



DR. MARGARET SAVAGE
Crisis Centre

Pet Shelter

Sheltering Animals and Families Together for Safety

Fear for pets creates a huge barrier for women fleeing abuse

Twelve independent surveys have reported that between 18% and 48% of abused women have delayed their decision to leave their abuser or returned to their abuser out of fear for the welfare of their pets.

Statistics taken from Maple Gate House for Women – Elliot Lake, Ontario

Between 71% and 85% of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partner had threatened, injured or killed the family pet. (Ascione, Weber and Wood 1997)

Research has shown that 62% to 76% of animal cruelty in the home occurs in front of children (Faver & Strand, 2003). Children often intervene to protect their mothers and pets from being abused. Some children may even allow themselves to be victimized to save their pets from being harmed or killed. (Edelson et al., 2003)

CBC News reported in June of 2017 that “animal abuse is present in roughly 89% of domestic violence cases” and that “More than half the women in those cases delayed leaving their abusive partner because of concern for their pet’s safety.”

Women with pets are enduring domestic abuse longer and returning home sooner for rear their animals could be hurt, according to new research from the University of Windsor.

Why a Pet Shelter on Site?

- Women do not like to leave their pets in a shelter off site as they often feel as it is like putting your kinds in foster care while you take care of your safety.
- To remove the barrier for women to access our services. Often, they will not leave their pets with the abuser for fear of reprisal to the pet.
- There is not an option for sheltering pets within walking distance of the shelter.
- The therapy value for both women and children to have their pets on site.
- In line with our Trauma Informed approach.

Why and Outdoor Pet Shelter on Site?

- To reduce liability and risk to other residents of an untrained animal in the shelter.
- To reduce the risk factor of a flea infestation within the shelter.
- To provide shelter in close proximity and accessible to the women & children.



DR. MARGARET SAVAGE CRISIS CENTRE

Pet Housing

Leaving pets behind is one of the largest barriers to women fleeing domestic violence, and leaving pets with the abuser is extremely traumatic for both moms and kids.

The Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre is fundraising to build a small shelter for pets on our premises.

89%
OF ABUSED WOMEN
say their partner also
abused a pet*

56% OF WOMEN
delayed leaving an
abusive relationship due
to fear for a pet's safety*

88% OF FAMILIES
reported that where there was
physical abuse of the children,
there was animal abuse*

* University of Windsor Study



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