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• **Would my pet be better off if I put it up for adoption?** Only you can make this decision. Giving up a beloved pet is sad, but it may be best for both of you. For one thing, moving is expensive. Many housing situations do not permit pets, or if they do, they may charge extra. Realizing that your pet is safe in a new home can make your decision to leave a violent situation easier -emotionally and financially.

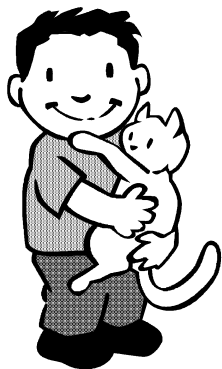


NOTE: Do not use tags that identify the household you are leaving. Also, cat carriers are important. Unconfined cats can easily get scared and escape. If you don't have a carrier for your cat, a pillowcase can work in an emergency.

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**You can get help...** Call the program in your area or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

**You can leave...** Your local domestic violence program may be able to provide shelter, food, clothing and referrals to other resources in your community.



**You can stay...** If your decision is to stay, your local domestic violence program can help you and they are also there for you when you need to talk.

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If you need help, please call:

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

**1-800-787-3224 (TDD)**

**Se habla Español**

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**The phone number for the  
Domestic Violence Program  
in your area is:**



## **Pets & Domestic Violence**



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Pets are part of the family in the majority of American households.

These animals are often treated like members of the family, but if the family is experiencing violence, they can become targets as well.

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**Nevada Network Against  
Domestic Violence**

220 So. Rock Blvd., Ste. 7

Reno, NV 89502

Voice/TTY 775-828-1115

Fax 775-828-9911

[www.nnadv.org](http://www.nnadv.org)

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## Frequently asked questions...

- **If my partner harms an animal, will he or she hurt me?** It is possible. If a person punches, kicks, throws, or hurts an animal in any way, it is a clear sign that the person can be violent. If your partner has harmed or seriously threatened your pet, you may be in danger and should think about leaving.

- **How can I protect my pet?** When there is violence in the home, it's very important to have an emergency plan for sheltering your pet, yourself, and your children.

- **If I leave, who will take care of my pet?** If possible, find a friend or family member to care for your pet. If this doesn't work out, get in touch with your local animal care and control agency, battered women's shelter, boarding kennel, or veterinarian. Briefly explain your situation. If your pet is sheltered or placed in foster care by a humane society, or if a friend can care for your pet temporarily, you will have time to make long-term plans.



Abusive family members may threaten, injure or kill pets, often as a way of threatening or controlling others in the family.

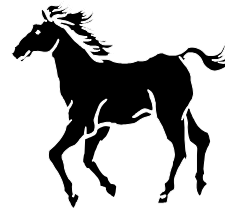
- **Will my pet be in any danger in a sheltering program or with friends?** Although it is unlikely that a violent partner will come looking for your pet, it is possible. Be sure to tell your pet's caretakers to keep your pet's location a secret from anyone who might give this information to your partner.



Also, you may be discouraged from visiting your pet in its temporary location to make sure you, your pet, and its temporary caretaker are safe.

- **Does my pet need to be current on all vaccinations?** Yes. Almost all veterinary clinics, kennels, and animal shelters require animals to be vaccinated. If you don't have a copy of your pet's vaccination record, the clinic may need to vaccinate your pet again.

Keep vaccination and other veterinary records in a safe place so you can take them with you if you need to leave home in a hurry. If you don't have these records but know your pet is up to date on its vaccinations, ask your veterinarian to send you a copy of the records.



If your pet is not up to date, make an appointment with your veterinarian. Some local humane agencies provide low-cost or free vaccinations. Check in the yellow pages under "animal shelters" or "humane societies."

- **How can I prove that I own my pet?** Your partner may attempt to get control of your pet in order to intimidate you. An animal license, proof of vaccinations, or veterinary receipts in your name will help prove you own your pet.

- **What should I take when I move my pet to safety?** If you are able to prepare for your pet's departure, try to have the following pet items in a safe place and out of your partner's reach: vaccination and medical records, a collar and identification tags, a license that proves you own your animal, dog leashes, cat carriers, medication, if any; an information sheet on feeding schedules, medical conditions, likes and dislikes, and any possible behavior problems to give to a temporary caretaker, bowls, bedding, toys, grooming supplies, a favorite blanket, etc.

- **What if I have to leave my pet behind?** Be sure you ask a law enforcement officer to go with you when you return home to reclaim your pet. Most communities recognize pets as property.



Permission to reprint this information provided by the HSUS (The Humane Society of the United States).