

Safety Planning – Pet Safety

For abusers, harming or threatening to harm a beloved pet is a way of exerting control and intimidation, trading on the victim's love for their pet and using that love as leverage to prevent an escape from an abusive and sometimes life-threatening situation.

If you are planning to stay

- Keep emergency provisions for your pet in case your partner withholds money.
- pets
- Keep the phone number of SPCA
- Establish ownership of your pet by creating a paper trail; eg. obtain a license, have veterinarian records put in your name.
- Talk to the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society about the Pet Safekeeping Program, a partnership with Alberta Alliance for the Safety of Animals and People (SPCA)

If you are planning to leave

- Obtain safe emergency shelter for pet, somewhere that won't be disclosed to your abuser; eg. veterinarian, family, friend, SPCA
- Pack a bag for your pet that includes;
 - Food
 - Medicine
 - Documents of ownership
 - Health documents (veterinary or vaccination records)
 - Leash
 - ID, medical tags
 - Carrier
 - Toys
 - Bedding

(If you must leave without your pet, remember to leave enough food, fresh bedding, litter, water, etc. for your pet)

If you have left

- Keep pets indoors (if possible)
- Don't let the pet outside alone
- Pick a safe route and time to walk your pet
- Don't exercise/walk pet alone
- Change your veterinarian