

# National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse

## NCPAA Director

**Allie Phillips** is a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with significant trial experience. She has been training prosecutors and allied professionals since 1997.



Photo by Michael Carpenter

She previously worked for NDAA (2003-07) as a Senior Attorney with the National Child Protection Training Center and created a training program on

how animal abuse is linked to child abuse. She was subsequently named the Vice President of Public Policy and Vice President of Human Animal Strategic Initiatives for the American Humane Association. In 2011, she returned to NDAA to launch the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse.

She is the founder of Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)<sup>™</sup> and co-created Therapy Animals Supporting Kids (TASK)<sup>™</sup>. Ms. Phillips has conducted over 200 trainings nationally and has authored over 50 publications. Her published books include *How Shelter Pets are Brokered for Experimentation: Understanding Pound Seizure* (2010) and *Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets* (2011).

Since 2000, she has been an active animal advocate and volunteer at animal shelters. She co-founded *Friends of Ingham County Animal Shelter* and *Michiganders for Shelter Pets*. She is the Vice President of *No Paws Left Behind*, on the steering committee of the *National Link Coalition*, a volunteer and past-President of *King Street Cats*, and a council board member of the *State Bar of Michigan's Animal Law Section*. Ms. Phillips is licensed to practice law in Michigan and Maryland.

## Mission Statement

*The mission of NCPAA is to always act in the best interests of animals; to create an environment in the criminal justice community where animal protection laws are fully enforced; to create understanding that when animals are safe from harm, communities are safer; to provide the resources, tools and support to prosecutors and allied professionals in the pursuit of those who harm animals; to collaborate with others so that the most updated and innovative information is available and accessible; to deliver training and technical assistance in a professional and ethical manner; and to remember that our victims are voiceless and deserve an impassioned and knowledgeable prosecutor pursuing justice in their name*



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## About NCPAA

**The National Center** for Prosecution of Animal Abuse (NCPAA) was launched in May 2011 as a program of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA). Through support from the Animal Welfare Trust, it was created in partnership with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) to assist and train prosecutors and allied professionals on the effective handling of animal abuse cases, including cases involving the co-occurrence of violence to animals and people.

NDAA desires to bring greater awareness to the often misunderstood nature of animal maltreatment and how it can co-occur with family violence and contribute to lethality issues for victims of interpersonal violence. With growing awareness by the public to recognize and report animal abuse, combined with increased attention by the media, prosecuting attorneys need the resources to properly address incidents of animal abuse in their community and properly hold offenders accountable.



## The Seriousness of Animal Abuse and Neglect

**Most animal cruelty laws were** written decades ago and contain archaic and convoluted language. As a result, interpreting these laws can be confusing and charging decisions, or a decision to not prosecute, has resulted in prosecutors answering to angry citizens and advocates.

NDAA recognizes that training is needed to better arm prosecutors with the strategies and tools to handle the complexities and public scrutiny of animal abuse. Due to reduced or eliminated travel and training budgets, NCPAA is bringing information directly to your computer.

Prosecutors who understand the co-occurrence between animal abuse and crimes against people are in a better position to prevent future violence toward people and animals and protect their communities. When any form of violence is present in a home or community, no one is safe. Addressing the co-occurrence in a multi-disciplinary approach helps to prevent and reduce community violence. When prosecutors understand the importance of enforcing animal cruelty laws and how they relate to protecting people, then those communities will be better protected from violence.



## Resources

- Free monthly one-hour webinars that can be viewed live with an opportunity to ask questions to the presenter, or accessed via online password at a later date.
- Online quarterly newsletter on emerging and important issues in animal abuse investigations and prosecutions.
- Technical assistance from NCPAA staff and its expert Advisory Group.
- Online resources and statutory compilations.
- Training at national, state and local conferences.

