

## Cat helps prove child abuser's guilt

American Humane  
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### One Abuser, Two Victims

When 9-year-old Beth\* was sexually abused by her stepfather, she told the prosecuting attorney that someone else knew about it -- but that he couldn't talk. She was referring to her beloved cat, Oreo.

Beth explained that Oreo would bravely lie outside her door at night and hiss whenever her attacker appeared. In trying to protect her, the loyal black and white cat also became another victim of violence; Beth's stepfather would always brutally kick Oreo away from the door.

Beth's revelation gave the prosecutor an idea. She decided to have Oreo examined by a veterinarian. The results were chilling. Sure enough, poor Oreo had sustained injuries consistent with being physically abused.

When the prosecutor submitted the veterinarian's report to the jury as evidence showing a pattern of violence in the home, Beth's allegations gained credibility. In a way, Oreo was able to testify, convincing the jury that the traumatized little girl had been telling the truth.

Beth's stepfather was convicted and received a long prison sentence. Meanwhile, Beth and Oreo were finally able to experience what every child and animal deserves: a safe home.

### Help Empower Victims Like Beth and Oreo

The prosecutor in Beth's case was Allie Phillips, who now works for American Humane as vice president of our Public Policy Office. She and our staff regularly conduct trainings for attorneys, judges, veterinarians, social workers, domestic-violence counselors and other social services providers on what American Humane calls The Link®  
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<http://www.americanhumane.org/human-animal-bond/programs/the-link-of-violence/>

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between violence to people and violence to animals, increasing awareness of the powerful role it can play in unmasking and preventing abuse.

It's a vital message -- one that Allie and our Link team are uniquely qualified to spread on behalf of abuse victims everywhere. But she can't do it alone.

Please help Allie and our team continue to educate others about The Link and stop the cycle of violence affecting innocent people and animals alike. Donate today!

\*This is a true story. However, the child's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

Oscar

Allie Phillips has a special black-and-white cat of her own -- Oscar, who closely resembles Oreo.

The Link impacts thousands of people and pets every day. Act now to help fund trainings on The Link that unmask abuse and empower victims like Beth and Oreo!

Earn chances to win a Wii

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Our mission is to create a more humane and compassionate world by ending abuse and neglect of children and animals.

American Humane is committed to the responsible stewardship of donated funds and to meeting the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

American Humane meets the strong, comprehensive standards of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, has been awarded the Independent Charities of America "Best In America" Seal of Approval, has met the stringent standards for financial efficiency and accountability required by the American Institute of Philanthropy to qualify as a Top-Rated

Charity, and has received a 3-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator.

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