Animal Safety Net (ASN)™
Emergency Pet Housing Program
Founded in 1877 to protect animals, women and children
Department of Social Services and child labor laws created
Redirected services to focus on the protection of animals – but continue to support humans...
Not affiliated with any other spca – there is no national umbrella spca
spcaLA Services

**Companion Animal Services**
Lost/Found Animal Housing, Veterinary Care, Training & Enrichment, Pet Adoptions

**Community Engagement**
Violence Prevention Humane Education, Dog Training Classes, Pet Supplies, Low-Cost Vaccine Clinics

**Animal Protection Services**
Animal Cruelty Investigation, Disaster Animal Response Team (DART)™
THE FISH AND 2 CATS

Need victim? Need law?
ASN
Pet Housing Program
What is ASN’s Pet Housing Program?

Since 1998, ASN has provided temporary housing for pets while their owners receive the help they need. Those seeking help can do so without the fear of their pets being uncared for or left in a dangerous situation.
When animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk.
ASN and Domestic Violence

- Offers survivors a better chance at successfully leaving their abusers
- Survivors able to enter a shelter
- Protects animals from further harm
The Cycle of Violence & “The Link”

Animal abuse was found in 88% of pet owning families being investigated for physical child abuse.

32% of survivors reported that their children had hurt or killed animals.

Children who were exposed to domestic violence were 3 times more likely to be cruel to animals.

Children who were cruel to animals were 5 times more likely to become violent offenders.

Animal abuse by children can be one of the earliest warning signs of future violent behavior.

Unless otherwise noted, all remaining statistics are from American Humane Association’s Facts about the Link Between Violence to People and Violence to Animals.
Prosecution issues

Crimes don’t occur in a vacuum
Bolster the likelihood of conviction  Helps weaker case
Part of forensic workup

PART OF THE STORY
judge/jury/ public/media
The microwave, the window, the wall, the rape
Animals are the gateway in

Bias against interfering with family

Always expect multiple victims – be prepared, warrant drafting etc.

Ravioli, the shepherds, the hoarder, collateral victims
Coercive control
A pattern of behavior an abuser uses to gain control and power over another

Diminishes autonomy and self esteem
Impacts men and women equally

Present in multiple types of crimes and populations

Mental trauma can be worse than broken bones
Preventing something they want to do – and/or making them do something they don’t want to do

Threats of harm loss, inability to care for an animal

Gaslighting

Love

May not be illegal
Abuses

Financial/Abandonment

Isolation/Abduction..

Neglect - Self Neglect

Physical (includes sexual abuse)/mental suffering/emotional abuse

Deprivation – goods and services
Abuse from Within

75% by family member or caretaker – children spouses, trusted person

400% increase in mortality

Above slides inspired by Jill Hollander, Fulton County District Attorney’s Office
Use of Animals

Not limited to breed or species
Easy target for abusers
Animal abuse/neglect can be predictive or indicative ...
ask questions – early intervention

Pay attention to surrenders...

Animals may not be abused but rather used
Expanding ASN for Others in Crisis

2 New Target Populations:

Temporarily Unhoused
Treatment/Recovery
https://spcala.com/programs-services/asn/asn-information-manual/
Contacting ASN

• Leave a message on the info line: (888) 527-7722

• Open daily (Monday – Sunday)
  8:00am – 4:00pm

• Calls returned during business hours on the same day
ASN Criteria

For DV Survivors, clients must be working with a DV shelter/agency
   ASN must be able to confirm this with an advocate

For Others in Crisis, clients must be working with a case manager
   ASN must be able to confirm enrollment

Clients must agree to terms of ASN contract
ASN Contract

Standard six week contract for DV survivors
Standard 30 day contract for others in crisis
Extensions are available on a case by case basis
Animal is relinquished to spcaLA if there is an impediment to reunification
Medical release
Transportation to the Shelter

Client
Friend/family of client (with written permission by client)
sPCA LA staff
Rideshare service

Note: There is no specific service area for this program. Transportation and ability to intake the animal(s) does play a role in our ability to assist the client.
ASN Services

- Positive enrichment
- Weekly communication
- Medical care
- Undisclosed location
Housing Options: Foster Homes-witness relocation program

Trained foster volunteers

Regular contact with foster parent via spcaLA liaison

Foster families can send updates and pictures

Animals are typically fostered in a different city than the abuser for DV related cases
### ASN Clients

#### Can...
- Call to check in on their animal (they will be given a direct contact number)
- Receive updated emails/texts with pictures, upon request
- Pick up their animal earlier than the contract end date, with 48 hours notice

#### Cannot...
- Send someone to pick up the animal without prior written consent
- Visit the animal
  - Confidentiality between client and foster parent prohibits meeting
  - Visiting the animal is detrimental to the animal’s well-being
Client Feedback for DV

- **64%** of clients said they would **not** have gone to a DV shelter without the help of the ASN program.

- When asked what they think would have happened to their pets had they been left behind:
  
  - **30%** abandoned
  - **15%** neglected
  - **14%** hurt
  - **14%** killed

- **100%** of clients with children (65% of total clients) believed that being reunited with their pets would help their children.

- **100%** of clients said knowing that their pets were safe made it emotionally easier for them to be at the DV shelter.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you! I miss the girls terribly, and cannot wait to be reunited with them. In such an ugly situation, it is the silver lining. It keeps me strong!"

"Thank you so very much for taking (my dog) into your program, and thereby helping our little family to start over and heal with the peace of mind that she is in good hands until we are set up in a few weeks."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>then</th>
<th>now</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need victim</td>
<td>Don’t need victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No TRO</td>
<td>Pets on TRO (also protects foster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mandatory reporting</td>
<td>several states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any veterinarian -if at all</td>
<td>Mandated reporting Not veterinarians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient housing options</td>
<td>Forensic veterinarians, csi tools, suspicious injuries-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>defective dog, cat fell down stairs, invisible bruising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient housing options</td>
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Thank You!!

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This Bitch Craves Attention
http://spcalapresident.blogspot.com/

https://spcala.com/designer-dogs/