



# PAWS: share the story

of domestic violence survivors and their pets



**Each year, nearly  
1 million animals  
are abused or  
killed in  
connection with  
domestic violence.**

**Abusers of  
animals are 5  
times more  
likely to harm  
humans.**

The **Pet and Women Safety Act, or PAWS Act** (H.R. 909/S. 322) was reintroduced in February 2017 by U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dean Heller (R-NV). This bicameral, bipartisan legislation aims to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by violence against their pets.

## **Why is the PAWS Act Needed?**

A significant unmet need exists across the United States for women seeking safety for themselves and their children from violent relationships. While a strong network of shelters exists to provide them a safe place, there is a need for more domestic violence shelters to provide accommodations that include pets.

Abusers use pets as pawns, and survivors tend to remain in abusive relationships out of concern for the welfare and safety of their pets. With too few domestic violence shelters equipped to house and care for pets, survivors often must choose between a life without their pet or a dangerous living situation.

## **How you can help**

To address this issue, Bayer launched PAWS: Share the Story, a campaign to raise awareness about the PAWS Act. To get involved:

- **Support the PAWS Act.** Visit [PetAndWomenSafety.com](http://PetAndWomenSafety.com) to send an electronic letter to your local congressman/woman and/or state senator.
- **Share the video.** Visit [PetAndWomenSafety.com](http://PetAndWomenSafety.com) and share the educational video through your Twitter or Facebook page to help raise awareness of the issue.

**Bayer gave these domestic violence shelters \$20,000 each for their work in acknowledging that pets are a part of the family that cannot be left behind.**



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, Rose Brooks Center became the first domestic violence shelter in the region to welcome pets through the creation of Paws Place, a pet shelter co-located on the Rose Brooks facility and funded by Bayer Animal Health.



Noah's Animal House is a full service boarding facility on the grounds of the largest women and children's shelter in Nevada, The Shade Tree Shelter. After eight years in operation, Noah's Animal House has cared for and protected over 1,000 pets for the women and children at the shelter.



Located in New York City, The Urban Resource Institute People and Animals Living Safely (URIPALS) program was launched on-site at URI's Urban Women's Safe Haven and Urban Women's Retreat shelters. URIPALS is the first co-sheltering program in New York City.

**Almost half of  
abused women say  
they are unable to  
escape abusive  
living situations  
because they worry  
about what will  
happen to their pets  
should they leave.<sup>1</sup>**

**13% of animal  
abuse involves  
domestic  
violence.**

<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://www.rosebrooks.org/services/pet-shelter>