

Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund – Round One

Safe Families RSPCA NSW and Dignity

18 to 48% of women delay leaving, or have returned to violence, out of fear for the welfare of their pets.¹

Commencing in July 2017, RSPCA NSW, in partnership with Dignity, will develop and pilot the *Safe Families* package to support an increased number of refuges to accommodate victims of domestic and family violence together with their pets. Currently just two refuges in NSW cater for pets.

The package includes:

- pet enclosures,
- food,
- veterinary support, and
- training for refuge staff in basic pet care.

By supporting refuges to accommodate victims and their pets together, *Safe Families* removes a barrier faced by victims with pets in accessing safe accommodation and improves the capacity of the domestic and family violence system to respond to the needs of victims with pets.

Safe Families will support the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021 reform of the domestic and family violence system to develop flexible, client-centred services which respond to different types of client need.

For further information regarding *Safe Families*, please contact the RSPCA at sma@rspcansw.org.au or on (02) 9782 4408.

1. Ascione, F. 2007, 'Emerging Research on Animal Abuse as a Risk Factor for Intimate Partner Violence' in Kendall-Tackett, K. & Giacomoni, S. (eds) *Intimate Partner Violence*, Civic Research Institute