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.

"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