



Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)™

www.animalsandfamilies.org

Each year, approximately 2.3 million people are victims of intimate partner violence. Over 62% of American households have at least one pet and pets can be caught in the cross fire of family violence. Pets can also be targeted by an abuser as a way to maintain silence and compliance from those victimized. *If I can kill the dog, I can kill you* is the message heard.

Studies have shown that up to 48% of women will refuse or delay leaving an abusive home out of fear for their pets or livestock. If a person leaves an abusive relationship without their pet, they may be lured back home with a threat to harm or kill the pet. But there are options available to find safe placement for families with pets.

For Survivors:

Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)™ is a national initiative that guides family violence shelters on how to welcome families with pets. To see what shelters accommodate pets on-site, please visit www.animalsandfamilies.org.

To locate family violence shelters that have partnered with local animal organizations to house family pets off-site in safe locations or have a foster care program, please visit www.ahimsahouse.org/directory.

For financial assistance to board pets fleeing violent homes and for emergency veterinary care, check out the Red Rover Relief Grants for Domestic Violence at www.redrover.org.



For Family Violence Shelters:

If you are not accommodating family pets, you are missing an opportunity to help many families in your community. To learn how to become a shelter that safely welcomes pets, please contact Allie Phillips (SAF-T Founder) at allie@alliephillips.com or download the Start-Up Guide from www.animalsandfamilies.org.

