

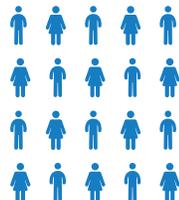
More than

**10 Million**

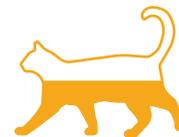
men and women are physically abused by an intimate partner in the US each year.



people on average experience abuse every minute.



**48%**



domestic violence victims stay in abusive situations because they don't want to leave their beloved pet behind.

**“ Before entering shelter, I thought to myself that if I had to be separated from my kitties permanently, I would have to continue putting my life in danger ...There was no way I would give up my boys. ”**

**68%**



of all US households have pets.

Of the 84.6 million households with pets,

**94%**

consider pets to be part of the family.

**71%**

of battered women with pets reported that their pets had been threatened, harmed, and or killed by their partners.

## **🐾 About URI and PALS 🐾**

For almost 40 years, Urban Resource Institute (URI) has provided comprehensive support services for New York City's most vulnerable populations, including domestic violence survivors and homeless families. In 2013, URI launched PALS (People and Animals Living Safely), becoming the first - and still the only - service provider in NYC to provide co-living options for domestic violence survivors and their pets to heal together in the same apartment.

Since launched in 2013, PALS has provided life-saving shelter and services:

**PALS has served 481 people including 301 children**

So far in 2019, PALS has served **195** people

Due to expanded capacity and awareness, the number of PALS families has grown **ten-fold** since 2013.

**PALS has welcomed more than 250 animals in total**



107 cats



100 dogs



17 turtles



13 small animals



5 birds



5 fish



3 reptiles

More than **525** individuals and families have been referred to partner organizations and services.

### **PALS Place**

PALS Place is the first 100% pet-friendly domestic violence shelter in the nation built from the ground up with the welfare and comfort of animals in mind.

# WHAT MAKES PALS UNIQUE

## CO-LIVING

For many victims of domestic violence and their children, separating from their pets during this major transition can cause further fear and trauma. PALS residents and their pets live together in their own apartments – a type of sheltering we have termed “co-living.” By focusing our program on co-living, we ensure the human-animal bond stays intact, as we know pets are an integral and irreplaceable part of many families. All of our co-living shelters have “Pet Havens” in outdoor common spaces, which are private, fenced-in parks where families can take their pets to exercise off-leash, play, socialize, and bond outside of their apartment.

### What’s Co-Living?

The special accommodation for pets to live and heal in the same apartment unit as their family in shelter, rather than being fostered or sheltered in a separate facility nearby. Keeping families and pets together empowers survivors to leave knowing their entire family can find safety together. Co-living also has proven health benefits, and ensures emotional support for survivors and children.

*“ I felt like I was holding my breath, and when we got into the PALS program I felt like I could exhale. It was a safe space where I could finally feel. ”*

## HELPING ANIMALS HEAL

The link between domestic violence and animal abuse is well established. Pets are both witnesses to and victims of violence in the home and commonly used as leverage by abusers to exert control. The dedicated PALS staff brings extensive animal welfare experience, allowing us to greatly enhance the services we offer to residents and their pets, including day-to-day support of pets and the provision of supplies for care and enrichment. PALS staff regularly helps address pet behavior challenges, design training plans and assist with proper grooming techniques. These services are integral to residents who may have had abusers restrict their access to animal wellness resources in the past.

### Key PALS veterinary services include:

- o Full medical exam
- o Spaying or neutering
- o De-worming
- o Vaccinations
- o Flea and tick removal
- o Microchip placement

### Families are provided with critical pet supplies upon arrival:

- o Crates
- o Toys
- o Food
- o Leashes and collars

## INTEGRATING PALS INTO SHELTER ENVIRONMENT AND BEYOND

Pets are incorporated into a resident’s case management throughout their stay in shelter, which includes problem solving challenges and celebrating successes. Staff facilitate a bimonthly “PALS Pet Group” at PALS Place where residents can meet and form relationships with each other. In these groups, residents discuss the challenges they face as survivors with pets, receive animal training and education, learn about their rights as pet owners, and more. Even after residents leave our shelters, PALS remains a resource for clients as they move forward on their journey.

*“ PALS supported our family’s needs in giving us the necessary supplies for our pet and allowed our dog to open up in a new and healthy environment. Our dog has shown an extreme makeover and taken on a happier, more playful, and healthier personality. ”*

## ON THE HORIZON

As we work towards our goal of removing barriers for victims of domestic violence seeking safety, PALS is focused not only on increasing our own capacity to serve families with pets, but also on pushing the entire domestic violence services field toward that goal.

### **Community Response Model**

An integral part of the PALS mission is to share our knowledge and experience with communities and service providers across the world in order to advocate for greater services for domestic violence survivors and their pets. We have discovered that being able to speak directly to other shelter providers is a persuasive tool in this advocacy. From our experiences, we have developed a PALS Community Response Model (CRM), which will be shared with service providers across New York State starting in 2020, with visions for a national rollout in the future. As part of the CRM, we will host workshops, conduct site visits, and provide one-on-one virtual and in-person technical assistance for organizations looking to incorporate PALS into their shelters.

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### **National DV Hotline Survey**

This year, URI initiated a partnership with the National Domestic Violence Hotline to institute a first-of-its-kind survey to collect data and better understand the needs of domestic violence survivors with pets across the U.S. The results of this data will inform responses to the need for additional programs across the country to support domestic violence survivors with pets.

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### **Legislative Advocacy and Building a Movement**

A key component of our work involves engaging in advocacy and coalition building with community partners and key decision-makers, including representatives from animal welfare agencies, government, researchers, private corporations, and survivors. As a member of the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Coalition, URI worked alongside other organizations to promote awareness and advocate for federal legislation that would remove barriers and increase protections for survivors with pets. In December, 2018, the provisions of the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act were signed into law. URI continues to work with a number of partners on the city, state and national level to raise awareness, identify obstacles to success, and work together to develop and promote innovative solutions to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence.



## Thank you to our supporters

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## Sources:

American Pet Products Association, Animal Welfare Institute, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Link Coalition

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