

A Collaborative Approach to Animal Cruelty Investigations:

Veterinary Pathology, the Link and Virginia Laws.

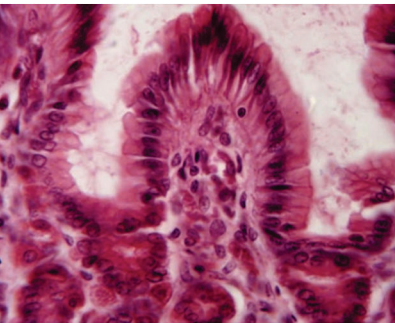
Join Loudoun County Animal Services for an in-person workshop exploring veterinary pathology, The Link (the documented connection between animal cruelty and violence against humans) and the relevant Virginia and Loudoun County laws. This workshop is designed to promote collaboration and cooperation between investigators and veterinarians to increase awareness of the many forms of animal cruelty, strengthen animal cruelty investigations, and enhance efforts to protect both animals and the community.



Two Sessions Offered: Registration Recommended →

September 16 or 17, 2026 | 8:00am - 5:00pm

Loudoun County Animal Services | 42225 Adoption Drive, Leesburg, VA



Meet Your Speakers

Dr. Watson is board-certified in Anatomic Pathology by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), a licensed veterinary specialist in the state of Washington, and is also a member of the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association (IVFSA). Dr. Watson believes in providing collaborative care, and works closely with local veterinarians and numerous specialists including board-certified veterinary internists, cardiologists, oncologists, and clinical pathologists.

Rebecca Smokoska is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Humane Law Enforcement with Loudoun County Animal Services. Originally from Washington State, Rebecca has worked as an Animal Care Technician, Animal Control Officer and Animal Control Sergeant. Rebecca earned her MS from the University of Florida in Veterinary Medical Science with a concentration in Veterinary Forensic Science. She has investigated numerous animal cruelty cases including hoarding, neglect, intentional abuse and animal fighting.

This workshop has been approved for Humane Law Enforcement / Animal Control continuing education credits by VDACS.