Connecting the Dots:
Animal Abuse’s Links to Other Family Violence
In Military and Civilian Families

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Questions for All of You
(unmute your mikes and respond)

• What do you know about The LINK between animal abuse and human violence?

• What kinds of cases have you seen where animal abuse was known or suspected?
How I Got Here

“This is my cat. My dad treats my cat unfairly like he treats my mom.”
—Jennifer, age 8

“This is a snake. Snakes make me angry. They will bite my dad and kill him. My dad’s in jail because he socked my mom.”
—Brandy, age 4

“My dog used to be abused by my Mom’s old boyfriend. It has a family that takes care of it now. My dog used to look shabby but now her fur looks soft. My dog has a good home now.”
—Chris, Grade 4
Summary

1. Decades of research link cruelty to animals and IPV.

2. Animals often targets of threats and violence to intimidate, manipulate and retaliate against women & kids.

3. Animal abuse an early warning sign of families in trouble.

4. Animal investigators first point of social services interventions.

5. Child-pet bond can be used to nurture empathy and positive child development.

6. Approaching family violence via The Link:
   - protects all victims
   - offers early interventions
   - improves community systems through coordinated, integrated MDTs & CCRTs
Objectives & Take-Homes

- LOTS of info – *the “Italian Kitchen Philosophy of Learning”*

- Appreciation for scope of animal abuse and its links to other crimes and family violence

- Legislative, research & programmatic responses addressing the Link

- Recommendations and resources for multi-disciplinary professionals
What Do We Know About Pets in Families?

- More homes have pets than children
- More money on pet food than baby food
- More dogs in US than people in most countries in Europe... and more cats than dogs
- Children’s literature, media, vocabulary saturated with animals
- Fairy tales: more animals than fairies
- Pets may be child’s only source of 24/7 affection

*Child more likely to grow up with pets than a father*

(Melson, 2001)
What Do We Know About Pets in Families?

Who Cares for All These Pets?

**FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

- 67.7% of households with children < 6 have pets
- 74.6% of households with children > 6 have pets
- Female is the primary caregiver in 80.7% of pet-owning households

AVMA: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook, 2007
What Do We Know About Pets in Families?

How we view pets has changed dramatically…

... but a disconnect between law and perception!

Roles of Pets in U.S. Households

- Family Members: 63.2%
- Companions: 35.8%
- Property: 1%

AVMA: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook, 2012
Pets in Families

Our View of Pets Has Changed...

Hurricane Katrina  Fukushima

PETS Act  Oct. 2006

Super Storm Sandy
What Do We Know About Pets in Military Families? *(not much: only 4 studies!)*

- 93.3% had pets growing up
- 99% felt children should have pets
- 66% visit vet 2X/year or more (civilian & military)
- 34.5% celebrate pet’s birthdays
- 53% display pet picture at home; 10% at job site
- Major reason for NOT having pets: housing limitations (51%)
- Bringing a pet into home would:

  **INCREASE**
  - Affection 59%
  - Arguing 8%
  - Happiness & fun 70%
  - Responsibility 63%
  - Family time together 51%

  **DECREASE**
  - Travel & freedom 39%
  - Arguing 9%

*(Catanzaro, 1984)*
What Do We Know About Pets in Military Families?

MOST IMPORTANT TIMES FOR MILITARY PETS
(all considerably higher than comparable civilian families)

When person sad, lonely or depressed: 68.4%
Temporary absence of spouse: 73.2%
Companion during free time/relaxation: 71.4%
For children 69.6%

(Catanzaro, 1984)
What Do We Know About Pets in Military Families

ROLE OF PET IN DISSIPATING FAMILY TENSION
(Theory of Triangulation: a third individual is brought into the system to dissipate the intensity)

Pets brought in:
“Always” – 38%
“Sometimes to always” – 47%

ROLE OF PET AS STRESS MEDIATOR IN RELOCATION
Families’ plans upon moving:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IN-COUNTRY</th>
<th>OVERSEAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take pets with</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship to new home</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Catanzaro, 1984)
What Do We Know About Pets in Military Families?

- 96% of families leaving pets behind at transfer had at least one family member express temporary or chronic sadness

![Pie chart showing reasons for not taking pets on relocation]

(Chumley et al., 1993)
What Do We Know About Pets in Military Families?

“Service members or their families may experience emotional trauma [when separated from their pets] because companion animals are often recognized as members of the family. This may lead to family problems, poor adaptation to new environments and animosity toward the military service.

“Pets offer companionship, an outlet for affection, security, and constancy for families. It is reasonable to suspect that these attributes become intensified when the military service member must leave the spouse for extended periods.”

(Chumley et al., 1993)
What Do We Know About Abuse in Military Families?

General Traumas:

- Higher rates of exposure to traumas than in civilian population
  - High rates of exposure to trauma reported by veterans: 95% of men, 97% of women
  - Women more likely to experience physical/sexual abuse by significant other
  - 1/3 show evidence of PTSD symptoms

Animal-related traumas:

- Similar rates with civilian population in exposure to:
  - Loss of a special pet
  - Being frightened or hurt by an animal
  - Witnessing or perpetrating violence to animals
  - Having sexual interactions with animals

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What Do We Know About Abuse in Military Families?

Elevated stress among families of both deployed and returning service members

- Rates of child abuse and neglect among military families said to be well below those of the general population

But:

- An elevated risk of child maltreatment during deployment
- A previously-unidentified high-risk period for child maltreatment during 6 months following deployment
- Risk increases among soldiers who deploy more frequently

“Elevated stress when a soldier returns home can have real and potentially devastating consequences for some military families.”

-- David Rubin, co-director, CHOP PolicyLab

What Do We Know About Animal Abuse in Military Families?

Animal cruelty, neglect and bestiality not included in UCMJ until 2016!

- **Article 134:** prohibits knowing, reckless or negligent wrongful abuse, neglect or abandonment of an animal that causes serious injury or death as to prejudice the "good order and discipline in the armed forces" or brings "discredit upon the armed forces." Punishable by dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 1 or 2 years.

- **Article 125:** prohibits forcible sodomy and bestiality -- "unnatural carnal copulation with an animal." Punishable by dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for five years.

- 2016 amendments also addressed prosecution of child abuse, child sexual assault, rape, and sexual assault
So Why Aren’t We Paying Attention?

Traditional Family Systems Theory

Extended family

Community

Parent(s)

Child(ren)

Pet(s)
A Much More Appropriate Solution!

Two Extremely Simple Ideas:

Extended family

Community

Parent(s)

Child(ren)

Pet(s)

Example of a Family Genogram That Includes Human-Animal Bonds

(Hodgman & Darling, 2011)

Example of a genogram for a married couple with two-year-old twins (a boy and a girl). The husband has a Great Dane. The wife’s parents are divorced. Her mother has an 11-year-old corgi; her father has 20 birds, 6 snakes and 10 turtles. The husband’s sister is strongly bonded with her horse.
Connecting the Dots: The Link between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence
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*A Species-Spanning Approach:*

“When animals are abused, people are at risk; When people are abused, animals are at risk.”
Animal Companions: The good, the bad and the ugly

The joy of the human-animal bond

Pets simply help us to love life...

The “dark side” of the human-animal bond:
Animal abuse as a potential indicator and predictor of interpersonal violence

Knowledge of animal abuse committed or witnessed is an effective tool in lethality & risk assessment
Animal Abuse:
It’s the tip of the Iceberg...
An Extreme – But Real – Example:
Animal Abuse Investigation Thwarts Suicide Bomber

• Gregory Lepsky, 20, Point Pleasant, NJ

• US-born, family emigrated from Chechnya, thought his father had lost the faith

• Family members called police Feb. 2017 after he stabbed “dirty” family dog

• Police found pressure-cooker bomb, ISIS materials, incriminating e-mails, and plot to wreak havoc in NYC

• Told authorities he regretted trying to kill the dog because police would not have found him otherwise
Why Should Animal Abuse Be Taken Seriously?

July 2018: Three federal counter-terrorism agencies identify animal abuse as a possible warning behavior for terrorism.

“Animal cruelty, particularly when premeditated in nature, is one example of a novel aggression warning behavior” and a type of “experimental aggression” that may be useful in “identifying an accelerated and increased risk of violence that should elevate authorities’ concern.”

“Reporting, investigating, and prosecuting animal cruelty may help minimize violent acts toward humans, including terrorism,” and encourage first responders, animal control, animal shelters, social services, and veterinarians, peers, neighbors, and family members to report suspected animal cruelty to authorities for further vetting. “Their participation becomes a force multiplier and may assist communities and law enforcement with identifying, assessing and managing threats of planned violence while promoting public safety.”
What we’re NOT talking about...
Evolution of The Link


- Fire setting
- Animal abuse
- Bed wetting
Evolution of The Link

1980s – “The Tangled Web”

David Berkowitz
“Son of Sam”

Albert DeSalvo
“Boston Strangler”

Ted Bundy

Lee Malvo

Donald Rader
“The BTK Killer”

Brian David Mitchell
(Kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart)
Evolution of The Link

Little Jeffy and his dog Frisky
Evolution of The Link

Little Jeffy and his dog Frisky

Jeffrey Dahmer
Evolution of The Link

1990s –
School Shootings

Kip Kinkle

Eric Harris & Dylan Klebold

Animal cruelty in 43% of cases
Evolution of The Link

2000s – Risk Factors Linked With Animal Abuse

- Domestic violence
- Bullying
- Other criminal acts
- Corporal punishment
- Physical and/or sexual abuse
- Elder abuse
- Terrorism
- Now included in FBI’s NIBRS
Definitions: What is “Cruelty”?

Three challenges:
1. Public, professional, and statutory standards differ widely
2. Haphazard, inconsistent systems of enforcement and prosecution
3. 95% of reports are neglect
Typical Cruelty Statutes

• Overdrive, overload, overwork.

• Inflict “needless” or “unnecessary” cruelty upon a living animal.

• Fail to provide “proper” food, drink, shelter or protection from weather.

• Leave unattended in a vehicle.

• Abandonment.

Find your state’s anti-cruelty statutes at www.AnimalLaw.info
“Cruelty: Hard to Define
But You Know It When You See It”

ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS

• Owner or child physically abuses animal
• Extremely thin animal
• Open wounds, multiple healed wounds
• Animal limping or cannot stand
• Collar embedded in animal’s neck
• Severely matted fur, overgrown nails
• Heavy discharge from eyes or nose
• Infested with fleas, ticks
• Untreated bruises, broken bones, cuts, sores
• Recreational drugs given to animal
• Sexual abuse of animal

Cross-Reporting Template for CPS Agencies:
http://nationallinkcoalition.org/resources/articles-research#CHILD%20ABUSE

NOVA Victim Assistance Academy • 2019
“Cruelty: Hard to Define But You Know It When You See It”

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS
- Living in filth, feces, urine, garbage
- Kept outside or in small cages
- Home overcrowded with animals
- Dog- or cock-fighting equipment
- Dead animals on property, in home

Cross-Reporting Template for CPS Agencies:
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CHILD WELFARE CONCERNS

• Dangerous animals threatening child’s welfare
• History of animal bites to child
• History of child abusing animals

Cross-Reporting Template for CPS Agencies:
http://nationallinkcoalition.org/resources/articles-research#CHILD%20ABUSE
All in the Family and Caught in the Crossfire: Types of Links

1. Abusive partner threatens, hurts or kills to control. Woman fears leaving. Emotional blackmail. Batterer uses pets for:
   - Intimidation -- coercive control
   - Revenge
   - Retaliation

2. Abuser threatens, hurts or kills to control or coerce child.

3. Child harms or kills animal, or witnesses animal cruelty.

4. Hoarding.

5. Animal fighting.
Types of Abuse

NOTE: Each type has varying underlying motives and psychopathologies.

• Neglect – Gains no satisfaction
  • Simple: inadequate Food/Water/Shelter.
    Educate or threaten
  • Gross, willful, intentional, malicious: prosecute
  • Abandonment: foreclosure, bankruptcy, transfer
Types of Abuse

NOTE: Each type has varying underlying motives and psychopathologies.

• Abuse: Maltreatment
• Cruelty: Satisfaction from suffering
  • Abuse = maltreatment with or without intent
  • Cruelty = implied intent
  • Intentional abuse/torture: greatest concern
    • More risk of escalation
    • Linked to other antisocial acts
Types of Abuse

• Hoarding – Satisfaction from caregiving
• Not a harmless eccentricity, but potentially serious problem for animals, people and community
• Mental health, health and housing issues
• 100% recidivism
Types of Abuse

- Animal sex abuse: bestiality, zoophilia, crush videos, “interspecies sexual assault”
- Now illegal in 46 states
Types of Abuse

• Cultural
• Organized abuse: dog/cock fighting
• Often singled out by statute; felony
• 2014 Farm Bill: Federal crime to attend or involve children
• Ritualistic animal sacrifice
A Question for You

• Why do you think people are cruel to animals? *(unmute your mikes and respond)*
Why Are People Cruel to Animals?

There are as many reasons as there are for interpersonal violence, including:

Ignorance
- Poor animal husbandry skills

Socialized to abuse
- Entitlement; believe abuse justified and beneficial (violence = power and control)
- Lack of empathy
- Religious / regional subcultures

Lack of adequate coping skills
- Pet’s behavior released frustration and anger
- Personality dysfunction, poor impulse control....
Why Are People Cruel to Animals?

Threaten, intimidate or control a person
- Domestic violence/child sexual abuse
- Neighborhood retaliations
- Shock people for amusement

To control the animal
- Retaliation
- Behavior problems

Psychopathology
- Sadism
- Enhance their own sense of aggression
- Sexual gratification
Why Are Children Cruel to Animals?

All of the above, plus:

- Curiosity or exploration
- Peer pressure
- Relieve boredom or depression
- Fear of the animal
- Coercion by a more powerful person
- To protect the animal from worse abuse
- Re-enacting their own experience of being abused
- Regaining a sense of power after abuse
- Imitating adult actions
- Rehearsal for interpersonal violence
Why Should Animal Abuse Be Taken Seriously?

• Identifies other criminal activities
  (Chicago: 35% of search warrants for animal abuse or dog fighting resulted in seizures of narcotics or guns. 82% of offenders had priors for battery. 31% of teens attended dogfights.

• Exposes family violence
• First access to a troubled family
• Perpetrators pose risk to selves and others
• Witnesses/victims comfortable talking about it
• Begins early in childhood
• *Inflicts pain and suffering on victims*
Why Should Animal Abuse Be Taken Seriously?

• History of animal abuse/neglect in **21.1%** of 256 fatal dog bites
• Frequently co-occurred with:
  • Dog not spayed/neutered
  • Compromised ability of victim to interact with dog
  • Dog a “resident” rather than “family” pet
• Preventable factors more significant than dog’s breed.

*(Patronek et. al, JAVMA, 2013)*
Why Should Animal Abuse Be Taken Seriously?

Nashville, TN: Lethality Assessment:
3 top indicators that a woman will be killed by her batterer:

» Suicide threats?
» Access to weapons?
» Threats to mutilate or kill pets?

DV cases increased 50%↑
DV fatalities decreased 80%↓
Reality Check: Does animal abuse always lead to interpersonal violence?

153 cruelty offenders:
• tracked for 10 years prior & 10 years after
• matched with control group

Criminal offenses:
Animal abusers: 70%
Non-abusers: 22%

Animal & Human Crimes

Conclusions:
• May be graduation hypothesis
• May be general deviance
• Animal abuse doesn’t always lead to human violence, but we’re not surprised when there is a Link.

What Does The LINK Look Like in Real Life?

Case Study # 1: Animal welfare investigators are often the first responders...
What Does The LINK Look Like in Real Life?

Case Study #2: Animals are harmed to control and intimidate battered women.

Family violence often begins with pet abuse.

By Sandy Bauers
Inquirer Staff Writer

As Sandra Ruotolo explained to the judge, she was thinking of her dogs when she pulled the trigger.

For 13 years, she said, her husband had battered her. But on a March night in 1991 in their Juniata Park home, he not only whipped her with a vacuum-cleaner cord, he also punched one of her four German shepherds. If Ruotolo left him, she warned, he would find her and slit their throats in front of her.

Later, as her husband slept, she loaded a .38-caliber pistol and pointed it at herself. A moment away from suicide, however, she saw her eldest female dog and was seized by the thought that “If I die, Duchess, what’s going to happen to you?”

So, she told the judge, she “walked into the bedroom and shot him.” Ruotolo is serving 10 to 20 years for third-degree murder.

Diane Hall, counseling director at Women Against Abuse in Philadel-

Area agencies are homing in on the link between the two types of abuse.

Recognition of an animal’s precarious place in what is called the “cycle of violence” already has led to changes in the way police and protective agencies — for people and animals — deal with domestic rows. This month, for instance, the Pennsylvania SPCA in Juniata Park inaugurated a program, PawsNet, that provides foster care for the pets of See ABUSE on A24.
What Does The LINK Look Like in Real Life?

Tanya’s Story
The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence
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The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence

1. Domestic Violence Batterer
2. Animal Harmed or Threatened
3. Survivors Stay
4. Children Exposed to Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

The cycle continues in a generational pattern.
The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Animal Abuse and the Duluth Model

**Coercion and Threats:**
Threatening to harm or kill your pet if you leave or assert any independence. Pet “disappears” to send a message.
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Animal Abuse and the Duluth Model

Isolation: Refusing to allow you to take your pet to your vet. Prohibiting you from socializing your dog with other dogs.

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The LINK and Domestic Violence

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Using Children: Harming or killing the children’s pet to intimidate them. Blaming the “disappearance” of the family pet on you to create a wedge between you and the children.
The LINK and Domestic Violence

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**Minimizing, Denying & Blaming:** Blaming you or your pet for the cruelty.

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**Economic Abuse**: Refusing to allow you to spend money on pet food and/or vet care (then blaming you).

**Legal Abuse**: Trying to take possession of a pet for which you have been the primary caretaker. Filing charges of theft if you leave with the pet. Custody battles.

**Intimidation**: Harming or killing pet: “Next time it’ll be you...”

**Minimizing, Denying & Blaming**: Blaming you or your pet for the cruelty.

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The LINK and Domestic Violence

Animal Abuse – the “Wake-Up Call”

• Many victims blame themselves for the abuse. Animal cruelty is a wake-up call that the fault lies not within themselves, but in the personality of the abuser.
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Research Highlights

Pet abuse is one of the four most significant indicators of who is at greatest risk of becoming a batterer

(Walton-Moss, Manganello, Frye & Campbell, 2005)

Batterers who also abuse pets are more dangerous and use more controlling behaviors, and more forms of violence.

(Simmons & Lehmann, 2007)
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Research Highlights

71% of survivors reported death, harm or threat...

32% reported their children had hurt or killed animals

(Ascione, 1998)

Incidents occurred:

In presence of women – 87%

In presence of children – 75%

(Quinlisk, 1994)
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Research Highlights

“He says he’ll kill the dog if I leave…”

18% - 48% of battered women – and their children – stay in fear for their animals’ welfare

41% of arrested IPV offenders had abused animals

(Febres et al., 2014)
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Why Do Batterers Target Animals?

- Normalize culture of violence
- Control victims, hold family hostage
- Get revenge
- Jealousy: more attention to pet
- Believe police won’t care
- Target pets of family/friends who helped her escape

(Roguski, 2012)
The LINK and Domestic Violence

Why Do Batterers Target Animals?

- Because they can...
- Because they’re convenient...
- **BECAUSE IT WORKS!!**

Aiken man faces charges after allegedly decapitating puppy in front of family

Springfield man pleads guilty to throwing puppy from balcony; family still furious

Probation for former attorney who slit dog’s throat; 1 day in jail for contacting ex-wife

Hartford Man Charged With Hurting Girlfriend’s Cat Said It Didn’t Matter... Because the Cat Was Still Alive!
The LINK and Child Abuse

Henry Bergh, Founder
American SPCA

The “Little Mary Ellen” Case (1874)
The LINK and Child Abuse

The Battered-Child Syndrome

C. Henry Kempe, M.D., Denver, Frederic N. Silverman, M.D., Cincinnati, Brandt F. Steege, M.D., William Droege, M.D., and Henry K. Silver, M.D., Denver

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The battered-child syndrome, a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse, is a frequent cause of permanent injury or death. The syndrome should be considered in any child exhibiting evidence of fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, failure to thrive, soft tissue swellings or skin bruising, in any child who dies suddenly, or where the degree and type of injury is at variance with the history given regarding the occurrence of the trauma. Psychiatric factors are probably of prime importance in the pathogenesis of the disorder, but knowledge of these factors is limited. Physicians have a duty and responsibility to the child to require a full evaluation of the problem and to guarantee that no expected repetition of trauma will be permitted to occur.
The LINK and Child Abuse

- 60% of New Jersey pet-owning families investigated for child abuse or neglect also had abused or neglected pets
- Animal abuse in 88% of families with physical child abuse
- 2/3 of incidents perpetrated by man; 1/3 by children
- Bite rate was 11x greater
- Use of veterinary services similar to general population

(DeViney, Dickert & Lockwood, 1983)
Psychological Impact on Children

“It is now understood that childhood cruelty to animals is an important predictor of later antisocial and aggressive acts and that children showing these behaviors, without intervention, are at risk for enduring disorders in conduct and mental health.”

(Becker & French, 2004; American Psychiatric Association, 1994).
The LINK and Elder Abuse

Issues for Adult Protective Services

1. Neglect of pet (food, vet care).
2. Self- Neglect themselves to care for pet (starve, eat pet food, avoid hospital/nursing home).
3. Animal hoarding. (Recidivism rate: 100%)
4. Attachment and pet loss.
5. Safety of caseworker, home health aide or homemaker services (waste, bites).
6. Animal abuse as revenge or control.
7. Jealousy over service animal.
The LINK and Elder Abuse

*Animals provide reward, acceptance, conflict-free relationships, sense of self-worth*

**Types of Animal Hoarders**

1. **Mental illness**

2. **Overwhelmed**: good intentions gone bad; the go-to lady

3. **Rescuers**: only ones who can care for them, state of denial, identity tied to possession, deep mistrust of others

4. **Exploiters**: greed or criminal intent
Summary – Key Concepts of The LINK

1. Animal abuse also harms people.

2. Animal abuse is a form of family violence.

3. Animal abuse should be called an Adverse Childhood Experience impacting the health and well-being of children and domestic violence survivors.

4. Recognizing and responding to suspected animal maltreatment is an early and effective way to better help families.
The Challenge for Victim Advocates:

Interventions when animals are involved require creative solutions by advocates who are sensitive to animals and clients’ attachments to them.
A Question for You

• So what can YOU do with these new insights? *(unmute your mikes and respond)*
A Solution: Ask 3 Questions To Connect the Dots

- Animal issues are a window into your clients’ lives, a big piece of the puzzle, a mirror of interpersonal relationships – and an opportunity to build trust

1. “Are there animals at home?”

2. “How are they cared for?”

3. “Are you worried about their welfare?”
Responses Based on The LINK

1. Social Services Agencies’ Responses

Check the physical condition of pets.

• Ask about any recent health problems or injuries.
• Look for malnutrition,
  inadequate food/water/shelter.
• Look for lots of pet food but no human food.
• Look for excessive numbers of animals.

Look for dangerous animals threatening child’s welfare.
Treat pet loss as potential developmental issue
Responses Based on The LINK

2. Get More Information

Assessments:
- Ask about presence & relationships with animals; histories; fears; pet loss; desire for other animals

Observe interactions
- “If you don’t look and don’t ask, you won’t know”

Assess needs for help with pet/livestock care

Know who to call for referrals.
- Animal organizations
  - (surrender, adoption, low-cost spay/neuter, foster care while in hospital/shelter, pet food banks)
- Veterinarians/vet associations
- National Link Coalition Directory of Abuse Investigation Agencies (NationalLinkCoalition.org)
Responses Based on The LINK

3. Pets in Protection Orders

34 states & PR & DC
Expand to federal/interstate level + $3,000,000/year

Other Public Policy:
★ Animal cruelty in definition of DV (10)
★ Animal cruelty in definition of elder abuse (2)
★ Courts can award pet custody in animals’ best interests (4)
Responses Based on The LINK

4. Cross-Training

Step 1

Make contact with other agencies: Humane Society, SPCA, Animal Control (In Overseas Areas: Contact Base Veterinary Services)
Responses Based on The LINK

4. Cross-Training

Step 1
Make contact with other agencies: Humane Society, SPCA, Animal Control *(In Overseas Areas: Contact Base Veterinary Services)*

Step 2
Conduct an in-service training for them to introduce them to your organization and how it functions
Responses Based on The LINK

4. Cross-Training

Step 1
Make contact with other agencies: Humane Society, SPCA, Animal Control (In Overseas Areas: Contact Base Veterinary Services)

Step 2
Conduct an in-service training to introduce them to your organization and how it functions

Step 3
Reciprocate: ask them to train your staff
Responses Based on The LINK

4. Cross-Training

Step 1
Make contact with other agencies: Humane Society, SPCA, Animal Control (In Overseas Areas: Contact Base Veterinary Services)

Step 2
Conduct an in-service training to introduce them to your organization and how it functions

Step 3
Reciprocate with training for your staff

Step 4
Set up lines of communication
Responses Based on The LINK

5. Increased community awareness

Baltimore, MD
Responses Based on The LINK

5. Increased community awareness
Responses Based on The LINK

6. Pets in Safety Planning

**PALS Safety Planning**

**Pet-care plan:** identify in advance family & friends who can care for pets. Know where your pet likes to hide.

**Animal ownership documents:** License, vaccinations, vet bills, pet food receipts, photos to prove ownership.

**Legal protection:** Include pets in protection orders. Give copy of legal documents to trusted family or friend.

**Safety supplies:** Pack an emergency bag of toys, food, records, meds and supplies and keep it hidden and ready to go.

-- URIPALS, New York City

_Samples available at www.NationalLinkCoalition.org_
Responses Based on The LINK

6. Pets in Safety Planning

- Modify brochures, websites.
- Get pet documentation in her name.
- Include pets in PFA orders.
- Collaborate with animal shelters for short-term pet foster care.
- Collaborate with animal shelters to identify pet-friendly transitional housing.
Responses Based on The LINK

7. Safehouses for DV Pet Survivors

“Doggie Witness Protection Programs”
Responses Based on The LINK

7. Safehouses for DV Pet Survivors

“Doggie Witness Protection Programs”

“Safe Havens”

600+ women’s shelters:
Foster referrals
SafePlaceforPets.org
AWIonline.org
Domestic Shelters.org
Responses Based on The LINK

7. Safehouses for DV Pet Survivors

“Doggie Witness Protection Programs”

Sheltering Animals

& Families Together – SAF-T

140 pet-friendly women’s shelters in US
(10 in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands)

www. AlliePhillips.com
Responses Based on The LINK

8. Animal-Assisted Interventions

“Throwaway kids training throwaway dogs...”

Therapy dogs in child abuse court cases

Children’s Advocacy Centers: Therapy Animals Supporting Kids (T.A.S.K.)
Responses Based on The LINK

9. Support services for military pets

Dogs on Deployment.org (the “other” DOD)
- Locate foster families for deploying military, at all major US bases
- Advocate for military pet owners’ rights on installations
- Provide educational resources for military pet owners
- Financial assistance during emergencies
- Links to community organizations

Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center
www.866uswomen.org
Resources for military and civilian women overseas:
- Safety planning
- Advocacy
- Case management
- Relocation
- Emergency funds
- Shipping of pets
What Victim Advocates Can Do for Clients with Pets

1. **Assess whether need exists in community you serve**
   a) Ask clients if they would have left sooner
   b) Have hotline staff ask if animals are present
   c) Identify if they have animal welfare issues

2. **Identify the available resources**
   a) Referral: local animal groups, vets
   b) Referral: DV shelter
What Victim Advocates Can Do for Clients with Pets

1. Direct clients to animal sheltering programs
2. Include pets in safety planning materials
3. **Help clients prove animal ownership** (licenses, vaccinations, vet bills, pet store receipts, pedigrees)
4. Help clients secure pet protection orders
5. Help clients obtain permanent housing with pets
6. Get involved in national & local LINK coalitions
Additional Resources

National Link Coalition
Working together to stop violence against people and animals

www.NationalLinkCoalition.org
arkowpets@snip.net

E-mail me to receive our free LINK-LETTER!
(PLEASE include your affiliation & location)

• Programs
• Legislation
• Research
• Training
Questions... Comments...
Let’s Review What We’ve Learned
(unmute your mikes and respond)
How is animal abuse linked to other crimes and violence?

What are some of the legislative, research and program responses addressing The Link?

What are some things that victim advocates can do with this new awareness?
Connecting the Dots:
Animal Abuse’s Links to Other Family Violence
In Military and Civilian Families

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NOVA Victim Assistance Academy