



## Pets



### Before Leaving:

- Keep **extra food and medicines** for your pets in case your partner withholds money from you.
- Keep **copies of your pets' medical records** and any important phone numbers (like the vet's).
- Establish **ownership of your pet** any way you can (obtaining a certificate of ownership, putting your pets' vet records in your name only, etc.).
- If possible, **don't leave your pets alone** with your partner.
- If you are planning to leave, ask a trusted person or your vet about **temporary care for your pets** in a place that won't be disclosed to your partner.
- **Pack a bag** for your pets and keep it at a safe friend or family member's house. Include:
  - food
  - medicine
  - documents of ownership (receipts from adoption or purchase of pet, certificate of ownership, receipts for animal purchases, etc.)
  - health documents (vet or vaccine records)
  - leash and collar
  - ID and rabies tags
  - a carrier
  - toys
  - bedding

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### After Leaving:

- Include your **pet on your Order of Protection**.
- **Change vets** so your partner cannot find you or your pet.
- Avoid leaving your **pets outside unattended**.
- Pick a **safe route** and **time to walk your pets**. Avoid walking them alone.
- If you have to leave your pets behind, **ask law enforcement or animal control for help** getting them back.
- If you have to leave without your pets, **leave enough food, fresh bedding, litter, etc.**, for your pet to be ok.
- If you need to relinquish your pet temporarily, **call Animal Control for help**.

### Additional Resources:

**YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee  
Domestic Violence Shelter  
1-800-334-4628**

- partners with the Nashville Humane Society to board your pets while you're staying the the YWCA shelter

**Metro Nashville Animal Care and Control  
615-862-7928**

**The Animal Welfare Institute Safe Havens  
([www.awionline.org/safe-havens](http://www.awionline.org/safe-havens))**

- offers a search tool to find sheltering services for pets of people experiencing domestic violence

**Littlegrass Ranch ([www.littlegrassranch.org](http://www.littlegrassranch.org))  
307-200-9317**

- offers safety planning for people with larger, non-traditional pets like horses

**Red Rover ([www.redrover.org/relief](http://www.redrover.org/relief))**

- offers program to help with the cost of temporary pet boarding while you're staying in a shelter