

Our Resources

Our Free Monthly Newsletter

The LINK-Letter reaches 5,200 readers in all 50 states and 55 countries. We've published over 2,800 news articles about animal cruelty's LINKs with domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and more.

A Resource-Rich Website

Our website offers dozens of free informational resources in 9 languages, and a bibliography of over 2,150 publications. It also features the nation's only National Directory of Abuse Investigation Agencies which tells the public who to call to report animal, child, elder, and domestic abuse in over 6,500 cities and counties.

Training Programs

We reach hundreds of professionals each year, empowering them to think holistically and collaboratively about how different forms of family violence are LINKed.

Coalition-Building Resources

We link community agencies in comprehensive programs of prevention and response to protect all vulnerable members of families.



National Link Coalition

About Us

The National LINK Coalition is the only international educational and advocacy organization that prevents animal cruelty, domestic violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse by showing how they intersect.

When animals are abused, people are at risk, and when people are abused, animals are at risk. We call this **the LINK**.

Through the global recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices, all people and animals will be measurably safer.



We are a nonprofit.

Federal Tax ID 92-2607909

To support contact:

16 Grasshopper Drive
Etowah NC 28729

828-595-9750

www.NationalLinkCoalition.org

National Link Coalition

Working together to stop violence against people and animals.

NationalLinkCoalition.org

Our Accomplishments

Since our team first raised LINK awareness in the 1980s, our information has been widely used to protect vulnerable animals, children, and adults.

Criminal Justice

- The FBI now includes animal cruelty in its national crime data collection system.
- National and international law enforcement associations support animal cruelty investigations to protect public safety.
- Bench cards advise family court judges to consider animal abuse in the context of juvenile offenders, protection orders, and divorce settlements.
- Specialized animal cruelty task forces have been formed in 54 law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices in 21 states.
- We have helped create LINK-based Technical Assistance resources for:
 - Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
 - American Prosecutors' Research Institute
 - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - American Bar Association
 - U.S. Department of Justice.



Domestic Violence (DV)

- Over 300 DV shelters are now pet-friendly.
- Manuals in 35 states assist DV advocates to help survivors obtain protection orders for their pets.
- Dozens of studies examine how threats to animals impede abused women and children from escaping dangerous relationships.

Child Maltreatment

- The UN recognizes children have a right to be free from exposure to animal cruelty.
- Awareness that children's perpetration or witnessing of animal cruelty is an Adverse Childhood Experience with lifelong behavioral and physiological consequences.
- Cross-reporting templates help child protective workers recognize and report animal cruelty and humane officers recognize and report child maltreatment.

Elder Abuse

- The National Adult Protective Services Association created the Research-to-Practice brief about animal abuse.
- Protocols and Technical Assistance manuals assist Adult Protective Services caseworkers to screen for animal cruelty and hoarding.



National Link Coalition

Veterinary Medicine

- Veterinary associations around the globe encourage or require veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal cruelty with civil and criminal immunity.

Legislation

- Animal cruelty is a **felony in all 50 states** and federally, compared with 5 in 1992.
- **49 states** prohibit sexual assault of animals, due in part to its LINK with child pornography and child sexual abuse.
- **42 states** require or explicitly allow veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse.
- **40 states** explicitly allow courts to include pets in domestic violence protection orders.
- **16 states** require or explicitly allow cross-reporting between child protection, animal protection and adult protective services.
- **12 states** define animal abuse as an act of domestic violence.
- The federal **Pets And Women Safety (PAWS) Act** of 2018 allows states' pet protection orders to be enforced interstate and offers \$3,000,000 to help domestic violence shelters accept pets.

