



SAFETY PLANNING FOR PET OWNERS BEFORE YOU LEAVE

YOU SHOULD HAVE A SAFETY PLAN WHETHER YOU PLAN TO STAY IN THE RELATIONSHIP, ARE CONTEMPLATING ON LEAVING, OR HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE RELATIONSHIP.

HOW DO I KEEP MY CHILDREN, MY PETS, AND MYSELF SAFE?

Escaping a relationship that is plagued with abuse is complicated. In fact, deciding to leave an abusive relationship is often just the beginning of the journey.

If you are in an abusive relationship, it is important to have a personalized safety plan to keep you and your loved ones safe. **You should have a safety plan whether you plan to stay in the relationship, are contemplating on leaving, or have already left the relationship.**

WHAT DO I DO IF THINGS ARE ESCALATING?

If the situation between your abuser continues to escalate even after you have left:

- Document everything and contact the police
- Apply for an Emergency Protection Order for you, your children, and your pet(s)
- Have important contact information available in case of an emergency
- Contact the Pet Safekeeping Program at the AB SPCA at **780-447-3600 ext 3750**

EMERGENCY SHELTER NUMBER: _____

LOCAL COURT OFFICE NUMBER: _____

SOCIAL WORKER/COUNSELLOR NUMBER: _____

TRUSTED FAMILY OR FRIEND NUMBER: _____



SAFETY PLAN CHECKLIST

PROTECTION

- Memorize Telephone Numbers
- Keep Your Cellphone Charged
- Teach Children How To Call Police
- Have An Emergency Shelter Contact Number
- Inform Neighbors To Be Vigilant
- Practice & Review Safety Plan

IDENTIFICATION

- Driver's License
- Passport
- Birth Certificate (Children Too)
- Healthcare Card
- Immigration Papers
- Social Insurance Card

- Keep important documents in a safe place such as at work or with a trusted friend.
- Photocopy identification that you regularly use to keep a copy in a safe place with your other important documents. Make sure to include your children's documents as well.

Keep digital copies of important documents on phone/email so they are easy to access.

BELONGINGS

- House And Car Keys *
- Medications And/Or Prescriptions
- Suitcase **
- Pets

FINANCIAL


- Bank Account Information
- Hide Credit Cards & Cash
- Cancel Joint Credit Cards
- Inform Your Bank Of Situation
- Immigration Papers
- Marriage Or Divorce Papers

LEGAL

- Marriage Or Diverce Papers
- Restraining Orders
- Custody Orders
- Immigration Papers
- Work Permits

* Put an extra set of keys in a hidden but easily accessible place.

** Leave your suitcase with a trusted neighbor or friend. Make sure that your suitcase includes any valuable or irreplaceable items such as photographs or jewelry, in addition to clothing and other personal belongings.

 Including pets in a safety plan will ensure that all family members will escape an abusive situation.



WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN A SAFETY PLAN IF I HAVE PETS?

PET SAFETY CHECKLIST

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- Pets Hiding Spot *
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- Vaccination & Medical Records
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- Medication (If Required)
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- Pet License **
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- ID Tag With Leash
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-
- Collar or Carrier



* Know your pets hiding spot so you do not have to spend time looking for them if you have to leave your home in an emergency.

** A pet license helps to prove ownership if any custody disagreements occur.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: Create a **pet emergency kit** that includes 3 days of pet food and bottled water, litter box with litter or poop bags, bed / blanket, bowls, collar, leash, harness. Place all the items in a duffle bag with vaccination and medical records.

🐾 Try to have your pet's items in a safe place where your abuser will not find them. You can leave the pets belongings in a small bag with a trusted neighbor or friend, or at your place of work.

WHERE CAN MY PETS GO?

The Alberta SPCA's Pet Safekeeping Program provides temporary care for pets whose owners are in violent and abusive situations.

If you are fleeing a domestic violence situation and you have a pet you should:

- Contact the Pet Safekeeping Coordinator at the AB SPCA at **780-447-3600 ext 3750**
- **Follow the Safety Plan suggestions provided above**

