



# NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence against people and animals*

**The LINK-Letter Vol. 16, No. 3 March 2023**

*A monthly report of news from THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER*



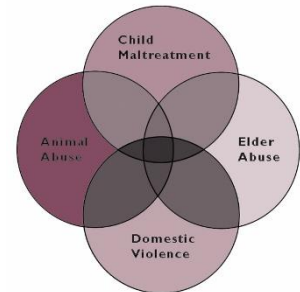
**ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE**



[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)

[Phil Arkow](#), Coordinator and Editor

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## **LAW ENFORCEMENT... and THE LINK**

### **IACP Resolution Calls for Stronger Link-based Anti-Animal Cruelty Enforcement**

The [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) has published what may be the most forceful support to date by a national law enforcement group to improve animal cruelty enforcement, based largely upon recognition of animal abuse's Links to human violence and other criminal activity. The Resolution, passed by IACP last June, also calls for stronger interagency cooperation and collaboration. This, in particular, includes efforts to integrate humane and animal control officers into the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). These officers, unless they are part of a police or sheriff's office, currently are not allowed to enter their cases' data into the national data collection system.



The Resolution, **"Support to Enhance Protection of Animal Welfare and Public Safety,"** also makes a strong case for the need for forensic evidence of animal cruelty cases and crime scenes to improve animal welfare, human safety and enhanced community engagement.

The Resolution, one of seven approved by the IACP in June, follows below. It includes 17 academic citations substantiating The Link and the significance of animal cruelty to public safety and law enforcement. Forensic veterinarian Martha Smith-Blackmore, who serves on the National Link Coalition's Steering Committee, wrote an early draft of the resolution.

Two other national law enforcement organizations – the National Sheriffs Association and the Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association – have published numerous articles about the Link and organized animal cruelty committees, but this is believed to be the first official position statement by such an organization.

IACP was instrumental in bringing early attention to the Link back in 1989 and 2000 when Randy Lockwood, who also serves on the National Link Coalition Steering Committee, wrote two Training Keys for IACP's members.

## Support to Enhance Protection of Animal Welfare and Public Safety

*Submitted by: Forensics Committee FC.06.22 (adopted June 2022)*

**WHEREAS**, animal cruelty is a crime and includes felony provisions in all 50 states, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recognizes law enforcement leaders have an obligation to enforce animal cruelty laws and work together to enhance protection for animals; and

**WHEREAS**, commission of violence to animals (abuse) and cruelty by a failure to provide adequate care (neglect) signal the risk of maltreatment of household members with heightened risk to children, elders and disabled persons; and

**WHEREAS**, forms of animal maltreatment are often accompanied by domestic violence, financial crimes, drugs, human trafficking, sexual coercion and weapons crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, the IACP recognizes the value of collecting data on criminal activity and the sharing of this information on a local, regional and national basis; and

**WHEREAS**, animal control officers unaffiliated with the public safety department and private animal welfare charities comprise approximately 50% of animal cruelty investigating agencies, and they lack Originating Agency Identification (ORI) numbers and therefore are unable to submit data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS); and

**WHEREAS**, thorough investigation of animal cruelty crimes using the full suite of forensic and investigative techniques available to law enforcement increases effective engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, responding effectively to animal cruelty crimes increases animal welfare, human safety and enhances community engagement; therefore, be it

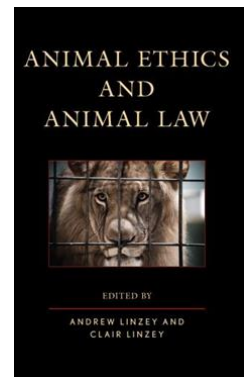
**RESOLVED**, that the IACP urges the steadfast enforcement of animal cruelty laws at the federal, state, and local levels; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that agencies should collaborate with other law enforcement entities and animal cruelty investigators in their jurisdictions, regions, and states to ensure NIBRS data related to animal cruelty incidents are recorded, and when feasible, to increase the provision of forensic resources for animal cruelty investigations; and, to advance and support the protection of animals for enhancement of human and animal wellbeing; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police recognizes that fully participating in or cooperating with animal cruelty investigations increases law enforcement departments' effectiveness for animal welfare and public safety.

## Humane Law Enforcement Changing with Greater Link Awareness

A new textbook on animal ethics and animal law, which describes the two subjects as growing disciplines, brings together a worldwide cadre of scholars who discuss pressing moral issues and how law can protect animals from cruelty and abuse. One chapter, written by Randy Lockwood, traces the history of animal cruelty investigation in American law enforcement agencies and describes how, beginning in the 1980s, “Law enforcement interest in animal cruelty began to increase significantly, in part fueled by the proliferation of research into the association between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, including domestic violence.”



Lockwood, who serves on the National Link Coalition’s Steering Committee, describes the history of the ASPCA’s law enforcement efforts, humane law enforcement through the 20th Century, and outlines emerging trends and issues in the 21st Century, including the ASPCA’s transitioning humane law enforcement to trained police agencies that have greater powers and capacity than humane societies and SPCAs. Justifications for this transition include:

- Although humane groups’ cases of responding to animal cruelty are popular with potential donors, the financial and time costs involved in often complex and lengthy legal proceedings can be a considerable drain on charities’ resources.
- Charities’ humane law enforcement teams tend to be relatively small.
- Animal cruelty offenses often co-occur with other serious crimes, often violent ones, such as dogfighting, illegal drugs and weapons, beyond the scope of training or enforcement powers of humane agents.
- Animal cruelty is also increasingly recognized as a frequent component of domestic violence and child abuse, where humane agents have limited training and authority.
- Humane officers often lack training or access to up-to-date forensic resources such as DNA and trace evidence collection that are increasingly an important part of animal cruelty investigations.

“Given the growing recognition of the significance of animal cruelty as a serious crime in and of itself and as both an indicator and predictor of other crimes, it seemed timely to push for law enforcement changes echoing those that had taken place for interpersonal violence,” he writes.

Other promising trends in humane law enforcement include:

- National law enforcement and district attorneys’ associations promoting the importance of animal abuse and neglect and the Link to human safety.
- Police and prosecutors’ agencies dedicating staff to animal crimes.
- The FBI’s inclusion of four types of animal abuse and neglect in its NIBRS data base.
- The Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team’s report identifying animal cruelty as a potential warning sign for terrorism.

Such new approaches he concludes, “can be adapted for use in many more areas, hopefully aiding in the reduction of violence and suffering of animals and the people who care about them.”

-- Lockwood, R. (2022). *Bringing animal cruelty investigation into mainstream law enforcement in the United States*. In A. Linzey & C. Linzey (Eds.). *Animal Ethics and Animal Law* (pp. 77-86). Lexington Books.

## Jersey City Cites Link in Launching Animal Cruelty Tip Line



**Mayor Steven Fulop**

Citing direct correlations between animal abuse and domestic violence, the city of Jersey City, N.J. has launched a tip line for the public to report anonymously concerns about animal abuse, neglect and abandonment to the city Police Department.

Mayor Steven Fulop, in making the announcement on Feb. 7, also noted that 38 members of the city Police Department have been certified as Municipal Humane Law Enforcement officers; 20 additional police supervisors are scheduled to start the specialized training next month. While New Jersey law requires only one Humane Law Enforcement Officer per municipality, a Dogs Trust USA grant will greatly enhance the city's enforcement capabilities and link animal cruelty law enforcement with the city's Health & Human Services Department.

"There is a close connection between protecting public health in our community and the health of our animals," said Stacey Flanagan, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services Department. "Animals that are abandoned or not properly cared for can lead to serious medical issues such as bacterial diseases, infections, poor air and environmental conditions, and the like. This not only poses a danger to the animal, but it also puts its surroundings at risk."

"Any violence on animals is deplorable, and it is important to do all we can to help these defenseless animals and stop such abuse," Fulop told the [Tap Into Jersey City](#) news medium. "This tip line will provide a safe, anonymous service for people to use under circumstances where they may not otherwise feel comfortable alerting the cops out of fear the aggressor could turn on them."

"Unfortunately, animals suffering from abuse are voiceless. That's why we are asking everyone to lend their voice by speaking up and reporting suspected animal abuse," said Jake Hudnut, Jersey City's Municipal Prosecutor. "Our trained law enforcement officials can then investigate, determine the facts, and decide if further action needs to be taken to prevent serious injury or death."

Animal cruelty crimes can be reported by calling the tip line at 201-547-4999 or emailing [animalabusetipline@jcnj.org](mailto:animalabusetipline@jcnj.org).

### *Permission to Reprint*

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

### *For Additional Information*

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

## Study Critiques NIBRS Animal Cruelty Data and The Link

A new analysis of the FBI's animal cruelty data as reported in its National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) takes a critical view of how the system may be under-reporting animal cruelty incidents and making it difficult to draw Links between animal abuse and co-occurring crimes.



Piers Beirne, left, and Michael Lynch

Outlining the history of how four types of animal cruelty came to be included in the NIBRS system beginning in 2016, Piers Beirne, of the University of Southern Maine, and Michael J. Lynch, of the University of South Florida, analyze trends in the 2016-2020 data. They identify what they call key data validity, methodological and theoretical problems in NIBRS, “especially with the FBI’s attempt to generate knowledge of the Link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence.” The paper concludes with a call for “the development of a nonspeciesist research program, both monocultural and cross-cultural, into the dynamics of the policing and surveillance of animal cruelty and animal abuse in a broad range of societies.”

They review the hurdles in obtaining accurate counts in a country with no unifying definition of animal cruelty where half of animal cruelty investigators are excluded from submitting reports. They also cite “the complex quadrangular interactions” of four factors: differing perceptions of inappropriate behavior regarding animals; a “mishmash” of differences among 50 states’ criminalization; witnesses’ willingness to report a case; and police’s willingness to accept that a crime has occurred and report it accordingly.

Consequently, the number of cases to NIBRS appear to be significantly under-reported, resulting in an incomplete picture of the incidence of animal cruelty and its potential links to other crimes, they write. In questioning data that do not reveal clear-cut Links between these crimes, they postulate that “this result may also be the outcome of the poor quality of NIBRS data and, more specifically, of the quality and validity of the animal cruelty count. Finally, it is also likely that for cultural, customary, and other reasons, different geographic locations are more or less sensitive to the discovery and reporting of animal cruelty and more or less energetic in the enforcing of animal cruelty laws.”

-- Beirne, P., & Lynch, M.J. (2023). On the geometry of speciesist policing: The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s animal cruelty data. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*. <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcsd.2631>

## CHILD MALTREATMENT... and THE LINK

### New York Bill Would Mandate Child/Animal Abuse Cross-Reporting



Deborah Glick

child or animal abuse.

A bill in the New York State Assembly would require cross-reporting between animal cruelty and child abuse investigators. Assembly member Deborah J. Glick (Manhattan) introduced New York **A 3908** would require any person charged with enforcing laws prohibiting cruelty to animals to cause a report to be made when, in the performance of his or her duties, such person has reasonable cause to believe that abuse or maltreatment of a child has also occurred; a person charged with the responsibility of filing a report of child abuse or maltreatment would also be required to file a report of suspected animal cruelty. The bill is in the Assembly Children & Families Committee. New York currently has no laws regarding reporting of either



## *VETERINARY MEDICINE, SOCIAL WORK... and THE LINK*

### **Adding Social Work to Veterinary School Curriculum Can Help Develop Professional Identity and Emotional Resilience**

The One Health model, with its underlying philosophy linking animal and human welfare, offers a unique and multidisciplinary opportunity for people, animals and the environment by adding social work teaching to the veterinary curriculum.



That's the proposition argued by Michael Dale and Polly Yeung, of the Massey University School of Social Work in New Zealand. Writing in that country's preeminent social work [Michael Dale and Polly Yeung](#) journal, they note that the Veterinary School had been identifying gaps in their curriculum for some time in relation to health and wellbeing, communication skills and conflict resolution, but they had only accessed support from student health services at the university.

Meanwhile, the school had already acknowledged the increasing attention in research literature about the Link between human and animal violence as a pivotal area that could be integrated within the Veterinary Science Professional Practice curriculum, but did not realize that social work could play a role in supporting their curriculum and knowledge building.

After communicating with the Veterinary Social Work program at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville, the veterinary school began a two-hour workshop with first-year students discussing animal abuse and family violence, a workshop which then became a regular feature of the veterinary program.

"In recent years, there has been a call for more collaboration between human and veterinary medicine to learn and practice One Health competencies, and 'links' between the abuse of children, vulnerable adults and animals have been identified as a key area for exploration," they write.

"The collaboration between social work and veterinary science was deemed to be an important first step to address the intersection through supporting veterinarian students receiving foundational training so that they can diagnose animal abuse from their veterinarian training but also learn how to deal with animal and human victims of abuse."

They describe what was included in the workshop, students' reflections on their engagement, and future needs to connect human service and animal service professionals to address the Link. The workshop consists of three parts. Part One is a lecture overview on veterinary social work, animal abuse and family violence, ethical dilemmas, and New Zealand's experiences vis-a-vis The Link. Part Two presents four case scenarios for students to work on in groups. The final part offers practical guidance for veterinarians, taken from the Veterinary Council of New Zealand's guidances on the Link.

The ethical discussion is designed to communicate the complexity of the issue from multiple stakeholders. "This was intended to unveil the conflict between the responsibilities that must be balanced by the veterinarians, as legal and professional obligations may not align with societal expectations, the needs of the clients, or evidence described as best practice mainly from a clinical perspective."

**“Veterinarians have been identified as potential frontline professionals to recognize and intervene in animal abuse and family violence but they will need to have greater access to resources and continuing education to build confidence in dealing with animal abuse and its association with family violence.”**

The workshop moves away from bioethical models of veterinary clinical use to focus on the issue of animal abuse or welfare to incorporate knowledge in veterinary ethics, the human-animal bond, professional responsibilities, and clinical reasoning by joining communication skills, group reflection and review of decision-making and its outcomes.

“Given the targeted audiences were first-year veterinary students, their preliminary views of studying veterinary medicine could be more rooted in clinical focused interventions, rather than at the level of internalization of professional values and adoption of professional behaviors,” they write.

The emphasis on social work coincides with current changing professional studies teaching in medical and veterinary education to design curriculum that supports students to develop professional identity associated with emotional

resilience and success in practice to facilitate complexity in professional decision-making.

“Veterinarians have been identified as potential frontline professionals to recognize and intervene in animal abuse and family violence but they will need to have greater access to resources and continuing education to build confidence in dealing with animal abuse and its association with family violence,” they conclude. “Social work could contribute to veterinary student training regarding interpersonal communication and the development of professional identity.”

-- Dale, M., & Yeung, P. (2021). *Animal abuse and family violence: Reflections from workshoping with veterinary students. Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work, 33(1), 99-107.*

## **ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE... and THE LINK**

### **Norwegian Literature Review Explores Causes of Animal Sexual Abuse**



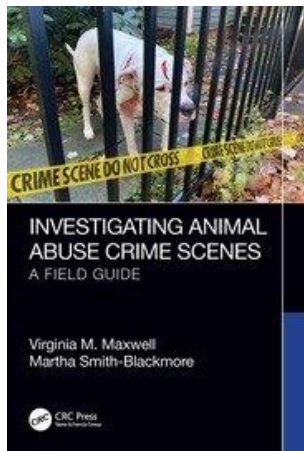
**Anja Vaskinn**

A new literature review from Norway about sexual activity between humans and animals argues that labeling these people as “crazy” or “sick” implies they meet psychiatric classifications such as zoophilia or “other paraphilic disorders involving non-consenting individuals,” which is not always the case.

Anja Vaskinn, a clinical adult psychologist at the Oslo University Hospital Center for Research and Education in Forensic Psychiatry, writes that some instances of sexual contact with animals are not the result of mental disorders, but rather may be the result of intoxication, opportunity, cognitive impairment, or a way to humiliate others. Vaskinn reviews several authors who have proposed new classifications of zoophiles and redefining bestiality as animal sexual assault. She recommends future research, in different geographical and cultural settings, should examine the many constructs underlying these behaviors, including mental health issues, social anxiety, depression, and histories of childhood sexual abuse.

-- Vaskinn, A. (2023). *Psychological characteristics of people with self-defined sexual interest in animals: A short literature review. Psykologisk Tidsskrift [Norwegian].* <https://psykologisktidsskrift.no/psychological-characteristics-of-people-with-self-defined-sexual-interest-in-animals-a-short-literature-review/>

## *VETERINARY MEDICINE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE ... and THE LINK*



### **Veterinary Forensics Field Guide to Aid Animal Crime Scene Investigations**

Recognizing that “animal abuse is well-established as a gateway crime linked to other forms of antisocial behaviors and broader criminal violence,” a forthcoming unified field guide will serve as a comprehensive reference for investigators of any background, experience, or training when confronting scenes where it is believed that animals have been criminally harmed.

**Investigating Animal Abuse Crime Scenes: A Field Guide** is designed for first responders—such as animal control officers and police officers as well as forensic scientists and other criminal justice professionals who are tasked with processing and analyzing animal crime scenes and evidence. Written by forensic veterinarian Martha Smith-Blackmore – who serves on the National Link Coalition’s steering committee – and forensic scientist Virginia Maxwell, the book will serve equally as a useful resource for those in the field and laboratory, in addition to those professionals who are further along in the investigative and judicial process.

**Investigating Animal Abuse Crime Scenes** fills the growing need for a handy, comprehensive field reference that specifically focuses on the crime scene processing, investigation, analysis of evidence, and the subsequent adjudication of animal abuse cases within the court system. The book is divided into four parts:

- Part I addresses general crime scene procedures, such as securing and releasing the scene, search and seizure issues, chain of custody, documentation, searching for evidence, and the use of enhancement technologies.
- Part II outlines recognition, collection, and preservation of different types of evidence that may be located at animal abuse scenes.
- Part III examines the role of the veterinarian and key evidence collection from the animals, living or deceased.
- Part IV presents useful checklists and templates for crime scene processing, necropsy, and report writing.

“It truly has been a passion project,” explains Smith-Blackmore. “There is a great depth of knowledge in scene investigation, and there is a ton of understanding about animal care and animal behavior, but oftentimes the investigators at an animal-involved scene have expertise in one or the other, but not both. It was my hope that we could convey to experienced investigators that animal-involved crimes can be confidently approached like any other violent crime, but they need to understand certain things about animals. Similarly, experienced animal control officers or humane investigators may need some guidance on proper crime scene investigative techniques.”

The 360-page book, with 211 illustrations, will be published in May by [Routledge’s CRC Press imprint](#). A 20% discount is available by entering code EFL01 at checkout.

– Maxwell, V.M., & Smith-Blackmore, M. (2023).  
*Investigating Animal Abuse Crime Scenes: A Field Guide*. Routledge.



## Connecticut, Iowa Bills Address DVMs' Reporting of Suspected Abuse

Two bills in the Connecticut General Assembly would close a gap whereby nothing in current law addresses whether veterinarians are allowed or mandated to report suspected animal abuse.

**Connecticut SB 53**, co-sponsored by two Senators and four Representatives, is unique among laws in 41 states in separating permissive or mandated reporting by two types of animal cruelty offenses. Veterinarians with reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is the victim of aggravated cruelty -- malicious and intentional maiming, mutilation, torturing, wounding, or killing -- would have to report the case to the Commissioner of Agriculture or an animal control officer.



Veterinarians would be permitted to report lesser animal cruelty and neglect offenses. In both situations, veterinarians could testify and be immune from civil and criminal liability and professional disciplinary action. The measure was introduced "to protect the health of animals and afford protection to veterinarians who report cases of suspected aggravated cruelty and neglect to the state." The bill is in the Senate Environment Committee. A second, and less complex bill, **Connecticut HB 5851**, would require veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to appropriate authorities, with civil immunity for reports made in good faith. That bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



Meanwhile, a bill in Iowa would close a similar gap and permit veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse. **Iowa SF 316** would grant veterinarians who operate in good faith immunity from administrative, civil or criminal liability for reporting alleged animal abuse to a peace officer or participating in the investigation and court proceedings. The veterinarian would not be subject to normal

confidentiality requirements. Knowingly making a false statement or providing false information would be a sign of bad faith and could result in disciplinary action, civil liability, and criminal charges.

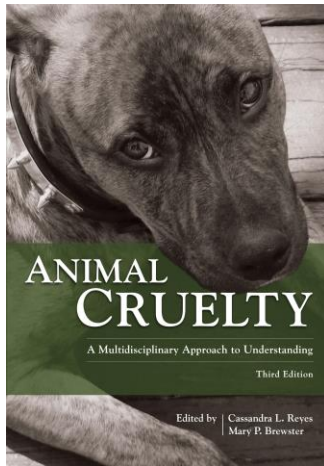
## THE LINK in the LITERATURE

### Link Curriculum Aids Veterinary Students to Protect Animal Welfare

This article describes Brazilian veterinary students' perceptions of "The Link Theory," the connections between abuse against animals, women, the elderly, and children. The study described the perception of medical students enrolled at Campus do Sertão, Federal University of Sergipe, on the subject of animal abuse and domestic violence. Among 42 students who responded to a survey, 80% of the students had never heard of the Link Theory at the beginning of the course, however 100% had by the end of the course. Most students had previously witnessed cases of animal abuse. 60% of cycle 2 students had never witnessed cases of domestic violence against women, children or the elderly, but 53% of cycle 5 students had already witnessed these types of aggression. The authors concluded that students by the end of the medical course knew the importance of the Link Theory and as future professionals they will be able to contribute to the prevention of mistreatment of domestic animals.

-- da Souza Silva, A., da Silva Pereira, E., de Amorim Oliveira, A., de Almeida Alves, T., & Souza Silva, A., et al. (2022) *Percepção de estudantes do curso de Medicina Veterinária sobre a relação dos maus-tratos aos animais e a violência doméstica* (Perception of veterinary medicine students about the relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence). [Portuguese]. *Medicina Veterinária (UFRPE)*, 16(4), 264-271. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26605/medvet-v16n4-5179>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Animal Cruelty Text Includes Much Link Information



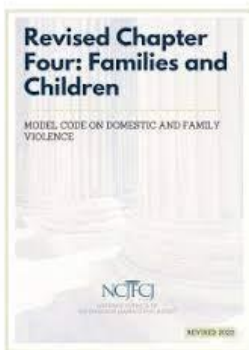
The [third edition](#) of what has become a go-to reference for addressing multidisciplinary responses to animal cruelty, abuse and neglect has been published. The latest version of ***Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding***, edited by Cassandra Reyes and Mary Brewster, Criminal Justice professors at West Chester University, contains 648 pages of new and updated chapters written by world-renowned authorities.

National Link Coalition representatives Phil Arkow, Randy Lockwood and Maya Gupta are included among the 37 U.S. and international authors. Other noted Link contributors include Arnold Arluke, David Favre, Amy Fitzgerald, Christopher Hensley, Gary Patronek, Mary Lou Randour, Christina Risley-Curtiss, Tania Signal, Suzanne Tallichet, Nik Taylor, and Rachel Touroo.

The book's comprehensive chapters include such Link topics as: animal cruelty and human violence; animal cruelty, firesetting and homicide; sociological and psychological theories of animal cruelty; animal sexual assault and human deviance; animal hoarding; definitions and legislative approaches to animal cruelty, abuse and neglect; and veterinary forensic sciences. A Teacher's Manual is also available.

-- Reyes, C.L., & Brewster, M.P. (2023). *Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Carolina Academic Press.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE... and THE LINK



#### Link Cited in NCJFCJ Revision of Domestic and Family Violence Model Code

The National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges has released its revised [Chapter Four of the Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence](#), considered the preeminent resource for judges, court professionals, and professionals working in domestic and family violence. The revision, published in 2022, includes animal abuse within the definition of domestic abuse as a coercive control device that impacts child welfare.

In the Model Code, the definition of “domestic abuse” as applied in any proceeding concerning custody, parenting time or visitation with a child, includes a lengthy list of abusive physical, health-related, coercive controlling, financial, and technological behaviors. Among the coercive controlling abuses -- patterns of conduct that have the purpose or effect of substantially restricting the other parent’s safety or autonomy through intimidation, implicit or explicit threats, or by compelling compliance – is “committing or threatening to commit cruelty or abuse to animals connected to the family.”

“Animal abuse, including killing or harming an animal or threats to do so, can have a profound impact on a child and must be addressed in child custody/parenting time decision-making under this Chapter,” notes a Commentary elucidating the coercive controlling definitions. “Research suggests a clear link

Since 1994, the Model Code has provided a framework for promoting effective responses to domestic violence by criminal, civil and family courts, encouraging consistency across the country. It consists of five chapters: general provisions (definitions), penalties and procedures, civil orders for protection, family and children, and prevention and treatment. The Family and Children chapter was the most groundbreaking and far-reaching because it elevated the safety of the victim and child above all other best-interest-of-the-child factors, and includes a rebuttable presumption against awarding sole custody, joint legal custody, or joint physical custody to a perpetrator of domestic violence.

## Link Cited in Formation of SPCA in 1872

### PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

[illegible]

magistrates. The officer might have found out his individual cases, but he was mainly indebted to the information given him by the police, notwithstanding which the cases were reported for the glorification of the Royal Society. And so it would be for any other society; it could not possibly be otherwise. The police system, therefore, was the best which could be employed for the purpose.

may lead to it. He again interposed, and said the question of a public prosecutor had to be considered, as well as the prevailing of funds.

Mr. PARKY said he was pressing them the question of the evidence. He was reminding them, though, that that was a very wide, a very large, and a very difficult question to go into. What he wanted, however, was that the evidence should be put in a state to be taken. Let them do without officers, many of whom were not worth their salt, and by little bribes to policemen get them to let them know that was going on. Hoards of cases, however, would be put in a state to be taken. Only that day two such cases had come to his own knowledge. Not long ago a Mrs. Jones who kept a cock and hens coming into B and committing depredations among the flowers—chickens and flowers, as was well known, being dealt with. The other day Mrs. Jones threw a brickbat and broke one of the lady's legs. This came to the knowledge of one of the society's ambassadors,

MR. TUKE, interrupting, said the society when they heard of it decided that the case was not one to act upon, and directed that no steps should be taken. He had also got hold of a cook and bull story.

MR. PATTY said he believed he was as near right as he could get when he took away the case from the society from this city. A man had been working a horse, which had a sore and galled shoulder. The police heard of it, told the society's officer, the case was brought before the court, and the case was then referred to the society to light through the instrumentality of the Royal Society. These were only simple illustrations of what any man who knew anything of the matter could tell them. The path was not a new one, and the society had been practicing venting cruelty to animals was found everywhere in the organization of the police and the parish constables. The society had been doing this for many years, and it was a very simple one. Instead of giving their money to the

The chairman, noting that the Gloucester officer who had been connected with the RSPCA had been withdrawn, said unless another officer were appointed Gloucester would be at a great loss in having no person who would make it his specific business to take the necessary steps for the punishment of persons guilty of cruelty to animals.

Another speaker at the meeting emphasized that “cruelty to animals was not inly injurious, morally, to themselves, but demoralizing to society.”

## *THE LINK... IN THE LEGISLATURES*

The 2023 state legislative season is in full swing and the impetus for introducing bills addressing animal abuse's Links with human violence shows no signs of letting up after 2022's record 19 laws being passed among 148 bills and ballot initiatives in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Already, 84 bills have been introduced in 2023. Please join us in following their progress and alert us of any additional bills we may have missed!

### **Bills We're Watching in 2023:**

#### *Domestic Violence/Pet Protection Orders*



**Illinois SB 44, SB 1390 and HB 1404** would amend the Domestic Violence Act clarifies provisions that require respondents to a domestic violence order of protection – which can include provisions that protect household pets – to surrender any firearms. The bills are in the Senate Subcommittee on Firearms, the Senate Executive Committee, and the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee.



**Massachusetts HD.625 and SD.675** would expand existing laws that allow courts to include animals in domestic violence protection-from-abuse orders to also include the statutes covering stalking harassment.



**Massachusetts HD.3411, HD. 1844 and SD.1975** would add “coercive control,” including committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the family member, household member, or former partner, to the definition of abuse.



**Nebraska LB 11** would allow domestic violence victims to file for protection orders that would allow courts to direct the care, custody and control of household pets and enjoin the respondent from coming into contact with, harming or killing household pets. The bill is in the Judiciary Committee.



**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 Mexico SB 18** would rename the Family Violence Protection Act to become the “Protection Against Abuse and Violence Act,” would allow courts to include animals in orders of protection, and would include “harm or threatened harm to an animal to intimidate, threaten or harass a person” within the definition of abuse. The bill passed the Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee and is heading to the Judiciary Committee.



**New Mexico SB 291** would appropriate \$350,000 to the Children, Youth & Families Department to support program work for domestic violence victims and their animals. The bill passed the Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee.



**New York A 39** would provide further protection for pets in domestic violence protection orders by authorizing the court to order a party to either relinquish a companion animal or to refrain from any contact with it. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



**New York A483** would amend the penal law to create new crimes of animal cruelty when a companion animal is intentionally injured or killed in order to intimidate, threaten or harass a family member; it would be a Class D felony, or a Class C felony if committed in the presence of a minor child. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



**New York A 1276, “Bella’s Law,”** based on the premise that “animal cruelty is a serious problem and that individuals who harm and abuse animals are statistically more likely to engage in domestic violence and child abuse,” would require animal cruelty investigators to inform the Office of Children and Family Services who must further investigate the accused individual and coordinate its findings with the referring or prosecuting agency. The investigation would determine whether the accused or investigated party has any associated family or domestic violence. CFS would not be notified if it would jeopardize an ongoing investigation or the safety of an individual, or if it is clear the accused has no family members. The bill is in the Assembly Children & Families Committee.



**Oregon SB 496A** would appropriate \$6,000,000 in one-time, General Fund moneys for grants to domestic violence and emergency shelters to provide support for residents’ pets. The bill passed the Senate Committee on Housing and Development and was referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.



**Rhode Island H 5114** would permit family courts to award custody of household pets to the plaintiff in a domestic abuse complaint, including the enforcement of a restraining order or other injunctive relief. Currently, Rhode Island allows courts to issue pet protective orders but does not mention custody.



**Rhode Island H 5705** would allow district courts to consider the well-being of a pet in seeking equitable relief relating to a determination of contested ownership of the pet. Unlike other states with similar laws addressing pets in divorce settlements, the Rhode Island court could not award joint ownership, visitation privileges or financial support, and could award ownership to an animal welfare organization if the court found that neither of the previously cohabiting parties could provide a safe and appropriate living environment for the pet. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**Tennessee SB 568 and HB 467** would allow courts in a divorce or annulment action to provide for the sole or joint ownership of any pet or companion animal owned by the parties, taking into consideration the well-being of the animal. **SB 568** passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and **HB 467** is in the House Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee.



**Texas HB 1179** would require the Attorney General and the State Bar of Texas to develop information to be provided to the public about the provisions that pets and assistance animals may be included in protective orders. Such information would have to be readily available at prosecutors’ offices to persons applying for protective orders.



**Virginia HB 713** would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for a person to engage in coercive control of a family or household member. Acts of coercive control would include committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the other party. The bill also includes coercive control in the definition of “family abuse” used for the basis of the issuance of family abuse protective orders. The bill is in the Committee for Courts of Justice.





**Washington HB 1562**, citing extreme risk of intimate partner homicide by abusers who have access to firearms, would declare individuals who have been convicted of animal cruelty in the second degree, domestic violence, coercion, stalking, or cyberstalking guilty of the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm. The bill is in the Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

### *Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment*



**Kansas SB 239** would allow child vulnerable witnesses to be accompanied by a certified critical incident response therapy K9 team during any criminal proceeding. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



**Massachusetts SD.381 and HD.2213** would give the Department of Children & Families the right to request that pre-adoptive parents or foster parents provide a behavior/temperament assessment, histories of dangerous incidents, spay/neuter status, the number of animals in the home and their housing conditions, and/or veterinary records of any animal maintained on the premises; DCF could not restrict placement of a child solely based on the presence of any particular breed of dog in the home.



**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 A483** would amend the penal law to create new crimes of animal cruelty when a companion animal is intentionally injured or killed in order to intimidate, threaten or harass a family member; it would be a Class D felony, or a Class C felony if committed in the presence of a minor child. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



**New York A 394 and A 1430** would increase the penalties for acts of aggravated animal cruelty when committed in the presence of a child. The bills are in the Assembly Agriculture and Judiciary Committees, respectively.



**New York A 444** would establish a misdemeanor crime of knowingly causing a minor to attend an animal fight. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



**New York A 3346 and S 3170, "Kyra's Law,"** would allow courts to consider a person's threats to harm or kill emotional support or comfort animals among the risk assessment criteria in determining that person's visitation and custody rights in a child abuse proceeding. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees.



**Texas HB 720 and SB 139** would allow therapy or facility dogs to accompany a child or a person with a disability during testimony in certain criminal cases.

### *Animal Sexual Abuse*



**Connecticut HB 5851** would define “bestiality” to include brutalizing animals by sexual assault with an object, coercion of others to have sex, and the creation and distribution of pornographic images of prohibited sexual contact with an animal. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



**Kansas HB 2355** would remove sodomy between consenting members of the same sex from the crime of criminal sodomy; sodomy between a person and an animal would remain a crime of criminal sodomy. The bill is in the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice.



**Maryland SB 54 and HB 131** would replace the archaic terminology of “unnatural or perverted sexual practice” with “any other sexual conduct that is a crime.” Current statutes put animal sexual abuse in the same category as homosexual behavior; it is not clear whether the change in language would have the effect of making bestiality legal. The bills are in the Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary Committees.



**New Mexico SB 215**, the Animal Sexual Abuse Act, would establish crimes of bestiality and aggravated bestiality, with felony-level penalties upon conviction. Those convicted of these crimes would be registered as sex offenders, would be banned from keeping or caring for animals, and may be ordered to submit to psychological assessment and counseling. The bill passed the Senate and was sent to the House Judiciary Committee.



**New York A 1865** would make sexual conduct with an animal that results in the animal’s injury or death a felony. Convicted offenders would be required to: relinquish and permanently forfeit custody of all animals; be barred from working or volunteering in a place with unsupervised access to animals; and reimburse animal shelters and veterinarians for costs of care and treatment. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

### *Psychological Evaluation and Therapeutic Interventions for Offenders*



**U.S. H.R. 56, the RAISE Act** (Reforming Alternatives to Incarceration and Sentencing to Establish a Better Path for Youth Act of 2023) would have the Bureau of Prisons establish a two-year pilot program, in at least 10 judicial districts, to equip incarcerated youths with the skills to provide therapy and training to animals seized by federal law enforcement and to organizations that provide shelter and other services to abandoned, rescued or otherwise vulnerable animals. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**Massachusetts SD.2295** would allow courts to order psychiatric, psychological or mental health evaluations and treatment for animal abuse offenders. Completion of counseling, anger management, humane education or other treatment programs designed to address the underlying causative factors for the violation could result in any imposed fines being suspended.



**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 and A 4540 (“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 A 433, A 1507 and S 294** (“Buster’s Law”) would require courts to order psychiatric or psychological testing to determine whether an animal cruelty offender is capable of providing humane care before issuing an order prohibiting the possession or ownership of a companion animal. The bills are in the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committees.



**New York S 299 and A 390** would require offenders convicted of aggravated cruelty to animals to undergo psychiatric evaluation and appropriate treatment for mental illness. The bills are in the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees.



**Tennessee SB 183 and HB 0398**, recognizing that “cruelty to animals by a child often leads to further criminal activity, sometimes homicidal activity by the child as he or she ages,” would require juveniles who commit aggravated animal cruelty under certain circumstances to receive mental health evaluation and treatment. The bills are in the Senate Judiciary and House Criminal Justice Committees.

### *Cross-Reporting*



**Connecticut HB 5851 and SB 53** would require veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to appropriate authorities, with civil immunity for reports made in good faith. The bill is in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.



**Connecticut SB 53** would require veterinarians who have reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is the victim of malicious and intentional maiming, mutilation, torturing, wounding, or killing to report the case to the Commissioner of Agriculture or his appointed designee. Veterinarians would be permitted to report lesser animal cruelty and neglect offenses. In both situations, veterinarians would be allowed to testify and would be immune from civil and criminal liability and professional disciplinary action. The measure, introduced “to protect the health of animals and afford protection to veterinarians who report cases of suspected aggravated cruelty and neglect to the state,” would take effect Oct. 1. The bill is in the Senate Environment Committee.



**Iowa SF 316** would grant veterinarians who operate in good faith immunity from administrative, civil or criminal liability for reporting alleged animal abuse to a peace officer or participating in the investigation and court proceedings. The veterinarian would not be subject to normal confidentiality requirements. Knowingly making a false statement or providing false information would be a sign of bad faith and subject the veterinarian to disciplinary action, civil liability, and criminal charges. The bill was approved by the Committee on State Government.



**Maryland HB 1192** would require humane officers to investigate cases of suspected animal cruelty committed by a minor and authorize them to coordinate with social services entities to conduct evaluations, monitoring and support of the minor child. Humane officers would be allowed to seize the animals if necessary to protect them. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.



**Massachusetts S.D. 2171** would require animal control officers, who are already mandated to report suspected child abuse, to complete within 180 days an evidence-based training, approved by the Office of the Child Advocate, on child abuse and sexual abuse. Current law only states that mandated reporters must complete training.



**Missouri SB 91** would require veterinarians, animal control officers and animal humane investigators to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect of children, the elderly and other vulnerable persons. **HB 300** would also include veterinarians among the mandated reporters. They would be required to receive one hour of training within the first 60 days of employment to recognize such signs of abuse or neglect. Certain mental health, educational, protective services, and law enforcement personnel would similarly be mandated to report cases of companion animal abuse or neglect to a hotline established by the Missouri Animal Control Association and receive similar training. Mandated reporters who fail to make a report would be subject to discipline by his or her professional licensing board, as well as a fine. **SB 91** is in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.



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



**New Jersey A 4936** would employees of the Division of Children Protection and Permanency who investigate child abuse and neglect and have reason to believe that an animal has been subjected to, or who witness an act of animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect, to report the suspected or witnessed act of animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect. Nothing in the bill requires an employee to report such an act. Employees who make a report, provide records or information relating to the report, or who testify in any judicial proceeding arising from the report, would be immune from liability for any actions taken in good faith. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee.



**New York A 3908** would require any person charged with enforcing laws prohibiting cruelty to animals to cause a report to be made when, in the performance of his or her duties, such person has reasonable cause to believe that abuse or maltreatment of a child has also occurred; a person charged with the responsibility of filing a report of child abuse or maltreatment would also be required to file a report of suspected animal cruelty. The bill is in the Assembly Children & Families Committee.

### ***Court-Appointed Advocates for Animals***



**Connecticut HB 6260** would expand the court advocate program to permit the court to appoint an advocate on behalf of any animal owned or kept by a person in a proceeding regarding the welfare or custody of the animal. The bill is in the Committee on Judiciary.



**Connecticut HB 5579** would amend and clarify the pioneering “Desmond’s Law” by allowing a judge to appoint an advocate in egregious animal abuse cases regardless of the animal involved. The bill was sent to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.



**Illinois HB 1169** would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow a court to appoint a licensed attorney or law student as a special advocate to represent the interests of justice regarding the health or safety of a cat or dog in the prosecution of a case involving the animal’s injury, health or safety. The bill is in the House Judiciary – Criminal 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 111 and S 1659** would create court-appointed attorney and law student advocates for animals in civil and criminal animal welfare cases, to represent the interests of the animal. The bill is in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

### *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.



**West Virginia HB 3345** would create a new crime of hoarding of animals, defined as possessing “a large number” of companion animals with inadequate food, water, shelter, protection from the weather, and veterinary care, and displaying an inability to recognize , or has a reckless disregard for, the animals’ conditions. Offenders could be fined \$500 and have their animals confiscated. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources and then the Judiciary Committee.

### *Animal Abuse and Other Crimes*



**Arizona HB 2184** would allow petitioners to file for a Severe Threat Order of Protection, which would prohibit a respondent from gaining access to firearms, if the respondent poses a credible threat of death or serious injury to self or others or cruel mistreatment of an animal. The bill is in the House Judiciary and Rules Committees.



**Arizona SB 1086** would include animal fighting and cockfighting, when committed for financial gain, within the state’s definition of racketeering.



**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 A 340** would include felony animal cruelty offenses among the crimes which would prohibit possession of a firearm. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.



**New York A 1639** would require the district attorney in each county to appoint at least one assistant district attorney to be responsible for overseeing the prosecution of animal cruelty crimes. The bill is in the Assembly Local Governments Committee.



**New York A 1844** would move the state’s anti-cruelty statutes from the Agriculture and Markets Law to the Penal Law. The bill is in the Assembly Codes Committee.





**New York S 96** would enact “Kirby & Quigley’s Law” expanding the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to a companion animal during the commission of a felony. The bill is in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.



**Oregon SB 696** would appropriate General Fund money for an animal cruelty-focused attorney in the Department of Justice’s Criminal Justice Division. Oregon already has a successful statewide animal cruelty prosecution program through the Division, but the position is grant-funded and it is unknown how long the grant funding will continue. The bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## ***THE LINK... IN THE NEWS***

### **Connecticut Man Charged in 3<sup>rd</sup> Attack on Girlfriends’ Pets and Sending Threatening Texts to Law Enforcement**

A former Fairfield, Conn. town official with a history of torturing pets belonging to his then-fiancées ([See the May 2018 LINK-Letter](#)) was charged in a third case for allegedly severely burning a cat with chemicals, and then arrested again for allegedly sending several threatening and harassing texts to local law enforcement. The [Connecticut Post](#) reported that Raymond Neuberger, 39, had been released on a \$10,000 bond after a woman made the latest allegations. In all three animal abuse cases, police said Neuberger – who had been a member of Fairfield’s Representative Town Meeting from 2013-2017 and ran for State Representative in 2016 – injured pets owned by women he was dating or planning to marry. Neuberger spent 41 days in jail and was sentenced to two years of probation in 2018 for pouring boiling water on his then-fiancée’s two Cavalier King Charles spaniels. He was arrested in October, 2002 on charges that are still outstanding for allegedly beating to death a cat named Gem during a domestic dispute and chemically burning another cat named Pearl during an earlier incident. The [CT Insider](#) reported that Neuberger was re-arrested on March 6 on charges of second-degree harassment for sending the alleged texts, the content of which was not revealed.



**Raymond Neuberger**

### **Man Convicted of Beheading Dog Convicted Again for Attempting to Violently Eliminate a Town’s Entire LGBTQ Community**

A Basin, Mont. man who spent two years in jail for shooting a Labrador retriever several times and then beheading the dog at a public campsite is facing a lifetime behind bars for hate crime and weapons charges for firing an assault rifle into the home of a lesbian to “rid the town” of its LGBTQ population. John Russell Howald, 46, was convicted by a federal jury in Billings. [U.S. District Court documents](#) showed that on March 22, 2020, Howald armed himself with three rifles and two handguns and went on a self-described mission to rid the town of Basin of its lesbian and gay community. After firing several rounds into the woman’s home, Howald was walking to another home he believed to be occupied by gays or lesbians and told a pastor passing by that he might have killed a lesbian and that he hoped he had, and that he was going to get rid of lesbians and queers in Basin. Unbeknownst to Howald, the pastor had inadvertently left on a recording device he had just used during a sermon. The 10-minute recording captured Howald’s statement and the sounds of Howard firing off several more rounds during his interaction with these individuals.



**John Russell Howald**

## Australian Man Facing 75 Counts of Child and Animal Sexual Abuse



A man from Australia's remote Northern Territory, who could not be identified due to legal restrictions, was charged with 75 counts including possessing, accessing and transmitting child abuse material and 12 charges of bestiality. The [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) reported that the man will stand trial in the Supreme Court. Under Northern Territory law, anyone charged with a sexual offence cannot be identified until they are committed to trial. Specific details of the allegations could not be made public. "It's highly likely that in a small community that everyone will know about this case, and he simply won't be able to have a fair trial in relation

[to] the matters he's pleading not guilty to," said defense lawyer Julie Franz.

## Man Gets Rare Felony Charge of Beating Puppy to Hold His Partner Captive

A man whom the Genesee County, Mich. Sheriff said has an eight-year history of being abusive toward his partner was charged with a rare felony crime of torturing a domestic animal with the intent to threaten, coerce or control a victim. [WDIV-TV](#) reported that Eric Robert Savela, 36, had a history of domestic violence with the woman dating back to 2016, including beating her when she was pregnant, tossing her personal records in the garbage with coffee grounds and putting her toothbrushes in the toilet despite having had a personal protection order against him.



Eric Savela

After that order had been issued, Savela reportedly shifted his target from the woman to their German shepherd named "Pluto," and was caught on a surveillance camera the woman had installed in the house out of fear for his aggressiveness. Officials said Savela's criminal history includes petty theft as a juvenile, and that after he bonded out on the cruelty charges he committed a nonviolent crime against the woman.

Although Michigan is not one of the 12 states where coercive control over a person by threatening or harming their animals is also defined as an act of domestic violence, Michigan Statute 750.50b(d) makes it a felony to kill or torture an animal "with the intent to cause mental suffering or distress to a person or to exert control over a person."

Sheriff Chris Swanson said he has researched the Link between cases of pet abuse and other forms of violence. "When you look at young kids who are in the household and you see other cases around the state that show animals being beaten and they're yelping and whimpering, and kids are watching this, you can't tell me there's not even a psychological connection," Swanson said.



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

## LINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**NOTE:** More and more trainings are being converted back into live rather than into virtual formats. Click on the underlined hyperlinks for more detailed information.

**Mar. 14 -- Atlanta, Ga.:** [Don't Forget the Pets](#), Red Rover and Greater Good Charities will hold a training workshop on how to create and sustain pet housing programs for survivors of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness.

**March 15 – (online):** Pennsylvania's [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will hold its regular monthly meeting, featuring Kirby Wycoff discussing a research project on multidisciplinary awareness of The Link.

**March 17 – Paris, France:** More than two dozen French and international speakers will present at a multidisciplinary Link/One Health conference, "[Une Seule Violence](#)."

**March 21 – Dallas, Texas:** Sherry Ramsey will present "Potential Indicators in Predicting Future Extreme Violence and School Shootings: From Family Violence to Animal Cruelty" at the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges' [2023 National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#).

**March 21 – Kansas City, Mo. (online):** BestyBnB will present a webinar, "[Pet Advocacy 101](#)," to help social services agencies, mental health providers, victim advocates, and domestic violence program personnel understand the human-animal bond and make their programs more pet-accessible.

**March 21-23 – (online):** My Dog Is My Home's [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Co-Sheltering Conference](#) will focus on "Changing Systems, Changing Lives: Creating a World with Equitable Access to Homes for People and Their Animals."

**March 28-29 – Dallas, Texas:** "The Link between Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence" and "The Veterinarian's Role in Animal Cruelty Cases" will be included in a two-day ASPCA [Animal Cruelty Investigations Workshop](#)

**March 28 – Pittsfield, Mass. (online):** [HAVEN](#) – the Human-Animal Violence Education Network – will hold its regular meeting.

**March 29 (Online):** Teena Stoddart will conduct a [Violence Link training](#) for Canadian law enforcement officers and other professionals.

**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](#).



### What is The LINK?

**Legislation...**

**Intervention...**

**Networking...**

**Knowledge...**

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

**April 16 – Tokyo, Japan (online):** Sakiko Yamazaki will present “The Association between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Protecting the Human-Animal Bond from Violence” in a [webinar](#) for the Animal Literacy Research Institute and the Japanese Association for the Promotion of Canine Good Citizens.

**April 17 – Santa Rosa, Calif.:** Phil Arkow will present a Link training and facilitate the formation of a [Sonoma County Link Coalition](#).

**April 17-18 – Washington, D.C.:** The National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges and the Animal Legal Defense Fund will present the [Judicial Institute](#) on the Human-Animal Bond and the LINK Between Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence: Issues in Family Law Cases.

**April 19 – (online):** Pennsylvania’s [Keystone Link Coalition](#) will host a training with the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**April 20-21 – Minneapolis, Minn.:** Lesley Winton will present “Sharing the Stories of Rescued Animals with Care-Experienced Children to Foster compassion and Help Reverse the Cycle of Abuse,” and Caroline Griffin will present “It’s Cool to be Kind” at the Association of Professional Humane Educators’ [annual conference](#).

**May 2 – Denver, Colo.:** [Don't Forget the Pets](#) , Red Rover and Greater Good Charities will hold a training workshop on how to create and sustain pet housing programs for survivors of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness.

**May 4 – Glenwood Springs, Colo.:** [Don't Forget the Pets](#) , Red Rover and Greater Good Charities will hold a training workshop on how to create and sustain pet housing programs for survivors of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness.

**May 5 – New York City, N.Y. (online):** Phil Arkow will present “How Pet-Inclusive Social Work Can Improve Delivery of Services to Vulnerable Victims” to a [graduate social work class](#) at New York University.

**May 9-13 – Phoenix, Ariz.:** The [International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association](#) will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**May 26 – Lisbon, Portugal (online):** Phil Arkow will conduct a Link webinar for Portuguese prosecutors and judges on behalf of the [Provedor do Animal](#) .

**June 2 – Lisbon, Portugal:** The República Portuguesa [Provedor do Animal](#) will conduct a conference on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence featuring Phil Arkow, Allie Phillips, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers and Mary Wakeham.

**June 15-18 – Edinburgh, Scotland:** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society for Anthrozoology ([ISAZ](#)) will include presentations on “One Welfare Phoenix Project: The Links between Animal and Human Abuse and Neglect,” by Rebecca Garcia Pinellos and Gilly Mendes Ferreira, and “Animal Crime in Context: An Examination of Community-Level Correlates of Animal Welfare Offenses and Violent Crime in Finland,” by Keri Burchfield, Fred Markowitz and Tarja Koskela.

**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. 1-2 – Franklin, Tenn.:** Michelle Welch will present “Be the Superhero for Animals: How to Testify Effectively in Animal Cruelty Cases and How to Prepare Winning Prosecution Cases” at the Animal Care & Control Association of Tennessee [Conference](#).

**Aug. 2 – New Orleans, La.:** Phil Arkow will present “Species-Spanning Polyvictimization Affecting Military and Civilian Survivors: Animal Abuse as a Red Flag for Family Violence” at the National Organization for Victim Assistance’s [49<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Event](#).

**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. 5 – Des Moines, Iowa:** Phil Arkow and Randy Lockwood will present at a Link training organized by the [Animal Rescue League of Iowa](#).

**Sept. 18-19 – Albuquerque, N. Mex.:** [Positive Links NM](#) will hold its Conference on The Link.

**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.





## 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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(ALTERNATE)

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