

Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)™: Saving lives

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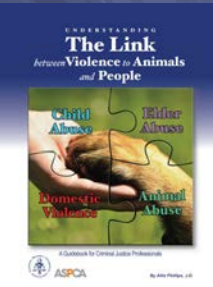
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- **Work experience:**
 - Assistant Prosecutor (Michigan)
 - National District Attorneys Association (Senior Attorney)
 - American Humane Association (Vice President of Public Policy and Vice President of Human-Animal Strategic Initiatives)
 - National District Attorneys Association (Director/Deputy Director)
- **Boards/Associations:**
 - Liaison, ABA's Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence
 - Advisory Group, Association of Professional Humane Educators
 - Advisory Council, Denver Pet Partners
 - Vice President, No Paws Left Behind
 - Council Member, Michigan State Bar Animal Law Section
 - Co-Founder Michiganders for Shelter Pets
 - Co-Founder, Friends of Ingham County Animal Shelter
 - National Link Coalition Steering Committee
- **Programs:**
 - Founder, Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) Program™
 - Co-creator, Therapy Animals Supporting Kids



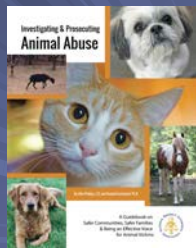
National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse

- National conferences
- State/local trainings
- Update newsletter
- CSE newsletter
- Technical assistance
- Expert files
- "The Manual"



National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse

- National conferences
- State/local trainings
- *Tales of Justice* newsletter
- *Investigating & Prosecuting Animal Abuse Guidebook*
- Free monthly webinars
- Technical assistance
- Expert Advisory Group

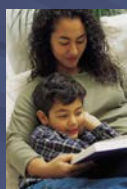


What is SAF-T?

- The first and only global program to encourage domestic violence shelters to allow families to bring pets on-site
- Recognizes pets as family members
- Encourages the human-animal bond
- Provides a way for families to leave abusive homes sooner
- It acknowledges The Link®

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Animal Abuse, Child Abuse, Domestic and Elder Violence



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Pets are part of the family

- Almost 82.5 million (68%) American homes have pets
- 67% of homes with children under age 6 have at least one pet
- 74% of homes with children over age 6 have at least one pet
- 72% of homes have women as the primary caretaker of pet



Source: 2013-14 National Pet Owner's Survey and American Veterinary Medical Association; American Veterinary Medical Association (2007). U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook; Nat'l Ctr. For Injury Prev. & Control, 2011

Pets are part of the family

- 94% of dog owners and 89% of cat owners stated the primary benefit of a pet is companionship.
- 51% of dog owners and 44% of cat owners buy holiday gifts.
- 25% of dog owners and 12% of cat owners buy birthday gifts.
- In 2010, \$73 million was on dog gifts.



- American Pet Products Association Pet Owner Survey (2009-10, 2011-12)

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We love our pets

- 90% of pet owners would choose their pet over money from a divorce
- 66% of pet owners would reject a presidential candidate who is not pet friendly
- 73% of pet owners would choose a pet over a human if only allowed to have one best friend



-- PetMD Owners Survey May 2011

The importance of pets

- People look to their pets for support, comfort & security (Bonas, McNichols & Glyn, 2000)
- Pets positively impact physical health and reduce stress (Friedman & Son, 2009)
- Pets provide greater life satisfaction (Raina, et al 1999)
- Pets help us cope better with loss and grief (Bolin, 1988)
- Nationwide study revealed that less than half of shelters routinely ask families about pets (Krienert, et al, 2012)

"A greater understanding of the dynamics of pet abuse and women's decisions about their pets when seeking shelter would inform professionals' efforts to facilitate women's departures from violent relationships and their recovery process."

— *Coercive Control and Abused Women's Decisions About their Pets when Seeking Shelter*, Hardesty, et al. 28 J Interp Viol 2617 (2013)

Women & Pets

- Women with strong bonds to pets had abusers use control tactics to threaten pets
- Pets helped women in recovery
- Women wanted to be asked about pets at intake
- Women felt lack of control over the decision to leave their pet and wanted safe options for their pet
 - They wanted their vet to offer safe affordable housing
 - They were critical of shelters not providing options

Hardesty, Khaw, Ridgway, Weber & Miles (2013). *Coercive Control and Abused Women's Decisions About their Pets When Seeking Shelter. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 28: 2617*

What survivors say

"I stayed alive over a fish. When I had nothing else, I had a fish. It kept me going."

"If I had known about [this pet housing program] ahead of time, that would have saved my animals through the years that I've lost because of my abuser."

-- Hardesty et al. (2013)

Research

- 2009 Study – The first study focusing on the linkage between animals, children and domestic violence

(DeGue & DeLillo, Is Animal Cruelty a "Red Flag" for Family Violence? Investigating Co-Occurring Violence Toward Children, Partners and Pets, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 24(6), p. 1036-1056)

- Nearly half (49.4%) of the sample experienced one form of family violence during childhood
- **Individuals who witnessed animal cruelty were 8.14 times more likely to be perpetrators**

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Research

- 2009 Study (cont.) – General Findings
 - Witnessing animal cruelty was the biggest predictor of later violence by the witness
 - Witnessing animal cruelty with child abuse or exposure to domestic violence increases the risk of animal cruelty
 - Exposed individuals to severe domestic violence were more likely to have witnessed animal abuse
 - Animal abuse was also associated with higher rates of child neglect

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Research

- 2007 Study: Survey comparing shelter – vs- nonabused women

(Ascione, Weber, Thompson, Heath, Maruyama & Hayashi (2007), Battered Pets and Domestic Violence: Animal Abuse Reported by Women Experiencing Intimate Violence and by Nonabused Women. *Violence Against Women* 13(4), 354-73.)

- Shelter women were nearly 11 times more likely to report their partner had hurt/killed their pet
- Shelter women were more than 4 times higher to report their pet was threatened

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Research

- 2007 Study (cont.)
 - 66.7% of children observed animal abuse
 - 37.5% of shelter children harmed or killed pets
 - 22.8% of shelter women delayed leaving home due to concerns of the pets
 - If pets were actually threatened and harmed, 34.3% of women delayed leaving

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Research

“Batterers who also abuse their pets are both more controlling and use more dangerous forms of violence [sexual violence, marital rape, emotional violence and stalking] than batterers who do not.”

-- Simmons & Lehmann (2007)
Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol. 22, No. 9,
 p. 1211-1222 (2007)

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Hartford, CT

Man Gets 5 Years in Cat-Killing and Threat Case

Johnen Velez, of Hartford, Conn., who allegedly killed his ex-girlfriend's cat, stuffed it in a pillowcase and left it outside the home of her new lover with a note that read, "You're next!" was sentenced to five years in prison. Velez, 19, pleaded no-contest to a charge of animal cruelty and guilty to third-degree assault in an unrelated case, the [Hartford Courant](#) reported. Prosecutor Anthony Bochicchio said DNA evidence was found linking Velez to the pillowcase and his fingerprints were on the threatening note. Police said Velez and the woman had broke up last September and she wanted to reunite with the other man.



Los Angeles

Man Responsible for Killing Family Dog Pleads Guilty

speaLA investigation leads to felony animal cruelty conviction

- February 26, 2013

Los Angeles, CA – A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (speaLA) investigation and supporting evidence led to a felony animal cruelty conviction against Terrance Hawkins of Los Angeles, after he threw his girlfriend's dog out of a 5th story window during an argument. Hawkins pleaded guilty (no contest) to PC 597a and was sentenced to 16 months in custody. Restitution hearing, probation and sentencing scheduled for March 12th.

Bizzie, the beloved American Eskimo dog of Hawkins' girlfriend, succumbed to his injuries and perished after twelve days in intensive veterinary care.

"Where domestic violence is present, animal cruelty and child abuse can usually be found - we call it 'The Link,'" said speaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. "The cycle of violence continues until it is broken by law enforcement, education or other intervention."

Tucson, AZ

Tucson man who killed puppy during fight with wife gets prison

Recommend 52 2 16 Print Email

December 12, 2012 2:05 pm Kim Smith, Arizona Daily Star

A Tucson man who killed a pit bull puppy during an argument with his wife was sentenced to 1 1/2 years in prison and three years intensive probation Wednesday.

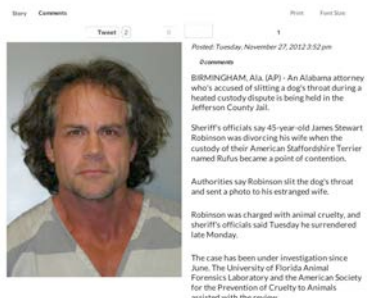
Kevin Michael Davis, 46, was indicted in July on one count of cruel mistreatment of an animal and aggravated domestic violence.

Davis and his wife got into an argument over whether he should stop drinking and he twice took her puppy by its hind legs and slammed its head into concrete, killing it, according to court documents.

Davis pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals resulting in serious physical injury and aggravated domestic violence. Under the terms of his plea agreement, he could have been placed on probation on both charges or he could have received up to 2 years in prison on the cruelty charge and up to 2 1/2 years in prison on the domestic violence charge.

Birmingham, AL

Lawyer arrested on animal cruelty charges



The Link: Domestic Violence

18-48% of battered women have delayed leaving an abusive home, or have returned to their batterer, out of fear for the welfare of their pets or livestock.

-- Ascione, 2007

Less than half of shelters ask about pets.

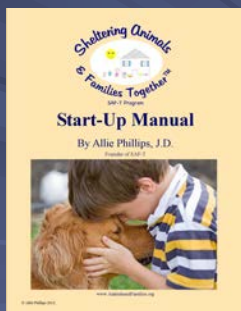
-- Krienert, et al, 2012



Harsh Reality

- Abusers may exploit or target pets to:
 - Coerce compliance with present and future abuse
 - Threaten silence regarding abuse
 - Maintain terror and fright
 - Eliminate source of support/comfort
 - Force the family to return home
 - Reinforces there is no safe place
 - Gain more power and control
 - "If I can kill the dog, I can kill you!"

The Solution!



First edition launched
February 2008

Second edition launched
January 2012

www.animalsandfamilies.org

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SAF-T Statistics

- Currently 84 shelters housing pets on-site
- 17 more in-progress
- 36 states
- Australia & Canada



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Why is SAF-T needed?

- The creation of SAF-T
- Human-Animal Bond
 - HAB is critical in times of stress
 - Aids in healing and recovery
 - Supports physical and mental health
 - Kids and pets go together
 - Natural empathy
- What are your clients saying?



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"Why don't all shelters accept pets?"

- Residents/staff have concerns about allergies to pets
- Concerns about funds to pay for pets
- Concerns about sustaining the program
- Concerns about dog bites
- Concerns of pets being abandoned
- Concerned about legal issues

So let's solve the issues!

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Assessing Need

- Ask about pets
 - How many
 - Welfare of pets
 - Housing with friends/family
- Hotline workers prepared with resources
- Have families delayed getting to safety?
- Consult with staff

Resources for your Hotline

- **Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAFT)TM**
 - Animalsandfamilies.org
- **Safe Havens (off-site housing options)**
 - awionline.org/safe-havens
 - Asafeplaceforpets.org
- **Pet safety planning brochure**



Garnering Support

- Shelter Staff
- Board of Directors
- Community leaders
- Animal protection community
- Veterinary community
- Work as a team

How to establish SAF-T

- Name a program director
- Work as a MDT
- Types of pets
- Housing Style
 - Option 1 = Housing within rooms
 - Option 2 = Separate room within shelter
 - Option 3 = Housing in outside shelter
- Safety and Security
- Materials and supplies
- Noise and allergies
- Objections from staff or residents



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Three important criteria

- MOU with local animal shelter
 - Excess pets
 - Noisy pets
 - Large/exotic animals
 - Aggressive/stressed pets
- Partner with Veterinarian
 - Veterinary care
 - Obtaining prior vet records
 - Locating a volunteer vet
- Families care for pets



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How to establish SAF-T

- Duration and cost
- Counseling Involving Pets
- Leaving the shelter



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Fundraising

- Public awareness raises donations
- Coordinate with animal shelter fundraisers
- The Naples "Giving Tree" brings in \$3000 annually!



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Harbor House Orlando, FL



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National SAF-T Day

The 5th annual National Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) Day will be Saturday, October 4, 2014

Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) is the only global initiative that is guiding family violence shelters on how to foster pets on-site with their families.

Please join together with other SAF-T programs across the country to host a dog walk or other event in your community. Help build a solid or sustain an on-site pet housing program while promoting awareness of the link between violence to people and animals.

Currently there are 22 known family violence shelters, serving 14 states, Australia, and Canada, that have opened their doors to families with pets.

National SAF-T Day is our way of helping you involve your community to sustain your program and save lives.

REGISTER TODAY!
October 3rd-4th, 2014

Join the SAF-T community to support shelter dogs and cats in need of a forever home.

Support by:
National Resource Center for Domestic Violence
JWI
PETS
Red Rover
Foster Friends

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National SAF-T Day!

Whiteville, NC



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Demopolis, AL



© Allie Phillips

Comfort, Texas



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How to establish SAF-T

- Other funding
 - Red Rover DV Safe Escape Grants
 - <http://redrover.org/index.cfm?navid=167>
 - Up to \$500
 - Red Rover SAF-T Start Up Grants
 - <http://redrover.org/index.cfm?navid=1086>
 - \$2,000-\$3,000 range
 - AKC Humane Fund
 - http://www.akc.org/humane_fund/grants.html
 - Apply for up to \$3000 (can be spread out over 3 years)
 - Veterinary Care Foundation
 - www.vetcarefoundation.org
 - Provide support to pets of families in crisis
 - American Veterinary Charitable Fund
 - <http://www.avcfund.org/>
 - Boarding/medical care supporting pets of families fleeing domestic violence situations

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How to establish SAF-T

- Legal issues
 - Confidentiality (include pets at the animal shelter)
 - Court orders and Pet Protection Orders
 - Custody and Ownership Issues
 - Insurance/Liability for Bites
 - Kennel License and Special Permits
- Evaluations
 - Check in with residents and staff on the effectiveness of SAF-T

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SAF-T Guide

- Complete and concise information
- Sample Forms
 - MOU between animal shelter and DV shelter
 - Shelter supply checklist
 - SAF-T Program Intake Form
 - Agreement between resident and DV shelter
 - Procedures for residents with pets
 - Consent and Release for boarding at animal shelter
 - Extended care contract
 - Resident evaluation form

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Meet the shelters!

Option 1 – Housing in resident rooms

- **Alaska**
 - The LeeShore Center (Kenai) – small animals
 - Safe & Fear-Free Environment (Dillingham)
- **Arizona**
 - Page Regional DV Services (Page)
- **California**
 - High Desert (Victorville)
- **Colorado**
 - Gateway (Aurora)
 - Arising Hope (Eastlake)
- **Georgia**
 - Project Renewal (Rockdale/Newton/Walton)
- **Idaho**
 - Family Safety Network (Driggs)
 - Oasis Programs (Post Falls)
 - Family Crisis Center (Rexburg)
- **Louisiana**
 - Metropolitan Center (Jefferson)
 - Safety Net (New Iberia)
- **Minnesota**
 - Women's Center of Mid-MN (Brainerd)
- **Montana**
 - SAFE (Ronan)

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Option 1 – Resident rooms

- New Jersey
 - Tree House Haven (Mt. Holly)
- New York
 - Urban Resource Center (New York City)
- North Carolina
 - Families First (Whitesville)
- Ohio
 - Harbor House (New Philadelphia)
- Oregon
 - Oasis Shelter Home (Gold Beach)
- Pennsylvania
 - Clinton County Women's Center (Lockhaven)
- Texas
 - Family Violence Prevention Services (San Antonio)
- Washington
 - DV Services of Benton & Franklin Counties (Kennewick)
 - Family Renewal Shelter (Tacoma)
 - YWCA Shelter (Tacoma)
- Canada
 - Rainy River District (Ontario)
 - Bethesda House (Ontario)

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Victorville, CA


High Desert Domestic Violence Program



© Allie Phillips

Victorville, CA

High Desert Domestic Violence Program



© Allie Phillips

New York City

Urban Resource Institute



© Allie Phillips

New York City

Urban Resource Institute



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Tacoma, WA

Family Renewal Shelter

- Started in 1996
- They house the pets in a secure outdoor shelter or inside residential rooms (case-by-case review)
- 10-15 pets per year, even took in a 160-pound dog
- They have a therapy pet for the residents




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Tacoma, WA

YWCA Women's Support Shelter

- Opened doors to pets in 2002
- House pets in individual rooms
 - On average 3 pets per month (30-50 per year) for up to 90 days



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Option 2 – Indoor Kennel



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossroads Safehouse (Fort Collins) • Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter for Abused Women & Children (Naples) • Idaho <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for Survivors of DV/Sexual Assault (Hailey) • Kentucky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Harbor of Northeast Kentucky (Ashland) – garage • Missouri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose Brooks (Kansas City) – basement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missouri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope House (Independence & Lee's Summit) – in office • New York <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Hope Center (Owego) • North Carolina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitchell County Safe Place (Spruce Pine) • My Sister's House (Rocky Mount) • Families First (Whiteville) • Wisconsin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbor House (Appleton)
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Naples, Florida

Shelter for Abused Women & Children

- Opened its doors to pets in 2002
- One-room kennel, with outdoor runs

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Newport, OR My Sister's Place

- Opened September 2010
- 4 individual pet rooms



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Option 3 – Backyard kennel

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriett's House (Demopolis) • Alaska <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LeeShore Center (Kenai) • Arizona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingman Aid to Abused People (Kingman) • Mt. Graham Safe House (Safford) • California <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Human Services (Crescent City) • HRC Calaveras Crisis Center (San Andreas) • High Desert DV Program (Victorville) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway (Aurora) • Mountain Peace Shelter (Bailey) • Crossroads Safehouse (Fort Collins) • Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quigley House (Clay City) • Georgia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Renewal • SAFE (Blairsville)
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Option 3 – Backyard kennel

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idaho <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for Survivors of DV/Sexual Assault (Hailey) • Family Crisis Center (Rexburg) • Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho (Bear Lake, Franklin & Power counties) • Kansas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Resource Center (Pittsburgh) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louisiana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcasieu Women's Shelter (Lake Charles) • Faith House (Lafayette) • Metropolitan Center for Women & Children (Jefferson) • Michigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LACASA (Howell) • Missouri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose Brooks (Kansas City)
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Option 3 – Backyard Kennel

- Nevada
 - Shade Tree Shelter (Las Vegas)
- New Mexico
 - Community Against Violence (Taos)
- North Carolina
 - Mitchell County Safe Place (Spruce Pine)
 - SAFE Inc of Transylvania County (Brevard)
 - Families First (Whiteville)
- Ohio
 - First Step (Coshocton)
- Oregon
 - Helping Hands (Hood River)
 - My Sister's Place (Newport)
 - My Sister's Place (Newport)
 - Monika's House (Washington County)
- Pennsylvania
 - Aware (Hermitage)
 - Alle-Kiski HOPE Center (Tarentum)
- South Carolina
 - Meg's House (Greenwood)
- South Dakota
 - WEAVE (Custer)

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Option 3 – Backyard kennel

- Texas
 - Kendall County Women's Shelter (Boerne)
 - Family Violence Prevention Services (San Antonio)
 - Haven for Hope of Bexar County (homeless shelter) (San Antonio)
- Virginia
 - Doorways (Arlington)
- Washington
 - Domestic Violence Services (Kennwick)
 - Family Renewal Services (Tacoma)
- Wyoming
 - Community Safety Network (Jackson)

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Kansas City, MO – Jan. 2012

Heroic Dog Saves Woman from Abuser, Incites Change in Shelter Policy

January 12, 2012 | Posted by ADMIN in Dog News | 101 comments

When the Rose Brooks Center for women took in a domestic violence victim and her heroic dog, they bent the rules in doing so, setting the wheels in motion for a much needed change in policy.

Like most battered women's shelters, the Rose Brooks Center did not accommodate pets. But this was no ordinary dog: when her boyfriend tried to kill the woman with a hammer, her fearless Great Dane jumped in the way, laying over her body and taking most of the blows until the man threw both of them out of a second story window. The dog, Hank, suffered multiple broken bones in the attack, sparing his owner's life in the process.



Despite their injuries, the woman was able to escape with her dog, and eventually made her way to the Rose Brooks Center. When they offered her a bed and told her no pets were allowed, she was defiant, and for the first time in its history, the shelter overlooked regulations and allowed the dog to stay.

That decision would eventually lead to a permanent change in policy.

Kansas City, MO
Rose Brooks



© Allie Phillips

Kansas City, MO
Rose Brooks



© Allie Phillips

Kansas City, MO
Rose Brooks



© Allie Phillips

Hermitage, PA

AWARE



Hermitage, PA

AWARE

AWARE's program was one that touched the hearts of everyone who heard about it. We told our story to anyone that would listen, which got us invitations to speak at various civic organizations. Through these presentations came monetary donations from the groups as well as from private individuals. AWARE also had fundraisers which included candy bar sales, a zumba class, and pizza sales. A local church did a drive for dishes, beds, and animal toys and Dad's Pet Food, of Meadville, PA, donated coupons for dog and cat food.

-- Jackie Fazio

Comfort, TX

Little Grass Ranch

Our first client literally escaped by jumping a fence and running. I was on the phone with her when she did it and it was like a movie it was so dramatic. She is me. She is a 17 year old who was abused by her parents, thrown out in the snow and then took refuge with a neighbor. The three horses were starved and had been beaten and the 20 year old mare had an abscess the size of a football. She had not been able to get to them for 6 weeks which really illustrates why we can't leave our animals behind when we go to safety. The woman is doing fine and is a gifted horsewoman with a future in horses. Her horses, dog and cat are safe and cared for now and I can sleep better at night now that she's out of harm's way.

-- Christie Kitchens, Director of Little Grass Ranch

Comfort, TX
Little Grass Ranch

After experiencing abuse from alcoholic parents for years, she is remarkably grounded and sane. She credits her horse with keeping her head together in all the chaos.



Clay County, FL
Quigley House

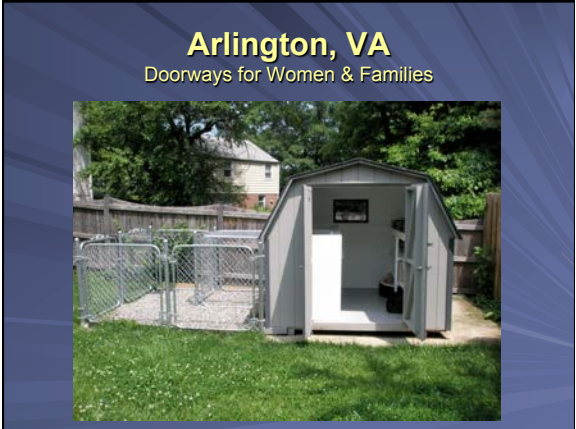


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Clay County, FL
Quigley House



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Greenwood, SC
Meg's House



Kennewick, WA
Domestic Violence Services



Brigham, UT
New Hope Crisis Center










Dillingham, AK

Safe and Fear-Free Environment Shelter




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Howell, MI

Lacasa

- Built the shelter with an animal shelter connected
 - Large animal kennel goes to a dog run
 - Cats and small animals in the basement
- They opened in 2003 and house 20 animals per year
- Veterinarian volunteers services and money comes from donations



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Las Vegas, NV

Noah's Animal House

- The Shade Tree Shelter for Women
- Opened doors to pets in October 2007
- 16 cat condos & 15 dog kennels, 6 of which are indoor/outdoor dog runs
- At least 80% capacity at all times



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Las Vegas, NV
Noah's Animal House



Orlando, FL
Harbor House (in progress)



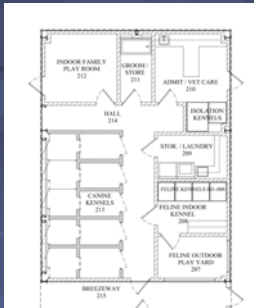
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Orlando, FL
Harbor House



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Victoria, TX Midcoast Family Services



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SAF-T Shelters in progress

- **Arizona:** Colorado River Regional Crisis Center (Parker)
- **Arkansas:** Serenity, Inc. (Baxter & Marion County)
- **California:** Operation Care (Jackson) and Lake County Resource Center (Kelseyville)
- **Colorado:** Family Crisis Services (Canon City)
- **Florida:** Shelter House (Okaloosa & Walton counties)
- **Kentucky:** Greenhouse 17 (Lexington)
- **Maryland:** Heartley House (Frederick)
- **Michigan:** Branch County Coalition (Coldwater) and Blue Water Safe Horizons (Port Huron)
- **Minnesota:** Anna Marie's Alliance (St. Cloud)
- **Oklahoma:** Safenet Services (Claremore) and DV Intervention Serv (Tulsa)
- **Tennessee:** YWCA (Nashville)
- **Texas:** Family Support Services (Amarillo) and Safe Vision (Corsicana)
- **Vermont:** Clarina Howard Nichols Center (Morrisville)

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Daily requests for help

"I am a 32 year old single mother, 7 months pregnant and I have a puppy. My current living situation has become increasingly difficult. I would like to know my options of where I could go for safety."

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Alle-Kishi Hope Shelter (Tarentum, PA)

Within the first few days of our SAF-T program being open to participants, the program proved to play a key part in keeping families together and safe. One of our first participants arrived in our shelter with her son from an abusive home where her boyfriend was very controlling and wouldn't let them leave. Unfortunately, since she had to leave quickly, her pets had to be temporarily left behind. Her (abuser) was threatening to place her pets on the street if she didn't return. The participant was safely able to retrieve her pets and bring them into the SAF-T kennel. During the (animal) checkups, it was discovered that the abuser did not feed the animals for five days. This made the arrival of the animals into our program even more essential for their safety. The participant and her son were very thankful to have a happy ending with their animals.

© Alle Phillips

"I will be moving to my new apartment Friday. There are no words to explain the freedom I am feeling. Before I came here the only joy I had in life was my precious little dog Star. She just turned ten a few months ago. If [the shelter] wouldn't have let me keep her inside the shelter, I would either be on the streets or worse, I might have gone back to my abuser. [T]he last thing he did to me as I was sitting on the curb waiting for the cab, was spit on me, repeatedly, like I was a piece of garbage. Well I'm not! I haven't felt this wonderful in fifteen years.

- Resident at an Arizona shelter

© Alle Phillips

Media

- Washington Post
- USA Today
- O Magazine
- Detroit Free Press
- Reuters
- Chatelaine Magazine (Canada)
- Domestic Violence Bulletin
- Cat Channel
- Dog Channel
- Care2.com petition with over 32,000 signatures



The Today Show March 27, 2009



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The future of SAF-T

- Goal of one SAF-T shelter in each state
- Continue international expansion
- National SAF-T Day (1st Saturday of October, yearly)
- Educating shelters

"The [SAF-T] shelter has made a world of difference to our participants. I have heard from so many women than they were finally able to leave because they didn't have to leave their "baby" behind. The interaction we see with our participants and their pets is amazing and it seems to be so healing for them to have their furry family member with them. I have heard from them also that they see a difference in their pet being here in comparison to their way they were at home with the abuser. Many have attributed it to the pet being under less stress. I can't possibly express how thankful Mt. Graham Safe House is to the program and what having this shelter has meant to us and our participants."

— Jeannette Aston (Mt. Graham Safe House, Safford, AZ)

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For more information and free technical assistance, please email

allie@alliephillips.com or visit www.animalsandfamilies.org



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