2018 LINK CONFERENCE
Breaking the Cycles of Violence
A SPECIES-SPANNING APPROACH TO SAFER FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. Phil Arkow
Co-Founder, National LINK Coalition
MORNING SESSIONS I & II Breaking the Cycles of Violence: A Species-Spanning Approach to Safer Families & Communities

Ms. Joy Southard
Director, Texas Chapter - Healing Species
AFTERNOON SESSION i Violence Prevention & Compassion Education with Rescued Dogs

Ms. Felicia Kerney
Animal Cruelty Unit Chief
Dallas County District Attorney’s Office
AFTERNOON SESSION II The LINK and the Law

Ask the Experts Q&A Panel
Conference Speakers are joined by Mr. David Alex, Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office; Mr. Art Munoz, Special Investigator Dallas County District Attorney’s Office and Chief Investigator, SPCA of Texas Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit; and Ms. Shelby Bobosky, Attorney and President, Texas Humane Legislation Network.

Join professionals from multiple disciplines as the LINK Conference explores “the dark side” of the human-animal bond and its implications for human and social services, animal care and control, law enforcement and criminal justice, and human and veterinary medicine. Conference attendees will learn about new collaborative strategies, public policy, research, and programs to prevent family violence and to respond to its human and animal victims.

CEUs Offered
4.5 hrs CLE - no ethics - provided by Texas Humane Legislation Network. 5.5 hrs SWILPC provided by The Family Place. 5.5 CAWA hrs by the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators. 5.5 hrs approved by the Department of State Health Services (DHS) to apply toward animal control officer continuing education (CE) requirements per Ch. 829 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. TCOLE Credits Pending.

Conference Hosted by the SPCA of Texas and North Texas LINK Coalition
March 9, 2018
Doubletree by Hilton - Richardson, Texas

REGISTER NOW ▶ www.spca.org/2018LINKConference
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 7:30 AM</td>
<td>Exhibitor Set Up – Tables Provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Registration Exhibitor Tables OPEN and Continental Breakfast Served in the Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM - 9:15 AM</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions - Mr. James Bias, President and CEO, SPCA of Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM-10:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM - 12:15PM</td>
<td>LUNCH – Vegan, Vegetarian Options Provided Exhibitor Tables OPEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 PM-1:15 PM</td>
<td>Violence Prevention &amp; Compassion Education with Rescued Dogs - Ms. Joy Southard - Director, Texas Chapter - Healing Species. This presentation focuses on the history of the Healing Species program, the rationale, and the results. A special rescue dog from the program will accompany Ms. Southard as participants learn how a once-abused dog becomes the bridge to address the heart of a child.</td>
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<td>1:15 PM - 2:15 PM</td>
<td>The LINK and Texas Laws – Ms. Felicia Kerney, Animal Cruelty Unit Chief, Dallas County District Attorney’s Office. Topics will include applicable Texas statutes, animal cruelty case studies, and links with community violence.</td>
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<td>2:30 PM - 3:45 PM</td>
<td>Ask the Experts - Q&amp;A Panel - Conference Speakers are joined by Mr. David Alex, Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office; Mr. Art Munoz, Special Investigator Dallas County District Attorney’s Office and Chief Investigator, SPCA of Texas Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit; and Ms. Shelby Bobosky, Attorney and President, Texas Humane Legislation Network.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks – CEU Reminder</td>
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Ask for the “SPC” Room Rate of $109*
*Per night, plus taxes, fees, and room purchases

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• DFW Airport 28 miles West
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MEETING FACILITY
• 11,000 square feet of flexible meeting and banquet space available for up to 450 guests
• Conference facilities offer complimentary high speed wireless internet
• Audio Visual equipment available
• Our Professional catering staff will ensure a seamless event from start to finish
Conference Speakers

Phil Arkow, National Link Coalition

Internationally acclaimed lecturer, author and educator Phil Arkow is coordinator of the National LINK Coalition – the National Resource Center on The LINK between Animal Abuse and Human Violence – and edits the monthly LINK-Letter. He chairs the Latham Foundation’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project. He teaches at the University of Florida, Harcum College and Camden County College. He has presented over 250 times in 17 countries, 38 states and 9 Canadian provinces, and has authored over 75 key reference works on human-animal interactions and violence prevention. He co-founded the National Link Coalition, the National Animal Control Association, and the Colorado and New Jersey humane federations. He has served with the AVMA, the ASPCA, American Humane, the Delta Society, the Animals & Society Institute, the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals, the National District Attorneys Association, the Academy on Violence & Abuse, and the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from New Jersey Child Assault Prevention. Phone: 856-627-5118, Email: arkowpets@snip.net, Web: www.animaltherapy.net, www.NationalLinkCoalition.org

Joy Southard, Texas Chapter Director, Healing Species

Joy Southard is a long-time advocate for children and animals. Her heart’s work includes three years as an advocate and one year as Development Director for CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County. During her time at CASA, she learned about the Healing Species’ program for violence intervention and compassion education founded by Cheri Brown Thompson, attorney-at-law. Ms. Southard traveled to Healing Species’ home base in Carolina where she received training and became certified to administer the Healing Species program using rescued dogs as healers and teachers. In 2010 Ms. Southard organized the Healing Species Texas Chapter and served as its Director. Phone: 936-588-2770, Email: info@healingspeciestexas.org

Felicia L. Kerney, Esq., Dallas County District Attorney Animal Cruelty Unit Chief

Felicia started her government career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Galveston County District Attorney’s Office where she served as a misdemeanor and felony prosecutor for nine years. During this time, Felicia prosecuted a number of cases including Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Murder. While working in Galveston, Felicia came into contact with a number of Spanish speaking victims however was unable to communicate with them effectively due to the language barrier. Having the desire to better communicate with the Hispanic community, Felicia moved to Costa Rica to study the Spanish language. Upon her return, Felicia taught English to Spanish speakers and worked with the Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2011, Felicia moved to Dallas, Texas and began working as an Assistant District Attorney with the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office. In 2013, Felicia was placed in a specialized unit where she prosecuted solely domestic violence cases; it was here that she came into contact with her first animal cruelty case. Felicia’s desire to protect our four-legged friends as well as educate the community about animal abuse inspired her to apply for the position of animal cruelty prosecutor and in March 2015, Felicia was transferred to the animal cruelty unit where she has been proudly serving as chief prosecutor ever since. As Felicia began to settle into her new position she began to realize more and more that the abuse of animals was more than just that. There was a link between animal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence. Felicia’s mission is twofold: make sure that those who harm animals are appropriately punished and educate the community about animal cruelty by speaking wherever anyone will listen.
David Alex, Tarrant County Assistant Criminal District Attorney

David Alex is the current Chief of Criminal District Court #3, where he started in 2015. Prior to joining the Tarrant County team, he was the Chief of the Animal Cruelty Unit (ACU) at the Dallas County, District Attorney's Office. He co-founded the ACU in 2013 in an innovative, first of its kind, private – public funding campaign. In 2014, he successfully prosecuted Robert Prichard for drowning his pit bull in his backyard swimming pool. The jury assessed 6 years aggravated time in prison. In this same year, he prosecuted the trio of youthful offenders who set fire to a stray pit bull puppy (Justice) in Dallas, sending them all to prison. Earlier in 2014, he successfully sent a habitual offender to 15 years for throwing his girlfriend’s cat from a 2nd story balcony. Prior to the ACU, ADA Alex took the lead on all the Cruelty Cases filed to ensure just outcomes. His first major Cruelty case involved Mercy, the pit bull set on fire by its owner in 2006. Mercy received international attention and the jury assessed 4 years in prison to Deshawn Brown. Prior to this case, probation was the most probable outcome in a Cruelty case. In his former role as Trial Bureau Chief, he actively litigated death Penalty cases and witnessed the link between animal and human violence. Moved by this observation, he enlisted a seasoned death penalty forensic psychologist, Randy Price (who volunteers his services) to evaluate the violent animal abusers for risk of future violence. To increase the reach of the ACU, he created a “Special Investigator” position funded by the SPCA of Texas in another first of its kind venture. ADA Alex trains and speaks professionally on Animal Cruelty topics for organizations such as the Texas District and County Attorney’s Association and the Texas Humane Legislative Network. He is currently Level 1 and 3 certified by the Cruelty Investigations Academy through collaboration between Code 3 Associates and Colorado State University. His vision is to help create similar units throughout Texas and the Nation.

Shelby Bobosky, President, Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN)

Shelby Bobosky is the Texas State Bar Animal Law Section’s Secretary. She is also President of the Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN), a 501 (c)(4) organization whose mission is to promote the humane treatment of animals through legislation, education and advocacy. Since 2011 and under her leadership as President, Vice President and Legislation Chair, the organization has had three successful legislative sessions wherein THLN successfully passed the Anti-Gassing Law (passed in 2013), the Mandatory Canine Encounter Training Law (passed in 2015) and the Animal Cruelty Enhancement Law (passed in 2017). Ms. Bobosky attended the University of Kentucky for her undergraduate degree, earning a double major in History and Spanish in 1996. She then attended the University of Tulsa Law School and spent a year as a visiting law student at Northwestern University School of Law graduating in 1999. In 1999, Ms. Bobosky moved from Chicago, Illinois to Dallas, Texas, to begin her law practice. For the past sixteen years, Ms. Bobosky has continued practicing general civil litigation until recently when she decided to do only pro bono work putting in hundreds of hours for THLN as well as assisting animal welfare advocates and rescues when possible. Ms. Bobosky was heavily involved in the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, co-chairing the Animal Welfare Committee for four years and raising thousands of dollars for local 501(c)(3) rescues during her terms. Ms. Bobosky has been Vice President and Board Member with THLN since January 2011. Ms. Bobosky served as the Co-Legislative Chairman for THLN in the 2013 and 2015 sessions. She has traveled thousands of miles with THLN in order to promote its mission. Ms. Bobosky and her husband, three boys and three rescue dogs live in Dallas, Texas. Email: shelby@texashumanenetwork.org.

Arturo “Art” Muñoz, Jr., Special Investigator, Animal Cruelty Unit, Dallas County District Attorney and Chief Investigator, Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit, SPCA of Texas

Art Muñoz is the Special Investigator for the Dallas County District Attorney’s Animal Crimes Unit and Chief Investigator for the SPCA of Texas’ Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit. Since 2003, he has conducted hundreds of animal cruelty investigations. A commissioned peace officer, he is recognized as an expert witness in the court of law and for his proficiency in creating tactical OPS plans for successful execution of search warrants. His certifications include Basic ACO/THHS/TDSHS, Blood Sport Investigations/NYPD Humane Law Enforcement Division, NACHO Levels I & II, NACIS Levels I & II, Equine Investigations Levels I & II, Gang Training, Crisis Intervention Training, Large Animal Behavior and Handling, and Disaster Animal Response. His case work includes dogfighting, cockfighting, animal hoarding, and large-scale livestock and equine cruelty cases, many resulting in criminal convictions and incarceration of animal abusers.
Sponsorship Opportunities

All Sponsorship Commitments Requested by February 1, 2018
Exhibit Space is limited, please reserve your sponsorship early!

On March 9, 2018, professionals from multiple disciplines will gather in Dallas, Texas at an all-day 2018 LINK Conference, Breaking the Cycles of Violence, A Species-Spanning Approach to Safer Families and Communities. The conference will explore the research-based LINK between animal abuse and human violence - “the dark side” of human-animal interactions and its impact on human relationships and social services, animal care and control, law enforcement and criminal justice, and human and veterinary medicine. Conference participants will better understand related public policies, will learn about new collaborative strategies, new animal cruelty code enhancements, and groundbreaking research and innovative programs to prevent family violence and to respond to its human and animal victims.

Your sponsorship of the 2018 LINK Conference will help the North Texas LINK Coalition fulfill its purpose to facilitate the area’s recognition and understanding of the dynamic connection between animal abuse and the cycle of family and societal violence and to advocate for the implementation of standard policies and procedures in intersecting North Texas agencies and organizations for the purpose of collecting, reporting, and sharing data.

The conference is hosted by The SPCA of Texas and the North Texas LINK Coalition and features internationally acclaimed lecturer, author and educator Phil Arkow, Chair of the Latham Foundation’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, and Co-Founder of the National LINK Coalition. Presentations will also be made by Joy Southard, Director, Texas Healing Species whose program uses rescued shelter dogs to open communication with abused children, and Felicia Kerney, Animal Cruelty Unit Chief, Dallas County District Attorney’s Office. The afternoon’s Ask the Experts Panel features additional law enforcement and criminal justice professionals David Alex, Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office; Art Munoz, Special Investigator, Dallas County District Attorney’s office and Chief Investigator, SPCA of Texas’ Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit; and Shelby Bobosky, Attorney, and President, Texas Humane Legislation Network. Continuing education credits offered: 5.5 SW/LPC CEU’s provided by The Family Place. Other Credits Pending: TCOLE, CLE, CEC.

“The SPCA of Texas strongly supports the North Texas LINK Coalition’s efforts. There is a research-based link between violence toward animals and violence toward humans. People who abuse and torture animals are much more likely to be violent toward humans,” said James Bias, President and CEO of the SPCA of Texas. He continued, “A tragic example is the recent report by the Star Telegram of a Fort Worth man’s arrest who in the years prior to murdering his wife had threatened other family members with a knife and killed the family’s pit bull with a hammer. These compelling links of animal cruelty with domestic violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and elder abuse are at the heart of the 2018 LINK Conference and the Coalition’s purpose.”
# 2018 LINK CONFERENCE
Breaking the Cycles of Violence

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*All Sponsorship Commitments Requested by February 1, 2018*

Exhibit Space is **limited**, please reserve your sponsorship early!

Please visit [https://www.spca.org/2018LINKConference](https://www.spca.org/2018LINKConference) to purchase your sponsorship or contact Linda Yarbrough, SPCA of Texas, lyarbrough@spca.org.

The SPCA of Texas is host agency to the North Texas LINK Coalition. The SPCA of Texas is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. 2018 LINK Conference Sponsorship donations are fully tax deductible to the extent of IRS regulations. The fair market value of each conference ticket is $75.00; donations in excess are tax deductible.

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### PRESENTING SPONSOR
**$10,000**

- Logo & mention in Conference Brochure, & SPCA of Texas social media, & media releases [conference-related]
- Logo & recognition on North Texas Link Coalition website Events page
- Logo & special Thank You on Presentation Screen & Venue Signage
- Opportunity to hand out materials at conference
- (3) Conference Tickets & opportunity to exhibit at conference
- Logo & recognition in conference follow up communications

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### CO-SPONSOR
**$5,000**

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- Logo & recognition on North Texas Link Coalition website Events page
- Logo & Special thank you on Venue Signage
- Opportunity to hand out materials
- (2) Conference Tickets & opportunity to exhibit at conference

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### PLATINUM SPONSOR
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- Logo & Special thank you on Venue Signage
- Opportunity to hand out materials
- (2) Conference Tickets & opportunity to exhibit at conference

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### GOLD SPONSOR
**$1,000**

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- Logo on North Texas Link Coalition website Events Page
- Logo & Special thank you on Venue Signage
- Opportunity to hand out materials
- (1) Conference Ticket & opportunity to exhibit at conference

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### SILVER SPONSOR
**$500**

- Name mention in Conference Brochure
- Name mention on North Texas Link Coalition website Events Page
- Opportunity to hand out materials

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### BRONZE SPONSOR
**$250**

- Name mention on North Texas Link Coalition website Events Page
- Opportunity to hand out materials

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THANK YOU
Learn more about the North Texas LINK Coalition and access the 2018 LINK Conference Schedule and Registration pages online here:

North Texas LINK Coalition
www.northtexaslinkcoalition.com

2018 LINK Conference Schedule
https://www.spca.org/file/link-coalition/2018linkpromo

2018 LINK Conference Registration and Sponsorships
https://www.spca.org/2018linkconference

**Animal Abuse and Family Violence**

Violence towards humans or animals can take the form of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect. While most animal cruelty investigations involve unintentional neglect, many uncover intentional neglect and abuse.

**Animal Abuse and Child Maltreatment**

When animal abuse occurs, other forms of violence are often present, putting all family members and impressionable young minds at increased risk.

**Animal Abuse and Elder Abuse**

Elders with limited resources, memory loss, frail physical condition or social isolation may neglect themselves to care for their pets, or may be unable to provide adequate food and veterinary care.

**The LINK: How you can use it**

Incorporating The Link into policy and practice enables professionals to intervene earlier to detect and prevent abuse. But communication, cooperation, cross-training and cross-reporting between animal and human services agencies must be developed.