

# CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

<b>Title</b> <b>Help for Domestic Violence Victims with Pets</b>
<b>Number</b> <b>CIR-14-08</b>
<b>Effective Date</b> <b>June 26, 2014</b>
<b>Related to:</b> GO-OPS-304.11 (Intrafamily Offenses), Effective Date November 7, 2003 SO-12-14 (Domestic Violence Assessment Tool Pilot Program in PSAs 506, 507, 602, 604, 608, 706 and 708), Effective Date April 30, 2012

The purpose of this circular is to inform Metropolitan Police Department members of a Safe Haven Program for Domestic Violence victims with pets.

Attached is a handout from the Washington Humane Society with details on seeking a safe place for pets of domestic violence victims. Members should ask victims if they have pets and inform the victims there is a safe place for their pets. The Humane Society's Safe Haven Program office asks that victims or members call the emergency number, available 24 hours a day, 202-723-5730, to ask for assistance. They also ask that victims and/or members speak directly to someone in the law enforcement office rather than leaving a voice mail.

Attachment: Washington Humane Society Handout

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cathy L. Lanier'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cathy L. Lanier  
Chief of Police

CLL:PAB:MOC:AS:KDB



## **DO YOU HAVE A PET?**

### **HAS YOUR ABUSER HARMED OR THREATENED YOUR PET?**

If you have a pet and are experiencing domestic violence, contact the **Safe Haven Program.**

***We are a resource for domestic violence survivors with pets.***

- For **emergency** requests for safe pet housing, contact the Washington Humane Society at (202) 723 - 5730. If possible, please also send an e-mail to [zmacinanti@washhumane.org](mailto:zmacinanti@washhumane.org). Do not leave a voicemail; be sure you speak with someone at WHS and they will connect you with the Safe Haven Director ASAP.
- To speak with a Safe Haven Advocate about **options** for family pets, e-mail [blaircw@gmail.com](mailto:blaircw@gmail.com). Please include your name, contact information, and a description of the assistance you seek.
- **IMPORTANT: Survivors who qualify for Crime Victims Compensation 30-Day Housing can request to be placed in a pet-friendly accommodation. Also, animal abuse can be used as a base criminal act for obtaining a Civil Protection Order ("CPO") against your abuser. You can also include a provision in the CPO directing the abuser to stay away from your pet. Contact us for additional information.**