

Letter to the Editor: Version 1



[Name of Publication]

Attn: **[Name of Editor]**

[Address]

[City, State, ZIP code]

[Date]

Every year, more than 10 million people in the United States are physically abused by an intimate partner — a staggering number. But did you know that up to 70% of domestic violence survivors have pets, and nearly half delay or avoid leaving abusers to keep from leaving their pets behind?

Our community has an opportunity to help more people in need by making sure our local domestic violence shelters can accept pets.

Pet-friendly shelters not only help more people, they also decrease stress on our community's emergency services and animal control. Plus, adding pet spaces to shelters also protects pets in danger—71% of pet-owning survivors in domestic violence shelters report animal abuse in the home.

There are resources available to make the process easier for our local shelters. The 25 by 2025 Campaign (25by2025.org) offers everything from guidance on how to work with local government to approve the transition, to handbooks for building different types of pet space options, to funding opportunities. The campaign is aiming to help 25% of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. become pet-friendly by 2025.

I believe, as a community, we must do everything we can to help protect our neighbors from harm. Ensuring our local domestic violence shelters have pet-friendly housing options is a simple yet vital way to do so.

[Name, Location]

Letter to the Editor: Version 2



[Name of Publication]

Attn: [Name of Editor]

[Address]

[City, State, ZIP code]

[Date]

[Insert sentence on how important your pet is to you. Example: To me, my dog is more than just a pet, he's family.]

If you've ever had a pet, you likely know that feeling. Now imagine having to leave that pet in a potentially violent environment.

People experiencing domestic violence often must make the choice between leaving their beloved pet behind in order to escape violence or staying in a dangerous situation to remain with their pet. That's because only 17% of domestic violence shelters in the United States have on-site pet-housing programs.

Our community has an opportunity to help more people in need of a safe and secure place to escape violence by making sure our local domestic violence shelters are pet friendly.

There is a proven link between the abuse of pets and abuse of people, and in a domestic violence situation, the likelihood of an animal also being harmed is high. In fact, 71% of pet-owning survivors entering shelters have reported animal abuse.

There are resources available to make the process of becoming pet friendly easier for our local shelters. The 25 by 2025 Campaign (25by2025.org) has everything from guidance on how to work with local government to approve the transition, to handbooks for building different types of pet space options, to funding opportunities. The campaign aims to help 25% of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. become pet-friendly by 2025.

I believe, as a community, we must do everything we can to ensure no person has to decide between their safety and their beloved pet. Ensuring our local domestic violence shelters have pet-friendly housing options has the potential to save lives.

[Name, Location]