

Autumn 2007 Update

# The Linkage Project



## Maine's Cross-Reporting Laws

Governor Baldacci signs LDs 583 and 584



Seated: Governor John E. Baldacci. Back Row: Rep. Deborah Simpson, bill sponsor, Karen Elliott, Director, Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Norma Worley, Director, Maine's Animal Welfare Program, Linda Jariz, Linkage Project Coordinator, Andrea Paul, VP, Youth Alternatives, Katie Lisnik, Maine State Director, the HSUS, Lucky Hollander, Legislative Director, DHHS and Dan Despard, Director, Child Welfare, DHHS

Thanks to all of the Linkage Project partners, sponsor Representative Deborah Simpson and co-sponsor Senator Barry Hobbins; the Linkage Project celebrated a very successful legislative effort with the passage of two cross-reporting bills (LD 583 and LD 584). The Linkage Project Statewide Advisory Committee members were very active in attending hearings and work sessions. Representative Deborah Simpson lent her support and advocacy by sponsoring both bills.

LD 583 allows child protective, adult protective and other community

social service workers to report suspected animal cruelty without fear of violating confidentiality provisions. The companion bill, LD 584, allows animal control officers to report suspected child or vulnerable adult abuse while providing immunity from civil or criminal liability. The original bill would have made animal control officers mandated reporters. The Maine Municipal Association opposed the mandate but was supportive of permissive language that provides immunity. Maine joins a handful of states that have these types of cross-reporting laws. 🐾

## Maine to Host National Conference on the Link®

Next spring, Maine is honored to host a very special national conference to advance coalition building and public policy. June 8 – 9, 2008, are the dates for this first-ever national conference on the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

In partnership with the American Humane Association and the Scott Foundation of Ohio, the Linkage Project, part of Youth Alternatives and the Children's Advocacy Council of Cumberland County, is organizing this national conference.

Please mark your calendars for June 8 - 9, 2008, and join national experts to learn about the latest research and practices on the link at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. Following the conference, national experts will meet to discuss the current status and future direction of national efforts. Stay tuned for more information on this very exciting conference! 🐾

*\*The Link® is a term registered by the American Humane Association.*

For more information on  
The Linkage Project contact:

**Linda Jariz, Project Coordinator**  
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**207-874-1175 ext 6042**

## Phil Arkow To Visit Maine

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Ginny Marriner, Acting Director for Child Welfare Policy and Practice, has been representing the Office of Child and Family Services in Maine's Linkage Project. As reported in the last Linkage Project newsletter, Child Protective Services has recently added three questions regarding pets and the treatment of pets as part of the assessment protocol. Because of our work, we have garnered the interest of the American Humane Association.

In the past two decades, there has been increased scholarly and practical interest in the long-established connections between animal maltreatment and other forms of family violence, specifically child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. The American Humane Association, which has been the national leader in the prevention of both child abuse and animal abuse since 1877, is interested in learning more from local child protection agencies about how they perceive and integrate The Link® between animal maltreatment and child abuse and neglect into daily practice.

Phil Arkow, Interim Director for Human-Animal Bond programs at American Humane, is conducting an extensive national environmental scan on this topic and invites our input. He is interviewing child protection officials nationwide to determine: the relevance of this work to child welfare personnel; barriers and opportunities for greater involvement; and innovative training, community collaboration, data collection, public policy and practice strategies that can deepen the work of CPS agencies for the better protection of children. Phil will be here in Maine on November 16th.

Staff from CPS regional offices has been invited to this very unique opportunity to speak with one of the nation's foremost experts on the link between animal cruelty and human violence. 🐾

## Linkage Project Presents at the American Humane Association Conference

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The Linkage Project presented a very successful workshop on our statewide and local work, including legislative and policy efforts, at the American Humane Association's annual conference. On September 28 in Alexandria, Virginia, Linda Jariz, Andrea Paul and Norma Worley spoke on behalf of the Linkage Project to an audience that included those interested in statewide coalition building as well as national experts. This AHA annual conference features a track specifically on The Link®. For more information about the American Humane Association, please log on to [americanhumane.org](http://americanhumane.org). 🐾

## Humane Education – Teaching Kids to Care

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The Linkage Project efforts over the next year include a focus on humane education. County committees are developing humane education activities to sponsor. Some of these activities include sponsoring KIND News a publication for kids by the Humane Society of the United States. Through the Adopt-a-Classroom program, county committees "adopt" elementary-school classes by providing them with gift subscriptions to NAHEE's award-winning classroom newspaper, KIND News.

KIND News is aligned with National Education Standards for the major subject areas and is used by teachers across the curriculum. Schools' renewed focus on character education makes KIND News an especially valuable resource for teachers. For more information, please log on to [nahee.org](http://nahee.org).

Kudos go out to the Sagadahoc County Family Violence Task Force. This group is sponsoring KIND news for grades 1, 3 and 5 in the Georgetown Elementary School during the 07/08 school year.

The Linkage Project will also be assisting counties who want to offer teacher workshops for integrating humane education into existing classroom curricula. Teachers will learn techniques for using humane education activities to teach subjects such as math, social sciences, science and more. County committee members are looking for interested schools to

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## Domestic Violence Victims and Their Pets

When Maine enacted legislation that allows pets to be included in Protection From Abuse orders (LD 1881), little did those who worked on the bill and supported it realize that this law would impact so many other states! Anne Jordan, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and author of LD 1881 reports that as of October 2007, 9 other states have enacted similar legislation (Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Nevada, Colorado, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana and California) and legislation is pending in 8 other states. Also note that in 5 states efforts failed to enact this type of legislation (Texas, Michigan, Maryland, Utah and Virginia).

The American Humane Association, in the September Link Newsletter, reported on a new study regarding pet abuse and domestic violence. This new research study finds that pet abusers are more dangerous in domestic violence. Here's what was reported

"An intriguing new research study is reporting that batterers who also abuse family pets use more forms of violence, demonstrate greater use of controlling behaviors and are more dangerous than batterers who do not abuse pets. Catherine A. Simmons of the University of Tennessee and Peter Lehmann of the University of Texas at

Arlington conducted a study of 1,283 female pet owners in Texas domestic violence shelters. Of those who owned pets, 25 percent indicated their abuser committed some form of pet abuse. The pet-abusing batterers were more likely to use physical violence, sexual violence, marital rape, emotional violence and stalking to control and intimidate their victims. Simmons and Lehmann reported that men who abuse the family pet appear to be more dangerous, and the research indicates a **need for domestic violence workers to address pet abuse within the context of assessment, treatment and safety planning.**" *(emphasis added)*

What are the options when a victim of domestic violence decides it's time to go to the shelter but can't bear the thought of leaving beloved pets with the abuser? In Maine the victim can include pets in the Protection from Abuse order – but that won't help find a safe place for pets to stay. Last March, thanks to the Verizon Foundation, staff from humane societies and domestic violence agencies attended training on how to start and maintain pet foster home programs. As a result, there are both formal and informal programs available in several counties in Maine. Help is available in the six counties involved

with the Linkage Project. The six counties are Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Kennebec, Penobscot and Washington. In each county, safe homes are available for pets of victims that are going into domestic violence housing. In addition, York County has a very successful program operated by Caring Unlimited and the Animal Welfare Society that has been in operation for many years.

Requests for pet safe homes are accepted from victims going into DV housing. These requests are made directly to the DV agency. If worry about what will happen to the family pet is keeping victims away from DV shelters or safe houses, they should check out these options. For those living in other counties not associated with the Linkage Project, contact your local DV agency to see what arrangements might be made to safely care for pets.

The Linkage Project also continues to offer consultation to organizations that wish to create a pet foster home program.

New Hope for Women has included a section on animal abuse on their website! You can find it at [newhopeforwomen.org](http://newhopeforwomen.org) under Domestic and Dating Violence. 🐾

## Calling All Community Committees

The Linkage Project is very interested in working with community coalitions to help include the link between animal cruelty and human violence in the work of your committee. Linkage committees exist in 5 Maine counties and the Project has reached its maximum in terms of creating new committees specific to the link. However we have had good success working with other types of committees. Call us and we'll discuss how easily the link can become part of your work. If you have an interest in exploring this further, please contact Linda Jariz at [ljjariz@youthalternatives.org](mailto:ljjariz@youthalternatives.org) or call 207-874-1175 ext. 6042. 🐾

## Notes from Norma: Buxton Puppy Mill Update

There has been much interest from Linkage Committees' members about the Buxton puppy mill situation. Norma Worley, Director of Maine's Animal Welfare Program recently sent the out the following update:

On Thursday, Oct. 11 the AWP with the assistance of the Humane Society of the United States, the American Humane, ASPCA, Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Animal Welfare Society of Kennebunk, the Animal Refuge League of Westbrook, the Buxton Police Department and the Maine State Police moved 137 dogs from the Town of Buxton to a temporary animal shelter in Portland.

Approximately 50 volunteers, coming from as far as the State of Washington

assisted in the move of some 15 miles. Two large transport tractor/trailer units were used in this operation. The HSUS rig was able to hold 50 dogs in crates and the ARL of Boston's trailer held 35. It took a total of only three trips to accomplish the task. Without the help of these national organizations and local animal shelters this entire operation would have been impossible. So, after 7 weeks of working almost around the clock to bring back these dogs from the horrors of disease and neglect they are now resting comfortably with full tummies.

A special thanks to Commissioner Bradstreet for the encouragement and support he has given us. To Ned Porter for helping with the permit process, and the AWP staff who helped in so

many ways. But I must point out that this entire operation would have been impossible without the dedication of Chris Fraser. Chris worked without a day off since the day of the seizure, August 21 until Friday, October 12. Chris made a promise to these dogs she would give the gift of a better life and she accomplished that. 🐾

*Want to reduce the number of dogs and cats that are euthanized? Spaying and neutering significantly does that. Please do your part, spay and neuter all of your pets, including cats!! For those needing financial assistance please talk with your local humane society or contact the Help! Fix ME program at 800-367-1317 or [maine.gov/agriculture/law/fixme.htm](http://maine.gov/agriculture/law/fixme.htm).*

## Humane Education (continued from page 2)

and more. County committee members are looking for interested schools to participate. Kathleen Fobear, Humane Education Director for the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, will be the workshop leader. If you are interested in hosting a workshop in your area, please contact The Linkage Project. 🐾



For more information on the Linkage Project and other resources, including past issues of the newsletter and information on becoming trainers on the link, please log on to [linkageproject.org](http://linkageproject.org).

For more information on the link between animal cruelty and human violence, log on to the Humane Society

of the United States at [hsus.org](http://hsus.org) and search the site for First Strike. Publications that cover many aspects of this link are available to download or order.

HSUS has an on-line university course on integrating humane education in the classroom. For more information go to [humanesocietyu.org](http://humanesocietyu.org).

For information about teaching empathy and humane education, log on to [nahee.org](http://nahee.org).

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