Animal abuse and domestic abuse are not contained in any specific social sphere but rather, such abuses claim the lives of victims everyday around the world. Recent studies conducted by animal advocates in South Carolina and Texas, have unveiled the dominant connections between the horrific abuse against the family pet and domestic abuse experienced by women, children, and the elderly. The connection between the abuse of an animal and violence towards individuals, more modernly known as *the Link,* has been studied by numerous philosophers and scholars for centuries. John Locke, Margaret Mead, and Phillipe Pinel are some of the many scholars who have openly discussed the underlying concepts of *the Link* within their work. In a modern context, *the Link* is a concept that is under-recognized by law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and society as a whole. It is evidently clear that animal abuse, more specifically the abuse of a family pet, is a disturbing phenomenon whose “spillover effects” increase violence and threaten both individuals and society. Since the 1980’s, the Courts have deliberated on the recognition of the right to legal guardianship for companion animals. Legal guardianship allows for stronger legal representation for abused animals and, in turn, greater legal protections against the crime of animal cruelty. Awarding legal guardianship to companion animals provides a voice for abused animals forced to suffer as muzzled victims.

This study analyzes various legal, ethical, qualitative, and empirical studies to evaluate the underlying factors that contribute to the crime of animal cruelty in the United States. In my analysis of *the Link* between animal abuse and domestic abuse a phenomenon that occurs at micro-levels against companion animals is unveiled. Factors such as masculine power structures, psychological disorders, exposure to domestic abuse, subjection to corporal punishment, and the lack of recognition for animal rights are all addressed within my work as they each possess an inherent causality of animal cruelty. Moreover, my study claims a right to legal guardianship for companion animals and will offer recommendations on how animal abuse against the family pet can be prevented. To allow the abuse of the family pet to go unhindered in society is to allow for a toxic environment to thrive and threaten the lives of humans and animals alike.