

Press Release



The link between Domestic Violence & Animal Abuse

Apache Junction, Arizona, October 3, 2014 – The month of October is Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness month. Victims can be young or old, male or female, but there are other victims of domestic violence; animals. With 63% of all U.S. households now including pet's¹ advocates and shelters for victims of DV are left trying to address how they can assist the victims who are desperate to protect the animals they love. Of the women victims of DV that own pets, 71% entering shelters reported their abusers threatened, harmed, or killed their pet.²

Fortunately there are many organizations that are now working to advocate not just for the human victims of DV, but also the animal victims. One of these organizations, an Arizona based organization, is [The Humane Link](#). A coalition of health, human and animal welfare professionals dedicated to promoting the understanding of the relationship between human violence and animal abuse.

What can you do?

- Teach children to be kind to animals; take all animal abuse seriously.
- If you suspect someone is a victim of abuse, listen and offer support.
- Offer to babysit a child or pet in times of family crisis or help them find a safe haven program.
 - Safe Haven programs:
 - http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse_neglect/tips/safe_havens_directory.html
 - <http://www.awionline.org/safe-havens>
- Request The Humane LINK to speak at your organization, school, workplace or professional conference. Contact them at info@thehumanelink.org.
- Report suspected abuse and neglect
 - In an emergency, call 911
 - Child abuse 1-877-SOS-CHILD (1-877-767-2445)
 - Elder abuse 1-877-SOS-ADULT (1-877-767-2385)
 - Domestic violence 1-800-799-7233

¹ 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey

² Ascione, Weber & Wood (1997)

- Animal abuse and neglect
 - » Maricopa County Sheriff's Animal Crime Unit 602-876-1681
 - » Pima County 88-CRIME (520-882-7463)
 - » In all other areas, contact your local humane society, animal control or law enforcement agency, or a nearby veterinarian.

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