

# 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
- ✓ Immediately update any microchip information

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