

# Watching Our Planted Seeds Grow: Two Years of Remarkable LINK Progress

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[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)



Biennial Summit – June 28, 2016 – Minneapolis, MN

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



Minnesota Day One Crisis Hotline



# What is the National LINK Coalition?

- National Resource Center.
- Organized 2008, Portland, Maine.
- 3,000+ members, 50 states, 50 countries.
- Informal collaboration addressing linkages, prevention and response to animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse.
- Policy, programs, awareness, & research (1,200+ citations).
- LINK-Letter, local coalitions, trainings.
- By recognizing how human and animal violence are LINKed, violence prevention is enhanced and families and communities are safer.



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals*

# Goals of the National Town Meeting – June 8-9, 2008, Portland, Maine

1. Strengthen community responses to human violence.
2. Determine how research, public policy, and coalition-building will impact Link programming.
3. Advance Link public policy by prioritizing legislative and program initiatives.
4. Develop models for successful coalition program development, implementation of activities, and sustainability.
5. Create a multidisciplinary, national network.



# The Experts' Summit: June 10, 2008

## 5 Strategic Goal Areas

1. Build public awareness:  
Marketing, Messaging, Communications.
2. Overcome the fragmentation of systems through network-building.
3. Education & training for professionals.
4. Addressing the root cause:  
Prevention, Intervention, and Prosecution.
5. Engaging academics for research and data collection.



STRATEGIZING THE LINK  
*National Town Meeting*

Advancing Public Policy and Community Coalitions

# The National Link Coalition: Main Strategies

- Integrate four key components to legitimize and implement innovative species-spanning approaches that improve human & animal welfare



# Advances 2014-2016 – The LINK-Letter PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS

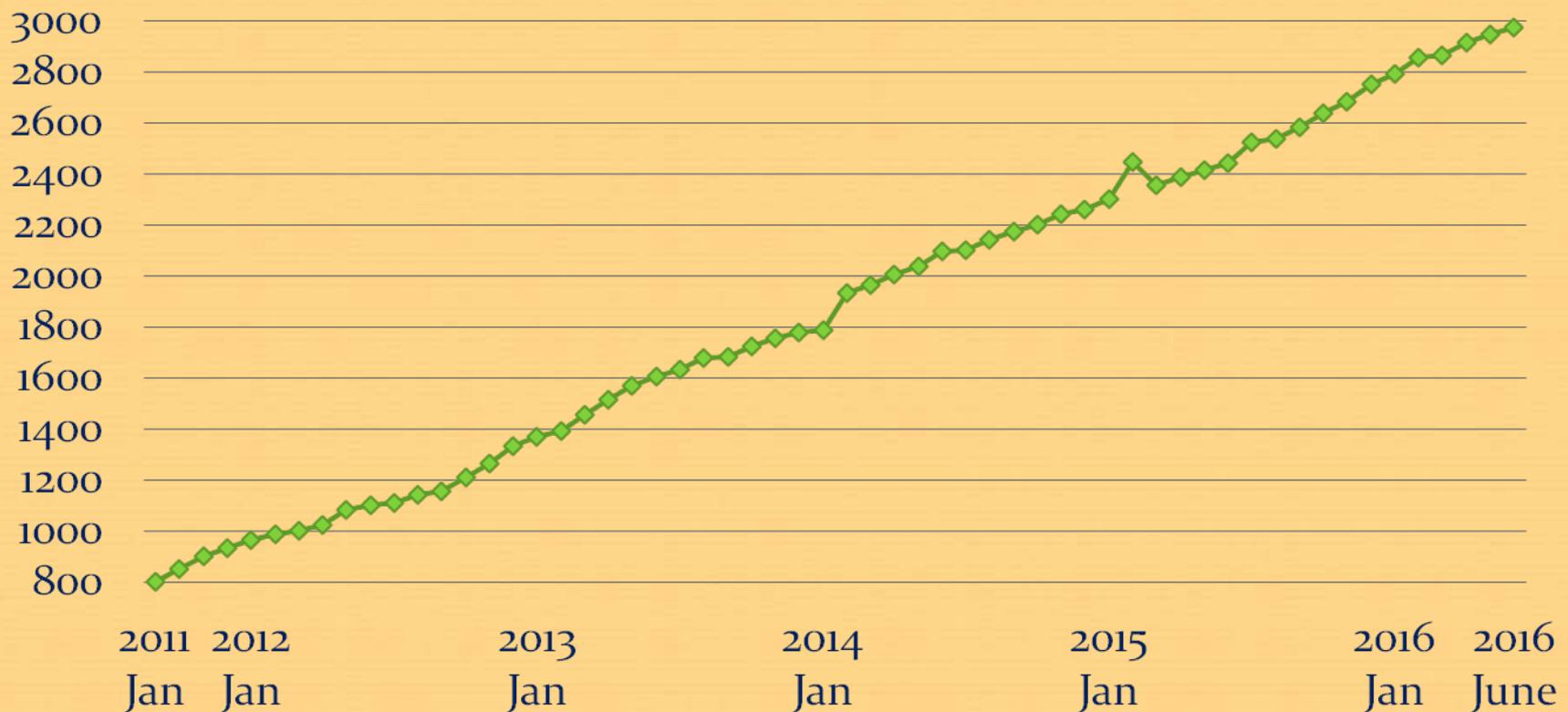


**Circulation June 2016: 3,020**

**Increase since last Summit (Oct. 2014): 37%**

**Increase since start of self-publication: 272%**

## LINK-Letter Readership 2011-2016

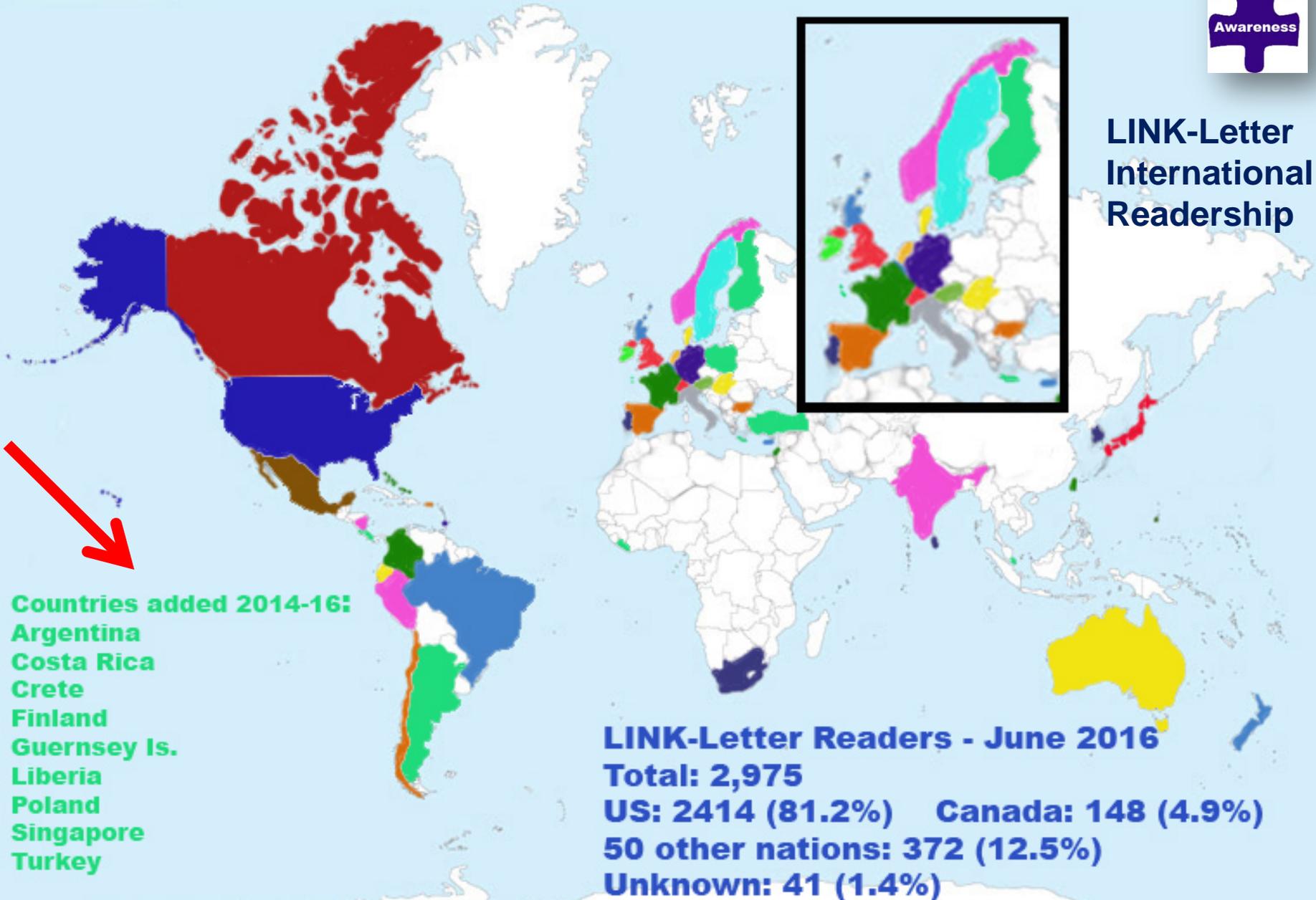




# The LINK-Letter – International Readership



LINK-Letter  
International  
Readership



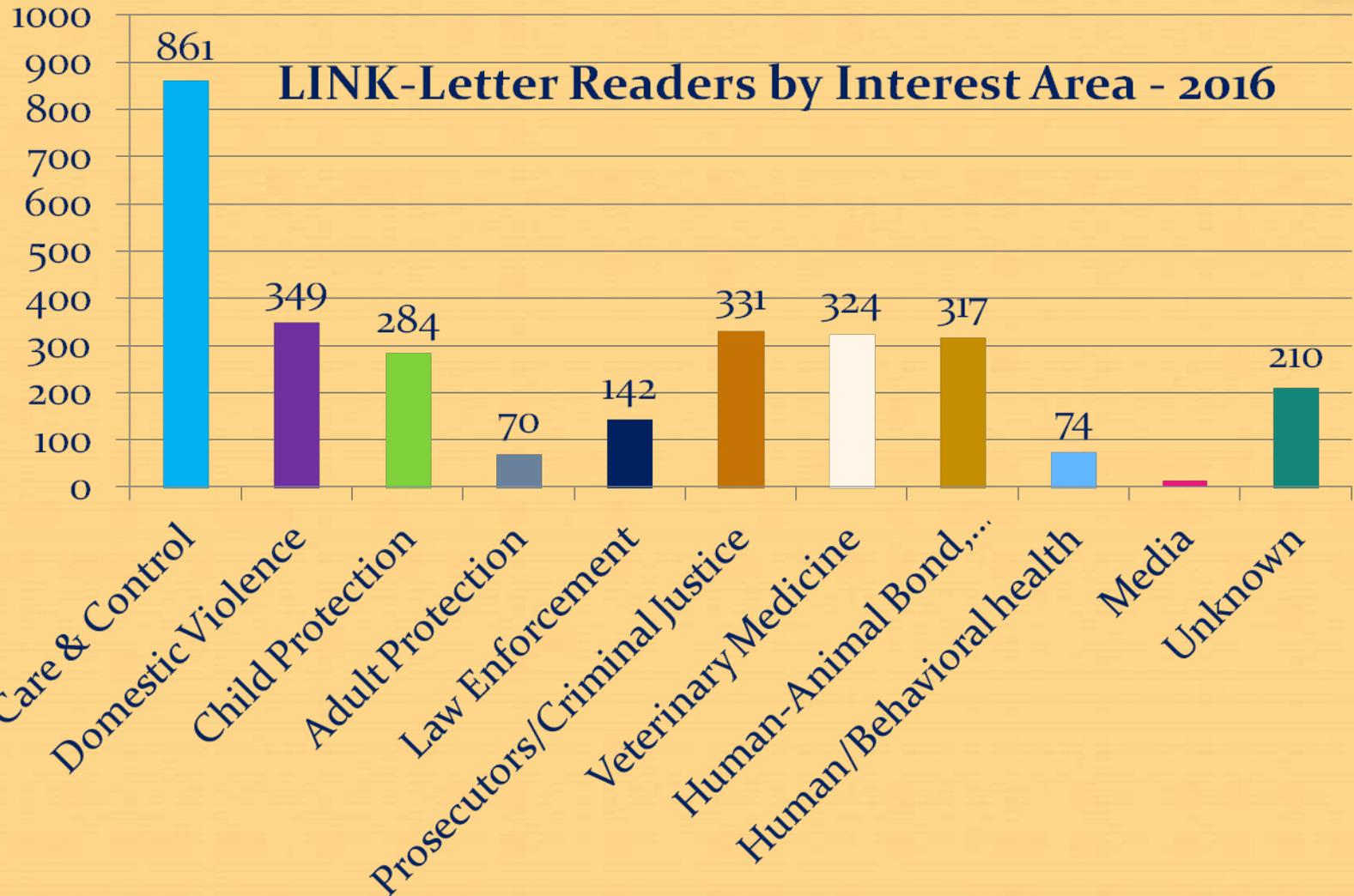
**Countries added 2014-16:**

- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Crete
- Finland
- Guernsey Is.
- Liberia
- Poland
- Singapore
- Turkey

**LINK-Letter Readers - June 2016**

**Total: 2,975**  
**US: 2414 (81.2%)**    **Canada: 148 (4.9%)**  
**50 other nations: 372 (12.5%)**  
**Unknown: 41 (1.4%)**

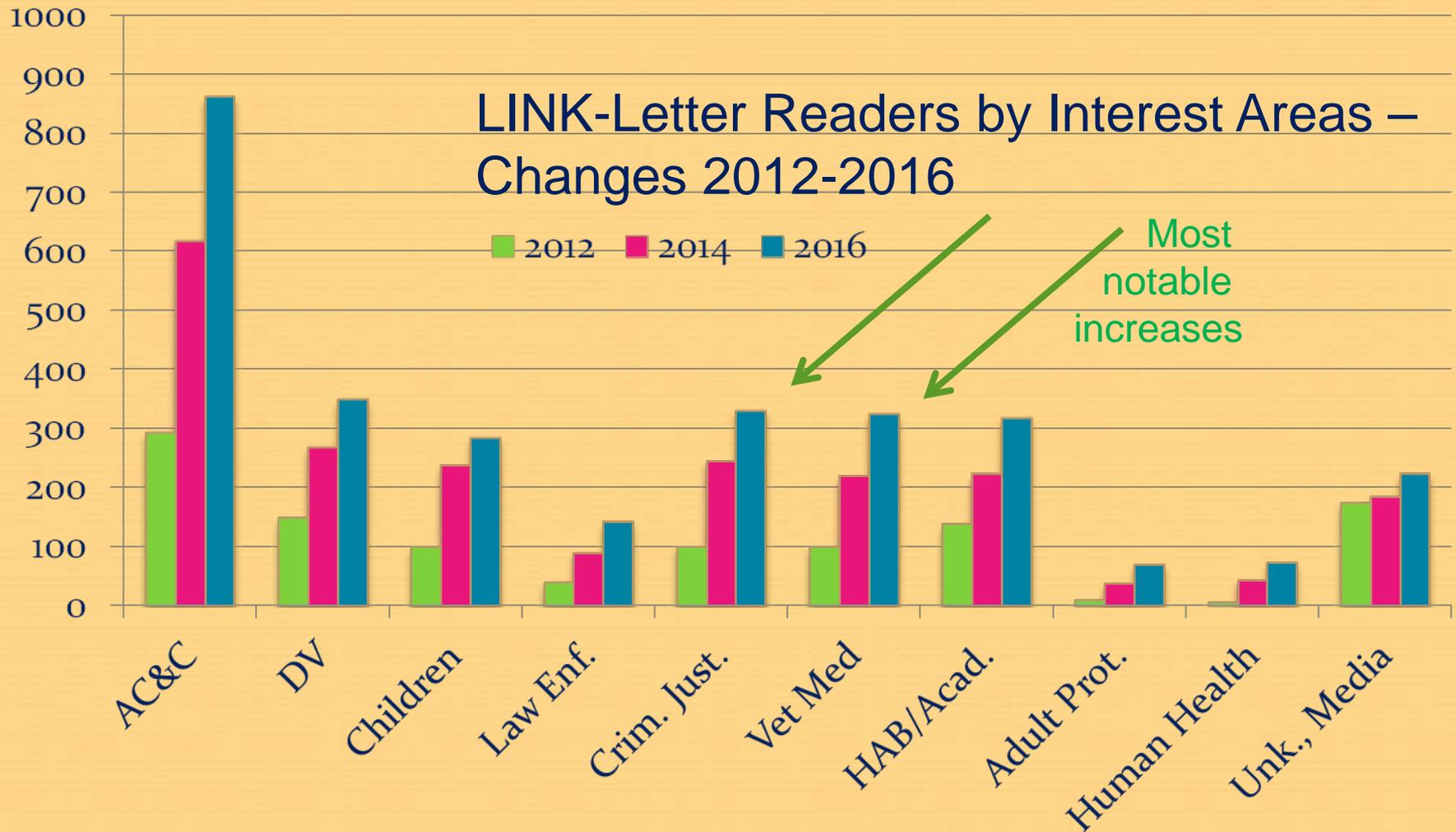
# Advances 2014-2016 – The LINK-Letter





# Advances 2014-2016 – The LINK-Letter

## LINK-Letter Readers by Interest Areas – Changes 2012-2016



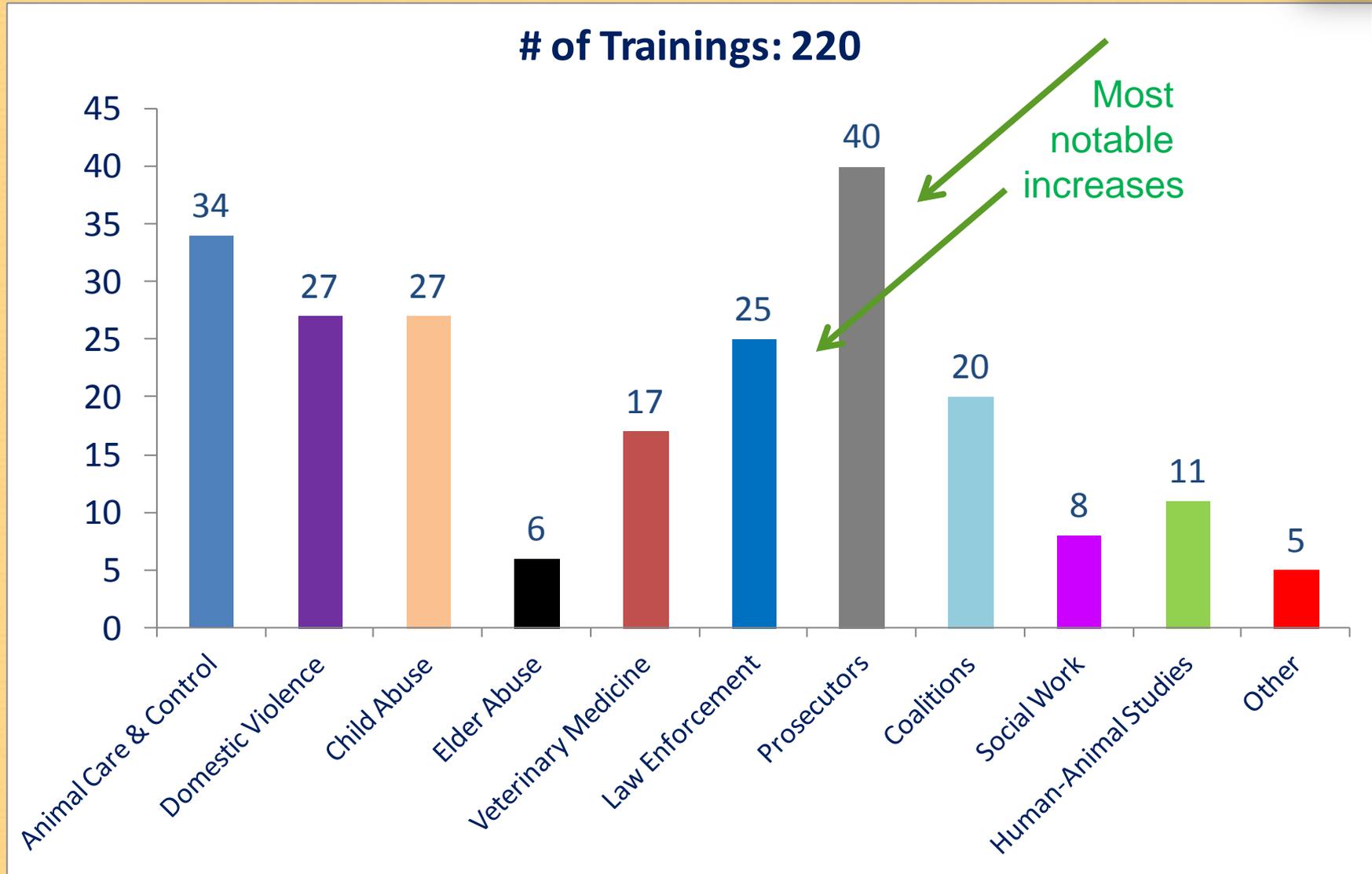


# Public & Professional Awareness – Link Trainings 2014-2016 By Location

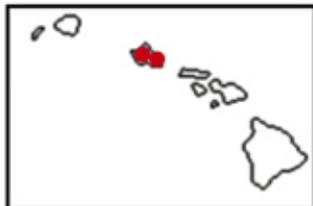
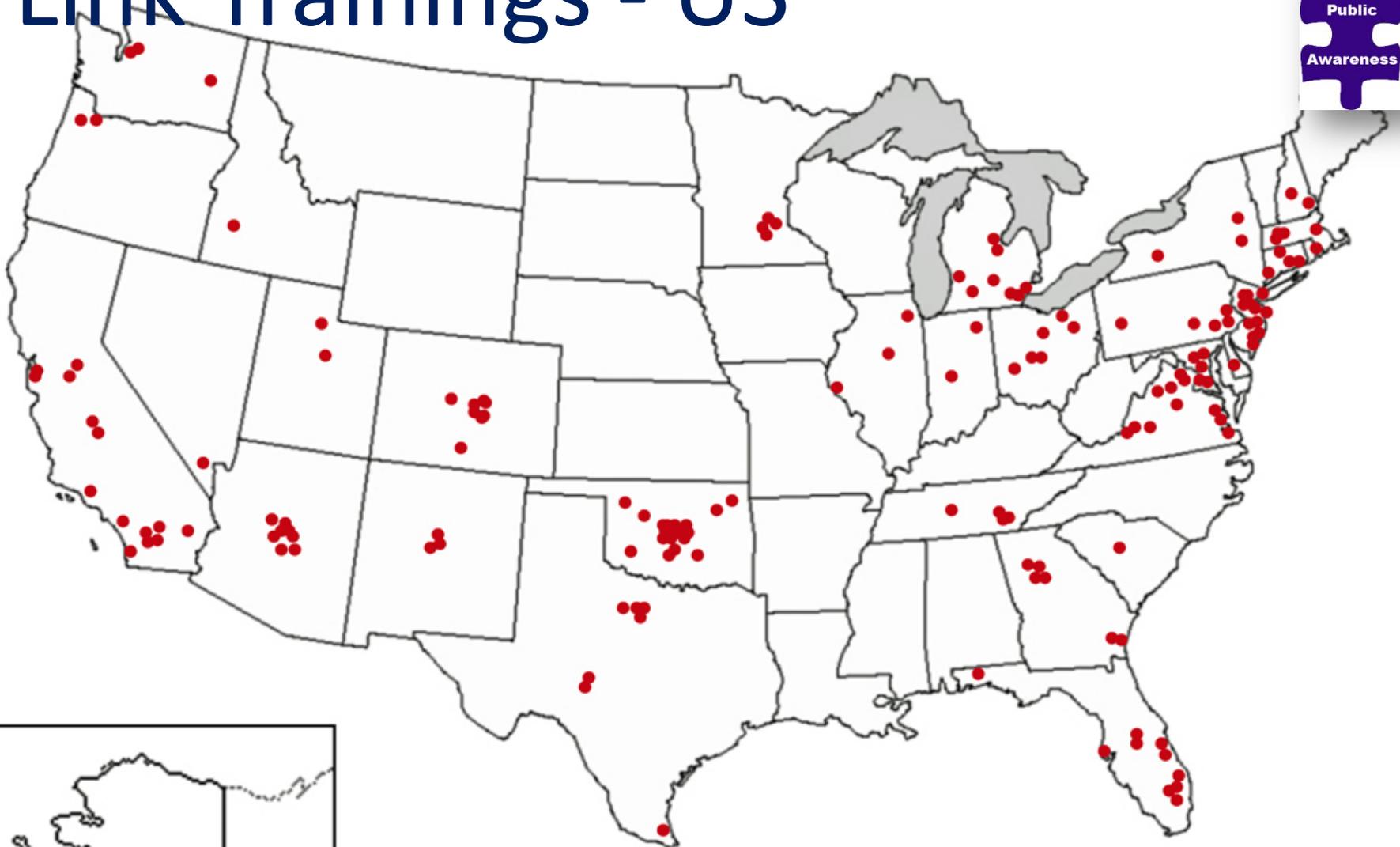


**TOTAL: 220**

# Link Trainings 2014-2016 - Disciplines

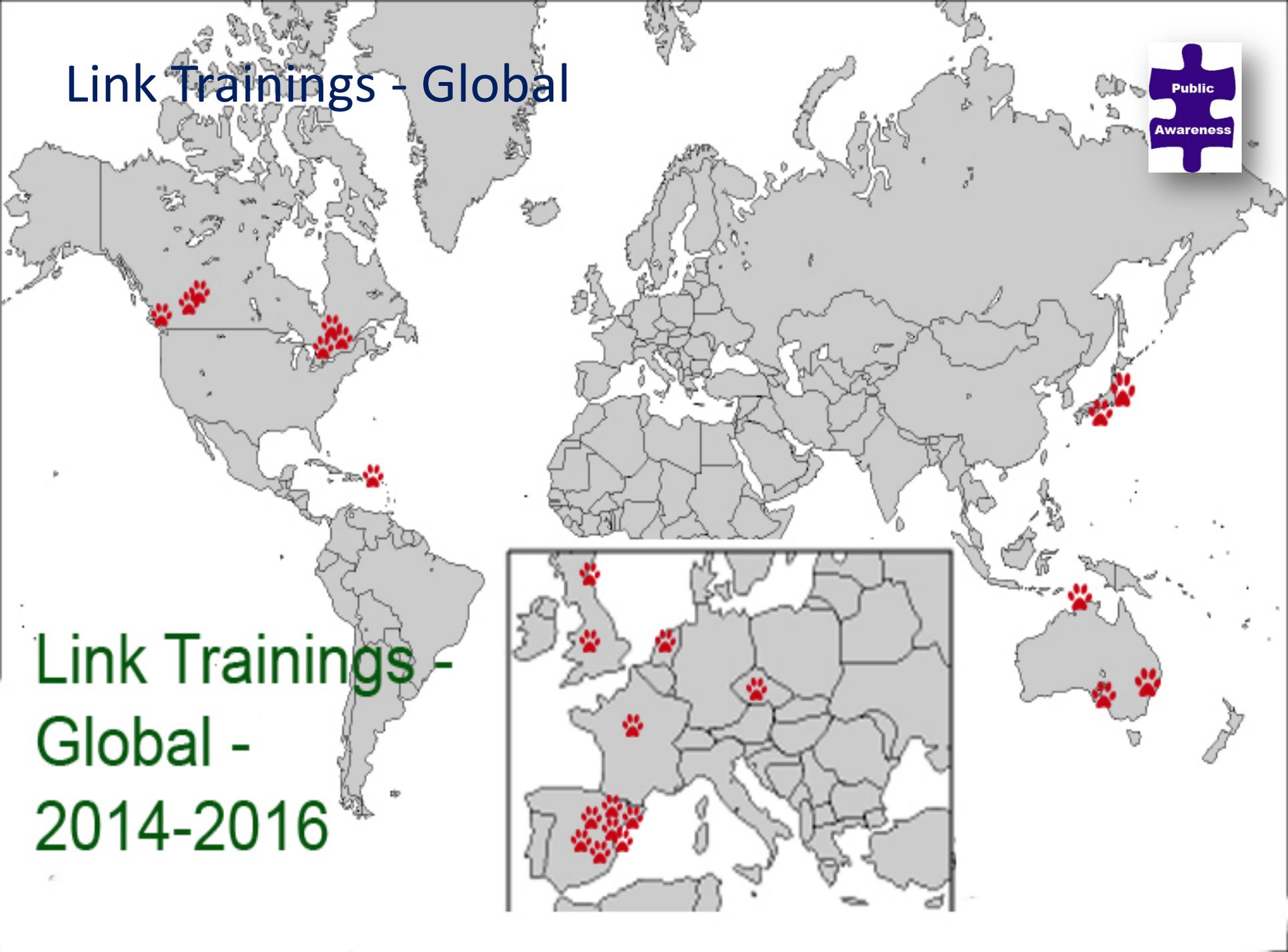


# Link Trainings - US



Link Trainings - US  
2014-2016

# Link Trainings - Global



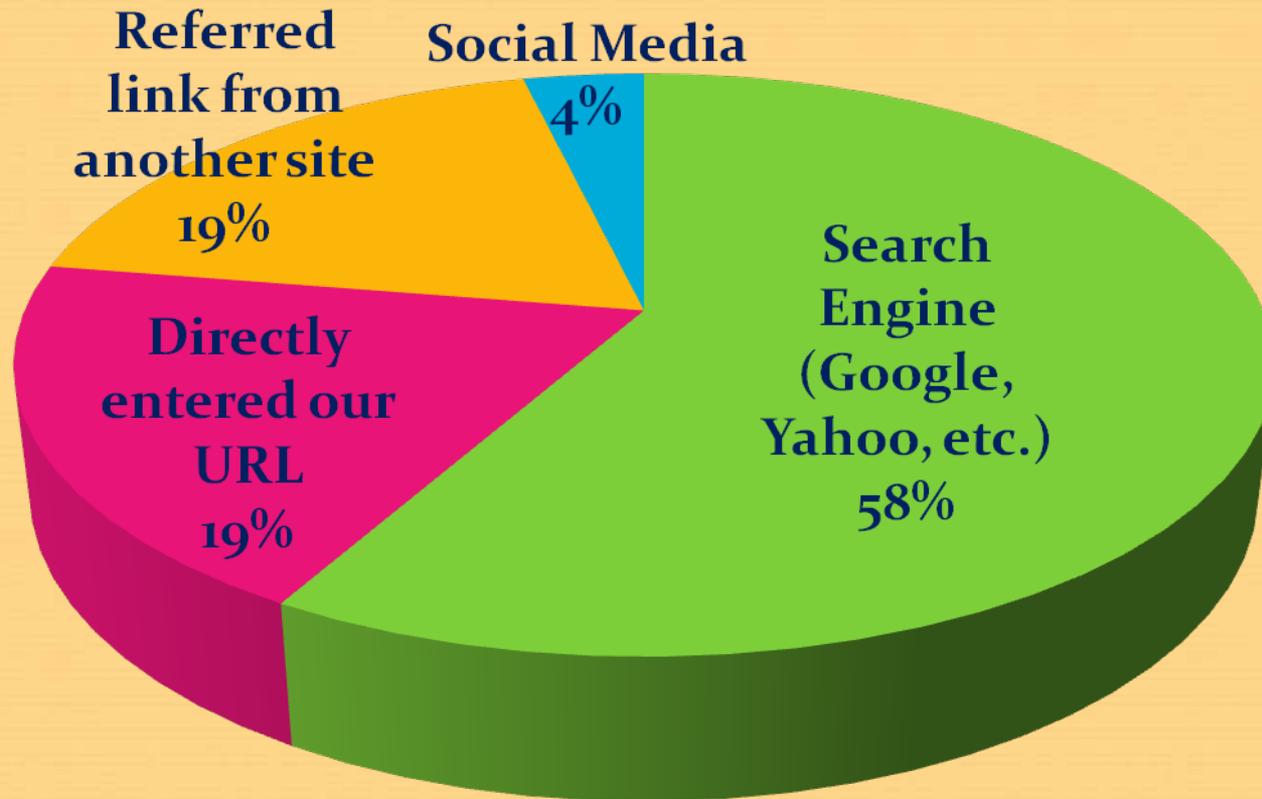
Link Trainings -  
Global -  
2014-2016

# Public & Professional Awareness = Website Usage (June 17, 2014 – April 5, 2016)

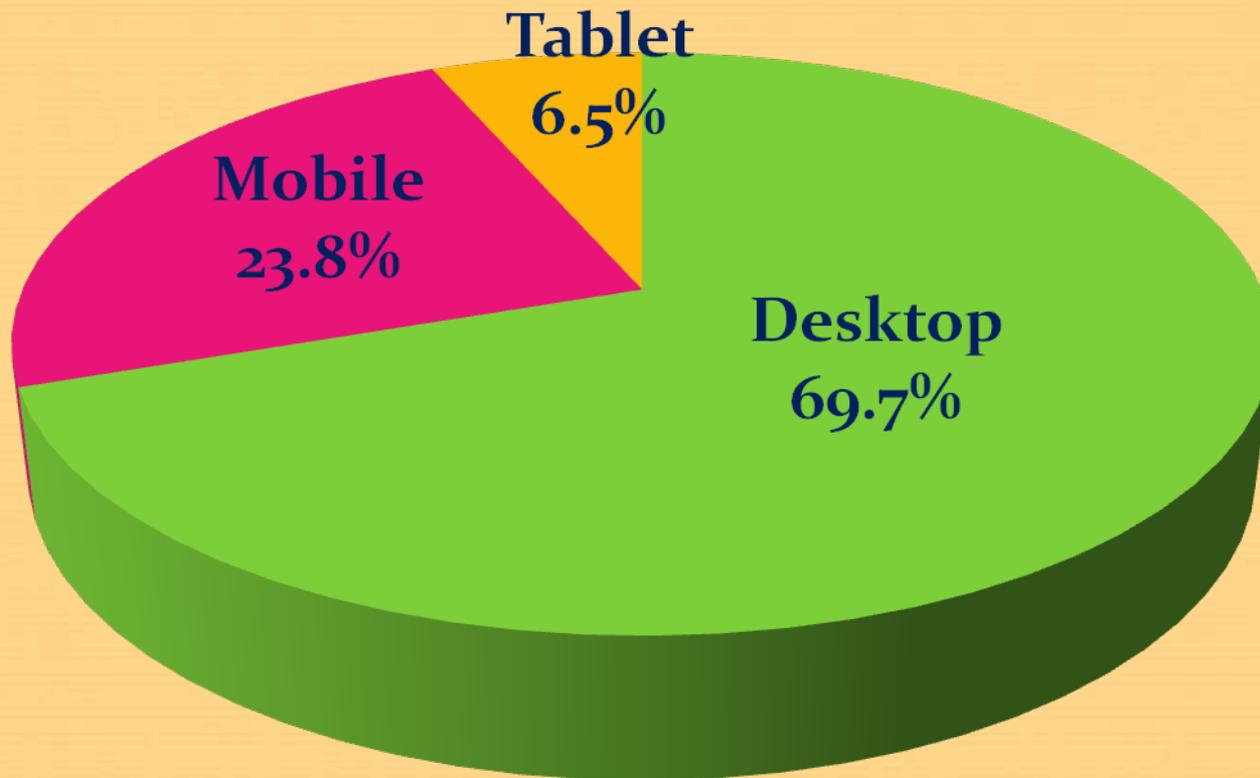


	TOTAL	DAILY AVERAGE
# of sessions	43,426	66 sessions/day
# of users	35,370	53 users per day
# of page views	70,401	
Average pages per visit	1.62	
Bounce rate (viewers went to only one page)	76.59%	
Average time on site	1 min. 24 sec.	
New Visitors (first time)	81.42%	

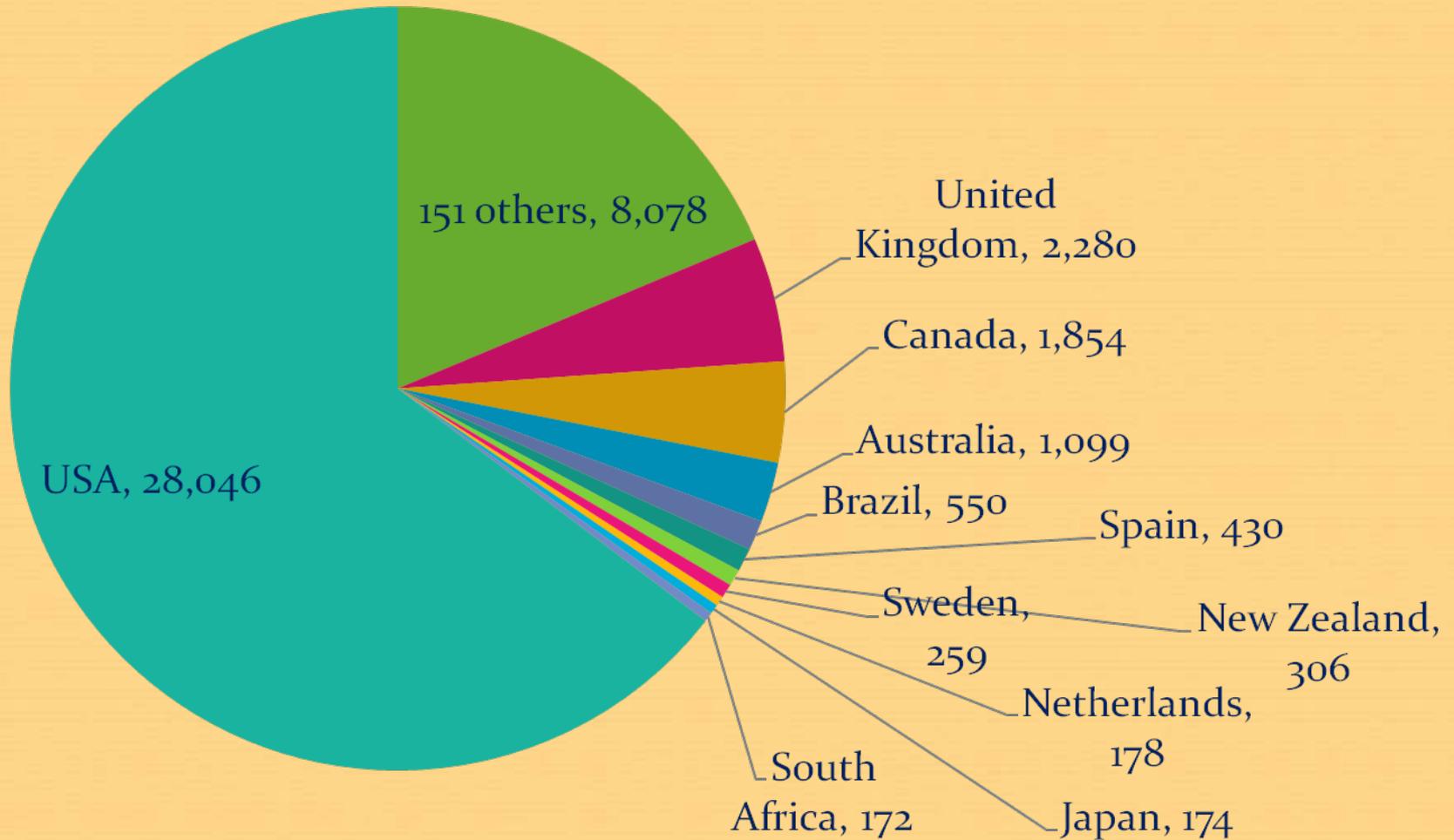
# How They Reach the Site



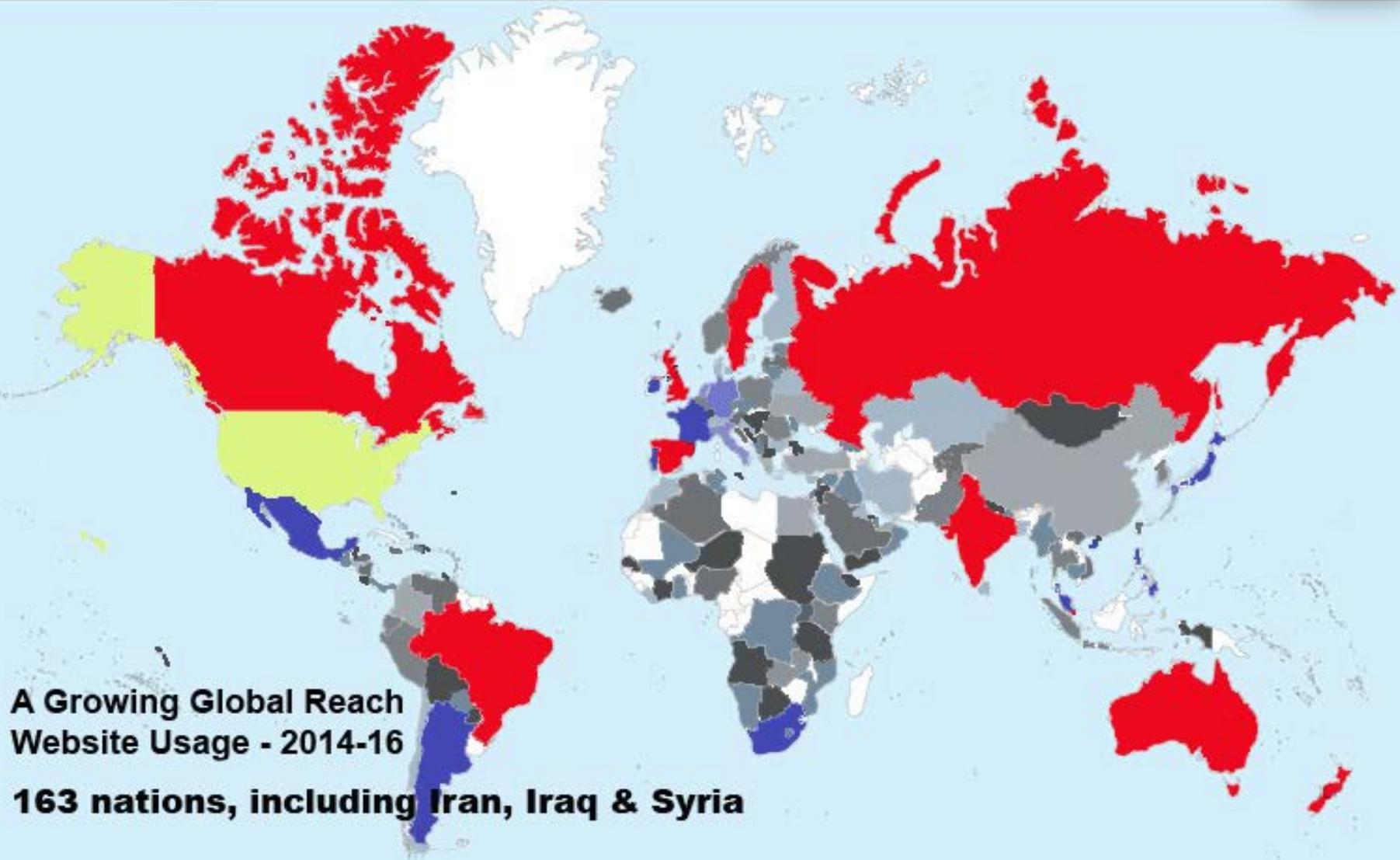
# How They View the Site



# Where They Come From: Website Usage (June 17, 2014 – April 5, 2016)



# A Growing Global Website Reach



**A Growing Global Reach  
Website Usage - 2014-16**

**163 nations, including Iran, Iraq & Syria**

# A Growing Global Reach – Multilingual Website Resources



Spanish



Dutch



French



Portuguese



Swedish



Bulgarian



Turkish

# Facebook & LinkedIn Pages



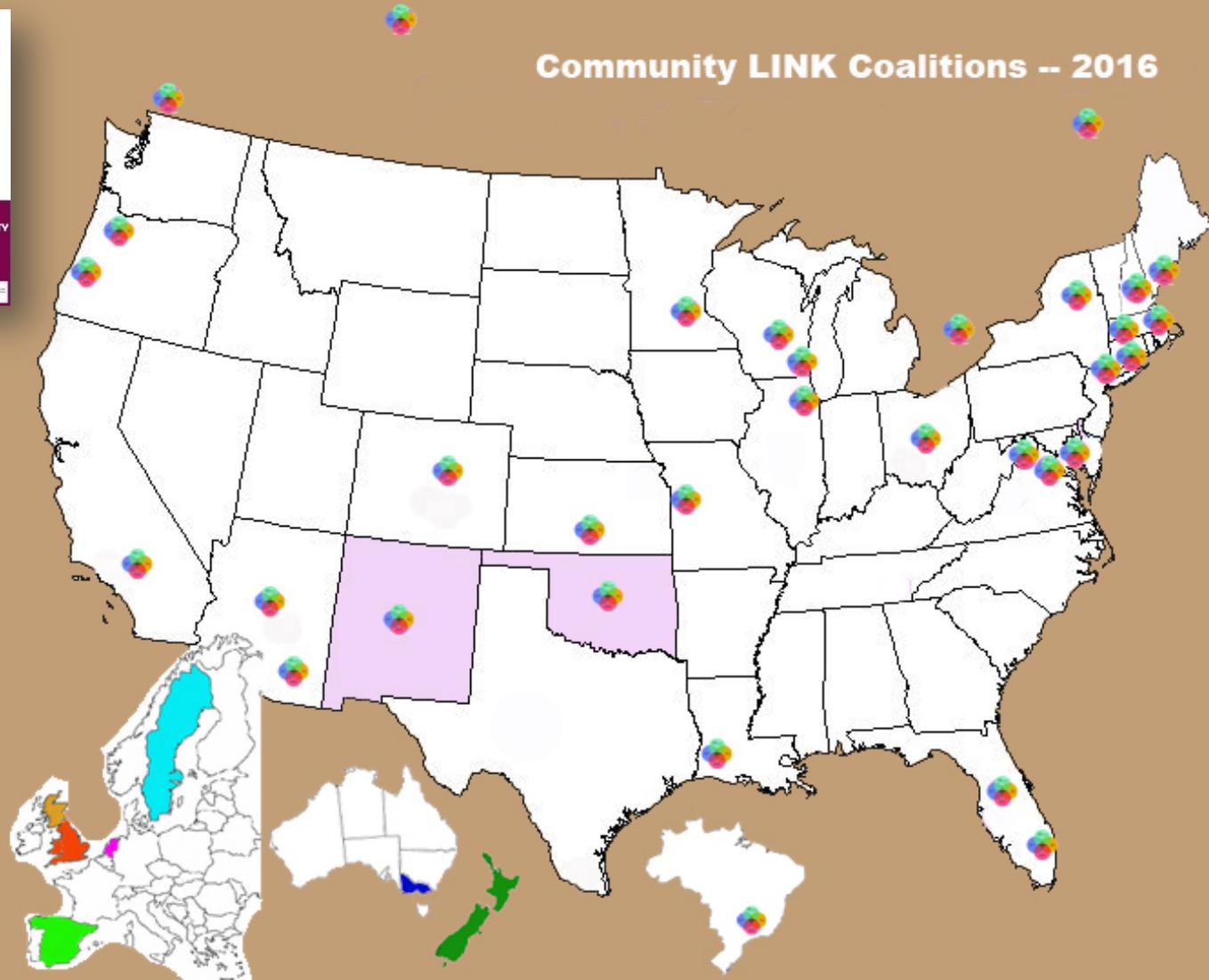
6/23/15 to 6/22/16:

- 4,700 likes
- 18,922 reached (spikes on Link-Letter publication dates)



- 131 members

# Public/Professional Awareness - COALITIONS





# Public/Professional Awareness – COALITIONS

## New Developments: 2014-2016

- **DOMESTIC**

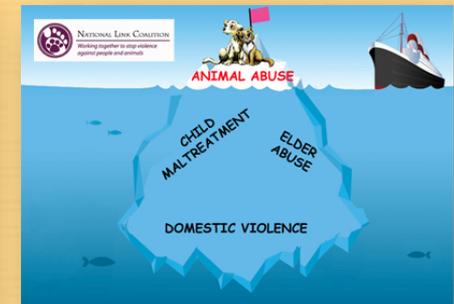
- NEW COALITIONS: Oklahoma, South Florida
- NM Positive Links: 501c3; Outreach to Native Americans; Sept. Link Awareness Month

- **INTERNATIONAL**

- European Link Coalition came... and went
- New coalition: Victoria (Melbourne), Australia
- Link Toolkit translated into Spanish, Turkish
- Netherlands: PDs get “animal cops”
- Alberta AASAP celebrates 1<sup>st</sup> year with FTE
- Brazil: Lar em Paz publishing materials

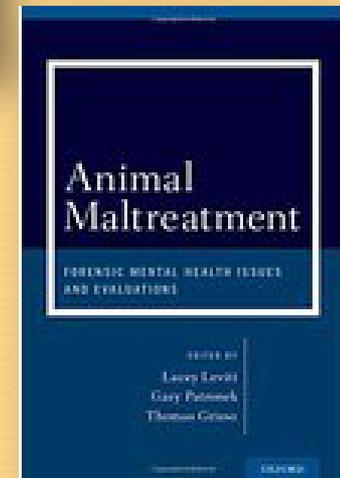
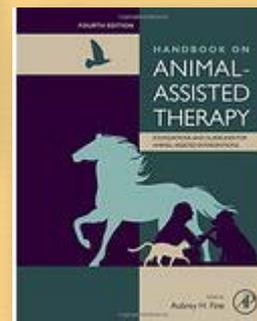
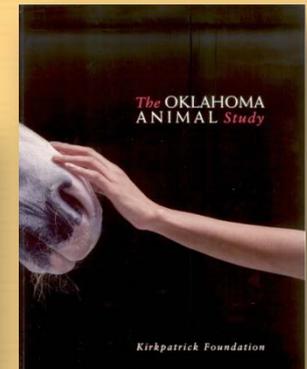
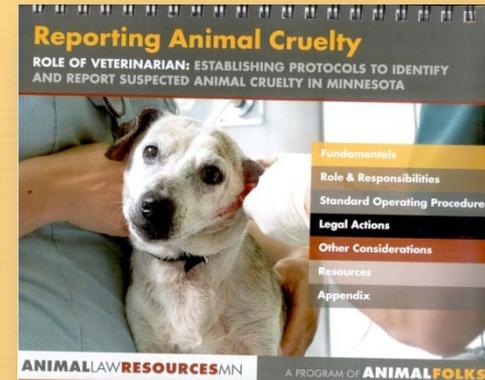
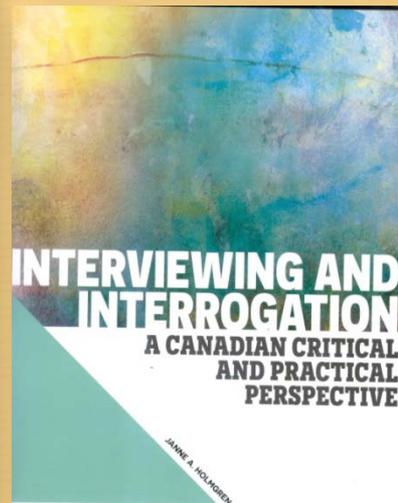
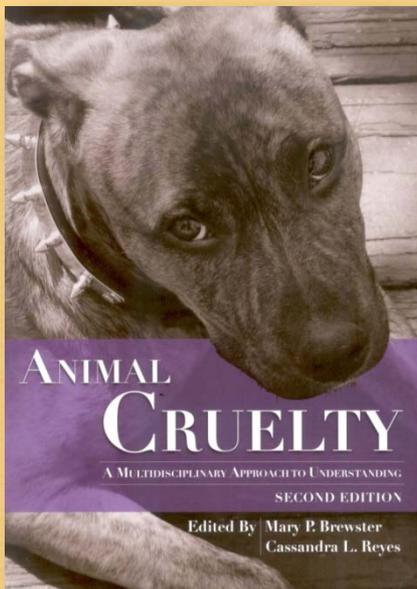
# Public/Professional Awareness Highlights: 2014-2016

- Outreach to Military: NOVA NVAA; U.S. Navy
- Outreach to Native Americans: NAHS – Tribal Link monograph (Allie); Nat’l Inst. of Justice study
- Published list of topics needing research
- Produced visuals for local groups



# Public/Professional Awareness Highlights: 2014-2016

- New books published/contributed

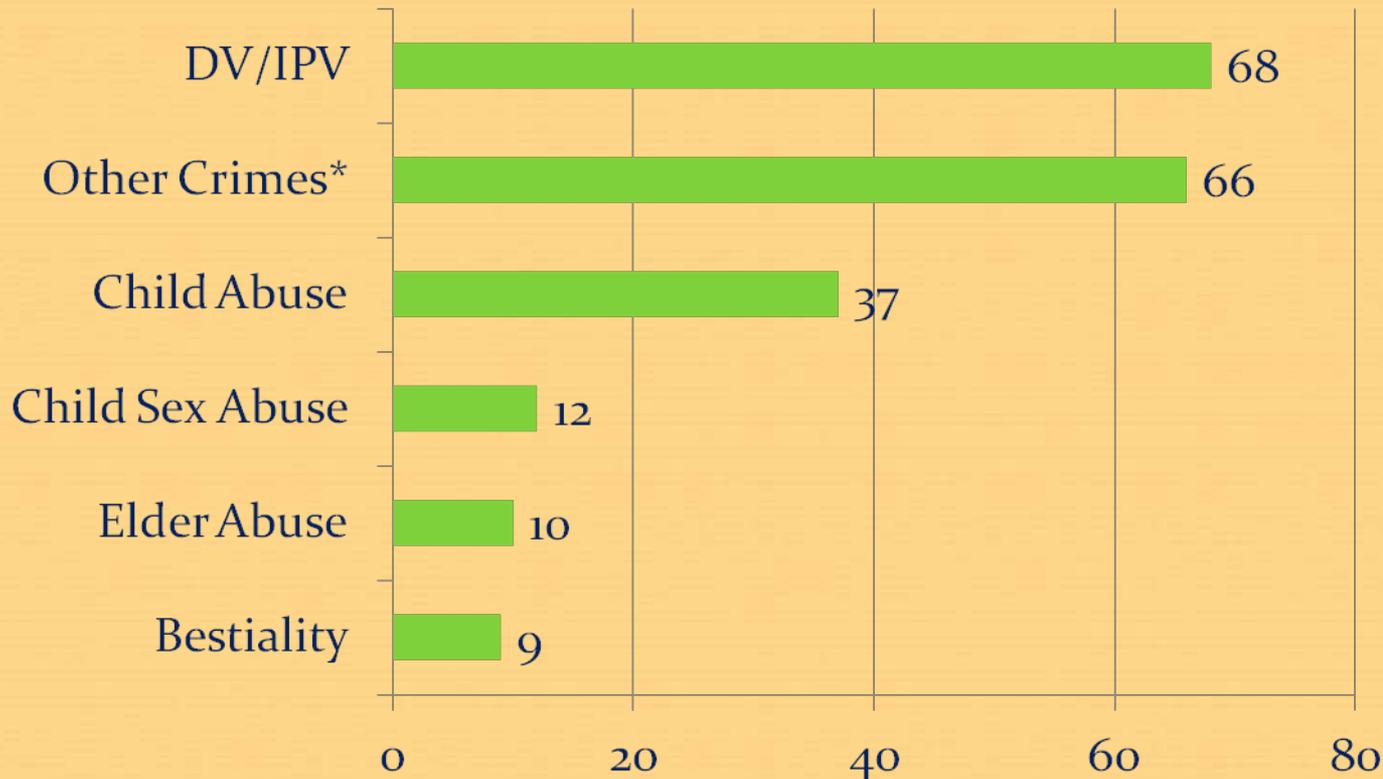


# Mainstream Media Awareness LINK Cases followed: June 2014-2016

No. of cases  
followed: **173**

No. of other  
crimes\*  
represented:  
**192**

## Crimes Against Humans Represented



\* Other crimes  
include:

- Homicide
- Mass shootings
- Kidnapping
- Arson
- Robbery
- Narcotics
- Sex assault
- Car theft

Female perpetrators: **23**  
Juvenile perpetrators: **10**

# Mainstream Media Awareness Highlights -- June 2014-2016



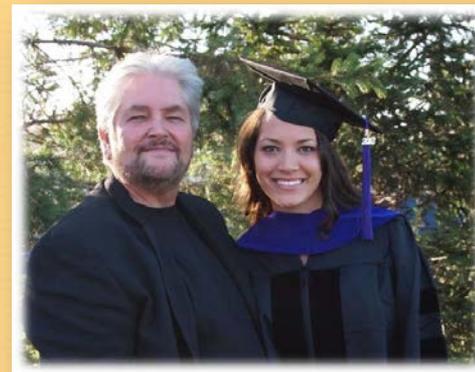
- Huffington Post : 3 LINK articles
- Bloomberg: 4-part series on bestiality
- WSJ, NY Times: Features on URI PALS
- Steve Dale: feature on SAF-T shelters
- Local Link program features: San Bernardino, Milwaukee, White Plains, Okla. City, Scotland
- Japan: NLC-authored 3-part series on Link
- Media interviews: Keokuk, Worcester, California Health Report



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**FBI adds 4 types of animal abuse to NIBRS system**



**National Coalition on Violence Against Animals**



**National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse**



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**“I can say  
that every  
animal  
fighting  
prosecution**



**that I have personally  
handled has begun as an  
investigation into a crime  
against a child.”**

*- Julie A. Canter  
Asst. District Attorney  
Sullivan County, TN*



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Special Prosecutors assigned to animal cruelty cases

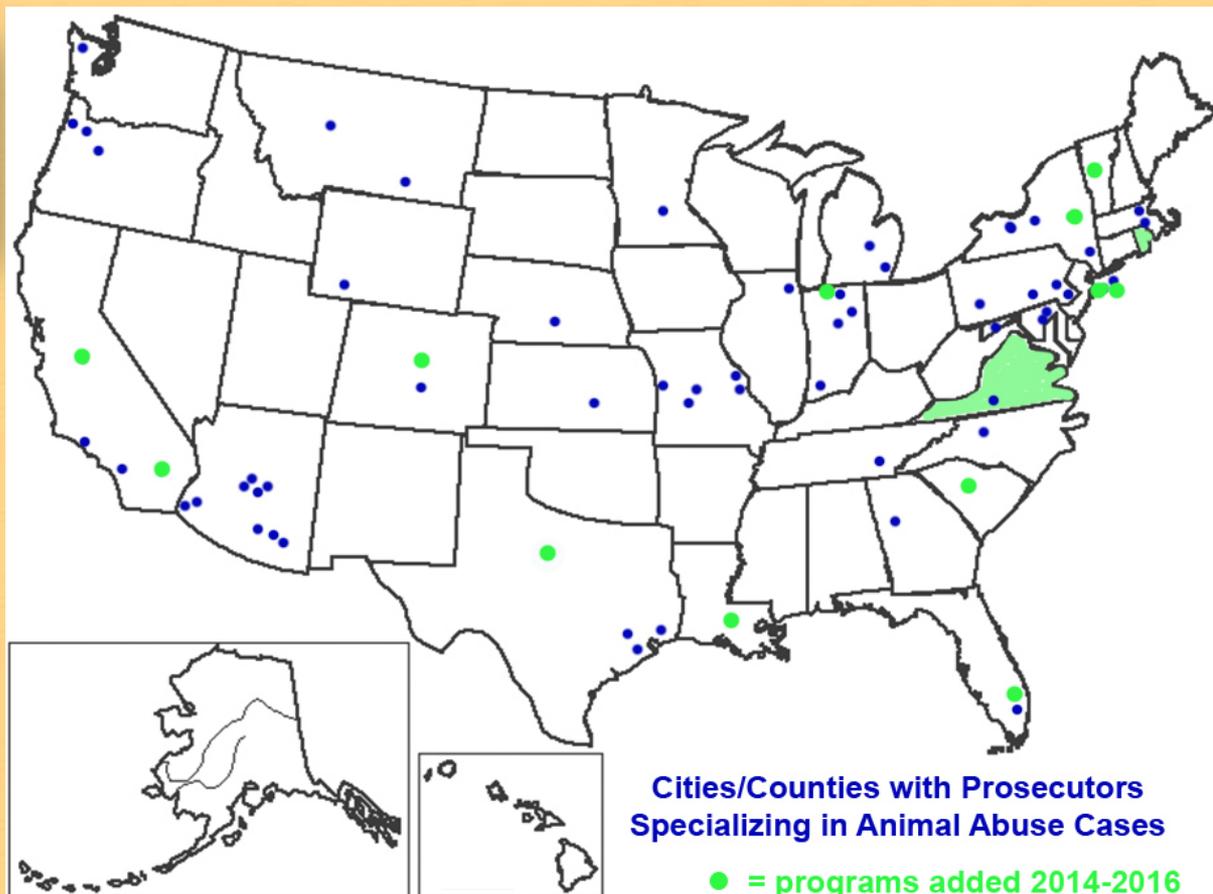
- Statewide AG prosecution unit: Virginia



- Albany NY DA:  
~ [spotabuse.org](http://spotabuse.org)  
Campaign



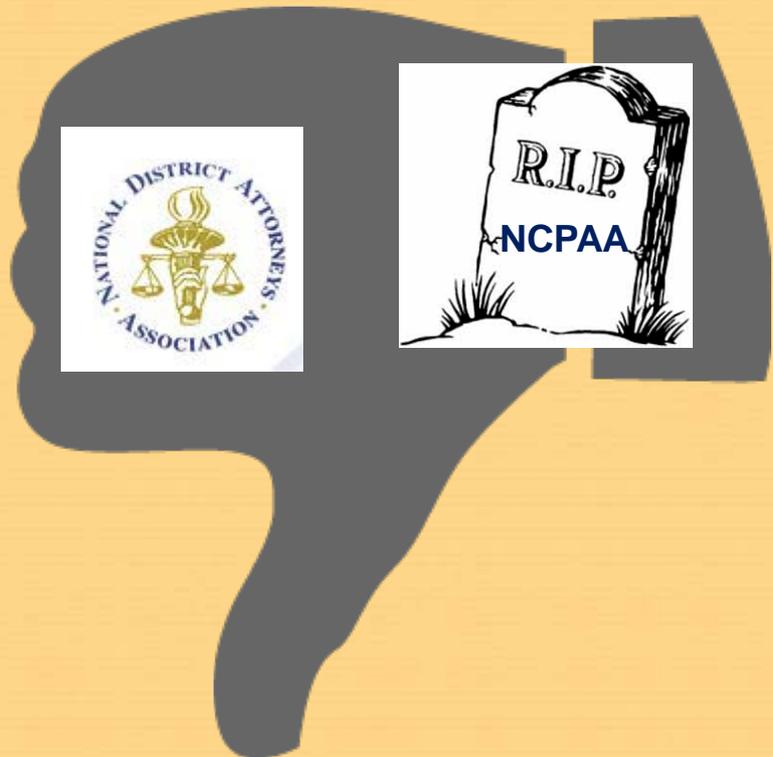
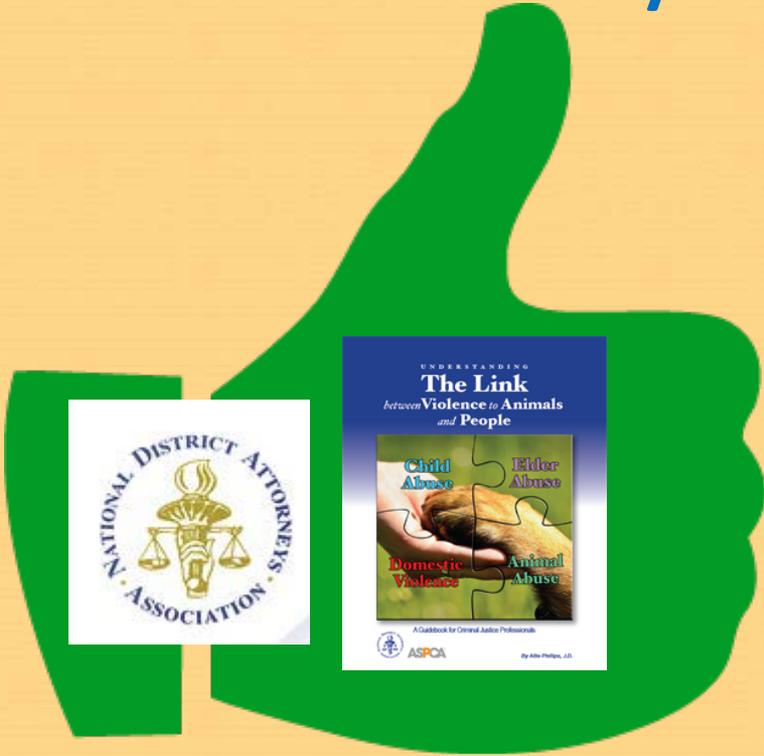
- San Bern. Co. DA:  
NaCO Award





# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE





# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CHIEFS OF POLICE  
Serving the Leaders of Today,  
Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

**Randy writes Link training monograph for IACP**

**University of Florida  
Veterinary Forensics  
Program:  
Largest master's-level  
animal program in  
the world**

Online Programs in  
**Veterinary Forensic Sciences**

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

**ASPCA**  
WE ARE THEIR VOICE.



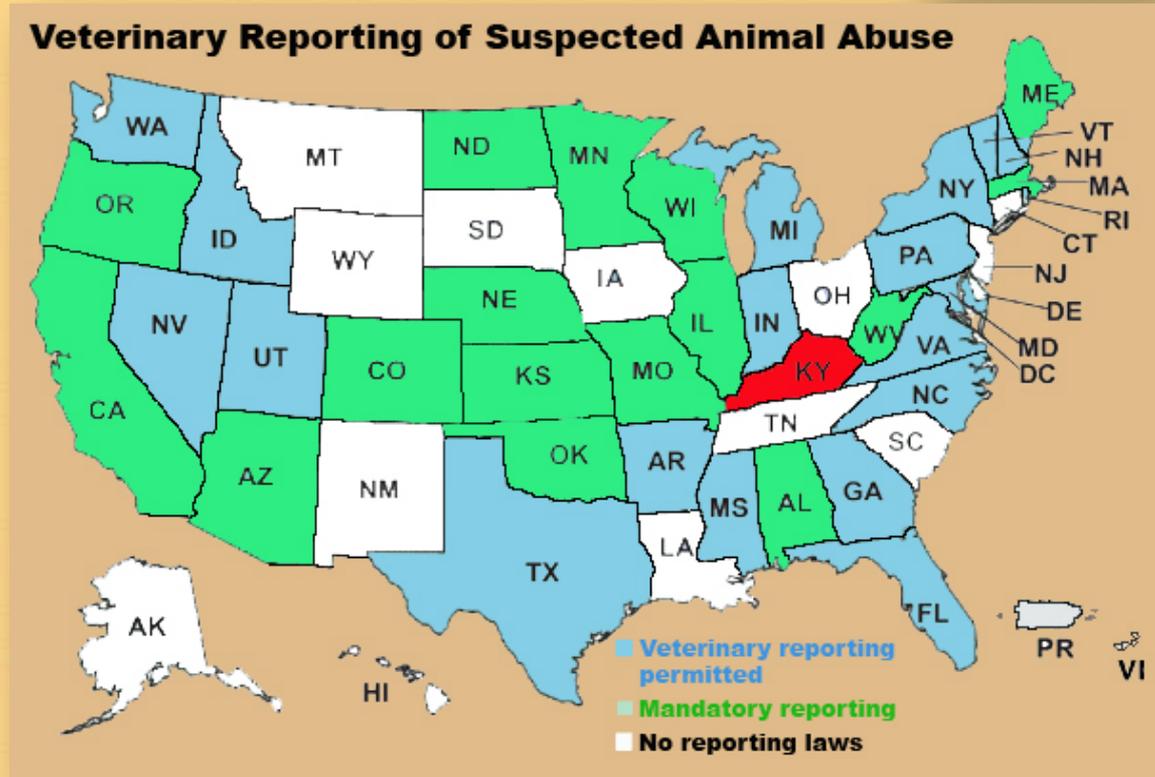
# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## VETERINARY MEDICINE



The Standard of  
Veterinary Excellence

AAHA supports DVMs' mandatory reporting of suspected animal abuse and laws requiring such reporting with immunity from civil and criminal liability when made in good faith.



**IMMEDIATE RESULT: 7 reporting bills introduced in GA, KY, MD, NY, PA, TN, WI**



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Scotland invests £1,000,000 to train 100,000 front-line professionals to recognize & respond to domestic violence**



**Beauticians**



**Dentists**



**Veterinarians**



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

New Zealand Veterinary Association signs on to national domestic violence prevention initiative.

NZVA describes veterinary medicine as a “three-dimensional profession” – the only profession with a voice in issues that transcend animal life, human life and the environment.

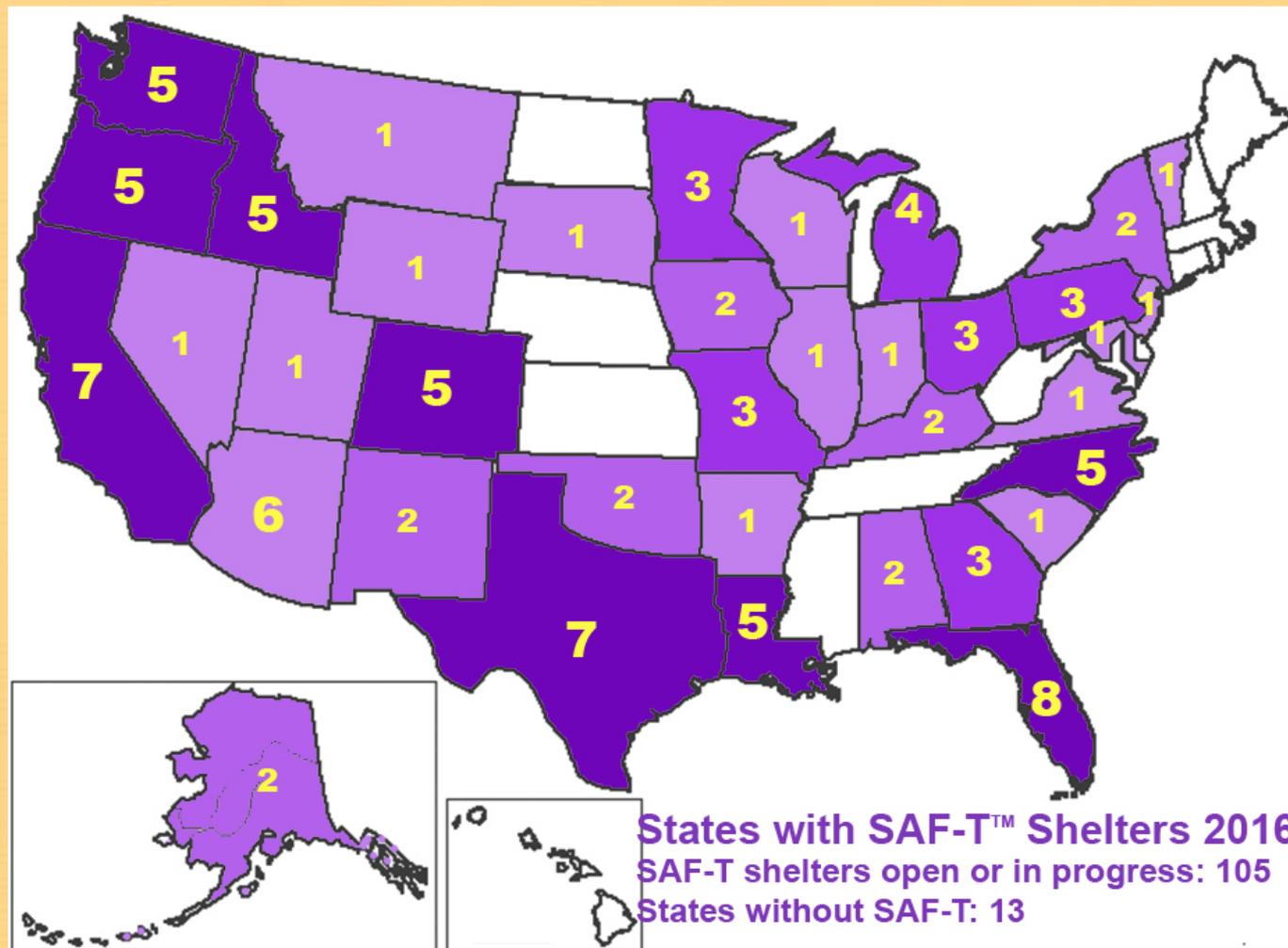




# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Growth of SAF-T™



States with SAF-T™ Shelters 2016  
SAF-T shelters open or in progress: 105  
States without SAF-T: 13

# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



- **RedRover**



- Increased grants to > \$6,000 (28 in 2014-2016)

- **Banfield Charitable Trust**



- 14 grants to pet-friendly DV & homeless shelters

- **Animal Welfare Institute**



- Wrote TA guideline for National Resource Center on DV
- Wrote manuals for attorneys aiding survivors in 3 states

# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



- **Maryland Network against DV:**  
developed pet response and service animal protocols



- **Mississippi State Univ. CVM:**  
Got AKC grant for Safe Haven

- **Albany Co. NY D.A.:**  
Replicated spotabuse.org with PSAs



- **KY Supreme Court** affirms animal abuse an acceptable lethality risk in issuing PFA order

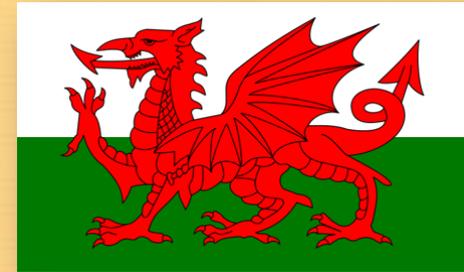
# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



- **INTERNATIONAL**

- **Wales:** National Assembly passes law defining animal abuse as domestic violence



- Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
[www.866uswomen.org](http://www.866uswomen.org)





# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



- Ongoing challenges with competing, inaccurate Safe Havens portals



**SafePlaceForPets.org**



**NCADV (suspended affiliation)**



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs



- **ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL**



NATIONAL ANIMAL  
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

- NACA endorses ACOs cross-reporting abuse of children, elders and the disabled

- **CHILD PROTECTION**



- Virginia Child Protection Network devotes issue to The Link

- **ADULT PROTECTION**



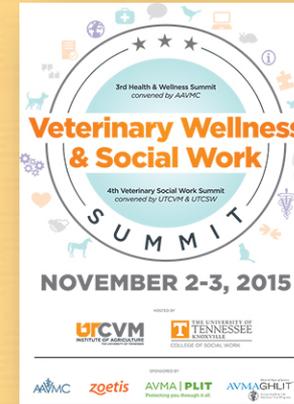
- Banfield Charitable Trust pilots \$30K grant to help TX APS clients keep pets

# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## **SOCIAL WORK**

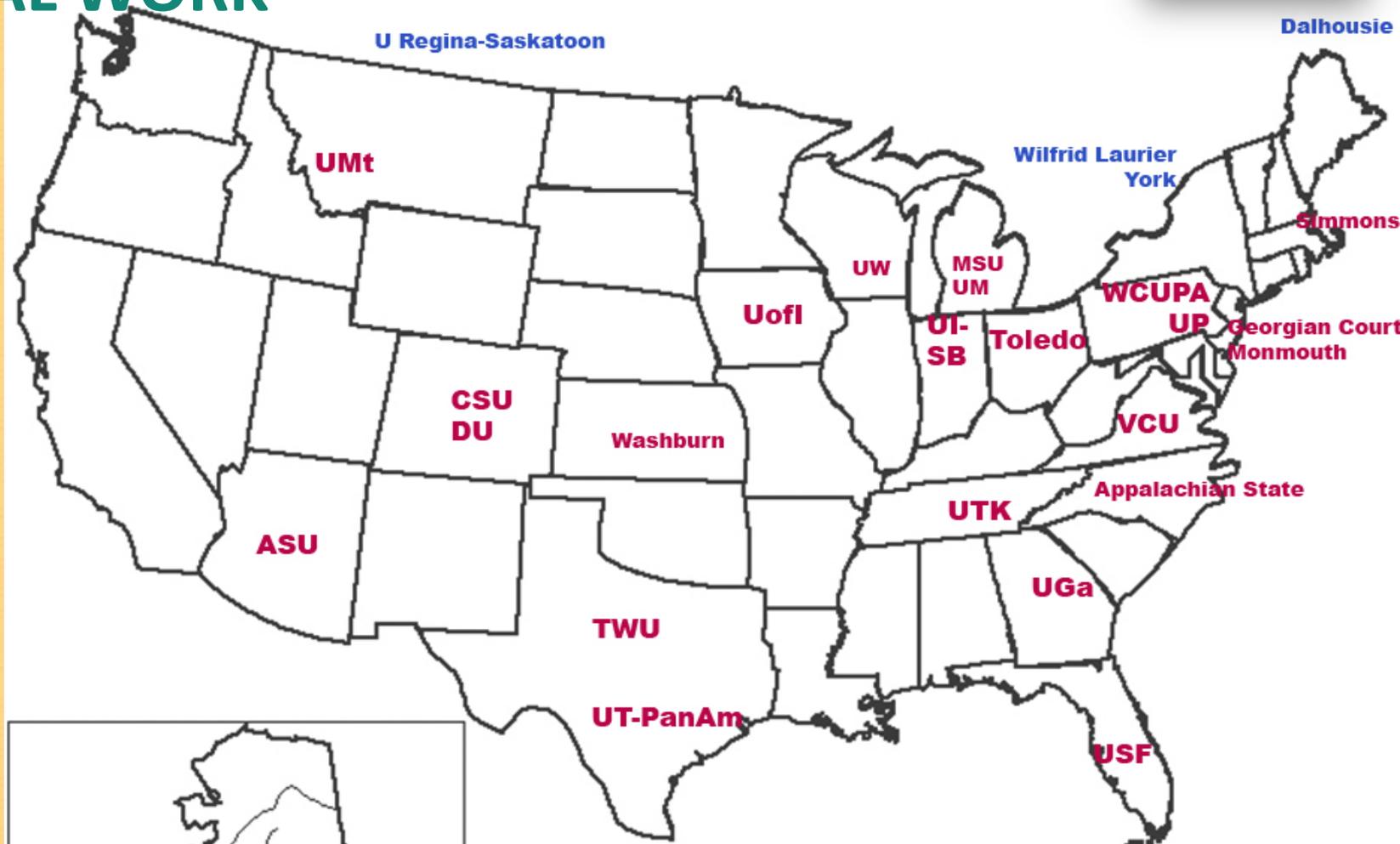


- 4<sup>th</sup> Veterinary (Wellness and) Social Work Summit
- NYC Mayor's Alliance publishes toolkit for social work response to pet crises



# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## SOCIAL WORK



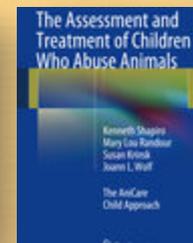
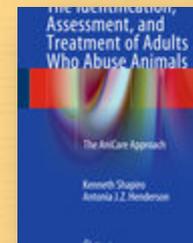
**Schools of Social Work  
with H-AI courses or  
faculty interested in H-AI**

# Advances 2014-2016: Programs

## ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS



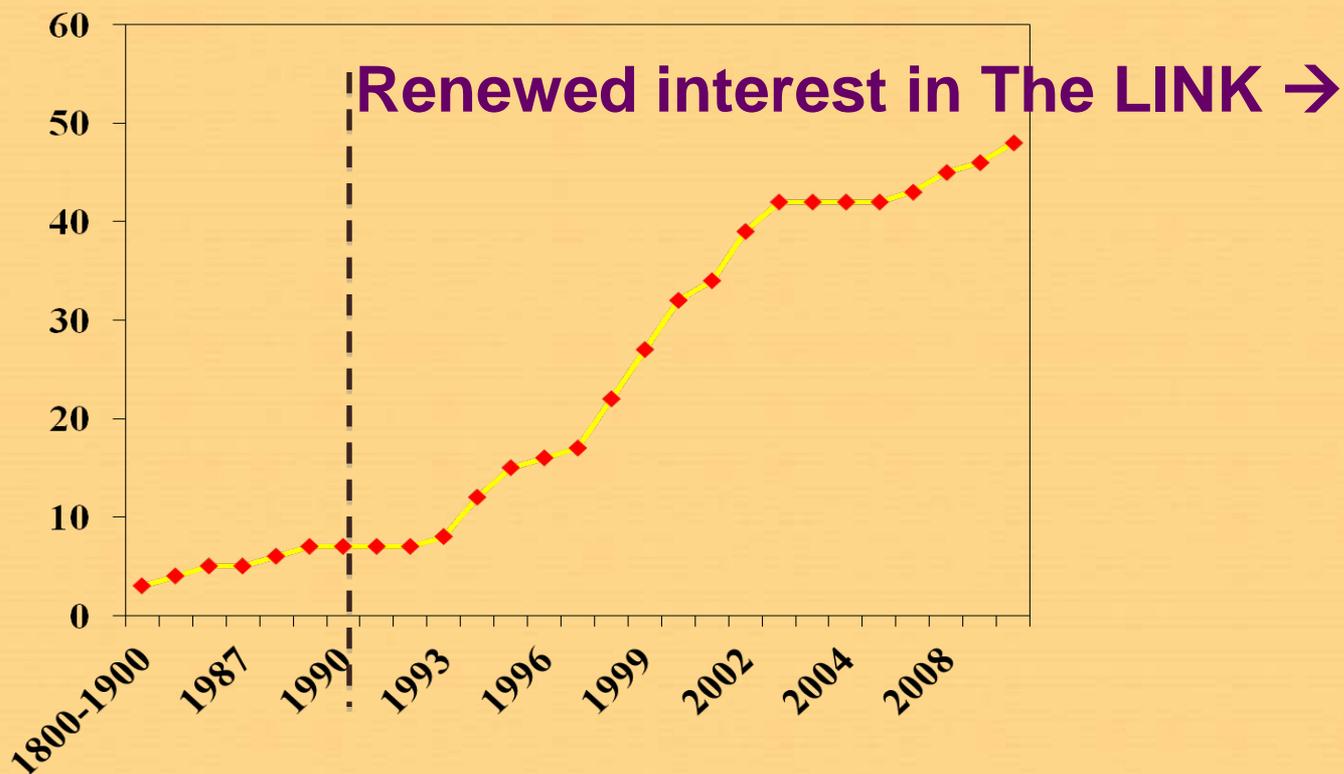
- Courtroom dogs OK'd in Alberta, Michigan, Connecticut
  - Featured in Police Chiefs magazine
  - Added to Orange Co., CA D.A.'s team
- Latham film spotlights BARC – Kent Co. Juvenile Detention Center
- OK prison gets \$100K grant to train dogs
- Therapy dogs at Virginia Tech Women's Center
- AniCare/AniCare Child updated





# Advances 2014-2016: Policy

## FELONY-LEVEL ANIMAL CRUELTY





# Advances 2014-2016: Policy LINK-BASED RATIONALE FOR BILLS – MUNICIPAL

- **Baltimore**
  - Ban on dogfighting paraphernalia
- **Tallahassee**
  - Train municipal workers to screen for animal abuse



# Advances 2014-2016: Policy LINK-BASED RATIONALE FOR BILLS – STATE

- **TENNESSEE:**
  - Animal abusers' registry
  - Bringing child to animal fight
- **OHIO**
  - Bestiality
- **CALIFORNIA**
  - Encouraged humane education

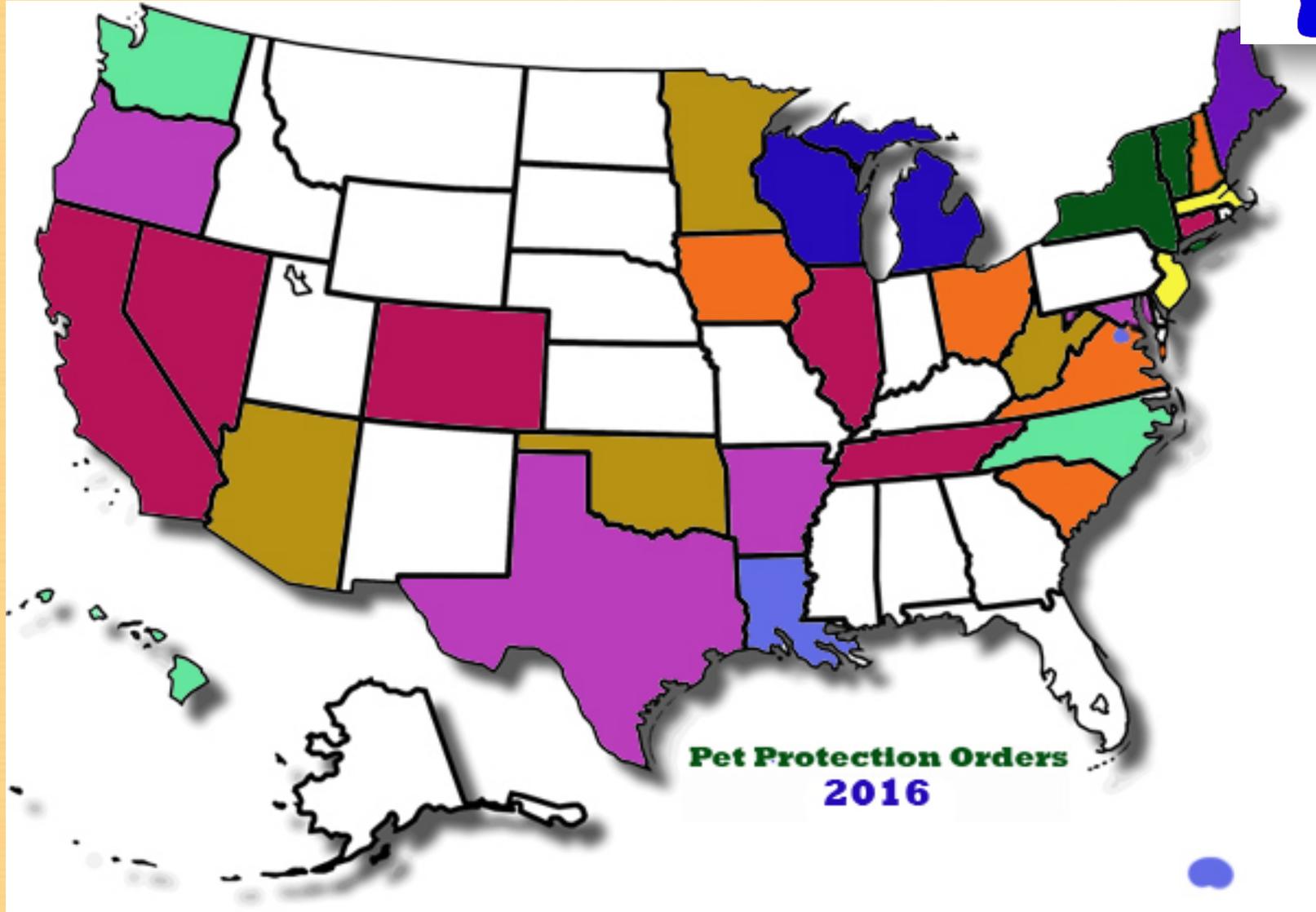


# Advances 2014-2016: Policy LINK-BASED RATIONALE FOR BILLS – INTERNATIONAL

- **ARGENTINA**
  - Mandatory humane education in schools
- **AUSTRALIA**
  - Queensland Parliament bill would create new category of “serious” animal cruelty in conjunction with child sexual abuse and sex trafficking
- **DENMARK, SPAIN**
  - Bestiality bans
- **INDIA**
  - Attempts to update anti-cruelty law

# Advances 2014-2016: Policy

## PET PROTECTION ORDERS





# Advances 2014-2016: Policy PET PROTECTION ORDERS

## The PAWS (Pet And Women Safety) Act

Sept. 2014: (“bi-petisan”) H.R. 1258

- Extend anti-stalking and PPO protections beyond 30 states to federal level
- Federal funds for pet –friendly shelters
- 140 co-sponsors



Rep. Katherine Clark  
(D – Mass.)



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
(R – Fla.)

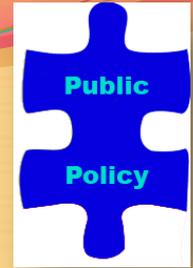


# Advances 2014-2016: Policy

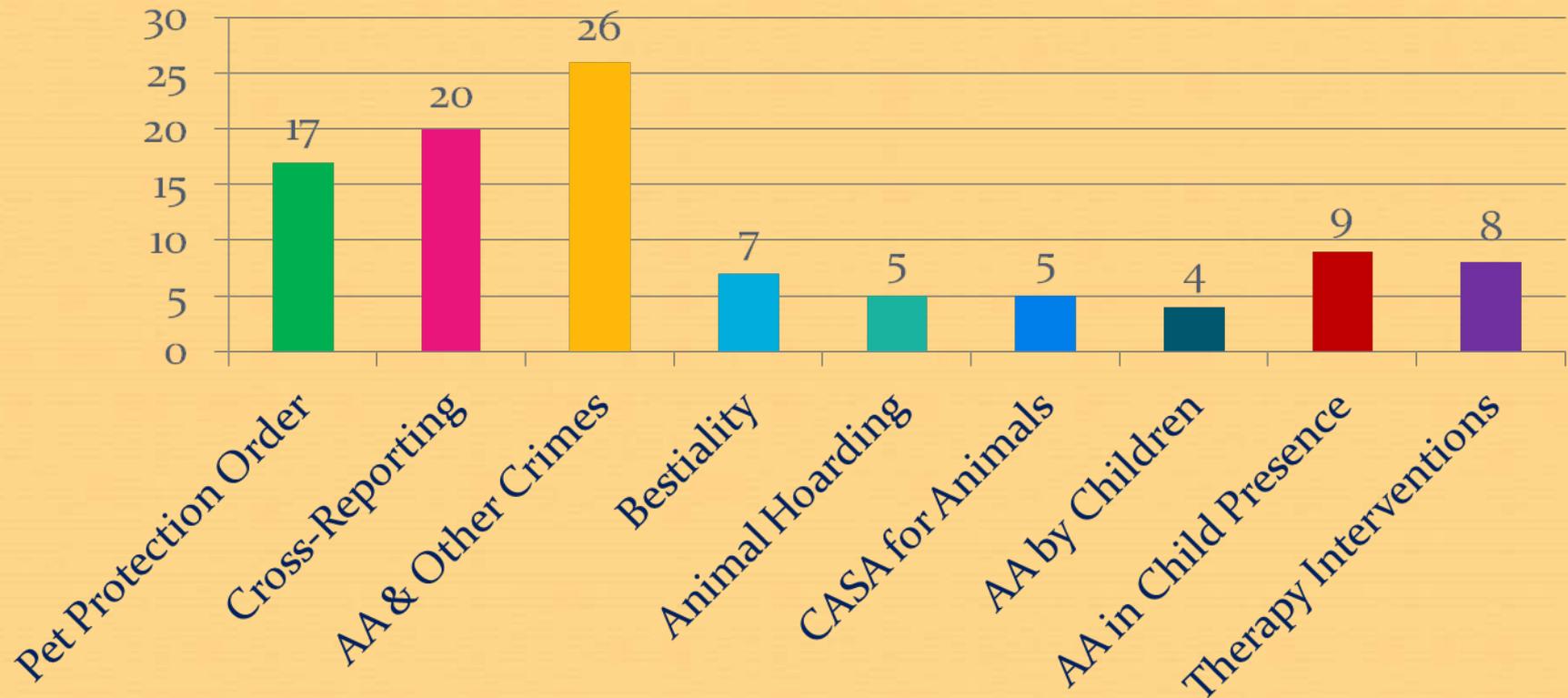
## ANIMAL FIGHTING

Feb. 2014: Federal felony to bring a child to an animal fight  
(Farm Bill)

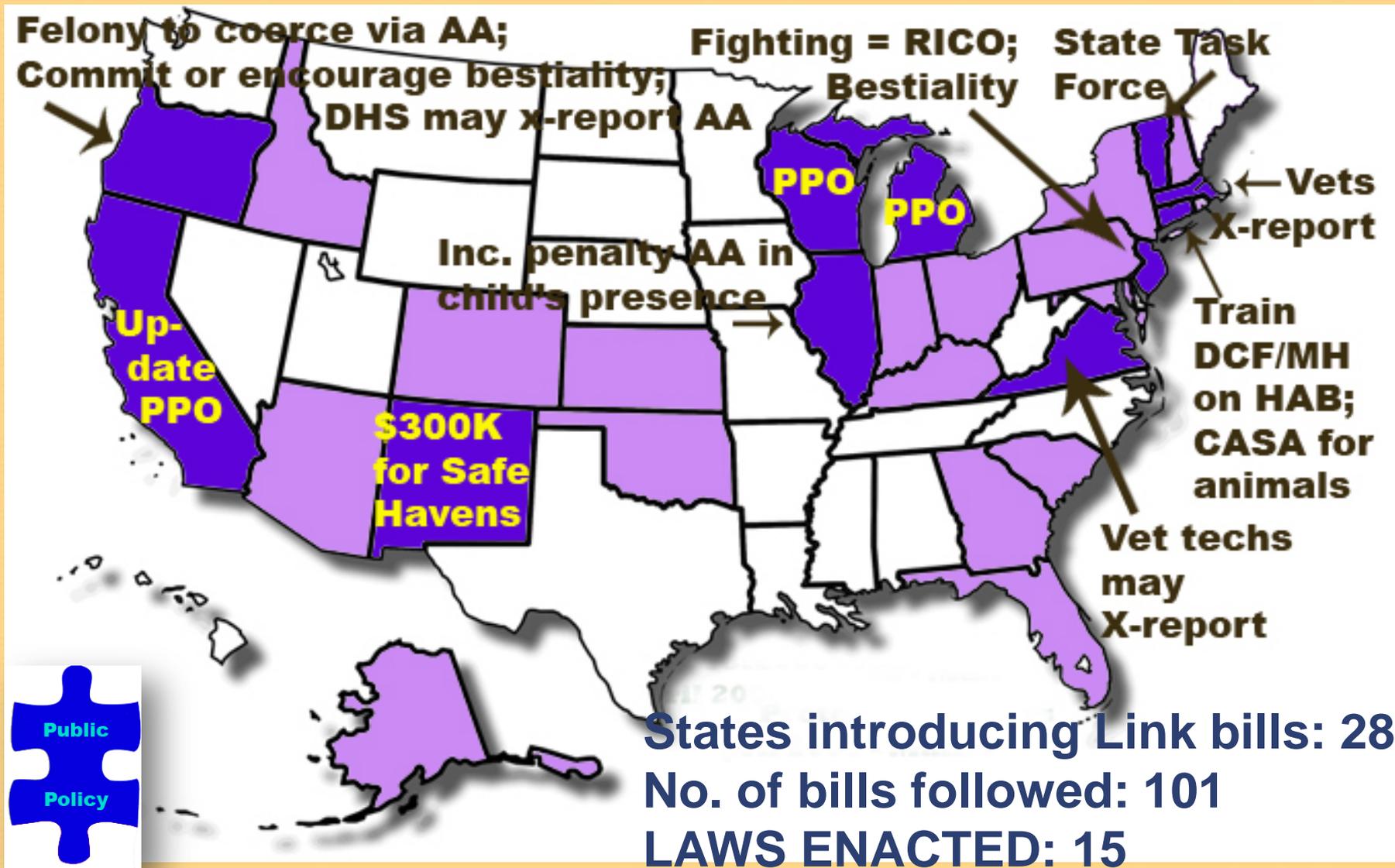
# Legislation 2014-1016: Types of Bills Introduced



Types of Bills Followed - TOTAL: 101

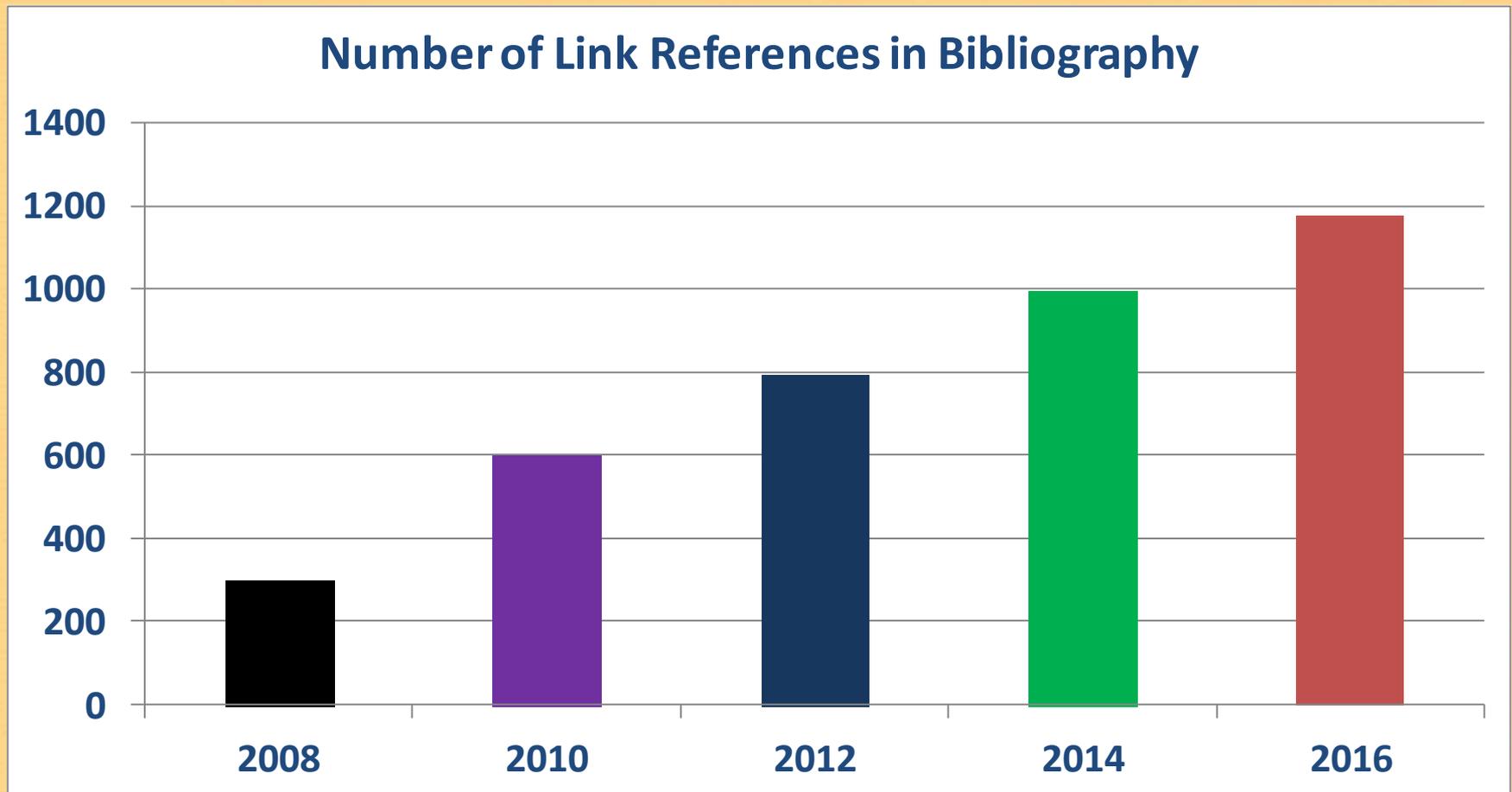


# Legislation – Bills Followed 2014-2016





# Advances 2014-2016: Research BIBLIOGRAPHY

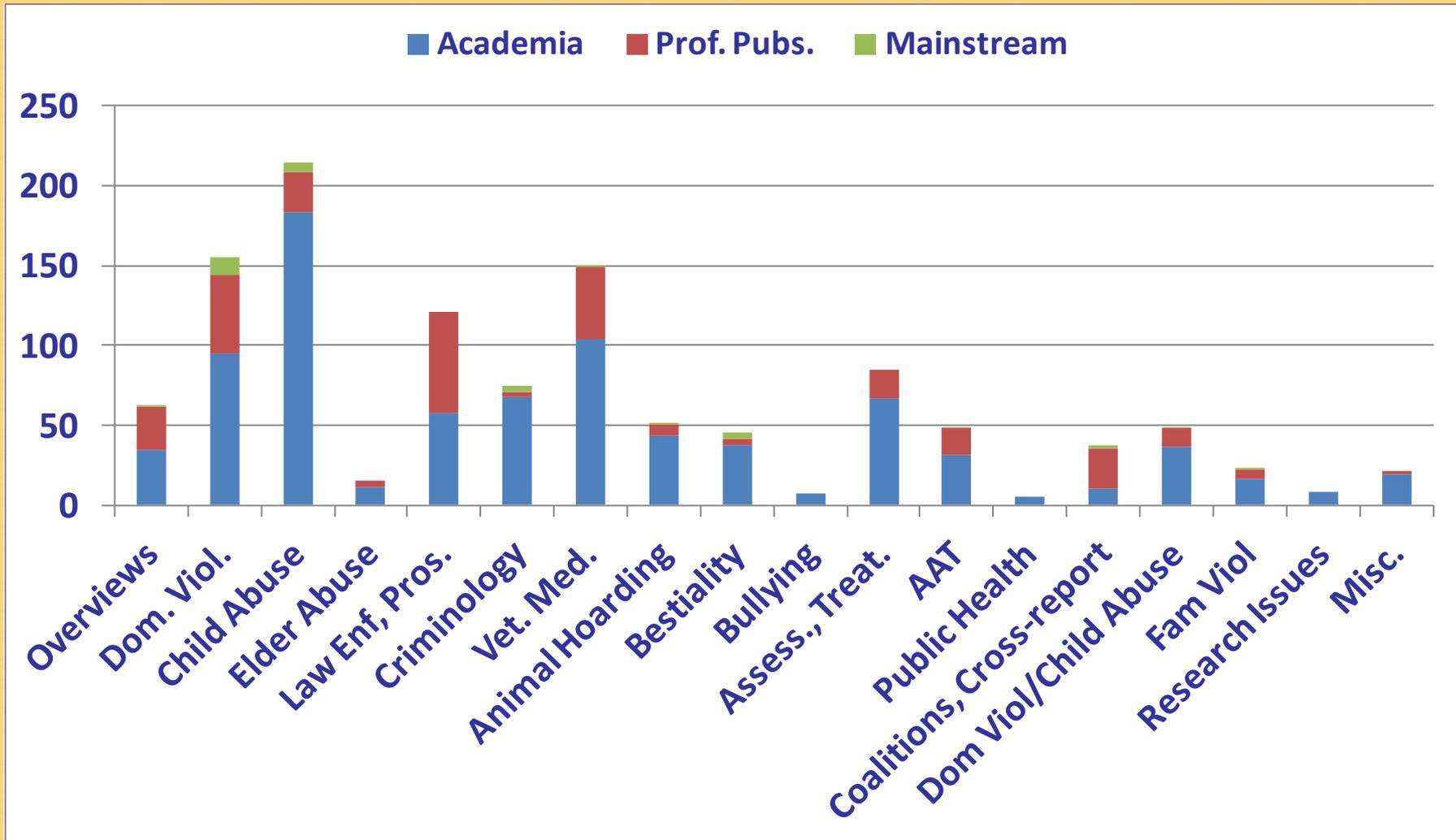


**References have QUADRUPLED since 2008**

# Bibliography: Types of References – 2016



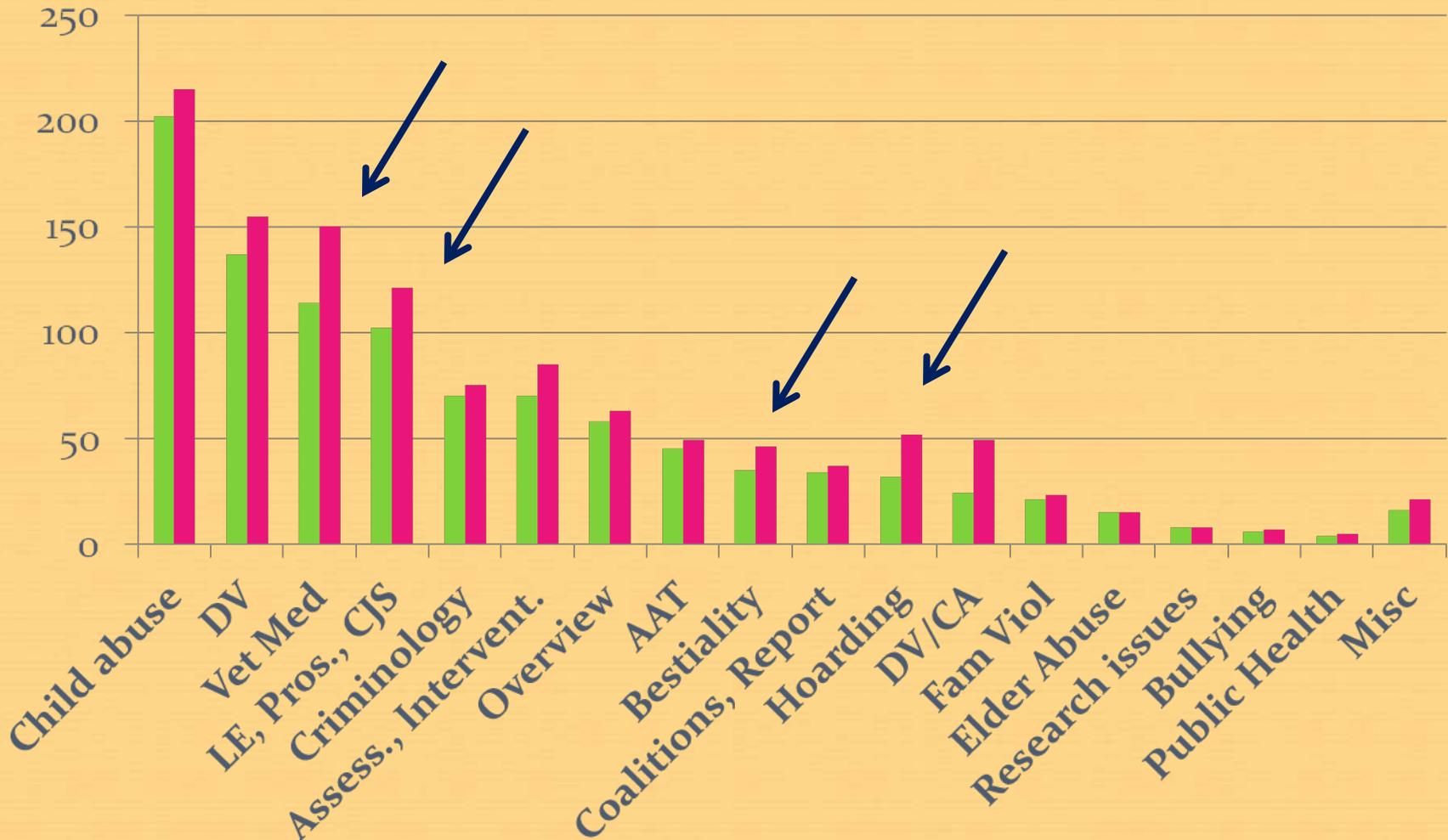
- Journals, university & academic publishers, theses, scholarly conferences
- Professional organizational publications
- Mainstream media



# Changes in References – 2014-2016



■ 2014 ■ 2016



# Looking Ahead...

- Areas we may wish to consider:
  - Attempt to get pets counted in US Census?
  - Quantify PPOs issued?
  - Include pet stats in NNEDV/NCADV tallies and state court administrators' DV dashboards?
  - Focused training for DVMs in states with mandatory/permitted/universal reporting?
  - Compile county-by-county lists of who DVMs can report cruelty to?
  - Improve cross-reporting systems & evaluation?
  - Encourage humane education based on Link & bullying?
  - Expand topics needing more research?
  - Other ideas?

# Animals Enhance Community... and The LINK Creates a Ripple Effect...

“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*

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”

*-- Robert Louis Stevenson*



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