

Solutions to Pet Safe Keeping in Situations of Domestic & Interpersonal Violence-in Saskatchewan

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Saskatchewan SPCA



Established in 1928



Registered charitable organization working to prevent animal cruelty



This is done through education, intervention, and outreach



Aim to raise awareness of the human-animal bond, and promote the humane treatment of animals



Stryker K-9 Care Fund

Stats

Intimate partner violence:

313 per 100,000 in Canada

682 per 100,000 in Saskatchewan- Highest province in Canada

Family violence toward children:

247 per 100,000 in Canada

475 per 100,000 in Saskatchewan- Highest province in Canada

(Stats Can, 2017)

Barriers to Leaving

Pets

- Up to 48% of families remain with the abuser due to shelters being unable or unwilling to accommodate pets. (Ascione, 2007)
- In Canada, only 12 nationwide (out of more than 450) women's shelters accept pets; these are only in BC and Ontario.
- There are NO shelters in Saskatchewan that allow pets to be housed with their owners.

What has been developed?

- Collaborated with an already established rescue organization in Saskatchewan
- Allows dogs (mostly) in foster home for up to 90 days free of charge to clients-human service referral based
- Initial vet assessment/update vaccinations/spay or neuter if requested
- Specially trained foster homes regarding safety, confidentiality and boundaries

What has been developed?

- Swift Current, Saskatchewan MOU's written between women's transition house and the Swift Current SPCA
- Currently recruiting for foster homes
- Referred by human service provider
- 90 days free of charge
- Vet assessment/vaccinations

What's next?

- In September 2019, Allie Phillips, creator of the SAF-T program, presented a webinar as how to create a pet friendly shelter.
- Saskatchewan SPCA is continuing to work with her.