protection Orders, Banning Bestiality

[Animal Protection New Mexico](#) plans to have two key bills introduced into the 2023 state legislature which would bring the Land of Enchantment more in line with the rest of the U.S.



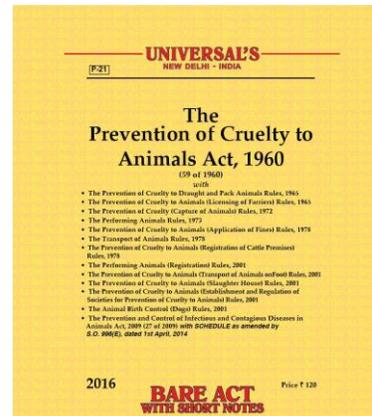
One proposal would allow courts to include pets in protection-from-abuse orders, as 38 other states already do. "Statistics show that domestic abusers often control, threaten, punish, or intimidate their victims by threatening or harming companion animals," APNM said. "And because victims understand the harm the abuser may inflict on the animals, many delay or refuse to leave abusive relationships."

The proposal, called "Misty's Law," would amend the Family Violence Protection Act to define animal abuse as abusive conduct that triggers the ability to petition for protection and specifically allow a court to award custody of animals in a protection order. "Legislation to fill these gaps is needed," APNM said.

A second proposal would make New Mexico the 49th state to finally outlaw animal sexual abuse. "Animal sexual abuse, also known as 'bestiality,' is not only cruel to animals. It is also often connected to child sexual abuse, child pornography, human sex trafficking, and other violent and exploitative crimes. Evidence that sexual abuse of animals occurs is readily available, and experts report it happens more frequently than the public is aware," said APNM. "It is far past time to make bestiality a crime in New Mexico." Currently, West Virginia is the only other state where sex with animals is still legal.

ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE... and THE LINK **India Poised to Ban Animal Sexual Abuse**

An overhaul of India's 63-year-old animal cruelty law is considering, for the first time, to include a prohibition against bestiality. A preliminary draft of a bill to add 61 amendments to India's Prevention of Cruelty Act includes provisions for a three-year jail sentence for committing "gruesome cruelty"; bestiality, which was not included in the original 1960 Act, would be included as a crime under this new provision. Penalties for offenders would also be dramatically increased from the current 10-to-50 rupees to a range of 50,000-75,000 rupees. Parliament is expected to consider the bill this Spring, according to the [Indian Express](#).



Animal sexual abuse is increasingly being recognized in the West as Linked with child sexual abuse and other deviant sexual behaviors.

ANIMAL HOARDING... and THE LINK **Animal Hoarding Cases Linked with Urban Areas and Presence of Animal Protection Programs**

A new study of animal and object hoarding disorder cases mapped reports of animal hoarding with the presence of animal protection programs and seven socioeconomic indicators in the metropolitan area of Brazil's ninth-largest city. Very high levels of hoarding cases were associated with a higher Human Development Index, population, density, and income, particularly in more urbanized areas. Low levels of hoarding cases were related to communities with less dense populations, higher Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), inequality, illiteracy, and rural areas – communities largely lacking in viable animal protection programs. Better identification of hoarding cases and animal protection programs have shown an association with better socioeconomic indicators and higher population, density, and urban area. The authors suggest that more research is needed as to whether municipalities with better human socioeconomic indicators may stimulate more societal demand for identification of cases of individuals with hoarding disorder and animal programs. Regardless, animal health and welfare were found to be associated with improving human quality of life in Curitiba, a major Brazilian metropolitan area.

-- Rolim de Moura, R., Farinhas, J.H., Chiba de Castro, W.A., Ribeiro da Cunha, G., & de Oliveira Pegoraro, M.M., et al. (2022). Association of hoarding case identification and animal protection programs to socio-economic indicators in a major metropolitan area of Brazil. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 9:872777. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2022.872777

THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES **LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD -- 2022**

The Link movement continued to make amazing legislative progress in 2022; 19 laws were passed among 148 bills and ballot initiatives that were introduced in 36 states and the District of Columbia, addressing animal abuse's Links with human violence. Even more significant, eight key federal bills were introduced in Congress; we hope they will be re-introduced in the 118th Congress for 2023-2024. State Legislation Enacted in 2022:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



Colorado HB 22-1041 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.



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



Indiana HB 1137 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.



Kentucky HB 319 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 protective possession of a shared domestic animal to the petitioner.



Utah HB 175 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.



Colorado SB 22-183 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.”



Maine LD 1696 expands Maine’s statutes allowing courts to direct the care, control and custody of pets in protection-from-abuse orders to further prohibit defendants from possessing dangerous weapons if the defendant’s abuse includes killing or threatening to kill any household animal. It is based upon recognizing 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.



Iowa HF 825 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.



District of Columbia B24-0560 modifies the pure property disposition of a pet in a divorce so that the court can assign sole or joint ownership of a pet based upon the care and best interest of the animal.



Washington HB 1901 adds “coercive control,” including harm to someone’s pets, including by physical violence, to the definition of domestic violence. It took effect July 1.

Cross-Reporting



Louisiana HB 842 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.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



Pennsylvania SB 814 makes it a crime to kill or seriously injure a police animal while evading arrest or attempting to escape detention. 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.

Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment



California AB 2274 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.



California AB 2085. Previous law required professionals, including animal control and humane society officers, to report suspected “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.



Arizona HB 2324 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.

Animal Sexual Abuse



Florida SB 692 and SB 1798 amend the definition of “sexual bestiality” to replace “vagina” with “female genitals” when describing illegal “sexual bestiality” with an animal, and incorporate other provisions addressing animal sexual abuse.



Idaho SB 1325 replaces the archaic law against “the infamous crime against nature committed with mankind or with any animal” with a more contemporary “sexual abuse of an animal,” punishable by up to 5 years in prison and registry as a sexual offender. No offenders can be paroled without a psychiatric or psychological examination and risk assessment or operate a child day care facility.



Louisiana HB 142 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.”



Virginia SB 249 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.



District of Columbia B24-0560 closed a loophole and prohibits sexual contact between a person and an animal, including the advertisement, offer of sale, or dissemination of photographs or video footage of bestiality.

State Legislature Bills Carried Over and Still Pending in 2023:

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



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.



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.

Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment



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.

Animal Hoarding



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.

Psychological Evaluation of Offenders



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.

Cross-Reporting



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.

Court-Appointed Advocates for Animals



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.

Animal Abuse and Other Crimes



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.

Federal Legislation Introduced in 2022

Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders



U.S. H.R. 2377, the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2022, would have allowed 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. The bill passed the House and was in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



U.S. H.R. 8074, the PUPP Act (“Providing for Unhoused People with Pets”), would have authorized HUD to award grants to modify and upgrade interim and permanent housing for unhoused individuals with pets, including domestic violence survivors. Grants could be used to acquire, renovate, rehabilitate, re-purpose, retrofit, or construct 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 residents. Animal shelters could partner with eligible entities to provide interim or permanent housing. The bill was in the House Committee on Financial Services.

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 were 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 was in the House Judiciary Committee’s subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law.

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. H.R. 4159 was in the House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet; S.2121 was in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Permission to Reprint

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For Additional Information

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

THE LINK... IN THE NEWS

Burglar Gets Probation After Vicious Attack on School's Pet Tortoise

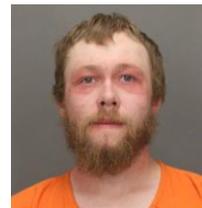
A man with a history of burglary who broke into an East San Jose, Calif. preschool several times where he attacked a pet tortoise was sentenced to two years of probation and mandatory mental health and substance abuse treatment. George Robles, 42, had pled no-contest to felony charges of animal abuse, commercial burglary and vandalism in conjunction with the 2021 break-in. The school's decades-old African sulcata tortoise, named "Michelangelo," survived after being impaled through the shell with several shards from a wooden garden gate post, and attacked with a rake handle and shattered glass from a broken flood lamp. Security footage had shown Robles breaking into the school three days earlier through an unlocked door and stealing about \$1,800 worth of computers, iPads and other electronics. Robles was also banned from having any animals for 10 years, according to the [San Jose Mercury News](#).



George Robles

N.J. Man Charged with Murder in Argument over Neighbor's Dog

Zachary A. Lahneman, 26, of Turnersville, N.J., was charged with first-degree murder and weapons offenses after police said he shot and killed another man following an argument over a dog. Witnesses said Lahneman and the victim, Victor Marrero, 39, were arguing over Marrero's dog in an apartment complex parking lot when two shots were fired, according to the [Cherry Hill Courier Post](#).



Zachary Lahneman

Floridian Accused of Having Sex with Labradoodle and Toppling Nativity Scene



Chad Mason

A Clearwater, Fla. man was charged with multiple counts, including lewd exhibition and criminal mischief at a place of worship, for allegedly having sex with a dog in front of horrified spectators and then toppling a church's Christmas nativity scene. [Clearwater police](#) said that Chad Mason, 36, was walking a friend's labradoodle when he began fornicating with the dog in full view of several spectators, including a child. When someone confronted him he reportedly ran to the nearby Northwood Presbyterian Church where he topped the nativity scene, smashed several potted plants, destroyed a mailbox, and tried to steal a car to make his getaway.

Canadian Man Charged with Child Pornography, Sexual Assault and Bestiality

After an interagency human trafficking task force in Ontario asked additional victims to come forward during a child pornography investigation, Michael Mark Haaima, of Kingston, Ont., is now facing 95 counts amid accusations of luring women and girls through social media platforms for sexual exploitation. Among the charges involving 23 victims are multiple counts of sexual assault, child pornography, and bestiality. [Police said](#) Project Shamrock was an important step in reducing victimization, preventing predatory crimes and protecting the most vulnerable in the community.

Women Charged with Child Endangerment in Hoarding Case



Aimee Lonczak, left, & Michele Nycz

Two New Jersey women were arrested and charged with animal cruelty and child endangerment after police responding to an anonymous complaint found dogs, cats, and a 16-year-old child living in "horrible and inhumane conditions" in a home filled with animal waste. Aimee Lonczak, 49, and Michele Nycz, 58, of Brick Township, are the President and Secretary, respectively, of a nonprofit animal rescue group called Crazy Rescue Ladies which appears to be functioning more as a puppy mill. A police department [press release](#) said officers and emergency crews found 135 dogs, two of which were dead, and 45 cats, many confined to crates that were stacked on top of each other. The residence was subsequently condemned.

Canadian Couple Charged with Child and Animal Sexual Abuse

A couple from Fort McMurray, Alta., Canada are scheduled to be tried beginning Jan. 16 of charges of sexually assaulting an infant, bestiality, and possessing and distributing child pornography. [Fort McMurray Today](#) reported that Marlena Bennett and Andrew Wall were arrested following an investigation from the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team's Internet Child Exploitation unit. Authorities allege they found images of child pornography that had been uploaded to a social media site; in searching their electronic devices, police said they found recordings of an infant and a dog being sexually assaulted.



Marlena Bennett and Andrew Wall

Floridian Accused of Burglary, Theft, and Killing Puppy with a Machete

Alexander Hernandez-Delgado, Jr., 25, of Dover, Fla., was arrested by Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies and charged with aggravated animal cruelty, theft and armed burglary for allegedly breaking into a resident's home and killing a puppy with a machete. Deputies responding to a report of a robbery met the victim who said he saw a man walking away from the house wearing one of their hats, eating food and throwing items around the property. The puppy was reportedly stabbed with a machete that was left in the crate with the pup. The suspect was located shortly afterwards at a Dollar General store across the street. "I have zero tolerance for abuse of any kind," said Sheriff Chad Chronister in a news release. "Unfortunately, this is not the first case of animal cruelty we've seen recently. I can't stress enough how important it is to me that these suspects face charges. This suspect has a history of violent behavior in the area, and it is vital that he's held accountable so he can't continue to harm any innocent person or animal."



Hernandez-Delgado

10-Year-Old Boy with Animal Abuse and Arson History Accused of Murdering Mother for Not Buying Him a VR Headset

A 10-year-old boy with a history of abusing a puppy and setting a fire is being charged with homicide as an adult in the shooting death of his mother who would not buy him a virtual reality headset. The [Milwaukee, Wis. Journal Sentinel](#) reported that prosecutors said the unnamed boy admitted intentionally pointing the gun at his mother, and logged into his mother's Amazon account and ordered an Oculus Virtual Reality headset the morning after she died. The boy's family said he was intelligent and manipulative with a history of unsettling behavior and rage issues; no family member would agree to babysit him. At the age of 4, he swung a puppy by the tail until it howled in pain. Six months ago he filled a balloon with a flammable liquid and set it on fire in the family's home, causing an explosion that burned furniture and the carpet. That same morning the boy physically attacked his 7-year-old cousin. The boy apparently got the gun from a locked box in his mother's bedroom.

Interstate Manhunt Captures Suspect in Deaths of Elderly Couple and Their Dog



Christopher Keeley

Police in Miami Beach, Fla. arrested a man who had been the subject of a dayslong manhunt following the brutal murders of a 70-year-old Marshfield, Mass. couple and their dog. The [Plymouth County, Mass. District Attorney's Office](#) said Christopher Keeley, 27, had been arrested in Florida after allegedly attacking another man with a hammer; he had dyed his hair red in an effort to evade authorities. Keeley was being sought as a suspect in the deaths of Carl and Vicki Mattson, both 70, who were bludgeoned and stabbed in their home. Police conducting a well-being check also found a dead dog inside the house. Keeley reportedly knew the couple, has a criminal record in Massachusetts and was charged in connection with an attack on a 21-year-old man with autism.

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.

Jan. 11 – Pittsfield, Mass. (online): HAVEN – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network – will hold a [Zoom meeting](#).

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

Jan. 19 -- (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 – Kansas City, Mo. (online): [BestyBnB](#) will host a free webinar on “Safety Planning with Survivors of Domestic Violence and Their Pets.”

Feb. 5 – 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](#).

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

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

Feb. 22 -- (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 – 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 15 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

April 4 – (online): Phil Arkow will present “Connecting the Dots in Civil and Criminal Justice: Protecting People by Focusing on Animal Abuse” in a [Justice Clearinghouse webinar](#).

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

April 20-21 – Minneapolis, Minn.: Phil Arkow will present “Learn What the Monster Likes – and Feed It! Addressing the ‘Dark Side’ of the Human-Animal Bond in Humane Education” at the Association of Professional Humane Educators’ [annual conference](#).

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

May 10 – 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 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

June 1-2 – Lisbon, Portugal: The República Portuguesa [Provedor do Animal](#) will conduct a two-day conference on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence.

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

June 22 (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 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

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

Aug. 24 (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 – (online): Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Oct. 3 – (online): Kathleen Wood and Katherine Youssouf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present “The Importance of Pre-Sentence Evaluation in Animal Cruelty Cases” in a [Justice Clearinghouse](#) webinar.

Oct. 4 – Ft. Worth, Texas: Phil Arkow will present “Child Abuse Prevention and the Animal Abuse/Human Violence Link” for the [Alliance for Children](#).

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

Nov. 15 – (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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The Latham Foundation
Etowah, N. Car.

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