

Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)™: Saving lives



Allie Phillips, J.D.
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 www.animalsandfamilies.net



SAF-T Program

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- **Work experience:**
 - Assistant Prosecutor (Michigan)
 - National District Attorneys Association
 - Senior Attorney, National Child Protection Training Center
 - American Humane Association
 - Vice President of Public Policy and Human-Animal Strategic Initiatives
 - National District Attorneys Association
 - Founder/Director, National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse
 - Deputy Director/Interim Director, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse
- **Author:**
 - 2 books, 10 book chapters

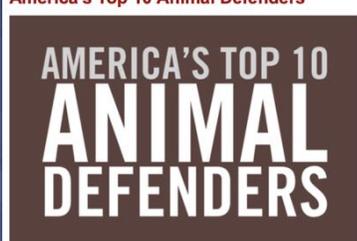


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- **Boards/Associations:**
 - ABA's Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence (Liaison)
 - Association of Professional Humane Educators (Advisory Group)
 - Denver Pet Partners (Advisory Council)
 - Michigan State Bar Animal Law Section (Council Member)
 - Michiganders for Shelter Pets (Co-Founder)
 - National Coalition on Violence Against Animals (Executive Board)
 - National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse (Advisory Group)
 - National Link Coalition (Steering Committee)

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America's Top 10 Animal Defenders



Animal victims of abuse cannot speak for themselves, but these extraordinary people are taking a stand in seeking justice for abused and neglected animals. During National Justice for Animals Week 2014, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is delighted to announce America's Top Ten Animal Defenders.



Allie Phillips
 Allie Phillips is the director of the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse at the National District Attorneys Association. She founded the network Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) to help families with pets flee abusive homes and find safety. She is a nationally-recognized author, attorney, and legal advocate for animal protection.

What is SAF-T?

- The first and only global program to encourage domestic violence shelters to allow families to bring pets on-site
- Recognizes pets as family members
- Encourages the human-animal bond
- Provides a way for families to leave abusive homes sooner
- It acknowledges The Link®

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Animal Abuse, Child Abuse, Domestic and Elder Violence



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Pets are part of the family

- Almost 80 million (65%) American homes have pets
- Over 35% of millennials have a pet
- 67% of homes with children under age 6 have at least one pet
- 74% of homes with children over age 6 have at least one pet
- 72% of homes have women as the primary caretaker of pet



Source: 2015-16 National Pet Owner's Survey and American Veterinary Medical Association; Global Pet Expo 2015; American Veterinary Medical Association (2007). U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook; Nat'l Ctr. For Injury Prev. & Control, 2011
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The importance of pets

- People look to their pets for support, comfort & security (Bonas, McNichols & Glyn, 2000)
- Pets positively impact physical health and reduce stress (Friedman & Son, 2009)
- Pets provide greater life satisfaction (Raina, et al 1999)
- Pets help us cope better with loss and grief (Bolin, 1988)
- Nationwide study revealed that less than half of shelters routinely ask families about pets (Kriener, et al. 2012)

“A greater understanding of the dynamics of pet abuse and women’s decisions about their pets when seeking shelter would inform professionals’ efforts to facilitate women’s departures from violent relationships and their recovery process.”

– *Coercive Control and Abused Women’s Decisions About their Pets when Seeking Shelter*, Hardesty, et al. 28 J Interp Viol 2617 (2013)

Women & Pets

- Women with strong bonds to pets had abusers use control tactics to threaten pets
- Pets helped women in recovery
- Women wanted to be asked about pets at intake
- Women felt lack of control over the decision to leave their pet and wanted safe options for their pet
 - They wanted their vet to offer safe affordable housing
 - They were critical of shelters not providing options

Hardesty, Khaw, Ridgway, Weber & Miles (2013). *Coercive Control and Abused Women’s Decisions About their Pets When Seeking Shelter. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 28: 2617*

What survivors say

“I stayed alive over a fish. When I had nothing else, I had a fish. It kept me going.”

“If I had known about [this pet housing program] ahead of time, that would have saved my animals through the years that I’ve lost because of my abuser.”

-- Hardesty et al. (2013)

Research

“Batterers who also abuse their pets are both more controlling and use more dangerous forms of violence [sexual violence, marital rape, emotional violence and stalking] than batterers who do not.”

-- Simmons & Lehmann (2007)
Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol. 22, No. 9, p. 1211-1222 (2007)

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If I can't have the dog, no one will have the dog

Former Lawyer Gets Probation, One-Day Jail Term in Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Case

A former Birmingham, Ala. attorney who pleaded guilty to slitting his family dog's throat, texting a photo of it to his now ex-wife, and leaving her a voice mail stating "your day is coming, girl," was sentenced to probation – and also ordered to serve one day in jail for violating a no-contact order. James Stewart Robinson, 48, was sentenced on Jan. 15 to a five-year suspended sentence and three years supervised probation on the Class C felony cruelty charge. He received a concurrent one-year suspended sentence with two years supervised probation on the misdemeanor domestic violence harassment charge, the [Alabama Media Group](#) reported. The domestic violence charge resulted from Robinson's emailing a Christmas greeting to his ex-wife in violation of a judge's no-contact order following his guilty plea last summer. Apologizing for killing "Rufus," an American Staffordshire terrier, by slicing his throat, Robinson noted that he has been a recovering drug addict for nearly 10 years. Robinson surrendered to police following a five-month probe that included exhuming the dog's body and an investigation by a Florida animal forensics lab.



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The Link in Rural Communities

"Pets and/or farm animals are often threatened, harmed or neglected as a means of controlling an abused woman, and it is common for women to delay seeking help out of fear for their animals."

Forty-five percent of the women in the study said that their pets and/or farm animals were deliberately threatened with harm, and in 41% of cases the pets actually were deliberately harmed or killed.

Doherty, D. & Hornosty, J. (2008). Exploring the Links: Firearms, Family Violence and Animal Abuse in Rural Communities, *The Latham Letter* (Summer 2008)

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The Link: Domestic Violence

18-48% of battered women have delayed leaving an abusive home, or have returned to their batterer, out of fear for the welfare of their pets or livestock.

-- Ascione, 2007

Less than half of shelters ask about pets.

-- Krienert, et al, 2012



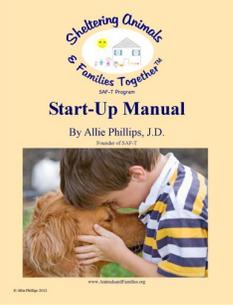

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Harsh Reality

- Abusers may exploit or target pets to:
 - Coerce compliance with present and future abuse
 - Threaten silence regarding abuse
 - Maintain terror and fright
 - Eliminate source of support/comfort
 - Force the family to return home
 - Reinforces there is no safe place
 - Gain more power and control
 - "If I can kill the dog, I can kill you!"

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The Solution!



First edition launched February 2008

Second edition launched January 2012

www.animalsandfamilies.net

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SAF-T Statistics

- Currently 97 shelters housing pets on-site
- 15 more in-progress
- 40 states
- Australia, Canada and New Zealand



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Idaho SAF-T Shelters

- Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho (Bear Lake/Franklin/Power counties)
- Family Safe Network (Driggs)
- Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence (Hailey)
- OASIS Program (Post Falls)
- Family Crisis Center (Rexburg)

Why is SAF-T needed?

- The creation of SAF-T
- Human-Animal Bond
 - HAB is critical in times of stress
 - Aids in healing and recovery
 - Supports physical and mental health
 - Kids and pets go together
 - Natural empathy
- What are your clients saying?



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“Why don’t all shelters accept pets?”

- Residents/staff have concerns about allergies to pets
- Concerns about funds to pay for pets
- Concerns about sustaining the program
- Concerns about dog bites
- Concerns of pets being abandoned
- Concerned about legal issues

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“Domestic violence services are complicated and complex.”

It is unacceptable for us not to accept pets as a domestic violence shelter.”

Rita Garza

*Former Senior Vice President
Urban Resource Institute (New York City)*

Assessing Need

- Ask about pets
 - How many
 - Welfare of pets
 - Housing with friends/family
- Hotline workers prepared with resources
- Have families delayed getting to safety?
- Consult with staff

Garnering Support

- Shelter Staff
- Board of Directors
- Community leaders
- Animal protection community
- Veterinary community
- Work as a team

Whiteville, NC



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Demopolis, AL



© Allie Phillips

Comfort, Texas



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Funding Options

- Red Rover DV Safe Escape Grants
 - <http://redrover.org/index.cfm?navId=167>
 - Up to \$500
- Red Rover SAF-T Start Up Grants
 - <http://redrover.org/index.cfm?navId=1086>
 - \$2,000-\$3,000 range
- Banfield Charitable Trust Pet Advocacy Grants
 - <http://www.banfieldcharitabletrust.org>
 - Deadlines April 30 and October 1
- AKC Humane Fund
 - http://www.akc.org/humane_fund/grants.html
 - Apply for up to \$3000 (can be spread out over 3 years)
- Veterinary Care Foundation
 - www.vetcarefoundation.org
 - Provide support to pets of families in crisis
- American Veterinary Charitable Fund
 - <http://www.avcfund.org/>
 - Boarding/medical care supporting pets of families fleeing domestic violence situations

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How to establish SAF-T

- Legal issues
 - Confidentiality (include pets at the animal shelter)
 - Court orders and Pet Protection Orders
 - Custody and Ownership Issues
 - Insurance/Liability for Bites
 - Kennel License and Special Permits
- Evaluations
 - Check in with residents and staff on the effectiveness of SAF-T

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Healing

- Human-animal bond healing aspect
- Diffusing pet-safe calming essential oils
- Create a volunteer healing program for clients
- Yoga, meditation
- Therapy animal programs
 - Sojourner (Phoenix)
 - (Alabama)

SAF-T Guide

- Complete and concise information
- Sample Forms
 - MOU between animal shelter and DV shelter
 - Shelter supply checklist
 - SAF-T Program Intake Form
 - Agreement between resident and DV shelter
 - Procedures for residents with pets
 - Consent and Release for boarding at animal shelter
 - Extended care contract
 - Resident evaluation form

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Survey from Urban Research Institute (New York City)

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON PETS AND THEIR OWNERS

There is a great need among victims of domestic violence and their pets for co-sheltering programs that allow them to live in shelter together.

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Survey from Urban Research Institute (New York City)

Pets are part of the family. As a result, many victims of domestic violence will attempt to protect their pets from their abuser. However, this often puts the victim at even greater risk.

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Meet the shelters!

Option 1 – Housing in resident rooms

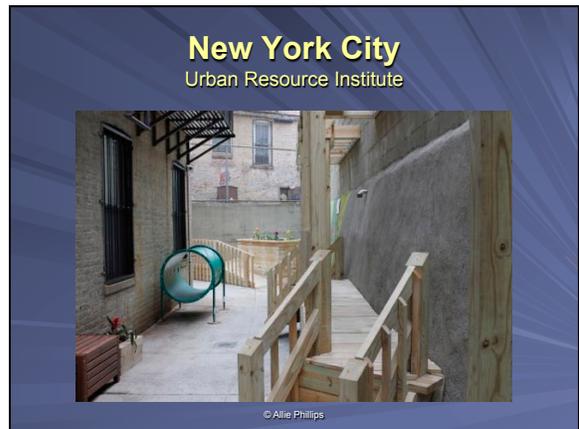
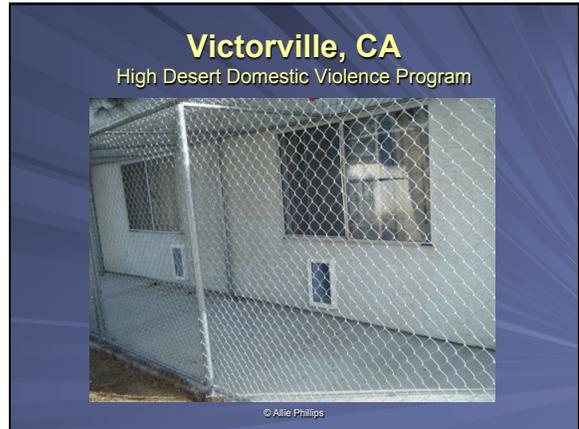
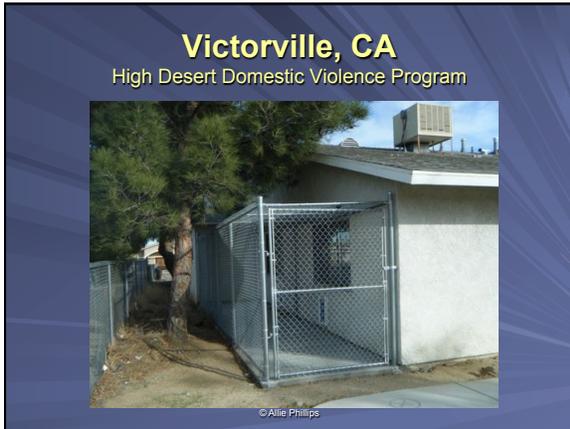
- Alaska
 - The LeeShore Center (Kenai) – small animals
 - Safe & Fear-Free Environment (Dillingham)
- Arizona
 - Page Regional DV Services (Page)
- California
 - High Desert (Victorville)
- Colorado
 - Arising Hope (Eastlake)
- Georgia
 - Project Renewal (Rockdale/Newton/Walton)
- Idaho
 - Family Safety Network (Driggs)
 - Oasis Programs (Post Falls)
 - Family Crisis Center (Rexburg)
- Illinois
 - Quanada (Quincy)
- Louisiana
 - Metropolitan Center (Jefferson)
 - Safety Net (New Iberia)
- Minnesota
 - Women's Center of Mid-MN (Brainerd)

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Option 1 – Resident rooms

- Montana
 - SAFE (Ronan)
- New Jersey
 - DV Advocacy Ctr (Mt. Holly)
- New York
 - Urban Resource Center (New York City)
- North Carolina
 - Families First (Whitesville)
- Ohio
 - Harbor House (New Philadelphia)
- Oregon
 - Oasis Shelter Home (Gold Beach)
- Pennsylvania
 - Clinton County Women's Center (Lockhaven)
- Texas
 - Family Violence Prevention Services (San Antonio)
- Washington
 - DV Services of Benton & Franklin Counties (Kennewick)
 - Family Renewal Shelter (Tacoma)
 - YWCA Shelter (Tacoma)
- Wisconsin
 - Harbor House (Appleton)
- Canada
 - Rainy River District (Ontario)
 - Bethesda House (Ontario)

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Tacoma, WA
YWCA Women's Support Shelter

- Opened doors to pets in 2002
- House pets in individual rooms
 - On average 3 pets per month (30-50 per year) for up to 90 days

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- Option 2 – Indoor Kennel**
- Arizona
 - Page Regional DV Services (Page)
 - Sojourner (Phoenix)
 - Family Promise (Scottsdale)
 - Arkansas
 - Serenity Inc (Baxter/Marion City)
 - California
 - Lake County Resource Center (Kelseyville)
 - Colorado
 - Gateway (Aurora)
 - Mountain Peace Shelter (Bailey) - garage
 - Crossroads Safehouse (Fort Collins)
 - Florida
 - Shelter House (Fl. Walton Beach)
 - Shelter for Abused Women & Children (Naples)
 - Safe Place (Sarasota)
 - Idaho
 - Advocates for Survivors of DV/Sexual Assault (Hailey)
 - Kentucky
 - Safe Harbor of Northeast Kentucky (Ashland) – garage
 - Michigan
 - Underground Railroad (Saginaw)

Option 2 – Indoor Kennel

- Missouri
 - Rose Brooks (Kansas City) – basement
 - Hope House (Lee's Summit & Independence) – staff area
- New York
 - A New Hope Center (Owego)
- North Carolina
 - Mitchell County Safe Place (Spruce Pine)
 - My Sister's House (Rocky Mount)
 - Families First (Whiteville)
- Pennsylvania
 - AWARE (Hermitage) – basement

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Baxter & Marion Counties, AR

Serenity, Inc.

Our kennel has been a true success. It's been occupied every day since it was completed. It's given great peace of mind to victims who previously would not have left their abusers if they could not have brought their pets with them.

- Niki de Soto

Phoenix, AZ

Sojourner



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Kelseyville, CA

Lake County Resource Center



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Bailey, CO

Mountain Peace Shelter



© Allie Phillips

Fort Collins, CO

Crossroads



© Allie Phillips

Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Shelter House



© Allie Phillips

Naples, FL
Shelter for Abused Women & Children



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Sarasota, FL
Safe Place



© Allie Phillips

Saginaw, MI
Underground Railroad



© Allie Phillips

Newport, OR
My Sister's Place



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Option 3 – Backyard kennel

- Alabama
 - Harriett's House (Demopolis)
- Alaska
 - SAFE (Dillingham)
 - The LeeShore Center (Kenai)
- Arizona
 - Kingman Aid to Abused People (Kingman)
 - Sojourner (Phoenix)
 - Mt. Graham Safe House (Safford)
- California
 - Rural Human Services (Crescent City)
 - Lake Family Resource Center (Kelseyville)
 - HRC Calaveras Crisis Center (San Andreas)
- California (cont.)
 - High Desert DV Program (Victorville)
- Colorado
 - Gateway (Aurora)
 - Crossroads Safehouse (Fort Collins)
- Florida
 - Quigley House (Clay Cty)
 - Shelter House (Ft. Walton Beach)
 - Harbor House (Orlando)
- Georgia
 - SAFE (Blairsville)
 - Circle of Hope (Cornelia)
 - Project Renewal (Rockdale)

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Option 3 – Backyard kennel

- **Idaho**
 - Advocates for Survivors of DV/Sexual Assault (Hailey)
 - Family Crisis Center (Rexburg)
 - Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho (Bear Lake, Franklin & Power counties)
- **Kansas**
 - Crisis Resource Center (Pittsburgh)
- **Kentucky**
 - Greenhouse 17 (Lexington)
- **Louisiana**
 - Calcasieu Women’s Shelter (Lake Charles)
 - Faith House (Lafayette)
 - Metropolitan Center for Women & Children (Jefferson)
 - Safety Net (New Iberia)
- **Michigan**
 - LACASA (Howell)
 - Underground Railroad (Saginaw)
- **Missouri**
 - Rose Brooks (Kansas City)
- **Nevada**
 - Shade Tree Shelter (Las Vegas)

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Option 3 – Backyard Kennel

- **New Mexico**
 - Community Against Violence (Taos)
- **North Carolina**
 - Mitchell County Safe Place (Spruce Pine)
 - SAFE Inc of Transylvania County (Brevard)
 - Families First (Whiteville)
- **Ohio**
 - First Step (Coshocton)
 - Harbor House (New Philadelphia)
- **Oregon**
 - Helping Hands (Hood River)
 - Klamath Falls Crisis Center (Klamath)
 - My Sister’s Place (Newport)
 - Monika’s House (Washington County)
- **Pennsylvania**
 - Aware (Hermitage)
 - Alle-Kiski HOPE Center (Tarentum)
- **South Carolina**
 - Meg’s House (Greenwood)
- **South Dakota**
 - WEAVE (Custer)

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Option 3 – Backyard kennel

- **Texas**
 - Kendall County Women’s Shelter (Boerne)
 - Little Grass Ranch (Comfort)
 - Family Violence Prevention Services (San Antonio)
 - Haven for Hope of Bexar County (homeless shelter) (San Antonio)
 - Midcoast Family Shelter (Victoria)
- **Utah**
 - New Hope Crisis Center (Brigham City)
- **Virginia**
 - Doorways (Arlington)
- **Washington**
 - Domestic Violence Services (Kennewick)
 - Family Renewal Services (Tacoma)
 - YWCA (Tacoma)
- **Wyoming**
 - Community Safety Network (Jackson)

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Kansas City, MO – Jan. 2012

Heroic Dog Saves Woman from Abuser, Incites Change in Shelter Policy

January 12, 2012 Posted by ADMIN in Dog News 101 comments

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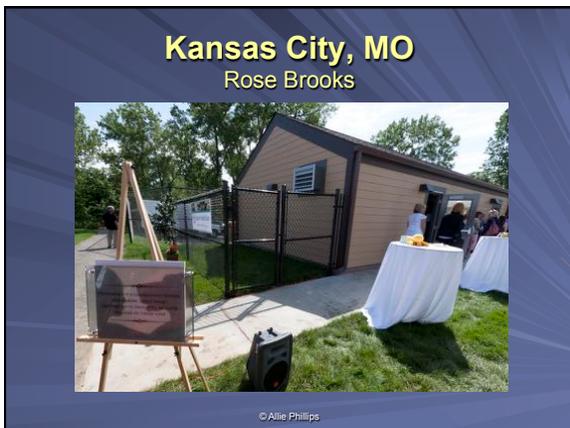
When the Rose Brooks Center for women took in a domestic violence victim and her heroic dog, they bent the rules in doing so, setting the wheels in motion for a much needed change in policy.

Like most battered women’s shelters, the Rose Brooks Center did not accommodate pets. But this was no ordinary dog: when her boyfriend tried to kill the woman with a hammer, her fearless Great Dane jumped in the way, laying over her body and taking most of the blows until the man threw both of them out of a second story window. The dog, Hank, suffered multiple broken bones in the attack, sparing his owner’s life in the process.



Despite their injuries, the woman was able to escape with her dog, and eventually made her way to the Rose Brooks Center. When they offered her a bed and told her no pets were allowed, she was defiant, and for the first time in its history, the shelter overlooked regulations and allowed the dog to stay.

That decision would eventually lead to a permanent change in policy.



Kansas City, MO
Rose Brooks



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Demopolis, AL
Harriet's House



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Dillingham, AK
Safe and Fear-Free Environment Shelter



© Allie Phillips

Kenai, AK
The LeeShore Center



© Allie Phillips

Phoenix, AZ
Sojourner



Crescent City, CA
Harrington House



© Allie Phillips

Kelseyville, CA
Lake County Resource Center



© Allie Phillips

Fort Collins, CO
Crossroads



© Allie Phillips

Clay County, FL
Quigley House



© Allie Phillips

Clay County, FL
Quigley House



© Allie Phillips

Orlando, FL
Harbor House (in progress)



© Allie Phillips

Orlando, FL
Harbor House



© Allie Phillips

Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Shelter House



© Allie Phillips

Lexington, KY

Greenhouse 17



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Howell, MI

Lacasa

- Built the shelter with an animal shelter connected
 - Large animal kennel goes to a dog run
 - Cats and small animals in the basement
- They opened in 2003 and house 20 animals per year
- Veterinarian volunteers services and money comes from donations



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Saginaw, MI

Underground Railroad



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Las Vegas, NV

Noah's Animal House

- The Shade Tree Shelter for Women
- Opened doors to pets in October 2007
- 16 cat condos & 15 dog kennels, 6 of which are indoor/outdoor dog runs
- At least 80% capacity at all times



© Allie Phillips

Las Vegas, NV

Noah's Animal House



Hermitage, PA AWARE



Hermitage, PA AWARE

AWARE's program was one that touched the hearts of everyone who heard about it. We told our story to anyone that would listen, which got us invitations to speak at various civic organizations. Through these presentations came monetary donations from the groups as well as from private individuals. AWARE also had fundraisers which included candy bar sales, a zumba class, and pizza sales. A local church did a drive for dishes, beds, and animal toys and Dad's Pet Food, of Meadville, PA, donated coupons for dog and cat food.

-- Jackie Fazio

Tarentum, PA Alle-Kiski



Greenwood, SC Meg's House



Boerne, TX Kendall County Women's Shelter



Comfort, TX Little Grass Ranch

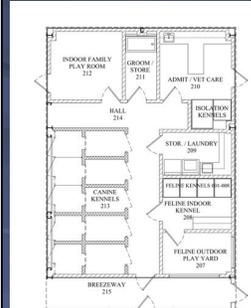
Our first client literally escaped by jumping a fence and running. I was on the phone with her when she did it and it was like a movie it was so dramatic. She is me. She is a 17 year old who was abused by her parents, thrown out in the snow and then took refuge with a neighbor. The three horses were starved and had been beaten and the 20 year old mare had an abscess the size of a football. She had not been able to get to them for 6 weeks which really illustrates why we can't leave our animals behind when we go to safety. The woman is doing fine and is a gifted horsewoman with a future in horses. Her horses, dog and cat are safe and cared for now and I can sleep better at night now that she's out of harm's way.

-- Christie Kitchens, Director of Little Grass Ranch

Comfort, TX
Little Grass Ranch



Victoria, TX
Midcoast Family Services



© Alise Phillips

Brigham, UT
New Hope Crisis Center



© Alise Phillips

Arlington, VA
Doorways for Women & Families



Arlington, VA



Kennewick, WA
Domestic Violence Services





- ### SAF-T Shelters in progress
- **Arizona:** Colorado River Regional Crisis Center (Parker)
 - **California:** Catalyst DV Services (Butte County), Haven Women's Center (Modesto)
 - **Colorado:** Family Crisis Services (Canon City)
 - **Florida:** Peace River Center (Lakeland)
 - **Georgia:** Circle of Love Center (Greensboro)
 - **Iowa:** DVIP (Iowa City)
 - **Maryland:** Dove Center (Oakland/Garrett Counties)
 - **Michigan:** Branch County Coalition (Goldwater)
 - **North Dakota:** DV Center (Dickinson)
 - **Ohio:** My Sister's Place (Athens/Hocking/Vinton Counties), New Directions (Mt. Vernon)
 - **Texas:** Family Support Services (Amarillo)
 - **Washington:** Dove House (Townsend), YWCA (Vancouver)

Daily requests for help

“I am a 32 year old single mother, 7 months pregnant and I have a puppy. My current living situation has become increasingly difficult. I would like to know my options of where I could go for safety.”

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Within the first few days of our SAF-T program being open to participants, the program proved to play a key part in keeping families together and safe. One of our first participants arrived in our shelter with her son from an abusive home where her boyfriend was very controlling and wouldn't let them leave. During the (animal) checkups, it was discovered that the abuser did not feed the animals for five days.

- **Alle-Kiski Hope Shelter (Tarentum, PA)**

© Allie Phillips

“I will be moving to my new apartment Friday. There are no words to explain the freedom I am feeling. Before I came here the only joy I had in life was my precious little dog Star. She just turned ten a few months ago. If [the shelter] wouldn't have let me keep her inside the shelter, I would either be on the streets or worse, I might have gone back to my abuser. [T]he last thing he did to me as I was sitting on the curb waiting for the cab, was spit on me, repeatedly, like I was a piece of garbage. Well I'm not! I haven't felt this wonderful in fifteen years.

- Resident at an Arizona shelter

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Media

- Associated Press
- Washington Post
- USA Today
- O Magazine
- Detroit Free Press
- Reuters
- Chatelaine Magazine (Canada)
- Domestic Violence Bulletin
- Cat Channel
- Dog Channel

The Today Show



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Vision of SAF-T

- 501c3 nonprofit status
- Goal of one SAF-T shelter in each state
- Continue international expansion
- Reformulate National SAF-T Day (1st Saturday of October, yearly)
- Education and outreach

“The [SAF-T] shelter has made a world of difference to our participants. I have heard from so many women that they were finally able to leave because they didn't have to leave their "baby" behind. The interaction we see with our participants and their pets is amazing and it seems to be so healing for them to have their furry family member with them. I have heard from them also that they see a difference in their pet being here in comparison to their way they were at home with the abuser. Many have attributed it to the pet being under less stress. I can't possibly express how thankful Mt. Graham Safe House is to the program and what having this shelter has meant to us and our participants.”

— Jeannette Aston (Mt. Graham Safe House, Safford, AZ)

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For more information and free technical assistance, please email

allie@alliephillips.com or visit www.animalsandfamilies.net



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