

Video Series for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Sample Script/Talking Points for Speakers

Mayor/Community Leader:

- Animal abuse and family violence are usually perceived and treated as separate issues, which up until very recently, have been handled independently by animal control or human services agencies.
- Animal abuse is often “the tip of the iceberg” and the first warning sign of an individual or family in trouble.
- (Optional: Insert your own additional statement about DV and Animal Abuse)

Domestic Violence Advocate:

- The link between animal abuse and domestic violence is something that cannot go ignored.
- Animal abuse is a form of power and control used to manipulate, intimidate, and retaliate against others in domestic violence.
- Harming a family pet can eliminate a source of comfort and support for the person being abused.
- (Optional: Insert your own additional statement about DV and Animal Abuse)

Veterinarian/Animal Advocate:

- Veterinarians, groomers, pet supplies dealers, and boarding kennels should partner with local programs to provide veterinary care, emergency boarding and other support for domestic violence victims’ animals.
- Clinics can display literature from local domestic violence agencies and state domestic violence hotlines in their lobbies.
- (Optional: Insert your own additional statement about DV and Animal Abuse)

Judge:

- Courts also play a role in supporting the bond between the domestic violence survivors and their companion animals.
- Many states have laws that allow judges to include companion animals (in some states also livestock) in protection orders.

- Most state protection order statutes give courts discretion to permit additional orders such as including the pet in an order along with other possessions.
- (Optional: Insert your own additional statement about DV and Animal Abuse)

Animal Shelter Provider:

- Up to 48% of women in an abusive relationships delay leaving a dangerous situation out of concern for their pet's safety.
- The ___ Program is a service to help victims of domestic violence place their companion animals out of harm's way so that they may seek safety for themselves, such as foster care homes, use of kennel space with a local humane society or a veterinarian.
- (Optional: Insert your own additional statement about DV and Animal Abuse)