



Amy* wanted to leave, but her abusive husband threatened to kill her dogs if she left him, and she knew he meant it. Terrified, trapped, and herself a victim of her husband's rage and physical violence, Amy felt she had nowhere to go. Finally, she contacted a nearby domestic violence shelter, which contacted APNM for help. APNM staff reached out to its CARE Network and found a place where Amy's two dogs could stay together in safe foster care while she herself got help. After two months of assistance from a domestic violence services provider, Amy was able to secure a job, interrupt her pattern of abusive relationships, and move to a new location away from her abusive husband. Soon after, she was reunited with her two dogs who in the meantime were kept safe from harm as well as spayed/neutered and given veterinary care.

*Amy's name has been changed to protect her and her animals.

CARE Network Saves Lives

Stories like Amy's are all too common in New Mexico, where over 21,000 victims of domestic violence (DV) were reported in 2011.** For both adult and child victims, their animals are among the few sources of trust and comfort in their lives, and abusers know that.

That's where APNM's Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) Network comes in. The CARE Network has helped DV victims and their animals since 1999 by providing temporary foster care while individuals leave a violent home. But our current list of safe havens simply isn't long enough to meet the critical need. Today, working in partnership with the DV prevention community and thanks to dedicated supporters, APNM is expanding the CARE Network and improving program effectiveness.

We Need Your Help. Sadly and ironically, the winter holidays typically are accompanied by a rise in domestic violence. If you or someone you know can provide a temporary safe haven for animal victims, please contact APNM right away (505-265-2322, ext. 23 or apnm.org/care). All participants are kept confidential and anonymous. Thank you for CARE-ing about all victims of domestic violence in our community.

**New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, August 2012

