

Support HB 175



The Problem

On average, more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes.

Abusers often exploit the emotional attachments their victims have toward their pets. Pets then become pawns in a cruel game of coercion, manipulation, and control to create an environment of fear and induce compliance.

A 2017 study showed that 89% of women with companion animals during an abusive relationship reported that their animal was threatened, harmed, or killed by their abusive partner.*

Nearly half of victims stay in abusive situations rather than leave their pet behind.** As many as 25% of survivors return because the abuser is using their pet as a means to get the person back.***

The Bill

H.B. 175 will update existing code to allow those seeking a protective order in a domestic violence situation to include their pets in that order. Listing pets in the protective orders will prevent abusers from using pets as a pawn for manipulation or as an abuse proxy to psychologically harm their victims.

H.B. 175 will aid victims in removing themselves, their pets, and their children from dangerous situations and work to end cyclical violence.

The Link

Did you know?

Professionals have established significant correlations between animal abuse, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse, and other forms of violence. This interconnectedness of different forms of violence is called the Link.

The Link can be illustrated in the problem addressed by H.B. 175. Often there is a co-occurrence of domestic violence with other forms of violence, primarily child maltreatment, child abuse, and animal abuse.

This takes many forms and encourages cyclical violence. Childhood witnessing of animal cruelty results in a significant risk of adolescent or adult interpersonal violence.

62-76% of animal abuse in the home occurs in the presence of children.****

Please join the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, YWCA Utah, Utah Sheriffs' Association, Utah Animal Control Officers Association, Canyon Creek Services, South Valley Services, Safe Harbor, Utah Humane Society, Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering, & Nuzzles & Co., in Supporting H.B. 175

*<https://www.sheriffs.org/animal-cruelty-and-domestic-violence>

**Carlisle-Frank, Frank and Nielsen. (2004). Pets as Pawns

***<https://redrover.org/domestic-violence-and-pets/>

****For more information, please visit:
Nationallinkcoalition.org/what-is-the-link