Dear [Insert DV shelter name/contact person],

We know that not having a safe place to take a pet when fleeing an abusive situation creates a real barrier for domestic violence survivors. Nearly 50% of domestic violence survivors delay leaving out of concern for their pets ([National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](http://www.hope-eci.org/_documents/petsanddv.pdf)). We also understand that pets may be used as a means of power and control and as a tool to coerce a survivor to return home. Approximately, 25% of survivors have reported that they returned to their abusive partner out of concern for their pet ([ASPCA](https://www.aspca.org/blog/protecting-all-victims-domestic-violence)). As an animal rescue/organization, we believe it's important to keep people and their pets together and safe. After the CDC eviction moratorium expires on December 31st, 2020, we are expecting 30-40 million people to be at risk of eviction. With that in mind, there may be many families experiencing the need to flee domestic violence as well as the need to find protective housing for themselves and their pets.

We'd like to open up a dialogue with you to see how we might be able to collaborate on this issue. As an initial step, we'd like to have some training for our staff on domestic violence and how to appropriately ask about domestic violence when pets are brought in for relinquishment.

We strongly believe that human and animal services should continue to build partnerships in an effort to support the entire family, including pets.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you,