

# Companion Animal Fostering for Those Fleeing Domestic Violence: When a Community Comes Together

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# I Need to Get Out: Help Save Two Lives

- ▶ We all know why
  - ▶ In Ontario 68% of women will refuse to leave or will delay leaving because they do not want to leave their animals behind
  - ▶ In Canada 1 in 3 women will experience some form of partner assault in their lifetime
  - ▶ In Ontario 61% of women who left an animal behind indicate that the animal was killed or harmed
- ▶ Research & Education
  - ▶ Research papers on applicable topics are regularly posted on our website for the public to access and read
- ▶ We, as SafePet Ottawa, are all here because we know someone who has been affected by domestic violence or have been directly affected
- ▶ Our Mandate: Fostering on behalf of all domestic violence victims, education and outreach, provide public information on the domestic violence link, assist with the provincial wide fostering programs
- ▶ We always attempt to advocate on behalf of our human clients
  - ▶ If we believe there is more to be done then we will always do our very best to assist them

# Who Are We?

- ▶ What is the Origin of SafePet Ottawa?
  - ▶ Originally an OVMA program that was not successful in its original structure
- ▶ Importance of Individual Roles within the new SafePet Ottawa structure
- ▶ How is our Board Structured and Why did we do it that way?
  - ▶ Lawyer, Treasurer, Trainer or Behaviour Consultant, Social Worker, Veterinarian, Graphic Designer/Marketing Specialist
- ▶ Outgrowth of Ottawa Kennel Club & Inviting Rescues
- ▶ We are all volunteers! We rely on our community relationships to continue and build SafePet Ottawa
  - ▶ We recognize and address compassion fatigue
- ▶ Importance of Continuity
- ▶ Who are our clients?
  - ▶ Everybody!

# Community Collaboration: Collaboration & Trust building in the Community

- ▶ Community Collaboration
- ▶ Fostering relationships with community partners
  - ▶ Ottawa Spay/Neuter, Empties for Paws, Pet Resource Bank, Ottawa Paw Pantry, Retailers, OCTEVAW

**48%** of Ontario women  
who left their abusive partner said their decision  
was delayed **out of fear for their pet's safety.**  
SafePet Ottawa eliminates that fear.



# What Do We Do?

- ▶ What do we do?
  - ▶ Education & Outreach
    - ▶ DILA program
    - ▶ Conference Speaking
    - ▶ Seminars & Workshops
    - ▶ Dissemination of materials through Social Media
    - ▶ Best Practice Meetings



# How Do We Do It?

- ▶ How do we do it?
  - ▶ Well...We talk... a LOT!
- ▶ How does it work?
  - ▶ Our Protocols
  - ▶ OVMA protocol
  - ▶ Farley Foundation
  - ▶ Community Collaboration
  - ▶ Social media
    - ▶ The Basset Hound

