

# \$100 PAWS CLUB

Together, Working to End Animal Abuse in Bay County!

**Dear \$100 PAWS Members,  
Please join us for our  
1st annual \$100 Paws Club  
Membership Luncheon!**



**Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 12:00-1 PM**

**\$10/ea**

**HSBC Adoption Center (Come Check Us Out!)**

**1607 Marquette Ave, Bay City**

**Please RSVP by 9/10/17 (Bring a Friend!) 989-893-0451**

**Speakers:**

Deborah Schutt, Chairperson, Board Member of Michigan Pet Fund Alliance



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for the \$100 PAW Luncheon on 9-20-17

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to 1607 Marquette Ave, Bay City, 48706 or Call 989-893-0451



## **Michigan Bills Would Mandate Child/Animal Abuse Cross-Reporting Five bipartisan Michigan State Representatives have introduced three bills that would mandate cross-reporting between Child Protective Services employees and local animal control and law enforcement officers.**

Democrats Robert Kosowski and Terry Sabo, and Republicans Peter Lucido, Eric Leutheuser and Bronna Kahle, sponsored:

- Michigan HB 4441 would amend the Child Protection Law to add animal control officers to the list of professions mandated to report suspected child abuse or child neglect.
- • HB 4442 would amend the Michigan Penal Code to require Child Protective Services employees to report suspected animal abuse or neglect to an animal control or law enforcement officer: an initial oral report would be followed up with a written report within 72 hours. The CPS reporter would have anonymity, the presumption of having acted in good faith, and immunity from civil or criminal liability. Failure to report, or making a false report, would be punishable offenses.
- • HB 4443 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to make the intentional false reporting of animal abuse a felony. All three bills are in the House Judiciary Committee.

RobertKosowski@house.mi.gov,  
TerrySabo@house.mi.gov  
PeterLucido@house.mi.gov  
EricLeutheuser@house.mi.gov  
BronnaKahle@house.mi.gov  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/>

**Please contact the sponsors of these bills,  
and your local legislators to tell them you**

## **Preventing Animal Abuse and Human Violence**

Abuse is often cyclical and inter-generational. The more cases of human and animal abuse that are reported, and the earlier that professionals can intervene to break the cycles of violence, the higher the rate of success.

**Cross-Training** <http://nationallinkcoalition.org>

The National Link Coalition encourages child welfare, animal care & control, adult protective services, domestic violence, and other community agencies to provide training programs for each other, advising them of what the signs of violence are and how such cases are handled in the community. Animal care & control agencies should be included in child abuse and domestic violence fatality reviews and multidisciplinary teams. Link training should be routinely included in social services agencies' pre-professional and continuing education, and the National Link Coalition has a [speakers' bureau of experts](#) on a wide range of topics. The goal is to have counterpart agencies' personnel become generally familiar with the scope and processes of handling all forms of family violence and to establish a clear channel of communications so that when a case suggests Link issues, each agency knows who to call to investigate that aspect of the case further.

# Preventing Animal Abuse and Human Violence Continued

## Cross-Reporting

Once these channels of communication have been opened, the National Link Coalition recommends that agencies establish memorandums of understanding and protocols to routinely screen for all forms of family violence and neglect on crisis lines, intakes, referrals, assessments and other procedures, and to report such suspected family violence to the appropriate agency for further investigation. Such screening should include, at a minimum, three questions:

- Are there animals at home?
- How are they cared for?
- Are you worried about their welfare?

The National Link Coalition has [guidelines](#) to help agencies address issues of client confidentiality.

## Get Involved <http://nationallinkcoalition.org>

1. **Report Abuse:** Take all forms of family violence — including animal cruelty — seriously. They are all crimes themselves and a red flag for other violence—past, present or future. If you're concerned, report it, and let a professional agency determine what the next step should be:

2. **Screen for abuse:** Revise crisis line, intake, referral, assessment, and other forms to routinely include questions that expose other forms of violence. For example, child welfare, domestic violence and adult protective services can ask three key questions:

- Are there animals at home?
- How are they cared for?
- Are you worried about their welfare?

Case workers can look for malnourished or mistreated animals, or excessive numbers of them, or dangerous animals that threaten their clients. Animal shelter and veterinary personnel can observe situations that suggest domestic violence, child abuse or elder abuse, and ask the client if they have any family concerns that affect the welfare of animals or others in the home.

3. **Collaborate against abuse:** Set up lines of communication, Memorandums of Understanding, and inter-agency protocols for referrals and response. Distribute lists of contacts for other agencies to your staff so they know who to call when they see a situation suggestive of another form of family violence. Provide in-service training to other agencies' staff to explain what your organization does... and have them provide similar training for your people. Partner with other agencies to support legislation addressing The Link (cross-reporting, pet protection orders, etc.).

4. **Support LINK laws:** Each issue of *The LINK-Letter* <http://nationallinkcoalition.org> contains a list of state legislation involving Link topics that we're following. Voice your concerns to legislators who can help make a difference.

5. **Set an Example:** We urge parents and teachers to teach, model and encourage kids to show kindness and compassion towards other people and animals and to develop and deliver curricula that build empathy.

8. **Establish a community Link coalition:** Fight violence in all its forms through an interdisciplinary task force that integrates domestic violence, child protection, animal welfare and elder abuse groups. See our [Toolkit](#) for guidance and contact us for assistance in forming a Link coalition in your community.

**6. Learn more:** Read our free monthly electronic newsletter, *The LINK-Letter*. [Contact us](#) and ask to be placed on our mailing list.

**7. Spread the word:** Invite National Link Coalition representatives to conduct training workshops at your local, state, regional and national conferences. Connect us with media representatives when news stories appear showing how various forms of family violence are linked. Please [contact us](#) for details.

Please contact Marykay Plotnik if you are interested in creating a coalition.

[info@humanesocietybc.org](mailto:info@humanesocietybc.org)

989-402-7623

