



Are you a pet owner in an abusive relationship? Are you thinking of leaving?

Here are some things to think about.

KNOWN AND INCREASED RISKS TO ANIMALS

- Any prior history (including childhood) of animal abuse, torture or neglect by the abuser.
- A history of severe physical violence, even if the pet has not (yet) been harmed.
- Pets used as forms of victim intimidation, coercion or control of survivors of violence.
- Significant emotional abuse of children.
- Child protection services deems that children are at risk and only supervised parental visits are permitted.
- Substance abuse and weapon possession/use by the abuser.
- Abuser having knowledge that partner is planning to leave.
- Timing of planned exit from relationship/co-habitation.

Michelle Lem DVM, MSc, MSW, RSW
Community Veterinary Outreach

Erin Wasson BSW, MSW, RSW
Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Bridget Curran MSW, RSW



Community
Veterinary
Outreach

SAFETY PLANNING FOR PETS

Collect	Prepare
Proof of pet ownership Licensing documents, pet medical records/ vaccination certificate, microchip registration	Call municipality, veterinary office and/or microchip registry to add or change ownership/contact information, if necessary
Pet identification	Microchip (recommended), and/or ID tag with name and safe/trusted phone number (a friend or veterinary clinic)
Proof of pet's vaccination status Vaccination certificate and copy of pet's medical records	Call your veterinarian to request a copy of your pet's vaccination certificates and medical records (emailed and/or hard copy versions)
Your pet's information that will be helpful for foster or temporary caregiver	Prepare an information document for each pet with a pet photo and the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand/type of pet food, feeding schedule/amount fed/treats • Medical conditions • List of medications and instructions for giving medication(s) • Likes/dislikes • Pet's normal daily routine/structure/activity (rest, walks, play) • Behaviour/training issues (such as pulling on leash, house soiling, aggression, food/toy/space guarding, separation anxiety) • Is your pet good with children? What ages? Describe • Is your pet good with dogs? Describe • Is your pet good with cats? Describe • Is your pet good with other animals? Examples: rodents, rabbits, etc. • Is your dog comfortable being crated/confined when unsupervised?
Carrier/kennel for cats/small dogs Leash/flat collar for large dogs	Obtain a safe and secure carrier/kennel with blanket/towel Know your pet's favourite hiding/sleeping spots and how to contain the room (example: close doors) Keep areas clear of clutter so that you can quickly and easily retrieve your pet Practise putting your pet in the carrier regularly using treats or by feeding your pet in the carrier with the door left open
Pet supplies	Prepare a bag or bin with a week's worth of pet food (tightly sealed, label with expiration date), extra bowls, bedding, toys, litter/ litterbox and grooming supplies. Obtain extra items; do not remove ones that are currently being used in the home.
List of community pet supports	Prepare a list of contacts including phone numbers/email addresses of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends and/or family who could provide temporary pet care • Pet-friendly shelters in the community (such as Interval House Ottawa) • Pet fostering programs in the community (such as SafePet) • Case workers/counsellors who will advocate for your pet's care on your behalf • Compassionate boarding options (local dog kennels and/or catteries, humane societies, veterinary clinics) • Community veterinary support organizations (such as Community Veterinary Outreach)
Local crisis support	Name/Number: _____ Name/Number: _____