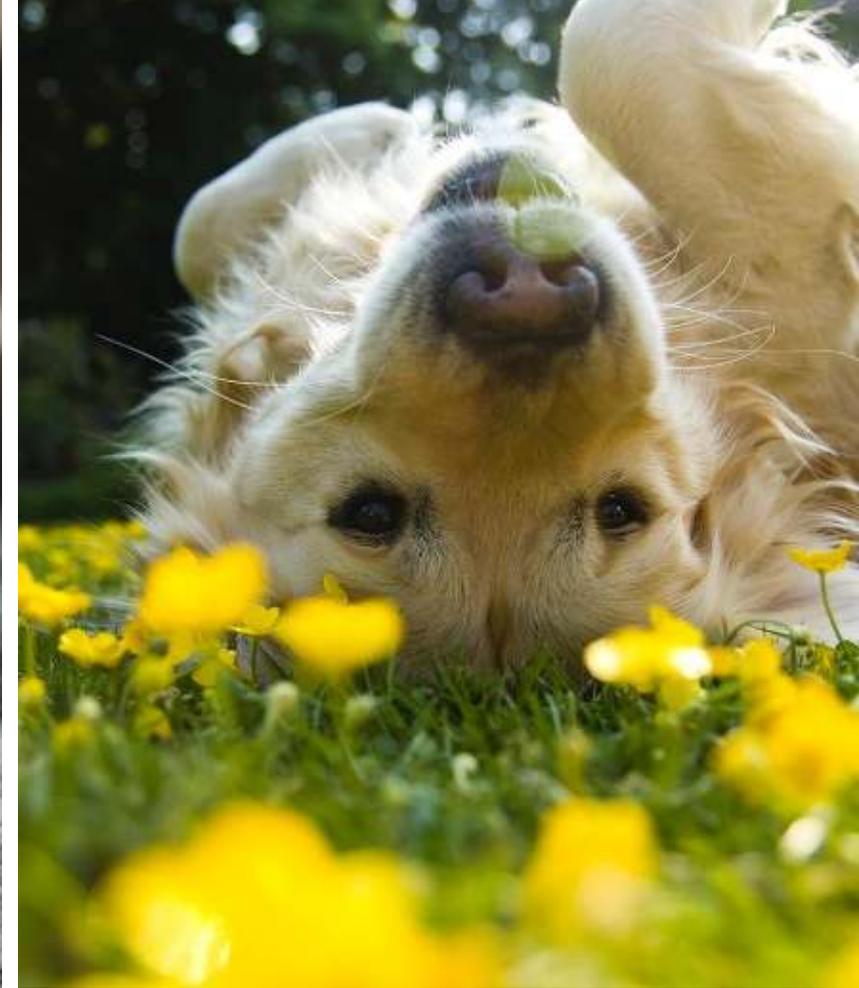


ASSISTING SURVIVORS WITH THEIR PETS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND BEYOND

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Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse



History of the Link Between IPV and Animal Abuse

- Lenore Walker, 1984 – Batterers use threats to pets or actual harm to control domestic violence victims
- Pet abuse is one of the forms of intimidation listed in the “power and control wheel” used by advocates for victims of domestic violence
- Empirical studies which include a national survey, a survey of states, studies with comparison or control groups, longitudinal studies, surveys of shelter workers, surveys of domestic violence victims, and studies of criminal histories of adult subjects.

Empirical Studies

- Survey of staff of largest dv shelters in 49 states and D.C. (Ascione, Weber, & Wood, 1997).
 - 83% of dv staff reported they observed an overlap between animal abuse and IPV
- Survey of women seeking shelter found that 71% of pet-owning women reported that their partners had threatened or killed pets (Ascione, 1998).

Empirical Studies continued

- A comparison group study (Ascione, et al, 2007) examined the reports of women in domestic violence shelters (n=101) with non-abused women (n=120).
 - Women in shelters were 11 times more likely than those in the community sample to report that their partners had hurt or killed a pet and four times more likely to have threatened a pet.
- A more recent study (Hartman, Hageman, Williams & Ascione, 2018) of 291 mother-child dyads seeking service from domestic violence agencies found that 56% of the women reported that their partners either had threatened, harmed, or killed a family pet.



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More Empirical Studies

- Studies of the criminal histories of adult men
 - One study of 150 men charged with some form of animal cruelty between 2004 and 2009 discovered that 41% had been arrested for interpersonal violence (Levitt, Hoffer, & Loper, 2016).
 - Another study assessed men who had been arrested for domestic violence to determine their involvement in animal cruelty, their antisocial personality traits, and alcohol abuse. The findings were that 41% of the men had committed at least one act of animal abuse since the age of 18, in contrast to the 1.5 prevalence rate reported by men in general population (Febres, et al, 2014).
 - A study conducted by the FBI examined the criminal records of 259 men who had been convicted of animal cruelty. They found that 60% had also been arrested for domestic violence either before or after animal cruelty arrest. (Hoffer, Hargreaves-Cormany, Muirhead, Meloy, 2019)

Pet Abuse As Predictive Factor for Domestic Violence: Two Gold Standard Studies

- A study (Walton-Moss, Manganello, Frye & Campbell, 2005) conducted from 1994 – 2000 in eleven metropolitan areas consisted of 3,637 women and a control group of 835 women.
 - Pet abuse was one of four factors associated with battering.
- A national, intergenerational, and longitudinal study of 1,614 adults (Knight, Ellis, & Simmons, 2014) determined that parents' IPV perpetration is predictive of their children's history of animal cruelty as measured 14 years later, reflecting a cycle of violence.

The Severity Link: Severity of DV is Linked to Severity of Pet Abuse

- A study of women seeking shelter in urban areas of Texas found that severity of pet abuse often is associated with severity of domestic violence, which includes physical, sexual, and emotional violence (Simmons & Lehmann, 2007).
 - Since then, four other studies have confirmed these findings.
 - Ascione, et al (2007) found that severity of IPV increased with severity of IPV
 - Febres et al (2014) found a strong association between severe physical and psychological abuse
 - DeGue & DiLillo (2009) noted that when domestic violence was limited to only the most severe cases, exposed individuals were more likely to have experienced or witnessed animal cruelty
 - Baker, Fitzgerald, Stevenson, & Cheung (2017) determined that women who reported their partners had mistreated pets were at significantly greater risk for more severe forms of domestic violence and that they experienced it more frequently

Importance of Asking About Pets in the Home

- Women in danger often delay leaving for fear that their pets will be harmed. Multiple studies found that up to 48% of battered women reported they delayed leaving a dangerous situation out of concern for their pets' safety (Faver & Strand, 2003; Hardesty, Khaw, Ridgway, Weber & Miles, 2013).
- Are domestic violence workers asking questions about pet abuse during initial contact or interviews? Not yet.
 - In studies conducted, only about 27% of domestic violence intake personnel indicated they asked questions about pets in the home that also may need a safe place.

Questions about Pets to Ask Domestic Violence Survivors Calling the Hotline or During Intake

- Do you have a pet or pets?
- Has anyone you know tried to or actually injured or threatened your pet?
- Has anyone in your home ever killed a pet?
- Do you have a safe place for your pet if you seek shelter?
- (If applicable) Are you aware that [pets may be included in Temporary Restraining Orders?](#)



Safe Havens for Pets of DV Victims

- Various arrangements, depending on local community
- Co-housing of domestic violence survivor and pet(s)
- Local vets provide shelter and medical care
- Fostering
- Negotiating extra kennel space off-site



AWI's Safe Havens Mapping Project for Pets of Domestic Violence Survivors

- National online directory of sheltering services available in an area that assist domestic violence survivors with placing their companion animals out of harm's way so that they may seek safety for themselves.
- Searchable by zip code
- Approximately 1,200 entries
- Information re-verified on a continuing basis
- On the website of the National Domestic Violence Hotline



Most important federal law affecting domestic violence survivors who have pets:
The Pet and Women Safety Act

Added to the 2018 Farm Bill
(PL 115-334, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018)
as **Section 12502, Protecting Animals With Shelter**

Creates the **Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program** for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (“domestic violence”). Grants may be made to eligible entities to enable them to provide the following programs:

- Emergency and transitional shelter and housing assistance to domestic violence victims with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, and horses (“pets”). These grants may be used for construction or operating expenses for new or existing emergency or transitional housing or shelter for the above-named animals of domestic violence victims. Such housing may be co-located at a domestic violence shelter or within the community.

- Short-term shelter and housing assistance for this group in the form of assistance with expenses related to temporary shelter, housing, boarding, or fostering the pets, service or support animals, or support animals of domestic violence survivors, or other expenses incidental to securing the safety of such animals during the sheltering, housing, or relocation of these individuals.
- Support services that enable a domestic violence survivor who is attempting to flee to locate safe housing for herself and her pet, support or service animal, or horse; or that provide related assistance such as transportation or care services.
- Training in the link between animal abuse and domestic violence; the needs of dv survivors; and best practices for meeting those needs.

- Training in the link between animal abuse and domestic violence; the needs of dv victims; and best practices for meeting those needs.
- Assistance may be provided to a dv survivor for up to 24 months, with a 6 month extension when the individual has made a good faith but unsuccessful effort to acquire permanent housing.



“Eligible entities” include the following:

- State and local governments
- Indian tribes
- Organizations with documented histories of providing assistance to dv victims
- Organizations that work directly with pets, service and support animals, or horses, such as animal shelters or animal welfare organizations, and collaborate with any of the other named entities.



Applications requirements include providing the following:

- A description of the activities for which the funding is sought
- Assurances to ensure compliance with the requirements of the program and an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence
- Certification that the entity will disclose to any dv victim any duty on the part of the service provider to report instances of abuse (including animal abuse)

There may be no requirement for background checks, or requiring the client to accept mandatory services or obtain a protection order.

Under PAWS, law enforcement is equipped with additional tools to protect survivors and their pets from their abusers. The new law amends existing federal domestic violence protections to prohibit the following:

- Interstate harassing and stalking that places victims in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, their pet, service or emotional support animal, or horse. While these protections are currently available to victims and their immediate family members (18 U.S.C. 2261A), the PAWS Act would ensure that their pets are also protected.
- There is now a criminal penalty for traveling across state lines for the purpose of harming a pet who is covered by a restraining order.

PAWS also authorizes restitution for veterinary medical expenses.

At the state level, the most significant development has been the inclusion of “animal abuse” in the definition of domestic violence, and/or specific authorization for allowing protection orders to cover pets.

- 2005: Maine became the first state to adopt a law allowing for the inclusion of pets on protection orders.
- Nothing in Maine’s laws prohibited the inclusion of pets in restraining orders but judges indicated that they were reluctant to take that step without direct statutory authorization.
- Now, 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico specifically allow for companion animals to be covered by protection orders and/or establish abuse of an animal as one of the domestic violence offenses from which the petitioner may seek protection.
- MN compiled data on the use of protection orders to cover companion animals. It found that in 2010, the year in which it amended its domestic violence law to allow for the inclusion of pets on protection orders, 167 such orders included pets. By 2013, pets had been added to 1,067 orders, well over a 500% increase.

The types of relief and levels of protection vary from state to state. In general, there are two ways by which protection orders can cover pets, though they are not mutually exclusive.

- Courts can require petitioners (the domestic violence survivor, though this can be applicable as well in cases of stalking or elder abuse) to demonstrate the basis upon which they are entitled to a protection order in their initial petition, where prior abuse incidents are detailed. Some states have “underlying offense” provisions that allow episodes of animal cruelty to be included as part of the underlying abuse that gives rise to the need for and right to a protection order.
- Second, courts also generally require that petitioners state the relief they are seeking. In states with “stay away” and/or custody stipulations, petitioners may have the option of requesting that the order direct respondents to stay away from the companion animal and prohibit them from harming or threatening the pet. In some states, the courts may grant petitioners custody or “care and control” over the animal, or order a respondent not to take the pet away from the victim. Petitioners are often advised to be prepared to document that they have been the pet’s caregiver, although in California, domestic violence survivors may be awarded possession of their family pets regardless of who is the “official” owner.



Designating Animal Abuse as a Form of Domestic Violence

Some legal scholars contend that animal mistreatment should be considered as a form, or component, of domestic violence. Upadhyia (2014) proposed that “...domestic violence statutes must treat animal cruelty as a domestic violence offense when committed with the purpose of harming or coercing the human victim.” (p. 1164)

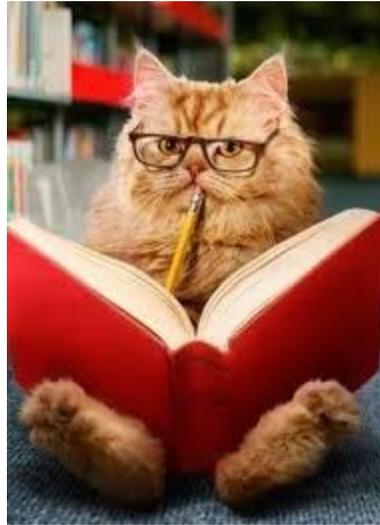
15 states have already taken this approach, several in addition to allowing the inclusion of pets on protection orders. In 10, coercive animal abuse is considered domestic violence; in 5, animal abuse is an enhancement to domestic violence charges.

- **Nevada:** Harming an animal to harass a spouse or partner is considered domestic violence and can be given as grounds for a protection order.
- **Florida:** “Among the described incidents of domestic violence from which the petitioner may obtain protection is where the respondent has ‘intentionally injured or killed a family pet.’ The court may consider this as a factor when determining whether there is reasonable cause to believe the petitioner is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence.”
(https://www.animallaw.info/filters?topic=25221&species=All&type=statute&country=All&jurisdiction=20881&combine_op=contains&keyword=)
- **Utah:** In March 2019, Governor Gary Herbert signed SB 45, amending the state’s Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act adding to its list of offenses that may qualify as domestic violence “aggravated cruelty to an animal with the intent to harass or threaten” another family or household member, or person with whom the abuser is involved in a consensual sexual relationship. The bill’s sponsor, state Senator Allen Christensen, said he took action after law enforcement in his district made him aware of the problem.

Even in those states without such specific laws, it is generally possible to add pets to orders as property—this is one instance in which their legal position as “property” actually works to their benefit. Most state protection order laws contain language that gives courts discretion to permit additional orders. For example, a court can order that pets be included in a TRO as they do for the temporary care of children or possession of property. Conditions bonds also can include pets. And a protection order can authorize law enforcement to assist with the removal of a pet from the home.



Other Policy Responses



Added Penalties for Exposing Children to Animal Cruelty

Even when physical violence is not inflicted directly upon children, they may be forced to witness or even participate in the abuse of an animal, such as being told that they are not allowed to feed the pet, or worse, are coerced into physically harming the animal. Enhancing penalties in such cases is another policy option for responding to animal abuse in the context of intimate partner violence, though it is one that is used less frequently.

- Four states—**Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, and Oregon**—provide additional penalties when animal abuse is committed in front of a child.
- In **Washington** state, punishment is more severe if a minor is forced to inflict pain or injury on an animal.
- **Florida** and **Texas** enhance penalties for engaging in animal sexual assault in front of a minor, and Florida also extends that to encouraging, forcing, or enticing a minor to engage in animal sexual assault.



Cross-Reporting

The growing awareness of animal cruelty as a serious crime in and of itself, as well as of the link between it and other crimes, particularly intimate partner violence, has led to a variety of other policy responses.

- Domestic violence advocacy organizations include information about animal abuse on their websites.
- Veterinarians are taking more seriously their role as the possible first point of contact for a domestic violence victim with an abused pet. The reporting of animal abuse to the authorities may be the first step to intervening in a violent household—and possibly interrupting the cycle of violence.
- Veterinarians aren't the only professionals being called on to notify authorities about suspected cases of animal, child, or elder abuse. Social workers, family and child advocates, animal control/humane law enforcement officers, and adult protective service workers are increasingly being encouraged or required to “cross report,” that is, to notify the relevant authorities if, in the course of their regular duties, they observe conditions that might suggest others are also endangered. States are enacting laws to require various levels of cross reporting.

One particularly effective and concrete expression of the cross reporting concept is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team or similar entities. Such teams should be comprised of members from private and public service providers (such as departments of children and families), health care providers (including mental health), and representatives from schools, faith communities, and others including, ideally, animal control/humane law enforcement officers and veterinarians. The purpose of these bodies is to bring the expertise of their varied membership to bear on problem solving, to develop strategies and procedures for thinking through and responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and animal cruelty.

Financial help for domestic violence survivors to protect yourself and your pet

- American Kennel Club Humane Fund (general)
http://images.akc.org/humane_fund/GrantApp_Women.pdf
- Amie's Place Foundation “Offers support for programs to help keep people and pets together during times of crisis” (general)
<http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org/html/apply.html>, <http://www.philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps/amie-s-place-foundation-offers-support-for-programs-to-help-keep-people-and-pets-together-during-times-of-crisis>
- Veterinary Care Foundation (for vets only)
<https://veterinarycarefoundation.org/how-it-works/>
- Veterinary Care Charitable Fund (for vets only)
<https://www.vccfund.org/about-vccf/>
- Marion Dougherty Safe Haven Fund (NYC only)
<http://www.animalallianceny.org/wordpress/2013/07/alliance-launches-marion-dougherty-safe-haven-fund-to-assist-domestic-violence-victims-and-their-pets/>
- Red Rover (general). Two types of grants: 1) to cover temporary boarding and/or veterinary care costs to enable a victim to remove pets to safety 2) to cover start-up costs for a domestic violence shelter seeking to house pets on-site
<http://www.redrover.org/redrover-relief-domestic-violence-resources>

The Impact of Coronavirus Response on Domestic Violence

- Doctors and advocates for victims are seeing signs of an increase in violence at home.
- In Chicago, during the first week of March, 383 people called a domestic violence hotline in the city. By the end of April, the weekly number had soared to 549.
- Mayor Lori Lightfoot of Chicago announced that a new city partnership with Airbnb would provide hotel rooms to people who need to flee a violent situation.
- And in NYC: “Following Spike in Domestic Violence During COVID-19 Pandemic, Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa & New York State Council on Women & Girls Launch Task Force to Find Innovative Solutions to Crisis” May 20, 2020

<https://uriny.org/download/following-spike-in-domestic-violence-during-covid-19-pandemic-secretary-to-the-governor-melissa-derosa-new-york-state-council-on-women-girls-launch-task-force-to-find-innovative-solutions-to-cris/>

- Elsewhere authorities say a lack of spike in reports does not equal no increase in incidents of domestic violence.

Will places that accept pets of domestic violence victims be concerned about COVID-19 transmission from pets?

- The American Veterinary Medical Association discusses the topic of both animal and human health concerns in the time of COVID 10.
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets>
- HSUS's Sheltering magazine is another good source for the animal side of safe havens; information on COVID 19 can also be found.
<https://www.animalsheltering.org/COVID19>
- As an example of what a shelter in the middle of the pandemic is doing, there is the Urban Resource Institute. It is operating and has numbers to call:
<https://urinyc.org/uripals/>

Resources available at <https://awionline.org/content/animals-family-violence>

- Safety Planning for Pets
- Manuals for each state to assist with including pets in protection orders whether or not there is a specific law authorizing their inclusion. <https://awionline.org/content/including-pets-protection-orders> So far there are 10 covering 11 states and DC, with a number of drafts being finalized.
- Safe Havens Mapping Project
- Facts and Myths about Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse



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Interpersonal Violence: The Role of the Veterinary Community

**Melinda Merck, DVM
Veterinary Forensics Consulting
Austin, Texas**

Veterinary Community

- Vets are protectors of animal health and well-being
- See animal abuse cases and indicators of family neglect or violence
- Need to be part of the community response plans
- Do not receive routine training on recognition of animal or human abuse
- Unaware of issues



What is
going on
behind
closed
doors



Interpersonal Violence: Perpetrator Actions

- Most common: throwing against floor or wall
- Other blunt force – kick, strike, punch, hit
- Neglect – deprive food/water, abandon, leave outside
- Refuse seeking medical care
- Giving drugs, alcohol
- Drown, burn
- Suspend – legs, tail, choke
- Sexual abuse



Pandemic Issues

- Curbside, telemedicine engagement: safety, decreased detection
- Animal shelters: closed, restricted intake
- At home, confined
- Houston – increase in cases
- LA - motels



Veterinary Community Response Program for Pets of Domestic Violence



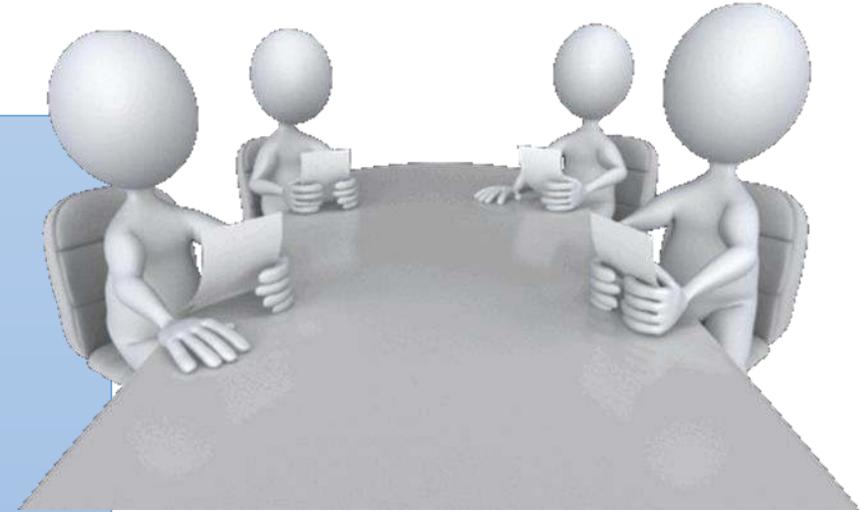
Veterinary Community Response

- First line to see animal abuse associated with DV
- Need to integrate animal cruelty into a Coordinated Community Response
- Not all groups aware of the animal cruelty link to DV or delay statistics
- Need community wide engagement and strategy
- Include veterinary, VMAs and animal cruelty investigating agencies



Veterinary Community Response

- Education: yourself and others
- Identify DV programs and shelters in your area
- Create relationships: join Family Violence task force (local, regional), other interdisciplinary teams, volunteer at DV shelters
- Identify current processes for pets of survivors
- Modify protocols: include questions about animals in risk assessment
- Ask for input, assessment, discuss shared goals



Veterinary Community Response

- Coordinated Community Response: goal is to be proactive rather than reactive
- DV Shelters: overwhelmed, under-resourced
- Need to understand their world: time delay for responses to inquiries, change scheduled appointments
- Most DV shelters do not have pet program or limited in space for pets



Veterinary Community Response

- Likely have had minimal to no vet care, pet care education
- Need vet services: day or night
- Temporary boarding
- Onsite care, education
- Pet transport
- Donations
- Funding for care – share within vet community, grants



Veterinary Community Response

- Behavioral support – stress, anxiety issues
- High chance pets have been abused
- Vet exam: look for signs of abuse, potential charges, impact on survivor
- Involve local VMA, vet tech, manager groups
- Include specialty hospitals, animal welfare groups, behaviorists, groomers, boarding facilities
- Meet and discuss - problem solve



Houston PetSet: Pet Protect

- Veterinary Hospital
- Boarding facility

Houston nonprofit launches free pet boarding program to aid survivors of domestic violence



Community Response: Pet Plans for DV Survivors

- Need plan for co-housing or co-living (ideal)
- Foster program always needed: shelter space limits, assisting survivors not at shelter
- Confidentiality issues: survivor, pets
- Do not need to reinvent the wheel – there are program templates



Challenges DV shelters face

- Crisis is their world
- Lack of understanding of needs, connection to animal community
- Confidentiality concerns
- Housing limitations – physical structure, space
- Funding



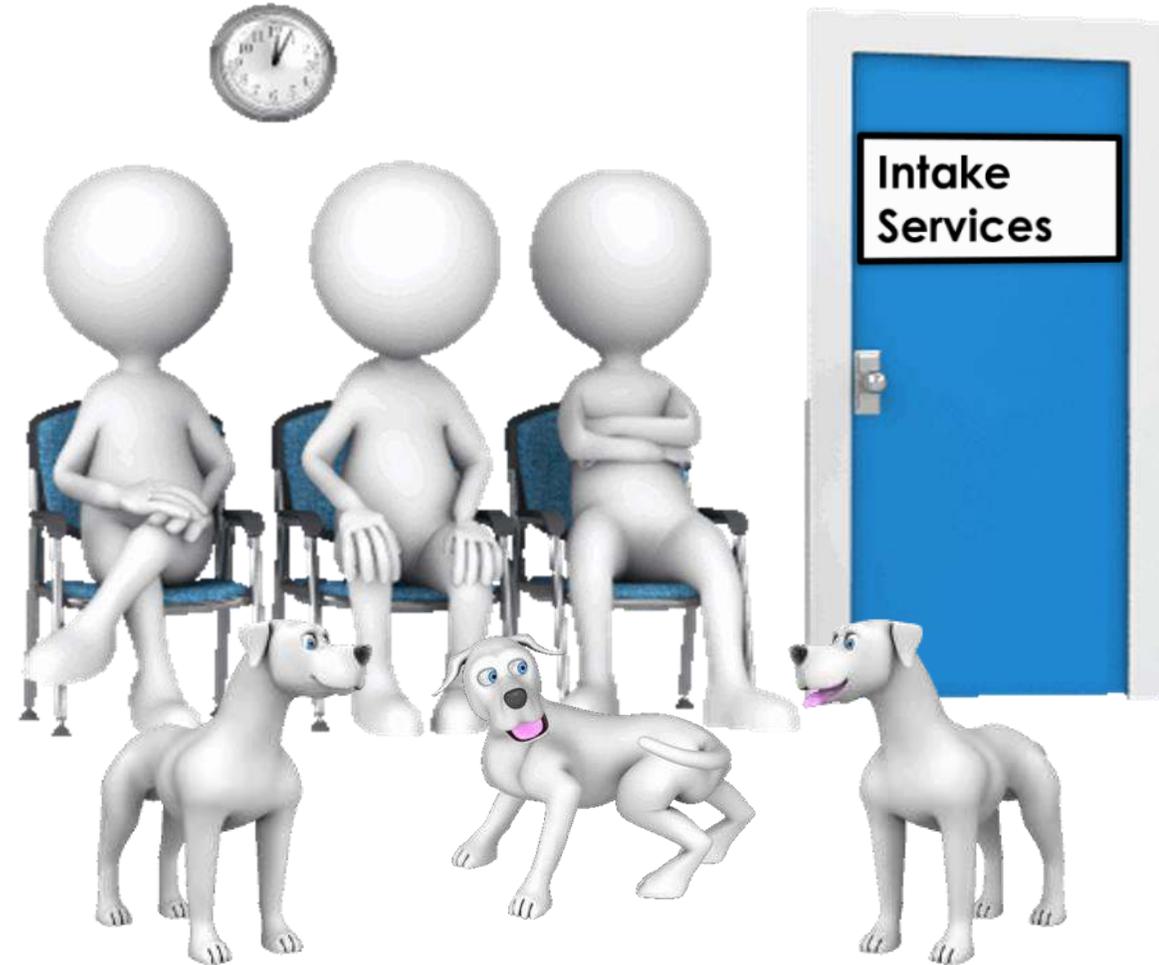
Challenges DV shelters face

- Animal issues: allergies, where keep, walk/play areas, residents fear or animals, types of animals, lack of owner education, medical needs, behavior issues
- Transitional housing – pet deposits, limitations
- Emotional support animal = federal protection
- Capacity for tackling issue - volunteers



General DV Shelter Issues

- Not asking about pets on hotline
- No safety planning for pets on website, onsite
- No foster program, alternatives
- No tracking of pet need
- Fear if advertise program will be overwhelmed
- Animal craziness



Hospital Standard Operating Procedure

- Create reference binder with resources info, documents, where report animal abuse
- Contact local agencies/hotlines to get their brochures, cards
- Identify 'Link Liaisons' within the practice, train staff
- DV Pet Exam Checklist



Are you
Safe?
Shelter is
Available
Hotline:
888-2



Veterinary Practice

- Increase your knowledge and awareness
- Takes average of leaving 7x before permanent – many barriers
- Animals at risk if left behind
- Put shelter/hotline posters, brochures and cards in bathroom, exam rooms, front desk
- Put “Safety Planning for Your Pets” on your website, in hospital:
veterinaryforensics.com

Safety Planning for Pets: Daisy's Place OK

SCREENING IN RESIDENTS:

- Ask about the abuser's access to animals
- Determine if there is another safe place where the animal can go (family? friends?)
- Determine the safest time and way to get the animal away when leaving

BRINGING RESIDENT AND PET INTO SHELTER:

- Grab all vaccination/health records or call vet to get them

- Bring flea/tick and heartworm medications
- Bring food
- Bring leashes, collars, tags, toys, bowls, etc.

WHILE IN SHELTER OR AWAY FROM ABUSER:

- Don't post pictures/updates of animal on social media
- Find another veterinarian that the abuser is unaware of

Where to Report Animal Abuse: National Link Coalition

- List by county
- Agencies color-coded to help determine local response
- **nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse**





- Searchable database of sheltering services for the companion animals of domestic violence victims, have a relationship with an entity that does, or provide referrals to such facilities
- Resource info, funding sources
- **awionline.org/safe-havens**

Animal Welfare Institute

That broken leg
was an awful
accident.
Or was it?



Animal abuse victims depend on YOU.

If you
see...

Signs of neglect

severely matted fur, ingrown collar, severe dental disease, heavy ectoparasite infestation

New, repeated, or old trauma
to the skeleton and soft tissue

Injuries that don't match the explanation
keep non-accidental injuries on your list of rule-outs

Starvation or severe malnutrition

Repeated visits with different pets

...do the following:

Ask:
"Do you think
someone may
have harmed
your pet?"

Document
everything.
Take pictures.

Contact
local law
enforcement.

- Developed 2 free posters for veterinary hospitals
- Can order to ship or download
- **awionline.org**

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WHAT DOES THE LINK BETWEEN PET ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE “LOOK” LIKE?

8

Signs that may indicate an abusive relationship

Has your partner ever...

- 1 THREATENED**
Threatened to get rid of your pet, or took it away from you?
- 2 SCARED**
Deliberately threatened, harmed or scared your pet to intimidate you or your children?
- 3 KILLED**
Smacked, kicked, beat, or killed your pet?
- 4 HARMED**
Thrown an object at your pet?
- 5 TAKEN**
Refused to grant you custody of the pet?
- 6 REFUSED**
Refused to allow you to spend money on your pet or to socialize with other pet owners?
- 7 STARVED**
Refused to feed or provide vet care for your pet?
- 8 WARNED**
Warned you of what would happen to your pet if you left?

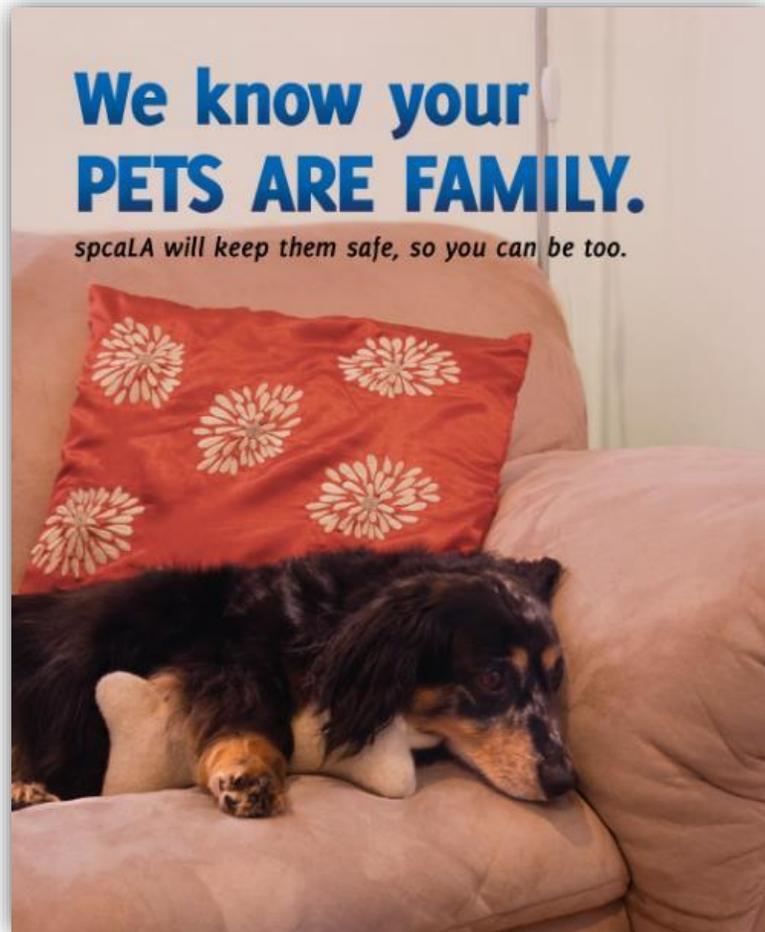
If you feel that you may be experiencing any of these or are afraid to leave an abusive situation *call 1-800-799-SAFE*. If you are unable to leave an abusive relationship because of concern for your pets, visit RedRover's website: SafePlaceForPets.org

SafePlace for Pets: Red Rover

- Searchable site for DV shelters with pet shelter programs: **safeplaceforpets.org**
- Resources, grants for survivors: boarding, vet care
- Resources for DV shelters
- Grants, funding options
- Training webinar
- Brochure, flyer, resource cards: **redrover.org/resource/domestic-violence-and-pets/**



Foster Program: Animal Safety Net



- Complete program
- Free manual
- Includes forms, PowerPoint trainings for fosters, volunteers
- Veterinary exams: if told animal abused or findings of abuse = cruelty investigation
- spcala.com/programs-services/asn/

Alabama: Shelby SafePet

- Partnered with veterinary community
- Emergency shelter for pets
- Veterinary care: injuries, preventive veterinary care and spay/neuter
- Forensic veterinary examinations to document abuse (mandatory reporters)
- Pet food, pet supplies, payment of pet deposits in transitional housing
- Folding crates and other pet supplies for domestic violence

Link Toronto: SafePet Program Part of Ontario VMA SafePet Network



SEEKING ASSISTANCE HOW TO HELP

Need Our Help?

Our SafePet Program coordinates foster care for the pets of survivors fleeing situations of domestic violence.

I Need Help >

Want To Help?

Work together to help people and their pets find safety

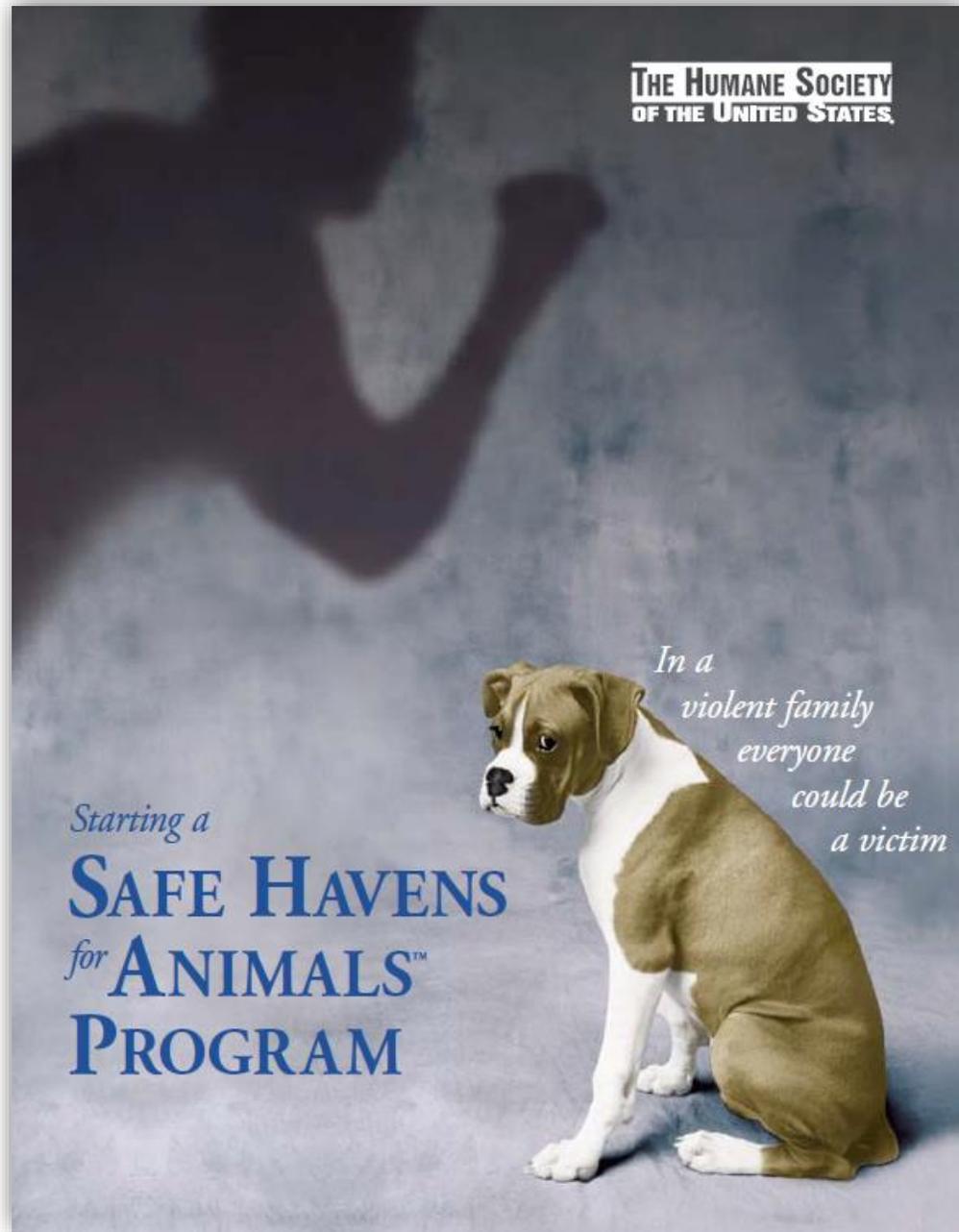
Work With Us >

- Provide foster care for 8-12 months
- SafePet veterinarians: drop-off for pets before entering DV shelter; exam, vaccinations, treatments, etc..
- Driven by Ontario VMA
- www.safepet.ca

Saf-T Program: Allie Phillips

- Start-up Manual
- Co-housing and Co-living options and ideas
- Funding resources
- alliephillips.com/saf-tprogram/



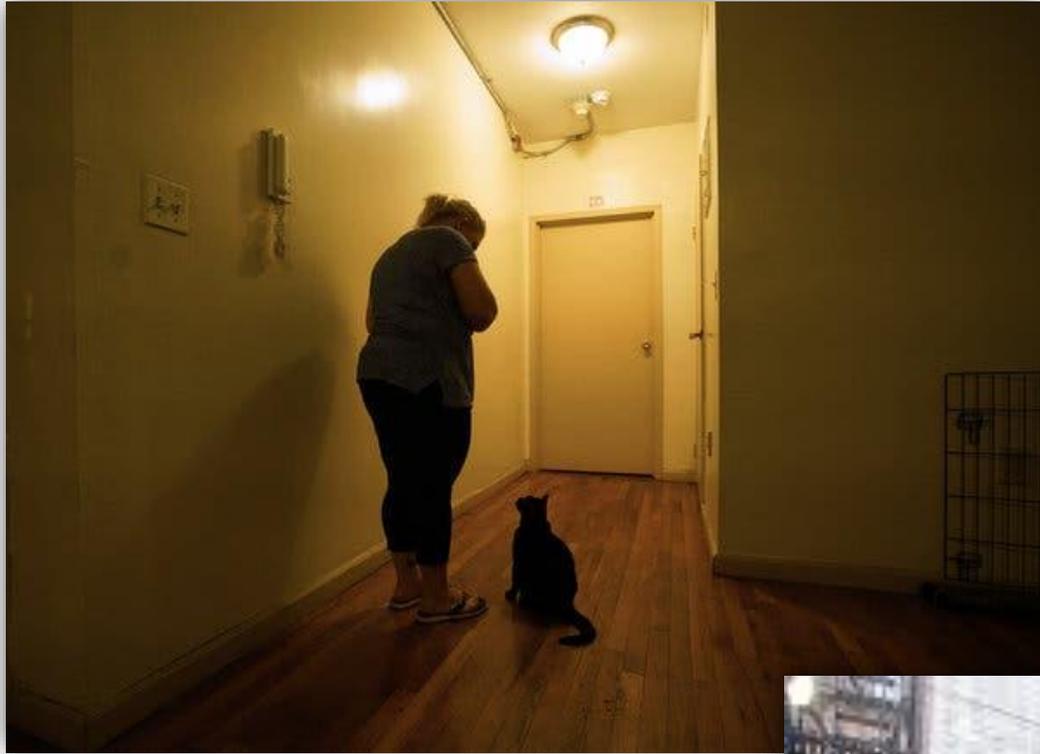


Humane Society of the United States

- Starting a Safe Havens for Animals Program Manual
- Program details and forms
- humanesociety.org

Co-Living Solutions

- New York City: URI PALS Project - People and Animals Living Safely, launched June 2013, co-living DV shelter
- Purina Play Haven and Dog Park
- 2019: opened 5 more shelters





 PURINA



 Red Rover

Helping Domestic
Abuse Victims & Pets

 PURINA

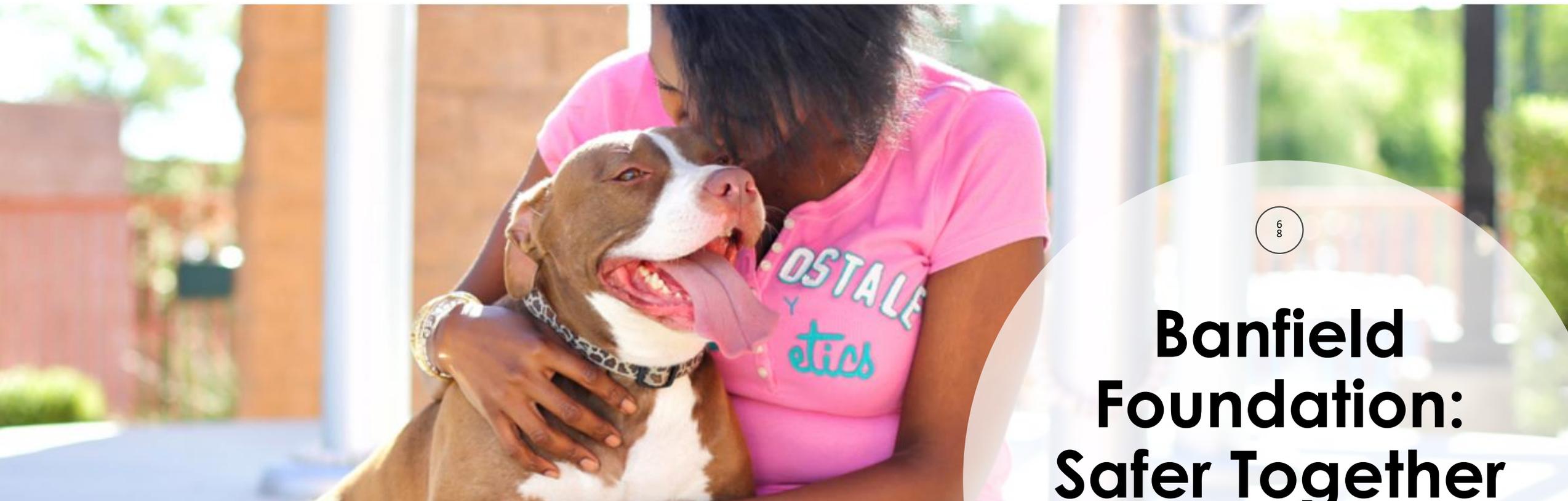
Your Pet, Our Passion.

Purina and Red Rover: Purple Leash Project

Bayer announces second annual Grants Fur Families program, giving \$70,000 to domestic violence shelters supporting survivors and their pets

By end of 2019, program will have provided over \$200,000 to domestic violence shelters across the U.S. - increasing the number of shelters offering on-site pet facilities





6
8

Banfield Foundation: Safer Together

Helping People & Pets Find Safety Together



Legislative Changes: Funding

- Pets and Women Safety (PAWS) Act 2018: federal grants
- California AB 415 - expanded crime victim compensation to include:
 - Pet deposit
 - Security pet deposit
 - Temporary housing (boarding)



Veterinary Community Response: Summary

- Engage stakeholders
- Engage local, regional and state VMAs
- Identify funding resources, support
- Establish goals, programs
- Establish veterinary community commitment – rotate to share burden
- Include other service providers



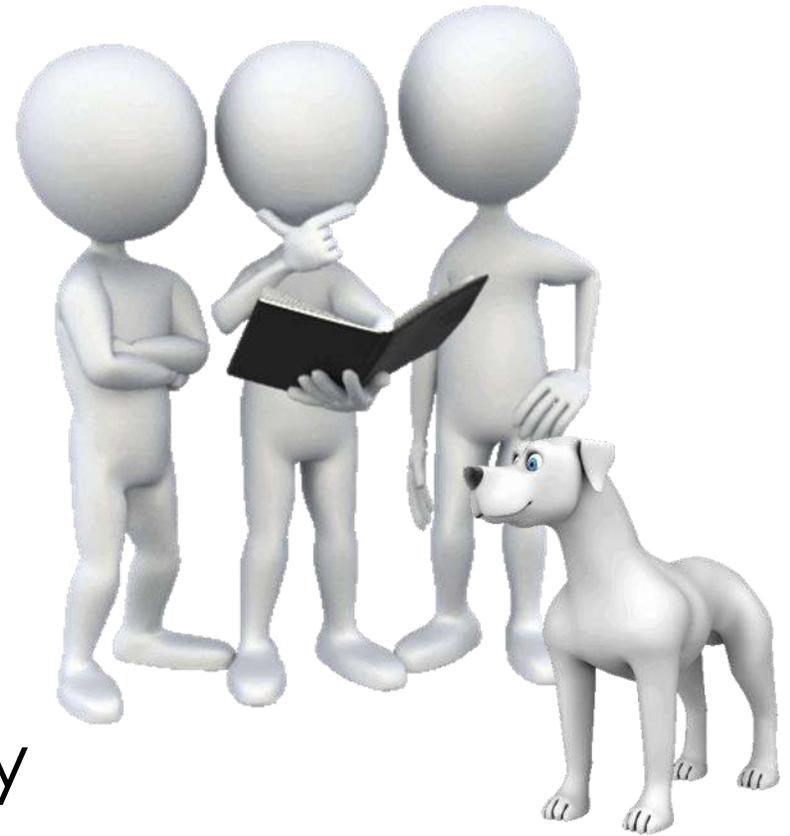
Final Thoughts

- We need a community response for a community issue involving all stakeholders
- Critical to include the veterinary community and associations
- Provide education to increase awareness and cross-reporting

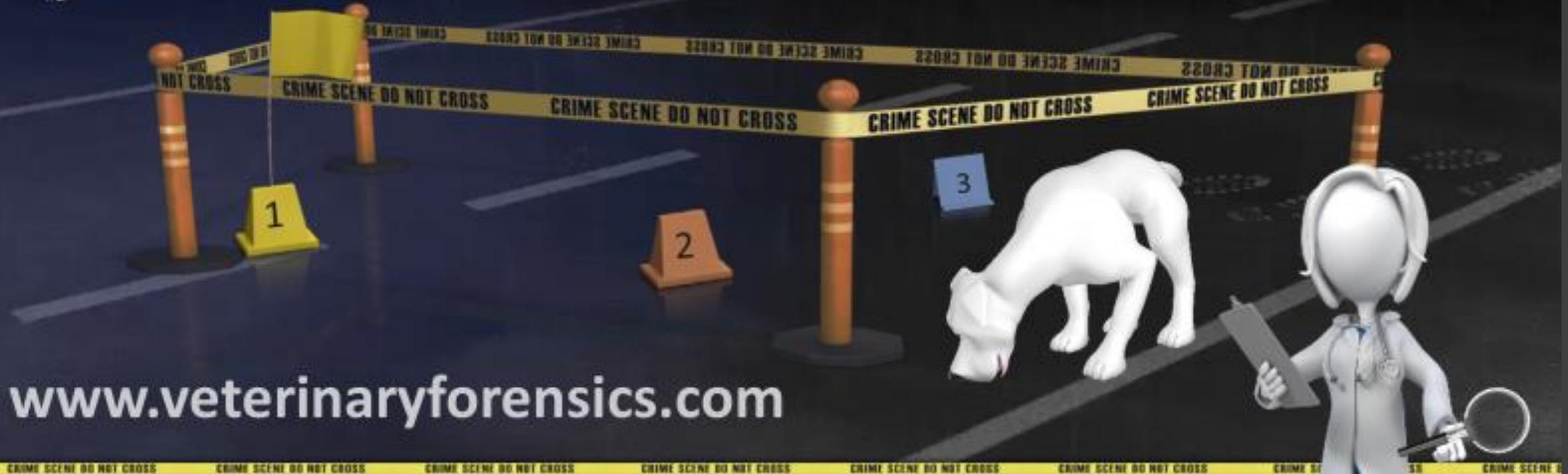


Final Thoughts

- One health Issue
- Breakdown barriers and form connections
- It takes everyone to make a difference and initiate change
- Reach out to veterinary community and offer training



VETERINARY FORENSICS CONSULTING



www.veterinaryforensics.com

Contact info: catdvm@drmerck.com

678-773-8014

Rose Brooks Center

Zoë Agnew-Svoboda

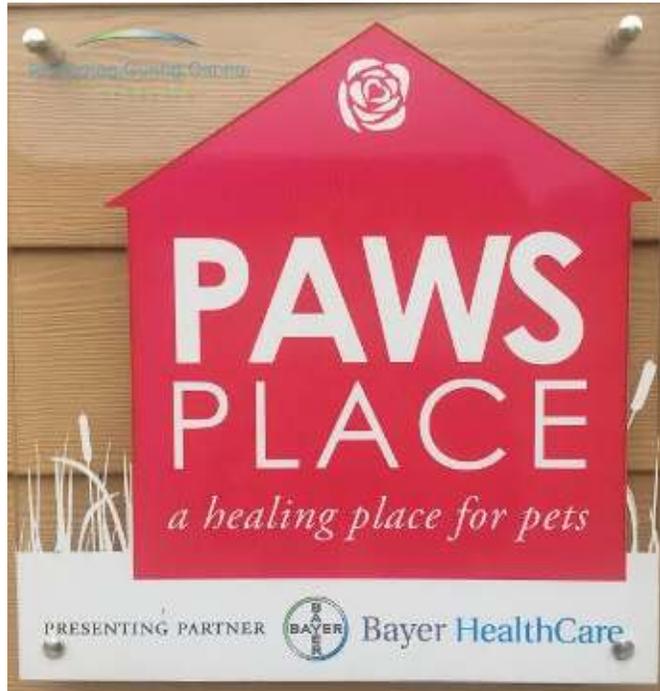
PAWS Place Program Manager, Rose Brooks Center

Rose Brooks Center

- Established in 1978
 - 1979, first shelter with 19 beds
 - 2001, new shelter with 75 beds
 - 2012, expanded to 100 beds
- Services Provided
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Therapy
 - Children's Programs
 - Prevention Services: Project Safe
 - Court Advocacy
 - Bridge Program
 - Economic and Housing Advocacy
 - Pet Shelter
- Trauma-Informed Care
 - Voluntary Services



PAWS Place



- Pet And Women's Safety
 - Opened in 2012
 - Have Housed over 250 animals

- Dog Kennel
- Purr Place (Cat Room)
- Play Yard
- Dog Park
- Pet-friendly Quiet Room



Lessons Learned



4 raised kennels, 1 small room originally for cats

Dog Shelter



5 kennels, one XL for large dogs or families with multiple dogs
washer/dryer accessible to pet owner

Purr Place



Originally a Meditation Room
6 cat suites, could hold 12 cats if needed

Pet Friendly Quiet Room



Private space for owners to spend time with their pets away from the elements, and other dogs or cats

Role Of Pet Owner

- Rose Brooks Center Guidelines
 - What is expected of the pet owner - this information is explained during the pet shelter intake, see forms for all guidelines
 - The pet owner is the primary caretaker of the animal
 - Pet owners are expected to care for their animal at least three times each day.
 - This care may be different for an assistance animal living in the room with their owner.
 - Who is allowed to interact with the animals?
 - Only the pet owner and family members, trained staff, and trained volunteers.
 - No other resident is allowed to interact with the animal
 - Another resident cannot assist in the care of their animal
 - Where is the animal allowed to go?
 - Animal access depends on the role of animal
 - Service animal may accompany pet owner anywhere
 - ESAs are allowed in a person's bedroom (if they have a single room), the pet friendly quiet room, the pet shelter or cat room, and anywhere outside when they are on a leash.
 - Companion animals are allowed in the pet friendly quiet room, the pet shelter or cat room, and anywhere outside when they are on a leash.

Accepting Pets Into Shelter

- Accepted via hotline
 - Hotline form - Be sure to ask about pets
- Set up kennel
 - Dog – blanket or bed, water bowl, food bowl, toys
 - Cat – blanket or bed (preferably a hiding spot), water and food bowl, litter box
- Pet Intake
 - Species and role specific
 - Welcome letter
 - Quick Rules
 - Pet Shelter Agreement
 - Role of Animal
- Medical requirements
 - Dogs – DA2PP, Bordetella, Rabies, flea prevention
 - Cats – FVRCP, Rabies, FIV test, flea prevention

HOTLINE FORM Osniun _____

Operator's Last Name: _____ Date of Call: _____

Time Call Started: _____ AM / PM Time Call Ended: _____ AM / PM

Name of Caller: _____ Telephone #: _____

of Children: _____ # of Girls / Ages: _____ # of Boys / Ages: _____

Where are you now? _____ Is it safe to talk? YES NO

Address (caller): _____ City/State: _____

Primary Language: _____ [] Language Line Used

Description of Situation and Outcome of Call:

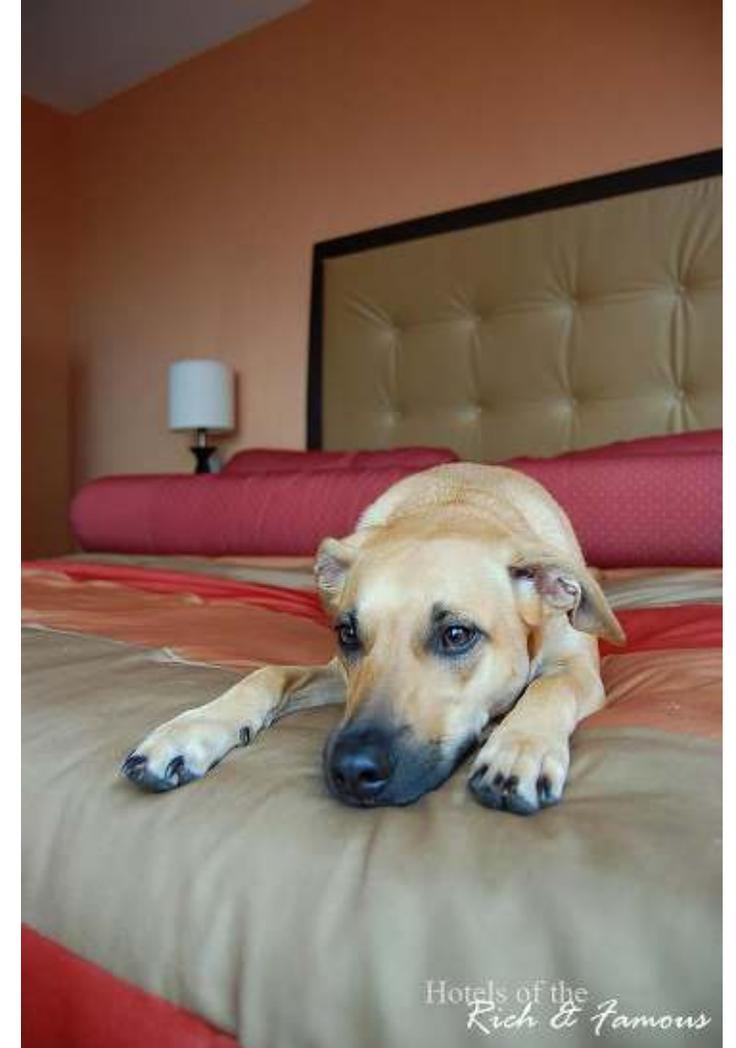
Reason for Call/Referral	Reason	Referral (s)	Caller seeking shelter:
Domestic Violence Education			Are you able to get onto a top bunk? YES NO
Financial/Emergency Asst.			Would you like to share anything about yourself that would be helpful for us to know during your stay?
Legal Assistance			
Other			
Pet Advocacy & Services			Do you have any pets that you need help with? YES NO
Protection Order General Info			
Protection Order Emergency			<u>Accepted</u> : YES NO
Rape/Sexual Assault Services			Hold bed (s) until: _____
Safety Plan			<u>Refused</u> shelter due to lack of space at RBC: _____ Women _____ Men _____ Children _____ Pets
Shelter (DV)			Caller linked to another DV shelter? YES NO
Shelter (Homeless)			If NO, reason:
Support Group			[] Other shelters full [] Caller declined
Support/Talk			[] Other: _____

Role of Rose Brooks Center

- Rose Brooks is not the primary caretaker of animals in our shelter
 - Just as we would not be the primary caretaker of someone's child, we will not be the primary caretaker of someone's pet.
 - We can provide assistance in the event of an emergency
 - Volunteers do provided extra socialization
 - Are not primary care takers of animals
 - Pet owners are still expected to care for animals 3x per day even with volunteer visits
- General maintenance of facility
- Grants and donations allow Rose Brooks Center to cover some vet services
 - All animals must be fully vaccinated to stay onsite
 - Local vet clinic donates exam fee, vaccinations, fecal test, heartworm test, and discounts medication by 50%.
 - Partner with discount vet clinics for other services needed
 - Spay, neuter, mass removal, etc.
- Rose Brooks provides all supplies needed to care for the pets
 - DONATIONS! Monthly budget incredibly low!
 - Put a Puppy on it! Great Fundraising tactic!

COVID-19 Response

- Phase One, March 12th, 2020 – June 15th, 2020
 - Relocated residents to comply with social distancing
 - Pet friendly hotel placement
 - Extended Stay America
 - Staying with safe social supports
 - Foster home or boarding facilities
 - Provided services for 25 pets during phase one
 - Shelter renovations to comply with social distancing completed.
 - Removing shared furniture
 - Updating bedrooms
 - Complications
 - Safety risk
 - Mental health and substance abuse



COVID-19 Response

- Phase Two, June 15th, 2020 – Present
 - Shelter Social Distancing and hotel placement
 - Private rooms and bathrooms
 - TV and mini-fridge in each room
 - Must wear face mask in community areas and social distance
 - Daily temperature checks
 - Hotel placement for those who feel comfortable
 - Hotel placement for those who are showing symptoms
 - Pet Shelter
 - Only one family is allowed in the pet spaces at one time
 - Animals allowed in bedrooms
 - Foster or boarding provided for pets when shelter is not available
 - Challenges
 - Clients feel isolated, increase in mental health and substance abuse

National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit

- For assistance, please call: (800) 903-0111, prompt 2.
- Email: ncffc@bwjp.org
- Web: www.fullfaithandcredit.org
- Informational Materials & Brochures
- Technical Assistance & Problem-Solving
- (On-Site) Individualized Training
Education/Webinars