

Safety Planning With Pets

Safety plans help survivors anticipate the dangers they still face. Before you attempt to leave or take any legal or financial steps to separate from your abuser, you should be aware that the danger of violence escalates when an individual attempts to leave. No survivor/victim has control over their partner's violence, but you can find ways to reduce your risk of harm.

Here are a few tips to help aid your safety plan when pets are involved.

Statistics show that over 50% of domestic violence survivors are unable to escape their abusive partners because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave. Fortunately, Rose Brooks Center has an on-site pet shelter to help keep beloved family pets safe too.

If you're creating a safety plan of your own to leave an abusive relationship, safety planning for your pets is important as well. Bring extra provisions for them, copies of their medical records and important phone numbers.

- If possible, don't leave pets alone with an abusive partner. If you are planning to leave, talk to friends, family or your veterinarian about temporary care for your pet. For help finding an animal shelter, visit the Humane Society website.
- Take steps to prove ownership of your pet: have them vaccinated and license them with your town, ensuring that these registrations are made in your name (change them if they aren't).
- If you're thinking about getting a protective order, know that some states allow pets to be a part of these.
- If you've left your partner, ensure the safety of your pet by changing veterinarians and avoid leaving pets outside alone.