The Link, One Health and Social Capital:
New Strategies for Empathy Education & Social Work by Addressing Humane and Human Services

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Veterinary Social Work Summit
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Some Questions for You

Nonprofit Organizations
  Adequate funding?
  Support from foundations?
  Highly visible presence in the community?

City and County Government Agencies
  Adequate budget?
  Treated as an equal among departments?
  Highly visible and respected presence in the community?

Private Practitioners
  Earnings comparable to physicians?
  Treated as an equal among medical community?

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS???
Because “human” issues will **ALWAYS** take priority over “animal” issues. *(Get over it.)*
We Know We’re Right: Why Won’t Anyone Listen To Us?

- Because we spend all our energy squabbling among ourselves !!!!!

The Attack of the Gonad Hunters

The Deadly Decompression Debate

The March of the Bully Breed Bullies

The Ride on the No-Kill Carousel
We Know We’re Right: Why Won’t Anyone Listen To Us?

- Because we never talk to the people who might really be able to advance our core agenda !!!!!

- Passion without empowerment won’t get you anywhere !!!!!
The solution: Shift the Paradigm

- A new perspective on veterinary medicine, social work, and animal shelter management that includes:
  - Species-Spanning Service Delivery Systems
  - Cross-sector Reporting & Referral Protocols
  - Humane AND human services

The Approach:

**LEARN WHAT THE MONSTER LIKES... AND FEED IT!**
“Species-Spanning Medicine”: The “One Health” Approach to Human/Animal Welfare and Abuse

“Serious challenges require integrative solutions and collaborative initiatives.”

-- Roger K. Mahr, DVM
CEO, One Health Commission
Past President, AVMA
A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, a pioneer of the animal welfare & control movements tried to shift the paradigms of professional attitudes by encouraging animal care and control and veterinarians to collaborate with each other in hopes of getting the general public, governmental leaders, and philanthropic funders to support animal welfare issues with much greater respect.
And here’s what he was saying:

“Animal welfare and animal control are two sides of the same coin. Animal welfare protects animals from people, and animal control protects people from animals.”

“We don’t have animal problems: we have people problems.”
Lessons Learned
“Aha!!! moments in a parallel universe....”

The focused Texas A&M scout....

The provocative research study....

The infamous City Council hearing....

The outrageous state legislative committee....

The fateful after-dinner speech

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

The curious teacher training....

The nearsighted Foundation president....
Lessons Learned

• Humanistic, Moralistic & Scientistic are 3 of 10 distinct attitudes toward animals embraced by Americans.

• People always bring their own reality to a conversation.

• Other than among us crazy animal lovers, human needs will ALWAYS take priority over animal causes.
When it comes to cruelty to violence, both law enforcement and the public rank violence against humans above animal cruelty. Animal abuse is seen as a fairly important issue, but just can’t compete.

Law enforcement is likely to investigate cruelty if they see it, but if they don’t they’re not likely to think about it.

Research demonstrating correlations between animal abuse and human violence has an effect on how seriously law enforcement and the public take animal cruelty issues.

Southeastern Institute for Research (2010). *Understanding Opinions of Animal Cruelty Among Law Enforcement and the General Public* (Study commissioned by the ASPCA)
The Evidence...

“Philanthropy”: *Love of Mankind*

Number of charitable foundations: 76,000

Number of foundations primarily addressing animal welfare: 25

2010 Contributions by Recipients
Source: Giving USA 6/11
The Evidence...

Foundation Buzzwords

- “effect societal change”, “effect systemic change”
- “collective action”, “collaboration,” “networking,” “leveraging”
- “leadership development,” “organizational development,”
  “organizational effectiveness,” “capacity building”
- “diversity,” “inclusiveness”, “underserved populations”

Schools of Social Work

- Animals included in curricula: 3/550

IN OTHER WORDS: NOT ANIMALS!
The Evidence...

Areas of Public Interest

Animal Control -- % of municipal spending: 

.4%

Humane Education -- % of classroom contact time: 

.0004%

Where’s the animal shelter? 

Next to the sewer treatment plant

IN OTHER WORDS: NOT ANIMALS!
The Solution:

- Reposition veterinary and animal care/control as One Health institutions that protect the health and safety of the community and all vulnerable members of families by focusing on human-animal issues.
The Solution: Promote human benefits of animal health, welfare & control programs

- Health
- AAT
- Mental/physical health
- Dog bite prevention
- Neurochemistry
- "One Health"

Violence prevention
- The Link
- Bullying

Community well-being
- Social capital

More integrative human & animal welfare
“The philosophy in the animal welfare community is switching to addressing human problems that underlie crises with animals. Animal shelters’ service philosophy is evolving to recognize that treating symptoms of animal welfare problems, such as animal homelessness, abuse and neglect, is only a stopgap solution: to be truly effective, underlying causes such as community and family dysfunction and violence must be addressed.”

-- Ipsos-Reid, 2010
“Animal rights and family protection agencies often represent independent or marginally linked organizational structures. Consequently, services for the protection of humans and animals frequently lack integration and coordination....”

“While recognition of a relationship between interpersonal violence and animal cruelty is an important step, collaboration between service systems holds promise for better understanding violent behavior and coordination of services for families and animals.”

A Nation of Silos

I'm looking for help on this, team...

It's not in my P&L.

It's not in my objectives.

I'd like to help, but...
Isn’t there a better way???

We can mark our own turf...

Or we can all play together!
Shifting paradigms of animal companions
Humane Education: Rooted in Human Welfare

"Just so soon and so far as we pour into all our schools the songs, the poems and literature of mercy toward these lower creatures, just so soon and so far shall we reach the roots not only of cruelty, but of crime."

George T. Angell
Founder, Massachusetts SPCA, 1867
Pets as Healthful Partners

Shifting paradigms of animal companions

"Walk a hound, lose a pound!"

Saving our children from “Nature-Deficit Disorder”
Shifting paradigms of animal companions

The Neurochemistry of Compassion

Depression, stress, anxiety

+ 

“Happy brain chemicals”
- Dopamine
- Oxytocin
- Endorphins
- Serotonin
- Cortisol

[Image of smiling person with thumbs up]
Shifting paradigms of animal companions

Why do AAA/AAT work?

“When the dogs go walking down the hall of the hospital, it’s like that scene in The Wizard of Oz when everything changes from black and white... to color”

Judy Levicoff, Abington Memorial Hospital
Shifting paradigms of animal companions

Promote Pets and Social Capital

- Give a sense of community
- Cause neighbors to exchange favors
- Motivate people to use parks
- Stimulate recreation
- Protective factors for mental health

Replicating studies: San Diego, Portland, Nashville

Sifting paradigms of animal companions

What is The Link?

“When animals are abused, people are at risk;

When people are abused, animals are at risk.”

“When animals are abused, people are at risk;”

Emotional impact
Family violence
Animal fighting
Social capital

Neglect pet
Neglect self
Abusing pet
Caseworker safety

Animal Abuse

Child Abuse & Neglect

Elder Abuse

Domestic Violence
Today’s Paradigm...

The human-animal bond has increasing legislative and law enforcement importance.

“I hear that animals are good for our health....”

“I hear that people who abuse animals go on to become psychopaths and mass murderers....”
Today’s Paradigm...
How your clients view pets has changed dramatically...

Roles of Pets in U.S. Households

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

Challenge and disconnect...

AVMA: 2012
Today’s Paradigm...

The Importance of Pets in the American Family

- More homes have pets than have children
  - first words
  - first loss
  - fairy tales have more animals than fairies
- More money on pet food than baby food
- More dogs in US than people in most countries in Europe
- More cats than dogs
- A child is more likely to grow up with pets than with a father
Today’s Paradigm...

How Do People See Their Pets?

- 84%: acquired pet for companionship
- 83%: call themselves pet’s mom or dad
- 59%: celebrate pet’s birthday
- 69%: break household rules when significant other absent
- 50%: would pick dog/cat over human if stranded on desert island
- 90%: wouldn’t date someone who wasn’t fond of their pet
- 52%: believe their pet listens to them best

Today’s Paradigm...

Hurricane Katrina  Fukushima

Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act -- Oct. 2006
Today’s Paradigm...

Academic recognition of The Link
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among veterinarians

- Veterinary Social Work
- Human-Animal Bond – AAH-ABV
- Veterinary Forensics –
  - IVFSA
  - Univ. of Fla.
  - Animal CSI
- Assn. of Shelter Veterinarians
- One Health
Regarding violence in our society as purely a sociologic matter, or one of law enforcement, has led to unmitigated failure. It is time to test whether violence can be amenable to medical/public health interventions.”

C. Everett Koop, MD
George D. Lundberg, MD (Editor, JAMA), 1992

“Physicians and other health professionals are firsthand witnesses to the consequences of violence. We see, diagnose, treat, mend, patch, console, and care for the victims of violence and their families thousands of times each day. Violence in the United States is a public health emergency.”

Antonia C. Novello, MD, MPH, 1992

“At the more extreme end of the antisocial behaviors continuum is violence, one of the leading public health problems worldwide.”

-- Eleonora Gullone (2012)
Animal Cruelty, Antisocial Behaviour and Aggression: More Than a Link
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among veterinarians

Veterinary Oath
(Amended 2012)

Animal Welfare as a Priority

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.
Policy on Animal Abuse and Animal Neglect

“The AVMA recognizes that veterinarians may observe cases of animal abuse or neglect as defined by federal or state laws, or local ordinances. The AVMA considers it the responsibility of the veterinarian to report such cases to appropriate authorities, whether or not reporting is mandated by law. Prompt disclosure of abuse is necessary to protect the health and welfare of animals and people. Veterinarians should be aware that accurate, timely record keeping and documentation of these cases are essential. The AVMA considers it the responsibility of the veterinarian to educate clients regarding humane care and treatment of animals.”
Today’s Paradigm…
Shifts among prosecutors

- US colonies: 1641
- Property law
- Statement about individual and society
- Morals and decency codes
  - Indiana: Miscellaneous Offenses
    (family, civil rights, public sensibility, glue sniffing, student athlete failing to report recruitment)
  - Texas: One law for livestock, one for pets???

First “Link” prosecutions: 1649 (Essex Co., Mass. Bay Colony)
- William Flint charged with beating a bull and cow and his son at one time in a cruel manner
- Ann Haggett fined for beating her child and calf in a cruel manner with an ax
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among legislators

Number of States with Felony Animal Cruelty Laws
1800 - 2013
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among therapists

New AAA/AAT Venues to Defuse Stress

“Throwaway kids train throwaway dogs”

Courthouse dogs

Children’s Advocacy Centers

R.E.A.D.

Final exams

Post Office -- April 15
"I have a youth who has been abused at her home, but wants to return there due to believing that her cat is the only one who loves her. She rescued the cat from an abusive home and believes that the cat tries to keep her father away from her. She would move to a group home or anywhere else without running away if she had her cat...."

-- Social worker, Arizona
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among social services providers

**PET PROTECTION ORDERS**
23 states & Puerto Rico
- AZ, CO, IN, ME, NE, NV, TN: animal cruelty in definitions of DV (bill in NM)
- CO: animal cruelty in definition of elder abuse
18% - 45% of battered women – and their children – can’t leave in fear for their animals’ welfare. A Reality Check and a Wake-Up Call

The fault lies in him – not you!
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among social services providers

Domestic Violence Pet Support Services

“I’ve loved this dog longer than any relationship I’ve ever had....”
-- “Nicole,” in La Crosse, WI shelter seeking Safe Haven

“Safe Havens”: 900

“SAF-T”: 70

Grants for individuals and shelters
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among social services providers

Animal Abuse’s Links to Other Crimes

Nashville Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment:
3 top indicators of risk of femicide:
• Suicide threat
• Access to weapon
• Threats to mutilate or kill pets

DV cases increased 50%,
DV fatalities decreased 80%
“What we have here is a failure to communicate…”

Mr. Risher said the boyfriend was often seen with a protective guard on his arm, training the dogs to bite in front of the building. “Everybody would run when he came out,” Mr. Risher said.

He said that one of the dogs killed the family’s pet rabbit a few months ago. “He killed the rabbit and left everything on the floor,” he said. “It was like the Bronx Zoo in there.”

A law enforcement official said that someone from the city’s child welfare agency had gone to the home for “something minor” in the past, but “nothing involving the dog.” A spokesman for the agency, the Administration for Children’s Services, did not return a telephone call or e-mail.

Cane Corso
Italian mastiff
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among law enforcement

Public Awareness:
• “Animal Cops” (2002 – present)

Training
• N. Hampshire law enforcement manual
• Latham Foundation PowerPoint
• Police academies

Designated police anti-cruelty officers
• Syracuse
• St. Louis
• Dallas

Anti-Cruelty Task Forces Based on the Link
• Baltimore
• Tucson
• San Bernardino
• Lake Charles
• Hillsboro, Ore.
• Essex Co., N.Y.
Today’s Paradigm...
Shifts among academia

- Research legitimizes practice
- Practice builds on research

Link bibliography: www.animaltherapy.net
What We Still Need to See

Traditional Family Systems View

Extended family

Parent(s)

Child(ren)

Community

Pets
Vets
HS/AC
What We Still Need to See

More Appropriate Family Systems View

Extended family

Community

Parent(s)

Child(ren)

Pet(s)
Step 1: Make contact with other agencies

Step 2: In-service training to introduce them to your organization and how it functions

Step 3: Reciprocate: training for your staff

Step 4: Set up lines of communication

What We Still Need to See: Cross-training
ASK THEM TO ASK THE QUESTIONS!!

- If they don’t include the pets in the lives of their clients, they’re missing a piece of the puzzle – and an opportunity to build rapport
  - “Are there animals at home?”
  - “How are they cared for?”
  - “Are you worried about their welfare?”

What We Still Need to See

Animal Questions in Intakes, Referrals, Screenings, Assessments
What We Still Need to See

S.O.P.

Cross-reporting protocols with liability immunity

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**FIG. 22** Family & Children’s Services of Guelph & Wellington County & The Guelph Humane Society

*Initial Intake Check-list*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family &amp; Children’s Services to Complete</th>
<th>Humane Society Worker to Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>F&amp;CS Worker to Complete</strong></td>
<td><strong>Humane Society Worker to Complete</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals in home  ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, list the following types and numbers of each (i.e. 2 dogs, 3 cats, 1 bird)</td>
<td>Children in home ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, list the following: Names and ages of each child:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation of animals ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, state why (i.e. outdoors)</td>
<td>Observation of children: ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, state why (i.e. at school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, complete the following: 1. Concern with animal’s physical condition ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, describe</td>
<td>If yes, complete the following: 1. Clothed appropriately ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, expand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Appropriate living condition (i.e. housing &amp; environment) ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, expand</td>
<td>2. Appropriate living conditions (i.e. furniture, power, environment, etc.) ❑ Yes ❑ No If no, expand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Evidence/odor of excrement (i.e. feces, urine) ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand</td>
<td>3. Signs of neglect (i.e. rotting food, insects, safety hazards) ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Injuries noted on the animal ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand</td>
<td>4. Injuries noted on child (i.e. bruises, cuts, etc.) ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Animal behavior problems (i.e. aggressive or withdrawn) ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand</td>
<td>5. Child behavior problems (i.e. aggressive or withdrawn) ❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, expand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other comments, if applicable</td>
<td>6. Other comments, if applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report to the Humane Society**
❑ Yes ❑ No If yes, list date
Name of person receiving report

**Report to F&CS** ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, list date
Name of person receiving report
What We Still Need to See

S.O.P.
Cross-reporting protocols with liability immunity

Animal Care/Control must report child abuse:
   Calif., Conn., Ill., Maine, Ohio, W. Va.

CPS may or must* report animal abuse:
   Calif., Conn.*, Fla., Ill.*, La., Maine, Mass., Neb., Ore., Tenn., W. Va.*

Animal Control must report elder abuse:
   Calif.

Veterinarians must report child abuse:
   Calif., Colo.

Veterinarians must report elder abuse:
   Illinois
What We Still Need to See

Veterinary support for full family integrity (VSW, violence prevention)

- Animal health
- Zoonoses prevention
- Food safety
- Disaster medicine
- Mental health
- Human-animal bond
- Prevention of family violence

Research
Public Health
Clinical Practice
Medical Education

Medicine
Agriculture
What We Still Need to See

Pets in Safety Planning
What We Still Need to See

Local Link Coalitions

- Wichita
- Denver
- Phoenix
- Maine
- Albuquerque
- Spain
- U.K.

Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention
Animal Justice Coalition
The Humane Link
The Linkage Project
FORMING POSITIVE LINKS
GEVHA
the links group
What We Still Need to See

Targeted Training

Police academies

Law schools

Vet schools

Schools of Social Work
So How Do We **Finally** Help People and Animals?

Shift the Paradigm: Rebranding
Another Reason to Shift:
Funding opportunities

Who are your largest group of supporters?

Who are most likely to support domestic violence and children’s causes?
Another Reason to Shift:

Turn a political lose/lose…

…into a win/win!

“Animal cruelty is more than just a legal issue. It’s a community issue. If you improve animal welfare in a community, you improve public safety for everyone.”

-- Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

(Pets can’t vote)
How Will We Get There?

Limited only by our imaginations....
What You Can Do

1. Encourage courts to recognize the importance of animal cruelty/dangerous animals at trial, sentencing, child custody and visitations.

2. Train social services to routinely look for and report animal welfare issues that impact their clients.
What You Can Do

3. Train social services to routinely ask three animal questions:

   “Are there animals at home?”

   “How are they cared for?”

   “Are you worried about their welfare?”
What You Can Do

4. Set up lines of communication **before** an incident
   - Use your board, volunteers, members, staff to make personal connections
   - Cross-training
   - Cross-reporting
   - Display each others’ literature
   - Feature in newsletters, website, social media
What You Can Do

5. Re-frame humane education to address teachers’ goals about people
   - “Empathy education,” “character development”
   - Bullying
   - Dog bite prevention
What You Can Do

5. Re-frame humane education to meet teachers’ goals about people
   - “Empathy education,” “character development”
National Link Coalition
Vision Statement

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.

Sign up for our LINK-LETTER!

www.nationallinkcoalition.org
Resources

National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse
*(division of National District Attorneys Association)*

- Monthly ASPCA/ALDF webinar

www.ndaa.org
Resources

THE LATHAM FOUNDATION

www.latham.org
Some closing thoughts...

“How can I go into a classroom and teach children to be kind to animals when these kids are afraid to walk to school because of drive-by shootings?”

-- Debbie Duel
Some closing thoughts...

“Teaching a child empathy and compassion and returning him to a toxic environment is like cleaning an oiled bird and returning it to the muck.”

-- Randy Lockwood, ASPCA
The lives of families, children and animals have been entwined together from the beginning of civilization. By joining together to strengthen those bonds, we forge a chain of compassion that will ensure a better future for all.

-- Mark Kumpf,
Past President, NACA National Link Coalition, 2008
The Link, One Health and Social Capital: New Strategies for Empathy Education & Social Work by Addressing Humane and Human Services

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