Tools and Resources for Helping More Victims through Awareness on the Link Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

Liz Murphy, Esq. Native America Humane Society
Diana Webster, Esq. Native America Humane Society
Laurel Meleski, RedRover

AGENDA

• INTRODUCTIONS
• HOW DID WE GET HERE
• WHAT’S GOING ON WITH ANIMALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES NOW
• UNDERSTANDING THE LINK & RESOURCES NEEDED
• TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR HELPING VICTIMS
Funding Opportunities for Your Pet-Friendly Housing Program

Objectives:

- Who is RedRover?
- RedRover’s Safe Housing grants
- Additional funding resources
- What you can do right now
Bringing animals from crisis to care

RedRover Responders
RedRover Readers
RedRover Relief

RedRover.org

RedRover Relief
Domestic Violence programs:

- Safe Housing grants
- SafePlaceForPets.org

RedRover.org/Domestic

RedRover.org
Safe Housing On-site Grants

- Start-up funds to enable a DV to house pets on-site (co-sheltering
- Grants up to $20,000
- Ready to build within 6 months of applying

Highlights:
73 Safe Housing grant recipients for over $477,500 since 2012

Additional Safe Housing Grant Opportunities
Safe Housing Off-site Grants

- Partner with an animal shelter or rescue to build housing specifically for the pets of survivors
- Grants up to $20,000
- Ready to build within 6 months of applying
- https://redrover.org/relief/safe-housing-off-site-grants/

Safe Housing Startup Grants

- DV shelters create their own program
- One-time grant
- Great way to build relationships and possible stepping stone
- Ready to start program within 3 months of applying
- https://redrover.org/relief/safe-housing-startup-grants/
Safe Housing Grant Applications

Apply online:
RedRover.org/SafeHousing

Due May 15th and October 15th each year
Additional Funding Resources

- **The Jackson Galaxy Project**: http://www.thejacksongalaxyproject.org/About-Us/Programs/Safe-Haven
- **AKC Humane Fund**: http://www.akchumanefund.org/forms/womens_shelters_grant
- **Mary Kay Foundation**: https://www.marykayfoundation.org/causes
- **Banfield Foundation**: https://www.banfield.com/banfield-foundation/programs
- **Additional information**: https://redrover.org/resource/domestic-violence-and-pets/

SafePlaceForPets.org:

On-site housing, Off-site Housing, and Community Programs for people and pets who need a safe escape from domestic violence.

Search

View List by State or Province

FIND A SAFE PLACE
What you can do now

- Inquire about pets at intake
  1. Are there pets at home?
  2. How does each family member treat them?
  3. Do you worry about something bad happening to them?
  4. Is there somewhere safe they can stay?

- Include pets in safety planning (gather medical records and licenses - proof of ownership)

- Provide pet friendly resources

Resources:

**RedRover:**

**Allie Phillips:**
www.AlliePhillips.com

**National Link Coalition:**
www.NationalLinkCoalition.org

**DomesticShelters.org:**
www.DomesticShelters.org/domestic-violence-articles-information/planning-for-pets-safety
Katie Campbell
Outreach Manager
kcampbell@redrover.org
(916) 247-2239
The Native America Humane Society works with communities to help them resolve their animal issues. We help people understand that when animals are healthy and well-cared for, the community will flourish. We facilitate long-term plans that are sustainable and locally driven. And we use animal issues as opportunities to develop the next generation of tribal leaders.

Programs and Strategic Goals

The NAHS works in three main areas, all which contribute to our vision of a rekindled relationship with animals among tribal nations.
Bridge to Animal Care

Hundreds of tribal nations face a critical gap in the availability of animal care services in their communities.

Our strategies:
• Collaborative partnerships for animal veterinary care services and sheltering of unwanted tribal pets.
• Public, searchable database of animal care service providers for tribal governments.
• Templates for tribal agreements with outside animal care service providers

Community Engagement & Empowerment

The NAHS provides adaptable tools for humane and effective community governance that are responsive to tribal sovereignty.

Our strategies:
• Offer suite of best practices, examples, and choices for drafting or updating animal laws to better meet the needs of tribal communities
• Empower tribes by facilitating Humane Community Development process
Leadership and Healing through Animals

We create opportunities for community members, especially tribal youth, to enrich their lives through careers, businesses, and activities involving animals. We also develop culturally appropriate programs that provide social benefits through animals.

Our strategies:
• Provide opportunities for tribal members especially youth to develop and pursue their interests (whether in veterinary medicine or in related fields)
• Build the Tribal Link Network to share tools and resources for human and animal victims of violence

Available Resources

• Donated pet food and supplies (as available) from Rescue Bank
• Veterinary care clinics with NAHS partners
• Information on grant funding for animal programs
• Training on link between domestic (family) violence and animal abuse for tribal leadership, law enforcement, and social services
• Tribal youth externships
• Humane Community Development Workshop
  – Community-led framework for developing sustainable and humane animal population management programs
• Model animal regulations and codes
• Humane education materials
• Disaster preparation for animals
HOW DID WE GET HERE

HISTORY OF ANIMALS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

• Each tribe had their own values, traditions, and stories regarding animals
• General Tenets:
  – Creation Stories
  – Clan/Affinity Identities
  – Laws/Customs
AFFECTS OF COLONIZATION OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES’ RELATIONSHIPS TO ANIMALS

- Colonization altered both human-human AND human-animal relationships
- European cultures and values centered on patriarchy
  - Violence and abuse tolerated against women and children
  - Clash with tribal cultures

Current Snapshot

- Native women face the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence
- Native children disproportionately removed from the home
- Highest incarceration rate per population
- Tribal communities face some of the highest rates of:
  - Crime & violence, homelessness, substance use, suicide, mental health and physical health issues, pollution, unemployment
• Animal abuse has become common, including interspecies sexual assault (bestiality)
  – Sexual Violence against animals used to threaten and control human victims

• Direct link to bestiality and crimes against humans: crimes against children (including child sexual assault), domestic violence, the making of child or animal pornography

• 38 States have anti-bestiality laws
  • Nearly half of the states require those who were convicted of bestiality to register as sex offenders

• Many tribal codes have also prohibited bestiality (often found in the sex abuse/crimes sections)
  • Ex: Yankton Sioux Tribe Criminal & Juvenile Code
  • Ex: Tulalip Tribal Code
  • Ex: Quileute Tribal Code
WHAT’S GOING ON WITH ANIMALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES NOW

Current Status of Animals in Tribal Communities

• Most prevalent issues:
  – Animal abuse
  – Overpopulation
  – Feral/wild
  – Pack animals (increased maulings and disease)

• Altered relationship to animals
  – Less adherence to traditional values regarding animals
Abuse and Mistreatment

- Big Issues: neglect, domestic violence including companion animals, dog fighting
- Many tribes already have animal abuse codes and DNR codes, but most of them do not address tribal cultural values
  - Many tribal codes do not protect animals as DV victims
    - One of the biggest obstacles preventing the improvement of these laws is difficulty developing priorities due to lack of information
  - Typically low-level misdemeanors

Overpopulation

- Overpopulation primarily due to two factors:
  1. allowing or unable to control reproduction among companion animals;
  2. companion animals that are relinquished by their owners
- Many tribal communities lack access to spay and neuter services.
UNDERSTANDING THE LINK

• THE LINK: studies have repeatedly shown that there is a link between domestic violence and animal abuse
  – Domestic abusers often target pets/companion animals to control and threaten human victims
    • Victims will often delay leaving their abusers for fear of their animal’s safety or lack of resources to bring their animal with them.
      – Approximately 48%
• 2015 NAHS Study confirmed that the Link is prevalent in tribal communities as well
  (1) animals belonging to victims are frequently abused to control victims; and
  (2) tribal domestic violence shelters currently lack resources to keep victims and their companion animals together.

Four themes emerged in survey: Overpopulation, Lack of tribal community resources, lack of code enforcement, and lack of awareness

Understanding the Link in Indian Country

• Native America Humane Society, Tribal Link
  – www.nativeamericahumane.org/triballink.html

• Sarah Deer & Liz Murphy, “Animals May Take Pity on Us: Using Traditional Tribal Beliefs to Address Animal Abuse and Family Violence Within Tribal Nations” (2017)
  – open.mitchellhamline.edu/mhlr/vol43/iss4/1/
Requires Multi-Prong Approach

- Awareness and education
- Population management including spay/neuter
- Good pet guardianship through wellness clinics
- Youth programming and community leadership
- Facilitating partnerships with outside providers
- Advocating for reformed animal laws

Resources Needed

- Shelters that accommodate pets
  - Red Rover Program (to be discussed further)
  - Grants to provide shelter assistance

- Temporary Foster Homes
  - Individual foster homes
  - Veterinary Hospitals as fosters
  - Reduced costs
• Spay/Neuter Services & other veterinary needs
  • Alliances with local veterinarians
  • Alliances with local veterinary college(s)
    • Example: University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

• Travel Resources
  • Agreements with local transportation services
    • Geographic barriers in Indian Country

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**Necessary to Help Native Victims**

• Understand challenges unique to tribal communities and Native peoples
  • Historical Trauma
  • Geographic barriers
  • Economic barriers, poverty
  • Political and jurisdictional barriers

• Trauma Informed Response + Cultural Competence
  • Understand Historical Trauma
  • Cultural Competency: makes victims/survivors feel more accepted and comfortable
Shelters that Accommodate Pets

• Shelters that accommodate pets and their humans can be hard to find!
  – Becoming more common, but as of July 2018, only an estimated 3% of shelters accommodate pets

• A lot of factors for a shelter to consider:
  – Funding (food, medical costs, supplies, fencing), allergies of other residents, cleaning, and liability
• **Safe Havens Mapping Project**
  - [https://awionline.org/safe-havens](https://awionline.org/safe-havens)
  - Interactive map in which you can search by state, zip code and distance by miles
    » List managed by Animal Welfare Institute

• **A Safe Place for Pets**
  - [www.safeplaceforpets.org](http://www.safeplaceforpets.org)
  - Managed by RedRover
  - Search by state, county, “map it”, & phone numbers

• **Sheltering Animals and Families Together**
  - [www.alliephillips.com/saf-tprogram/saf-t-shelters](http://www.alliephillips.com/saf-tprogram/saf-t-shelters)

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• Funding is the biggest barrier for shelters in providing accommodations for pets.

• Consider contacting your Congressperson and encourage them to support the **PAWS Act** of 2017 (Bi-partisan)
  - Among other items, it directs the Department of Agriculture to award grants for shelter and housing assistance and support services for domestic violence victims with pets
    - More info: petsandwomensafety.com
RedRover Program

- As presented by RedRover representative
  - “Funding Opportunities for Your Pet Friendly Housing Programs”
- Discussing Safety Planning

Additional Resources for Shelters Seeking Grants (General)

- Rural Health Information Hub
  - www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/violence-and-abuse/funding

- Federal Funding (grants)
  - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
  - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
    - Services for Rural Victims, Transitional Housing
  - Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA)
Additional Safety Planning for Pets

- National Link Coalition, Safety Planning (2013)
  - 18 pages of detailed information


Animal Welfare Institute Resources for Shelters, Victims & Workers

- www.awionline.org/content/companion-animals
  - Safety Planning
  - Intake Questions
  - Signs of Animal Abuse for Child Protection Workers
  - Including Pets in Protection Orders
Information for Organizations Looking to Establish Safe Havens for Pets

- **Humane Society of the United States, Starting a Safe Havens for Animals Program**
  - 23 pages

- **Sheltering Families and Animals Together Program**
  - 58 pages

Additional Resources for Victims

- **STARelief & Pet Assistance**
  - SafePlace for Pets (free and temporary foster care), Food pantry, funding for routine & emergency medical care
  - Based in Stamford, CT
    - [www.starelief.org](http://www.starelief.org)

- **Pets of the Homeless**
  - Search for homeless shelters allowing pets, free clinics, emergency veterinary care
    - Can search by city and state
    - [www.petsofthehomeless.org](http://www.petsofthehomeless.org)
• People with Pets
  – National directory/search database for pet friendly apartments, homes & hotels
    • www.peoplewithpets.com

• Pets Welcome
  – National directory/search database for pet friendly hotel lodging
    • www.petswelcome.com

• National Center Against Domestic Violence
  – List of organizations helping victims & hotlines
    • www.ncadv.org/resources

• National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center
  • www.niwrc.org

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Assistance in Finding Foster Homes

• PACT for Animals
  – Assistance for finding temporary foster homes
    • www.pactforanimals.org

• Displaced Paws
  – Matching service site to help those seeking foster homes and those wanting to foster
    • www.displacedpaws.org
Legal

• Animal Legal Defense Fund
  – Advocacy, litigation, legislation
    • www.aldf.org

• Animal Legal and Historical Center
  – Codes/statutes, proposed legislation, law reviews
    • www.animallaw.info

• Animal Welfare Institute
  – Tailored to Wisconsin

Veterinary Services

• Best Friends
  – Maintains comprehensive list of financial assistance for veterinary care
  – Can search by state
    • www.bestfriends.org/resources/financial-aid-pets

• Brown Dog Foundation
  – Assistance in medications
    • http://www.browndogfoundation.org/

• The Mosby Foundation
  – Assists critically injured, abused or neglected dogs
    • www.themosbyfoundation.org

• Onyx and Breezy Foundation
  – Spay and neuter, food, medicine and supplies assistance
    • www.onyxandbreezy.org

• Humane Society of the United States
  – Comprehensive list of non-profit organizations by state that help provide veterinary services/financial assistance
    • www.humanesociety.org/resources/are-you-having-trouble-affording-your-pet
• VCA Pet Food Pantry
  – 32 locations (18 states)
    • www.vcacharities.org/programs/pet-food-pantry

Traveling Resources

• The Milligan Foundation
  – Assistance in purchasing bus, train and plane tickets for victims of domestic violence
    • www.themilliganfoundation.org

• Angel Flight West
  – Non-profit that arranges free, non-emergency transportation within the 13 Western States for adults and children with serious medical issues/compelling needs, including domestic violence relocation
    • www.angelflightwest.org
Questions?

• NAHS
  – info@nativeamericahumane.org
  – Facebook: www.facebook.com/nativeamericahumane

• RedRover
  – info@redrover.org
  – (916) 429-2457