

Do you know about



The Link?

Australians love animals.

Two thirds of Australian households have at least one animal. This equates to **one of the highest levels of animal ownership in the world.**

But what this

also means...

Is that in situations of family violence, there is likely an animal present, and in many cases, **experiencing abuse themselves.**

The link between human and animal violence is clear.

People who abuse animals are **five times as likely** to abuse other humans, and animal abuse is ranked in the **top three risk factors for lethality** in a DFV situation.

Animal abuse is both a form of DFV...

... as well as a crime in **and of itself.**





Perpetrators will often exploit the human-animal connection by using **threats, intimidation, and violence** against animals to **coerce, manipulate, and control** the human victim-survivor.

Up to **71%** of DFVA victim-survivors report that the perpetrator had **threatened, harmed, or killed** their companion animal.

This real potential for their animal to be harmed

means that...

When they do decide to leave with their animals, up to **93%** are **turned away from** refuges.

Up to **48%** of victim-survivors with companion animals **delay leaving** a violent situation out of fear for their animal's safety.

The search for support can be even more dire

in rural areas.

Victim-survivors in rural areas experience **more frequent and more severe** abuse on average, yet have **less access** to support services than victim-survivors in metropolitan areas.





To remove

barriers to safety

for

victim-survivors

with

animals...



we must first
recognise **the link**
between human
and animal
violence.

No person should **ever** have to choose between their own safety and the safety of their animals.

Make the link, because safe animals means safe humans.

To learn more go to: www.lucysproject.com.au