



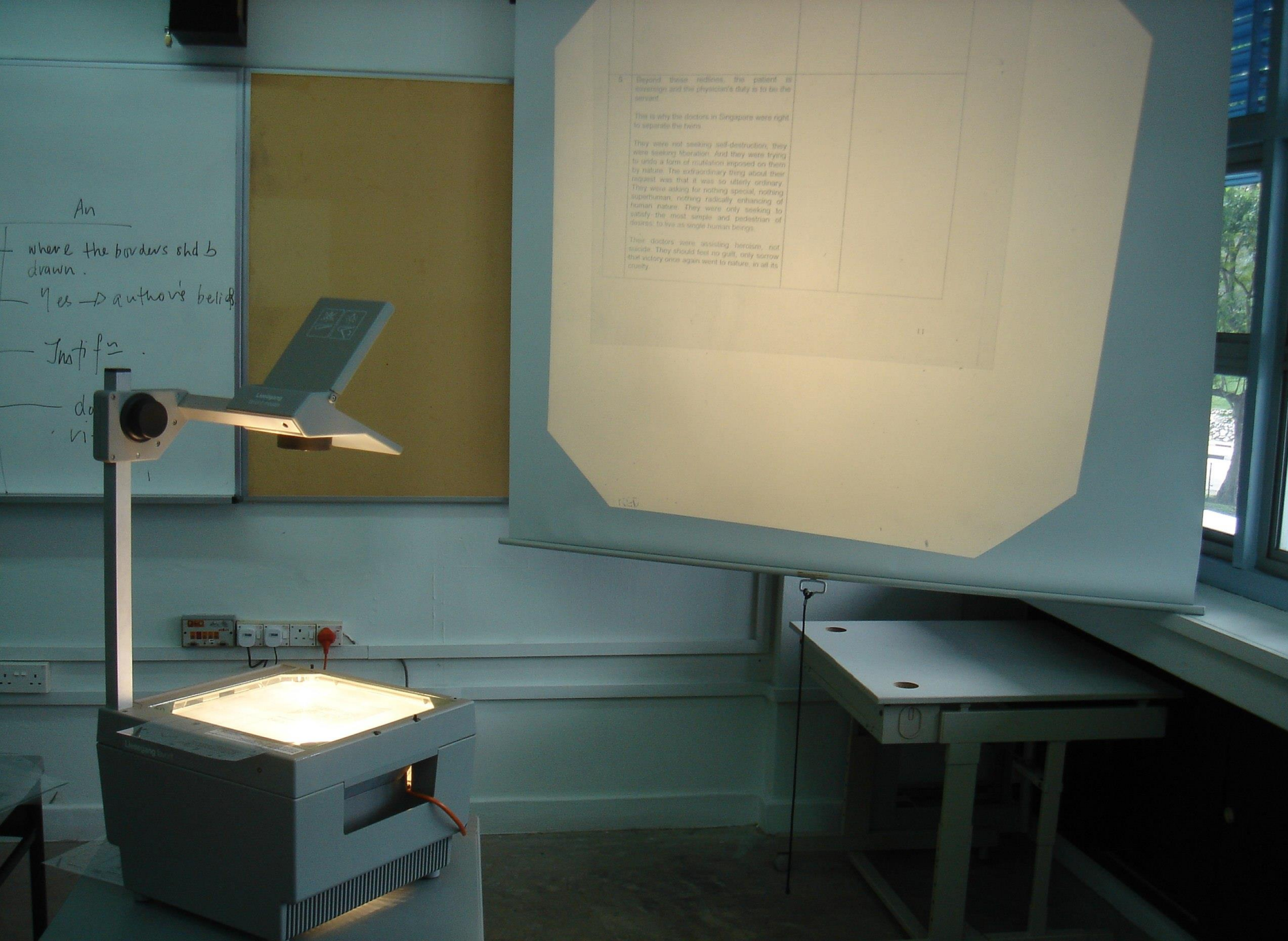
Reimagining Sanctuary for
Human and Animal Survivors of
Domestic Violence
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Victims (SAAV)

30TH ANNUAL ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE
BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE





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Beyond those redlines, the patient is sovereign and the physician's duty is to be the servant.

This is why the doctors in Singapore were right to separate the twins.

They were not seeking self-destruction, they were seeking liberation. And they were trying to undo a form of mutilation imposed on them by nature. The extraordinary thing about their request was that it was so utterly ordinary. They were asking for nothing special, nothing superhuman, nothing radically enhancing of human nature. They were only seeking to satisfy the most simple and pedestrian of desires: to live as single human beings.

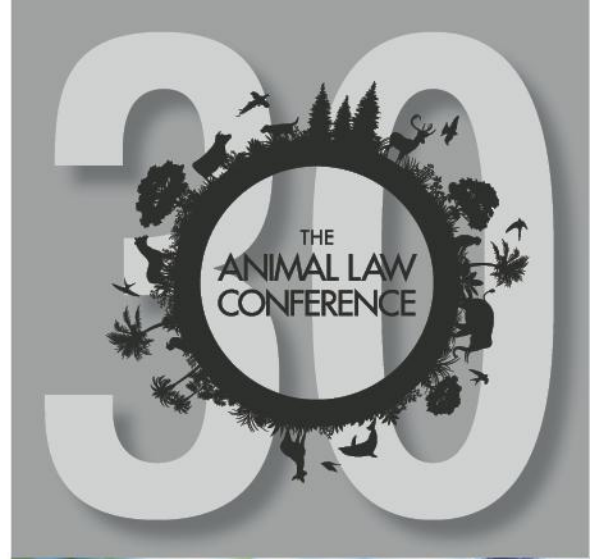
These doctors were assisting heroism, not suicide. They should feel no guilt, only sorrow that victory once again went to nature, in all its cruelty.



“My first client (as a counselor at a women’s center in Wisconsin) came in very apologetic and said ‘I have to go home.’ When I tried to tell her that she didn’t have to go home, she said ‘No, you don’t understand.’ She pulled out of her purse a couple of pictures and handed them to me without comment... that her mother had forwarded to her that her husband had sent to her mother... of him chopping off the ears of her dog with garden shears. She said ‘I have to go home... If I want to save my dog’s life and the lives of the other animals on the farm, I have to go home.’ I didn’t have any answers for her. I didn’t have any way of helping her... We never heard from her again.”



The Terrible “Choice”



The Link

Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

A 1995 survey of 72 victims seeking refuge in domestic violence shelters in Wisconsin found that 86% of those victims had pets, and in 80% of those cases, the abuser had abused the pets.

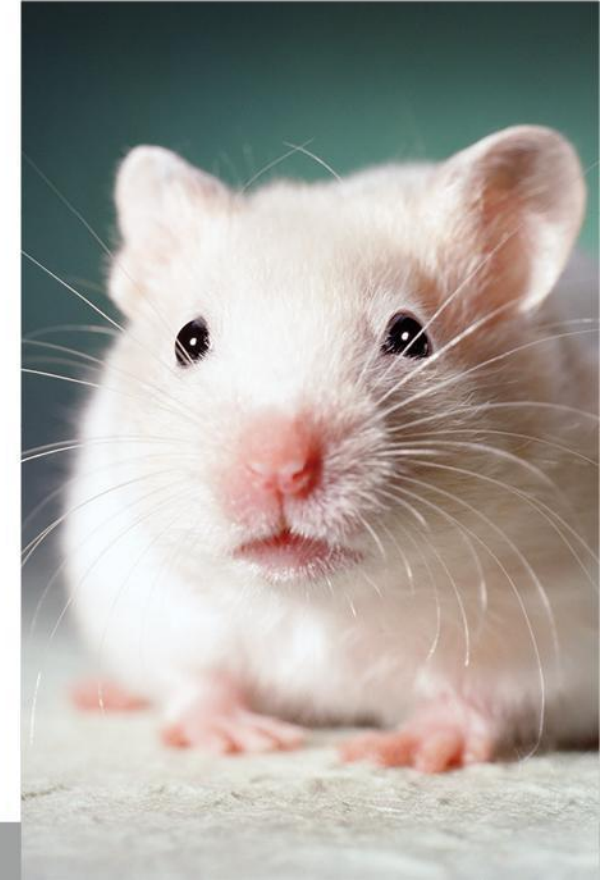


Source: Phil Arkow (1996). The Relationships Between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence, 12 Fam. Violence & Sexual Assault Bull. 29, 31.

The Link

Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

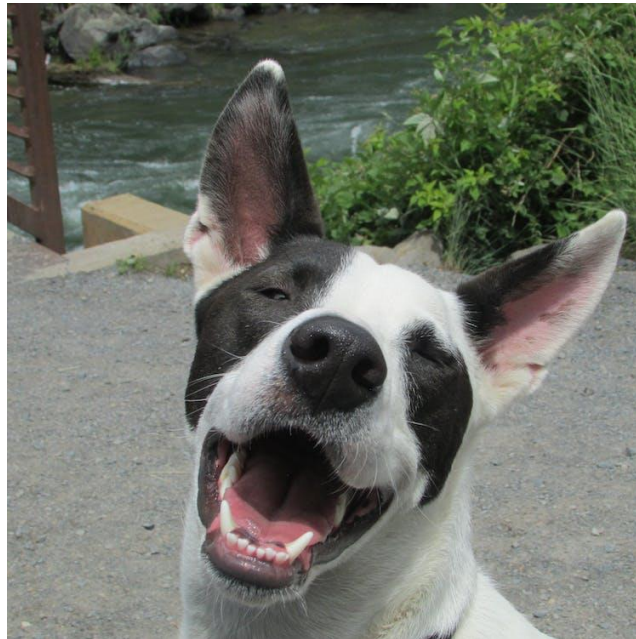
48% of domestic abuse victims report that they delayed leaving a dangerous situation because they feared for the safety and well being of their animals but had no safe place for them



Source: Carlisle-Frank, P., Frank, J. M., & Nielsen, L. (2004). Selective battering of the family pet. *Anthrozoös*, 17, 26-42.

Teddy Roosevelt

“Do What You Can, With What You Have, Where You Are”





www.saavprogram.org

DAIS
DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES



Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims

“I can’t tell you how comforting it was knowing my pets were safe. Just looking at them you can tell how well they were treated in your care. You are a guardian angel for my family. Thank you so much!”

— Domestic Abuse Survivor who used SAAV Shelter

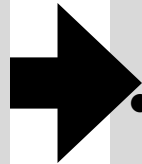


A Snapshot of Sanctuary Over Time

For Survivors of Domestic Violence and their Animals

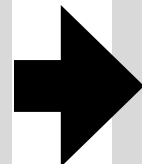
1992

- Limited public recognition of the link
- Few options for victims with animals
- No state included animals in domestic violence protective orders



2022

- The link now well recognized
- Safety net for animals is much broader, but still primarily through foster programs
- 39 states now include animals in domestic violence protective orders



2052

- Broad recognition that animal cruelty can constitute domestic violence
- Shelter survivors and their animals together
- Expansion of the animals included in domestic violence protective orders



Sanctuary 30 Years Ago:

Little to no resources for victims with animals in their family

- A 1999 study indicated that only 3% of domestic violence agencies could house pets
- Other shelter options for victims with animals were in short supply.
 - 95% of the domestic violence agencies asked women about their own resources (family, friends, private kennel, etc.) before letting them use shelter resources
 - In 1999, there were only 113 programs for pets of domestic violence victims in “various stages of conception or operation”

Source: Published in Frank Ascione, *Safe Havens for Pets: Guidelines for Programs Sheltering Pets for Women who are Battered* at 36 (2000).

Source: *Safe Havens for Pets* at 3



Sanctuary 30 Years Ago:

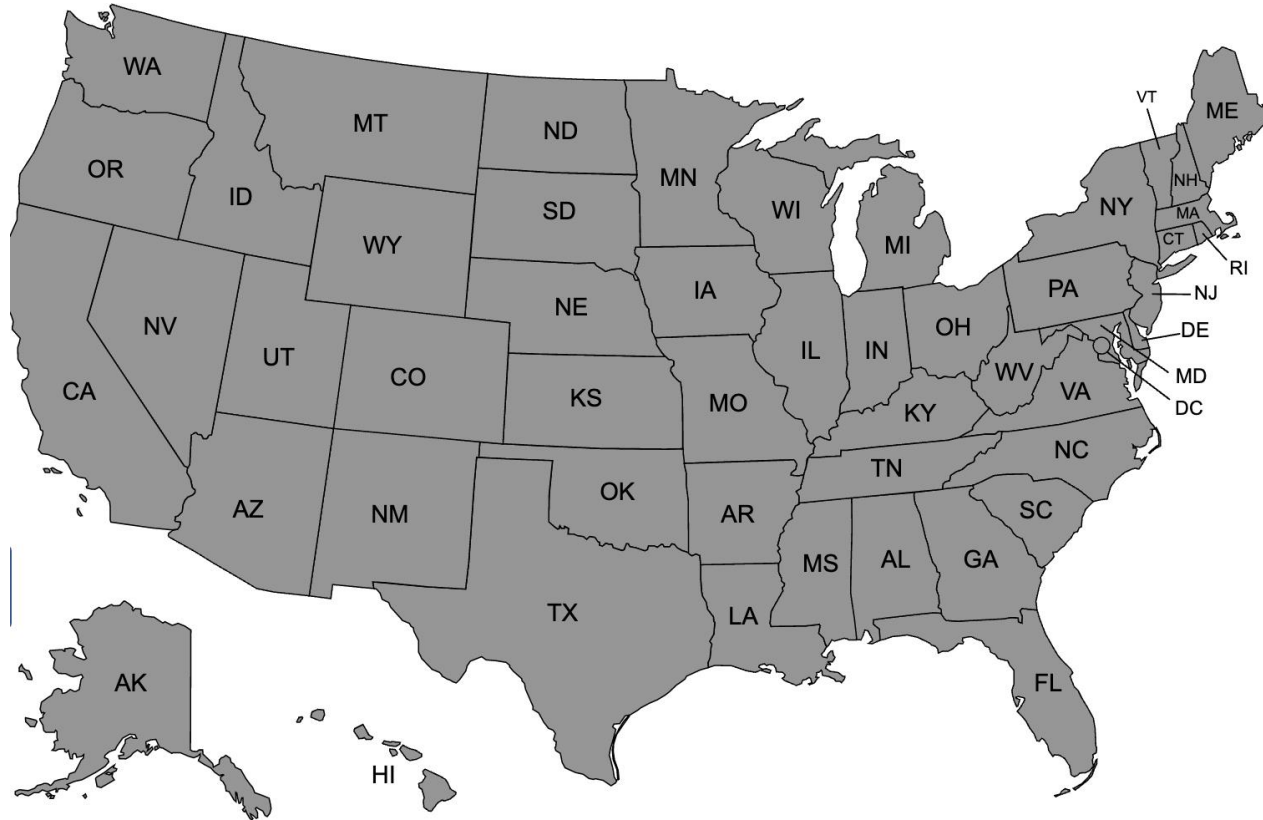
Recognition of the link was not wide-spread

- A 1999 survey found in domestic violence agencies, staff training on the Link only occurred for 38.1% of the domestic violence shelters
- Link training had only occurred for 35% of animal welfare agency respondents



Sanctuary 30 Years Ago

No state included animals in domestic violence protective orders



The Link

Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

- 71% of domestic violence victims entering shelter who have pets report that their abuser had threatened, injured, or killed family pets.
- Up to 76% of domestic violence abuser-perpetrated pet abuse occur in the presence of children.
- Women in domestic violence shelters are 11 times more likely to report animal abuse by their partner than women not experiencing violence.

Source: See Ascione, F. R., Weber, C.V. & Wood, D. S. (1997). The abuse of animals and domestic violence: A national survey of shelters for women who are battered. *Society & Animals* 5(3), 205-218

Source: See Favor, C.A & Strand, E.B. (2003). *Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty: Untangling the Web of Abuse*, *Journal of Social Work Education* 39(2), 237-253

Source: Ascione, F.R., Weber, C.V., Thompson, T.M., Heath, J., Maruyama, M., Kayashi, K. (2007). Battered Pets and Domestic Violence: Animal Abuse Reported by Women Experiencing Intimate Violence and by Nonabused Women. *Violence against women*, 13(4), 354-373.



Sanctuary Today

Today, over 1000 shelter programs provide refuge for the animals of domestic abuse victims.



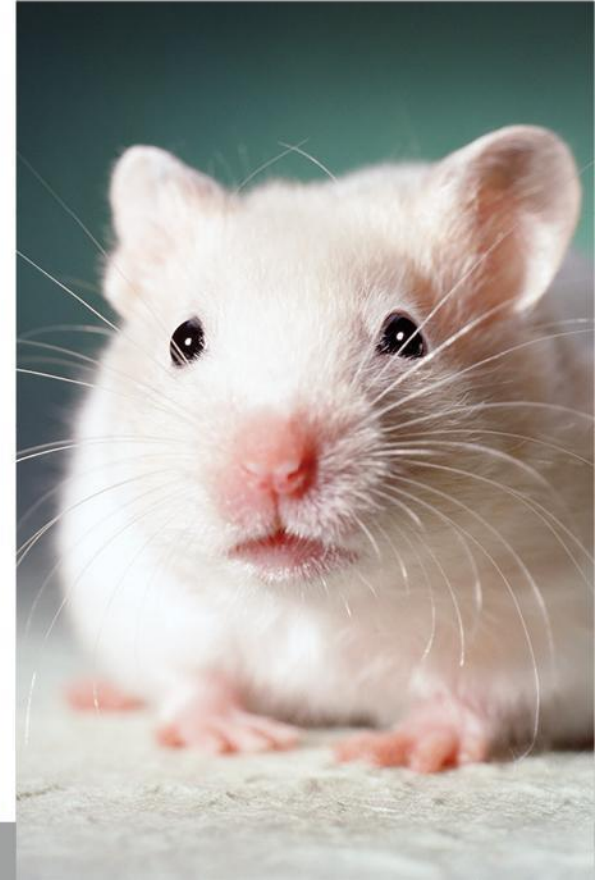
Source: See Safe Havens Mapping Project, <https://safehavensforpets.org>



Sanctuary Today

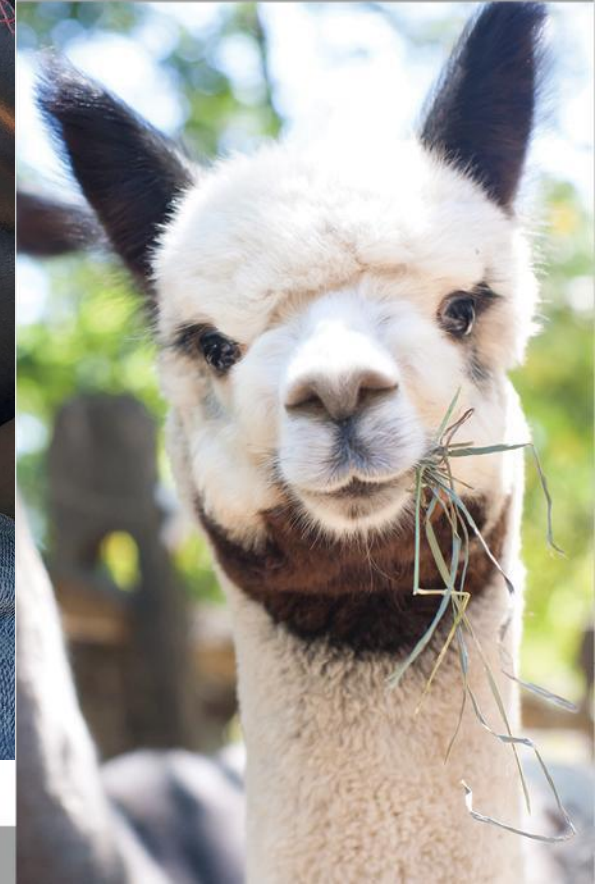
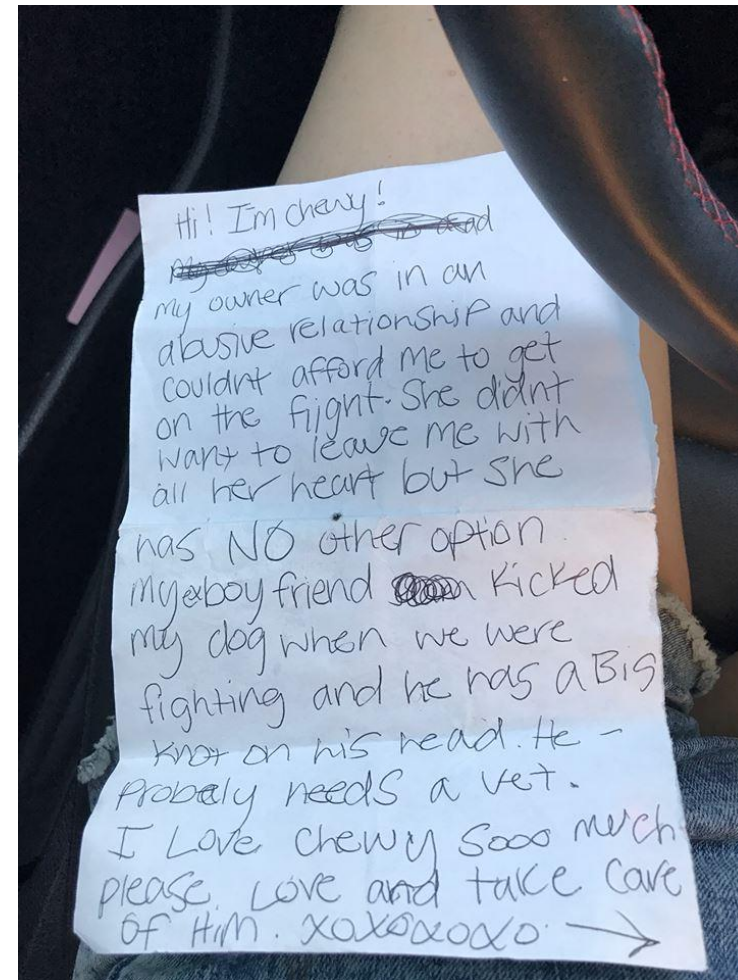
A 2021 national survey found that 50% of callers stated they would not leave their abuser for a shelter if they could not take their animals with them, and 48% worried that their abuser would harm or kill their animal.

Source: See Urban Resource Institute and the National Domestic Violence Hotline Survey Find Pets are Critical Priority for Survivors Seeking Safety, <https://urinc.org/download/urban-resource-institute-and-the-national-domestic-violence-hotline-survey-finds-pets-are-critical-priority-for-survivors-seeking-safety/>.



Sanctuary Today

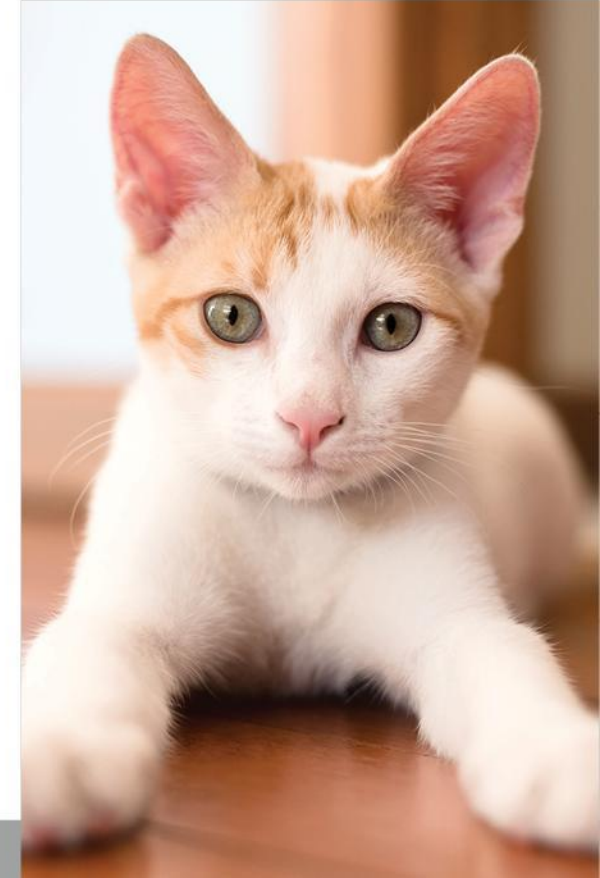
Improvement, but victims are still facing the terrible “choice”



Sanctuary Today

Improvement! But, domestic violence shelters still do not usually allow animals

- Currently, approximately 10% of domestic violence programs have some on-site animal facilities for animals to stay with victims at the shelter.
- Animals are more commonly fostered while the domestic abuse victim is in the shelter. However, this capacity is still limited.



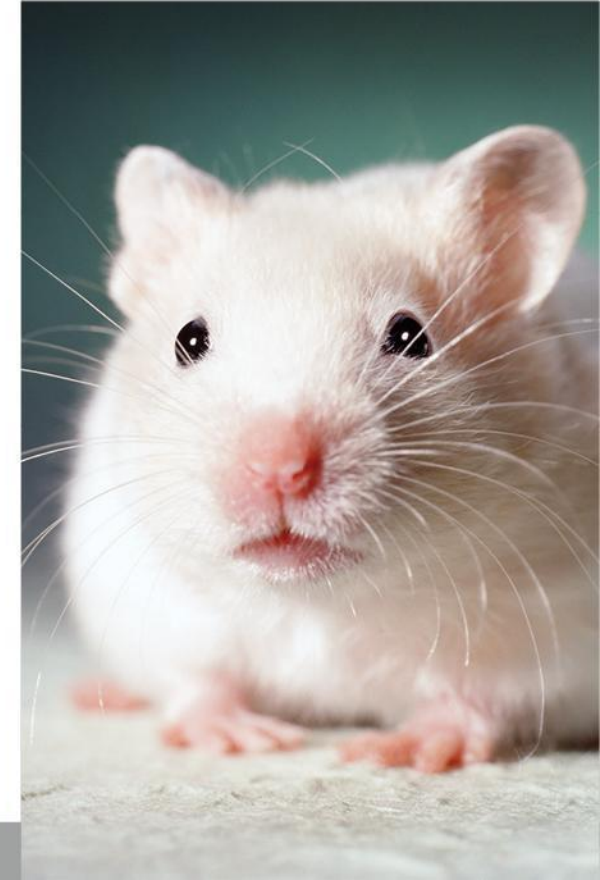
Source: See Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/brandstudio/purina/a-place-to-heal-together/>

Sanctuary Today

39 States plus D.C. and Puerto Rico allow animals in Protective Orders

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Pet Protective Orders 2006-2022



Sanctuary Today

Definitions in domestic violence protective order laws are not inclusive enough.

Example: Wis. Stat. 813.12(1)(ce)

“Household pet” means a domestic animal that is not a farm animal, as defined in s. 951.01 (3), that is kept, owned, or cared for by the petitioner or by a family member or a household member of the petitioner

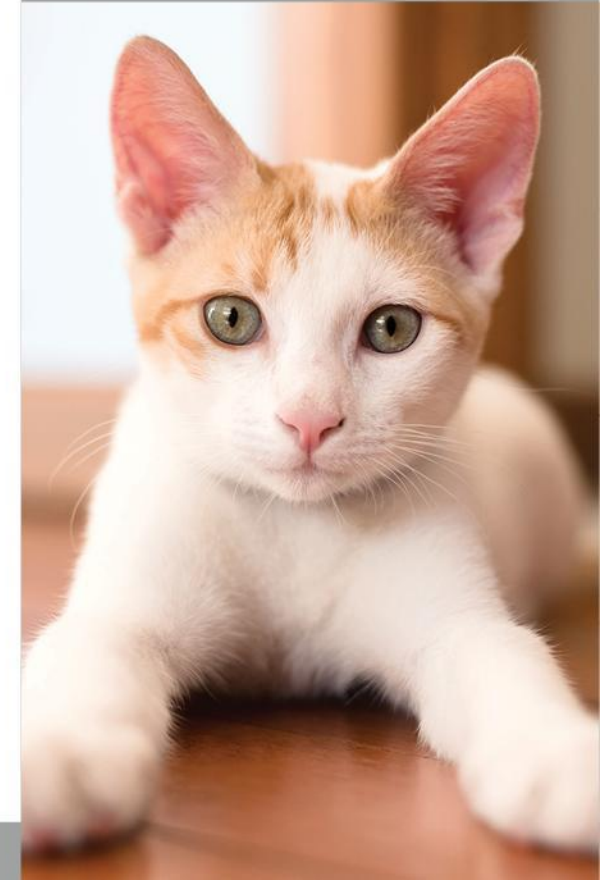
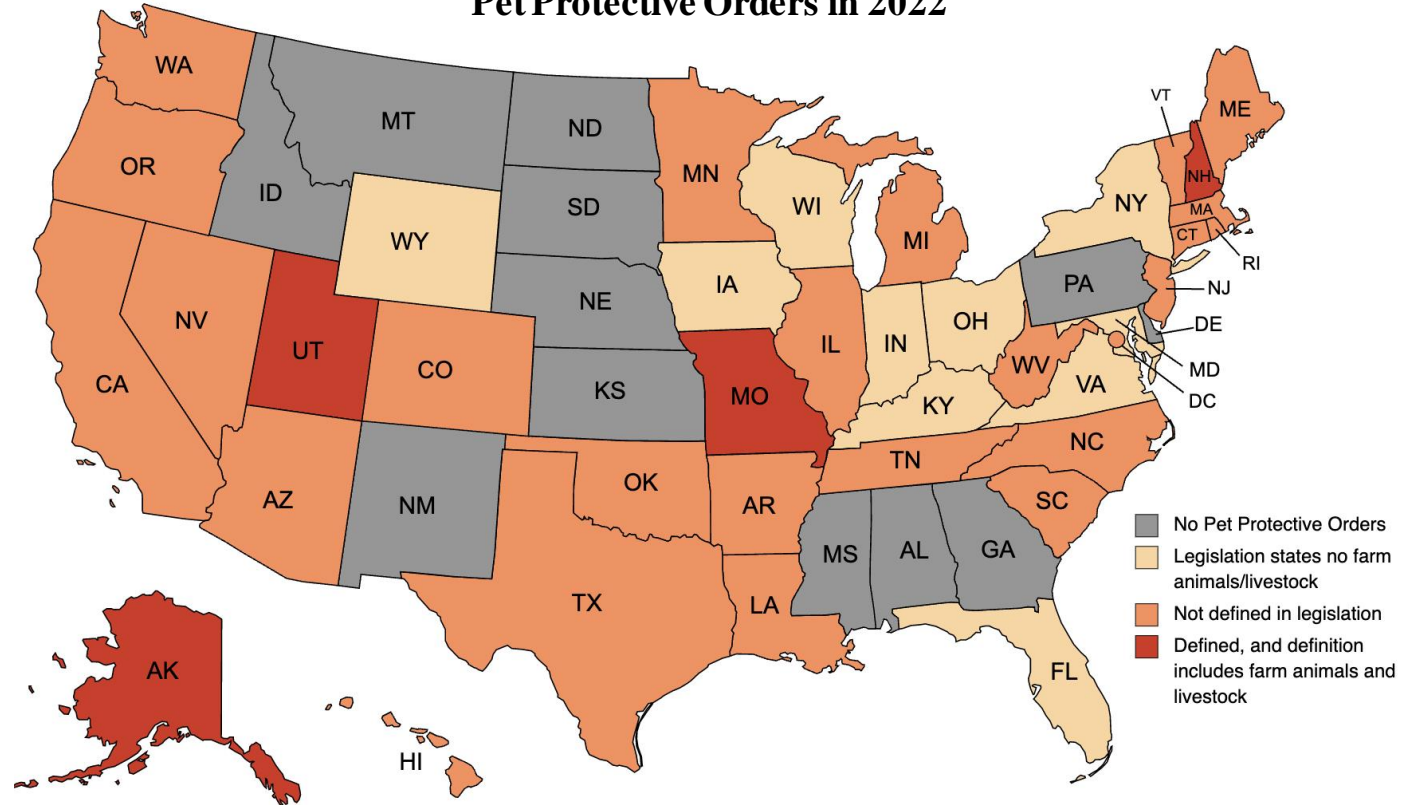


Sanctuary Today

Improvement! But, the definition of “animal” is often too narrow.



Pet Protective Orders in 2022



Animal Cruelty Can Constitute Domestic Violence



Looking ahead to the next 30 years!



The Next 30 Years

Honoring the bond between human and animal abuse survivors

91% of survivors indicated that the emotional support and physical protection by animal companions are significant in their ability to survive and heal

Source: See PALS Program, <https://uriny.org/uripals/>

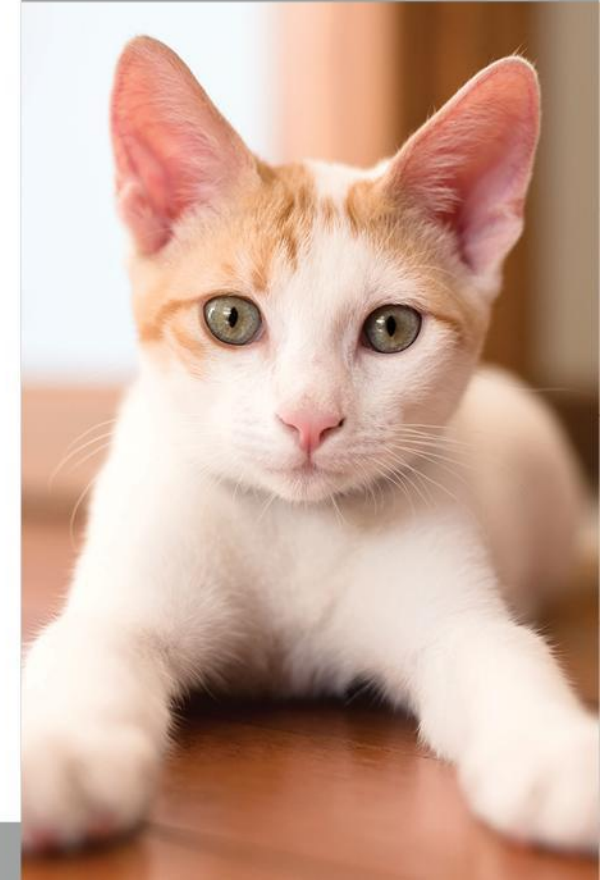


The Next 30 Years

Honoring the bond between human and animal abuse survivors

97% of respondents said that keeping their pets with them is an important factor in deciding whether or not to seek shelter.

Source: See PALS Program, <https://urinyc.org/uripals/>



The Next 30 Years

Honoring the bond between children and the animals in their family

In one study, 42% of 5-year-old children mentioned their animals when asked “Whom do you turn to when you are feeling sad, angry, happy, or wanting to share a secret?”



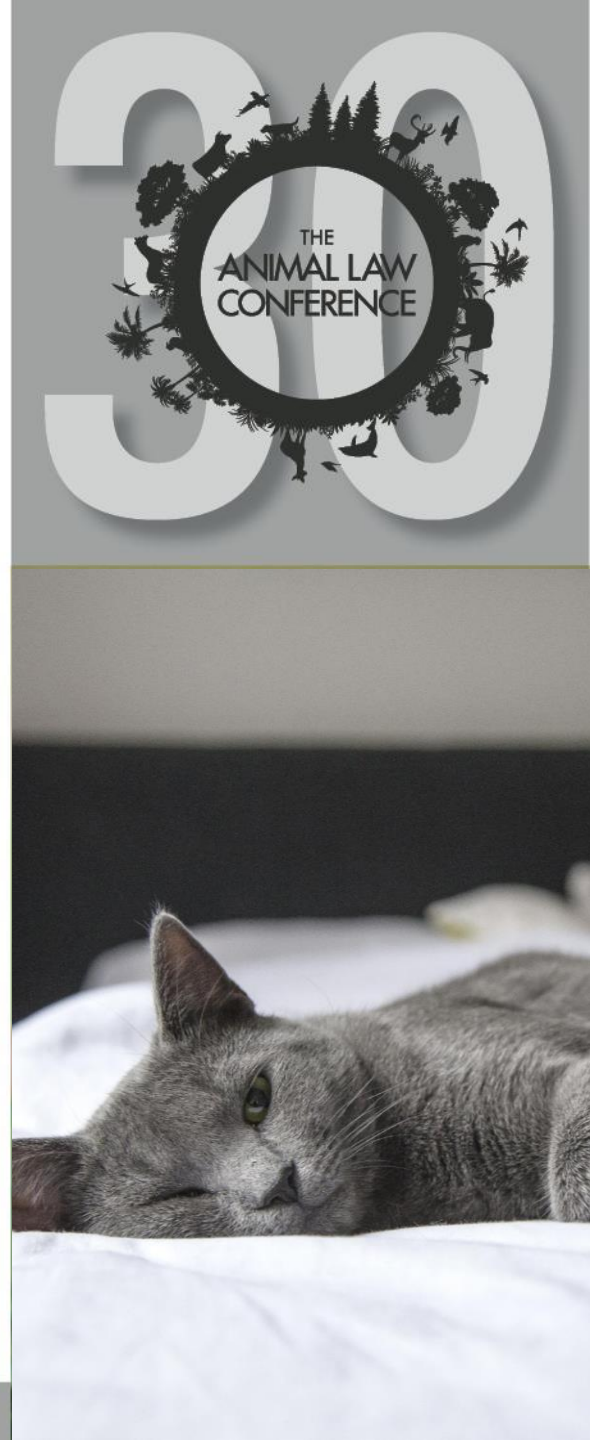
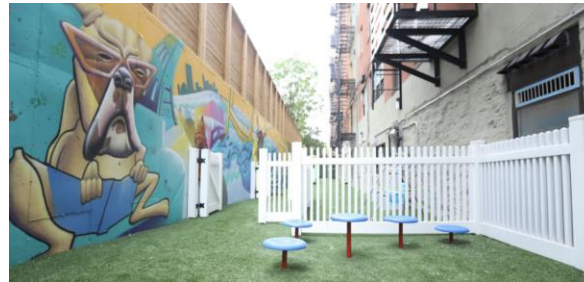
Source: Foer, J. S., My Life as a dog. <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/27/opinion/27foer.html>

The Next 30 Years

Co-Shelter for Survivors and their Animals

- Domestic violence shelters across the country will be able to provide co-shelter for survivors and their animals together
- What can this look like?
 - People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) in New York

Opened in 2019, the first domestic violence shelter in the nation where **every apartment unit has been designed to shelter animals alongside their families**



The Next 30 Years

Increased funding for domestic violence shelters to include animals

- H.R. 909, Pet and Women Safety Act of 2017 (PAWS), signed as part of the 2018 Farm Bill
- Purpose to “protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.”
- Directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture to award grants for shelter and housing assistance and support services for domestic violence victims with pets.



The Next 30 Years

Increased funding for domestic violence shelters to include animals

- In 2020, **6 shelters** received grant awards totaling **\$2.2 million**.
 - Awards from \$288,000 to \$400,000 per shelter
- In 2021, **5 shelters** received almost **\$2.5 million**.
 - Awards from \$455,000 to \$500,000 per shelter
- In 2022, the total funding increased to **\$3 million**.





PURINA

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The Reunions are the Best Part!

“I had the pleasure of doing the SAAV reunion today – The client didn't speak much English, but she literally collapsed upon seeing her animals, and wept on her knees in the foyer for a while holding them. She thanked us a million times and kept gesturing that she wanted to hug us but couldn't (stupid COVID).”







Thank you!

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