

A woman with her hair in a bun is looking down at a dog. The image has a blue tint. The text 'safe haven' is overlaid in yellow.

# safe haven

Freedom from Violence  
for the Entire Family

Mohawk & Hudson River  
HUMAN E  SOCIETY



# PROTECT YOURSELF and protect your pets

The Safe Haven program is a partnership between the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, Unity House and Equinox Inc. The goal of the partnership is to eliminate barriers that prevent women from leaving abusers and to educate the community about the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence.

## DID YOU **know?**

- One in four women will be victims of domestic violence during their lifetimes
- More than 71 million U.S. households include companion animals as pets
- In one survey 85% of women and 63% of children entering domestic violence shelters discussed incidence of pet abuse in the family
- According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a woman is beaten every 7.4 seconds in the U.S. by a male partner, and 2,000 women are murdered by abusive partners or ex-partners annually
- 25% of women with pets said that they would have left sooner if they had a place to bring their pet



## What is animal abuse?

### Animal abuse can take many forms:

- Hitting, kicking, beating, maiming
- Drowning, burning, throwing
- Denying food or water
- Denying exercise
- Confinement for long periods
- Hoarding of animals
- Withholding veterinary treatment



## Why do domestic violence offenders also abuse animals?

### Adults in abusive families torture animals:

- to punish children
- to force a desired behavior
- to punish a spouse
- as a threat to enforce silence

Abusers use violence to control others. Animals may be used as another tool to control a spouse or partner. Many abusers will threaten to kill animals in the home if the victim leaves or tries to leave.





## How are children affected by animal abuse?

Children who witness animal abuse often become abusers themselves. In one study 32% of abused women reported that their children had learned to torture or kill their pets after being abused themselves.

Children who are victims of abuse often become the abusers of the future.

## When should I be concerned?

### **If your partner:**

- Threatens you, a child or pet with violence
- Hits, punches, slaps, kicks or shoves you, your child, or pet
- Prevents you from seeing or speaking to friends and family
- Controls all of your finances
- Tells you where to go, what to do and how to dress
- Destroys sentimental items
- Humiliates you, especially in front of others
- Calls you derogatory racial or sexual names
- Forces you to have sex when you don't want to
- Abuses animals in front of you or a child
- Any disturbing treatment of animals

**If your partner is displaying any of these behaviors you may be a victim of abuse and should call one of the hotlines listed in this brochure for help.**



## Who is eligible for the Safe Haven program?

All pets that are taken into the program must belong to domestic violence victims who are currently in the programs offered by **Unity House** or **Equinox**.

The Humane Society does not accept any animals into the program unless they are referred by one of those agencies.

## How does the program work?

The Society works collaboratively with the Domestic Violence Programs in the area to ensure that women and their pets will be safe. Women must first contact Unity House or Equinox to enter the program. Once pets are brought into the program they are housed in a secure and confidential location.



## **YES! I want to support the animals and the vital services of Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society.**

Please complete form and mail to: Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, 3 Oakland Ave, Menands NY 12204

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a gift of:     \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order enclosed

Please charge my credit card:     Visa     MasterCard     Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on including the Society in my will or estate plans.

**For more donation options, please visit our web site at [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)**

### **For the animals' sake, please get involved. They need your support!**

Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society is a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Charitable donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



# Mohawk & Hudson River HUMAN E SOCIETY



SAVING LIVES SINCE 1887

3 Oakland Avenue, Menands, NY 12204  
[www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)

## For immediate assistance:

ALBANY COUNTY

**Equinox** 24 Hour Hotline

**(518) 432-7865**

[www.equinoxinc.org](http://www.equinoxinc.org)

RENSSELAER COUNTY

**Unity House** 24 Hour Hotline

**(518) 272-2370**

[www.unityhouseseny.org](http://www.unityhouseseny.org)



For more information about the  
Safe Haven program call the  
Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

**(518) 434-8128**

Funding for educational materials provided by  
Assemblyman Bob Reilly.

This program is funded solely by private donations.  
There is currently no government funding to protect  
the animals of domestic violence victims.