



Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux

# Safety Planning for Pets



Women and Pets  
Escaping Violence

Femmes et animaux domestiques  
qui échappent la violence

THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO

**If you're able to prepare for your pet's departure,  
try to have the following pet items in a safe place where your abuser won't be able to find them.**

- Pet's vaccination and medical records
- License that proves you own your animal
- Bowls, bedding, toys, grooming supplies, a favourite blanket etc.
- Identification tag **without** your home address but **with** a phone number of a trusted friend or your veterinarian
- Dog leashes
- Cat carriers (Unconfined cats can easily get scared and escape. If you don't have a carrier for your cat, a pillowcase can work in an emergency.)
- Medication, if any
- A photo and an information sheet on food and feeding schedules, medical conditions, medications and schedules, likes and dislikes, and any possible behaviour problems to give to a temporary caretaker

## **Before leaving make sure you:**

- Find a safe place ahead of time. Ask friends and family that you trust who might be willing to take your pets temporarily. Check out local safe havens for pets in your area.
- Know your pets' hiding spot so you don't have to spend time looking for them in the case of emergency.

The pet's location should be kept secret in case the abuser decides to try to take control of the pet in order to take control of you and your children.

*Adapted from Making the Connection: Protecting Your Pet from Domestic Violence by the HSUS (copyright The Humane Society of the United States), and the Violence Prevention Program, Calgary Humane Society*

For more information visit the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies' website at [www.cfhs.ca/petsafetyplanning](http://www.cfhs.ca/petsafetyplanning)