



Moving forward!!!

Jefferson County LINK Project Receives Funding

Animal Assistance Foundation awarded CACP \$5,000 to hire a consultant to work with Wheat Ridge Police Officer Heather Sackett to develop protocols to assist law enforcement on dealing with animal abuse when investigating felony domestic violence calls. Deputy District Attorney Lisa Scanga and Family Violence Resource Coordinator Laura Haynes are participating in the development of this project.

CACP thanks Joan Casey and Rosa Delacruz, the Fundraising Committee, for their work in securing this funding.



Denver LINK Committee

Denver City Attorney's Office Victim Resource Program Manager, Ginger Sherlock, convened law enforcement, animal control, Triage coordinator, and others to discuss the response to family violence cases, including those involving animals. The Committee is exploring several projects:

- First responder protocols when investigating family violence when there are multiple victims—intimate partner, children, elders, or animals.
- How to support and prevent revictimization of victims during these investigations.
- Providing tools through brown-bag seminars to public employees, such as public works employees, on dealing with animals they encounter in their work.

DU to Hold Training on Assessment for Treatment Providers

The Institute for Animal-Human Connection, University of Denver School of Social Work, will be holding an advanced training on assessment for animal abuse for therapists who are Colorado certified domestic violence and/or sexual assault treatment providers and other mental health forensic evaluators. This training is scheduled for April 27-28 and will be limited to those with a basic knowledge of the Link. Invitations will be forthcoming.

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**BATTERED
WOMAN HAVE
LIVED IN THEIR
CAR WITH THEIR
PET FOR MONTHS
WAITING FOR A
SHELTER TO OPEN
THAT WILL
ACCEPT THEIR
PET.**

Kogan, et.al,
"Crosstrails: a unique
foster program to
provide safety for
pets for women in
safehouses," Violence
Against Women 10,
418-434, 2004



Veterinary Issues Committee

The Veterinary Issues Committee, chaired by Aubrey Lavizzo, DVM, is working with Colorado Veterinary Medical Association to determine veterinarian's level of knowledge with regard to their reporting requirements pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute §12-64-121.

The Veterinary Issues Committee will be using survey data gathered by Jim Pyle, researcher for DU's Animal-Human Bond project, to develop their next steps.

12-64-121. Reporting requirements - immunity for reporting - veterinary-patient-client privilege inapplicable

(1) A licensed veterinarian who, during the course of attending or treating an animal, has reasonable cause to know or suspect that the animal has been subjected to cruelty in violation of section 18-9-202, C.R.S., or subjected to animal fighting in violation of section 18-9-204, C.R.S., **shall report or cause a report to be made of the animal cruelty or animal fighting** to a local law enforcement agency or the bureau of animal protection.

(2) A licensed veterinarian shall not knowingly make a false report of animal cruelty or animal fighting to a local law enforcement agency or to the bureau of animal protection.

(3) A licensed veterinarian who willfully violates the provisions of subsection (1) or (2) of this section commits a class 1 petty offense, punishable as provided in section 18-1.3-503, C.R.S.

(4) A licensed veterinarian who in good faith reports a suspected incident of animal cruelty or animal fighting to the proper authorities in accordance with subsection (1) of this section shall be immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against the veterinarian for reporting the incident. In any civil or criminal proceeding in which the liability of a veterinarian for reporting an incident described in subsection (1) of this section is at issue, the good faith of the veterinarian shall be presumed.

(5) The veterinary-patient-client privilege described in section 24-72-204(3) (a) (XIV), C.R.S., may not be asserted for the purpose of excluding or refusing evidence or testimony in a prosecution for an act of animal cruelty under section 18-9-202, C.R.S., or for an act of animal fighting under section 18-9-204, C.R.S.

Treatment Guidelines

The Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) is responsible for establishing court-ordered perpetrator treatment standards. Revised treatment standards for court-ordered domestic violence offenders went into effect on September 1, 2010. Among the revisions is a requirement that treatment providers conduct an assessment that includes animal abuse by these domestic violence offenders. CACP's Human Services/Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Committee is working with the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board and domestic violence treatment providers to obtain funding to create treatment guidelines for domestic violence offenders with a history of animal abuse.

2010 Legislation

Civil Protection Order

Although criminal protection order statutes have included specific language allowing for the protection of animals as property, in 2010 the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation to specifically include animals in civil protection orders, specifically, protection of the elderly and domestic abuse victims.

§ 13-14-101. Definitions

For purposes of this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Abuse of the elderly or of an at-risk adult" means mistreatment of a person who is sixty years of age or older or who is an at-risk adult as defined in section 26-3.1-101(1), C.R.S., including but not limited to repeated acts that...

(f) Constitute threats or acts of violence against, or the taking, transferring, concealing, harming, or disposing of, an animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the elderly or at-risk adult, which threats or acts are intended to coerce, control, punish, intimidate, or exact revenge upon the elderly or t-risk adult.

(2) "Domestic abuse" means any act or threatened act of violence that is committed by any person against another person to whom the actor is currently or was formerly related, or with whom the actor is living or has lived in the same domicile, or with whom the actor is involved or has been involved in an intimate relationship. "Domestic abuse" may also include any act or threatened act of violence against:

(a) The minor children of either of the parties; or

(b) **An animal** owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either of the parties or by a minor child of either of the parties, which threat or act is intended to coerce, control, punish, intimidate, or exact revenge upon either of the parties or a minor child of either of the parties.



ALMOST 40% OF AMERICANS CONSIDER THEIR PETS "COMPANIONS" AND 50% CONSIDER THEM "MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY."

American Veterinary medical association, 2007

Best Interests of the Child

In 2010 the Colorado General Assembly amended the Bests Interests of the Child statute to change "spousal abuse" to "domestic violence" as a factor in determining parenting time, decision making responsibility, and other issues involving children. Threats and abuse of an animal is contained in the definition of domestic violence.

§ 14-10-124 Best Interests of the Child

(1) **Legislative declaration.** The general assembly finds and declares that it is in the best interest of all parties to encourage frequent and continuing contact between each parent and the minor children of the marriage after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage. In order to effectuate this goal, the general assembly urges parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child-rearing and to encourage the love, affection, and contact between the children and the parents.

(1.3) **Definitions.** For purposes of this section and section 14-10-129 (2) (c), unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Domestic violence" means an act of violence or a threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship, and may include any act or threatened act against a person or against property, **including an animal**, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.



We are on the web:
www.coacp.info



COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR CRUELTY PREVENTION

Colorado Alliance for
Cruelty Prevention
c/o Colorado Bar
Association
1900 Grant St., #900
Denver, CO 80203

Phone: 303.860.1115
E-mail: jlafrenz@cobar.org

The Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention (CACP) is an alliance of professionals in the state of Colorado educating themselves and other professionals about the Link between animal abuse and family violence.

Vision: Humans and animals living together in a violence-free environment.

Mission: To establish a coalition of stakeholders that provides interdisciplinary leadership and methods in the prevention, intervention and treatment of human and animal cruelty in Colorado.

If CACP can help you with a LINK project in your community or if you want to participate in a CACP committee, please contact Jill Lafrenz, jlafrenz@cobar.org or 303.860.1115.

Pets in Family Study



Animal-Human Bond program (University of Denver School of Social Work) and Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence are conducting a study of the affects on children of the exposure to domestic violence and concomitant exposure to animal abuse. Frank Ascione, Ph.D., Director of the Animal-Human program, is the lead researcher. This is a five-year research project funded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute of Child and Human Development.

National Link Coalition

The National Link Coalition evolved from meetings of national leaders in the area of Link resource development and research.

The National Link Coalition believes that through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, humans and animals will be measurably safer.

Check out the website: www.natonallinkcoalition.org