

SAFETY PLANNING FOR PETS

For domestic violence survivors and their pets

It's important to consider the well-being of your pets when planning to leave an abusive relationship. Including your pets in your safety plan is crucial to ensuring the safety of all your loved ones.

ALWAYS:

- ✓ Have emergency provisions for your pet in case your abuser withholds money
- ✓ Keep the number of the nearest 24 hour emergency veterinary clinic on-hand

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE:

- ✓ Establish ownership of your pet. Have them vaccinated and licensed in the place where you live, make sure the registrations are done in your name. Take steps to have them changed if necessary
- ✓ Obtain safe, confidential shelter for your pet (e.g. veterinarian, friend, family, a Animal Humane Society's Temporary Pet Housing Program, or Minnesota Pet Foster Coalition)
- ✓ If you're thinking about getting a protective order, consider asking for your pet(s) to be included in your order
- ✓ Pack a bag for your pet that includes:
 - Food
 - Medication(s)
 - Veterinary records
 - Collar and leash
 - ID and rabies tags
 - Carrier
 - Toy(s)
 - Bedding
 - Documents of ownership (vet records, licenses, etc.)

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY LEFT:

- ✓ If you've had to leave your pet behind with an abusive partner, consider seeking assistance from local services like animal control to see if they can intervene
- ✓ Change your veterinarian and pet care providers
- ✓ Avoid leaving pets outside alone to ensure their long-term safety
- ✓ Supervise your pet when they are outdoors
Avoid public parks/dog parks
- ✓ Think carefully about where and when you walk your pet, and do not walk your pet alone

For immediate assistance, call the Minnesota Day One Crisis Line
866-223-1111

If you must leave without your pet, leave enough food, water, and supplies for your pet