

IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIVES IN A HOME WHERE THERE MAY BE VIOLENCE BE AWARE THAT PETS AND CHILDREN ARE OFTEN THE TARGETS.



Here's what you can do...

Understand the connection

Very often, if a person punches, kicks, throws or hurts an animal, he or she may harm a person as well. Likewise, in a home where children or adults may be emotionally or physically abused, pets also are at risk. If you witness or live in this kind of situation, take steps to keep family, friends, pets, and yourself safe.

Plan ahead

If violent behavior could ever occur, an emergency plan and a safe place to stay can keep people – and animals – from being a target. Planning alleviates the stress of worrying about what could happen. Most importantly, it helps ensure that children and pets do not become unintended victims.

Keep plans confidential

In the midst of great anger or uproar, violent people may pursue potential victims – this could include family members or pets. That's why the safest alternative could be a shelter unknown to the abuser. No matter where potential victims chose to stay, no one should tell the abuser the location.

When possible see to it that pets are current on all vaccinations

For the health of temporary caretakers and their household, all animals must be up to date on shots and spayed or neutered. Because medical records must accompany the animal when entering temporary shelter, maintain vaccination and other veterinary records in a safe, easily accessible place. If records are missing, check with the animal's veterinarian for a copy. If necessary, SAFE will provide assistance.

Be prepared to prove pet ownership

Sometimes abusers try to intimidate by gaining control of pets. Records such as an animal license, proof of vaccinations, or veterinary receipts can demonstrate ownership. SAFE will work with you to offer other suggestions if needed.

Develop a checklist of all items needed

Be ready to leave at a moment's notice with the items animals most need, including:

- ✓ Vaccination and medical records
- ✓ License or other proof of ownership

- ✓ Identification tag without a home address but with a phone number of a trusted friend or the animal's veterinarian
- ✓ Leashes and collars
- ✓ Pet carriers, if available
- ✓ Medication, if needed
- ✓ An information sheet explaining food, feeding schedules, medical conditions, medications and schedules, likes and dislikes, and any possible behavioral problems temporary caretakers should know

KNOW WHERE TO GO

If a friend or family member can safely tend to your pet, make arrangements with them and know how to reach them at all times. Or, call SAFE at 216-970-3035 for assistance and temporary animal shelter services.



216-970-3035

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES, Numbers to know

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

Domestic Violence Center (Cuyahoga County)	216-391-4357
Forbes House (Lake County)	440-953-9779
Genesis House (Lorain County)	(toll free) 866-213-1188
WomenSafe (Geauga County)	888-285-5665
Ohio Domestic Violence Network	800-934-9840
Domestic Violence National Hotline	800-799-7253

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES, Numbers to know

ANIMAL SERVICES

SAFE	216-970-3035
Cleveland Animal Protective League	216-771-4616
Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter	216-525-4813

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland	216-687-1900
Witness/Victim's Service Center	216-443-7345