Providing Safety to Victims and Their Pets











The status of pets has changed

62% of Americans have pets

73% of households with children have pets.

95% say they consider their pet to be a member of their family.

45% bought birthday presents for their pet

31% cook for their pets

66% say they have dressed their pet in some type of clothing

81% of cat owners and 73% of dog owners sleep in bed with their pets

2015 Harris Poll



Pet owners were just as close to key people in their lives as to their animals.

-Allen R. McConnell, PhD, of Miami University in Ohio 2011

To the young child, there is no gap between his soul and that of animal's

- G. Stanley Hall, 1904



Goal

Remove impediments to leaving abusers by providing animal housing for the pets of domestic violence victims.







The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society will accept any domestic house pet from a domestic violence victim entering Unity House or Equinox's programs.

The Society will hold the animal as long as the victim is in the DV Program.



Our Program

Referral Only -

Safety Planning

Our Agreement wth Pet Owners

Transportation

Ownership

After Hours

Veterinary Care (spay/neuter)

Species

Owner's Responsibility

Inter-agency communication

Return to Owner



Co-Housing





Who Are We Protecting?

Children who had increased empathy scores because of their relationship with their pets also showed greater empathy toward people (Ascione & Weber 1996)



One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it.

Margaret Mead

Cultural Factors in the Cause and Prevention of Pathological Homicide-1964

A child of even two or three is capable of some degree of appreciation of the suffering of animals.

C.F. Hodge, 1899



Include Animals in the Conversation

Ask questions about care and treatment of animals.

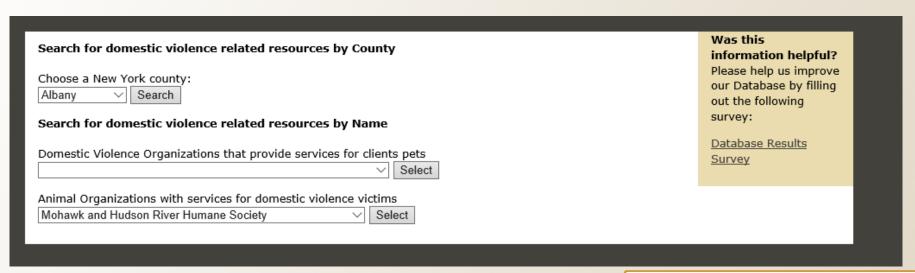
Are animal abuse, threats of animal abuse and dangerous animals in the home factors in custody decisions?



Pet Friendly Shelter Resource



http://web2.law.buffalo.edu/pet_shelters/





"I am sometimes asked 'Why do you spend so much of your time and money talking about kindness to animals when there is so much cruelty to men?' I answer: 'I am working at the roots.'"

George T. Angell 1823-1909 Founder Massachusetts SPCA

