

Asking Children About Pets

GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONALS

When speaking with children, it is advisable to ask them questions about their experience with pets and other animals. By asking about animals in the home, family violence can be identified earlier, making intervention more likely to succeed and safeguarding children, pets, and their families.

1. Have you or your family ever had any pets? Yes No

2. If yes, what happened to them?

3. Do you have a pet or pets now? Yes No

4. Have you ever lost a pet you really cared about? Yes No

5. If yes, what happened?

6. Has your pet ever been hurt? Yes No

7. Have you ever felt worried about bad things happening to your pet? Yes No

8. Has anybody ever tried to make you do something you didn't want to do by threatening to hurt your pet? Yes No

9. If yes, what happened?

10. Have you ever seen someone hurt an animal or pet? Yes No

11. If so, tell me what happened.

12. Have you ever hurt an animal or pet? Yes No

13. If so, tell me what happened.

14. Have you ever been frightened or hurt by an animal or pet? Yes No

15. If so, describe what happened.

16. What happens when your family pet misbehaves?

17. Have you ever been punished for something your pet did, like getting into the trash?

Yes No

18. Has your pet ever been punished for something you did, like not doing the dishes when you were told to? Yes No

Notes:
