

Violence and Abuse in our Community

Diane Balkin, Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Held at Mesa County Fairgrounds, Community Bldg (C)
2785 Highway 50, Grand Junction, Co 81503 (See map below)

Registration **Deadline January 31, 2011**

To reserve your space please contact: Penny McCarty at penny.mccarty@mesacounty.us or 970.255.5003

Session One - The Link of Violence

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Violence towards animals has long been recognized as an accurate predictor of future violent conduct. A significant number of notorious criminals have a documented history of deliberately harming animals. There is also a striking correlation between animal abuse and all forms of family violence. The morning session will discuss the historical perspective of this "link of violence" as well as the current trends in addressing the topic. There will be an overview of present statutory provisions as well as general ideas on how to analyze the dangerousness of the perpetrator and what to consider for sentencing options after conviction.

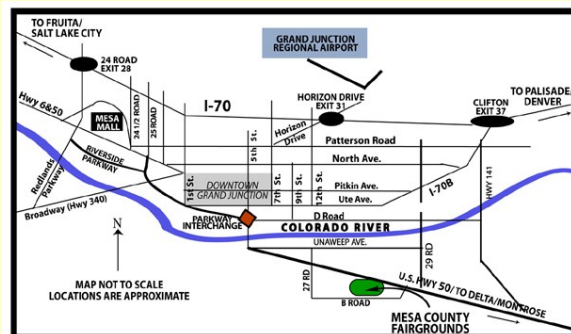
Session Two - Tools to Combat Animal Cruelty

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. A community has the potential of combating violence and improving public safety by recognizing animal cruelty, reporting animal cruelty, and treating the offenders appropriately. Animal cruelty and neglect cases often have a variety of "expert witnesses" that may be consulted during an investigation and may be called during a trial. The witnesses may include animal control officers, veterinarians, and forensic scientists, just to name a few. The afternoon session will offer tools to assist professionals. It will cover the laws regarding expert witnesses; how to qualify a witness as an expert; tips to better prepare to testify as an expert; and situations to avoid and anticipate.

Diane Balkin is a contract attorney with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. She graduated from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1973. She attended the University of Denver Law School and received her Jurist Doctorate in 1977. She worked as a trial attorney for the Office of the Denver District Attorney for 32 years. She prosecuted all types of felonies and had previously served as the director of the Economic Crime Unit, Juvenile Court Division and Family Violence Unit. Prior to retiring from the district attorney's office, she oversaw all investigations and prosecutions of crimes against animals. Diane presently spends a great deal of time on a local and national level training and consulting with veterinarians, law enforcement officials, and others on how to successfully investigate and prosecute animal cruelty cases.

Housekeeping!

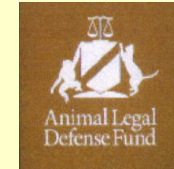
Lunch will not be provided. Feel free to brown bag it or there are restaurants and fast food locations nearby that serve lunch.



Training Sponsors and Continuing Education Credits



**Mesa County
Animal Services**



WeCARE



**Western Colorado
Animal Resources**

There is no fee for this training based on sponsorship by the above agencies.

Note: Mesa County Animal Services has applied for Continuing Legal Education accreditation of this course through the Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education and for Continuing Education approval from the State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Please contact Penny McCarty at penny.mccarty@mesacounty.us for more details.