Safety Planning for Pets

for domestic violence survivors and their pets, provided by Safe Havens for Pets and the Animal Welfare Institute

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

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 by creating a paper trail (e.g. obtain a license, have veterinarian records put in your name)

✔ Obtain safe, confidential shelter for your pet (e.g. veterinarian, friend, family, a Safe Haven for Pets program)

✔ Pack a bag for your pet that includes:
  - Food
  - Medication(s)
  - Veterinary records
  - Collar and leash
  - ID and rabies tags
  - Carrier
  - Toy
  - Bedding
  - Documents of ownership (vet records, licenses, etc.)

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY LEFT:

✔ Change your veterinarian and pet care providers

✔ Keep pets indoors (if possible)

✔ 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 Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233

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

SAFE HAVENS FOR PETS

Sources: The People's Law of Maryland; Ahimsa House