



Animal Safety Net (ASN)[™] Emergency Pet Housing Program

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles

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)[™]

spcaLA
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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.



Microcosm of world
health concept

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



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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)

spcaLA 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

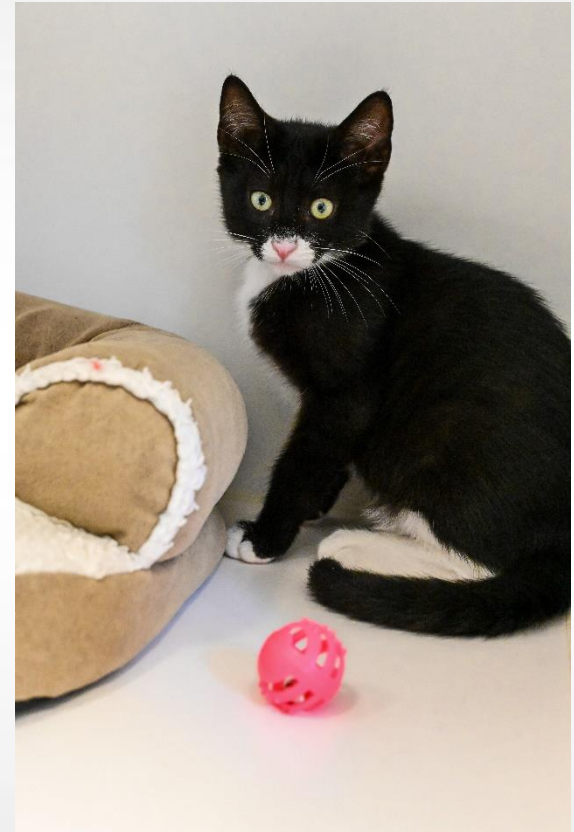
Housing Options: Foster Homes-witness relocation program

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.”

So.....

then

Need victim

No TRO

No mandatory reporting

Any veterinarian -if at all

Insufficient housing options

now

Don't need victim

Pets on TRO (also protects foster)

several states

Mandated reporting **Not**

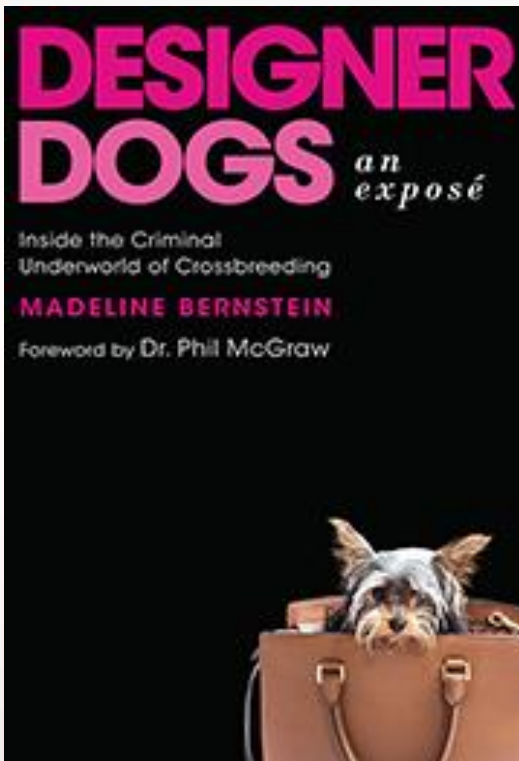
veterinarians

Forensic veterinarians, csi tools,
suspicious injuries-

defective dog, cat fell down
stairs, invisible bruising

Insufficient housing options

Thank You!!



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[@spcaLAPresident](#)

This Bitch Craves Attention

<http://spcalapresident.blogspot.com/>

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