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Escrito por SAF-T

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SAF-T Manual Guides On-Site Kennels for Domestic Violence Survivors The long-awaited Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T™) manual, written by NLC steering committee member Allie Phillips, has been published. The 58-page manual is a step-by-step guide to assist domestic violence shelters in building external kennels, converting interior spaces to animal housing areas, or allowing residents to keep family pets in their rooms. It includes legal and financial considerations, lists of references and resources, sample forms, animal handling and safety tips, and testimonials.

An outgrowth of Phillips' earlier PAWS (Pets And Women's Shelters) manual, SAF-T includes extensive descriptions and photos of various housing options, and quotes from women's shelter staff describing their challenges and successes. Currently, 65 SAF-T shelters are established in 29 states and five more are in the process of opening: a list of these shelters is available on the SAF-T website. Maya Gupta, also on NLC's steering committee, maintains a list of 240 off-site "Safe Haven" animal sheltering programs for women's shelters in the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

"Pets provide emotional support to victims and children leaving their homes," writes Phillips. "Allowing them to take their pets with them eliminates their need to return to abusive homes to protect their pets from calculated retaliation. Failure to consider pets in emergency and temporary housing then becomes a barrier to safety for families."

For technical assistance in starting a SAF-T program, contact Phillips or visit the SAF-T website.

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