



**NIVA**  
North of Ireland Veterinary Association

# Shades of Violence:

Does the vet have a role in tackling abuse in  
animals and humans?

**Speaker: Dr Freda Scott-Park**

**BVM&S, PhD, Hon.DVM&S, MRCVS**

**Date: 30th March 2017**

**Venue: Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick**

**Time: 7.15PM Tea/Coffee served**

**Presentation commencing at 7.45PM**



Freda is a veterinary surgeon living and working in Scotland. She has been associated with the Links Group (a committed multi-agency interest group that promotes the welfare and safety of vulnerable children, animals and adults so that they are free from violence and abuse) since the first Links conference in November 2001. At this conference, the veterinary profession were introduced to the concept of the “battered pet” and further research and clinical evidence was presented, which suggested that there are sometimes inter-relationships commonly referred to as ‘links’, between the abuse of children, vulnerable adults and animals.

During her time as President of the BSAVA and following that, as President of the BVA, she sought to ensure that veterinary surgeons were made aware of their role in recognising animal abuse, and beyond that, the possibility of associated violence to humans in a violent home. Freda is currently Chairman of the Links Group (UK), which aims to help all members – humans and animals – of families affected by domestic abuse. The Links Group in the UK offers practical help and advice to vets and health professionals, as well as helping to make people understand why hurting humans and animals is unacceptable.

**Making the Links - Making a Difference;**

**Breaking the Link - Breaking the Cycle of Violence**

The concept of ‘One Welfare’ recognises the interconnections between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the environment. The Links Group promotes this aspiration, firmly believing that vets and the wider veterinary team have a role to play in helping to prevent animal abuse, domestic abuse, and child cruelty. The presentation will give a wide-ranging viewpoint on the theme of animal and human abuse. To put the topic in context, Freda will give a brief history of the Links Group and the various ‘shades of violence’ in households where humans and animals are at risk, introducing the concept that in a violent household:

*“When animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk.”*

**Registration cost:**

**NIVA members: Free    Non-members: £30**

**To register, call VetNI on 028 25898543 or e-mail [info@vetni.co.uk](mailto:info@vetni.co.uk)**