


# PETS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## HOW VETERINARIANS AND PET WELFARE AGENCIES CAN HELP

Survivors of domestic violence are often intentionally isolated by their partners. When a survivor brings their pet to you, it might be their only opportunity to access help. You are in a critical position to help survivors and their pets access services and safety.




**PEOPLE WHO HURT THEIR PARTNER OR FAMILY MAY KILL, HARM, OR THREATEN ANIMALS TO EXERT POWER OVER THEIR VICTIMS**

**UP TO 40%** of sexual and domestic violence survivors report they delayed their decision to seek safety and services out of fear for their animals' welfare. Arkow, 1994

**71%** of pet-owning women reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened family pets. NCADV, 2017

**41%** of people who harm their partner had histories of animal cruelty. Febres et al., 2014



"I was isolated for such a long time that my dog was my only companion for a while. When I felt like there was no hope, he gave me a reason to live."

~Survivor of Domestic Violence 

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Receive education about the intersection of domestic violence and pets and how to support survivors and their pets
- Learn red flags for domestic violence among your clients
- Place brochures in your agency with information on domestic violence services
- Learn how to support pets who have been in violent homes
- Partner with a domestic or sexual violence program in your community

To learn more about how you can be involved in survivor and pet safety please contact [samantha@acesdv.org](mailto:samantha@acesdv.org)

