

Autumn 2008 Update

# *The Linkage Project*<sup>TM</sup>



## National Link Coalition Forms National Town Meeting Leads Collaborative Efforts



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### STRATEGIZING THE LINK *National Town Meeting*

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The National Link Coalition is underway!! This exciting development is one result of the National Town Meeting conference held in Portland Maine. The National Link Coalition development is guided by a steering committee that meets monthly. This collaborative effort exists to continue to address the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Its mission statement is:

*It is understood that there is a link between violence against humans and violence against animals. Through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, people and animals are measurably safer.*

Organizations that are part of the NLC include American Humane, ASPCA, the Latham Foundation, the

National Network to End Domestic Violence, The National Animal Control Association, the Humane Society of the United States, other national organizations and, of course, The Linkage Project<sup>TM</sup> and other coalitions that are either in development or exist in other states.

One of the first efforts of the NLC is to act as an information clearinghouse by maintaining a list of existing coalitions throughout the US ([www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)) and eventually include a go-to list of experts and professionals who are working actively on the link between animal cruelty and human violence. For more information on the work subsequent to the National Town Meeting, please go to [www.linkageproject.org](http://www.linkageproject.org) and click on the link to the National Town Meeting.

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## Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap Accepts Reservations for Specialty License Plate to Benefit Animal Welfare in Maine

*Plate to help address "dire need for animal welfare funding"*

A big thank you goes out to all those who worked to get the new license plate option and to all who pre-bought the plates. You may have already seen the press release on the proposed new license plate to benefit Maine's Animal Welfare Program – but for those who did not, it is reprinted below:

Augusta\_ Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap accepted a check in the amount of \$50,000.00 from supporters of a proposed specialty license plate aimed at generating revenue to help fund animal welfare efforts in Maine. "This check represents the good intentions of 2,000 Mainers to mark their support of animal welfare efforts in Maine," Dunlap said. "Proponents of this effort are to be commended for reaching this important milestone- they are well on their way to

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For more information on  
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## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

To acknowledge the connection between animal cruelty and domestic violence, once again the Linkage Project has teamed up with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. This year's goal is to share more information on this issue with Maine veterinarians. Maine vets will soon have a fact sheet to learn more about domestic violence and pets and will also have palm cards to display in their offices for clients who may know of someone who needs help or who need help themselves. The palm cards include contact information for both organizations (MCEDV and Linkage Project) and also let people know that pets can be protected too.

The new palm card and fact sheet were rolled out on October 10 and 11 when Randy Lockwood and Melinda Merck from the ASPCA were in Maine addressing the issues of animal forensics for ACOs and the Maine Veterinary Medicine Association. Their book *Veterinary Forensics* is one of only four professional texts on this topic.

Please go to the [Linkage Project website](#) to view a copy of the Maine Fact Sheet for Veterinarians. 🐾

## Growing Number of Maine Pet Caretakers are Forced to Make Difficult Choices

There have been a number of articles in the local papers regarding the growing number of pet caretakers who are giving



up their beloved companion animals for lack of financial resources. There's no doubt that the increase in expenses is having an impact. To help keep pets and their families together, the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARL), along with Happy Tails and Camp Bow Wow, has opened a pet food pantry for families in their area.

Those in need can get food from the ARL on Wednesdays from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Camp Bow Wow on Mondays from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm and on Happy Tails (both locations) on Fridays from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm.

There is a limit on how much food that can be taken for each animal, but as of yet, no other qualifications are required. Please check out [www.arlgp.org](http://www.arlgp.org) for more information. 🐾

## Humane Education Guide for Teachers



The Linkage Project and the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, with generous support from the Florence V. Burden Foundation, has added "A Guide for Educators: Integrating Humane Education Activities into the K-12 Curriculum" to the Linkage Project website (visit [www.linkageproject.org](http://www.linkageproject.org) and click on Humane Education).

This guide provides links to sample lesson plans along with reading lists by grade level and much more. In addition resources are listed where more information can be obtained. The Linkage Project™ thanks all of the organizations that have developed these sample materials and for allowing us to link these from our website. 🐾



## Upcoming Trainings

November 15th at Youth Alternatives  
Ingraham in South Portland



The Linkage Project™, along with the Maine Animal Coalition, is sponsoring a Sowing Seeds workshop; a workshop from the Institute for Humane Education in Surry, Maine. Please note that there are a few reduced fee slots available. If you would like to attend but need a scholarship, please contact the Linkage Project as there may be a few scholarship slots available.

### Sowing Seeds Workshop -

South Portland, Maine  
November 15, 2008  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**Get inspired! Get connected!  
Get empowered!** Get away from  
the downer of the daily headlines

and be part of an uplifting experience! Join us at [Youth Alternatives Ingraham](#) in South Portland, Maine, to learn new strategies and ideas for teaching about the most important issues of our time, including human rights, animal protection, environmental preservation, and media and consumerism, in the company of other advocates for change!

Through the generous sponsorship of the [Maine Animal Coalition](#) (MAC) and The Linkage Project, a limited number of registration spots are available for \$45! (That's \$50 off the regular registration fee!)

Register for this workshop at:  
[www.humaneeducation.org/events/view/33](http://www.humaneeducation.org/events/view/33)

(Special early bird registration rates:  
Regular: \$45 limited number available  
for this specially-sponsored rate or  
Student: \$35)

SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER  
EARLY!

The registration fee includes lunch and  
a copy of Zoe Weil's book *The Power  
and Promise of Humane Education*. 🐾

## Temporary Housing for Pets of Domestic Violence Victims

For Domestic Violence Agencies and Humane Societies who want to offer a temporary housing program for pets of domestic violence victims, training and consultation is available through the Linkage Project. Please note that domestic violence victims and domestic violence agencies are sometimes still not clear about when to ask for assistance or how to house a pet who is in need.

For help with solving this problem, please contact [ljariz@YAlmaine.org](mailto:ljariz@YAlmaine.org) to learn about hosting this type of training. Also please log on to [www.linkageproject.org](http://www.linkageproject.org) for sample forms, operating manual and other resources to assist in creating a pet foster home program. 🐾



## National Link Coalition Forms (continued from page 1)

There you will find a summary of the conference and notes from the steering committee meeting (called G-10 or Gang of Ten). Also look for a monograph of the conference proceedings soon. We will post this on our website as soon as it is available. 🐾

## Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap Accepts Reservations for Specialty License Plate to Benefit Animal Welfare in Maine (Continued from page 1)

establishing a new license plate that will go a long way toward providing much-needed resources for a cause many Mainers hold dear.”

Norma J. Worley, Director of Maine’s Animal Welfare Program, had high praise for the Maine Adoption Leaders Team, or MALT. “Formed just last May, MALT is a partnership between private businesses, non-profit organizations, and the State, working on behalf of Maine’s animals,” Worley said, noting, “cases of animal neglect, animal abuse, and animal cruelty are in the news all too often. Due to the size of several recent animal seizures, made necessary as a direct result of abuse and neglect, additional funding for the Animal Welfare Program is sorely needed. This specialty plate would enable animal lovers in the state of Maine to make a real difference for Maine’s homeless animals,” added Worley.

MALT is comprised of Planet Dog, Happy Tails, the Animal Welfare Society, the Animal Refuge League, the Maine chapter of the Humane Society of the United States, and the state’s Animal Welfare Program (AWP).

Legislation will be introduced in the upcoming 124th Maine Legislature to establish the plate. The legislation specifies how revenue generated by sale of the plates will be distributed. Specifically, proceeds from the plate will go to the Help Fix ME Program, which provides spay and neuter services, and proceeds will also be used to support animal cruelty and abuse investigations. The AWP is charged with investigating animal cruelty and neglect and also administers the Help Fix ME program. 🐾



*Maine Specialty License Plate for Animal Welfare*



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 or the American Humane Association at [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org). and search the Link. Publications are available to download or order.

For information about teaching empathy and humane education, log

on to [www.nahee.org](http://www.nahee.org) or the ASPCA at [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) and search under humane education.

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